

JEPARIT TOWN PROFILE 2024



Photo credit: Hindmarsh Shire Council

Jeparit was first recognised as a town in 1889, but was formerly known as Lake Hindmarsh. Located in the Hindmarsh Shire it is 78.7kms from Horsham and 50.7kms from Warracknabeal. Its name means "home of small birds".

Once a substantial town with impressive local government buildings and the ornate Hindmarsh Hotel, Jeparit has seen depopulation and reduction in businesses and services over a very extended period due to the mechanisation of farming, Shire amalgamations and the loss of permanent water in Lake Hindmarsh (during the 13 year Millennium Drought). Once a centre for water sports and tourism. Jeparit retains many impressive homes and these have tended to bring buyers from metropolitan areas seeking a rural lifestyle. There has been significant population churn over time for this reason. This is a Wimmera wide phenomenon, but perhaps at its most evident in Jeparit.

WHO IS JEPARIT?



Country of Birth (Other than Aus)
England, New Zealand, Germany and Greece

The median age is 56



Households
32.9% Single Person
65.7% Family



4.3% of Households speak a language other than English



Families

- Couple without children **63.9%**
- Couple with children **23.3%**
- One Parent **12.8%**

WWHS IN JEPARIT

Facilities: Residential Aged Care

Services:

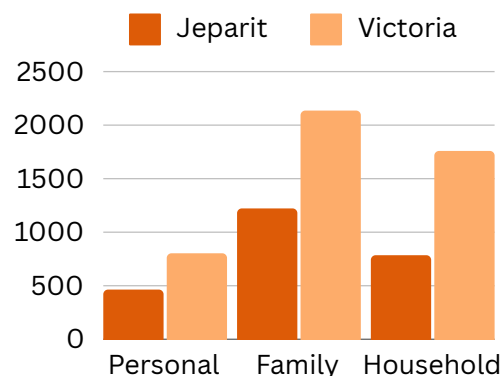
- Community Nursing
- Diabetes education
- Dietetics
- Exercise Groups
- Health Education & Promotion
- Occupational Therapy
- Packaged Care
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Social Work
- Speech Therapy
- Social Support group

Top Employment Industries

- Hospitals / Health Services
- Other Grain Growing
- Grain-Sheep or Grain-Beef Cattle Farming
- Sheep Farming (specialist)
- Non-Residential Building Construction

1.3% are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Median Weekly Income



JEPARIT IS KNOWN FOR:

Lake Hindmarsh, birthplace of Sir Robert Menzies, grain, sheep and cattle.



We acknowledge that Jeparit is located on the Traditional Lands of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people, and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.



WEST WIMMERA HEALTH SERVICE

HOW HEALTHY IS JEPARIT'S LGA (HINDMARSH SHIRE)?

Traditionally, health has been measured in rates of illness and disease. When people experience these it can have a larger impact on other aspects of their lives and on society. This is known as the burden of disease. There are systems of reporting that can give high-level information about the burden of disease to **local government or post-code areas**. These include the following sources: ABS Census, PHIDU Social Health Atlas of Australia, VAHI Victorian Population Health Survey, Dental Health Services Victoria Oral Health Profiles and data from the Crime Statistics Agency.

5 year olds with full immunisation

96.4%



6.7% of adults have been diagnosed with heart disease*



Potentially preventable hospital admissions is **76%** above the national average



96 police-recorded family incidents in 2023



Potential years of life lost due to premature deaths is 25% above the national average

8.7% have a profound or severe disability



88  **Median age at death**  **80**

CANCER

4.4% of adults have cancer (inc. remission)*

43.3% participate in bowel screening

8% of people have Diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2)



49.8% participate in breast screening

49.8% participate in cervical screening

Children with at least one decayed, missing or filled baby or adult tooth

Adults with anxiety or depression

Females - **38.8%**

Males - **21.6%**

7.6% of adults have three or more selected (see page 4) **chronic diseases***



29% - 0-5 years
57% - 6 years
68% - 12 years

In the Hindmarsh Shire:

- People have similar rates as the state for bowel and breast cancer screening participation, however lower rates for cervical screening participation
- The proportion of people ever having anxiety or depression is similar to the state
- The rate of females having anxiety or depression is higher than males, which is the same as the state
- Hospital admissions for preventable conditions is higher than the Australian average
- Police-recorded family incidents is similar to the state
- Children with tooth decay at public services is slightly higher than the state

This comparison highlights the areas most in need of improvement for Hindmarsh. Some things that could be done to help in these areas are:

- Increased education on oral hygiene
- More mental health services
- Increased support for preventable conditions

WELLBEING IN JEPARIT'S LGA (HINDMARSH SHIRE)

Wellbeing is derived from far more than physical health. Other factors – the social determinants of health – also impact on both physical and mental wellbeing. Once again, national and state-wide data can give us a high level picture of wellbeing in Jeparit.



Highest level of Educational Attainment*

Bachelor Degree and above	6.3%
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	7.7%
Certificate III or IV	17.6%
Year 10,11 or 12	35.8%
Certificate I or II	0%
Year 9 or below	15.7%

10.2%

of people 65 and over have a Senior Health Card

7.2%

Receive long-term unemployment benefit

4.9%

Low income, welfare-dependent families (with children)

21.3% current smokers (daily and occasional)



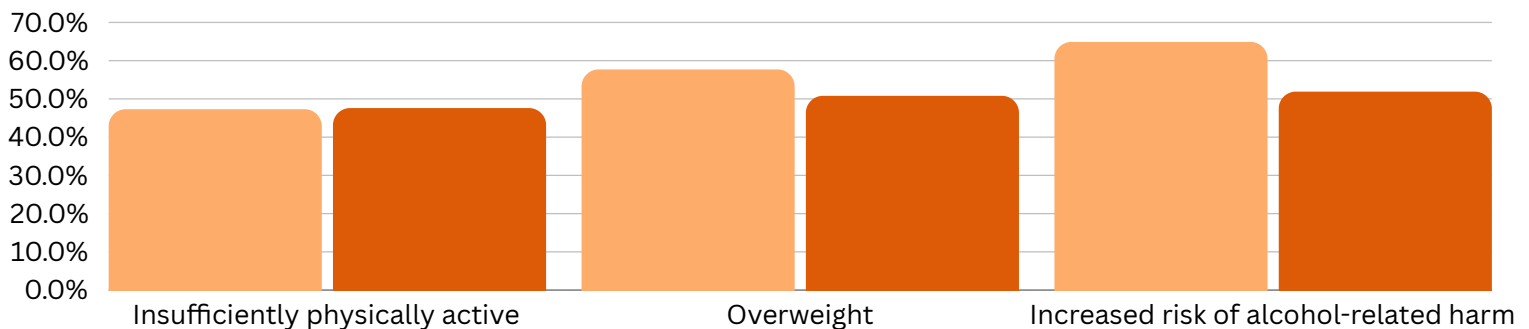
15.2% consume sugar-sweetened soft drinks daily



57.5% do not meet dietary guidelines for either fruit or vegetable consumption



Male Female



Key differences in the Hindmarsh Shire Local Government Area compared to state averages are:

- Higher proportion of sugar sweetened daily soft drink consumption
- Higher proportion of females who are overweight
- The rates of insufficient activity were closest between males and females in Hindmarsh compared to the other four Local Government Areas (LGA)
- Higher proportion of current smokers

While this data is collected at the LGA level, when considered in the context of Jeparit's demographics, some key influencing factors are:

- There is a significant proportion of older adults who may have mobility issues or limited ability to participate in physical activity
- Most people work in the farming industry (especially grain farming) which due to the increase of machinery use has led to farmers being less active in their daily work
- Slightly higher proportion of people live alone
- Significantly lower median income (approximately half the Victorian median income) which can affect people's ability to access resources to support health and wellbeing, and can contribute to higher rates of unhealthy behaviours such as smoking

*Data at town level not LGA

This is the second edition of Jeparit’s Health and Wellbeing Profile. For this, and future versions we are providing some key outcomes of our 5 Top Things survey. This specific local survey will be Jeparit’s opportunity to identify what matters most about health and wellbeing to the people who live here.

WHAT DOES JEPARIT THINK?

This page shows some, but not all, the findings of the 5 Top Things Survey in Jeparit.



JEPARIT RATES THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HEALTH OUT OF 10 AS:

7.67

People in Jeparit told us that when they need help with their health, they go to places like the health service and the hospital. **BUT...** they also talk to their friends in the clubs they are in and their family.

People in Jeparit were most concerned about the following in their community:

Mental Health

Drug use

Alcohol use

Dementia

Ageing population

Lack of community spirit

WHEN PEOPLE THINK JEPARIT, THEY THINK:

PRIORITIES FOR JEPARIT

The regional health promotion priorities for the Wimmera and Southern Mallee are:

- Healthy Eating
- Active Living
- Social Connection
- Reduction of Harm from Tobacco and Alcohol

Foundational activities for the WWHS Health Promotion team include:

- Café Health
- WWHS Community Health & Wellbeing grants projects:
 - Jeparit Movers and Shakers

People in Jeparit have come up with some ideas to tackle their main concerns. These ideas could be addressed by the community, service providers, or advocated for:

- Increased consistent police presence.
- Increase social connection opportunities, such as gatherings and events.
- Provide education on dementia, defibrillators, CPR and mental health.
- Provide education on general health and hygiene in schools.
- Reduce the cost of fresh food products.
- Improve and increase access to health services, particularly for mental health, drugs and alcohol.
- Increase telehealth services available with big hospitals.
- Increase the availability to public transport.
- Increase the awareness of, availability and use of emergency alert buttons.

The things people in Jeparit told us in the 5 Top Things Survey about their town help us to plan how best to support Jeparit.