Australian Government

Bureau of Rural Sciences

COUNTRY MATTERS

2008 SOCIAL ATLAS OF RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

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Particular thanks is made to the many staff from BRS who have contributed to the preparation of the Atlas, particularly the staff in the Social Sciences Program, Stuart Row, Robert Smart, Abhijit Deonath, and Johnny Xu in the Biosecurity and Information Sciences Program.

FOREWORD

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has a commitment to *'achieve stronger rural and regional communities through more sustainable, competitive and profitable rural industries'*.

Understanding people is fundamental to the design and delivery of policies and programs to achieve this outcome. This includes focusing on people's wellbeing and enhancing the ability of communities and industries to anticipate manage and adapt to changing conditions. In support of this objective, the Bureau of Rural Sciences, the scientific agency within DAFF, has prepared the 2008 *Country Matters — Social Atlas of Rural and Regional Australia (the Atlas)*.

The 2008 Atlas is the third in a series, published every five years, and is based on recently released Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Population Census data. The Atlas provides an understanding of the pattern of social and economic change that is occurring throughout rural and regional Australia, particularly associated with the prolonged drought that has occurred in Australia over much of the past decade.

There are significant future challenges confronting the people who live in regional and rural Australia, but there are also many opportunities and promising trends. Climate change is one issue that presents many challenges and opportunities for agriculture and rural communities. The Atlas provides policy makers, businesses and industry with information and analyses to support decisions relating to rural and regional Australia.

I trust you will find the Atlas a relevant and useful resource.

The Atlas is also available online at www.brs.gov.au/socialatlas.

Dr Colin J. Grant
Executive Director
Bureau of Rural Sciences

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has a commitment to 'achieve stronger rural and regional communities through more sustainable, competitive and profitable rural industries'. Understanding people is fundamental to the design and delivery of policies and programs to achieve this outcome. This includes focusing on people's wellbeing and contributing to social resilience so that rural Australian communities and industries are able to manage the changes they face.

Wellbeing is a broad concept encompassing factors such as family and social networks, amenity of the landscape, and access to services and resources, as well as a range of individual issues such as employment, financial resources and health. Wellbeing has different meanings for different people; how people experience and perceive wellbeing is situation-dependent, reflecting local geography, culture, and ecological circumstances.

At a collective level, social resilience signals a capacity to manage and adapt to changing conditions. Resilient communities are those that take action to enhance the personal and collective capacity of their residents, including the capacity of people to anticipate and plan for the future. This approach sees people, industries and communities in rural and regional Australia as active participants in creating and managing social and economic change.

The Bureau of Rural Science (BRS) is the Australian Government's leading source of scientific analysis and information to inform policy development and to measure the social consequences of policy decisions relating to agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The Atlas, available online, is a central BRS platform to provide information and analytical commentary about the characteristics of people, communities and industries across rural and regional Australia. It compares the social circumstances of rural Australians with those living in larger urban areas.

There is a need for social and demographic analyses of issues and trends in rural and regional Australia for decision-makers at government, industry and community levels. This online tool is used extensively throughout DAFF to develop and implement policies and programs that ensure Australia's primary industries remain sustainable, and rural people and communities remain strong.

The Atlas provides detailed analyses and commentary on over 800 non-capital city Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) across Australia on the following themes:

- **Population** — dynamics of demographic change.
- **Education** — levels of educational attainment and work skills affecting future labour supply for industry.
- **Participation in the labour market** — characteristics of labour markets.
- **Employment** — industry diversification and changing concentrations of industry.
- **Families** — social change affecting families and households.
- **Income** — variation in levels of income.
- **Disadvantage** — the extent of need for support for people with a disability is used as an indicator of disadvantage.
- **Access to information technology** — levels of access to the internet for individuals business and communities
- **Housing** — differences in housing tenure.
- **Community participation** — involvement in the community through volunteering activities.

This release of the Atlas includes information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2006 Census of Population and Housing Census and compares trends with 1996 and 2001 Census data. The Atlas provides information for policy development on many critically important issues including:

- drought
- climate variability and change
- water shortages
- regional development.

GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION AND HOW TO READ THE MAPS

To produce each of the maps in the 2008 Social Atlas, the numerical values for each Statistical Local Areas (SLA) have been calculated and classified into three categories: Lowest, Average and Highest. The three categories were chosen to produce a meaningful and consistent presentation of the data. Unless otherwise noted, there are two formulae used to produce the maps (described below). The table in Attachment 1 shows the category intervals (or breakpoints) for the classes in the legend for each map.

Proportion data maps for 2006

Average proportion SLAs

The range for the *Average* category is *plus-or-minus one half of one standard deviation from the mean value*.

Highest proportion SLAs

The *Highest proportion SLAs* category includes all proportions greater than the *Average* category. The text describing the *Highest proportion SLAs* for each map relates to the extremes of this category.

Lowest proportion SLAs

The *Lowest proportion SLAs* category includes all proportions lower than the *Average* category. The text describing the *Lowest proportion SLAs* for each map relates to the extremes of this category.

Change in the number from 2001 to 2006 (%) maps

These maps display the amount of change (%) occurring for each topic between 2001 and 2006. These change maps are slightly more complex to interpret than those based only on 2006 data (i.e. the proportion data maps). This is because most variables increase in value as the population increases over time. The Atlas displays the extremes of the distribution of change, regardless of the direction (positive or negative) of that change.

Average value SLAs

The *Average value SLAs* category displayed on each of these maps is an 'average' amount of change. This is calculated as *plus-or-minus one-quarter of one standard deviation from the mean change value* (–S and +S in the graph below).

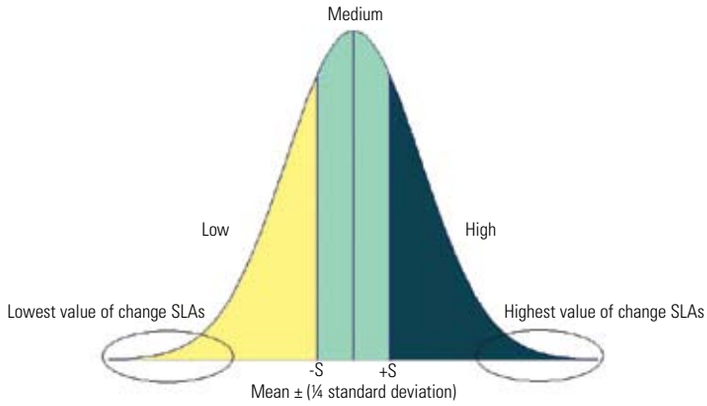
Highest value of change SLAs

The *Highest value of change SLAs* category includes all values above the +S value (higher than plus one-quarter of one standard deviation from the mean change value). Typically the mean change is positive and this category includes only positive changes. However, when the mean change is negative, the *Highest value SLAs* category also includes the negative changes nearest to zero. The text describing the *Highest value of change SLAs* relates to the extremes of this category (as shown in the graph below).

Lowest value of change SLAs

The *Lowest value of change SLAs* category includes all values below the –S value (lower than minus one-quarter of one standard deviation from the mean change value). This category typically includes small increases (low value positive changes) and all decreases (negative changes, if any). The text describing the *Lowest value of change SLAs* relates to the extremes of this category (as shown in the graph below).

Change Distribution



Note: Exceptions to these two rules are Maps 1 (population density), 25 (Indigenous population) and 28 (fluency in English), see details in Attachment 1).

Many geographical classification systems use population counts to define areas as urban or rural.

In this Atlas the following terminology is used for ease of understanding and discussion.

Terminology	Population
Major urban centre	100 000 people and over (including capital cities)
Regional centre	1000 to 100 000 people
Small town	200 to 1000 people
Rural area	Less than 200 people
Capital city	The statistical division of each of the 8 capital cities in Australia

Population change throughout Australia

The greatest population growth in Australia continues to occur in the outer suburbs of cities, the inner parts of capital cities, peri-urban areas adjacent to cities and urban centres, some regional centres, and a number of coastal regions.

Higher levels of population growth in Australia in the five years from 2001 to 2006 reversed a long-term slowdown in the growth rate. A significant new trend is that population growth outside the capital cities now exceeds that within capital cities due to the strong growth in some regional areas.

Average annual population growth in Australia (estimated resident population), 1996–06

Source: ABS, Regional Population Growth, cat 3218.0

There are a variety of demographic, economic, industrial, and social factors that influence population growth. People tend to move to areas that have good economic prospects, employment opportunities, services, and lifestyle amenity. The increased level of population growth in capital cities has occurred as a result of continuing strong economic growth. Prosperity in cities has been fuelled by the global resources boom and a thriving business sector, resulting in high demand for labour, and a wide range of employment opportunities. The falling population in many small towns and rural areas is due to long-term decline in rural industries and the impacts of prolonged drought.

The regional distribution and size of populations in the states and territories is largely dependent on the history of settlement and development, and geography. In Western Australia, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory, a higher proportion of the total population lives in regional centres (with populations from 1 000 to 100 000 people), compared to the national average.

In Tasmania and the Northern Territory, a higher proportion of people live in small towns, and in Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory, a higher proportion of people live in rural areas, in comparison to the national average.

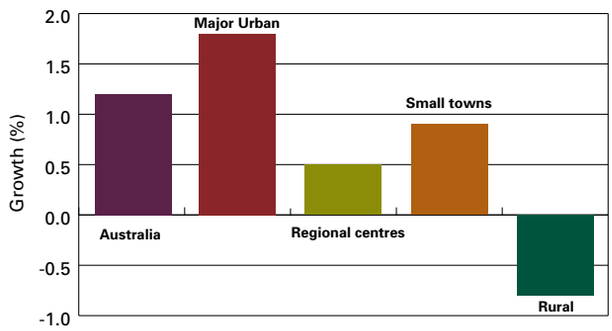
The level and pattern of population growth outside capital cities will depend on location, extent of the drought, prevailing economic conditions and levels of prosperity of businesses and industry. Retirement and the desire for an amenity lifestyle have been drivers of population growth in some areas. The strongest levels of population growth have occurred in peri-urban areas adjacent to urban centres and in coastal regions. Strong population growth occurred in areas surrounding Melbourne, along the Murray River, parts of the South and North Coast of New South Wales, the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, and North Queensland.

In contrast, there has been a clear pattern of continuing population decline in many rural and remote areas in the five years from 2001 to 2006. This decline has been exacerbated by the extended period of drought impacting on agricultural industries and other ancillary and services industries. This has reduced employment opportunities. The social circumstances of many people, communities and towns have changed as the movement of young people and families to regional and major urban centres for better employment and education opportunities has accelerated. Declining population has also led to a contracting pool of potential volunteers, which has had an impact on the social capital of communities.

Population growth in the decade between 1996 and 2006

In the 10 years to 2006, population increased in all sizes of urban centres, but the total population in rural areas of Australia decreased. This was a period of strong growth in business and service industries in most urban centres in Australia, but declining prospects for many rural-based industries. The annual average rate of population growth was highest in the large major urban centres, averaging 1.8% growth per year, and rural much higher than the national average. In contrast, the population of rural areas decreased by an average of 0.8% per year over this 10-year period.

Average annual population growth, urban 1996–06

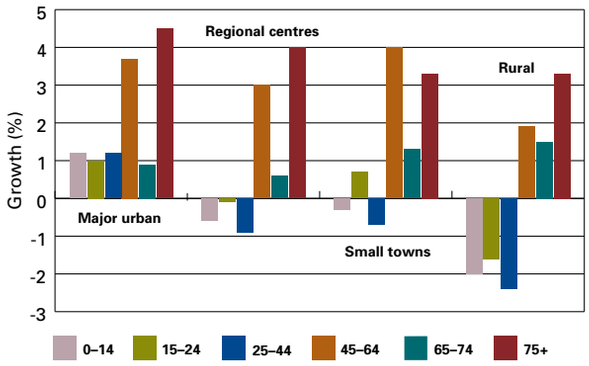


The highest growth occurred in the oldest age group (75 years and over). In the 10-year period to 2006, the average annual rate of population growth was 4.2%, more than three times the rate for the total population. The pattern of growth was directly related to the population size of the urban regions. The number of older persons in major urban areas increased faster than in the smaller towns and rural areas. This was partly due to older people moving to urban centres for health services.

Population decline in younger age groups generally occurred in regional centres, small towns and rural areas. In rural areas, the annual average decrease in number of

children was 2.0% per year. The annual average decrease was 1.6% per year for young people aged 15 to 24, and 2.4% per year for adults in the prime working age group of 25 to 44 years.

Average annual population growth, by age group, 1996–06



Source:1996 and 2006 Census (enumerated data)

Overview of population growth in regional and rural Australia between 2001 and 2006

More than a third (36%) of Australia's population lived outside the capital cities in 2006. Population in areas outside the capital cities increased by 472 700 since 2001, reaching 7.5 million people in 2006 (estimated resident population). Population growth was 1.2% per year between 1996 and 2001, but increased faster to occur at an average of 1.3% per year since 2001. The growth outside the capital cities in the five years to 2006 was slightly higher than the average for the capital cities (by 0.02% per year). For Queensland, growth outside Brisbane was higher than for Brisbane, as it was in South Australia for areas outside Adelaide. Growth in New South Wales outside Sydney was almost equal to the growth in Sydney.

The highest growth outside the capital cities continued to occur in Queensland, with the population increasing by 271 300 people in the five years to 2001. This was three times more than in New South Wales (85 900 people) and five times more than in Victoria (50 800 people).

The highest levels of growth outside the capital cities occurred along the coast. The strongest growth in Queensland was in the Gold Coast, Maroochydore, Cairns, areas around Rockhampton, and Caloundra. Nearly half of the growth outside south east Queensland was around Cairns, Mackay, Hervey Bay, Thuringowa and Townsville. Rapid growth also occurred in Toowoomba. In Victoria, the highest growth area was around Geelong. In Western Australia, strong growth occurred in Mandurah, Busselton, and the mining areas; in New South Wales, in the Tweed, Newcastle, areas around Nowra, and Hastings; and in South Australia, the highest growth occurred in Alexandrina, Victor Harbour, and Yankalilla.

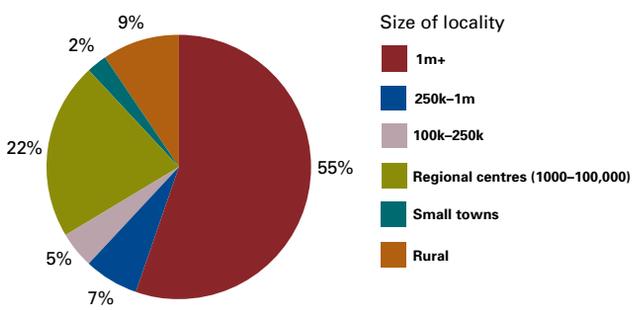
Population in some regional centres has increased because these centres provide a range of health, education and other services to the surrounding areas. This growth is from existing residents and people moving in from small towns and surrounding rural areas. These centres have also grown from the movement of some people from capital cities, attracted to regional centres by better housing affordability and a country lifestyle. In New South Wales, the highest growth occurred in Maitland, Queanbeyan, and Wagga Wagga; in Victoria, the highest growth occurred in Bendigo, Ballarat, Mitchell (around Kilmore) and Macedon Ranges (around Kyneton); and in South Australia, most growth occurred in Mount Barker (in the Adelaide Hills) and Light (around Kapunda).

Populations declined in many rural areas, particularly in areas that were drought-affected. These include Moree Plains, Walgett, Bourke, Central Darling in north west New South Wales (including the towns of Menindee, Wilcannia and White Cliffs), and Balonne (including the town of St George) in Queensland.

In summary, in 2006, the population was distributed in the following way:

- Over half (55.0%) of the Australian population lived in major urban centres and cites with populations greater than 1 million people.
- A further 7.0% lived in other large urban centres with populations between 250 000 and 1 million, and 5.0% lived in urban centres with populations between 100 000 and 250 000.
- The remaining third (33.0%) of the population lived in regional centres of up to 100 000 people, and 9.0% lived in rural areas.

Composition of population in urban and rural Australia, 2006



Note:

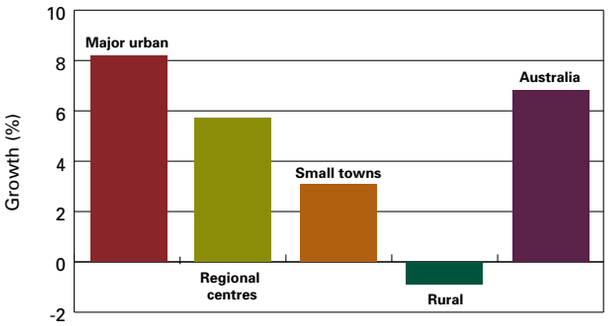
1 *Places with populations up to 100 000 include Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Warrnambool, Lismore, Bathurst, Nowra, Dubbo, Orange, Port Macquarie, Gladstone, Tamworth, Shepparton, Mildura, Hervey Bay, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Bunbury, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Mandurah, Burnie-Devonport, Bendigo, Ballarat and Albury-Wodonga.*

2 *Larger urban centres with populations over 100 000 include: Launceston, Toowoomba, Cairns, Townsville, Geelong, Wollongong, Canberra-Queanbeyan, Newcastle and Gold Coast-Tweed.*

A complete listing of the size of regional centres and towns is included in the Attachments.

The total population of Australia increased by 6.8% in the five years to 2006, based on 2006 Census (usual residence) data. However, patterns of growth and decline varied considerably throughout Australia. Population growth was directly associated with the size of the urban centre: larger centres grew faster than smaller centres and small towns, and the population rural areas declined.

Population growth in Australia, 2001–06



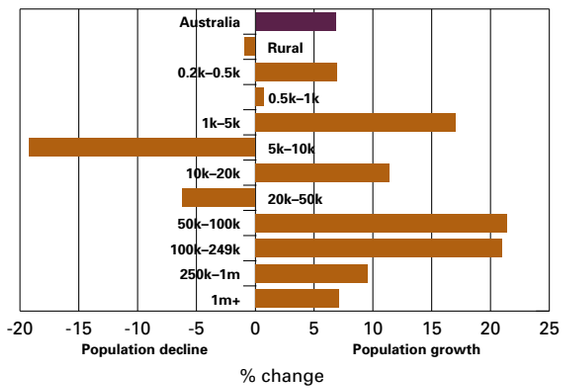
In the five years to 2006 throughout Australia:

- the population increased in all urban centres, but decreased in rural areas
- major urban centres experienced the strongest population growth, increasing by 8.2%
- population in regional centres increased by 5.7%
- small towns increased by 3.1%
- rural areas experienced a decrease in population of 0.9%.

The pattern of higher population growth in larger urban areas is consistent with more detailed analysis. All centres with populations greater than 50 000 experienced strong population growth. Regional centres with populations between 5 000 and 50 000 decreased by 4.2%. However, regional centres between 10 000 and 20 000 people increased by 11.5% people.

Over the five years to 2006, small towns of fewer than 5 000 people experienced strong population increases (12.8%), particularly towns between 1 000 and 5 000 (which increased by 17.0%). This reflects the movement of rural people from surrounding areas and the movement of people from cities to small country towns, many in coastal regions. Rural areas experienced population decline.

Percentage change in population by size of locality, 2001–06



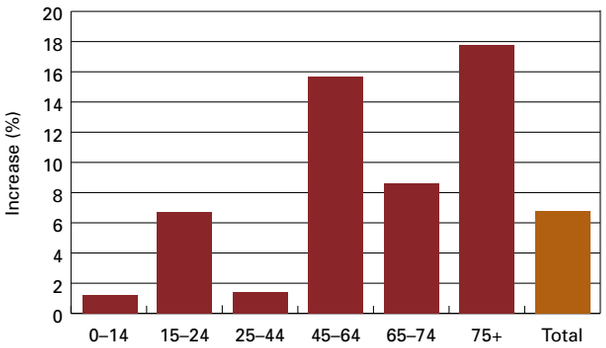
'k' denotes 1000 'm' denotes 1 000 000

Changing age profile in Australia — an ageing population

Australia's population continues to age, but the rate of ageing is occuring at different rates in different parts of Australia due to existing age structures and varying levels of success in attracting people from other areas. Small towns and rural areas are ageing faster because young people and young families in particular, are moving to larger urban areas and cities for better education and employment prospects. There are also fewer numbers of young families moving to small towns and rural areas to replenish population stocks, resulting in the existing population ageing in-place.

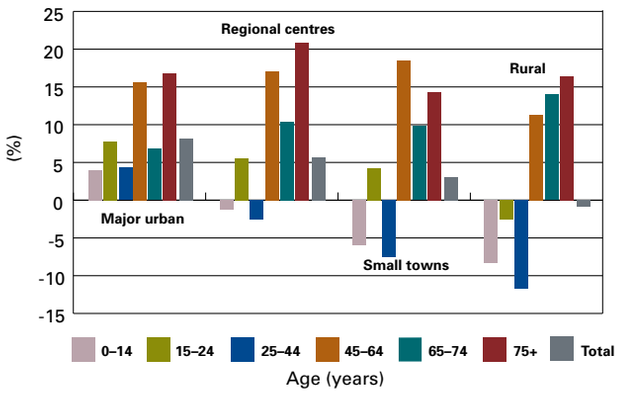
The number of people in older age groups is increasing much faster than the number in younger age groups. All age groups increased in numbers in the five years to 2006, but the number of children in Australia only increased marginally (1.2%), and the number of adults in the prime working ages from 25–44 years only increased by 1.4%. This illustrates the demographic wave that will have future consequences on almost every aspect of economic, social and community life throughout Australia. The increase in the number of older persons aged 75 years and over (17.8%) was almost three times higher than for the total population, indicating the future pattern of ageing of Australia's population profile. The number of adults in the higher range of the working age population (45–64) also had strong growth (15.7%), much higher than the total average, indicating the unavoidable momentum of ageing that is already locked into the demographic pipeline.

Increase in population by age group, 2001–06



The following figure illustrates the geographic pattern of population change by age group.

Population growth by age group 2001–06



The major urban centres experienced growth in all age groups in the five years to 2006. In regional centres, there was population growth for all age groups except children and adults aged 25–44 years, both fell marginally.

In small towns, the population also increased for all age groups except children and adults aged 25–44 years. This indicates a limitation on potential future population growth and development in small towns.

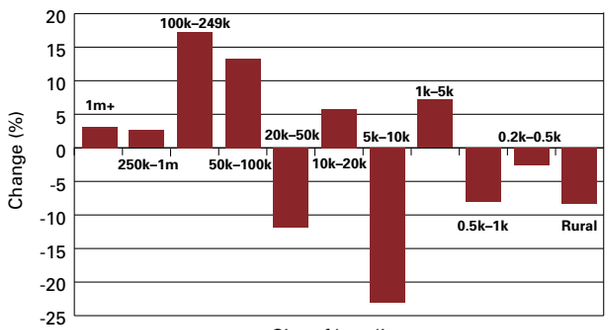
In rural areas, it is important to note that growth only occurred in the older age groups. All age groups over 45 years experienced high levels of growth in rural areas, generally above the national average; all younger age groups experienced decline. In particular, there were significant decreases in the number of children (falling by 8.3%, in contrast to growth nationally of 1.2%), and adults in the prime working age of 25–44 years (falling by 11.4%, in contrast to a national average increase of 1.4%). This reflects a pattern of young people and people of prime working age leaving rural areas accelerating the ageing of the remaining population. The age profile of the remaining population is therefore older leading to population and community decline.

Age groups

Children aged 0 to 14 years

In the five years to 2006, the number of children increased by 1.2%. The figure below illustrates the trend in larger urban centres for growth in the number of children, while small towns and rural areas experienced a decline. Small towns and rural areas have an older age profile, and young people and families are moving to larger urban centres. There were strong increases in the number of children in the regional centres as a consequence of young families moving to these centres.

Population change, urban and rural, in children aged 0 to 14 years, 2001–06



'k' denotes 1000 'm' denotes 1 000 000

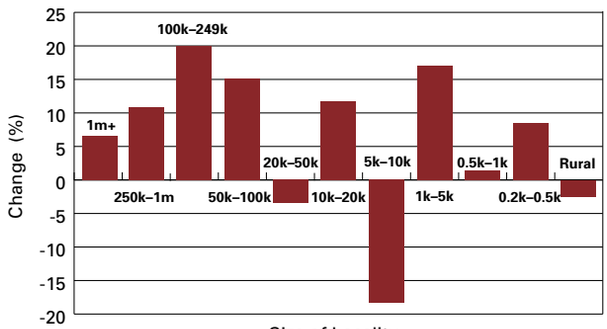
This pattern of significant decline in the number of children in rural areas occurred across all states and territories. The greatest decline outside the major urban areas occurred in Queensland.

Young people aged 15 to 24 years

The number of young people aged 15 to 24 years in the population is an important leading indicator of the future labour supply for industry expansion. This age group is critical for future family formation, and population and community growth.

Larger urban areas and small towns experienced a growth in the number of young people, reflecting the movement of this age cohort from rural areas and smaller regional centres. The decline in rural areas occurred in all states and territories, with the largest decline in the Northern Territory and Queensland.

Population change in the number of young people, 15 to 24 years, urban and rural, 2001–06



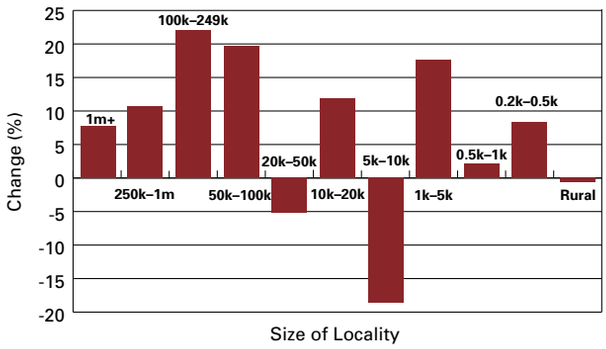
'k' denotes 1000 'm' denotes 1 000 000

People of working age

The number of working age people (15–64 years) increased by 7.5% in Australia from 2001 to 2006. This age group provides labour supply for industry and is an indicator of levels of community growth (or decline). The largest urban centres generally gained people of working age. Urban centres between 50 000 and 1 million people generally experienced strong growth, partly due to the movement of people to these places for work, education, and future prospects.

Small towns experienced some growth in the number of people of working age, mostly in the older age groups due to population ageing. In contrast, rural areas experienced a small decrease (0.6%) as a consequence of people moving to regional and urban centres and cities.

Change in number ofpeople of working age (15–64 years), urban and rural, 2001–06

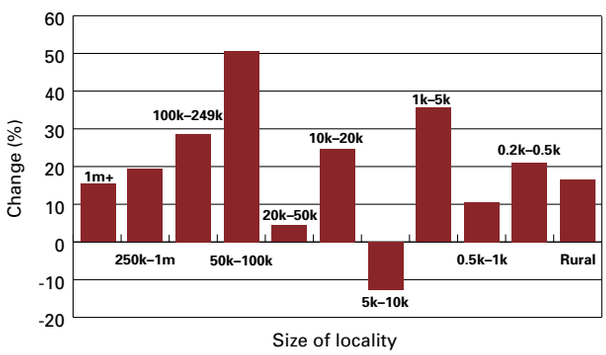


'k' denotes 1000 'm' denotes 1 000 000

Older age group (75 years and over)

The number of persons aged 75 and over increased significantly across Australia, reflecting an ageing population. Nationally, the increase was 17.8%, nearly three times the rate for the total population of 6.8%. Urban centres with populations of 50 000 to 250 000 had the biggest increase as older people moved for access to necessary services. These regional centres include cities such as Hervey Bay, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Bunbury, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Mandurah, Burnie-Devonport, Bendigo, Ballarat, Albury-Wodonga, Launceston, Toowoomba, Cairns, Townsville and Geelong.

Change in the number of persons aged 75 and over, urban and rural, 2001–06



'k' denotes 1000 'm' denotes 1 000 000

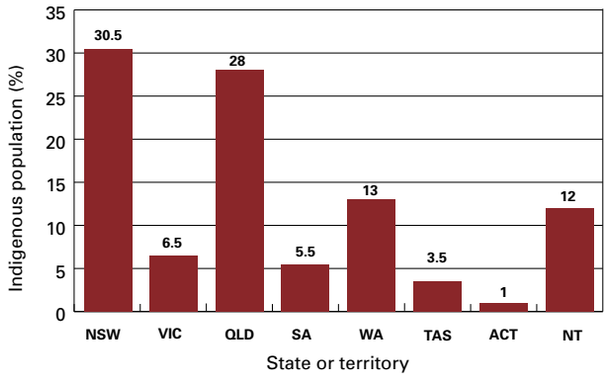
The number of people aged 75 and over in small towns and rural areas increased at a similar rate as the total average.

Indigenous population

Overview

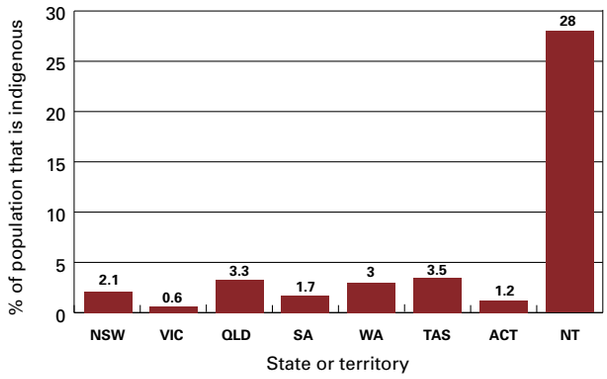
Indigenous people in the population increased from 2.0% of the total Australian population in 1996, to 2.2% in 2001 and 2.3% in 2006 (usual residence Census count). In 2006, the greatest proportion of Indigenous people lived in New South Wales (30.5%) and Queensland (28%).

Indigenous population, by states and territories, 2006



Although only 12.0% of the total Indigenous population lived in the Northern Territory, Indigenous people comprised 28.0% of the total Northern Territory population.

Proportion of indigenous population by state or territory, 2006

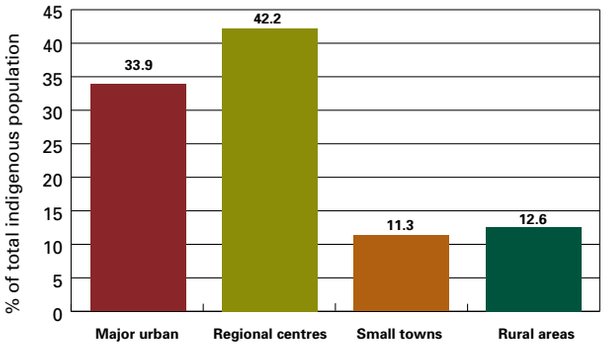


In contrast, only 0.6% of the total Victorian population was Indigenous.

Where Indigenous people live

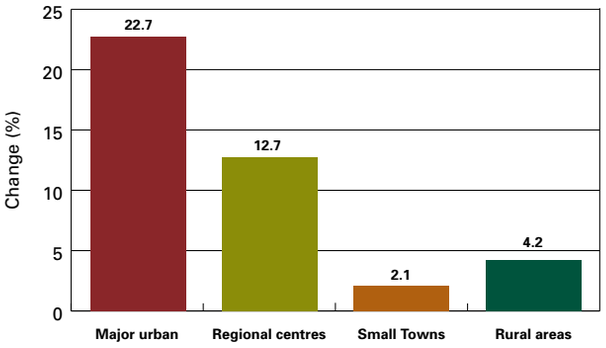
Most Indigenous people live in urban areas. Nearly half (42.2%) of all Indigenous people live in regional centres throughout Australia, and a third (33.9%) live in major urban centres. Only 12.6% of Indigenous people live in rural areas.

Indigenous Australians, 2006



Over the five years to 2006, the Indigenous population increased the most in major urban areas (22.7%) and regional centres (12.7%).

Increase in the Indigenous population, 2001–06



Median age

The median age is the age at which half the population is older and half is younger, and can be used to measure the extent of the ageing population. At June 2006, the median age of Australia's population was 36.6 years, compared with 35.7 years at June 2001 and 34 years at June 1996.

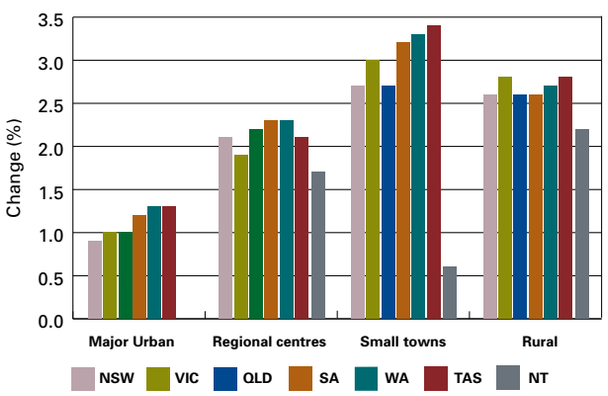
South Australia had the highest median age in June 1996 and June 2001, but by June 2006 Tasmania had the highest median age of 38.8. The Northern Territory continued to have a much lower median age (30.9 years at June 2006) because of the higher proportion of Indigenous people, who have a younger age profile.

Generally, the median age was higher in small towns and rural areas. It was highest in small towns in South Australia (43.1 years), Tasmania (42.9 years) and Victoria (42.8 years). In rural areas, the median age was highest in Victoria (41.1 years) and New South Wales (41.0 years).

Median age, states and territories, 2006

Over the five years to 2006, the median age increased to a greater degree in small towns and rural areas indicating higher levels of ageing in these areas. The population profile in small towns and rural areas is becoming older more quickly. This occurred everywhere except in the Northern Territory, which maintained a younger age profile due to the relatively large Indigenous population. The greatest increases in median age occurred in the small towns of Tasmania (by 3.4 years), Western Australia (by 3.3 years) and South Australia (by 3.1 years). This indicates the increasing high levels of population ageing occurring in these small towns.

Change in median age, 2001–06

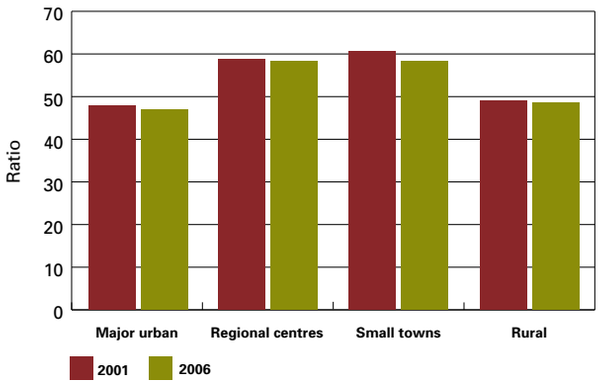


Dependency on the working age population

The dependency ratio measures the extent that the working age population (15–64 years) supports those not in the workforce (children or older dependents). The total dependency ratio is the number of child dependents (aged 0–14 years) or those who are aged dependents (65 years and over), expressed as a proportion of the number of people of working age (15–64 years). A low dependency ratio (e.g. 46.9 in the major urban centres in 2006) indicates that there is a comparatively larger population of working age people to support those dependants. A higher value (e.g. 58.3 in small towns in 2006) indicates there are comparatively more dependents than working age people.

Dependency ratios were higher in small towns and regional centres than in major urban and rural areas. There has been a slight decline in ratios in all areas in the five years to 2006. However, much of this decrease is due to a relatively high decline in the number of children, which has been greater than the increase in the number of older persons.

Total dependency ratio, 2001–06



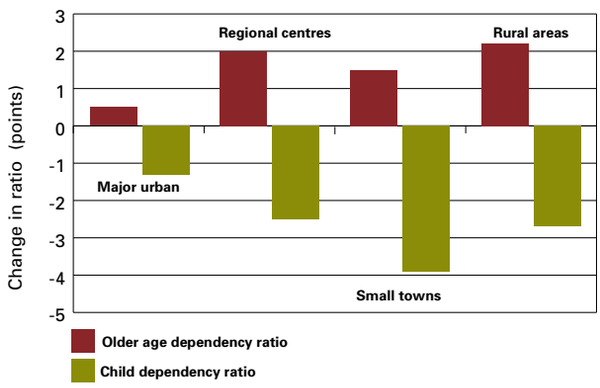
The extent of the decrease was greater in small towns because of the significant decrease in the relative number of children.

For major urban centres, the dependency ratio has decreased in all states; in regional centres, the ratio has decreased in all states except Queensland and South Australia; for small towns, the ratio has decreased significantly in all states, particularly in the Northern Territory; and in rural areas, the ratio has decreased in all states except Queensland and the Northern Territory (in which the rates increased significantly).

Further analysis reveals some of the reasons for the fall in total dependency ratios. The child dependency ratio is the number of children aged 0–14 years for each 100 people of working age. The aged dependency ratio is the number of people aged 65 years and over for each 100 people of working age.

The effect of the relatively large reduction in the child dependency ratio has been to reduce the total dependency ratios for all urban centres and rural areas. The reduced number of children has had the greatest impact in small towns. Conversely, the number and proportion of older aged persons in the population (compared to the working age population) has resulted in increases in the total dependency ratios for all urban centres and rural areas. It is important to note that the cost of care for older aged dependents is much higher than for children. The increased proportion of aged persons continues to have the biggest impact in rural areas, regional centres, and small towns.

Change in child and older age dependency ratio, 2001–06



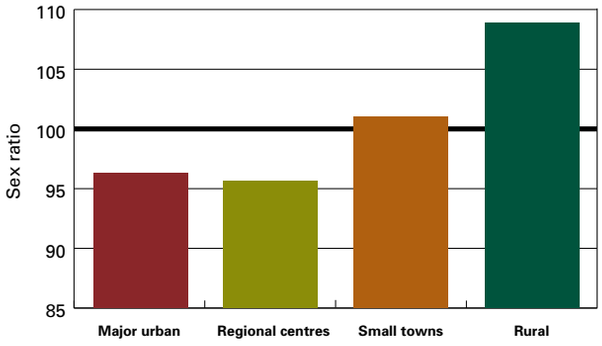
A consequence of the decrease in the total dependency ratio due to a decrease in the number of children will be an acceleration in the rate of ageing, a decline in future labour supply for industry, and probable impacts on the future viability of some towns and rural communities.

Sex ratios

The sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females in the population; more than 100 indicates there are more males than females in the population. A ratio that differs from 100 indicates a gender imbalance in the population which could affect household and family formation, and community and social relationships. Many young females leave small towns and rural areas for secondary and post school education and many do not return. They find a wide range of work, lifestyle opportunities, and relationships frequently not available in small towns and rural areas. In contrast, young males often find commencing work opportunities in these areas, but many end up living in small towns and rural areas with a shortage of young women.

The number of males exceeded females in rural areas and (marginally) in small towns. In contrast, major urban and regional centres had more females than males.

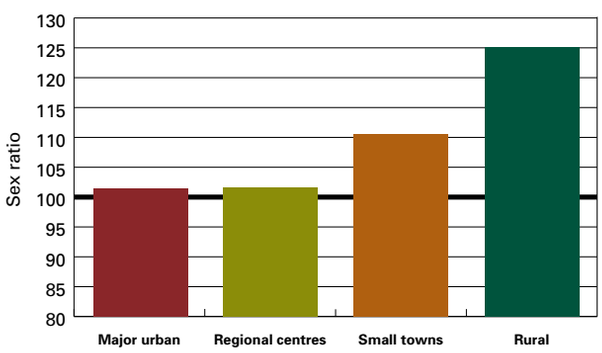
Sex ratio, total population, 2006



Rural areas in all states and the Northern Territory had much higher numbers of males in the population, especially the Northern Territory (118.3) and Western Australia (115.0). The Northern Territory had more males than females in all urban centres and rural areas. The highest ratio of females to males occurred in Tasmanian urban areas. Small towns in all states and the Northern Territory generally had equal ratios of males and females, whereas regional centres in all states had more females than males.

For young people aged 18 to 24 years, there was a greater proportion of males living in rural areas (125.1) and in small towns (110.5). For rural areas, the 25.1% indicates that there were 25.1% more young men than young women. This indicates an imbalance in the population, affecting companionship, relationships, family formation, and future community development. In contrast, the ratio of young males to young females was relatively balanced in major urban and regional areas.

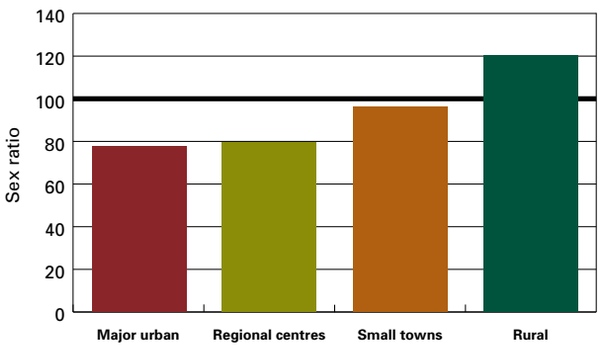
Sex ratio, young people aged 18 to 24, 2006



The imbalance in the number of young males to young females is most extreme in rural Western Australia (138.7) and South Australia (133.6), with more than 30% more young males than young females. In small towns, the ratio of young males is highest in the Northern Territory (121.0), South Australia (119.2) and Tasmania (115.4). The exception for small towns was in Western Australia (97.7) where there were more young females than males. In major urban and regional centres, there was a balance of young males and females in all states and the Northern Territory.

In the older age group (65 years and over), the ratio of males was much higher in rural areas (120.3), with 20.3% more older males than older females. In contrast, in all urban areas there were a greater number of older females than older males in the population. This reflects the different patterns of ageing — females live longer than males, and many older females (often widowed) move to regional and urban centres to be closer to family or aged care facilities.

Sex ratio, older age group, 2006



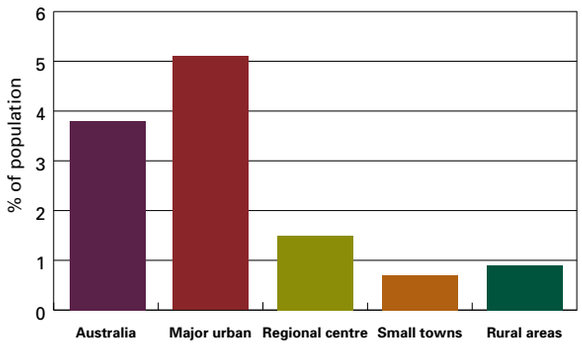
For rural areas, the high ratio of older males occurred in all states and the Northern Territory, but was particularly high in Western Australia (126.0) and Queensland (125.7). All states and the Northern Territory had higher ratios of older females than older males for small towns (except in Queensland, 105.9). For major urban and regional centres, the number of older females was much higher in all states, except for regional centres in the Northern Territory (112.2).

The imbalance in the sex ratio in the total population has continued over the five years to 2006. The ratio of males to females in rural areas increased over this period, from 108.9 in 2001, to 109.7 in 2006. In all other urban areas, the sex ratio remained steady. The sex ratio for young people aged 18 to 24 decreased in 2006 compared with the number of males to females (125.1 in 2006 from 133.9 in 2001) The sex ratio for the elderly population increased in rural areas (i.e. an increase in the number of males to females) from 117.0 to 120.3. For urban areas, the number of females to males continued to increase as more older aged females moved to these areas to be closer to family or to move into aged care facilities.

Recent arrivals to Australia

The place of residence for recent arrivals (in the five years before 2006) to Australia, can be expressed as a proportion of the total population. New arrivals to Australia continue to be attracted to major urban centres and cities — 5.1% of the total population in these locations were recent arrivals. Regional centres and rural areas had a much lower number of new arrivals as a proportion of their population.

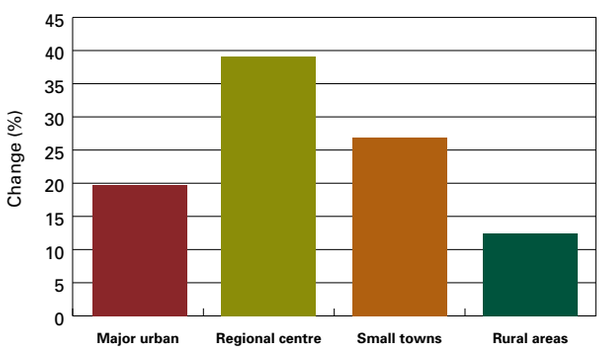
Proportion of recent arrivals to Australia, 2006



The pattern of settlement of new arrivals is directly related to the size of the urban area. Larger urban areas attract a higher proportion of recent arrivals; new arrivals in cities of more than 1 million people comprised 5.5% of the population, 3.2% for cities between 25 000 and 1 million people, only 0.6% in small towns (200 to 499 people), and 0.9% in rural areas. Only a small proportion of new arrivals to Australia are attracted to rural areas.

However, new arrivals to Australia are becoming attracted to regional centres, perhaps due to better housing affordability than in major urban areas. The growth in the number of new arrivals in the five years to 2006 (compared to the previous five years to 2001) was strongest in regional centres, increasing by 39.1%. Growth was also strong in small towns, with an increase of 26.9%, but remained much lower in rural areas (by only 12.5%). This reflects a level of success in attracting more new arrivals from overseas to live in regional areas.

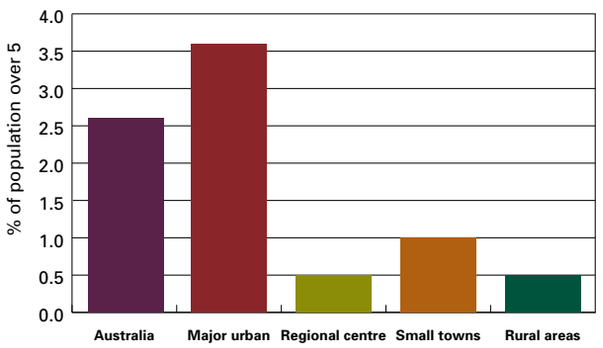
Percentage change in the number of recent arrivals, 2001–06



Fluency in English

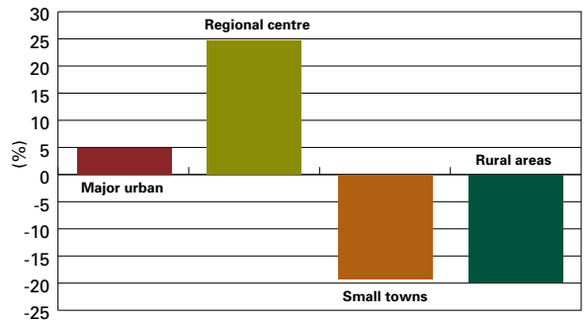
Fluency in spoken English is important for participation in the community and the workforce. It can be expressed as the proportion of the population who are not able to speak English well or at all. Only a small proportion of the Australian population (aged 5 years and over) are not able to speak English well or at all. Fluency was lowest in major urban centres and cities, but only 3.6% had low fluency levels. In all other urban areas, small towns and rural areas, only a very small proportion of the population had low levels of English fluency.

Proportion of the Australian population aged 5 years and over who do not speak English well or at all, 2006



Patterns of migration across Australia have had an impact on where people with low fluency levels are located. Over the five years to 2006, there was a significant growth in the number of people with low levels of fluency in spoken English in regional centres, which increased by 24.6% (the proportion in major urban centres only increasing by 4.9%). This provides further evidence of the increasing number of new arrivals who are coming to live in regional centres. Over the same period, the number of people with low levels of English fluency decreased significantly in small towns (19.2%) and rural areas (19.8%).

Percentage change in the number of people not speaking English well or at all aged 5 years and over, 2001–06



Labour force

Labour force participation rate

The labour force participation rate for any group in the population is the labour force component of that group, expressed as a percentage of the population in that group. It includes those employed and those unemployed, expressed as a proportion of the population. This measure is useful because it indicates the availability of labour supply and the extent of confidence and engagement in the paid workforce. A larger participation rate indicates that more people are employed or are optimistic about their chances of finding work and want to be involved in the workforce. A smaller participation rate indicates that fewer people want to be involved, often due to difficulty in finding available employment, or a belief that there is not enough work available.

The main groups analysed for level of participation are: young people (those aged 15 to 24 years); adults of prime working age (25 to 44 years); the mature aged people in the workforce (those aged 45 and over); and the total labour force (those aged 15 to 64).

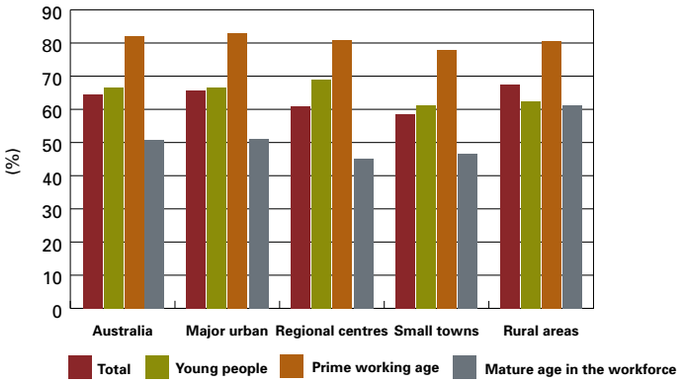
Participation rate in 2006

Participation in the workforce was highest for adults of prime working age, with 82.2% actively engaged. This level is generally consistent across all urban centres and rural areas. Participation by young people was lower (66.6%), because a proportion will be studying and not working or looking for work. Youth participation levels for young people are generally consistent in all urban centres and rural areas.

Only half (50.7%) of mature age adults participated in the workforce in 2006, a proportion will have retired, withdrawn, or had injuries and disabilities restricting their prospects for employment. However, mature age adults in rural areas have the highest levels of participation in the workforce (61.1%), demonstrating the prolonged period of engagement in work in rural areas into older age. Participation in work by mature age adults in rural areas is much higher than for mature age adults living in urban centres (where participation levels were 45% to 50%).

The highest levels of participation in the workforce occurred in rural areas (67.5%), which is higher than that occurring in any of the urban areas. This indicates high levels of engagement with employment and industry in rural areas, with people tending to work longer into older age. It also indicates that in some rural areas there may be a tighter labour market with labour shortages. In contrast, some coastal regions that attract people because of lifestyle opportunities may have lower levels of participation or higher unemployment rates.

Labour force participation rate, urban and rural, 2006



The level of participation in the workforce is directly related to the increasing size of the centres from small towns to major urban. This pattern was similar to participation by youth and adult workers.

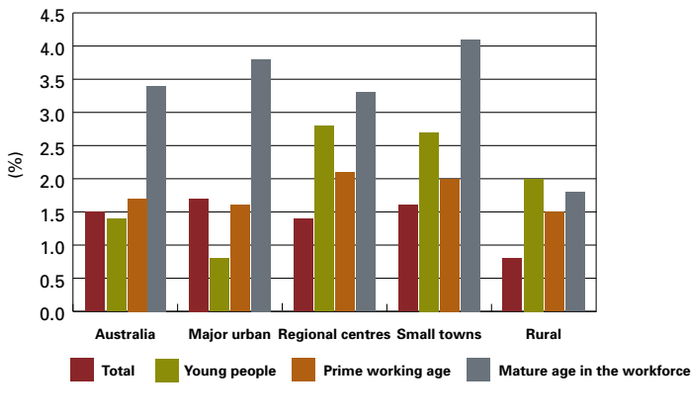
In contrast, labour force participation by young people in rural areas (62.4%) and small towns (61.1%) was slightly lower than in major urban and regional centres (with the highest levels of participation at 68.9%). Young people in rural areas have fewer opportunities for suitable employment and may become less engaged with the labour force.

Change in participation rate between 2001 and 2006

The level of participation in the Australian workforce increased in the five years to 2006, indicating more people were entering the labour market. This may have been due to optimism about finding work, strong employment growth and widespread opportunities in a range of industries throughout Australia.

Participation levels in urban areas were starting to catch up with those in rural areas. Whilst the overall level of participation in rural areas in 2006 continued to be higher than in urban areas, the rate of increase in levels of participation since 2001 was less in rural areas overall. In the five years to 2006, participation rates in rural areas increased at about half the rate of urban areas. For rural areas, the highest increases occurred in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Change in labour force participation rate, 2001–06



For young people, larger increases in participation occurred in regional centres, small towns and rural areas, with only a small increase in major urban areas. For adults of prime working age, increases were higher than for young people but lower than for mature age workers. People in the prime working age category increased their participation in the five years to 2006 from 1.5% to 2.1%.

For mature aged people, the increase in participation was much greater than for the younger age groups, indicating increasing strong levels of engagement in the workforce by older people. However, the increase since 2001 was much less in rural areas (1.8%) than in urban centres.

Unemployment rate

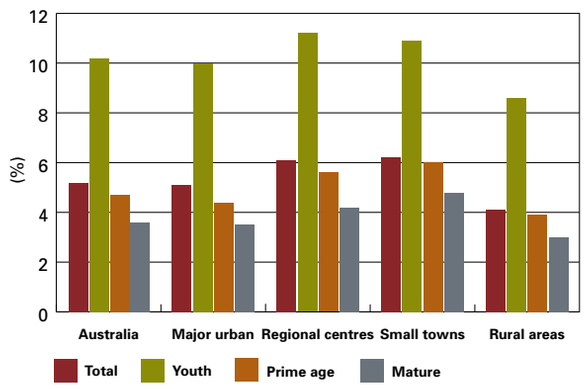
The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. It indicates the proportion of people in the population who are seeking work, but are unable to obtain employment. The unemployment rate is also a major indicator of poverty and disadvantage in the community and represents an under-utilised resource that industry could potentially use to operate, develop and grow.

Unemployment rate in 2006

The overall unemployment rate in Australia in 2006 was 5.2%. Unemployment rates were lower for adults, and much higher for young people as many of the latter have not yet acquired the necessary skills, education, training and experience to take advantage of employment opportunities. In 2006, the lowest unemployment rate in Australia occurred in rural areas (4.1%), much lower than in all urban centres and small towns. The highest level of unemployment occurred in urban centres with population sizes from 5 000 to 50 000 (around 6.5%).

Unemployment in rural areas for young people (8.6%) was much lower than in urban centres and small towns (where it was more than 10%). Young people living in rural areas were more likely to be working and fully utilised in the available industries. The highest level of general unemployment was also in urban centres from 20 000 to 50 000 people (12.1%). Generally the unemployment rate for young people was higher in towns and urban areas.

Unemployment rate, urban and rural, 2006



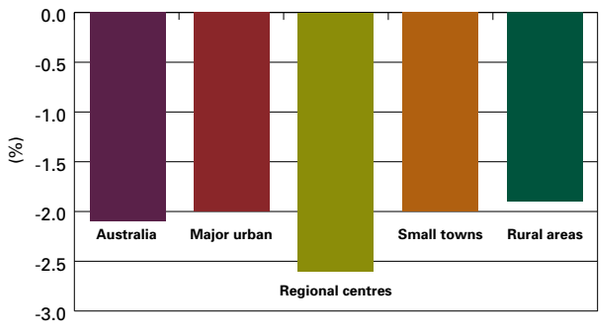
For people of prime working age, the unemployment rate was much lower than for young people, but higher than that of mature aged adults. This was consistent across all urban centres and rural areas. The unemployment rate for people of prime working age was lower in rural areas (3.9%), and highest in small towns (6.0%) and regional centres (5.6%).

For mature age workers, the level of unemployment is much lower than for the younger age groups because of experience and skills, and because a substantial number may have already retired or withdrawn from the labour force. The level of unemployment for mature age workers in Australia was only 3.6%, with similar levels across urban and rural Australia. It was slightly higher in small towns (4.8%) and small regional centres.

Change in the unemployment rate between 2001 and 2006

Labour market conditions strengthened across Australia in the five years to 2006 and generally unemployment rates across urban and rural Australia fell. This occurred in all states and the Northern Territory.

Change in unemployment rate, 2001–06



A similar pattern occurred for unemployment rates for mature age adults. There was a greater reduction in unemployment rates of young people, particularly in regional centres where unemployment decreased by 4.9%.

Employment in industry

Significant structural change has been occurring in the industries of agriculture, forestry and fishing as a response to local and global changes, including:

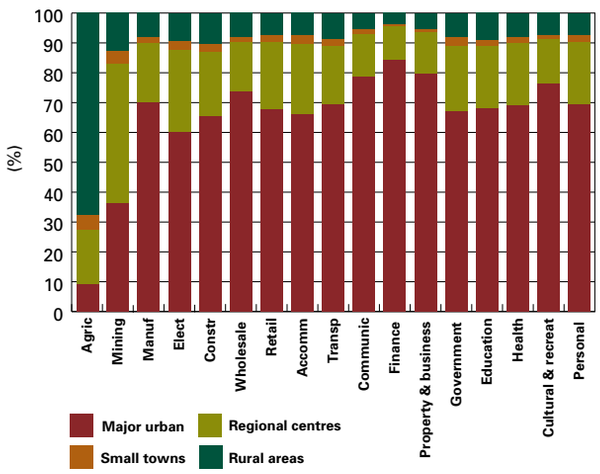
- greater competition from increased imports of food, fibre and wood
- increasing demand for skilled labour combined with an ageing workforce
- declining world fish stocks
- growing demand for water combined with the difficulties of coping with severe and prolonged drought.

Although farming methods have changed and productivity improvements have been high, the consequences have included a long period of declining employment in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry.

The decline in employment and production has not only impacted directly on people in these industries, but has also had consequences for the many people living in small towns and regional centres.

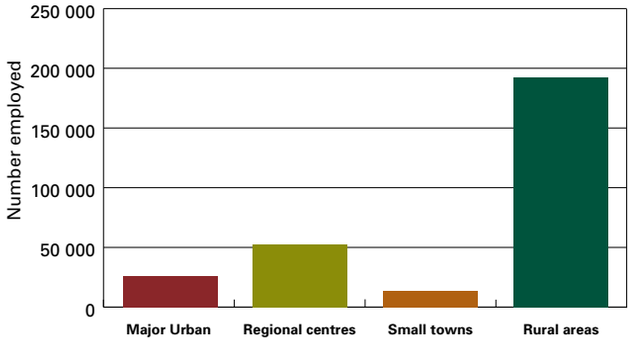
The pattern of employment in industries throughout Australia varies across urban centres and rural areas. The following chart presents the pattern of employment in 2006. It shows that agriculture, forestry and fishing have a critical presence in rural areas (but are also central to the prospects of many people living in the small towns and regional centres located in the agricultural areas). Employment in mining is spread throughout urban centres and rural areas throughout Australia. In contrast, other industries have a dominant presence in major urban centres, with about two-thirds of employment located in these centres.

Location of employment, industries, urban and rural, 2006



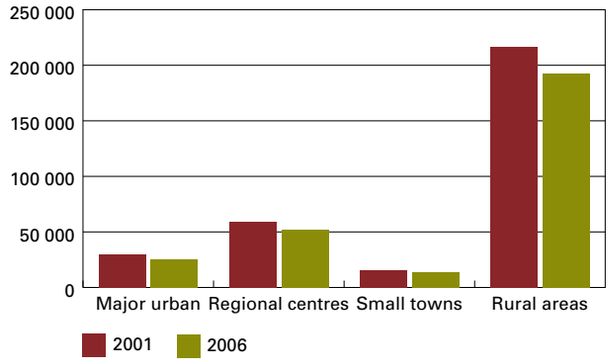
For agriculture, forestry and fishing two-thirds of the employment was located in rural areas in 2006, and 18.5% was located in regional centres throughout Australia.

People employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 2006



In the period 2001 to 2006, the number of people employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing decreased by 11.5% (accentuated by the prolonged period of drought). The number of people employed in rural areas fell from 216 900 in 2001 to 192 500 in 2006.

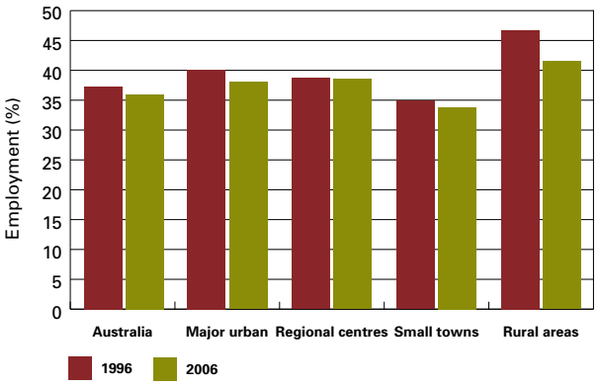
Number of people employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing, 2001 and 2006



Throughout Australia, industry restructuring and a changing base of employment has been occurring over a long period.

In the decade to 2006, the level of industry concentration in the largest three industries declined. This meant that there was diversification of employment into other industries.

Industry concentration (employment in the three largest industries) 1996–06



The largest reduction in industry concentration occurred in rural areas. Much of this was due to the falling employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing. However, rural areas still had a greater concentration of employment in a smaller number of industries. Despite the diversification, industry concentration levels in rural areas in 2006 still remained higher than they were in urban areas in 1996.

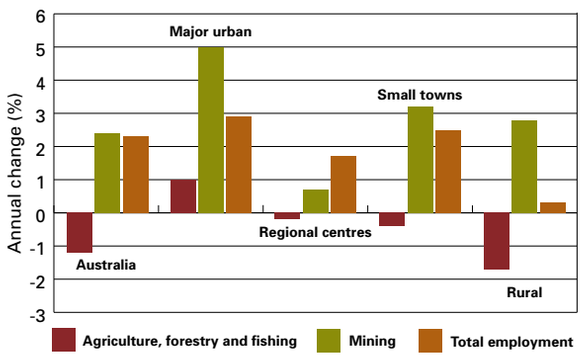
The three major industries in 1996 and 2006:

Region	1996	2006
Major urban	Retail (14.0%) Manufacturing (14.0%) Property and business (12.1%)	Retail (14.2%) Property and business (12.5%) Manufacturing (11.3%)
Regional centres	Retail (16.2%) Manufacturing (12.3%) Health (9.9%)	Retail (16.3%) Health (11.3%) Manufacturing (10.8%)
Small towns	Retail (13.3%) Manufacturing (11.7%) Health (9.9%)	Retail (13.2%) Health (10.6%) Manufacturing (10.1%)
Rural areas	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries (26.4%) Retail (10.5%) Manufacturing (9.8%)	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries (21.3%) Retail (10.6%) Manufacturing (9.2%)

The table shows the importance of retail and manufacturing employment throughout Australia, and the diversification in major urban areas to the private sector in property and business services. Employment in health services in small towns and regional centres has increased in importance as they have become places for the delivery of services to older persons. The proportion of people living in rural areas employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing has fallen substantially from 26.4% of total employment in 1996 to 21.3% in 2006. This illustrates the rural decline in these industries and the impact of the drought.

Total employment in Australia over the decade from 1996 to 2006 increased by an average of 2.3% per year. Growth was highest in major urban centres (increasing by an average of 2.9% per year) and small towns (increasing by an average of 2.5% per year). Employment growth was much lower in rural areas (only increasing by an average of 0.3% per year) and regional centres (increasing by an average of 1.7% per year).

Average annual percentage change in employment, 1996–06

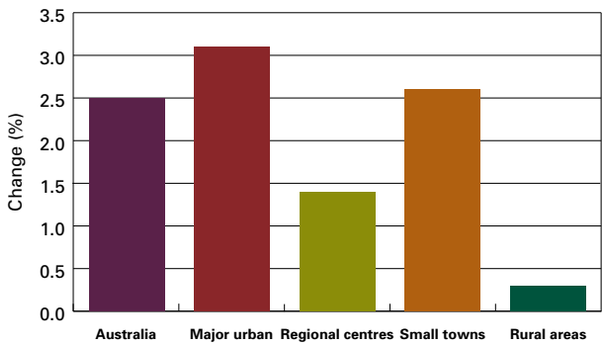


For agriculture, forestry and fishing, employment fell in the 10 years to 2006, by an average of 1.2% per year. The decrease was highest in rural areas, falling by 1.7% per year, and decreases also occurred in small towns and regional centres. In contrast, the mining industry increased employment by an annual average of 2.4% and increases in employment occurred throughout Australia as a result of the resources boom.

Diversification into new industries

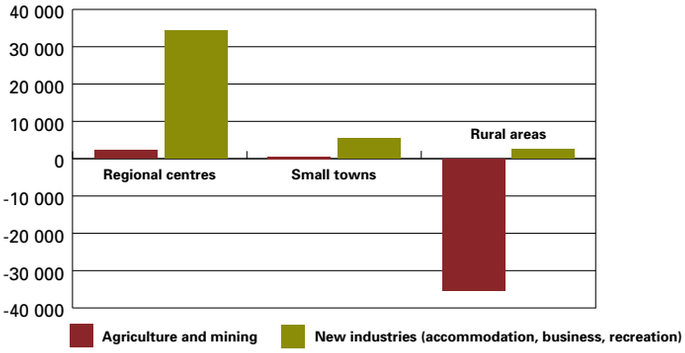
Industry diversification with employment growth is critical to a wider range of employment opportunities and future regional development throughout Australia. The industries of accommodation, cafes and restaurants, property and business services, and cultural and recreational services are central to future growth prospect. Industry diversification into the expanding leisure, recreation, and private business growth areas is also key. Over the decade to 2006, growth in these industries has occurred mostly in the urban parts of Australia, particularly in the major urban centres. In contrast, the rural areas shared little in this development, with employment in these industries only increasing by an average of 0.3% per year.

Average annual percentage growth in new industries,1996–06



Growth in new industries has been concentrated in the major urban centres, with nearly 90% of the employment growth in these industries occurring there. In the remaining areas, growth over the decade was concentrated in regional centres, with little growth occurring in small towns and rural areas. Importantly, the growth in small towns and rural areas did not in any way compensate for the decline in employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing over the decade.

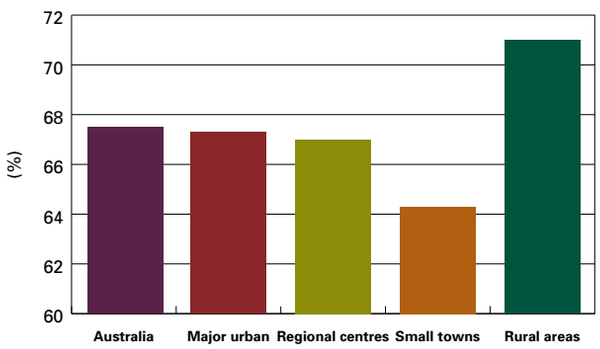
Change in numbers employed, 1996–06



Mothers with dependents in the labour force

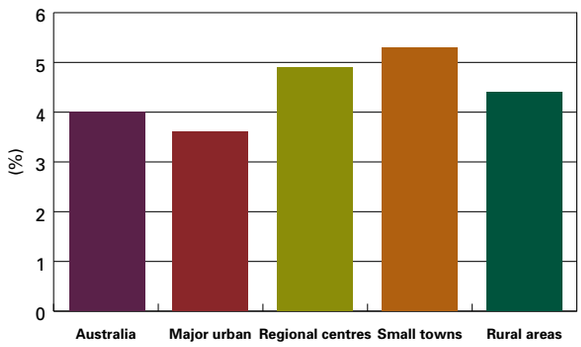
The pattern of increasing participation in the workforce by mothers with dependents (either children younger than 15 years, or students aged 15 to 24 years) has continued over the decade to 2006. The participation of mothers in the workforce has benefits such as higher household income and more opportunities for families. In 2006, mothers in rural areas had the highest level of participation in the workforce (71.0%), much higher than in any of the urban areas. Many of these mothers may be working on farms or in small businesses, or in off-farm jobs close to rural properties to supplement farm and family income. In direct contrast, the level of participation by mothers living in small towns was the lowest (64.3%) in Australia. Some of the opportunities in small towns may be taken by mothers from surrounding farms wanting work and off-farm activities to supplement farm incomes, particularly those affected by prolonged drought. Generally, the level of participation by mothers in the workforce decreased with decreasing size of urban centre and small towns. That is, the smaller the town, the lower the level of participation of mothers in the workforce.

Proportion of mothers with dependents in the labour force, 2006



However, this trend is beginning to change. Over the five years to 2006, the largest increase in the level of participation by mothers in the workforce occurred in small towns and regional cities. The increase in participation in rural areas was higher than the national average and in major urban centres and cities, as more women in rural areas sought work to supplement farm household income. This may have been, in part, a consequence of the prolonged drought affecting many rural communities.

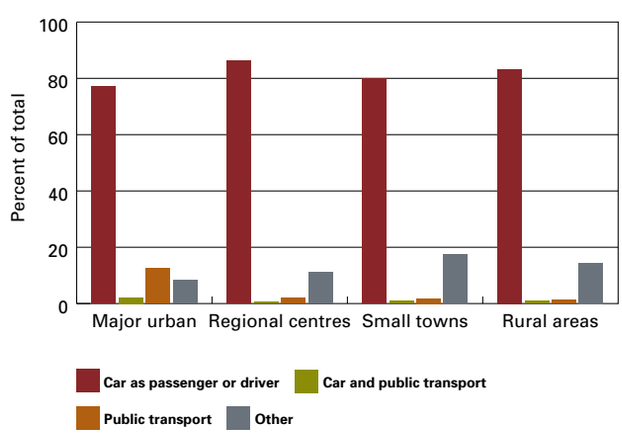
Change in participation of mothers with dependents in the workforce, 2001–06



Method of travel to work

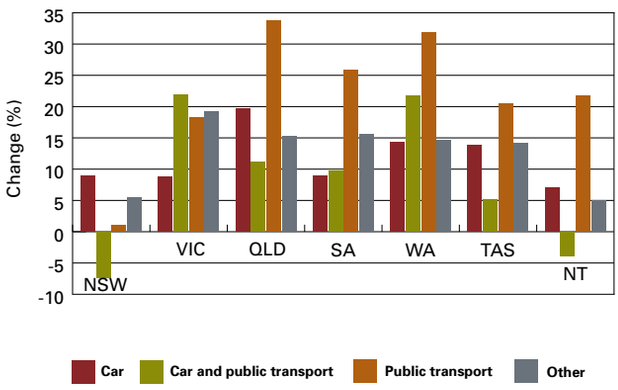
The method of travel to work indicates the degree of reliance on motor vehicles and the level of access to public transport. The main modes of transport analysed in travel to work are; 'car', 'car and public transport', 'public transport' and 'other'. In Australia in 2006, approximately 79.5% of people travelled in a car to work. However, this statistic is an average across Australia and there is considerable variation in different locations. In major urban centres and cities where there is greater availability and access to public transport, the percentage of travel by car is lower, although this remains the most common mode of transport to work. In regional and rural areas, the proportions are higher. For people who travel in a car to work there was little difference between the mode of transport in major urban and rural areas in 2006.

Mode of travel to work, 2006



New South Wales and the Northern Territory had a decline in the use of a car and public transport to get to work in the five years to 2006; all other states showed an increase. There have been increases in all other categories across the states and territories and, notably, both Queensland and Western Australia have had significant increases in the use of public transport to get to work.

Change in the way people travel to work, 2001–06



Throughout Australia in the five years since 2001, use of most forms of transport have risen from between 5% to 15%. However, in rural Australia the use of a car for transport to work increased by almost 21%, and the use of public transport decreased by approximately 2%.

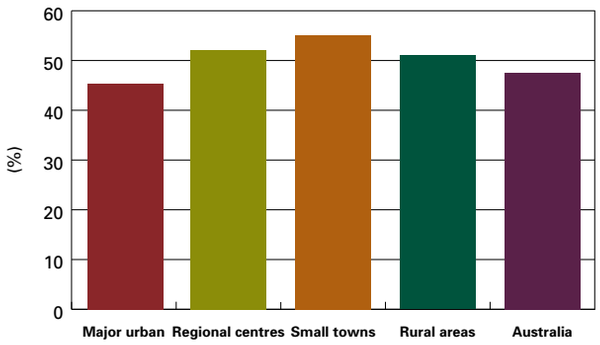
Education and training

Education and training maintain and increase workforce skills, improving levels of labour productivity for industry. Increasing levels of educational attainment occurs through higher tertiary educational (universities) or technical and further educational (TAFE) institutions in a wide range of degree, diploma, and certificate qualifications. These qualifications can be obtained at any age throughout working life post-secondary school.

Post-school qualifications

The number of people of working age without post-secondary school qualifications has continued to decrease, as the need for educational attainment becomes increasingly recognised in the Australian workforce. In 1996, 58.1% of the Australian workforce had not obtained any post-secondary school qualifications. By 2001, this level had decreased to 53.9%, and to 47.5% in 2006.

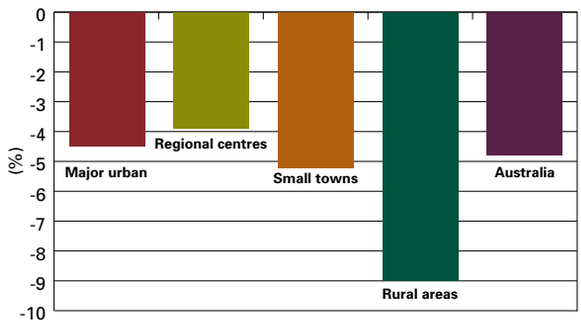
Proportion of working age population without post-secondary school qualifications, 2006



Major urban centres had the lowest proportion of the working age population who had not acquired some form of post-secondary school qualification. Small towns had the highest proportion without these qualifications. People living in the larger urban centres have greater access to attend a wide range of education and training institutions.

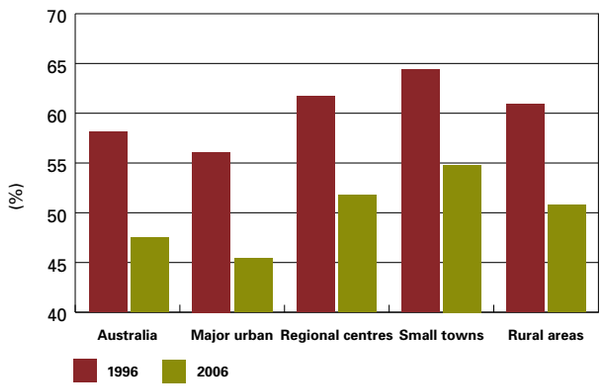
Over the period 2001 to 2006, 4.8% more people in the working age population obtained post-secondary school qualifications. The largest increase occurred in rural areas, with the number of people without qualifications falling by 9.0% in this period. This means that rural people have led the way over this period to obtain further qualifications and training.

Percentage change in the number of people without post-secondary school qualifications, 2001–06



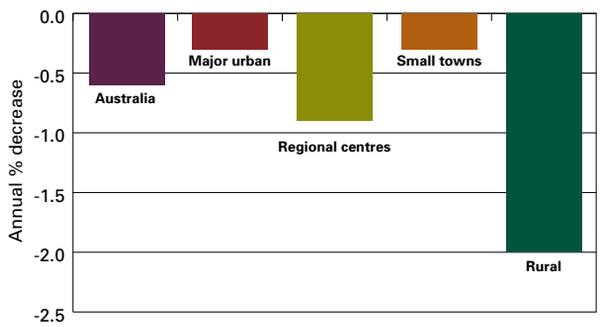
This continues the longer-term trend over the decade to 2006 for people in rural areas to increase their qualifications. However, people living in small towns have not increased as much and continue to have the lowest levels of post-secondary school attainment.

Proportion of the working age population without post-secondary school qualifications, 1996 and 2006



The increase in qualifications gained in regional and rural centres has been at a faster rate than the national average. In the decade to 2006, the decrease in the number of people without post-secondary school qualifications occurred at four times the national annual average in rural areas, while in regional centres it declined at nearly double the annual national rate.

Average annual percentage decrease in people without post-secondary school qualifications (enumerated), 1996–06

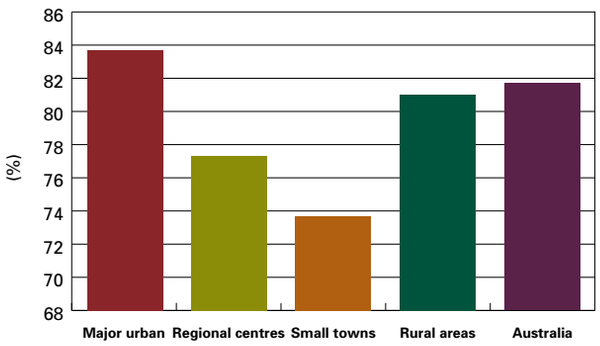


16-year-olds remaining in full-time education

A smooth transition to the future workforce is closely correlated to young people remaining at school past the compulsory age of 15 years. The proportion of 16-year-olds who remained at school full time increased from 79.7% in 1996 to 83.2% in 2001, but decreased slightly to 81.7% in 2006. This decline occurred in all urban and rural areas, but was greatest in regional centres (decreasing 2.9%, and highest in regional centres in Queensland (4.8%) and New South Wales (3.2%)) and lowest in rural areas (decreasing 1.1%) and major urban centres (decreasing 1.1%).

The highest proportion of 16-year-olds remaining in full-time education were living in major urban centres (83.7%) while the lowest proportion were living in small towns (73.7%). A high proportion of young people in rural areas remained at school (81.0%), just under the Australian average.

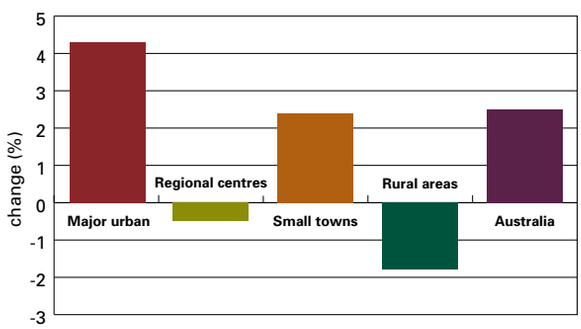
Proportion of 16-year-olds remaining in full time education, 2006



Small towns in the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion of young people remaining in school (33.8%), followed by Western Australia (59.3%) and New South Wales (77.1%).

Over the five years to 2006, the number of young people remaining in full-time education increased by 2.5%, largely due to the increase that occurred in major urban centres (4.3%). In contrast, the number of young people remaining in full-time education decreased in rural areas by 1.8%, due in part to the declining population in rural areas.

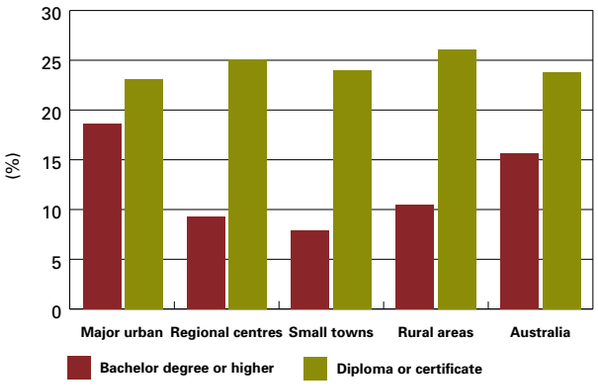
Change in the number of 16-year-olds remaining in full-time education, 2001–06



Bachelor or higher degree and certificate or diploma qualifications

In 2006, there was a higher proportion of the working age population holding a certificate or diploma (23.8%) than a bachelor degree or higher (15.6%).

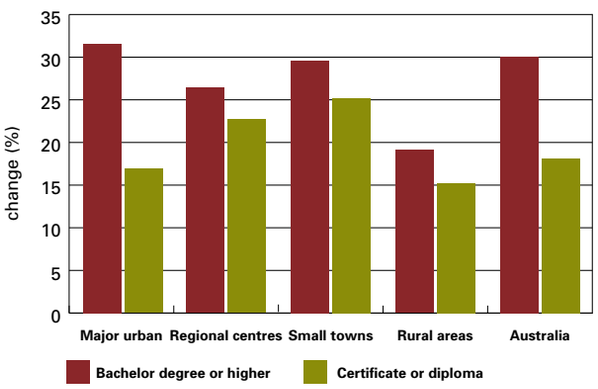
Proportion of people with bachelor degree or higher, or a diploma or certificate, 2006



There was a higher proportion of people with bachelor degrees or higher in the major urban centres, compared to the Australian average. In contrast, the proportion of people with certificates or diplomas was about the same across Australia.

In the period from 2001 to 2006, the number of people with a degree increased at a greater rate (30.1%) than the number of people with a certificate or diploma (18.1%), mainly due to the strong growth across all urban centres. The rate of increase in the number of people with certificates or diplomas was greatest for people living in small towns (25.2%) and regional centres (22.7%).

Percentage change in people with bachelor degrees or higher, or certificates or diplomas, 2001–06



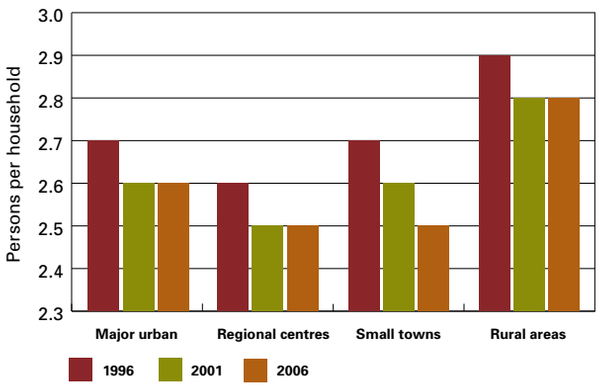
Families and households

Families are the fundamental living units in our society. Therefore, changes in family structure are a major indicator of social change. A family is defined as two or more people who live in the same household and are related to each other by blood, marriage (including de facto marriage), fostering or adoption. Households are the living unit for people in dwellings, either as families, groups of unrelated people, or as one-person households. At least one person must be 15 years or older in a family or household.

Mean number of persons per household

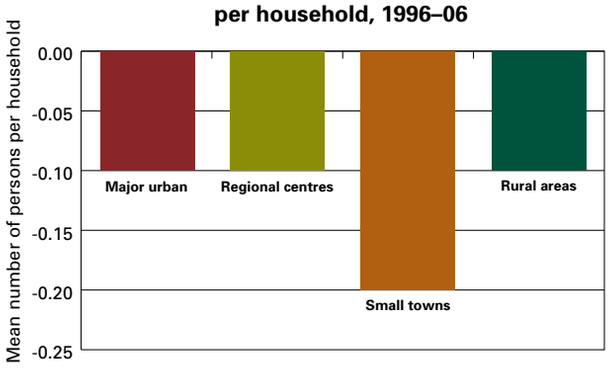
The average household size — mean (or average) number of persons per household — continues to decrease in Australia. This decrease is associated with falling levels of fertility (number of children per mother), social and family changes, and the ageing population profile across all urban centres and rural areas.In general, the average family size is decreasing due to fewer children and an increase in the number of one-parent and one-person households. However, average household size remains higher in rural areas.

Mean household size



The change in the mean number of persons per household over the past decade has been greatest in small towns, where it has fallen by 0.2 persons per household due to the greater impacts of population ageing. The mean number of persons per household in all other urban and rural areas decreased by 0.1.

Change in the mean number of persons per household, 1996–06



Households

A household is one or more person, at least one of whom is 15 years of age who are, usually resident in the same private dwelling. This includes family households, group households and one-person households.

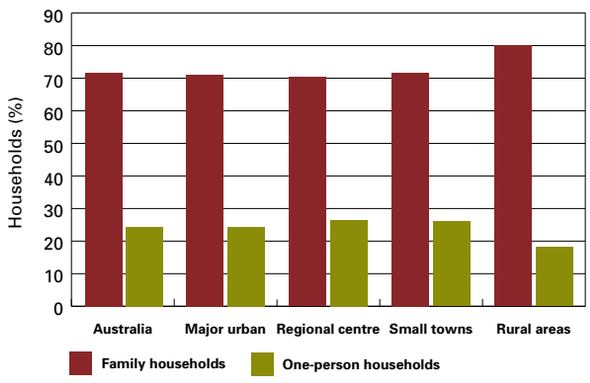
Couple families with dependent children remain the most common household type in Australia, but there has been an increasing trend towards couple-only and one-person households.

One-person households

One-person households are concentrated at either end of the age spectrum: young people before they form family households and older people after the death of a partner. Adults tend to form one-person households during transitionary life periods, such as during the formation of new relationships. There is an increasing trend towards adults choosing to live in one-person households.

The proportions of people living in family and one-person households was similar across urban areas (regardless of the size of the urban area). There was a marked difference in household composition in rural areas, where family households were much more prevalent in rural areas. A higher proportion of people were living in family households, and a lower proportion of people were living in one-person households in rural areas (compared to their urban counterparts).

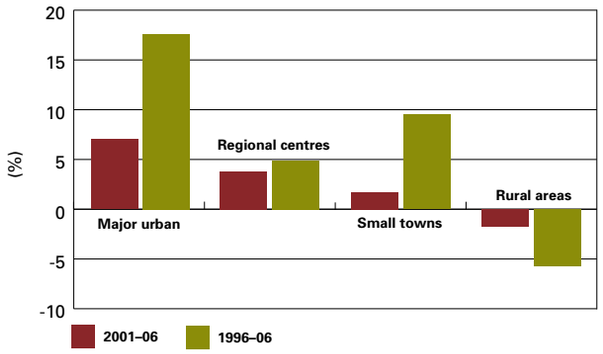
One-person and family households, 2006



The rate of increase in the number of one-person households has been higher than for family households as a consequence of the changes impacting on families. However, the rate of increase in the number of one-person households in rural areas has been lower than in urban areas, suggesting that social, family, and labour market changes that are encouraging the formation of one-person households are having less of an impact in rural areas. Urban centres experienced the biggest increase in one-person households, and rural areas the smallest.

Change in one-person households, 1996–06

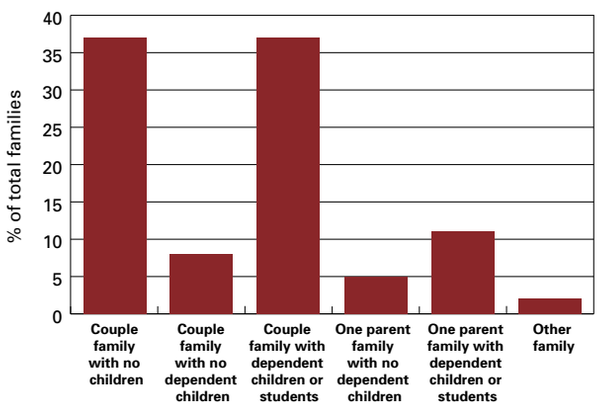
Change in family households, 1996–06



Families

Family types consist of varying permutations of numbers of adults, children, and dependent students across a wide range of ages. There were more couple families than one-parent families in 2006, and couples without children and couples with children each comprised approximately 37% of all families in Australia.

Types of families, 2006



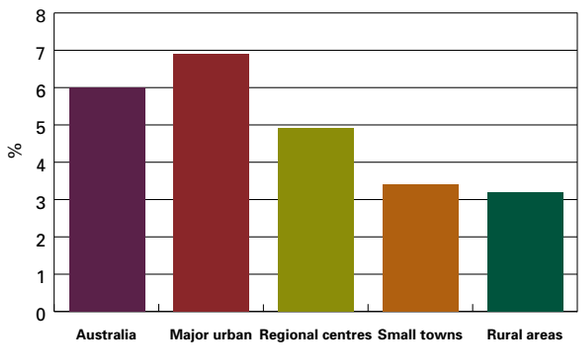
The number of family households increased (with increasing population) in all urban areas over the decade to 2006, with the greatest increase occurring in major urban centres. Generally, the level of increase in the number of family households was correlated with population growth in larger urban centres. In parallel, over the decade to 2006, the number of families living in rural areas declined as people moved to urban areas, regional centres and cities. In the five years to 2006, the number of family households in rural areas decreased by 1.7%, and in the ten years to 2006, the number decreased by 5.7%.

Double income, no kids

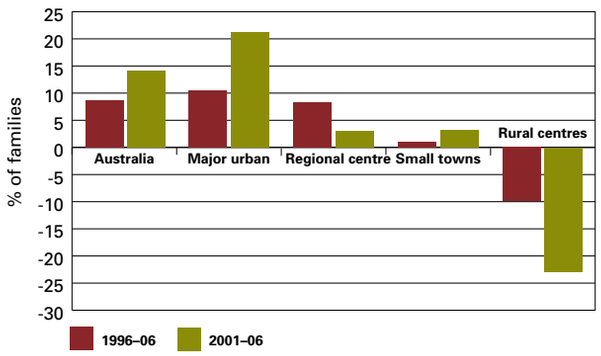
Double income, no kids (DINKS) are people who choose to live in families that consist of couples without dependent children or other relatives in the household. Both partners work at least 25 hours per week, and the youngest partner is younger than 40 years of age. The rise of this family type has been associated with increasing participation of women in the workforce, the importance of careers (particularly for women), decreasing levels of fertility rates and an increase in the number of women choosing not to have children.

The proportion of DINKS families is directly correlated with the increasing size of urban centres. This is most likely due to better work opportunities and career structures for young men and women in larger centres, and greater housing, lifestyle and recreation opportunities. The lowest proportion of DINKS families occurs in small towns and rural areas. There is a lack of opportunities in these areas due to the nature of local industries and employment in those areas. In 2006, 6.9% of families in major urban centres were DINKS families, approximately double the proportion in rural areas and small towns — only 3.2% of families in rural areas and 3.4% of families in small towns in Australia were DINKS families.

Proportion of double income no kids families, 2006



Changes in the number of double income no kids families, urban and rural 1996–06



Over the decade to 2006, the number of people living in DINKS families increased by 21.3% in major urban centres, but decreased by 22.9% in rural areas, probably due to fewer career and lifestyle opportunities in these areas.

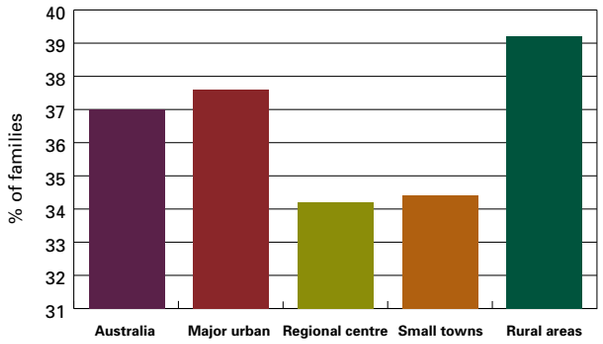
Couples with dependents

Families defined as couples with dependents are those with children aged younger than 15 years, or with dependent students aged 15 to 24 years. Historically, rural areas have been relatively more attractive to families with children. The proportion of couple families with dependents is higher in rural areas than in urban areas. In 2006, 39.2% of all families in rural areas were couple families with dependents, which is higher than the national average (37.0%) and the proportion in major urban centres (37.6%).

This reflects higher fertility rates and family sizes found in rural areas. Australian fertility varies according to the remoteness of the area. This allows comparisons between 'city' and 'country' Australia where the defining difference between 'city' and 'country' is physical remoteness (distance) from goods and services. There is a gradation of increasing fertility from city areas to remote and regional areas; women living in cities have the lowest fertility levels, followed by women in inner regional Australia and women in outer regional Australia. Women living in remote and very remote parts of Australia have the highest fertility rates. Analyses of Australian fertility differentials have indicated a positive relationship between social disadvantage and higher levels of fertility, and an even stronger relationship between education/occupation and levels of fertility. Disadvantaged women and those with lower education attainment have higher levels of fertility.

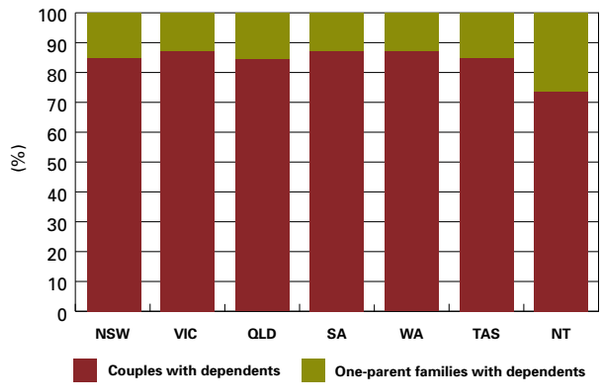
People living in rural and remote areas have less access to health care in comparison to those living in metropolitan areas. Women living in rural and remote areas are more likely to face greater difficulties in obtaining medical supplies, medical procedures and sexual education[1].

Proportion of couple families with dependents, 2006



The proportion of couples with dependents in rural areas is similar in all states, but in the Northern Territory there was a much lower proportion and consequently a higher proportion of one-parent families (many of whom are Indigenous).

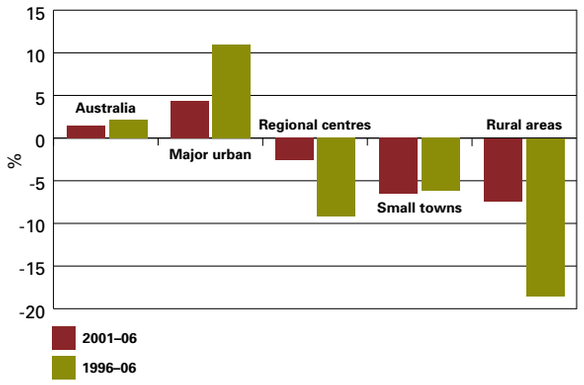
Types of families with dependents living in rural areas, 2006



The number of couple families with dependents significantly increased in major urban areas over the decade to 2006 (10.9%), as a consequence of population growth. Everywhere else the number of couple families with dependents decreased. The largest decrease occurred in rural areas (18.5%). This reflects growth in large cities, the increasing attraction of young families to opportunities in major urban centres and cities, and the shift from smaller regional centres, small towns and rural areas for employment, education and lifestyle reasons.

1 ABS, Australian Social Trends

Change in couple families with dependents, 1996–06

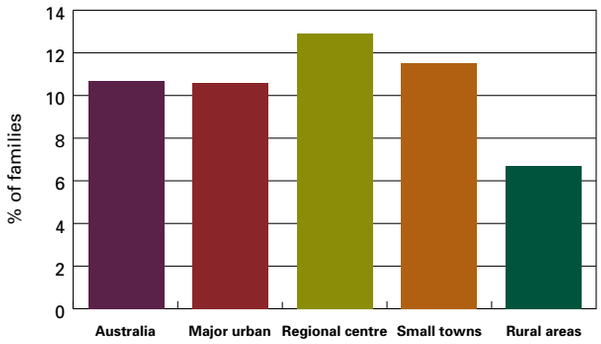


One-parent households

One-parent households are those consisting of one adult with dependents (children aged younger than 15 years, or dependent students aged 15 to 24 years). Compared with other family types, many one-parent families are considered to be at a higher risk of disadvantage, in income, housing, employment, health, and in labour market and social participation. Over the past several decades, the proportion of one-parent families has increased due to demographic, family and social change. Consequently, a greater number of children spend at least some of their childhood with only one parent, and many women (and an increasing number of men) experience sole parenting, often in difficult financial and emotional circumstances.

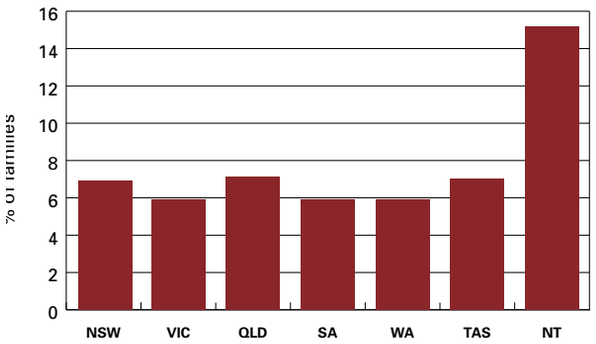
The proportion of one-parent families is highest in regional centres (12.9%) and much lower in rural areas (6.7%). This may be associated with the availability and affordability of housing (including public housing), and better access to more support services, and the need to shift to small towns and regional centres after relationship breakdown.

Proportion of one-parent families with dependents, 2006



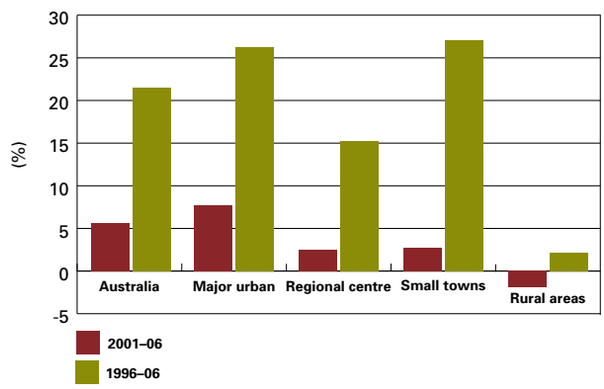
The highest incidence of one-parent families in rural areas occured in the Northern Territory (15.2% of all families), which was much higher than in any other state. This is a consequence of the larger proportion of Indigenous women; a high proportion of whom are sole parents.

One-parent families with dependents, 2006



Over the decade to 2006, the number of one-parent families with dependents increased significantly in all urban areas (the highest was an increase of 27.1% in small towns). This increase was greatest in South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, and lowest in Queensland. The number of one-parent families with dependents only increased by 2.1% in rural areas, but many of these families may have left to live in small towns and regional centres.

Change in one-parent families with dependents, 1996–06



Income and housing

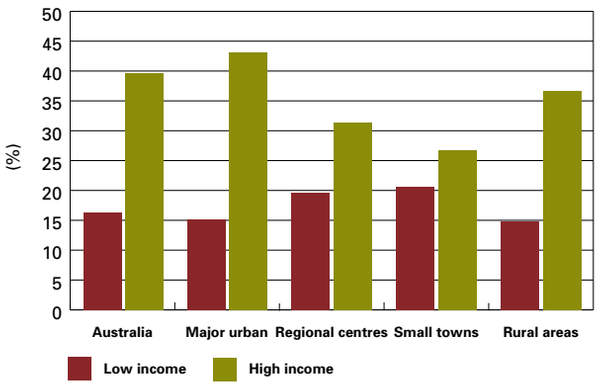
Household income

Household income may be sourced from a job or business, government provided, as a pension or allowance, or from superannuation from other assets. Income is a major determinant of social circumstances — low income is directly related to poverty and social and community disadvantage. It is important to note that levels discussed here are related to gross income and do not take into account the impact that farm and business activities may have on disposable income. For example, a rural household may have a reasonably high gross income, but this may have to support the operation of a farm business with large seasonal fluctuations in outgoings and cash flows, influences such as drought and commodity prices.

Low-income households are defined as having a household income of less than $350 per week and high income households more than $1 200 per week.

Low-income households were fairly evenly distributed throughout the urban and rural areas of Australia, although rural areas had the lowest proportion of low-income households. High-income households were concentrated in the major urban centres and cities, and in rural areas of Australia. In 2006, 43.2% of households in major urban centres had high incomes, and 36.6% of households in rural areas had high incomes.

Income distribution of households, 2006



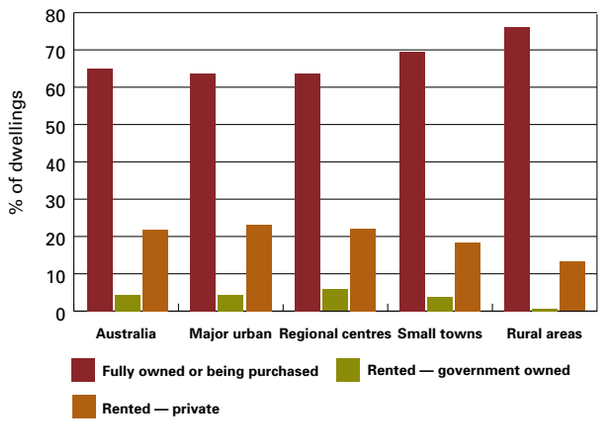
The proportion of high-income households in urban areas was directly correlated with increasing population size. Big urban centres have more employment opportunities and consequently a greater proportion of high-income households. In direct contrast, the proportion of low-income households in urban areas was directly correlated to decreasing population size. Small towns had a higher proportion of low-income households due to fewer high-paying employment opportunities and an older age profile (with many people dependent on age pensions for income). Small towns and regional centres in the Northern Territory and Western Australia had lower proportions of low-income households (and higher proportions of high-income households) than the national average, due in part to the resources boom.

The distribution of low-income households in rural areas was similar in each state and the Northern Territory (although there was a slightly higher proportion of low-income households in New South Wales). Rural areas in Western Australia had the highest proportion of high-income households due to the resources boom, and rural areas in Tasmania had the lowest.

Housing tenure

Housing tenure patterns are linked to life-cycle, household composition, income levels, affordability and the availability of dwellings for housing. The definition of housing tenure applies to occupied private dwellings, and excludes institutional dwellings such as aged care facilities. The largest tenure category is dwellings that are owned or currently being purchased, followed by privately rented dwellings. The smallest tenure category is dwellings rented from government authorities.

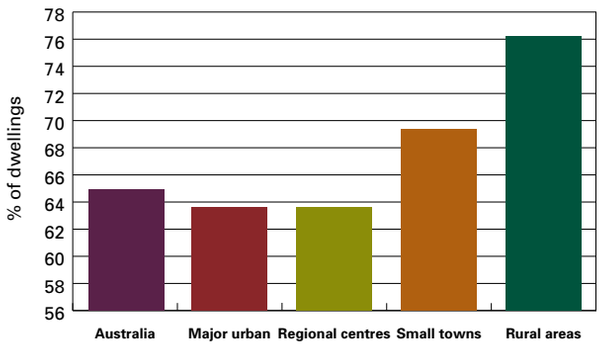
Housing tenure, 2006



Generally, the proportion of dwellings rented privately reduces as the size of the urban centre decreases, with the smallest proportion of rental tenure occurring in rural areas.

In 2006, rural areas had by far the highest proportion of housing ownership (76.2% of all dwellings were owned or being purchased). Small towns also had high levels of home ownership (69.4% of all dwellings). This is related to the older age profile of residents, who have had a longer period in which to achieve this tenure. It is also associated with levels of housing affordability.

Home ownership (dwellings owned or being purchased), 2006

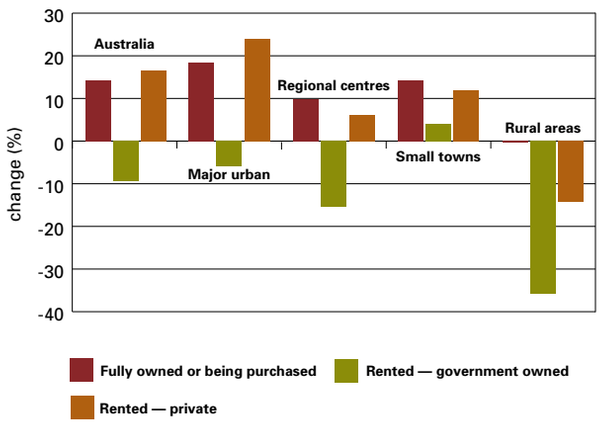


Over the past decade, the proportion of ownership of dwellings increased in all urban areas in Australia, particularly in major urban centres and cities (increasing by 18.5%) and in small towns (increasing by 14.3%). Home ownership in rural areas decreased slightly by 0.4% in the 10 year period to 2006.

There was a similar pattern of change for privately rented dwellings. There were increases in all urban areas with the highest increase being in major urban centres (24.0%). The number of dwellings privately rented in rural areas decreased over the past decade.

The proportion of dwellings rented from government generally decreased over the decade from 1996 to 2006, as the number of properties available for rent from government decreased. The largest decrease occurred in regional centres (falling by 15.5% over 10 years). The large decrease in government rentals in rural areas (35.7%) occurred based on a relatively small number of dwellings.

Change in housing tenure, 1996–06

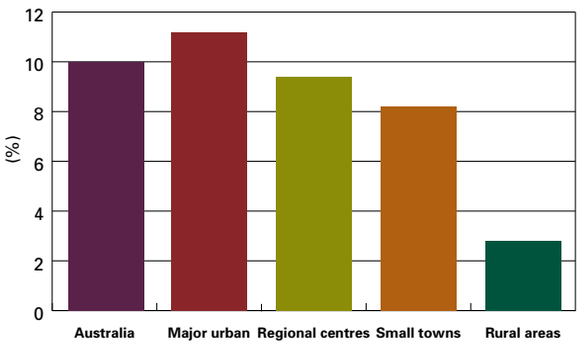


Dwellings without a motor vehicle

Due to a lack of availability of public transport in rural and regional Australia, access to a motor vehicle is critical for social interaction, participation in community and for a wide range of basic personal activities.

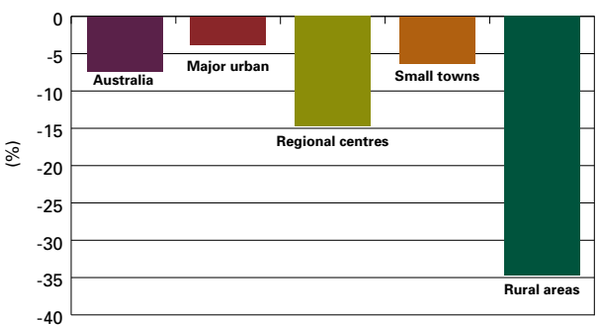
For the proportion of dwellings in Australia that did not have a motor vehicle in 2006, there was a direct correlation between motor vehicle access and the decreasing size of urban centres. The smaller the urban centre, the smaller the proportion of dwellings that did not have a motor vehicle. Only 2.8% of rural dwellings did not have a motor vehicle, in contrast to 11.2% of dwellings in major urban centres and cities.

Proportion of households without motor vehicles, 2006



Access to motor vehicles increased. Over the decade to 2006, the proportion of dwellings that did not have a motor vehicle declined across all urban centres, and also in rural areas (falling by 34.7%).

Percentage change in number of households without motor vehicles 1996–06



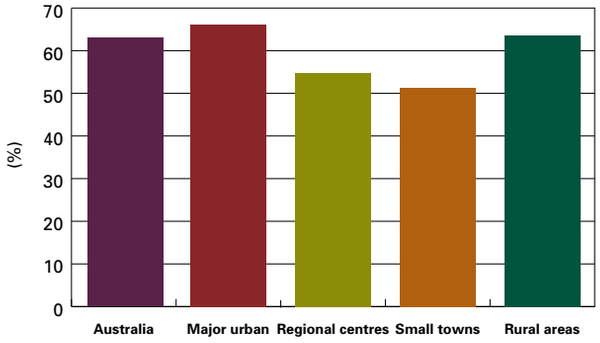
Internet connection to dwellings

Access to computers and the internet has become a fundamentally important part of modern household and business activities. The internet is used extensively for education, business, information, communication and social networking, and recreation purposes. This includes the operation of business and farming activities in rural areas.

There was significant growth in Australia's access to the internet between 2001 and 2006. In 2001, 35% of Australian dwellings had access to the internet in the week prior to the Census date; by 2006, this had grown to 63% of dwellings. Nationally, two-thirds (66%) of homes in major cities have internet access, compared to less than half (42%) in very remote Australia. Remoteness is a classification that allows comparisons between 'city' and 'country' Australia where the defining difference is remoteness (distance) from goods and services. Broadband access is used by 46% of homes in major cities, but by only 24% of homes in very remote Australia. Analysis shows that people in low-skilled occupations are less likely to have broadband, and families with children under 15 or with dependent children under 15 years or students are more likely to have internet access than other households.

The present analysis is based on the level of connection to the internet by households, but does not include an assessment of access to broadband or the quality and use of the connection. Nor does it include alternative sources of access that individuals may have to the internet outside the household dwelling (e.g. local libraries or work-related access). The proportion of dwellings connected to the internet was highest in major urban centres and cities with two-thirds of all dwellings connected (66.1%), closely followed by dwellings in rural areas (63.5%). This indicates that the 'digital divide' is not simply based on whether households are in urban or in rural areas. The 'digital divide' terminology is increasingly used to describe the social implications of unequal access by some sectors of the community to information and communications technology and to the acquisition of necessary skills. Internet connection in rural areas was higher than that in regional centres (54.8% of dwellings connected) and small towns (51.3% of dwellings connected).

Proportion of dwellings with internet connection, 2006



The internet connection rate in rural areas and small towns was similar across Australia, although the proportion connected in the Northern Territory was about half the rate of that in other states and territories.

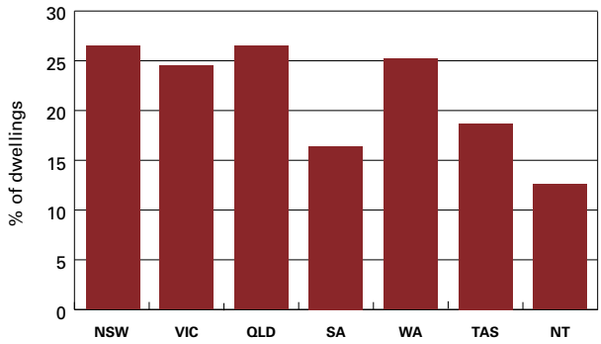
While there has been strong growth of approximately 25% in internet connections over the past five years of around 25% throughout Australia (less in South Australia and the Northern Territory), the greatest increase in connections has occurred in small towns.

The level of broadband connection in small towns was much higher in the larger states. It ranged from 30.2% in New South Wales to 14.3% in South Australia and 5.6% in the Northern Territory.

Broadband connection, small towns, 2006

Similarly, the level of broadband connection in rural areas was higher in the more populated states, ranging from 26.5% in New South Wales and Queensland, to 16.4% in South Australia and 12.6% in the Northern Territory.

Broadband connection, rural, 2006



Unpaid work

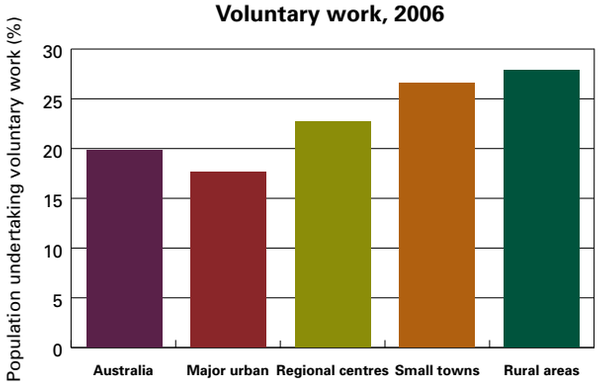
Unpaid work covers a variety of activities such as voluntary work, domestic work, and caring for others. Unpaid work fulfils many important functions that directly affect the well being and quality of people's lives. Analysis of this data can help us to understand the way Australian men and women and their families balance paid work with other important aspects of their lives, such as family and community commitments. Voluntary work can also provide an indication of levels of community social support, which is an aspect of social capital. Social capital is associated with social networks, wellbeing, community participation and social inclusion.

Voluntary work for an organisation or group

Voluntary work is work undertaken by people aged 15 years or older in the 12 months prior to the Census and includes voluntary work done done on both an irregular and regular basis. It includes help willingly given in the form of time, service or skills to a club, organisation or association. Unpaid voluntary work can include assisting at organised events and with sports organisations; helping with organised school events and activities; assisting in churches, hospitals, nursing homes and charities; and other kinds of work (e.g. emergency services, serving on a committee for a club, Landcare etc.)

The incidence of voluntary work was higher in rural areas, and increased as the size of the urban centre decreased. In 2006, more than one-quarter of people in rural areas (27.9%) and people in small towns (26.6%) undertook voluntary work, much higher than the national average of 19.8%. This illustrates the commitment and participation by volunteers in rural areas and small towns to maintain services to the community.

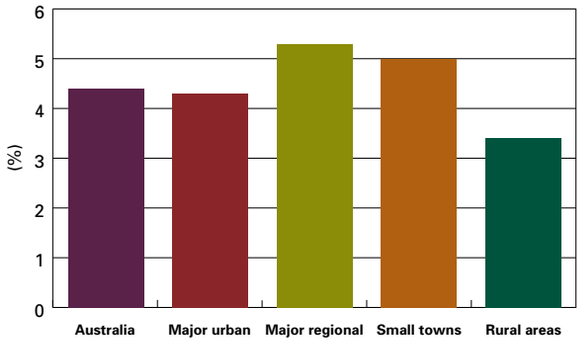
Voluntary work, 2006



Unpaid assistance to a person with a dissability

People living in regional centres had the highest level of need for assistance with core activities — 5.3% of people, compared to the national average of 4.4%. People in rural areas had the lowest level of need for assistance (3.4%).

Need for assistance with core activities, 2006



For regional centres, the highest levels of need for assistance were in New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania, with the lowest levels in the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

For small towns, the highest levels of need for assistance were in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, and the lowest levels were in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The highest levels of need for assistance in rural areas were in Queensland and Tasmania, with the lowest levels in Western Australia.

Concluding comments

This analysis of the 2006 *Census of Population and Housing* data has provided important updated demographic information about the circumstances of people living in regional and rural Australia. It shows the pattern of social and economic change that is occurring throughout Australia.

The pace of social, economic, and environmental change is not expected to ease; rather, it is more likely that the rate of change and reform will accelerate. The data and analyses provided in this Social Atlas is an important part of the continuing documentation of the change occurring throughout Australia. This information can be used to underpin the formulation of policy and programs for regional and rural people, communities and industries.

It is important to note however, the limitations of the social and economic data that is available to inform us about change in rural and regional areas. These limitations emphasise the need for more detailed research and analyses about the drivers and processes of change that affect regional and rural Australians, particularly as industries and communities face the additional challenges of climate change, uncertain water supply and changing global markets. One valuable area for future social research would be to identify regions that are adjusting to these changes and to analyse the reasons behind successful adaptation.

Finally, it is important to remember that this Atlas is not about numbers and trends. Rather, it is about people and communities; the quality of people's lives, and their rights and equity in sharing in the opportunities and prosperity of Australia's future.

POPULATION

COUNTRY MATTERS

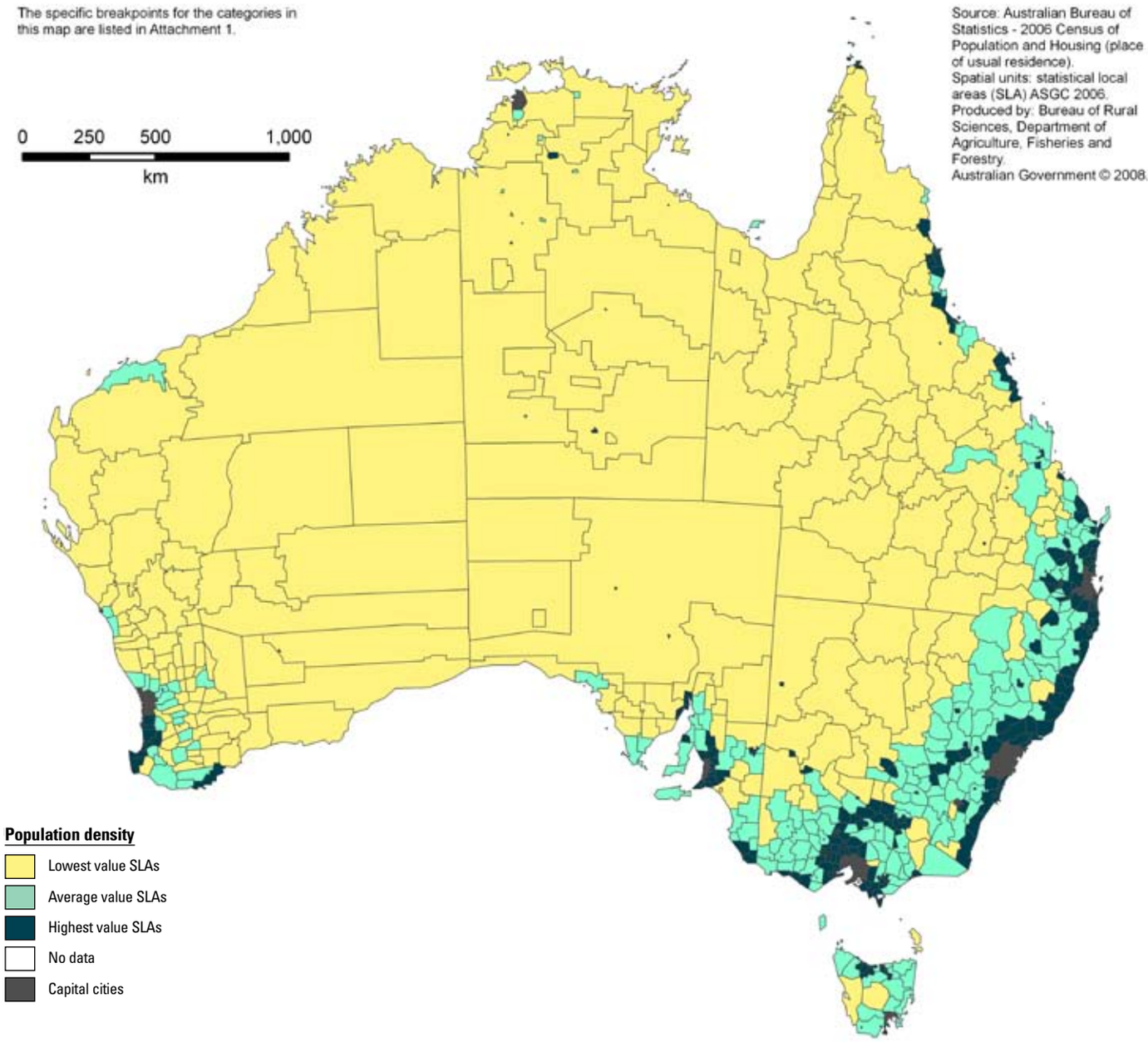
2008
SOCIAL ATLAS OF RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

POPULATION

POPULATION

MAP 1 Population density, 2006

Number of people per square kilometre



This map shows the number of people per square kilometre throughout the non-capital city statistical local areas (SLA) of Australia in 2006.

Lowest population density SLAs

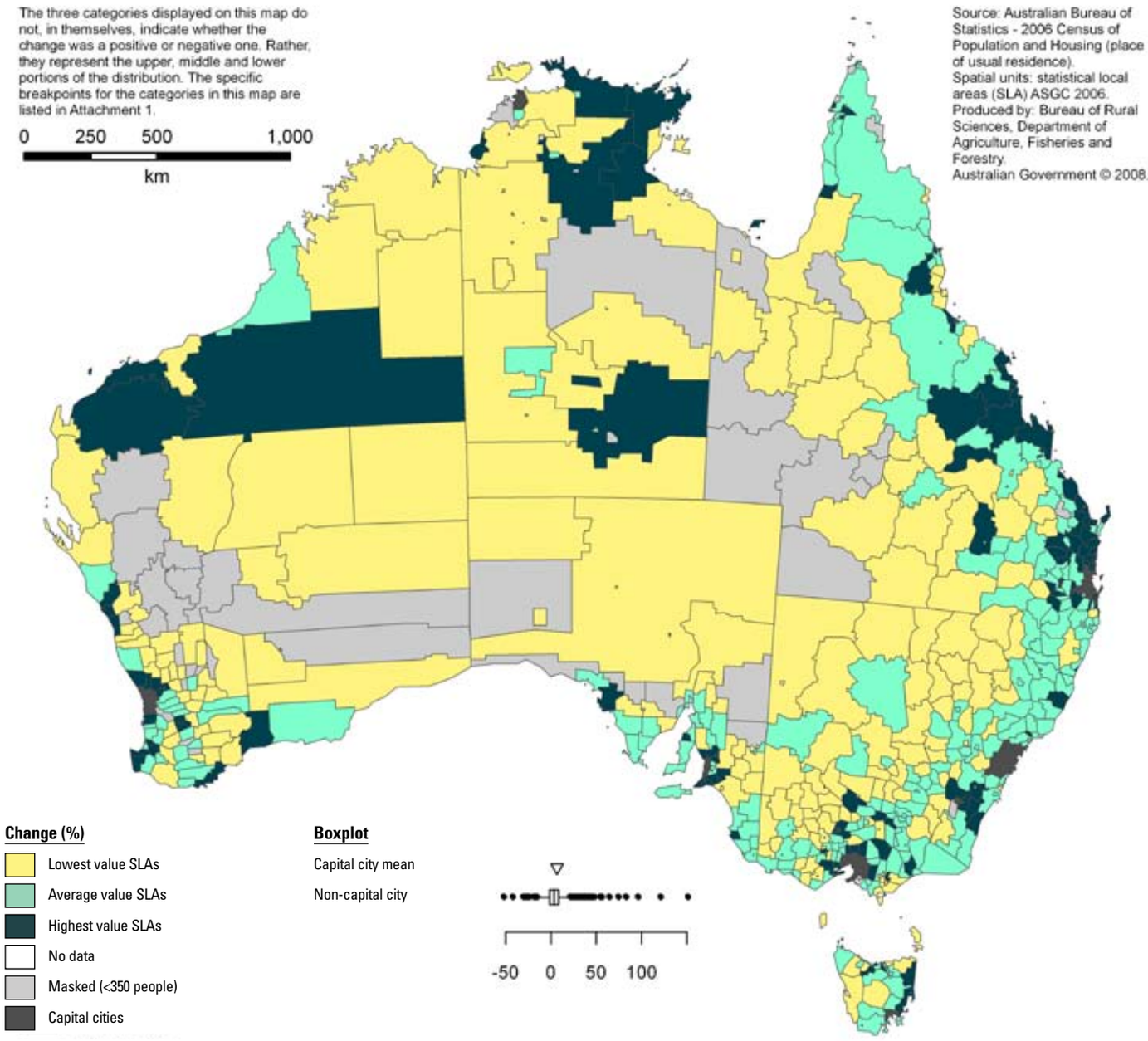
The SLAs with the lowest population density were in the remote parts of central, northern and western Australia. There was also low population density around national park areas.

Highest population density SLAs

The SLAs with the highest population densities were around the capital cities and along the east coast of Australia (greater than 3.5 persons per square kilometre in each SLA). The population density was also high around some regional centres. Moderate population densities (between 0.7 and 3.5 persons per square kilometre in each SLA) occurred next to the coastal strip along the east coast, coastal Tasmania and southern parts of South Australia. The highest population densities were on the Gold Coast (including Surfers Paradise with 3339 people per square kilometre, Broadbeach-Mermaid Beach with 3151, Biggera Waters-Labrador with 2548, Coolangatta with 2525 and Palm Beach with 2138), Geelong West (2195), Maroochy-Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast (1892), and Cairns City (1335).

MAP 2 Population change, 2001–06

Percentage population change



The population of Australia (estimated resident population) increased at an average rate of 1.3% per year between 2001 and 2006, reaching 20.70 million people in June 2006. This was a faster rate of increase than that recorded for the five years up to 2001 (1.2% per year).

The population increased in urban areas, but decreased in rural areas. The annual average population-growth rate was highest in major urban centres (1.6%) and regional centres (1.1%). Population growth was low in small towns (0.6%), and decreased in rural areas (-1.9%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

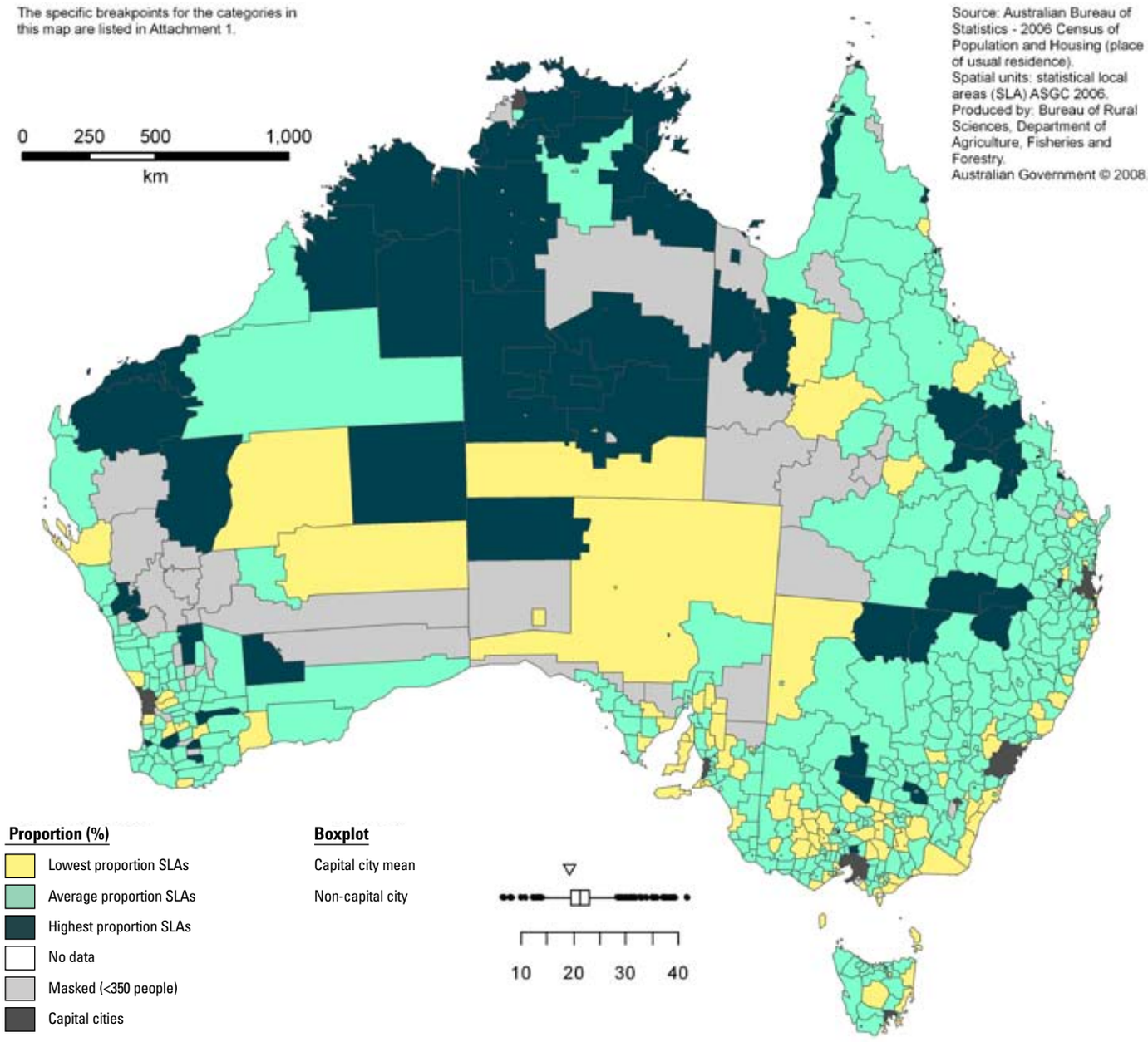
Population decrease was experienced in most inland and central parts of Australia, through western Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia, Victoria, and western Tasmania. A number of remote areas (with relatively low populations) experienced high levels of population decrease. The largest percentage decreases in non-remote areas included Wyalkatchem east of Perth (decrease of 12.2%), Carrathool in central New South Wales (9.9%), Yarriambiack in the Wimmera (8.8%), Rosslea in Townsville in north Queensland (8.7%), Moree in northern New South Wales (9.8%), and Lockhart in southern New South Wales (6.7%).

Highest values of change SLAs

Moderate levels of population growth were experienced along the east coast and surrounding Adelaide and Perth. High levels of population growth occurred in southeast Queensland, around Bowen and Mackay in Queensland, in areas surrounding Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, and Cairns. The highest growth occurred in areas on the Gold Coast as many people moved for lifestyle and opportunities. The population of the expanding areas on the Gold Coast of Pacific Pines-Gaven and Kingsholme-Upper Coomera, plus Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia, more than doubled. Other large increases occurred in the Gold Coast areas of Tweed (A) — Tweed Coast (40.6%), Robina (42.9%), Oxenford-Maudsland (45.5%), Hope Island (48.8%) and Varsity Lakes (74.8%). Increases of greater than 20% also occurred in the Sunshine Coast, around Canberra, Melbourne, Perth, and Adelaide.

MAP 3 Children, 2006

Population aged 0 to 14 as proportion of total population



In 2006, children represented 19.9% of the total population, decreasing from 20.9% in 2001 and 21.6% in 1996 (due to the ageing of the population and lower levels of fertility).

Major urban centres had the lowest proportion of children in the population (19.1%). The other areas had about the same proportion, regional centres (21.2%), small towns (21.8%), and rural areas (21.7%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

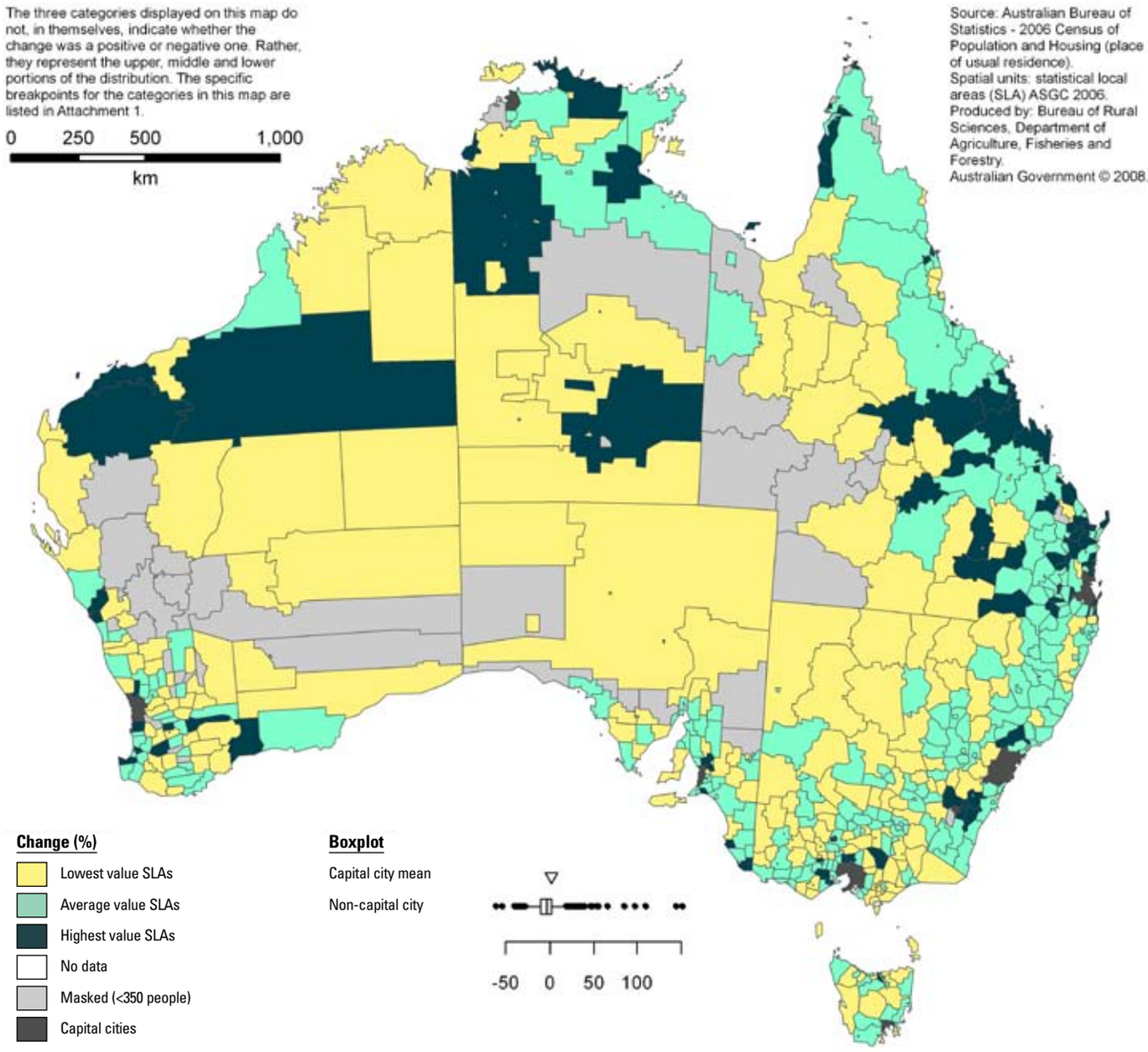
The SLAs with the lowest proportion of children are concentrated around the capital cities and in coastal regions of southeast Queensland, particularly around some areas on the Gold Coast, including Main Beach (with only 6.8% of children in the population), Surfers Paradise (8.1%), and Coolangatta (8.3%). These areas have high concentrations of mature age and retired people and lower proportions of young families. Other areas occur in some northern coastal regions of Queensland, including Maroochy on the Sunshine Coast (12.4%), South Townsville (13.1%) and Rosslea (13.2%) in Townsville in north Queensland.

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest concentrations of children occur in areas predominantly populated by Indigenous communities, particularly those located in the more remote parts of northern Australia. The largest non-Indigenous regions include the growth areas on the Gold Coast (such as Pacific Pines-Gaven with 28.3%) and Capel south of Perth (30.2%).

MAP 4 Change in the number of children, 2001–06

Change in the population aged 0 to 14



In the five years to 2006, the number of children in Australia increased by 1.1%. This is less than the 1.4% increase in the five years to 2001.

The number of children increased in major urban centres (by 4.0%), but decreased everywhere else. The largest decrease was in rural areas (8.3%) and small towns (5.9%). The number of children in regional centres decreased by 1.3%.

Lowest value of change SLAs

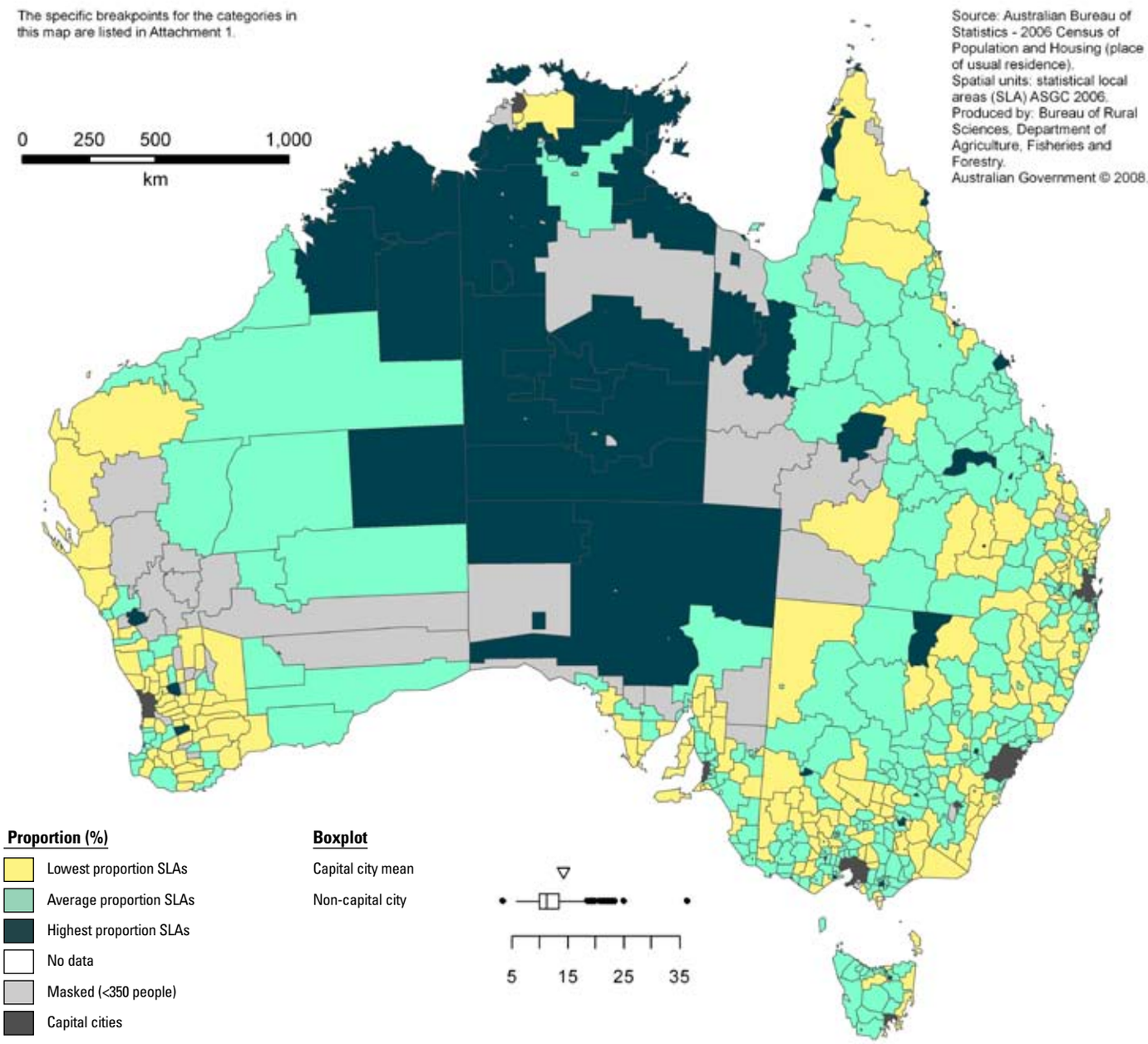
Decreases in the number of children in the population occurred throughout most of Australia, with the largest decreases occurring throughout central Australia, western Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland. The largest decreases occurred in many remote areas that also experienced total population decline. The non-remote areas that experienced a decrease in the number of children included Cunderdin east of Perth (26.5%), Yarriambiack in the Wimmera (26.1%), Flinders in Bass Strait (24.7%), Wakool in southern New South Wales (22.6%), and Benalla-Bal in central Victoria (21.5%).

Highest value of change SLAs

There were moderate increases in the number of children across eastern Queensland and New South Wales, a number of remote areas in northern Australia, and other areas scattered throughout Australia. High levels of increase in the number of children in the population occurred in areas around Brisbane, Perth, Gladstone, Bendigo, and some remote communities in northern Australia. Large increases occurred in the growth areas on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast with the number of children in Pacific Pines-Gaven more than doubling to 3100, Kingsholme-Upper Coomera nearly doubling to 4300, and Varsity Lakes nearly doubling to 2500. The number of children in Caloundra (on the Sunshine Coast) increased by 39.6% to 3200.

MAP 5 Young people, 2006

Young people aged 15 to 24 years as a proportion of the total population



In 2006, young people represented 13.6% of the total population, which was the same as the percentage of young people in 2001, but lower than 1996 (14.5%).

The proportion of young people was highest in major urban centres (14.3% of the population). Small towns (11.1%) and rural areas (11.4%) had the lowest proportion of young people, slightly lower than regional centres (12.9%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

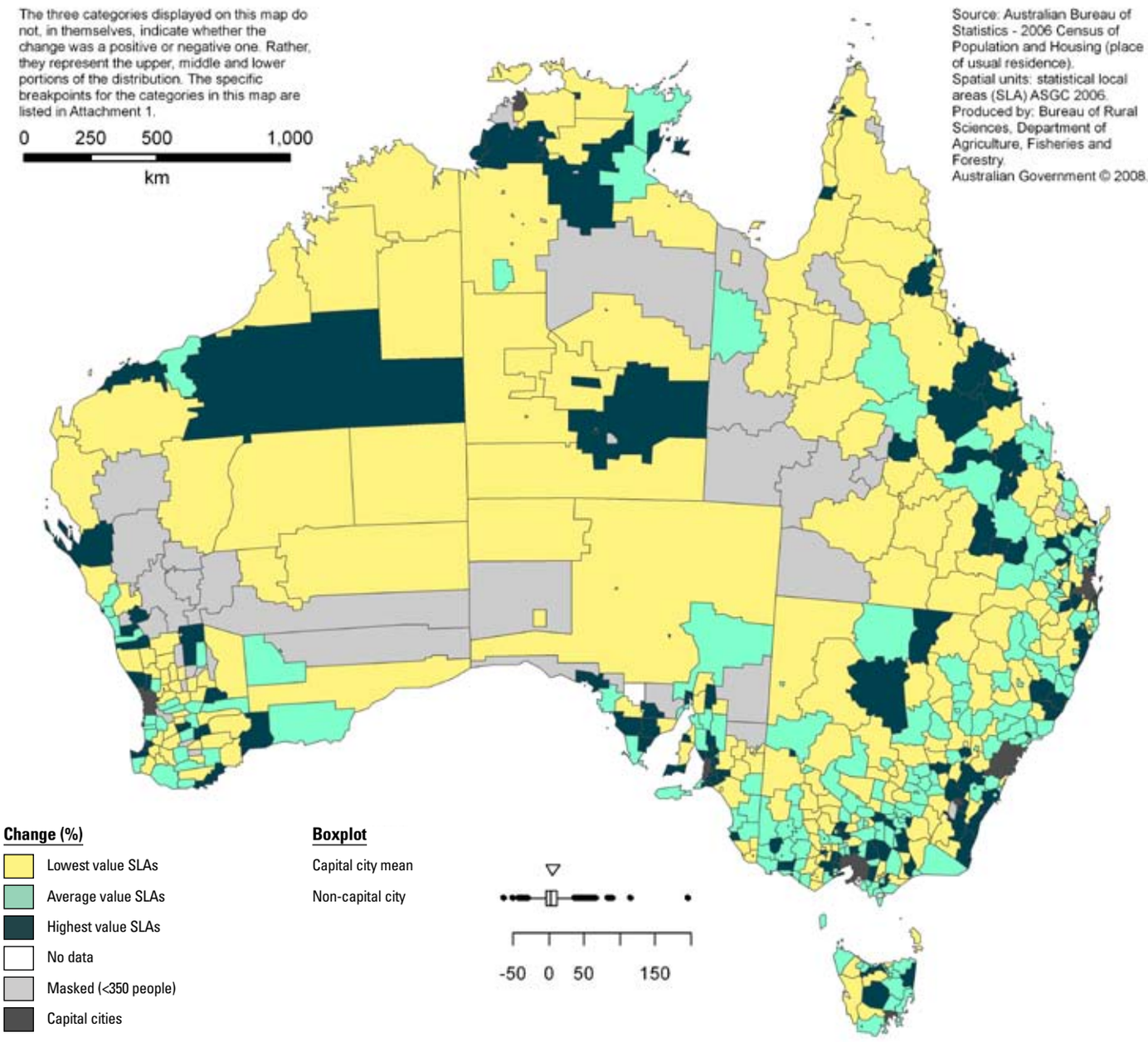
The areas with the lowest proportion of young people occur in rural areas of all states, particularly around southwest Western Australia, the Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas in South Australia, and the Mallee area of Victoria. West Arthur in southwest Western Australia had only 3.5% of young people in its population, and Yarra Ranges (S) on the eastern outskirts of Melbourne had only 5.7%.

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest concentrations of young people occur in areas spread throughout central Australia, particularly those predominately populated by Indigenous communities. Douglas in north Queensland had 36.4% of young people in its population. The other high concentrations included remote Lajamanu in central west Northern Territory (24.9%), Victoria around the Northern Territory and Western Australia northern border (23.2%), Rosslea in Townsville in north Queensland (23.3%), and Armidale Dumaresq (A)-City in northern New South Wales (23.0%).

MAP 6 Change in the number of young people, 2001–06

Change in the population of young people aged 15 to 24 years



In the five years to 2006, the number of young people in Australia increased by 6.4%. This reverses the decrease of 1.4% in the five years to 2001.

The number of young people decreased in rural areas (by 2.5%) but increased in urban areas. The greatest increase of youth was in major urban centres (7.8%), followed by regional centres (5.5%) and small towns (4.2%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

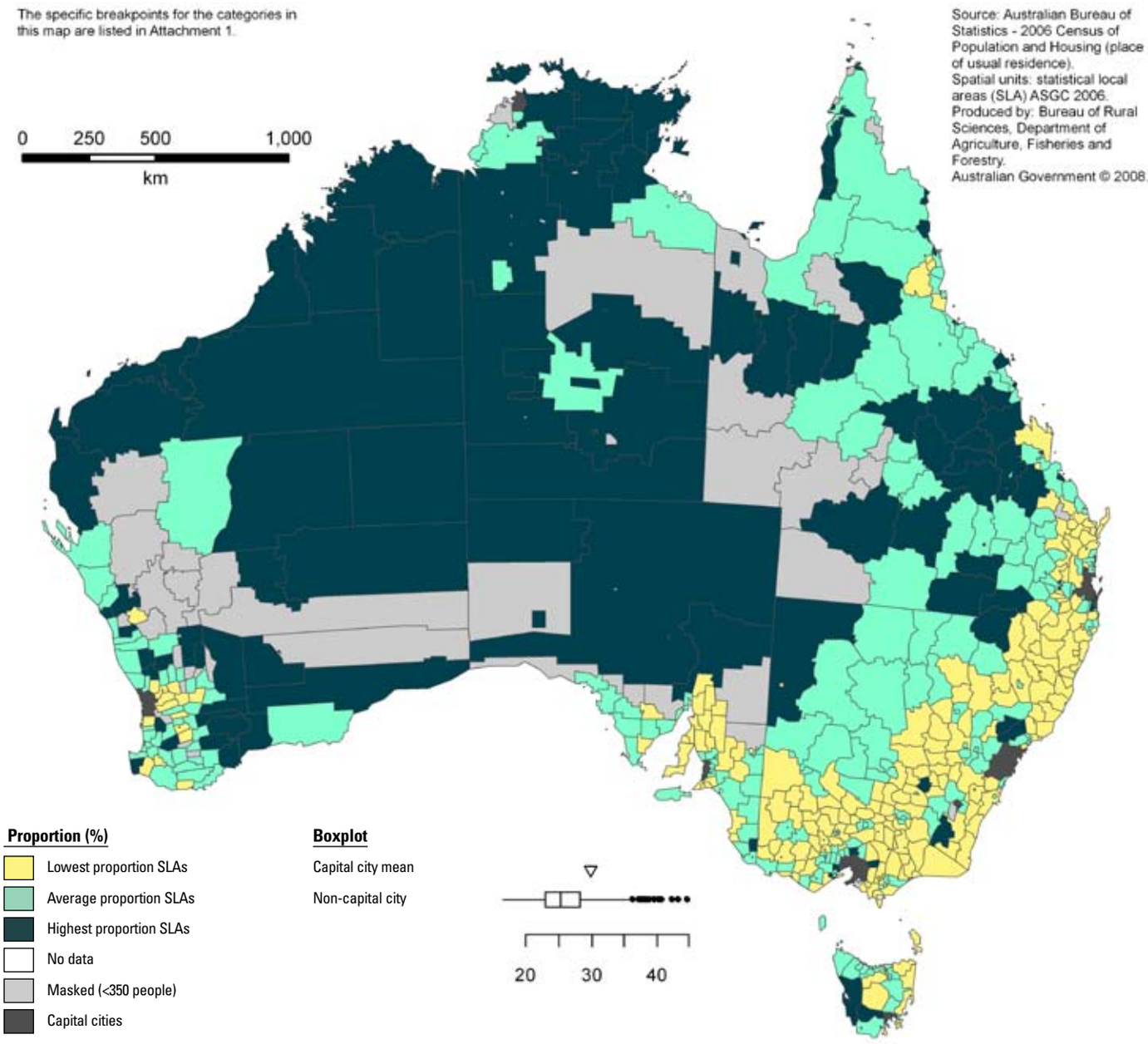
Decreases in the number of young people in the population occurred throughout most areas in inland and central Australia, western New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania. A number of remote areas experienced substantial decreases (some more than 30%) as the total population also decreased, as did some areas in southwest Western Australia. Moderate decreases in the number of young people occurred throughout many areas immediately inland from the coastal strip.

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in the number of young people occurred in areas along the east coast, around Adelaide and Perth, Tasmania, and a number of remote areas. Increases of more than 40% were experienced in areas on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, around Canberra, and in a number of remote areas. The largest increases occurred in the growth areas of the Gold Coast, with the number of young people increasing from 500 to 1500 in Kingsholme-Upper Coomera and more than doubling to 2000 in Varsity Lakes.

MAP 7 People of prime working age, 2006

Population aged 25 to 44 as proportion of total population



The number of people in the prime working-age group (25 to 44 years) is decreasing. In 2006, they made up 28.3% of the total population, down from 29.8% in 2001, and 30.8% in 1996.

The number of people in the prime working-age group was lower in small towns (24.3%) and rural areas (24.8%), and higher in major urban centres (29.7%), followed by regional centres (25.6%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

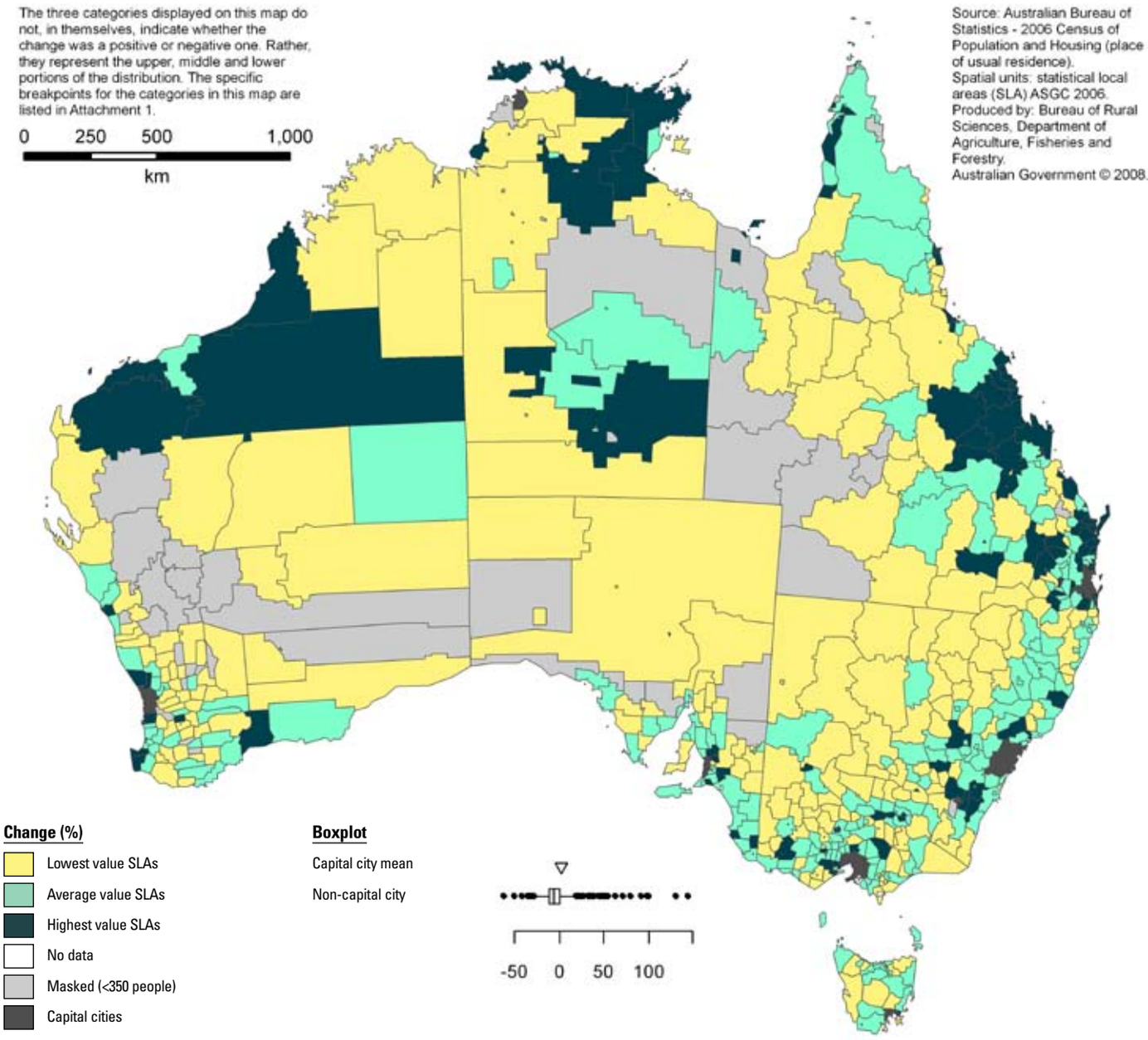
Low proportions of people of prime working age occur in an arc in southeast Australia from southern Queensland to the Yorke Peninsular in South Australia. The lowest proportions occur in a number of coastal areas and in the Mallee/Wimmera area of Victoria. The lowest proportion was in Queenscliffe near Geelong with only 16.1% of its population being people of prime working age. The other low areas included Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (16.8%), Yorke Peninsula North (18.2%) and Yorke Peninsula South (18.4%) in South Australia. In New South Wales, the low areas included Nambucca (18.6%) and Clarence Valley on the mid-north coast (18.6%), Great Lakes around Forster-Tuncurry in the Hunter on the central coast (18.4%) and Shoalhaven on the south coast (19.2%). Other areas included Perry inland from Bundaberg in Queensland (18.2%), Yarriambiack in the Wimmera (18.9%) and outside Benalla (19.0%) and Loddon South in central Victoria (19.2%).

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest concentrations of the prime working-age population occur in areas spread throughout central and remote parts of Australia, predominately populated by Indigenous communities. A number of areas had more than 40% of their population of prime working age, including Wiluna in central Western Australia (44.7%) and Stuart-Roseneath in Townsville (43.3%). Other areas included Roxby Downs in central South Australia (42.4%), Leonora in central Western Australia (40.7%), Ashburton in the Pilbara area of Western Australia (40.4%), and Alice Springs-Stuart in central Northern Territory (39.5%).

MAP 8 Change in the number of people of prime working age, 2001–06

Change in the population aged 25 to 44



In the five years to 2006, the number of people in the prime working-age group (25 to 44 years) increased by 1.2%. This is the same as the growth in the five years to 2001.

The number of people in the prime working-age group decreased by 11.7% in rural areas and by 7.5% in small towns. Regional centres experienced a decrease of 2.5%. This contrasts to the increase of 4.3% in major urban centres.

Lowest value of change SLAs

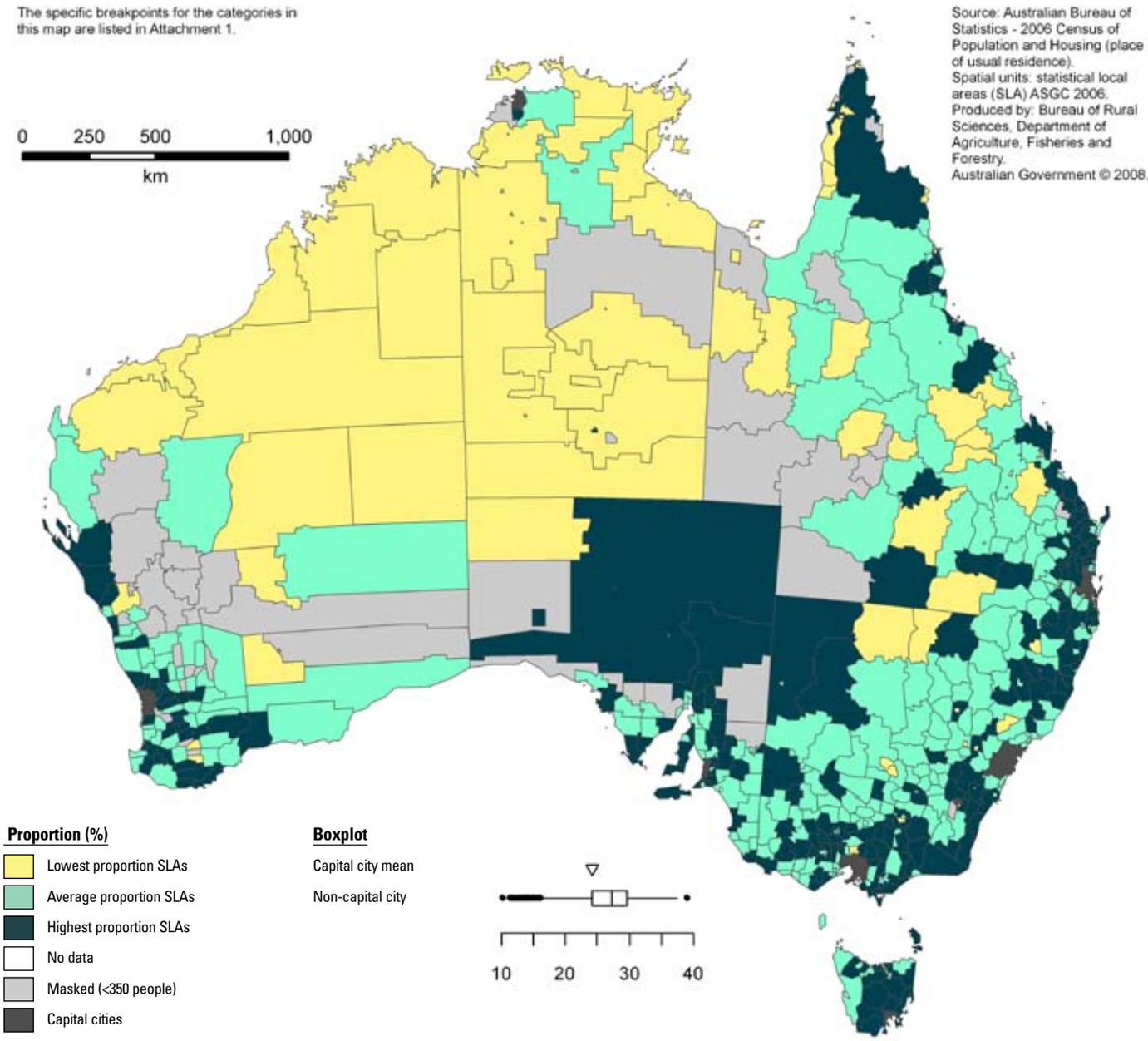
Decreases in the number of people in the prime working-age group in the population occurred throughout most regions in Australia. The largest decreases occurred across central Australia and moderate decreases occurred throughout many areas immediately inland from the coastal strip. A number of remote areas experienced substantial decreases (more than 30%) as the total population also decreased. Moderate decreases occurred along the coastal strip and southern New South Wales, and particularly in the areas surrounding the capital cities.

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in the number of people of prime working age were largely concentrated in the growth areas in southeast Queensland, Mackay and Hervey Bay in Queensland, and around Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. The largest increases occurred in the growth areas in the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, near Rockhampton, around Perth, and a number of remote areas. The largest growth occurred in Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia, which more than doubled to 1900 people, and areas around the Gold Coast (including Pacific Pines-Gaven, Kingsholme-Upper Coomera, Varsity Lakes, Oxenford-Maudsland, Tweed) that increased by more than 35%, and Caloundra (on the Sunshine Coast) that increased by 39.3%.

MAP 9 People of older working age, 2006

Population aged 45 to 64 as proportion of total population



The number of people in the older working-age group (45 to 64 years) is increasing with the ageing of the population. In 2006, they were 24.9% of the total population, increasing from 23.0% in 2001 and 21.0% in 1996.

The proportion of people of older working age was higher in rural areas (31.2%) and small towns (27.8%), and lower in major urban centres (24.1%) and regional centres (24.7%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

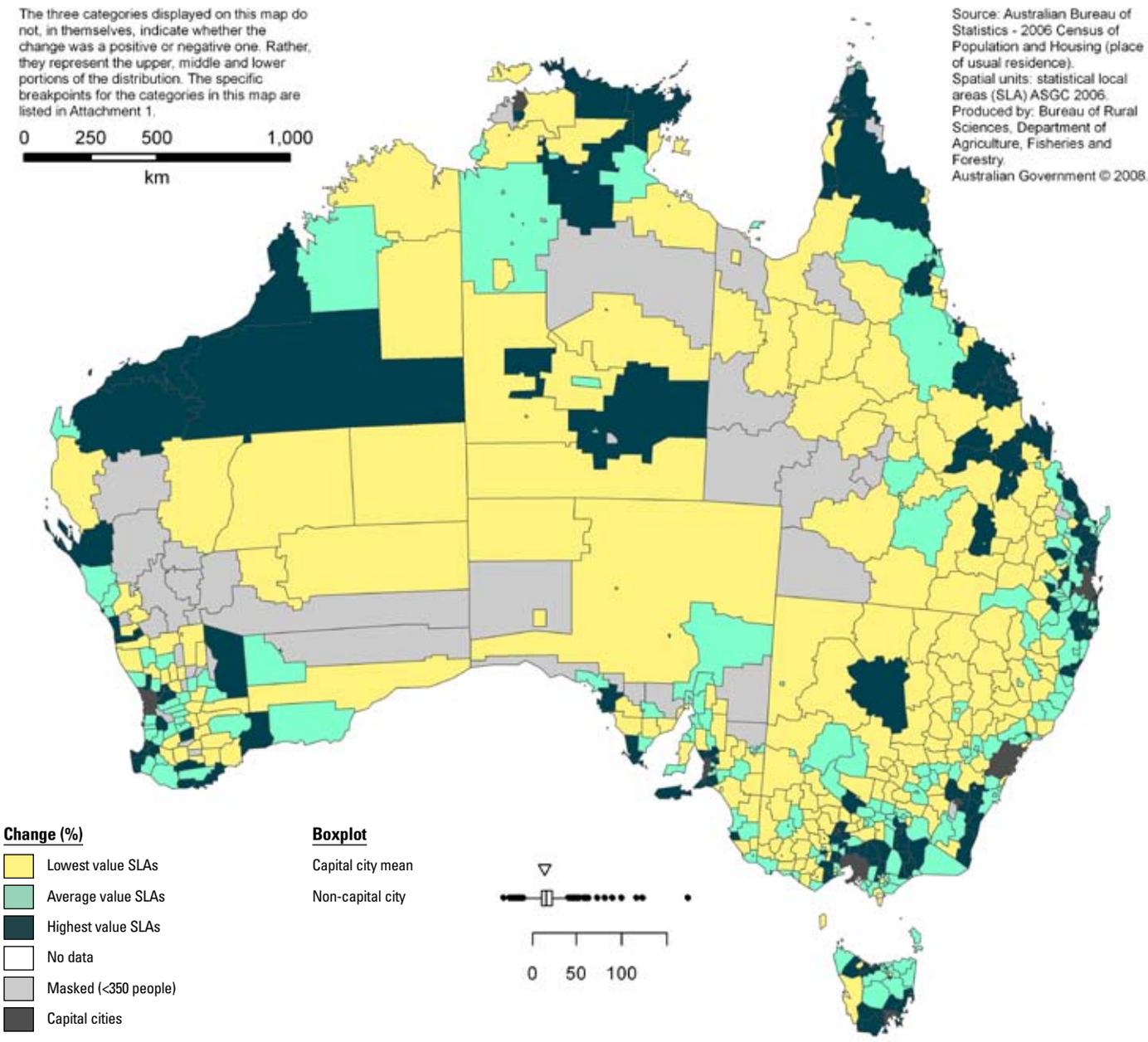
The areas with the lowest proportion of people in the older working-age group occur in regions in central and northern Australia in areas with concentrations of Indigenous people. Thamarrurr including Wadeye in the northwestern Northern Territory, had the lowest proportion of people in this age group (10.4%).

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest proportion of older working-age people occurs along the east coast, throughout Victoria and southwest Western Australia. The highest proportion of people of older working age were in Kingsborough south of Hobart (39.4%), Flinders Island in Bass Strait (38.9%), Nannup near Margaret River in Western Australia (37.4%) and Benalla in central Victoria (37.2%).

MAP 10 Change in the number of people of older working age, 2001–06

Change in the population aged 45 to 64



In the five years to 2006, the number of people in the older working-age group (45 to 64 years) increased by 15.5%. This is slightly more than the increase of 15.0% in the five years to 2001.

The number of people in the older working-age group increased most in small towns (18.5%) and regional centres (17.1%). Increases were smaller in major urban centres (15.6%) and rural areas (11.3%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

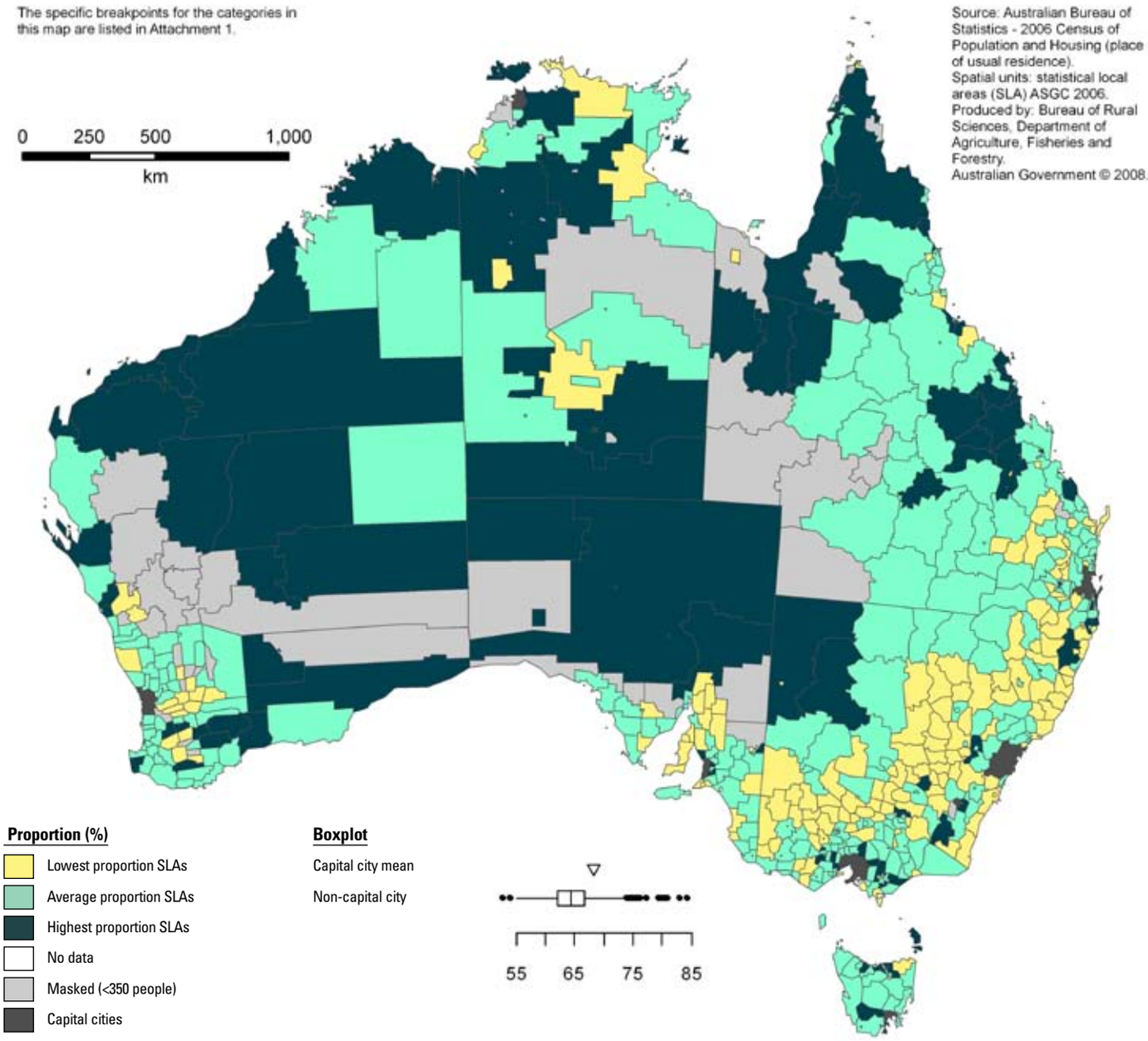
Decreases in the number of people in the older working-age group in the population occurred in the central and remote parts of Australia, because of population decrease and the younger age profile of Indigenous people.

Highest value of change SLAs

The largest increases in the number of people of older working age occurred throughout most non-remote parts of Australia due to the ageing of the population. The largest increases occurred in the areas attracting retired people, often around cities and the coast, including Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth. The largest increase occurred in growth areas around the Gold Coast (including Pacific Pines-Gaven, Kingsholme-Upper Coomera, Varsity Lakes, Hope Island, Oxenford-Maudsland, and Tweed) all increasing by more than 60%, and Douglas (near Cairns) more than doubled.

MAP 11 People of working age, 2006

Population aged 15 to 64 as proportion of total population



In 2006, people of working age (15 to 64 years) were 66.8% of the population, which was higher than 66.5% in 2001, and 66.3% in 1996.

The proportion of people of working age was higher in major urban centres (68.1%) and rural areas (67.4%), and lower in small towns (63.2%) and regional centres (63.2%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

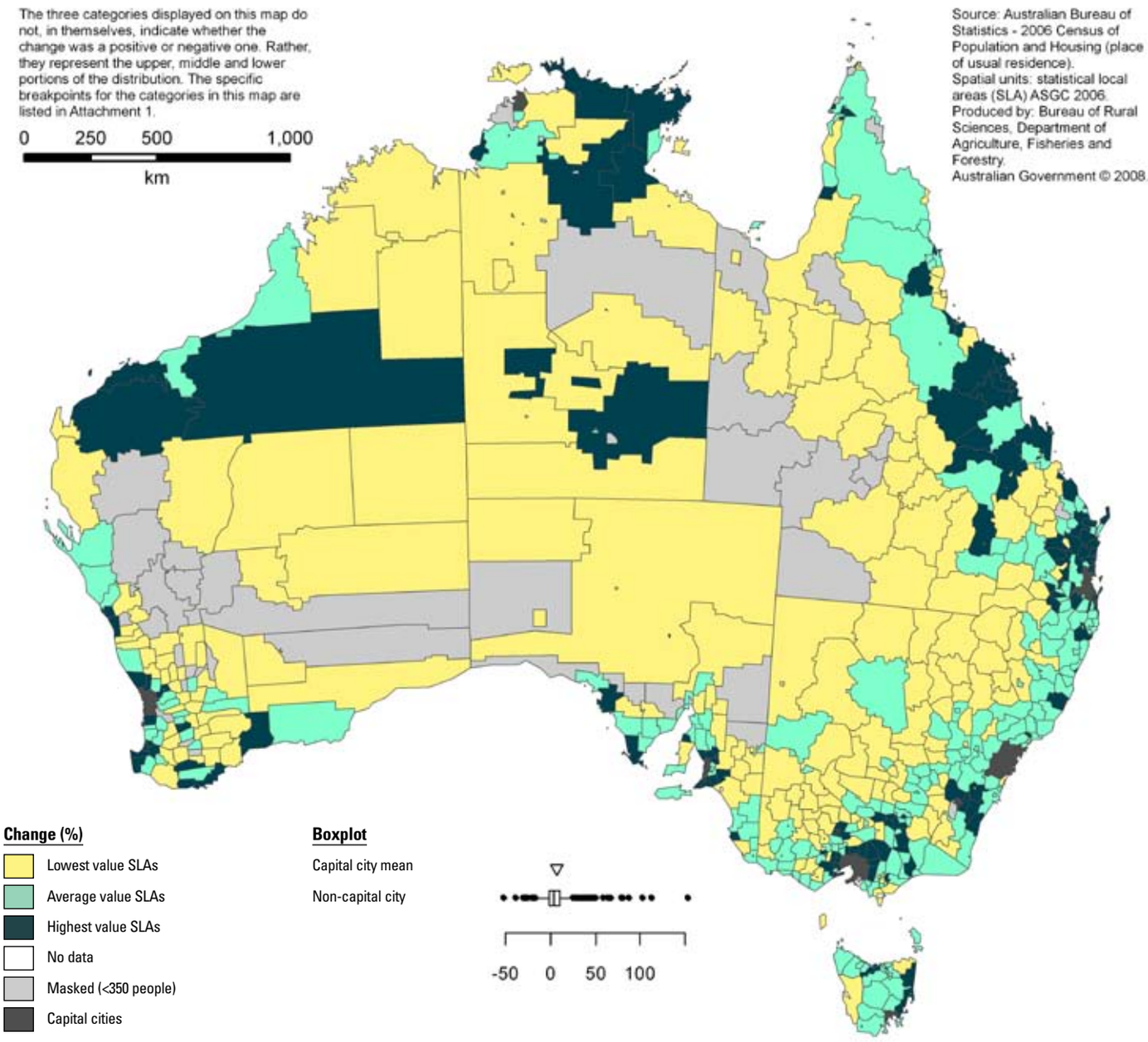
The areas with the lowest proportion of people in the working-age group occur throughout most of New South Wales and Victoria, and surrounding Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. The lowest proportions were in Queenscliffe near Geelong (52.8%), and Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (53.9%).

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest proportions of people of working age occurred mostly in parts of central Australia and far north Queensland. The highest proportions of people of working age are found in Stuart-Roseneath near Townsville (82.9%). Other high proportion areas included Wiluna in central Western Australia (81.0%), and Cairns City (80.7%), Douglas near Cairns (80.2%), and Alice Springs (80.0%).

MAP 12 Change in the number of people of working age, 2001–06

Change in the population aged 15 to 64



In the five years to 2006, the number of people in the working-age group (15 to 64 years) in Australia increased by 7.5%. This is higher than the increase of 6.5% in the five years to 2001.

The number of people in the working-age population increased most in major urban centres (8.8%), and regional centres (6.1%). The increase was lower in small towns (4.7%), and there were decreases in rural areas (0.6%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

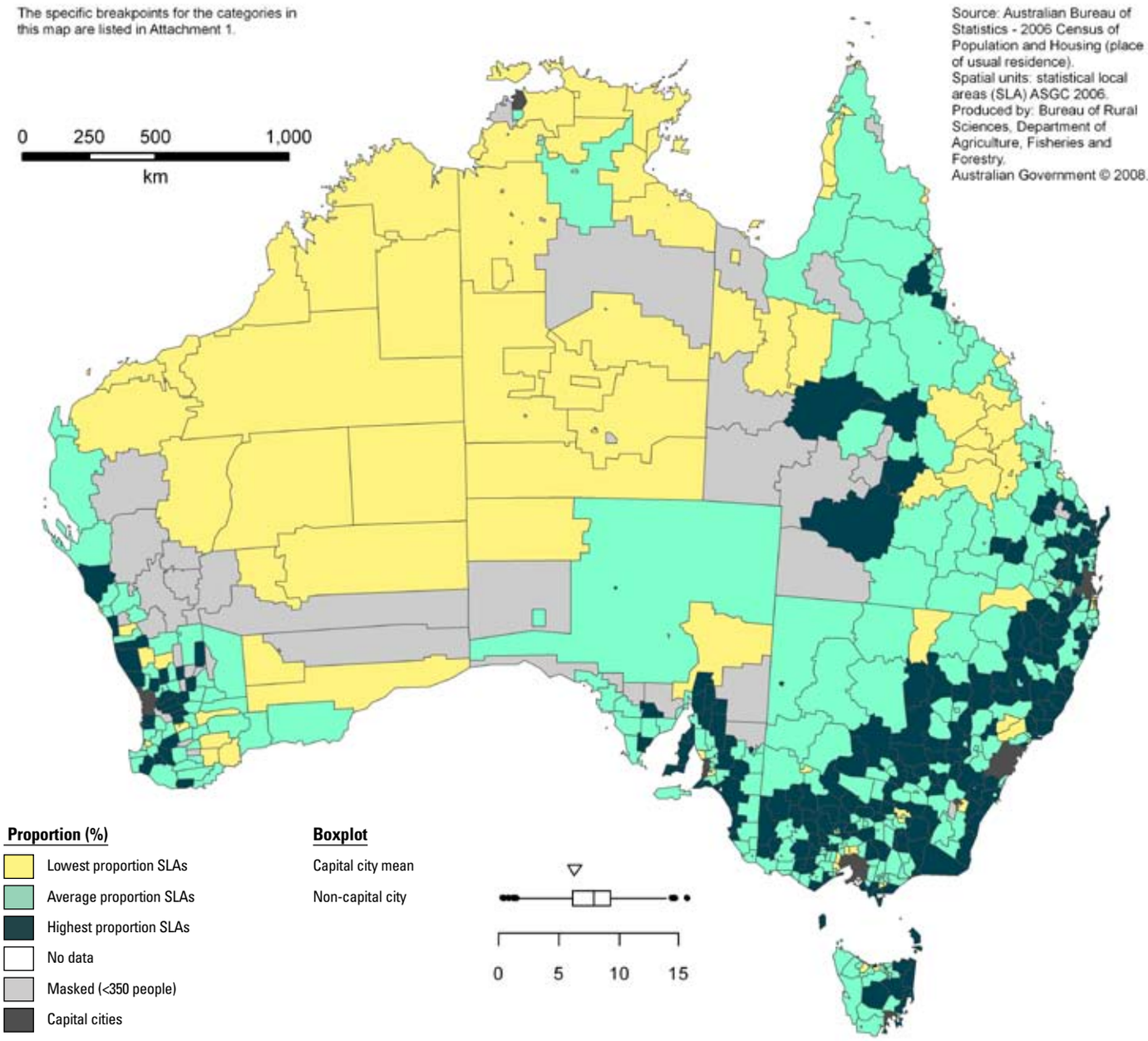
Low decreases in the number of people of working age occurred in the remote and central parts of Australia due to the younger age profile of Indigenous people. Decreases also occurred in some rural areas with decreasing population including Carrathool in central New South Wales (by 12.8%), and Buloke North in the Mallee in western Victoria (by 6.4%).

Highest value of change SLAs

The number of people in the working-age population increased throughout most of Australia due to the ageing of the population. The largest increases occurred in the growth areas on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine coast, Bendigo in Victoria and Bunbury in Western Australia. The greatest increase occurred in growth areas around the Gold Coast (including Kingsholme-Upper, Varsity Lakes, Oxenford-Maudsland, Robina) all increasing by more than 45%, Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia more than doubling, and Douglas near Cairns nearly doubling.

MAP 13 People aged 65 to 74, 2006

Population aged 65 to 74 as proportion of total population



In 2006, people aged 65 to 74 years were 6.9% of the population, higher than 2001 (6.8%), and less than 1996 (7.1%).

The proportion of people aged 65 to 74 years was higher in small towns (8.6%) and regional centres (8.0%), and lower in rural areas (7.2%) and major urban centres (6.5%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

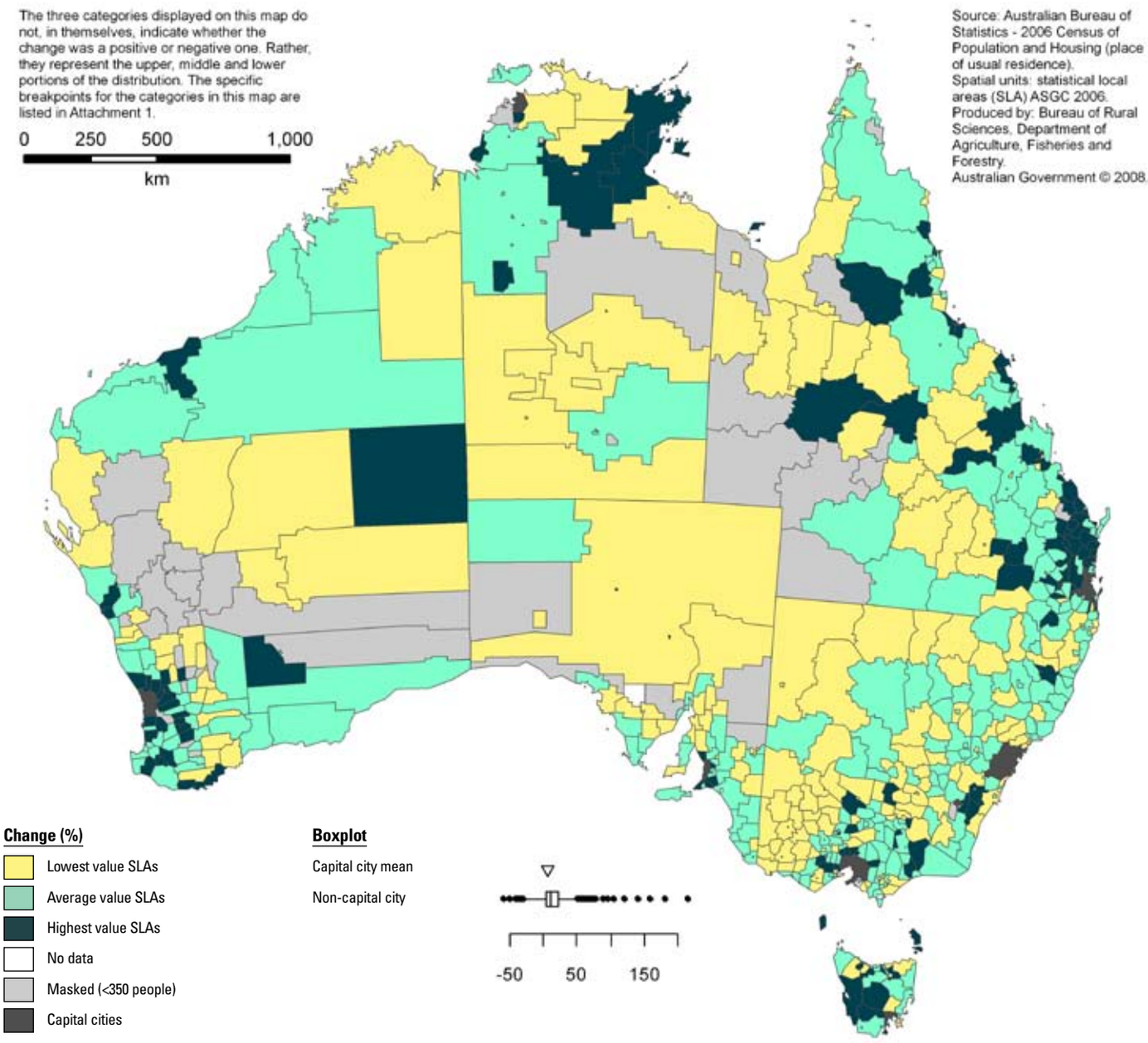
The areas with the lowest proportion of people aged 65 to 74 years occurs mostly in parts of central Australia, in areas predominantly populated by Indigenous people (who have a much younger age profile). The areas with the lowest proportions were in Roxby Downs in central South Australia (only 0.4%), Jabiru (0.5%) and Kunbarllanjnja (0.9%) both east of Darwin, and Nhulunbuy on the Northern Territory Gulf of Carpentaria (0.8%). Other areas included Woorabinda inland from Rockhampton (0.8%), and Weipa on the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland (0.9%).

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest proportions of people aged 65 to 74 years occurred along the east coast (often areas with retired people) and inland country areas in eastern Australia, and surrounding Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane. The highest proportion occurred in Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (15.7%). Other high areas were in the Great Lakes around Forster-Tuncurry in the Hunter on the central coast of New South Wales (14.7%), Clarence Valley (13.3%) and Tweed on the north coast of New South Wales (12.8%), and Shoalhaven on the south coast of New South Wales (13.3%). In Victoria, Queenscliffe near Geelong was 14.4%. In South Australia, high proportion areas were Alexandrina south of Adelaide (13.9%), Yorke Peninsula (DC) — North (13.5%) and Yorke Peninsula (DC)—South (13.5%). In Queensland, Main Beach-South Stradbroke (12.7%), and Coolangatta on the Gold Coast (12.6%) had the highest proportions.

MAP 14 Change in the number of people aged 65 to 74, 2001–06

Change in population aged 65 to 74



In the five years to 2006, the number of people aged 65 to 74 years in Australia increased by 8.4%. This is a much faster increase than in the five years to 2001 (0.5%).

The greatest increase occurred in rural areas (14.0%) and regional centres (10.4%), followed by small towns (9.8%) and major urban centres (6.8%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

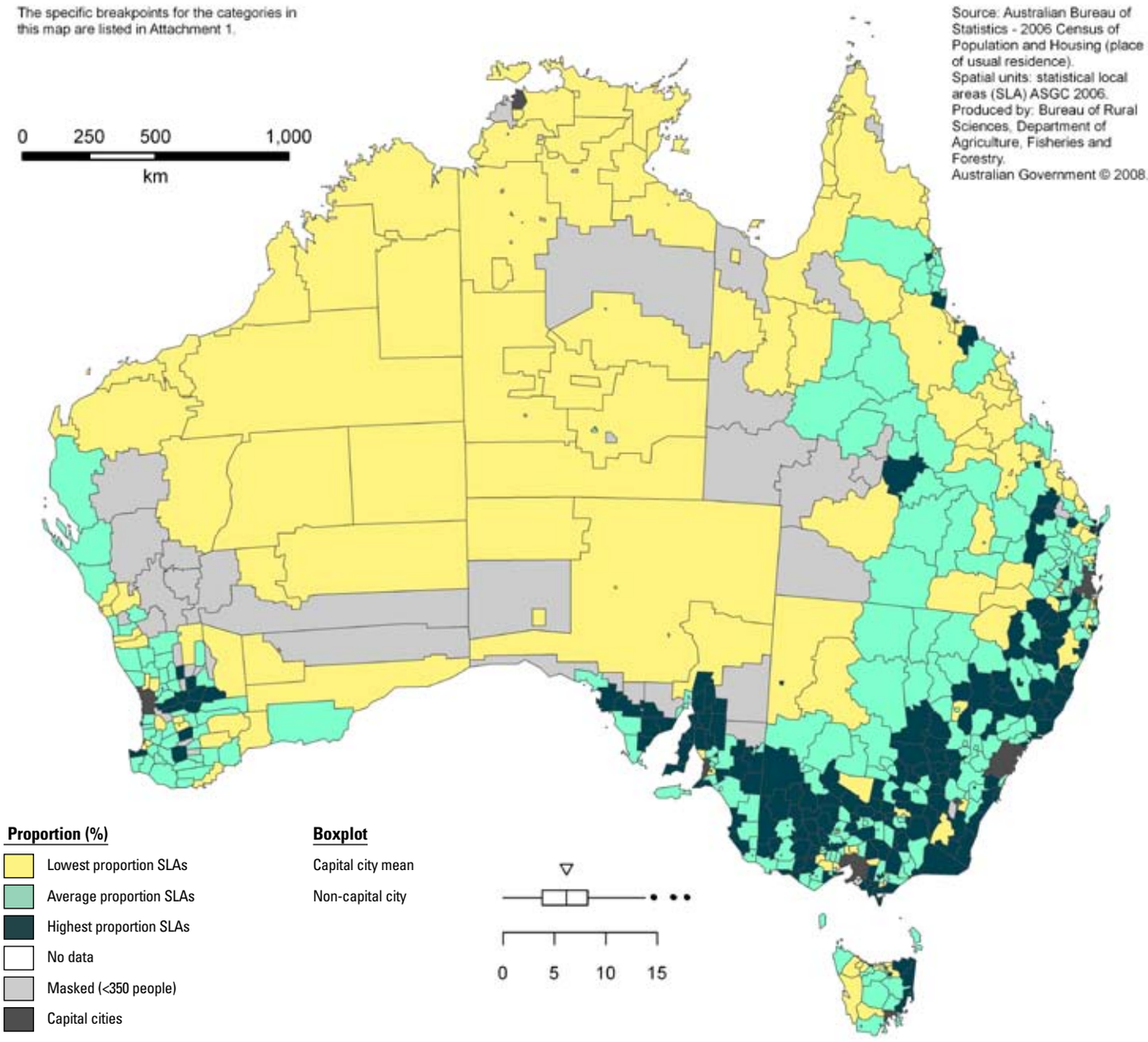
Decreases in the number of people aged 65 to 74 years in the population occurred throughout regions in inland and central Australia, mostly in the remote Indigenous communities, and associated with decreasing population.

Highest value of change SLAs

The number of people in the 65 to 74 years-age group increased in most of the non-remote parts of Australia due to the ageing of the population. Moderate increases occurred along the coast and around capital cities, and the largest increases occurred on the Sunshine Coast and around Mackay in Queensland, Goulburn in New South Wales, Benalla in Victoria, and around Adelaide. The largest growth occurred in the retirement areas around the Gold Coast (including Pacific Pines-Gaven, Hope Island, Kingsholme-Upper) all more than doubling, Capel (near Bunbury in Western Australia) almost doubling, and Douglas (near Cairns) almost doubling.

MAP 15 People aged 75 and over, 2006

Population aged 75 and over as proportion of total population



In 2006, people aged 75 years aor older were 6.4% of the population, higher than 2001 (5.8%) and 1996 (5.0%).

The proportion of people aged 75 years or older was highest in regional centres (7.6%), small towns (6.5%), major urban centres (6.4%), and lowest in rural areas (3.5%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

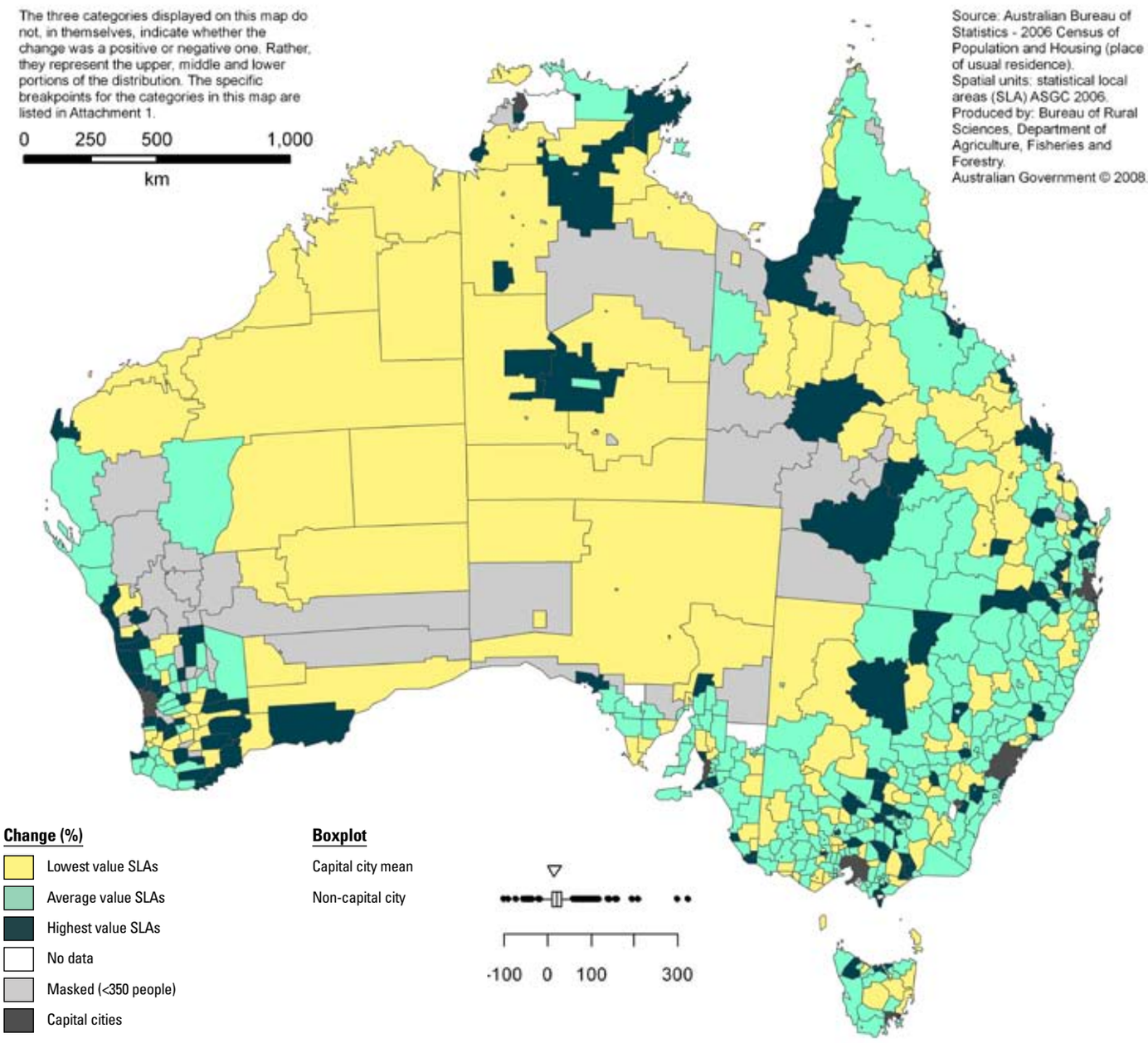
The areas with the lowest proportion of people in the oldest age group occur mostly in central Australia, in areas mostly populated by Indigenous people (who have a much younger age profile). The areas with the lowest proportions were in Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory Gulf of Carpentaria (0.3%), Cherbourg west of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland (0.4%), Ashburton in the Pilbara region of Western Australia (0.4%), and Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre southeast of Darwin (0.4%), and Jabiru east of Darwin (0.4%).

Highest proportion SLAs

The areas with the highest proportion of people in the oldest age group occur throughout southeast Australia, the Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas in South Australia, around Brisbane and Perth, and eastern Tasmania. Queenscliffe (near Geelong) had the highest proportion of older-aged people in Australia (18.0%). Other large proportions occurred in Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (16.6%), Rowes Bay-Belgian Gardens in Townsville (14.8%), Orroroo/Carrieton north of Adelaide (13.8%), Tweed on the north coast of New South Wales (13.6%), Alexander (S) — C'maine near Bendigo in central Victoria (13.5%), Coolangatta on the Gold Coast (13.2%), Hindmarsh in the Wimmera in Victoria (13.1%), the Great Lakes around Forster-Tuncurry in the Hunter on the central coast New South Wales (13.0%), C. Goldfields (S) — M'borough near Bendigo in central Victoria (13.0%), and Buloke (S) — South in the Mallee in Victoria (13.0%).

MAP 16 Change in the number of people aged 75 and over, 2001–06

Change in population aged 75 and over



In the five years to 2006, the number of people aged 75 years or older in Australia increased by 17.7%. This is lower than the increase of 20.8% in the five years to 2001.

The greatest increase occurred in regional centres (20.9%), followed by major urban centres (16.8%), rural areas (16.4%), and small towns (14.3%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

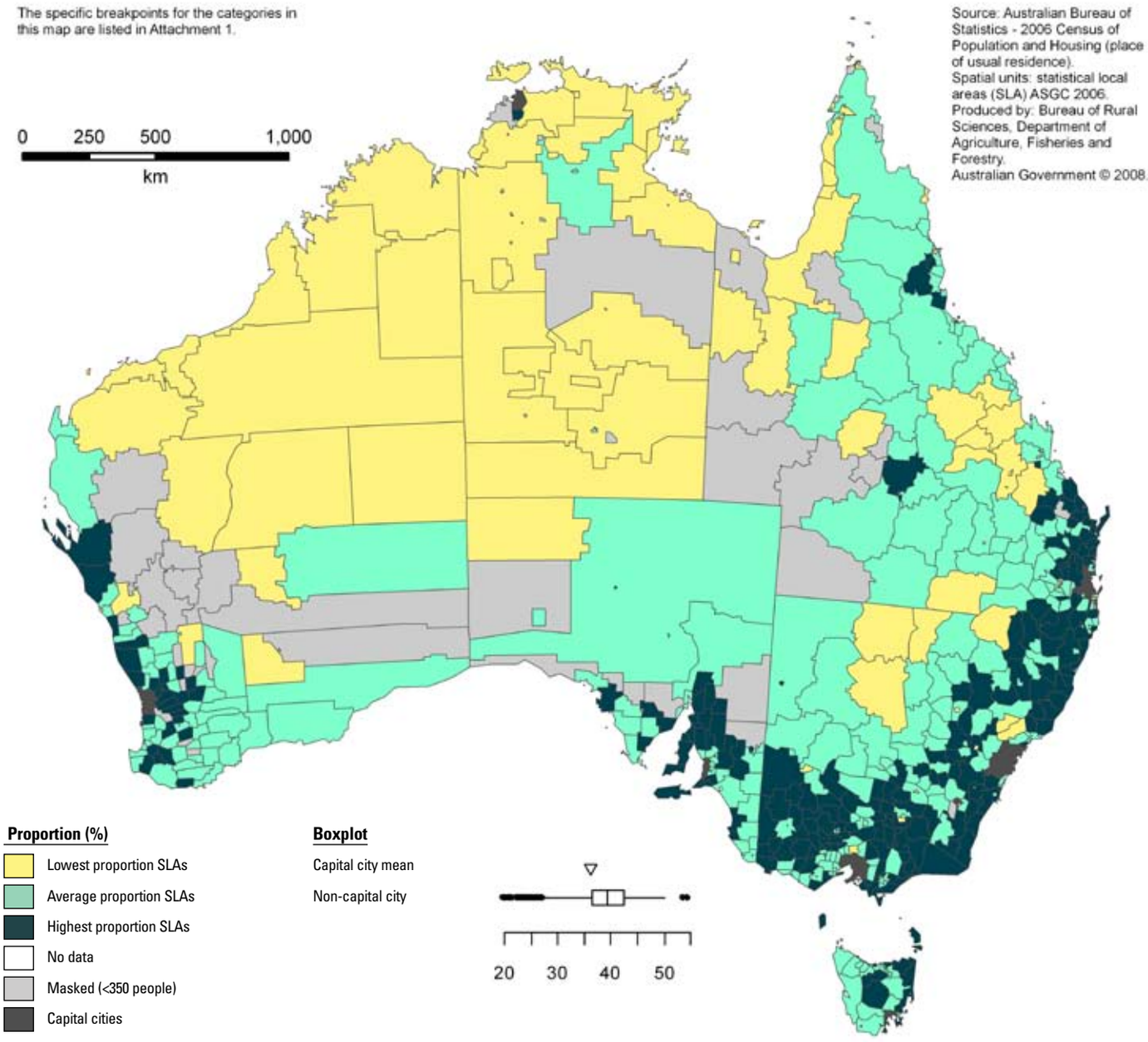
Decreases in the number of people aged 75 years or older occurred throughout most of the central and remote parts of Australia as a consequence of the declining population. There were also decreases in some areas inland from Mackay in Queensland, and some parts of southwest Western Australia. The areas with the largest decreases included a number of remote Indigenous communities.

Highest value of change SLAs

The number of people aged 75 years or older is increasing in most non-remote parts of Australia due to the ageing of the population. Increases of greater than 40% were recorded on the Sunshine Coast, around Bundaberg in Queensland, around Urana and Jerilderie in the Riverina and Dubbo in New South Wales, and in a number of areas in southwest Western Australia. The largest increases in the number of people aged 75 years or older occurred in places where retirees lived (for example in southeast Queensland, some coastal regions in New South Wales, around Perth, Melbourne, and Adelaide). Some rural communities throughout New South Wales and Queensland also experienced large increases (some nearly doubling the number of older-aged persons) and this was due to a declining population and the outward movement of young people and families.

MAP 17 Median age of the total population, 2006

The age at which half the population is older and half the population is younger



In 2006, the median age of Australia's population was 36.6 years, higher than 2001 (35.7 years) and 1996 (34.0 years).

The median age was higher in small towns and rural areas. It was highest in small towns in South Australia (43.1 years), Tasmania (42.9 years), and Victoria (42.8 years). In rural areas, the median age was highest in Victoria (41.1 years) and New South Wales (41.0 years).

Lowest proportion SLAs

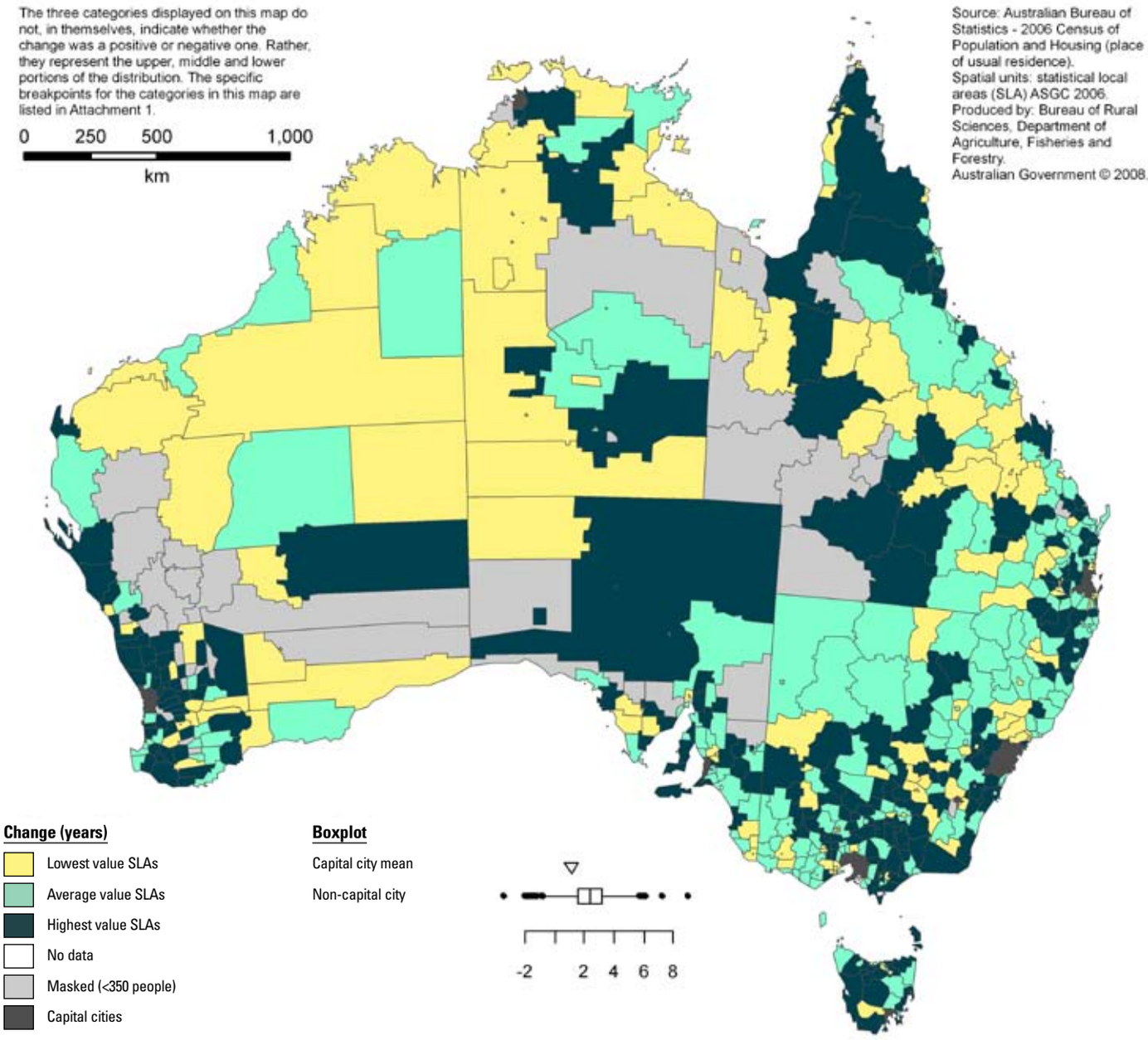
The areas with the lowest median ages occur throughout central, northern and western parts of Australia, in areas mostly populated by Indigenous people (who have a much younger-age profile). The areas with the lowest median ages are Cherbourg west of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland (19.8 years), and Thamarrurr including Wadeye in the northwest of the Northern Territory (20.0 years).

Highest proportion SLAs

The areas with the highest median age are found throughout country Victoria along the east coast, and surrounding Adelaide and Perth. The area with the highest median age in Australia was Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (54.4 years). Other areas with high median ages included Queenscliffe near Geelong (53.6 years), Great Lakes on the central New South Wales coast (50.0 years), Yorke Peninsula in South Australia (49.7 years), and Beverley east of Perth (49.6 years).

MAP 18 Change in median age of the total population, 2001–06

Change in the age at which half the population is older and half the population is younger



Over the five years to 2006, the median age increased more in small towns and rural areas indicating higher levels of ageing. This occurred across all states, except in the Northern Territory where a younger-age profile was maintained because of the high Indigenous population. The largest increases in median age occurred in the small towns of Tasmania (increasing by 3.4 years), Western Australia (3.3 years), and South Australia (3.1 years).

Lowest value of change SLAs

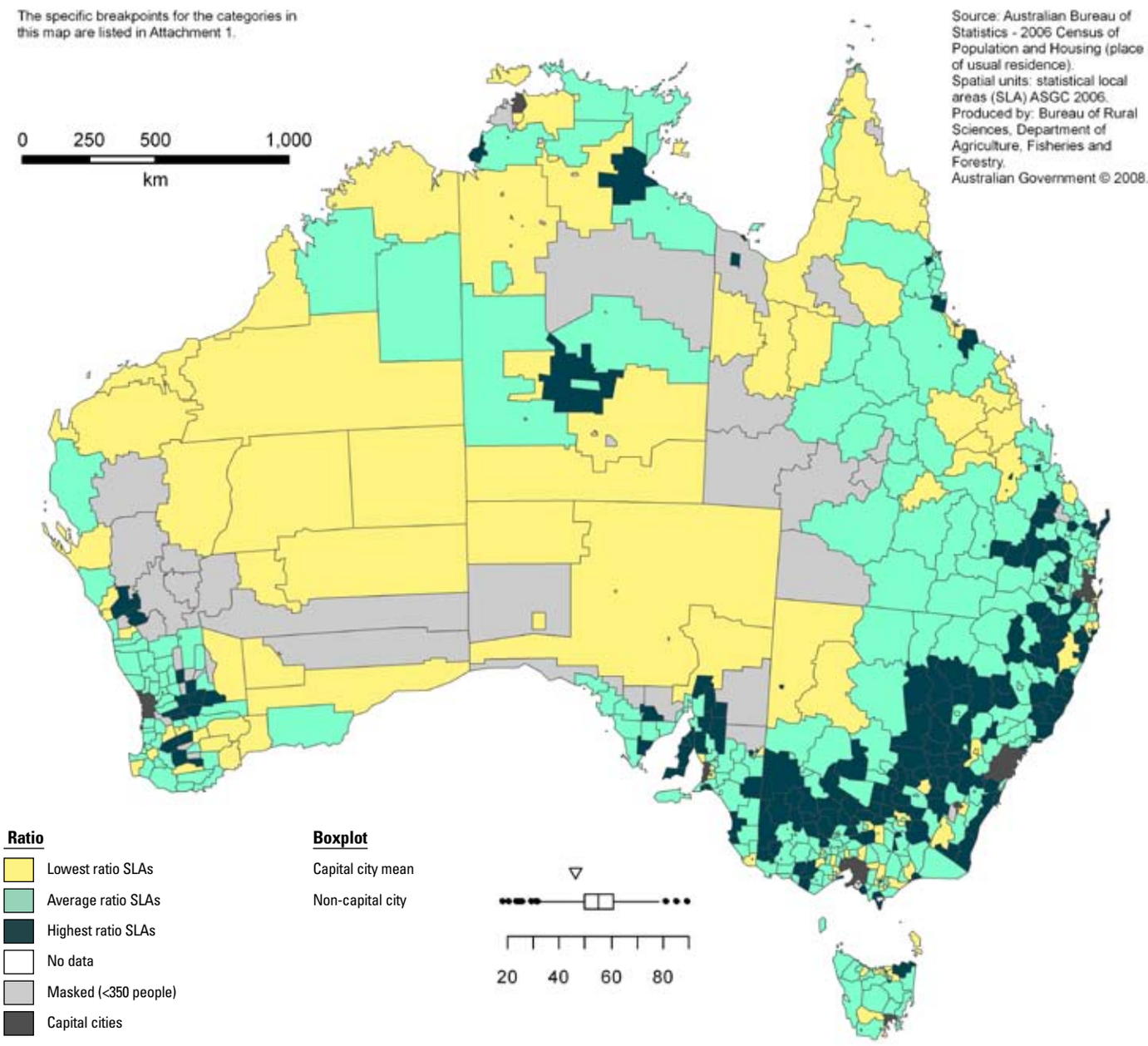
There were few places in Australia that experienced a reduction in the median age between 2001 and 2006. A number were scattered in inland and remote parts of Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia, due to the high incidence of Indigenous people with a younger-age profile. A number of growth areas with increasing population of younger-aged people also experienced a decrease in the median age, particularly on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, including Palm Beach (decreasing by 1.7 years), Miami (by 1.7 years), and Caloundra (by 1.7 years).

Highest value of change SLAs

The increase in the median age is a major indicator of the ageing of the population, and is exacerbated by the movement of younger people and families. Moderate increases in the median age occurred throughout most of non-remote Australia. Larger increases occurred in western Queensland, the Riverina in New South Wales, western Victoria and Gippsland, around Gympie in Queensland, and around Perth. Large increases in the median age occurred in areas around the capital cities, the retirement areas on the coast, and scattered throughout country areas. These areas included Beverley east of Perth (median age increasing by 5.9 years), Main Beach on the Gold Coast (5.9 years), the Yarra Ranges on the eastern outskirts of Melbourne (5.4 years), and Bridgetown-Greenbushes near Margaret River in Western Australia (5.3 years), and the remote area of Blackall in central Queensland (7.3 years).

MAP 19 Total dependency ratio, 2006

Ratio of the children and older age population to the working age population



The dependency ratio measures the extent that the working-age population supports those not in the workforce (children and older-aged persons). It is the number of child dependents (aged 0 to 14 years) or those who are aged 65 years or older, expressed as a proportion of the number of people of working age (15 to 64 years). A low dependency ratio (for example 46.9 in the major urban centres in 2006) means that there were 46.9 children and older age persons for every 100 persons of working age. It indicates that there is a comparatively larger population of working-age people to support those of non-working age. A higher value (for example 58.3 in small towns in 2006) indicates there are comparatively more dependents than working-age people compared to major urban centres.

The ratio was higher in small towns and regional centres (58.3), followed by rural areas (48.5) and major urban centres (46.9).

Lowest ratio SLAs

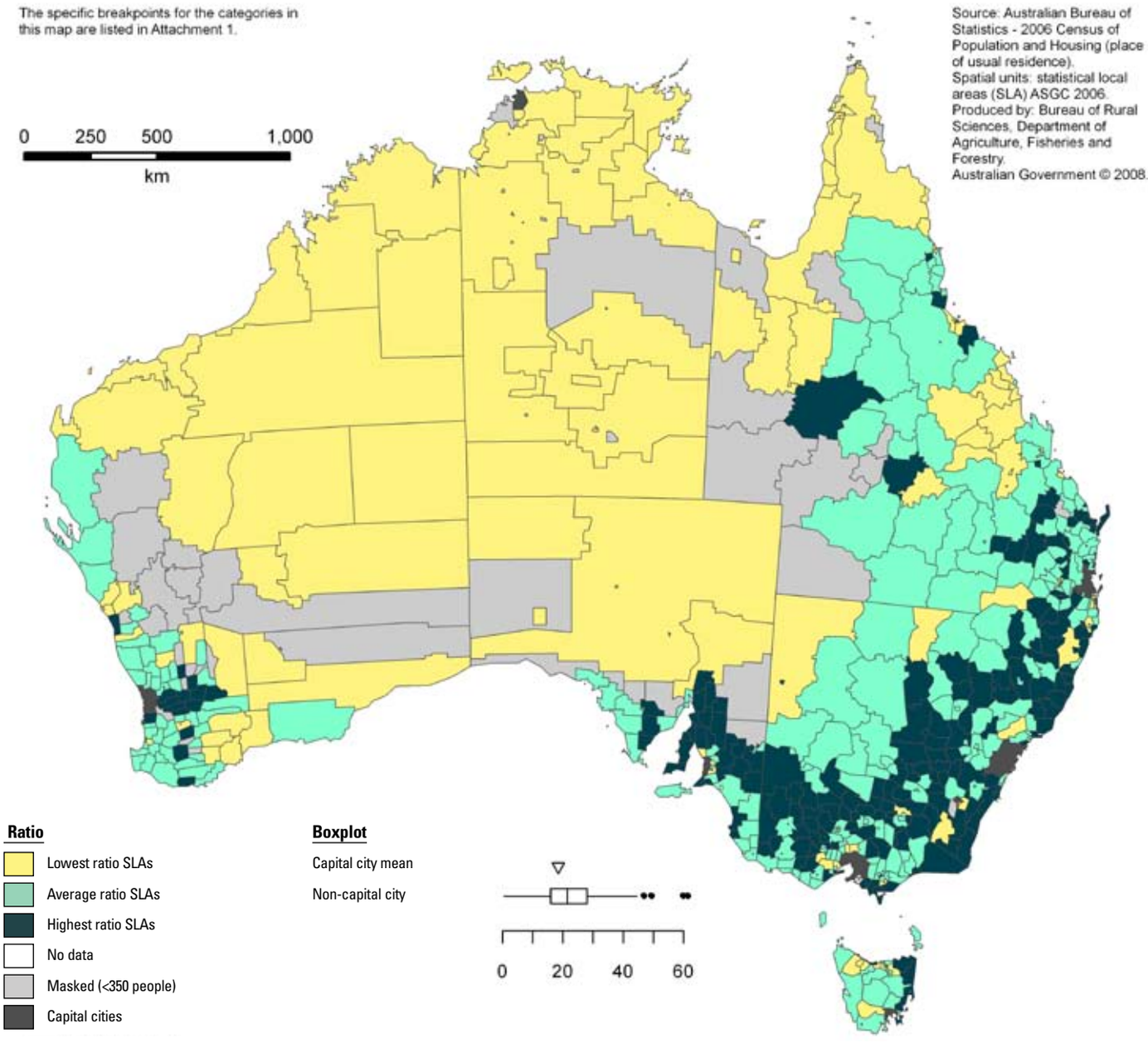
The areas with the lowest dependency ratio are located mostly in parts of central Australia, in areas predominantly populated by Indigenous people who have a comparatively low proportion of older-aged persons and a high proportion of people aged 15 to 64 years in their population. Areas with the lowest dependency ratio in Australia included Stuart-Roseneath near Townsville (20.6), Wiluna in central Western Australia (23.5), Cairns City (23.9), Douglas near Cairns (24.7), Alice Springs-Stuart (25.1), and Laverton in central Western Australia (25.8).

Highest ratio SLAs

The areas with the highest dependency ratio are located mostly in western Victoria, central west New South Wales, the north and south coast of New South Wales, and some areas around Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide. Areas with a high dependency ratio, because of the high proportion of older-aged people, included Queenscliffe near Geelong (89.3) and Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (85.5).

MAP 20 Older-age dependency ratio, 2006

Ratio of the older age population to the working age population



The older-age dependency ratio measures the extent that the working-age population supports the older-aged population. It is the number of people aged 65 years or older expressed as a proportion of the number of people of working age (15 to 64 years). A low older-age dependency ratio (for example 16.3 in rural areas in 2006) means that there were 16.3 people aged 65 or older for every 100 people of working age. It indicates that there is a comparatively larger population of working-age people to support the older age group. A higher value (for example 24.8 in regional centres in 2006) indicates there are comparatively more older-age people than working-age people.

The ratio was higher in regional centres (24.8) and small towns (23.8), followed by major urban centres (18.9) and rural areas (16.3). There was an increase in all areas in the five years to 2006, indicative of the ageing population. The increase was greatest in rural areas (the ratio increasing by 2.2) and regional centres (by 2.0), followed by small towns (1.5) and major urban centres (0.5).

Lowest ratio SLAs

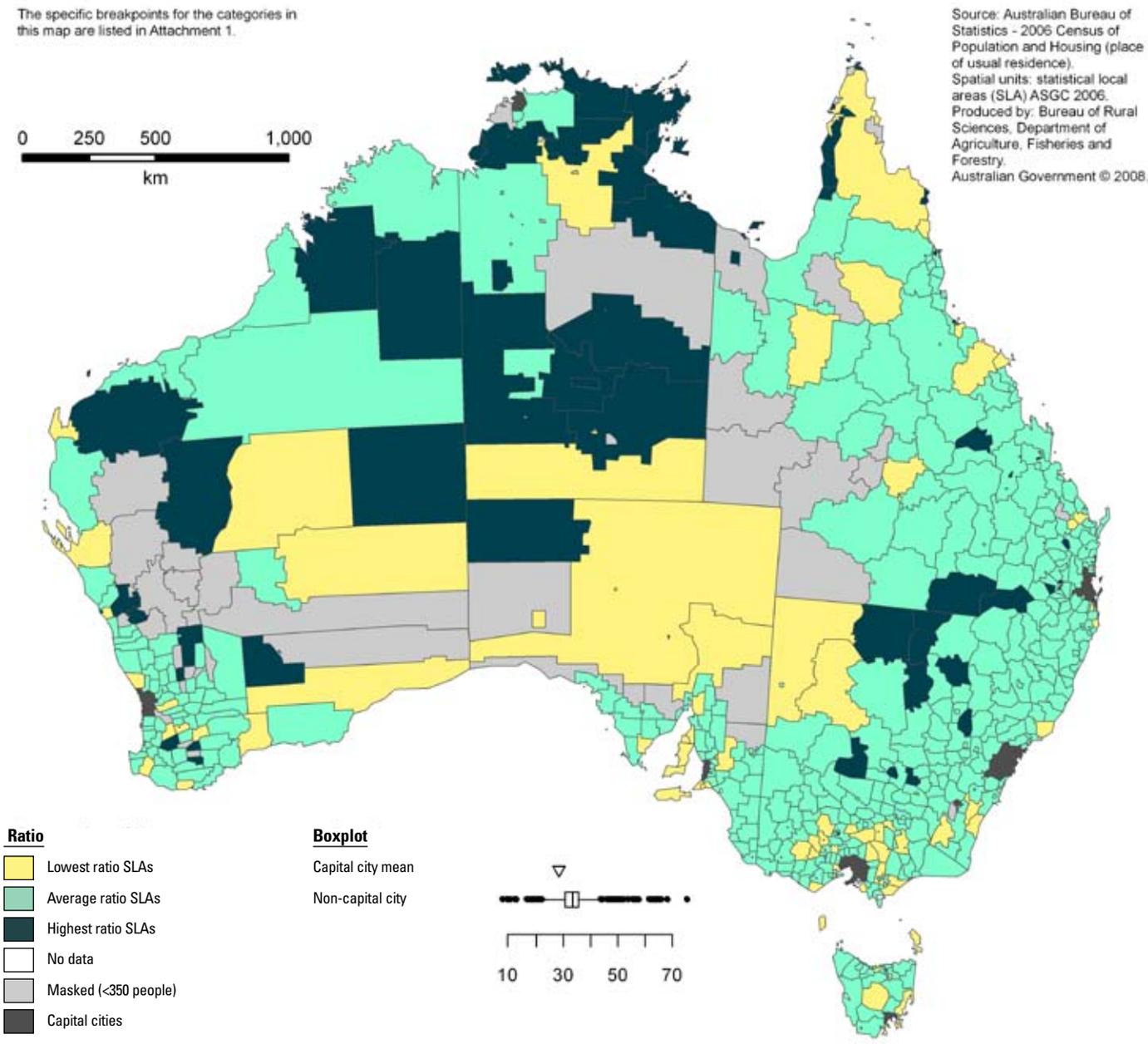
The areas with the lowest older-age dependency ratio are located in parts of central Australia, in areas mostly populated by Indigenous people who have a comparatively low number of older-aged persons. Roxby Downs in central South Australia had the lowest ratio in Australia (0.6). Other low ratios were in Jabiru (1.3) and Kunbarllanjnja (2.3) both east of Darwin, Nhulunbuy (1.4), Weipa (1.9) on the Gulf of Carpentaria coast, and Ashburton (2.5) and Roebourne (2.6) both on the Western Australian central coast.

Highest ratio SLAs

The areas with the highest older-age dependency ratio are located throughout inland Victoria and New South Wales, the north and south coast of New South Wales, and around Adelaide. Queenscliffe near Geelong (61.4) and Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (59.9) had the highest ratios in Australia. Other areas included the Great Lakes on the central coast of New South Wales (49.4), Tweed — Tweed-Heads on the north coast of New South Wales (46.7), Goldfields — M'borough central Victoria (44.4) Yorke Peninsula in South Australia (43.3), Buloke (42.0) and Hindmarsh (42.0) both in central western Victoria, Coombabah on the Gold Coast (41.6), and Alexandrina south of Adelaide (41.3).

MAP 21 Child dependency ratio, 2006

Ratio of the child population to the working age population



The child-dependency ratio measures the extent that the working-age population supports the number of children in the population. It is the number aged less than 15 years expressed as a proportion of the number of people of working age (15 to 64 years). A low child-dependency ratio (for example 28.1 in major urban centres in 2006) means that there were 28.1 children for every 100 persons of working age. It indicates that there is a comparatively larger population of working age people to support the number of children. A higher value (for example 33.5 in regional centres in 2006) indicates there are more children than working age people, in comparison to major urban centres.

The ratio was higher in small towns (34.5) and regional centres (33.5), followed by rural areas (32.2) and major urban centres (28.1). There has been a decrease in all areas in the five years to 2006, indicative of population ageing and decreasing numbers of children. The decrease was greatest in small towns (the ratio decreasing by 3.9) and rural areas (2.7), followed by regional centres (2.5) and major urban centres (1.3).

Lowest ratio SLAs

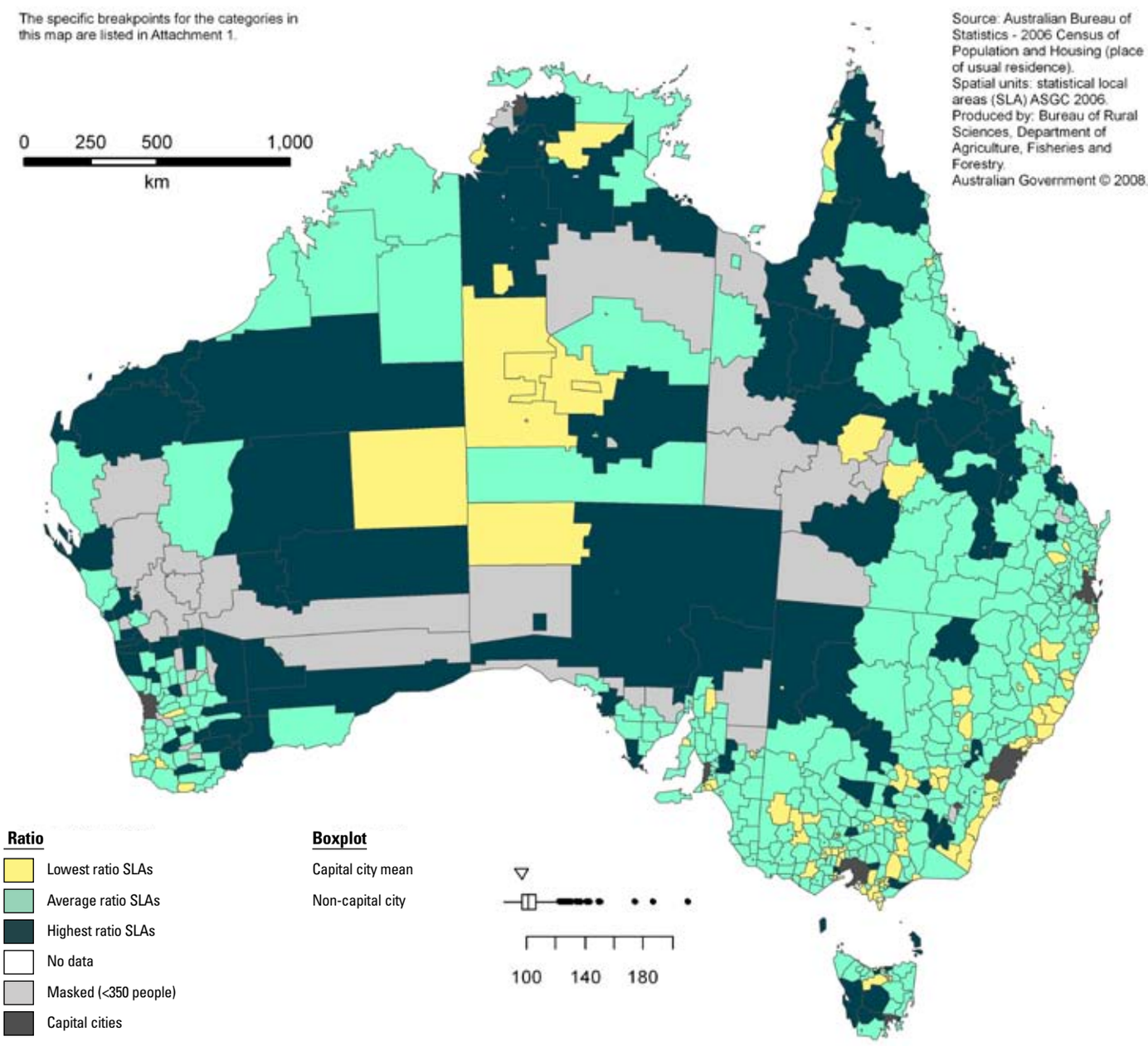
The areas with the lowest child-dependency ratio are located mostly in places where there are retired people and in remote parts of central Australia. The more established retirement areas on the Gold Coast had the lowest child-dependency ratios in Australia, with Main Beach-South Stradbroke (9.6), Surfers Paradise (10.9), Broadbeach-Mermaid Beach (11.1), and Coolangatta (12.7). Other areas included Cairns (12.6), Stuart-Roseneath in Townsville in north Queensland (13.2), and Maroochy- Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast (16.8).

Highest ratio SLAs

The areas with the highest child-dependency ratios are located in parts of central Australia that are populated mostly by Indigenous people who have a young-age population profile.

MAP 22 Total sex ratio, 2006

Number of males per 100 females in population



The sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females in the population; a ratio greater than 100 indicates there are more males than females. In 2006, the sex ratio was 97.5 (that is 97.5 males per 100 females). The ratio was the same in 2001.

There were more males than females in rural areas (sex ratio of 108.9) and small towns (101.0), and more females than males in major urban centres (96.3), and regional centres (95.6).

Lowest ratio SLAs

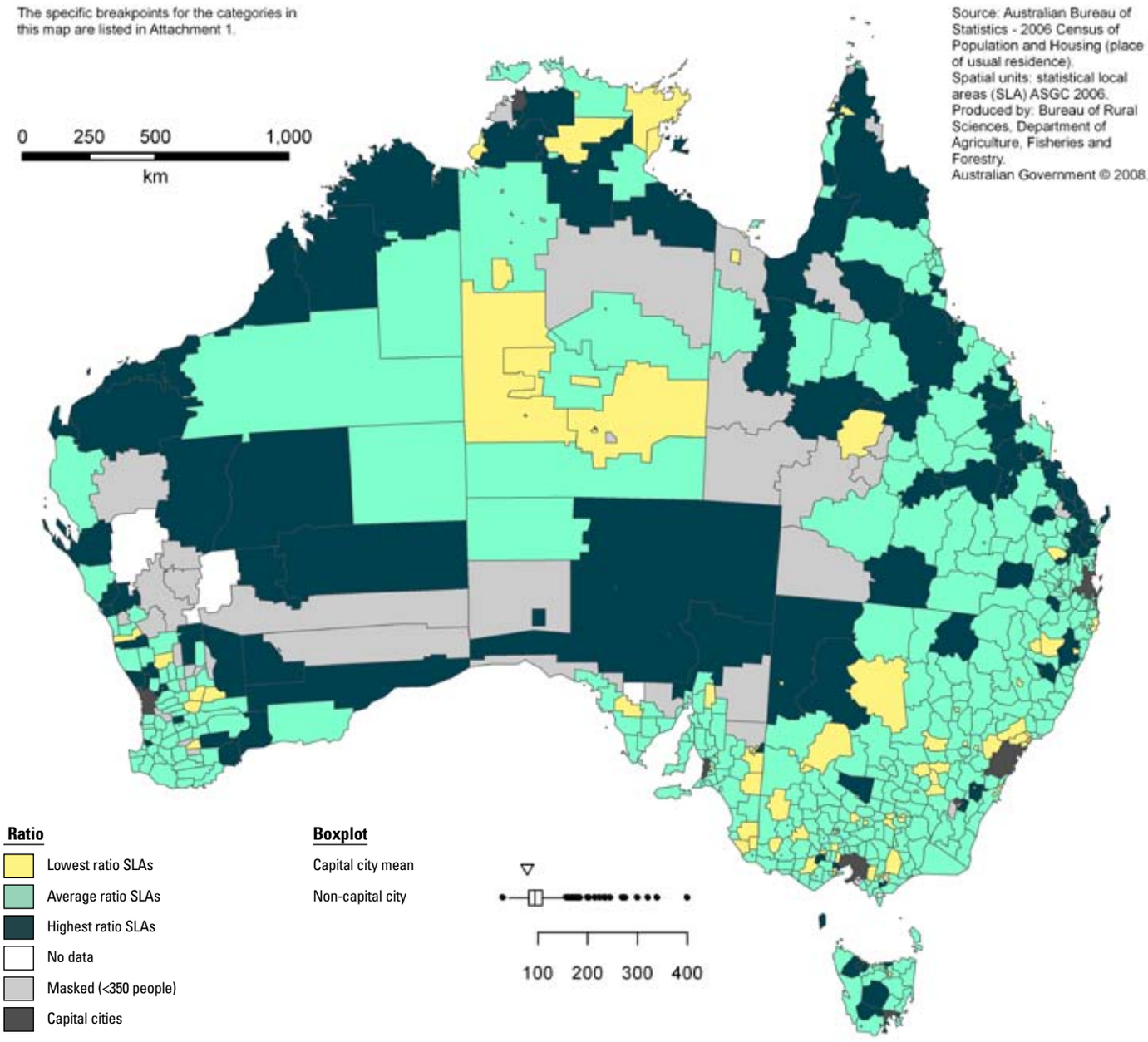
The areas with the lowest sex ratio (that is more females than males) in the population are located mostly in places where there are retired people and an older-age profile, and in some remote parts of central Australia. The areas included Queenscliffe near Geelong (85.2), Hanson in the central Northern Territory (85.3), Kowanyama in the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland (87.0), and Coombabah on the Gold Coast (87.1).

Highest ratio SLAs

The areas with the highest sex ratios (that is more males than females) in the population are mainly located in areas largely populated by Indigenous communities. Wiluna in central Western Australia had more than double the number of males than females (210.5) and Stuart-Roseneath near Townsville had nearly double the number of males (186.5). Other areas included Laverton on the Western Australia and South Australia border (174.0), Ravensthorpe near Esperance in Western Australia (150.6), and Greater Geelong (150.2).

MAP 23 Older age sex ratio, 2006

Number of males aged 65 and over per 100 females aged 65 and over



The older-age sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females in the population (aged 65 or older); a ratio greater than 100 indicates there are more older males than females in the population. In 2006, the sex ratio was 81.5 (that is 81.5 males per 100 females). The ratio has increased from 78.6 in 2001.

There were more older males than females in rural areas (sex ratio of 120.3). In all urban areas there were more older females than males (ratio of 77.7 in major urban centres, 79.4 in regional centres, and 96.4 in small towns).

Lowest ratio SLAs

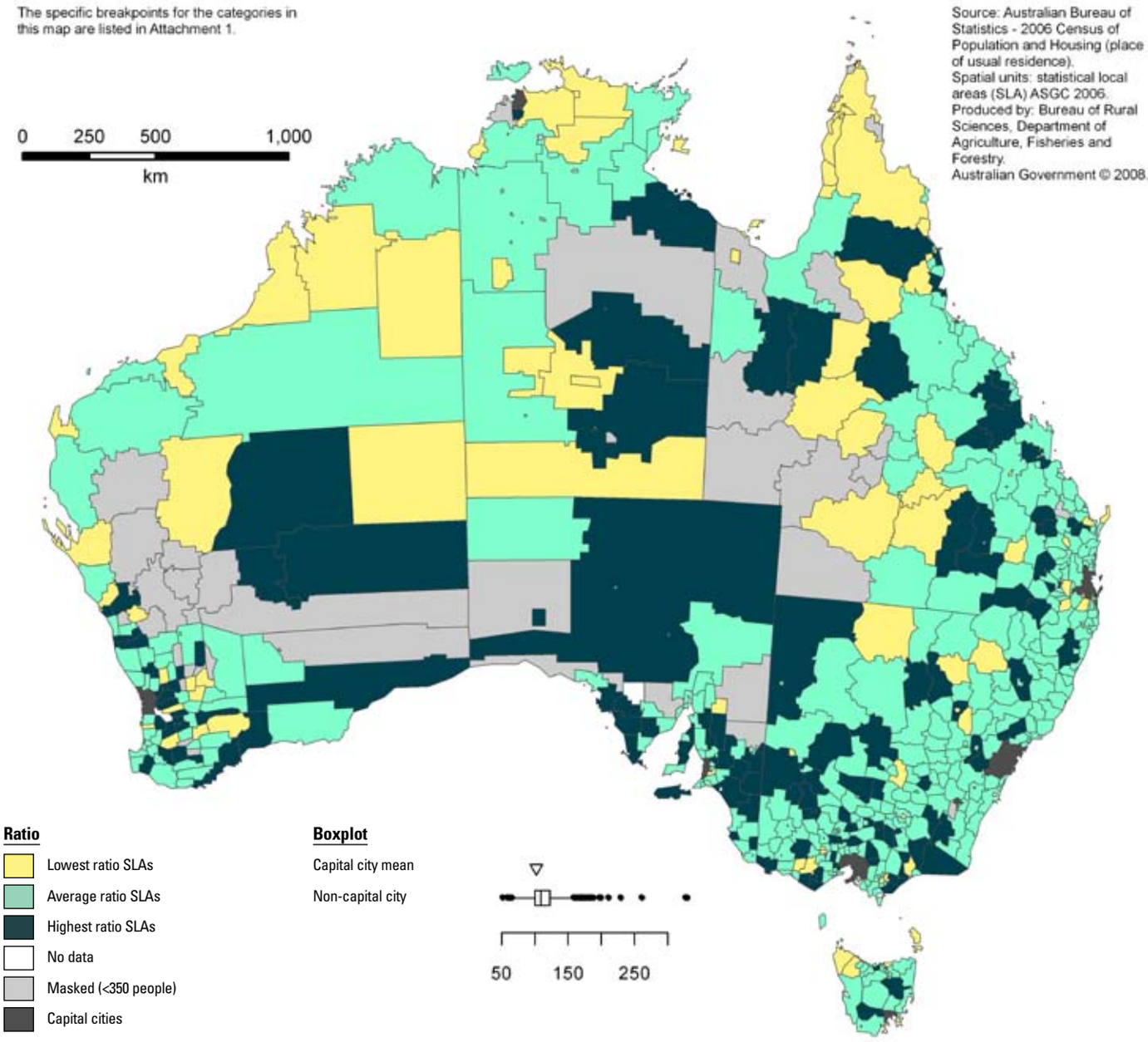
The areas with the lowest sex ratio for the older-age group (that is more females than males) are located in some remote parts of Australia, and some country regions. Yuendumu in the central Northern Territory had the lowest ratio (32.1 females per 100 males). Other areas included Numbulwar Numburindi on the Northern Territory Gulf of Carpentaria (42.9), Napranum on the Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria (44.4), and Tanami in the central Northern Territory (45.3).

Highest ratio SLAs

The areas with the highest sex ratio for the older-age group (that is more males than females) in the population are mainly located in some remote parts of Australia and places along the east coast where there are retired people and an older-age profile. High-ratio areas included Pormpuraaw on the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland (340.0), Groote Eylandt on the Gulf of Carpentaria in the Northern Territory (320.0), Pine Creek south of Darwin (312.5), Coober Pedy in central South Australia (300.0), Jabiru east of Darwin (275.0), and Weipa on the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland (270.0).

MAP 24 Young people sex ratio, 2006

Number of males aged 18 to 24 per 100 females aged 18 to 24



The young people sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females in the population (aged 15 to 24 years); a ratio greater than 100 indicates there are more males than females in the population. In 2006, the young people sex ratio was 103.1 (that is 103.1 males per 100 females). The ratio increased little from 2001 (103.0).

There were more male young people than females in all areas, but the greatest difference was in rural areas (a young people sex ratio of 125.1 indicating 25.1% more males) and small towns (a young people sex ratio of 110.5). Major urban centres (young people sex ratio of 101.4) and regional centres (101.6) had a much more even number of males and females.

Lowest ratio SLAs

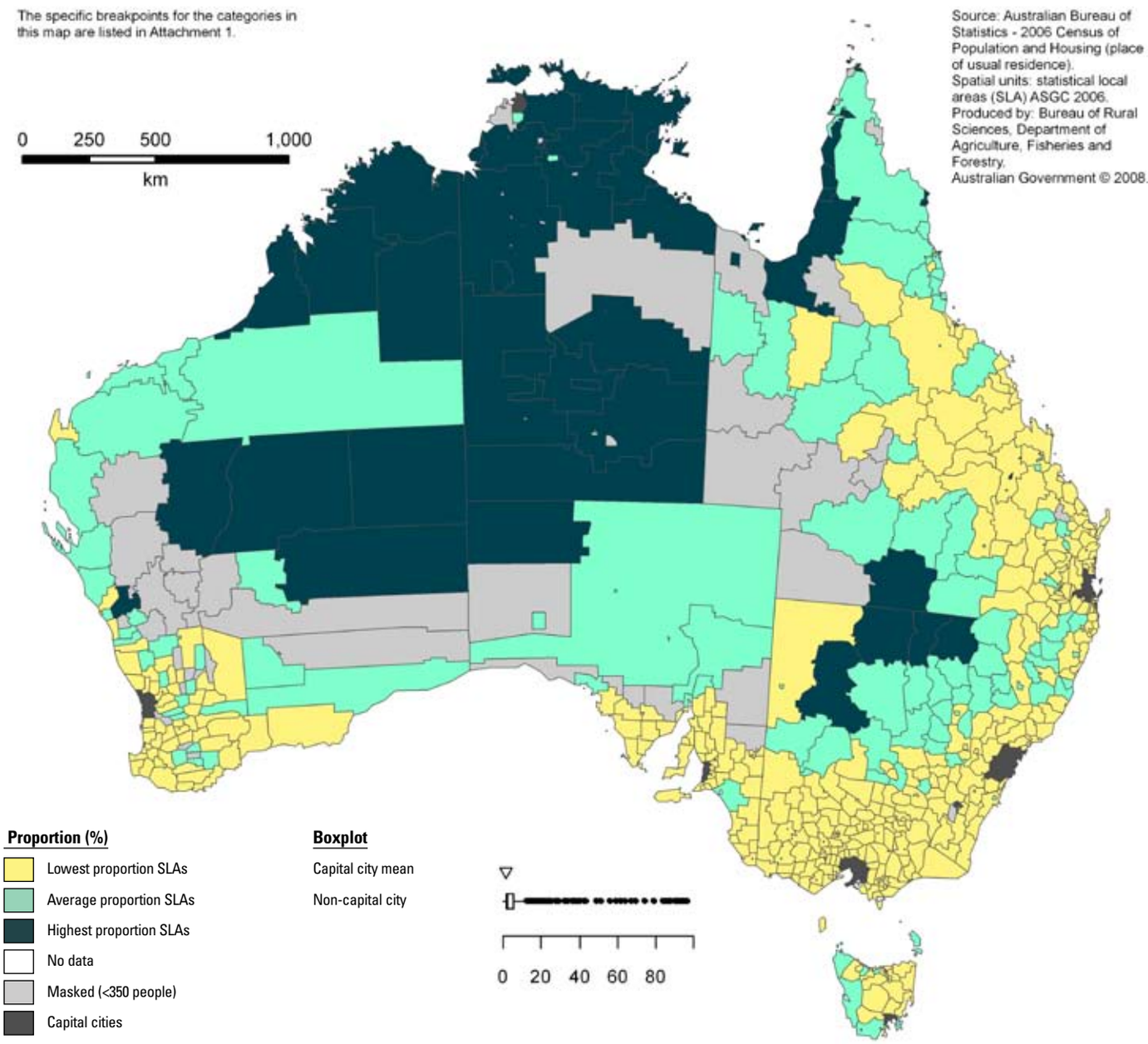
The areas with the lowest sex ratio for young people (that is more females than males) are located mostly in remote parts of Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia, and a number of country areas in New South Wales and Victoria. Low-ratio areas were in West Arthur south east of Perth (61.5), Broadbeach-Mermaid on the Gold Coast (77.8) and George Town in northern Tasmania (70.6).

Highest ratio SLAs

The areas with the highest sex ratio for young people (that is more males than females) in the population are located in many rural areas scattered throughout Australia. The areas that had the greatest excess of young males in Australia are Cuballing south of Perth (328.6), Stuart-Roseneath near Townsville (326.2), Greenough north of Perth (260.6), the Yarra Ranges on the eastern outskirts of Melbourne (260), Livingstone (S) — Pt A on the central Queensland coast (227.9), Murray in north Queensland (211.2), Junee near Wagga Wagga in southern New South Wales (187.2), Laverton on the Western Australia and South Australia border (200.0), Narrogin south of Perth (200.0), Wiluna in central Western Australia (196.3), and Boddington south of Perth (187.5).

MAP 25 Indigenous population, 2006

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as a proportion of the total population



In 2006, Indigenous people in Australia comprised 2.3% of the total population. This was higher than 2.2% in 2001, and 2.0% in 1996 (place of usual residence Census count).

The proportion of Indigenous people was highest in small towns (10.5% of the total population), followed by regional centres (4.5%), rural areas (3.1%), and major urban centres (1.2%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

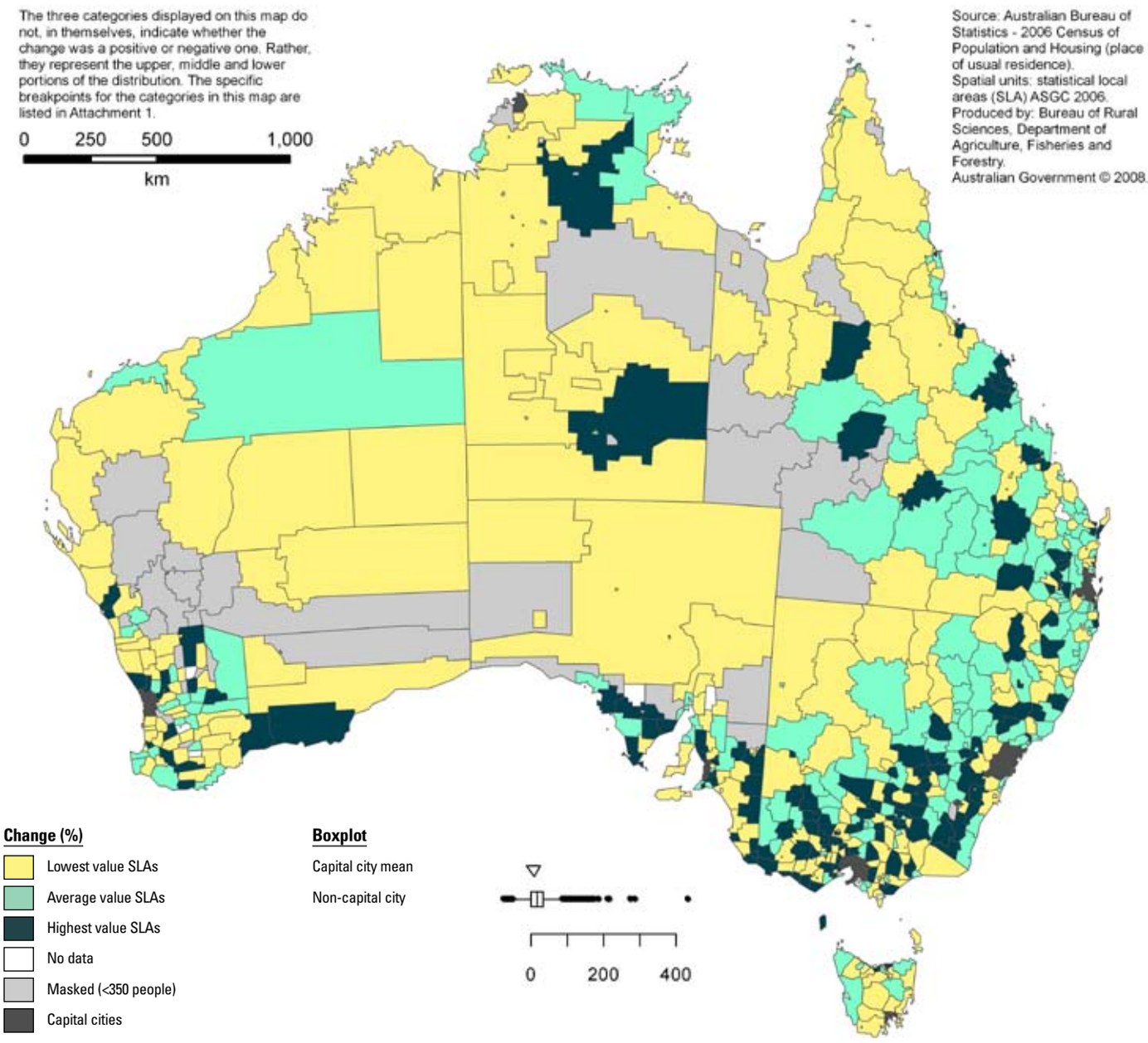
The areas with the lowest proportion of Indigenous people occur throughout Victoria, along the east coast of Australia, and surrounding Adelaide and Perth. The lowest proportions of Indigenous people in the population were in Moyne in southwest Victoria (only 0.1% of the total population), West Wimmera in Victoria (0.3%), South Grampians in western Victoria (0.3%), the Surf Coast near Geelong (0.4%), Wangaratta in central Victoria (0.2%), the Adelaide Hills (0.3%), and Main Beach on the Gold Coast (0.3%).

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest concentrations of Indigenous people occur in areas throughout the central, northern, and western parts of Australia. High concentrations also occur throughout north central New South Wales and south central Queensland.

MAP 26 Change in the number of Indigenous people, 2001–06

Change in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population



Indigenous people increased from 2.0% of the total Australian population in 1996, to 2.2% in 2001, and 2.3% in 2006 (usual resident Census count). The number of Indigenous people has increased because of higher levels of fertility and because more people are describing themselves as Indigenous in the Census.

The number of Indigenous people increased most in major urban centres (by 22.7% in the five years to 2006) and regional centres (by 12.7%). The increase was lower in rural areas (4.2%) and small towns (2.1%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

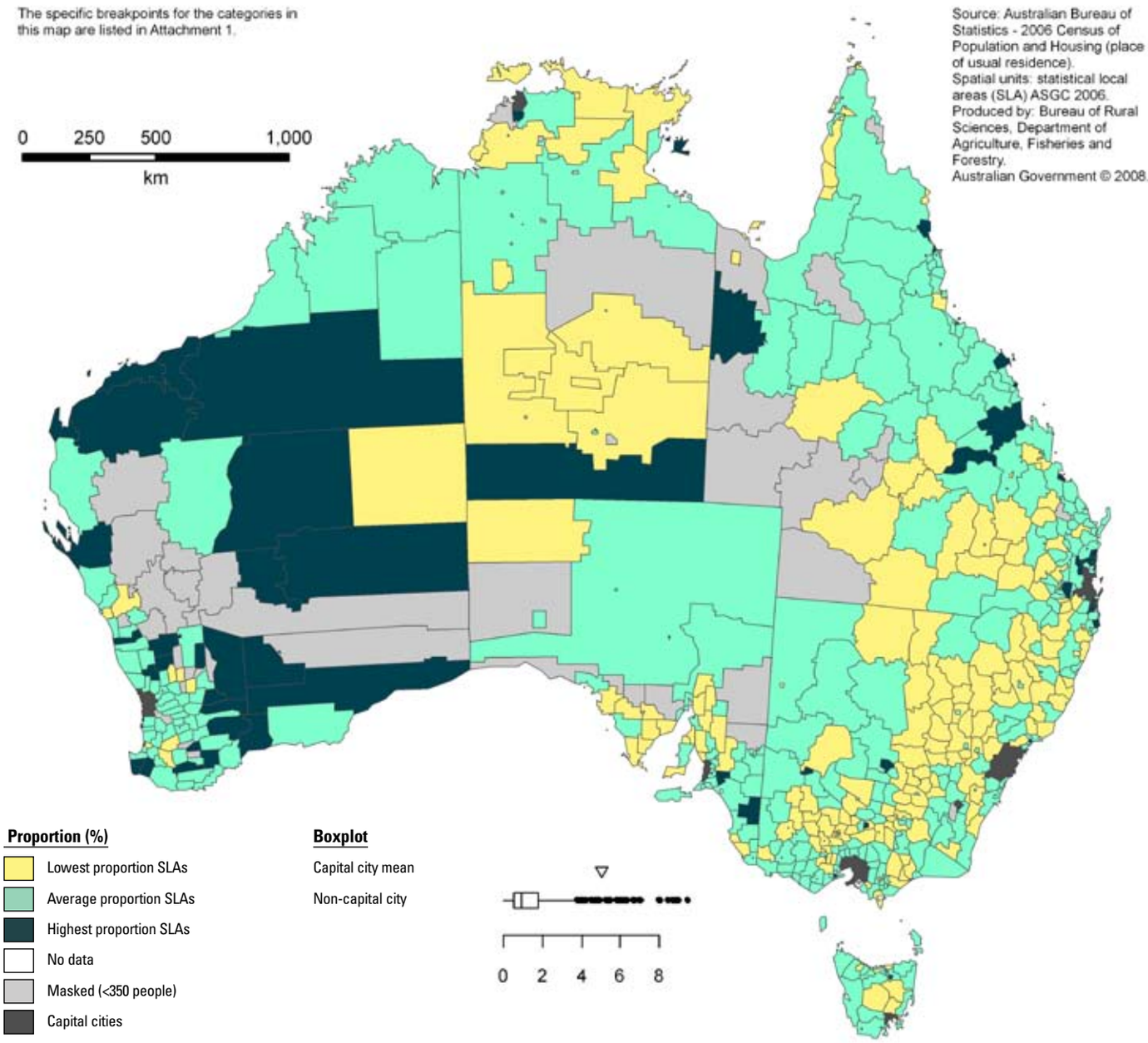
The number of Indigenous people decreased throughout most of the remote areas in northern and central Australia (some by large percentages) due to areas decreasing population. Other areas throughout country regions also experienced population decreases of Indigenous people (for example the Wimmera, Gippsland, and and parts of southwest Western Australia).

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in the number of Indigenous people occurred along the eastern inland regions, southern South Australia, and parts of southwest Western Australia. The largest increases occurred in many areas surrounding capital and regional centres and towns throughout Australia. Other areas to experience large increases were in the Mallee, the south coast of New South Wales, parts of central Queensland, and some remote areas.

MAP 27 Recent arrivals to Australia, 2006

Australian residents that were born overseas and arrived in Australia after January 1, 2001 as a proportion of the total population



In the five years to 2006, 756 000 persons arrived to settle in Australia (3.8% of the total population). This is higher than the 3.3% who arrived to settle in the five years to 2001.

Most recent arrivals to Australia settled in major urban centres (where they made up 5.1% of the total population). Lower numbers of recent arrivals settled in other areas; regional centres (1.5% of the total population), rural areas (0.9%) and small towns (0.7%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

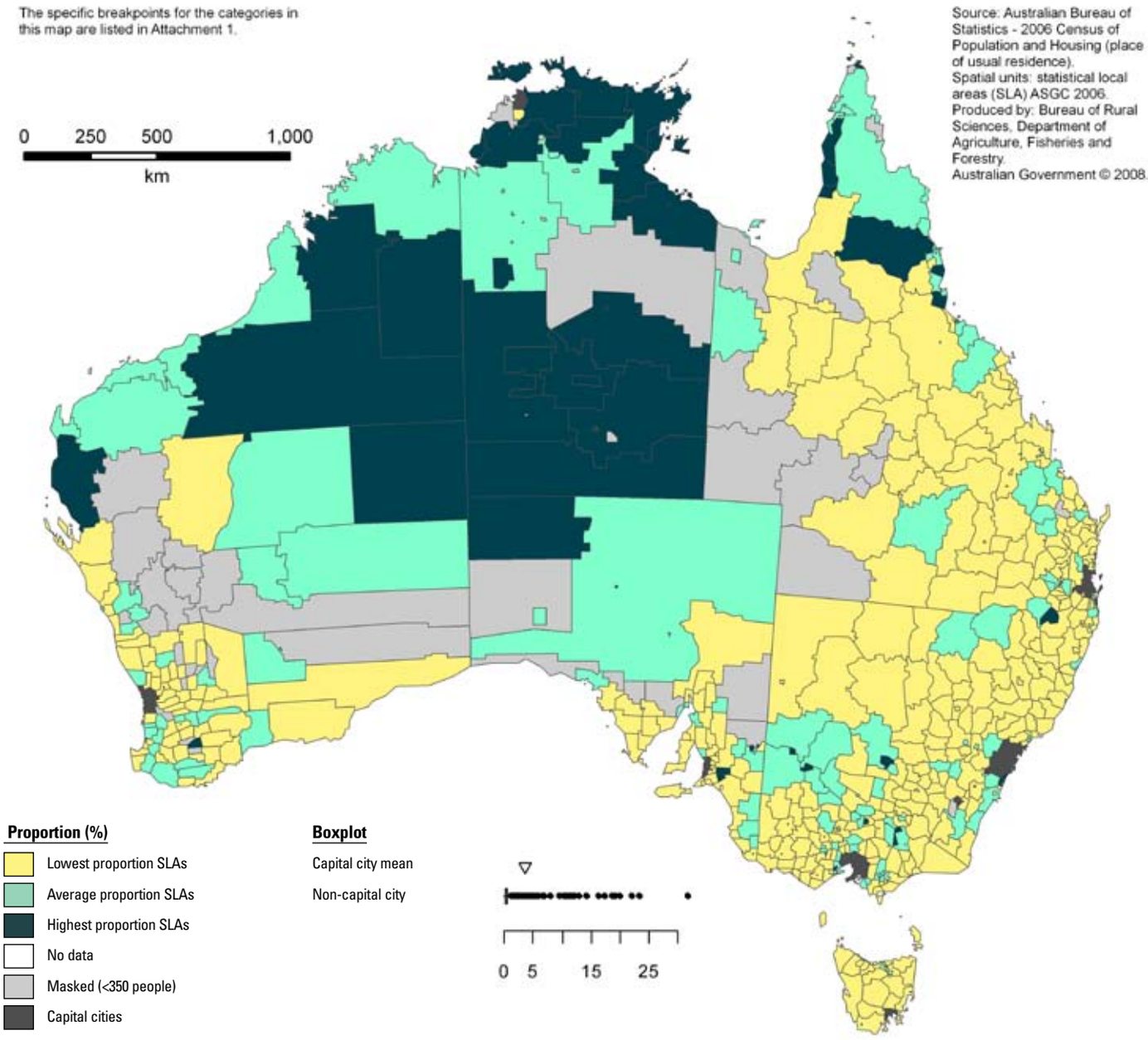
Most areas outside the capital cities receive small numbers of recent arrivals to Australia.

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest concentrations of recent arrivals are in a small number of selected areas throughout Australia; in Cairns, Mackay and the Gold Coast in Queensland and parts of Western Australia. The area that had the highest concentration of recent arrivals was Cairns (9.5% of its total population). Similar high proportions were in the Gold Coast areas of Surfers Paradise (9%), Southport (8.9%), Robina (8.7%), Varsity Lakes (8.5%), Pacific Pines-Gaven (8.0%), Parkwood-Arundel (7.1%), Molendinar (7%), Kingsholme-Upper Coomera (6.8%), Broadbeach-Mermaid Beach (6.4%), and Pimpama-Coomera (6.2%).

MAP 28 Fluency in English, 2006

Proportion of the population aged 5 years or older who did not speak English well or at all



In 2006, there were 481 000 people aged 5 years or older who did not speak English well, or at all. This was 2.6% of the population, slightly lower than 2001 (2.7%).

The largest group of people who did not have fluency in English lived in major urban centres (comprising 3.6% of the population), followed by small towns (1.0%), regional centres and rural areas (0.5%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

Fluency in spoken English is high throughout most areas of Australia.

Highest proportion SLAs

The areas with the highest concentration of people who do not speak English well are in Indigenous communities throughout remote Australia.

LABOUR FORCE

COUNTRY MATTERS

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LABOUR FORCE

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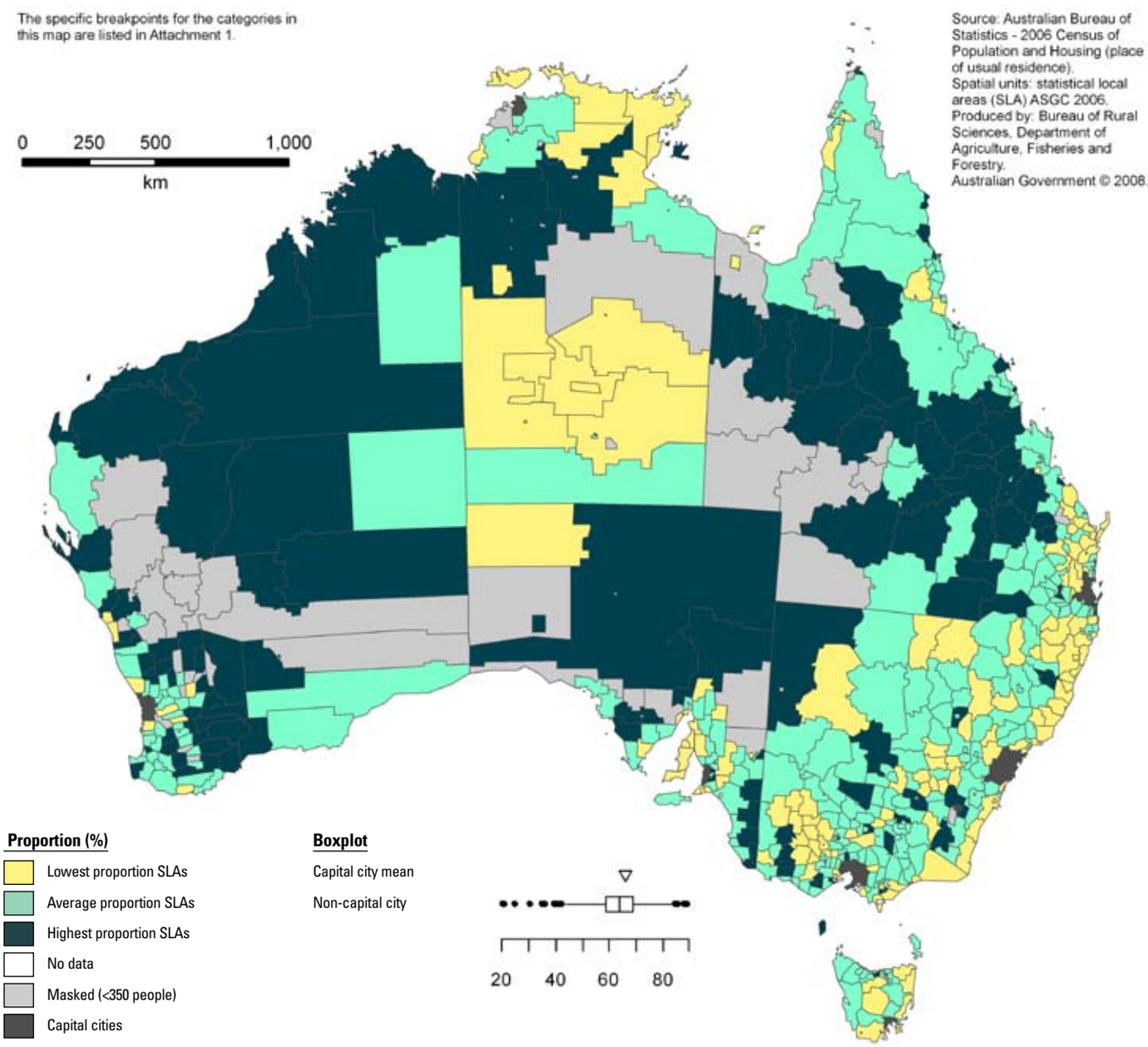
MAP 29 Labour force participation, 2006

Proportion of population aged 15 and over who were either employed or unemployed



Attaining higher levels of participation in the workforce is critical to meeting the needs of industry and also improves the circumstances of people and their families. In 2006, the labour force participation rate was 64.6%, increasing from 63% in 2001, and 60.4% in 1996.

People living in rural areas had the highest level of participation (67.5%), followed by major urban centres (65.6%), regional centres (58.4%), and small towns (58.4%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

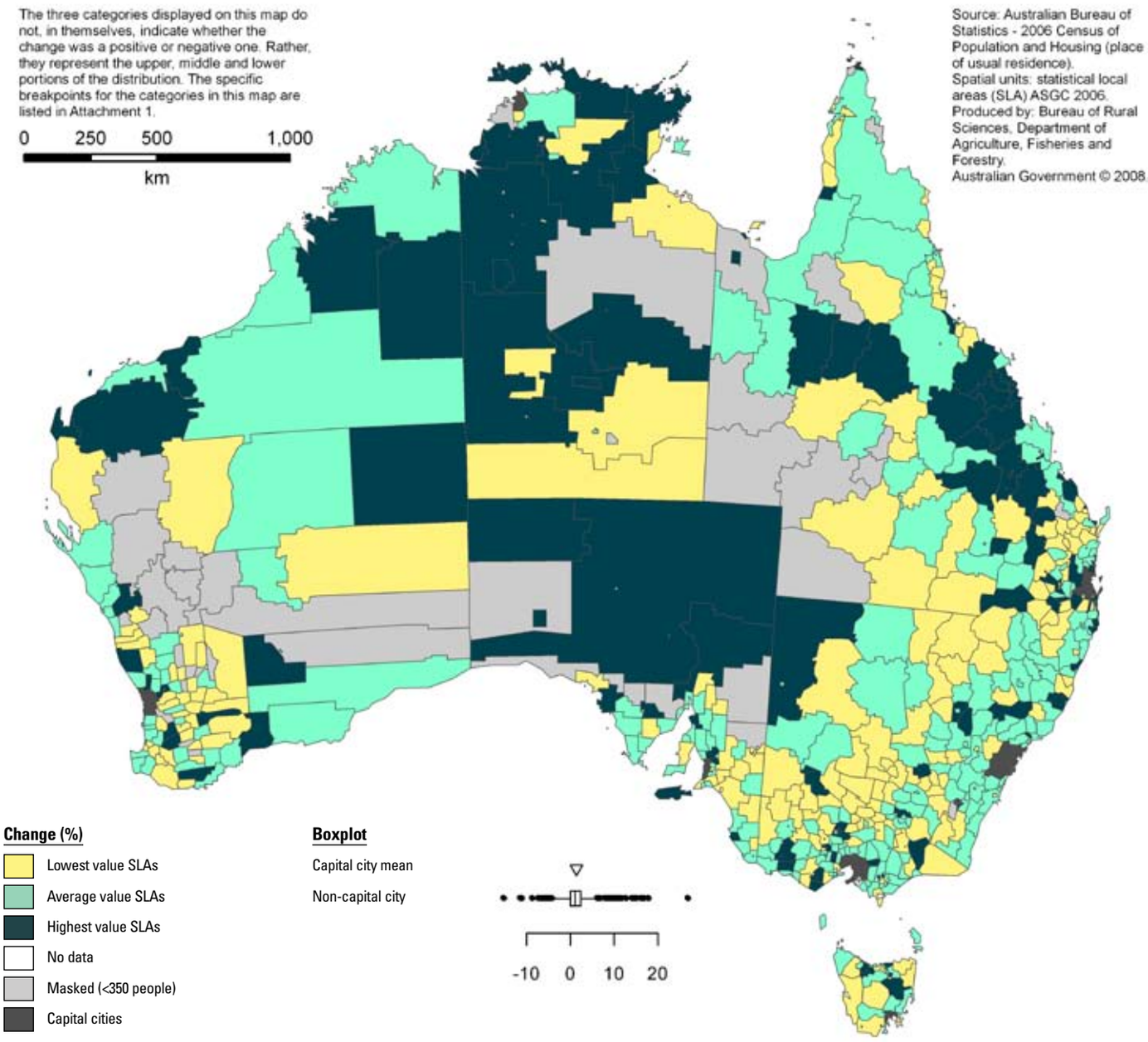
The statistical local areas (SLAs) with the lowest labour force participation include remote areas of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and coastal Queensland and Indigenous communities. The areas not in remote regions with low levels of participation include the retirement areas of Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (44.2%), Hervey Bay north of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland (44.4%), the Great Lakes around Forster-Tuncurry in the Hunter on the central coast of New South Wales (45.1%), Nanango near Kingaroy in Queensland (46.1%), and Queenscliffe near Geelong in Victoria (46.2%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels of labour force participation also occurred in some remote areas of Australia, particularly in rural Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. The highest levels of participation (over 85%) occurred in the remote areas of Roxby Downs in central South Australia, and Weipa on the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland. The highest levels of participation in non-remote regions occurred in Bungil near Roma in Queensland (83.2%), Lake Grace (83%) and Kent (82.2%) both near Esperance in Western Australia.

MAP 30 Change in labour force participation, 2001–06

Change in the population aged 15 and over who were either employed or unemployed



Between 2001 and 2006, labour force participation increased by 1.5% (to 64.6%), and over the ten years to 2006, it increased by 3.9%. The reasons included optimism about finding work, strong employment growth and demand for labour, and widespread opportunities in a range of industries throughout Australia.

Increases in labour force participation were highest in major urban centres (increasing 1.7% to 65.6%), small towns (by 1.6% to 58.4%), and regional centres (by 1.4% to 60.8%). Increases were lowest in rural areas (increasing by 0.8% to 67.5%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

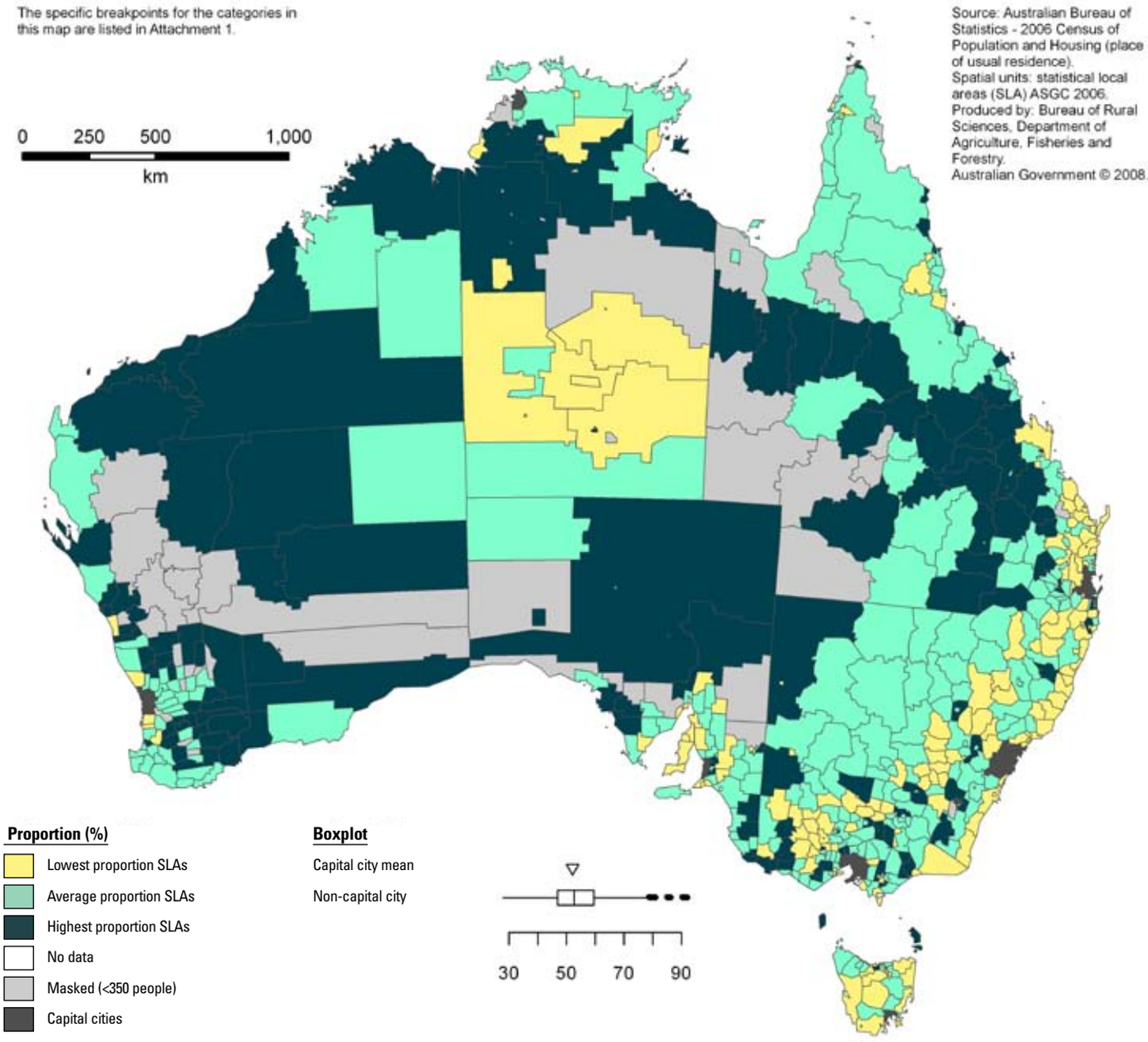
Decreases in labour force participation levels occurred throughout a number of country areas in western Victoria, central and northern New South Wales, western Queensland and around Brisbane, and Western Australia. The largest decreases occurred in a number of remote Indigenous communities, as well as Geelong in Victoria (falling by 5.9%), some areas surrounding Perth including Narrogin (5.9%), Millmerran near Dalby west of Brisbane (6.6%), and Jerilderie in the Riverina in southern New South Wales (4.1%).

Highest value of change SLAs

Labour force participation generally increased throughout most areas in coastal Australia. The largest increases occurred in some remote communities, around Mackay in Queensland and growth areas such as Tweed on the north coast of New South Wales (increasing by 8%), and in Queensland, Varsity Lakes on the Gold Coast (6.9%), and Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast (6.6%).

MAP 31 Mature-age labour force participation, 2006

Proportion of population age 45 and over in the labour force



In 2006, the labour force participation rate for mature-age people (45 to 64 years) was 50.7%, increasing from 47.3% in 2001, and 42.5% in 1996.

Mature-age people living in rural areas had the highest level of participation (61.1%), followed by major urban centres (51.1%), small towns (46.5%), and regional centres (45.2%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

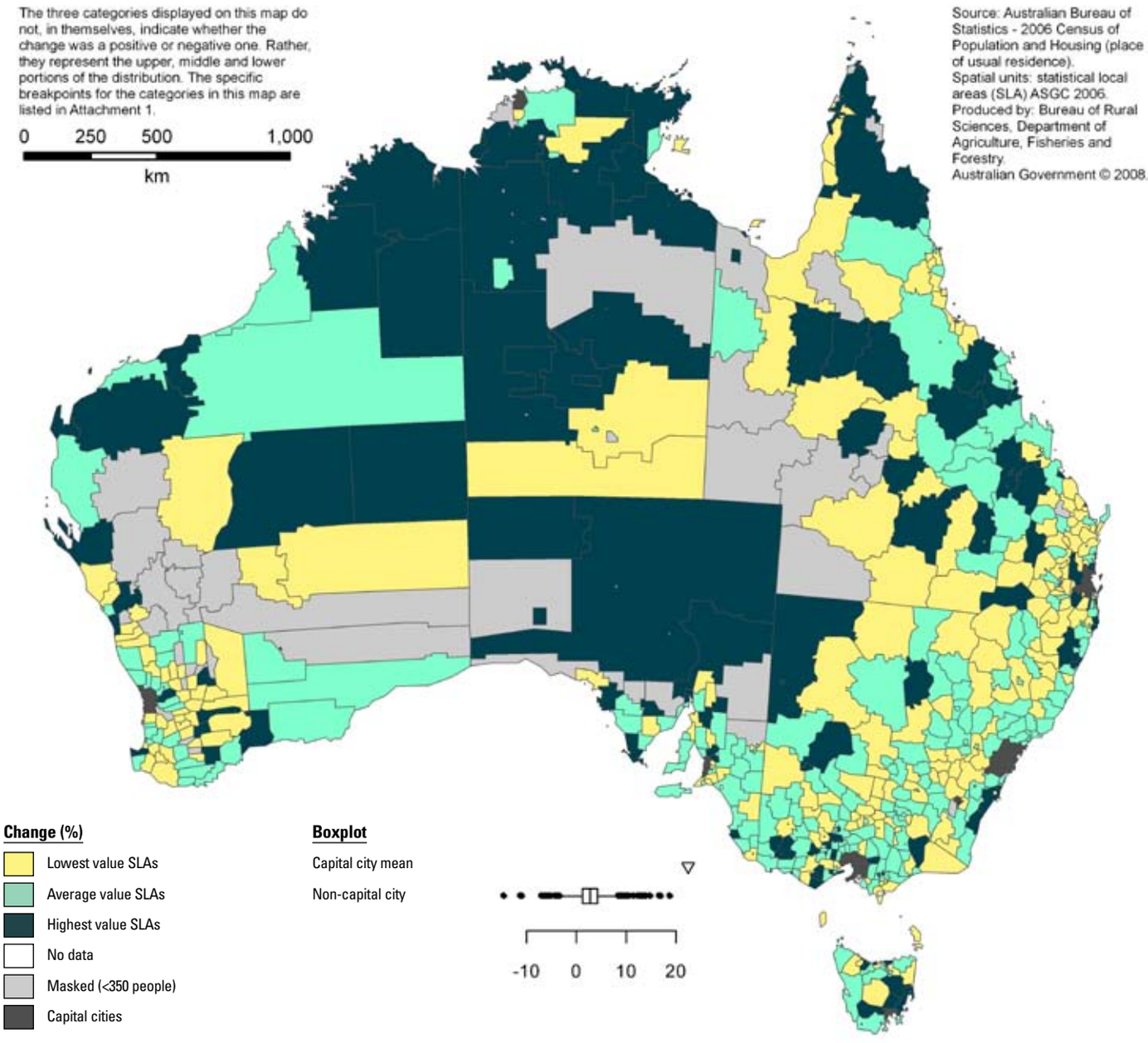
Lower levels of labour force participation by people of mature age are located along the east coast, inner western New South Wales, throughout Victoria and Tasmania, around Adelaide and Perth, and some remote parts of Australia. The lowest levels of participation are located in remote areas. Low levels of participation occur in the retirement areas of Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (30.5%), the Great Lakes around Forster-Tuncurry in the Hunter on the central coast of New South Wales (31.6), Hervey Bay in Queensland (32%), Tweed on the north coast of New South Wales (32.5%) and Shoalhaven on the south coast of New South Wales (34.5%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels of labour force participation occur throughout most of inland Australia, particularly in Queensland and Western Australia. The highest levels of participation (over 90.0%) occur in a number of remote communities, including Nhulunbuy (the Northern Territory Gulf of Carpentaria), Roxby Downs (central South Australia), and Weipa (the Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria). The highest levels of participation in non-remote areas occurred in Kent (79.9%) and Lake Grace (79.1%) both near Esperance in Western Australia. High levels also occur in Queensland in the Bungil near Roma (79.6%), and in Nebo (83.2%) and Peak Downs inland from Mackay (79.1%).

MAP 32 Change in mature-age labour force participation, 2001–06

Change in the population aged 45 and over in the labour force



Between 2001 and 2006, labour force participation by mature-age people (45 to 64 years) increased by 3.4% to 50.7%, and over the ten years to 2006, increased by 8.2%.

Increases in labour force participation were highest in small towns (increasing 4.1% to 46.5%), major urban centres (by 3.8% to 51.1%), and regional centres (by 3.3% to 45.2%). Increases were lowest in rural areas, with participation rates increasing by 1.8% to 61.1%.

Lowest value of change SLAs

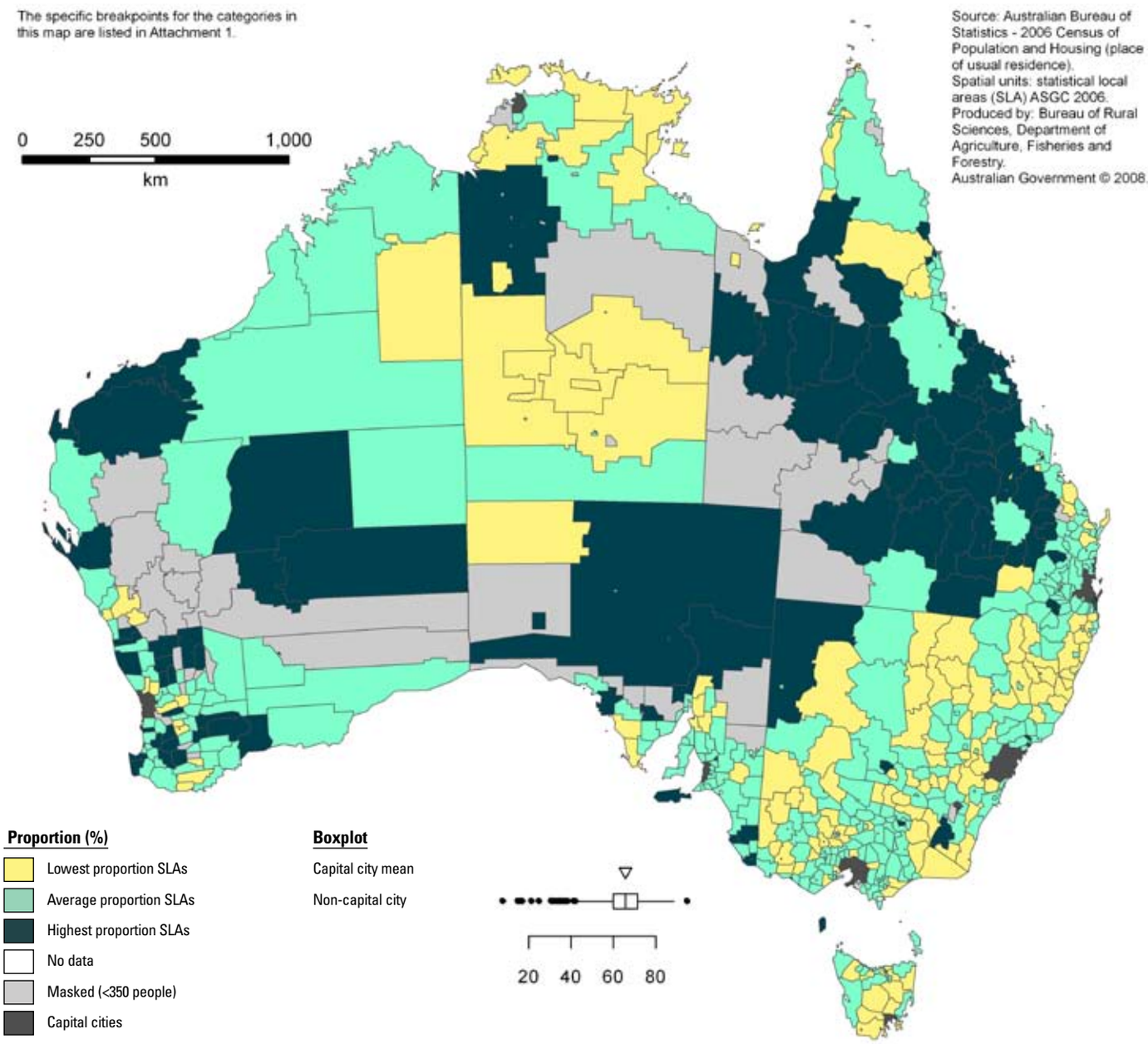
Decreases in participation by mature age people occur in some areas in western Queensland, around Brisbane, south west Western Australia, and a number of areas in New South Wales and Victoria. The largest decreases are in a number of remote communities and moderate decreases (greater than 5.0%) in Beenleigh on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Millmerran near Dalby west of Brisbane, and Bass Coast-Phillip Island on the Mornington Peninsular in Victoria.

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in participation by the mature-age population were experienced throughout most of eastern and southern Australia. However, the largest increases occurred in a number of remote communities. Moderate increases (up to 4.0%) occurred in Mansfield in the alpine area of Victoria, George Town in northern Tasmania, Tweed on the north coast of New South Wales, Townsville in north Queensland, and Katanning in southwest Western Australia.

MAP 33 Young people labour force participation, 2006

Proportion of population aged 15 to 24 in the labour force



In 2006, the labour force participation rate for young people (15 to 24 years) was 66.6%, increasing from 65.2% in 2001, and 63.3% in 1996.

Young people living in regional centres had the highest level of participation (68.9%), followed by major urban centres (66.5%), rural areas (62.4%), and small towns (61.1%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

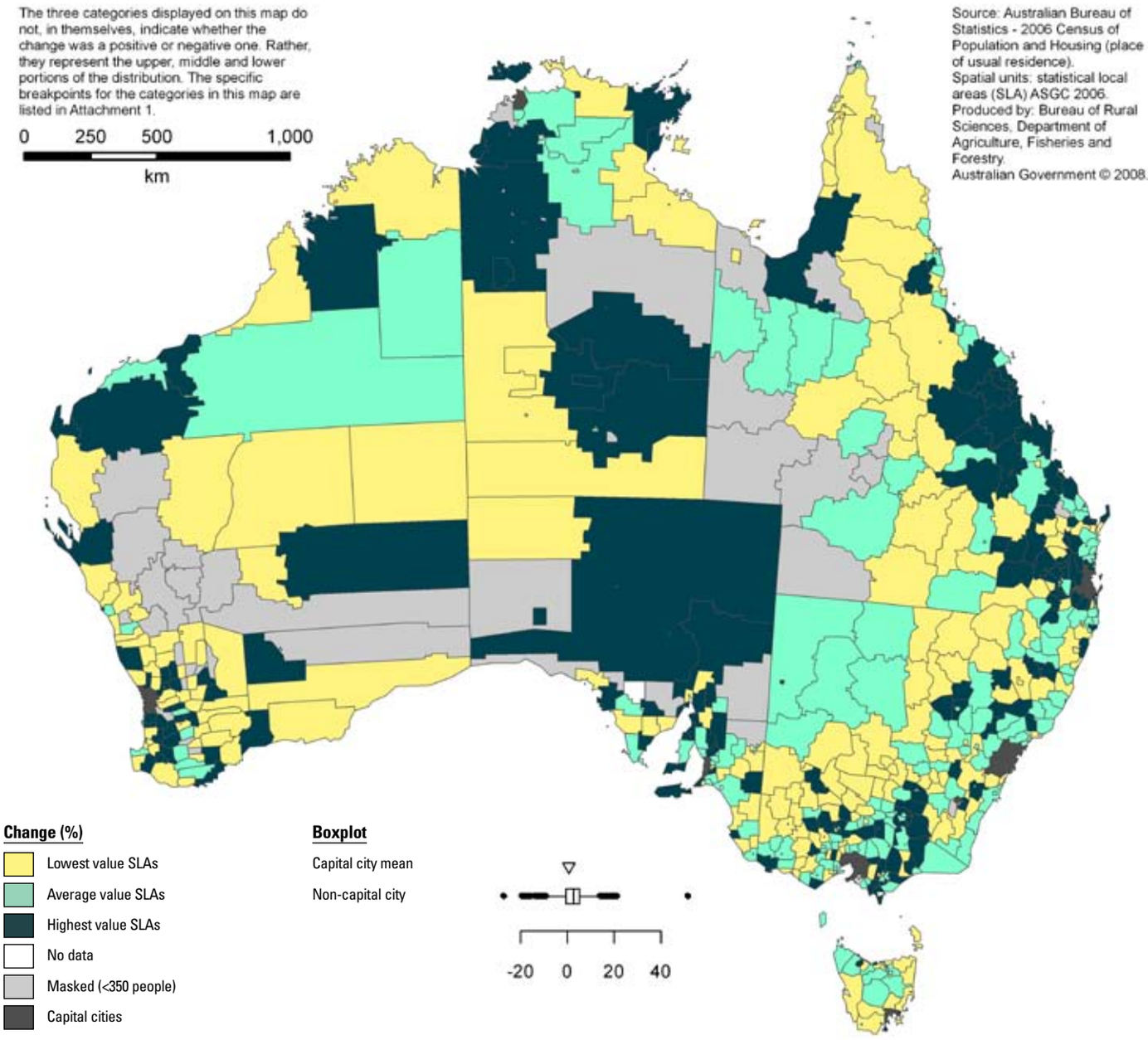
The lowest levels of labour force participation by young people are across New South Wales and Victoria, Tasmania, and southern South Australia. A number of remote areas in Australia have very low levels, some lower than 25%. The non-remote areas included Narrogin southeast of Perth (32.5%), Morawa north of Perth (33.1%), Trayning east of Perth (36.4%), and Yarriambiack in the Wimmera in Victoria (42%).

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest levels of labour force participation by young people are throughout most of inland Queensland. A number of remote communities reported very high levels of participation, some above 90.0%. The non-remote areas included West Arthur (88.5%) and Ravensthorpe (87.7%) in southwest Western Australia, and Rosslea in Townsville (85.4%) and Whitsunday north of Mackay in Queensland (4.8%).

MAP 34 Change in young people labour force participation, 2001–06

Change in the population aged 15 to 24 in the labour force



Between 2001 and 2006, labour force participation by young people (15 to 24 years) increased by 1.4%, and over the ten years to 2006, it increased by 3.3%.

Increases in labour force participation were highest in regional centres (increasing 2.8% to 68.9%), small towns (by 2.7% to 61.1%), and rural areas (by 2% to 62.4%). Increases were lowest in major urban centres, with participation rates increasing by 0.8% to 66.5%.

Lowest value of change SLAs

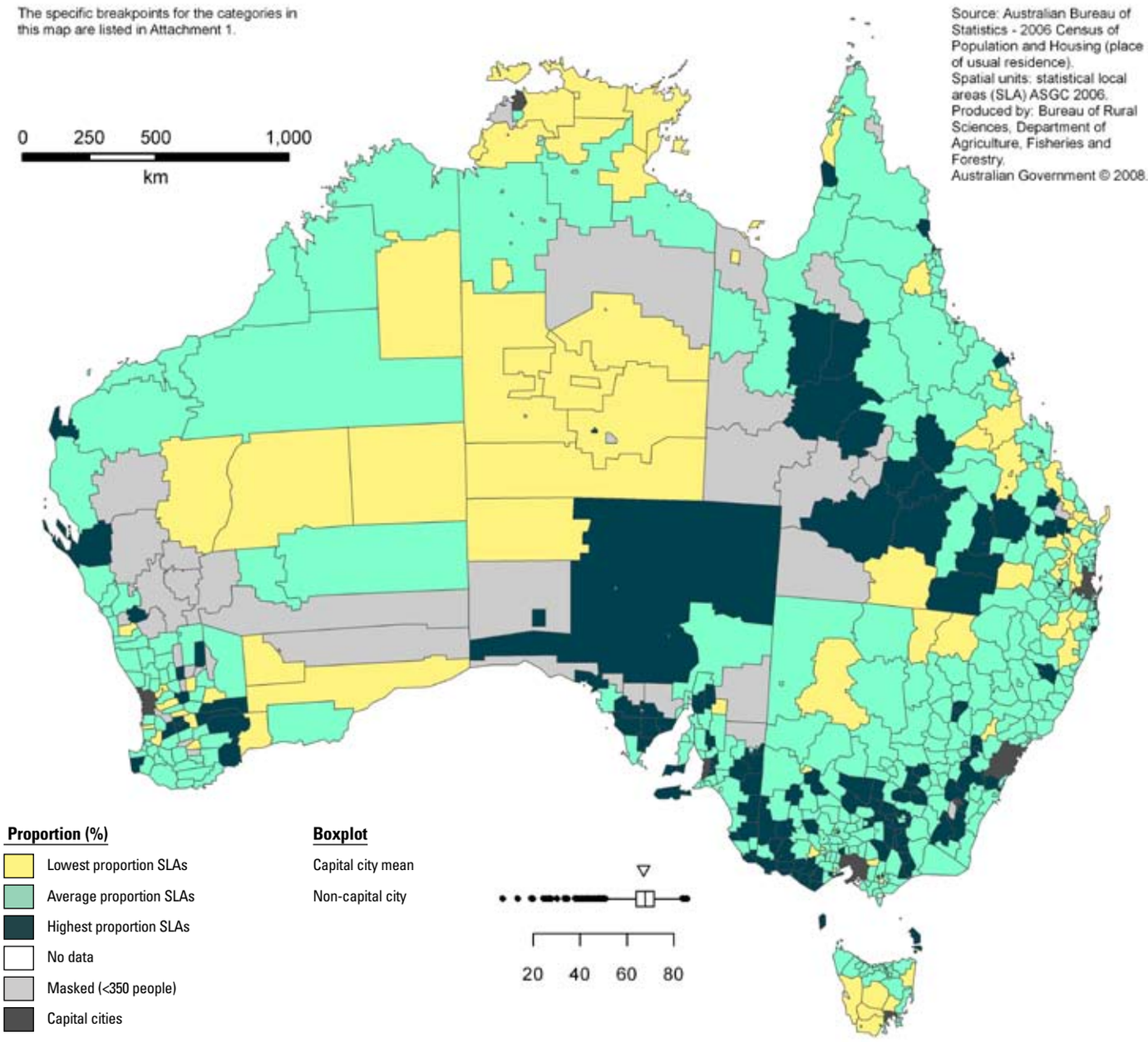
Decreases in participation by young people occur throughout western areas of Victoria, central areas of New South Wales and Queensland, and Western Australia. The largest decreases (greater than 15.0%) occur in a number of remote communities in Cape York and the Gulf of arpentaria in Queensland, but also in a number of areas surrounding Perth (including Beverley, Boddington and Kellerberrin), and Elliston on the Eyre Peninsular in South Australia.

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in participation occur generally along the east coast and around Adelaide and Perth. The largest increases (greater than 12.0%) occur in some remote communities, Clifton (west of Brisbane), Wellington-Alberton (in Gippsland in Victoria), Kingston (near Mount Gambier in South Australia), and a number of areas in southwest Western Australia (including Murray, Boddington, and Augusta-Margaret River).

MAP 35 Participation in the labour force of mothers with dependents, 2006

Mothers in labour force who had dependent children 14 years or younger, or students 15 to 24, as proportion of all mothers with dependent children or students



In 2006, 67.3% of mothers with dependent children or students were in the labour force, increasing from 63.5% in 2001, and 61.6% in 1996.

Mothers living in rural areas have the highest rate of participation (71%), followed by major urban centres (67.3%), regional centres (67.0%), and small towns (64.3%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

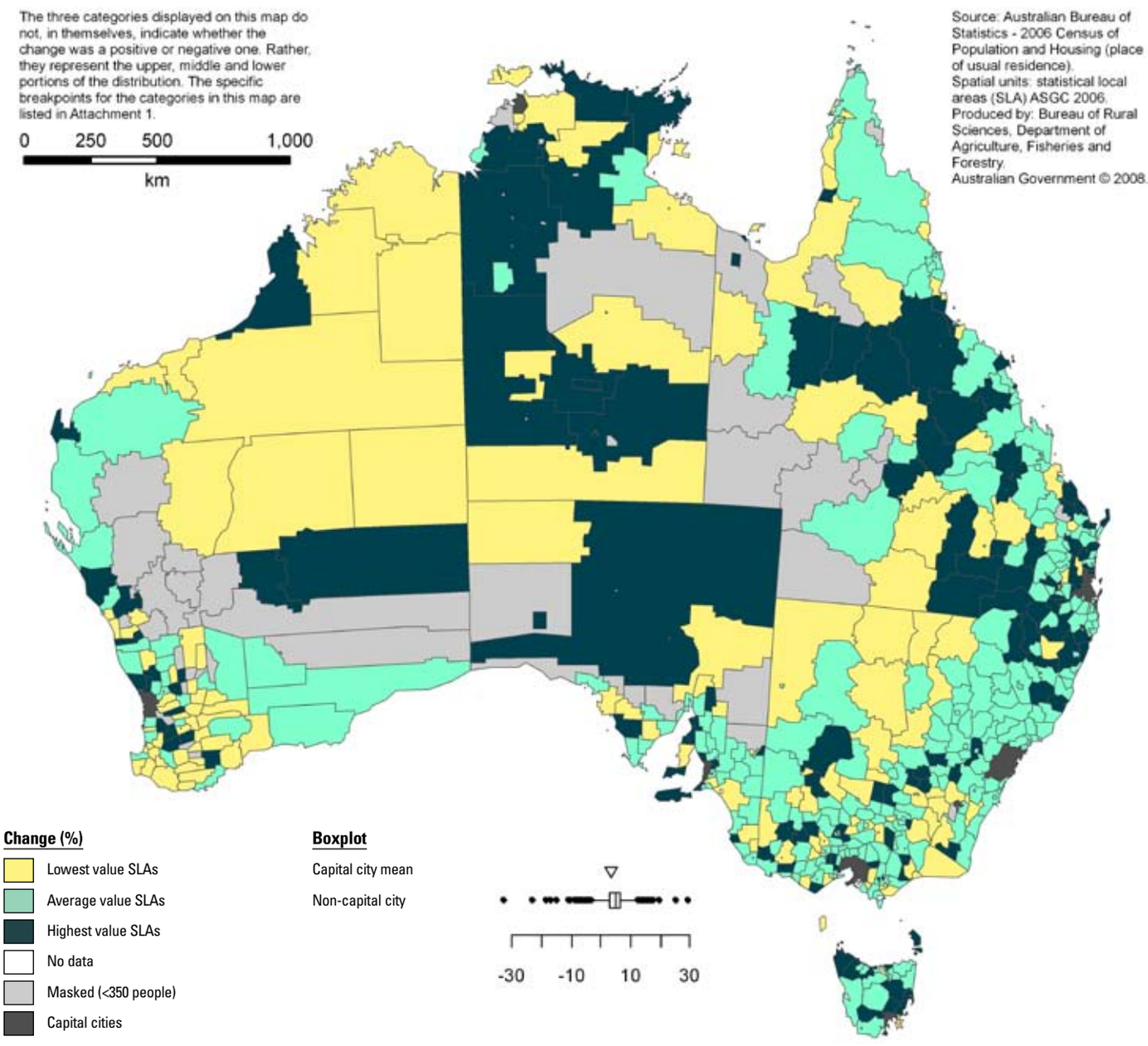
The lowest levels of labour force participation in the workforce by mothers with dependents are located mostly throughout the remote parts of the Northern Territory and Western Australia, and parts of western New South Wales, Tasmania, coastal Queensland, and surrounding Perth. Some remote areas of the Northern Territory have rates below 20.0%, including Numbulwar Numburindi and Angurugu both on the Gulf of Carpentaria, and Thamarrurr including Wadeye in the northwest Northern Territory.

Highest proportion SLAs

The highest rates of labour force participation in the workforce by mothers with dependents are located throughout parts of inland Queensland, central and western Victoria, South Australia, and southern New South Wales. The highest rates in non-remote areas included Bungil near Roma in Queensland (81.6%), Wangaratta North in central Victoria (81.0%), Narrogin south of Perth (80.5%), Snowy River in southeast New South Wales (80.3%), and Bathurst in New South Wales (80.3%).

MAP 36 Change in participation in the labour force of mothers with dependents, 2001–06

Change in the number of mothers in the labour force with dependent children 14 years or younger, or students 15 to 24, as proportion of all mothers with dependent children or students



Between 2001 and 2006, labour force participation by mothers in the workforce increased by 4% to 67.5%, and over the ten years to 2006 there was an increase of 5.9%. The increase is related to a need for some mothers to enter the workforce to support the household, including those in country areas impacted by drought and declining employment in primary and associated industries.

Increases in labour force participation by mothers were highest in small towns (increasing 5.3% to 64.3%), regional centres (by 4.9% to 67%), rural areas (by 4.4% to 71%), and major urban centres (by 3.6% to 67.3%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

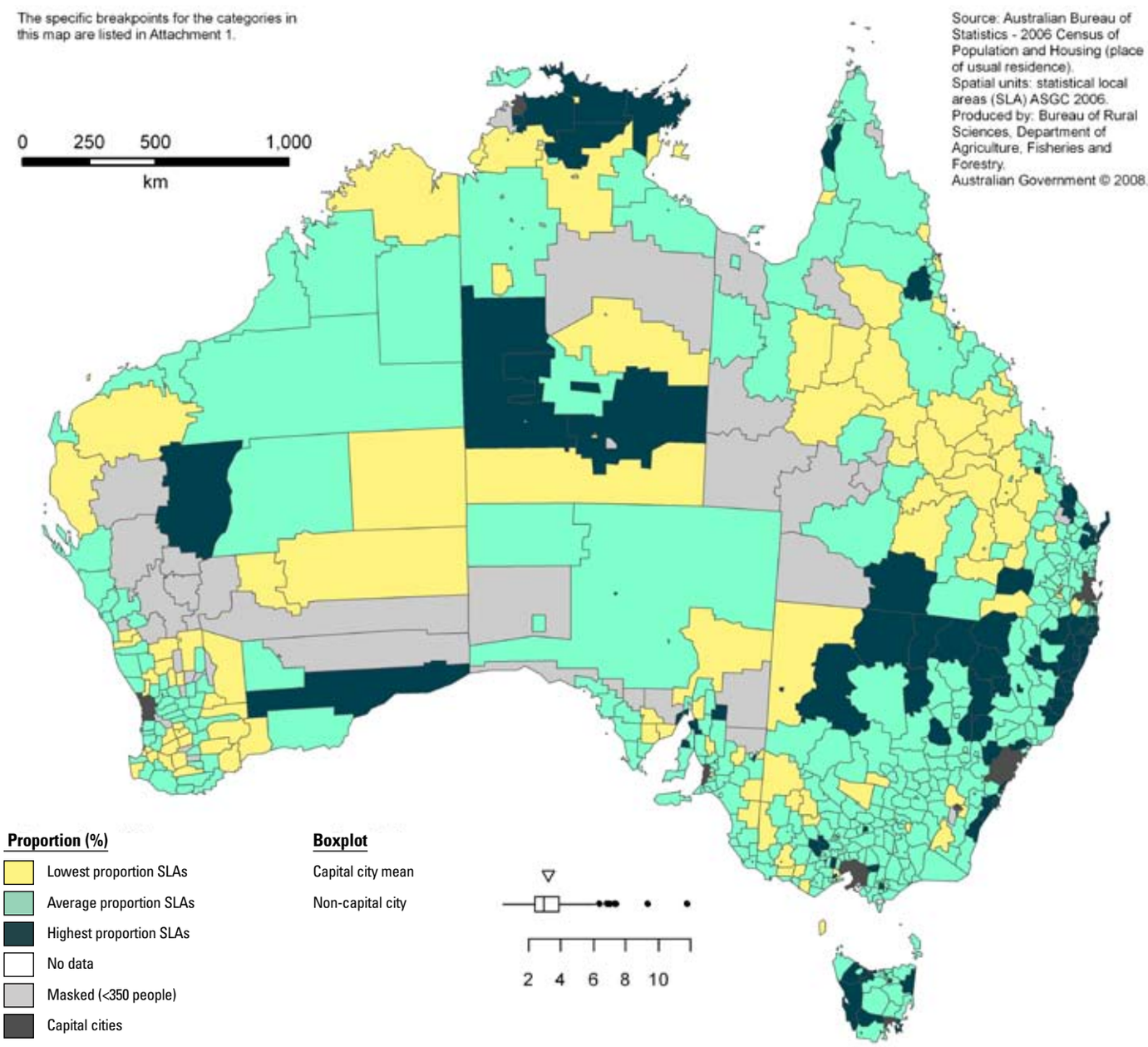
Most decreases in the participation of mothers in the workforce occurred in some remote communities and a number of areas in south-west Western Australia. The largest decreases (more than 10%) occurred in some remote Indigenous communities, Bass Coast-Phillip Island (on the Mornington Peninsular in Victoria), and the southwest Western Australia areas of Narembeen and Bruce Rock.

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in participation by mothers in the workforce occurred generally throughout the east coast and southern South Australia and Victoria. The largest increases (greater than 12.0%) occurred in a number of remote communities, and also in the non-remote areas including Elliston (on Eyre Peninsula in South Australia), Robe (near Mount Gambier in South Australia), North Grampians (in central Victoria), Wellington-Avon and East Gippsland-Bairnsdale (in East Gippsland in Victoria), West Arthur (south of Perth) and Chittering (near Perth), Bland (in the Murrumbidgee area of New South Wales), and Kolan (inland from Bundaberg in Queensland).

MAP 37 Unemployment rate, 2006

Proportion of labour force not employed and actively looking for work



In 2006, the unemployment rate was 5.2%, down from 7.3% in 2001, and 9.2% in 1996.

People living in small towns had the highest rate of unemployment (6.2%, but lower than 8.2% in 2001, and 10.7% in 1996), followed by regional centres (6.1% in 2006, 8.7% in 2001, and 10.7% in 1996), major urban centres (5.1% in 2006, 7.1% in 2001, and 8.4% in 1996), and rural areas (4.1% in 2006, 6% in 2001, and 8.1% in 1996).

Lowest proportion SLAs

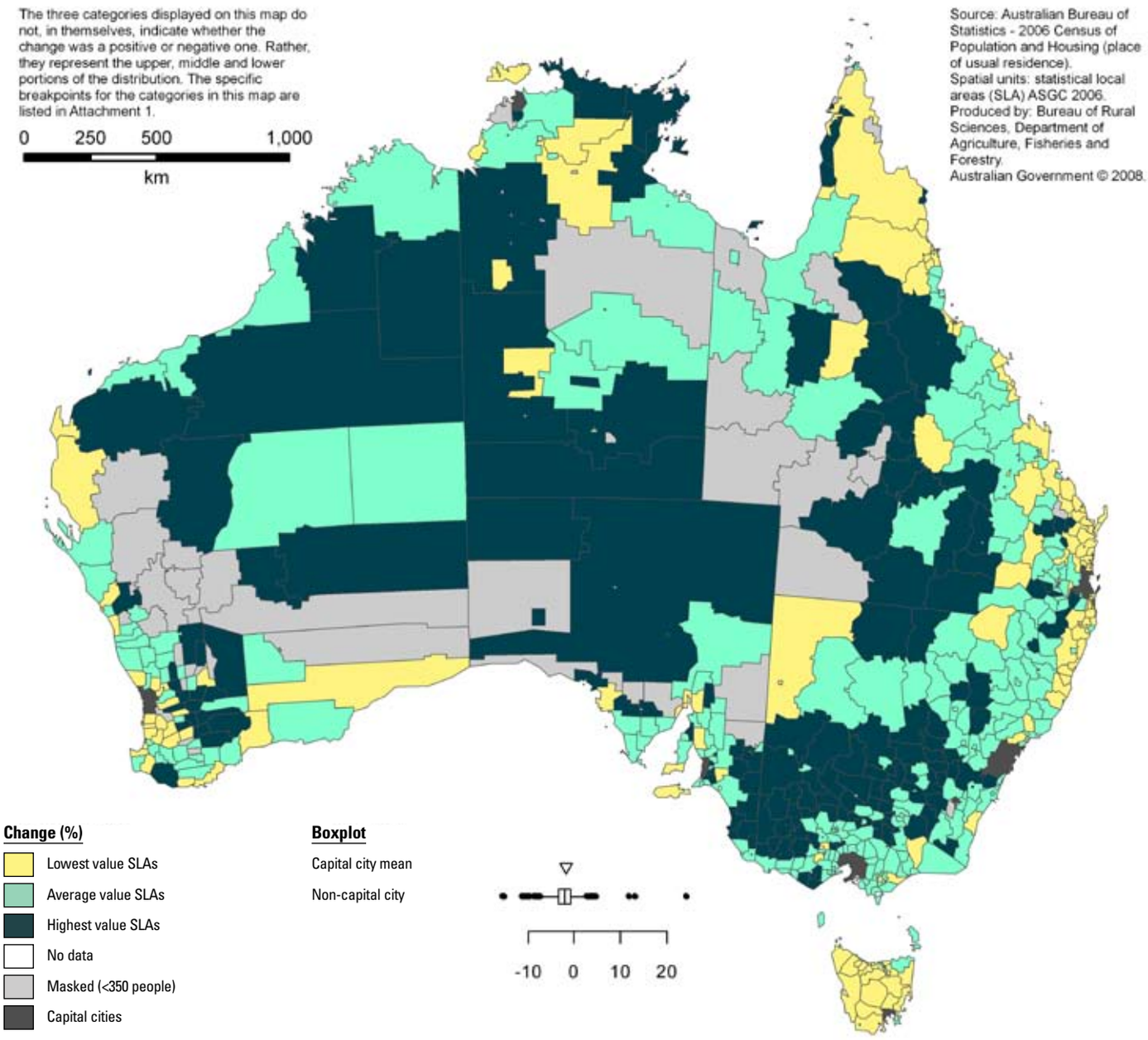
The lowest levels (less than 3.0%) of unemployment in the workforce are located throughout inland Queensland, some remote parts of the Northern Territory, western Victoria, and parts of Western Australia.

Highest proportion SLAs

The higher rates (over 4.0%) of unemployment were concentrated along the east coast of New South Wales and southern Queensland, northwest New South Wales, and western Tasmania. High areas included the Clarence Valley in northern New South Wales (7.4%), Nambucca on the north coast of New South Wales (7.1%), and George Town in northern Tasmania (6.1%).

MAP 38 Change in the unemployment rate, 2001–06

Change in the proportion of labour force not employed and actively looking for work



Between 2001 and 2006, the unemployment rate decreased by 2.1% (to 5.2% in 2006), and over the ten years to 2006, it decreased by 4.0%. The decrease in the unemployment rate was due to the generally strong labour market conditions across Australia.

Decreases in unemployment rates were highest in regional centres (decreasing by 2.6% to 6.1% in 2006), major urban centres (decreasing by 2% to 5.1%), small towns (decreasing by 2% to 6.2%), and rural areas (decreasing by 1.9 to 4.1%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

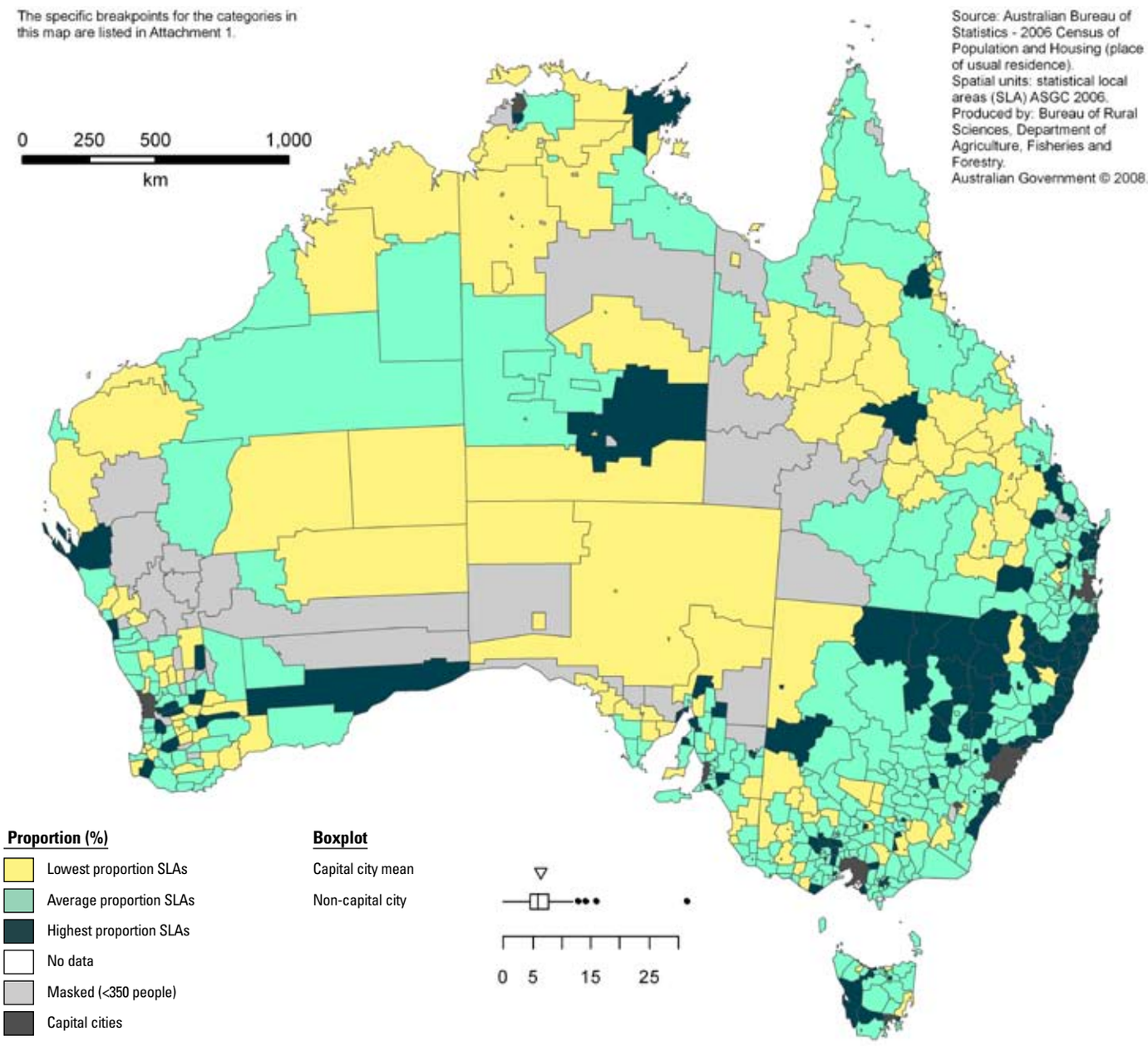
Unemployment rates generally decreased throughout most of Australia, along the east coast (particularly Queensland), Tasmania, and around Perth. The major decreases (more than 8.0%) occurred in a small number of remote communities, in Tweed on the north coast of New South Wales, and in Queensland on the Gold Coast (Coolangatta), the Sunshine Coast (Caloundra), South Townsville, Tiaro and Hervey Bay in the Wide Bay area.

Highest value of change SLAs

Moderate increases (up to 3.0%) in unemployment rates occurred in areas in western Victoria and New South Wales, central Queensland, and east of Perth. Major increases mainly occurred in remote communities, with unemployment in some areas increasing by more than 5.0%.

MAP 39 Young people unemployment rate, 2006

Proportion of labour force 15–24 years of age not employed, actively looking for work



In 2006, the unemployment rate for young people (15 to 24 years) was 10.2%, down from 13.7% in 2001, and 15.7% in 1996.

People living in regional centres had the highest rate of unemployment for young people (11.2%, but lower than 16.1% in 2001, and 18.6% in 1996), followed by small towns (10.9% in 2006, 15% in 2001, and 18.6% in 1996), major urban centres (10% in 2006, 13.2% in 2001, and 14.9% in 1996), and rural areas (8.6% in 2006, 12% in 2001, and 14.3% in 1996).

Lowest proportion SLAs

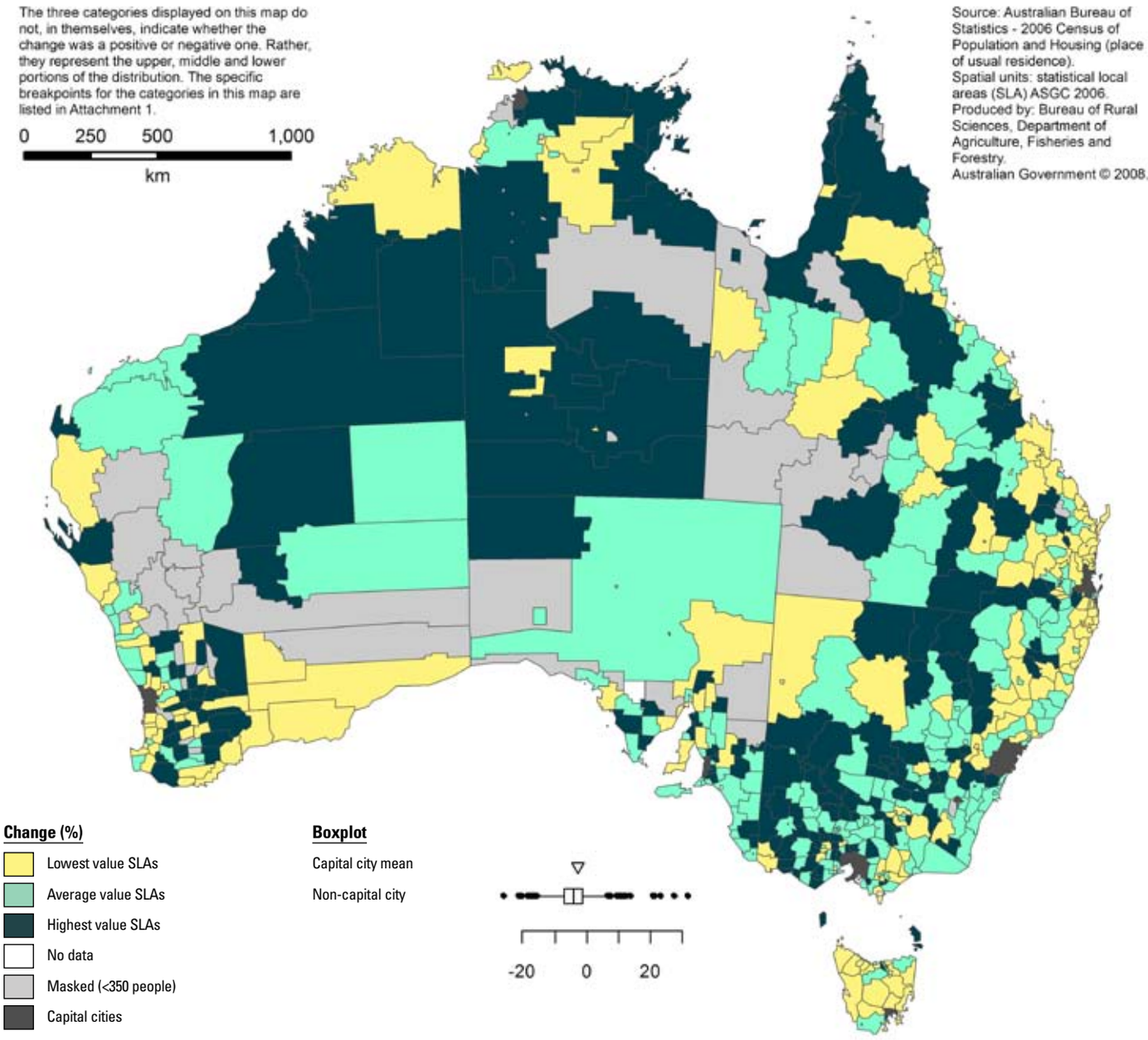
The lowest levels of young people unemployment (less than 4%) are located throughout parts of central Australia, central Queensland, and around Perth.

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels (over 8.0%) of young people unemployment were located along the east coast and northwest New South Wales, southeast Queensland, western Tasmania, and surrounding Perth. Areas with high rates included Nambucca on the north coast of New South Wales (14.2%), Port Pirie in South Australia (11.9%), and Mount Morgan near Gladstone in Queensland (11.7%).

MAP 40 Change in young people unemployment rate, 2001–06

Change in the number of persons in the labour force aged 15 to 24 not employed and looking for work



Between 2001 and 2006, the unemployment rate for young people (15 to 24 years) decreased by 3.5% (to be 10.2% in 2006), and over the ten years to 2006, it decreased by 5.5%. The decrease was due to the generally strong labour market conditions across Australia.

Decreases in unemployment rates were greatest in regional centres (decreasing by 2.6% to be 6.1% in 2006), major urban centres (decreasing by 2% to 5.1%), small towns (decreasing by 2% to 6.2%), and rural areas (decreasing by 1.9 to 4.1%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

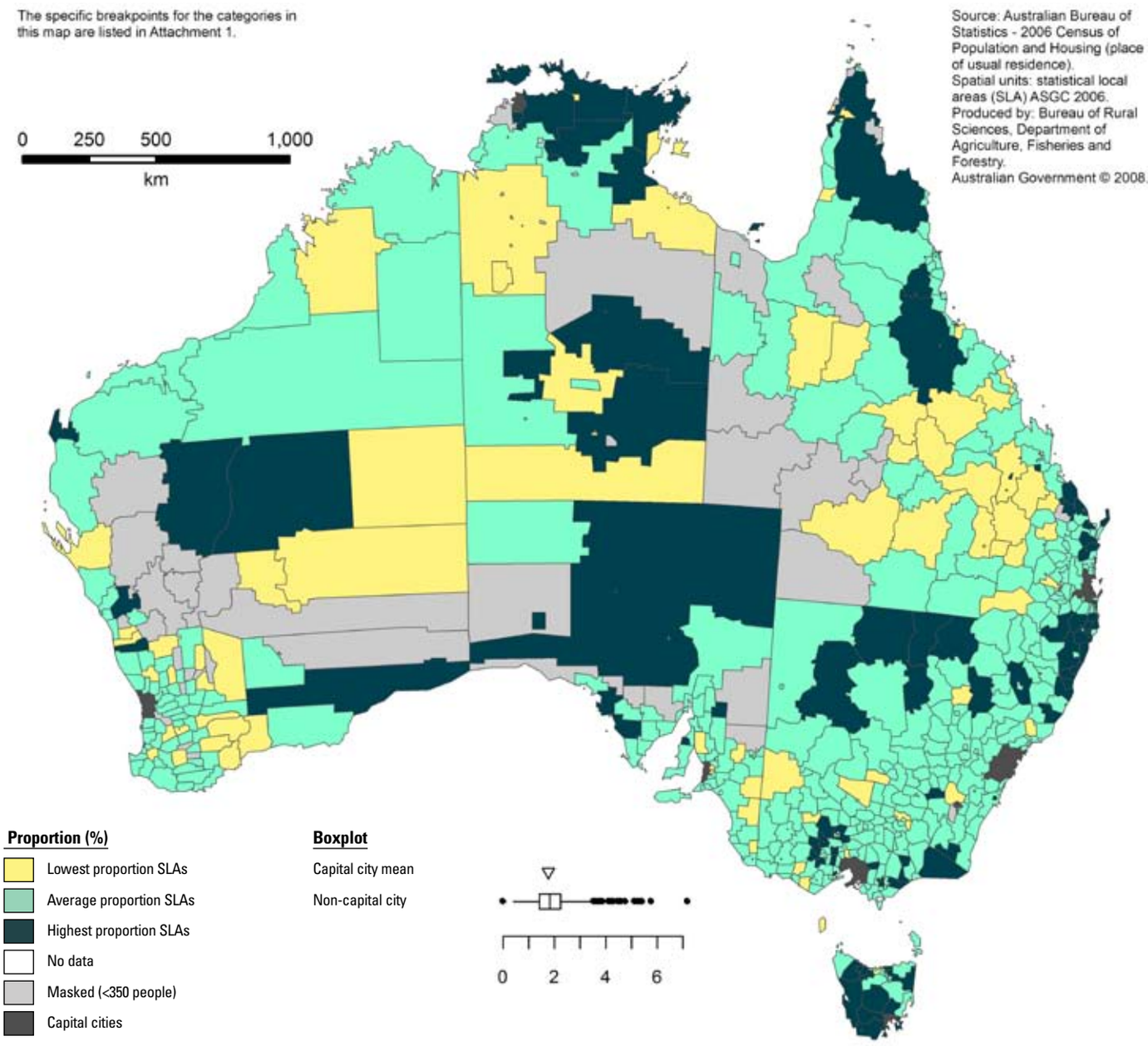
Unemployment rates for young people generally decreased throughout most of Australia, particularly on the east coast, Tasmania, and around Adelaide and Perth. Major decreases (some more than 15.0%) occurred in some remote communities, Tweed on the north coast of New South Wales, in some areas some areas Queensland, in on the Gold Coast (Currumbin and Beenleigh), Hervey Bay, and around Townsville; the Central Highlands and Meander Valley in Tasmania, and Narrogin in south-west Western Australia decreased by up to 20.0%.

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases were scattered throughout western Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and around Perth. Moderate increases (more than 5.0%) occurred in Bourke in northwest New South Wales, Kolan (inland from Bundaberg in Queensland), and some areas in southwest Western Australia (Kent, Brookton and Narembeen). Young people unemployment rates in some remote communities increased by more than 15.0%. Large increases (more than 10%) in non-remote areas included Cunderdin and Mount Marshall (northeast of Perth), Aramac (in central Queensland) and Cairns (in north Queensland).

MAP 41 Mature-age unemployment rate, 2006

Proportion of labour force aged 45 and over not employed and looking for work



In 2006, the unemployment rate for mature-aged people (45 to 64 years) was 3.6%, down from 5.0% in 2001, and 6.9% in 1996.

Mature-aged people living in small towns had the highest rate of unemployment (4.8% in 2006, but lower than 6.3% in 2001, and 8.6% in 1996), followed by regional centres (4.2% in 2006, 5.9% in 2001, and 8% in 1996), major urban centres (3.5% in 2006, 4.9% in 2001, and 6.8% in 1996), and rural areas (3.0% in 2006, 4.2% in 2001, and 6.0% in 1996).

Lowest proportion SLAs

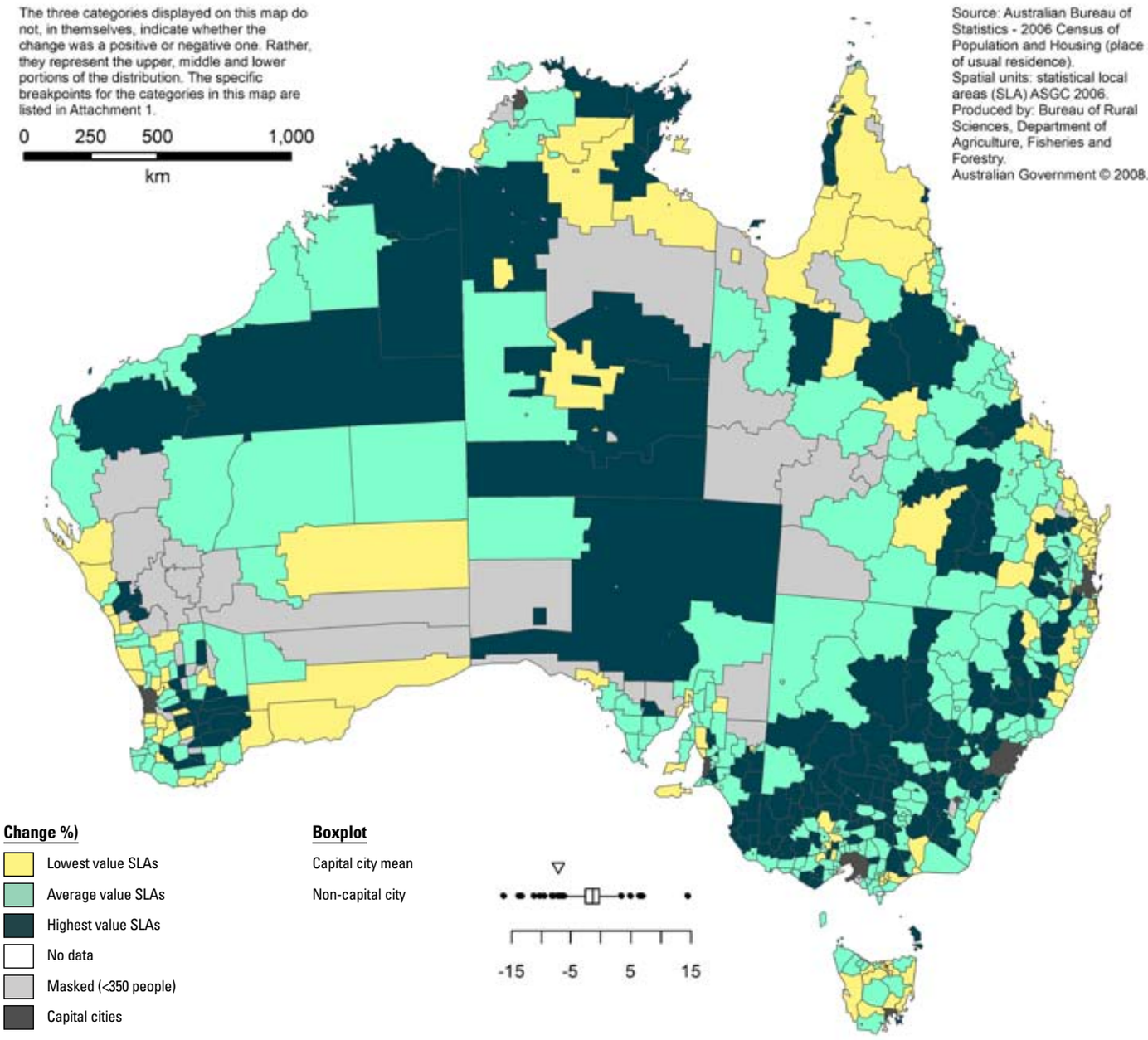
The lowest levels of mature-age unemployment in the workforce are located throughout central and western Queensland, and parts of Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Non-remote areas included Toowong in northeast Victoria (0.4%), Conargo in southern New South Wales (0.5%), and Crows Nest west of Brisbane (0.8%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High rates of unemployment for mature-aged persons occurred in many remote areas, throughout Tasmania, parts of Victoria, the north coast of New South Wales, northwestern New South Wales, Cape York in Queensland, and remote communities. Areas of high unemployment occurred in the Clarence Valley (5.8%) and Nambucca (4.5%) both on the north coast of New South Wales , and the Yarra Ranges outside Melbourne (4.6%).

MAP 42 Change in mature-age unemployment rate, 2001–06

Change in the number of persons in the labour force aged 45 and over not employed and looking for work



Between 2001 and 2006, the unemployment rate for mature-age people (45 to 64 years) decreased by 1.4% (to 3.6 % in 2006), and over the ten years to 2006, it decreased by 3.3%.

Decreases in unemployment rates were highest in regional centres (decreasing by 1.8% to 4.2% in 2006), small towns (decreasing by 1.5% to 4.8%), major urban centres (decreasing by 1.4% to 3.5%), and rural areas (decreasing by 1.2 to 3.0%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

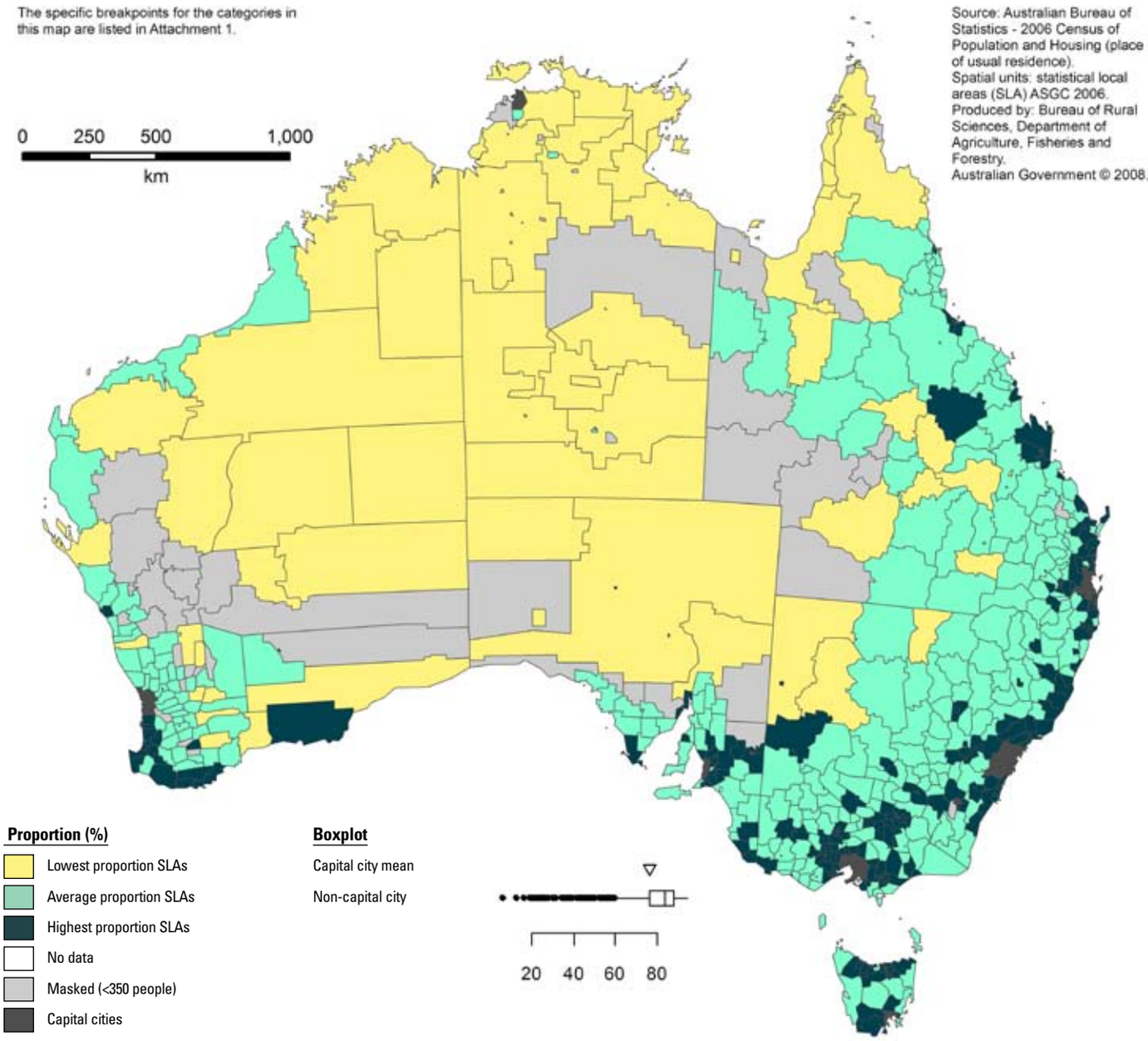
Unemployment rates for mature-age people generally decreased throughout most of Australia, but particularly across Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia. Moderate decreases (greater than 5.0%) occurred in New South Wales (Tweed on the north coast), in Queensland on the Gold Coast (Miami), the Sunshine Coast (Caloundra), Tiaro and Hervey Bay north of Brisbane, and Townsville; Break O'Day and George Town in northern Tasmania, and Cuballing near Perth. The major decreases (over 10.0%) occurred in remote communities.

Highest value of change SLAs

The increases in unemployment rates for the mature age occurred mainly throughout New South Wales, western Victoria and Queensland, and east of Perth (mostly moderate increases less than 3.0%). The highest increases occurred in some remote communities.

MAP 43 People who travelled to work by car, 2006

Proportion of people who travelled to work by car as the driver or passenger in a private motor vehicle



In 2006, 79.3% of the people who travelled to work went by car compared to 79.5% in 2001 and 78.6% in 1996.

People living in regional centres had the highest level of travel by car (85.6%), followed by rural areas (81%), small towns (77.8%), and major urban centres (77.6%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

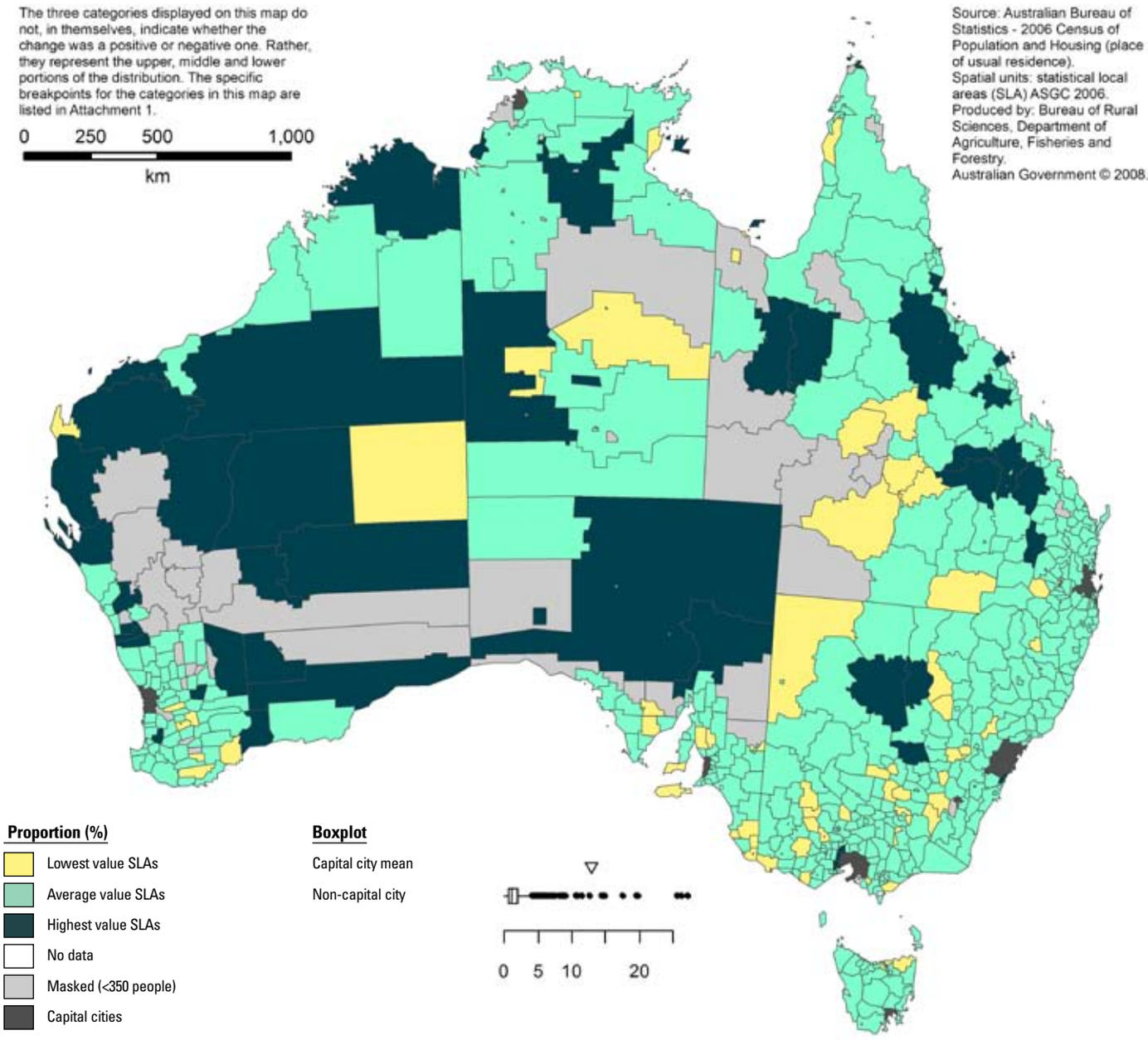
The lowest levels (less than 65.0%) of people who travelled to work by car occurred in central and northern Australia, inland Queensland, and parts of Western Australia and Victoria.

Highest proportion SLAs

The high rates (over 85.0%) of travel to work by car occurred in many areas surrounding capital cities. The highest rates occurred in Latrobe east of Melbourne (94.8%), Greater Bendigo in Victoria (94.5%), Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia (94.3%), and Dardanup south of Perth (94.3%).

MAP 44 People who travelled to work by public transport, 2006

Proportion of people who travelled to work by public transport



In 2006, 9.2% of the people who travelled to work went by public transport compared to 9.9% in 2001 and 8.9% in 1996.

People living in major urban centres had the highest level of travel by public transport, because of availability of public transport (12.5%). Other areas had much lower levels of usage (largely because of less availability of public transport), regional centres (2.0%), small towns (1.8%), and rural areas (1.4%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

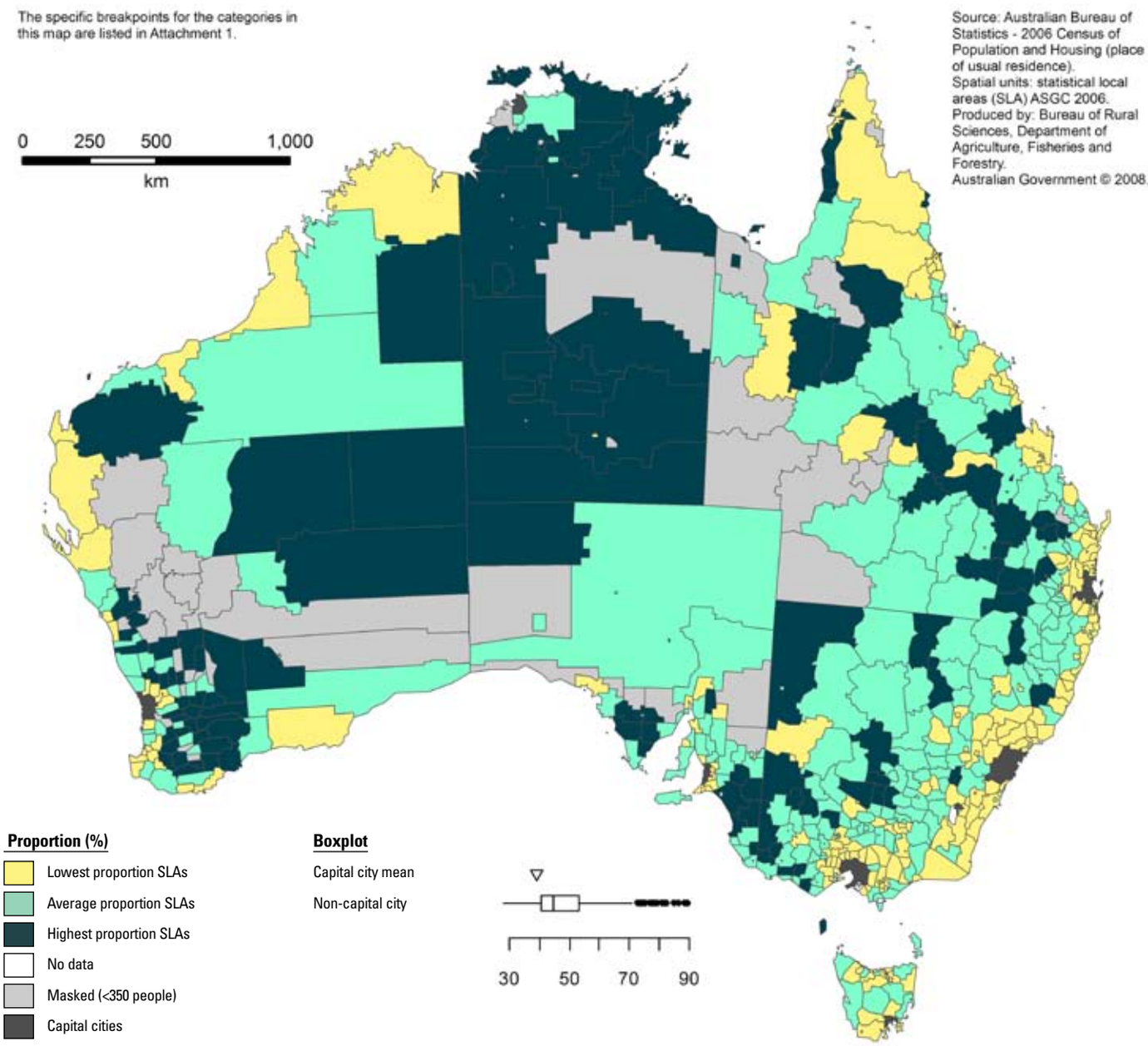
The lowest levels (less than 0.5%) of people who travelled to work by public transport occur in most inland parts of New South Wales, Victoria and central Queensland.

Highest proportion SLAs

Higher rates (greater than 2.5%) of use of public transport to travel to work occur in places where it is available (in most parts of rural Australia, public transport to work is not available). There are remote areas with high rates of use where some communities have local, community or other public transport available. The areas with the highest rates were located in the remote areas of Ashburton near Exmouth in Western Australia (26.3%), Wiluna in remote Western Australia (26.3%), and Palm Island near Townsville in north Queensland (25.6%).

MAP 45 Industry employment variance, 2006

Proportion of all employed people working in the three industry sectors employing the most people in that SLA



The industry employment variance is a measure of the concentration of employment in the main industries. It is based on the aggregate of employment in the three largest industries in the area.

Lowest proportion SLAs

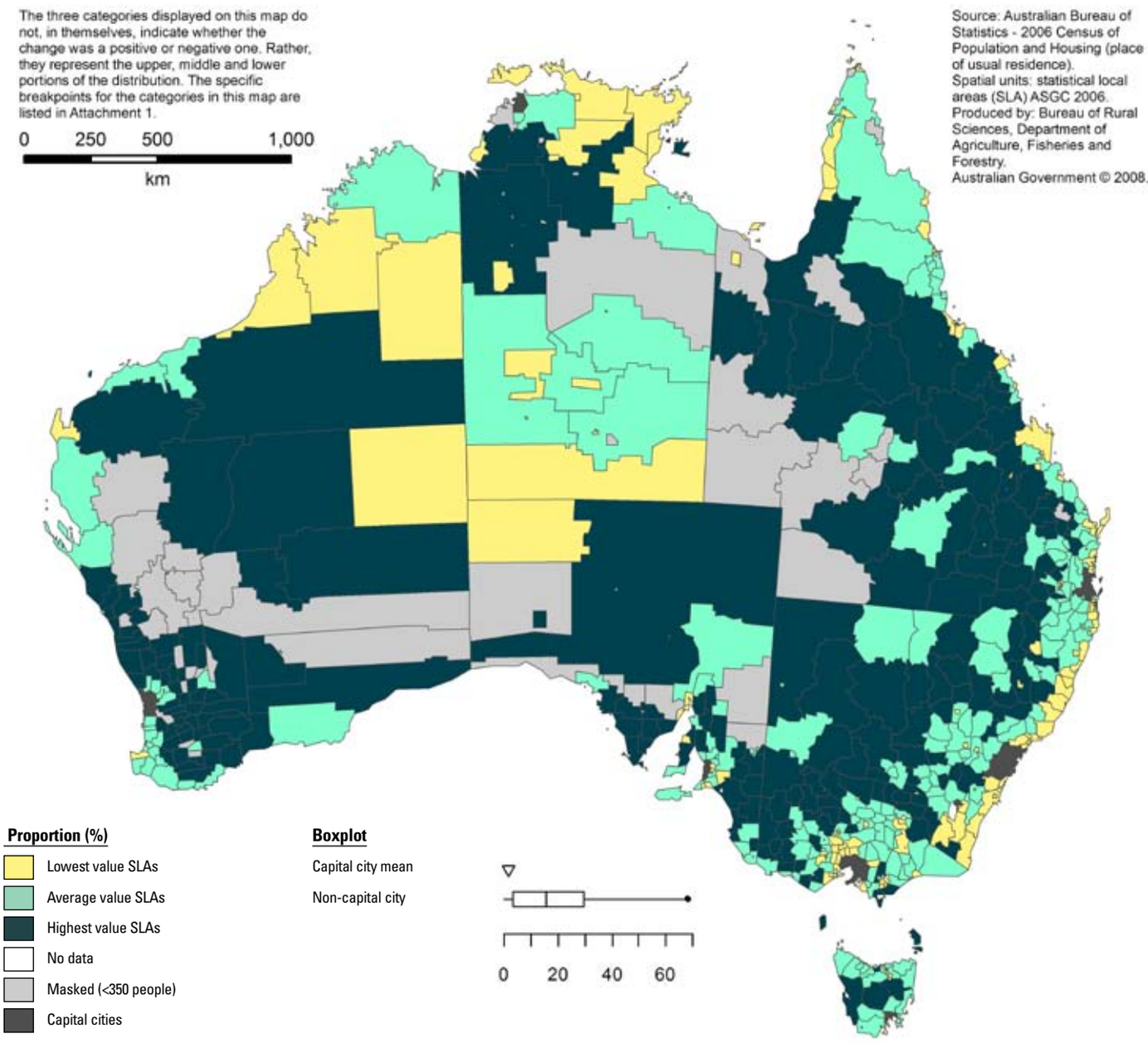
The low ranges are an indicator of greater diversity of employment in a region. The areas around the capital cities and along the east coast have a more diversified employment base. In Queensland these are South Townsville (with only 32.3% employed in the three largest industries), Townsville (33%), West End Townsville (33.3%), Hermit Park Townsville (34.9%), Railway Estate Townsville (34.0%), and Beaudesert south of Brisbane (32.6%). Lithgow north of Sydney (34.2%), and Toodyay north of Perth (34.5%) had the lowest proportions.

Highest proportion SLAs

High variance numbers are indicators of less diversity of employment and they are more vulnerable to change in the major industries in the area. The areas with the highest levels of employment concentration in the top three industries occurred in a number of remote communities, western parts of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, and east of Perth. For the non-remote areas, the highest levels of industry concentration occurred in Kent near Esperance in Western Australia (84.8%), Conargo in southern New South Wales (80.8%), West Arthur south of Perth (77.4%), and Victoria Plains north of Perth (76.3%).

MAP 46 Natural resource dependency, 2006

Persons employed in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and mining as a proportion of all employed persons



This is the measure of people dependent for employment on the natural-resource industries of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and mining. It is the number of people employed in the aggregate of these two industries, expressed as a proportion of total employment in the area.

Lowest proportion SLAs

Most of the areas with a low proportion of natural-resource dependency are located in remote parts of Australia and areas on the north and south coast of New South Wales, and around Melbourne.

Highest proportion SLAs

The areas with the highest levels of natural-resource-industry dependency are in country areas around Perth, most of inland Queensland, large areas of central New South Wales (including the Riverina), and western Victoria. Kent near Esperance in Western Australia has the highest level of dependency with 74.2% of its total employment concentrated in agriculture and mining. The other areas with high levels of dependency include Conargo in southern New South Wales (71.4%), Mount Marshall north of Perth (69.4%), West Arthur south of Perth (69.1%), and Cranbrook south of Perth (67.2%).

EDUCATION

COUNTRY MATTERS

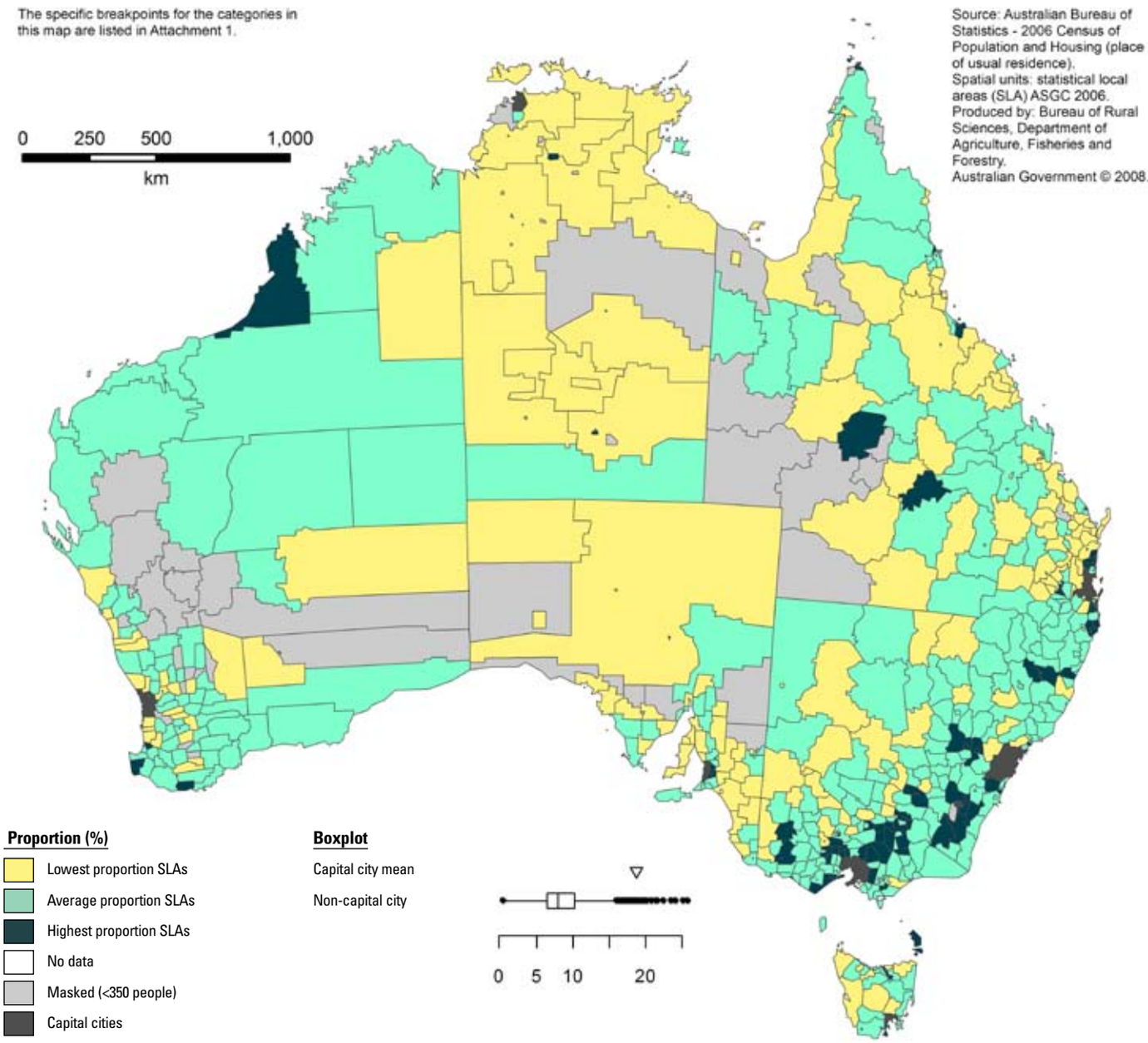
2008 SOCIAL ATLAS OF RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

MAP 47 People with a bachelor degree or higher qualification, 2006

Proportion of persons aged 15 or older with a postgraduate degree, graduate diploma, graduate certificate or bachelor degree



In 2006, 15.6% of people aged 15 years or older had a bachelor degree or higher qualification, increasing from 11.8% in 2001 and 10.4% in 1996.

The highest proportion of people with these qualifications lived in major urban centres (18.6%), followed by rural areas (10.5%), regional centres (9.3%), and small towns (7.9%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

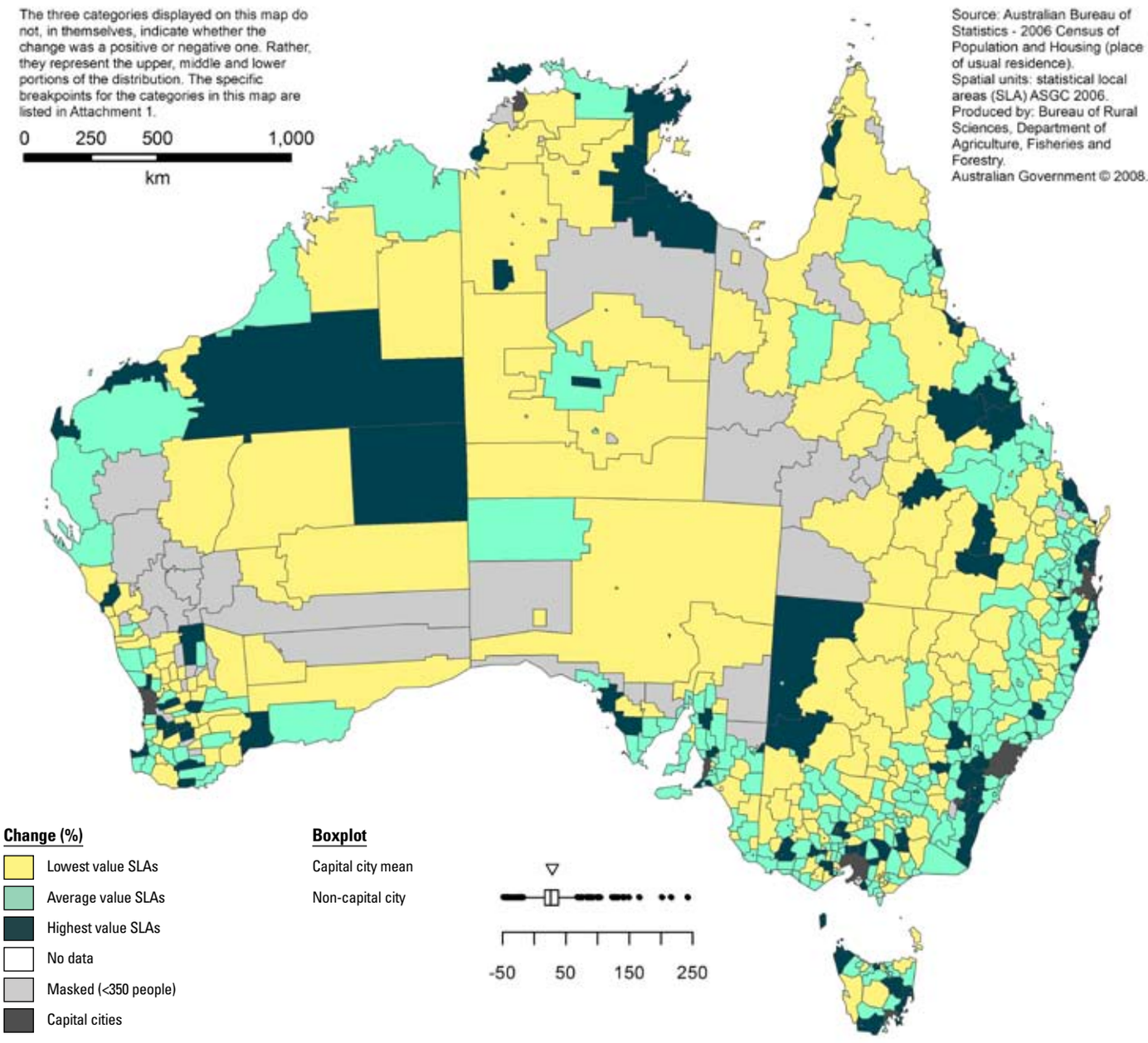
Low rates of people with a bachelor degree or higher qualification occur in statistical local areas (SLAs) in the remote regions of Australia and some rural areas, particularly throughout Queensland. Low proportion non-remote areas include: Mount Morgan near Gladstone in Queensland (3.0%), Hervey Bay on the Queensland coast (4.2%), and Tiaro on the Sunshine Coast (4.2%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High rates of people with bachelor degree or higher qualification occur around cities with universities, including Canberra, Melbourne, and regional centres such as Wagga Wagga and Armidale, and throughout central Victoria. The areas with the highest concentrations are in North Ward-Castle Hill Cairns in Queensland (25.9%), Palerang east of Canberra (25.2%), Newtown near Geelong (24.2%), Armidale Dumaresq in northern New South Wales (23.7%), Toowoomba east of Brisbane (22.6%), and Queenscliffe near Geelong (21.7%).

MAP 48 Change in the number of people with a bachelor degree or higher qualification, 2001–06

Change in the number of persons aged 15 or older with a postgraduate degree, graduate diploma, graduate certificate or bachelor degree



Between 2001 and 2006, the number of people aged 15 years or older with a bachelor degree or higher qualification increased substantially (by 30.1%). The reasons for the strong increase were growing acceptance of the benefits of obtaining tertiary qualifications and access to higher education institutions (particularly for people living in urban areas).

Increases were highest in major urban centres (the number increasing by 31.6%), small towns (29.6%), regional centres (29.4%), and rural areas (19.1%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

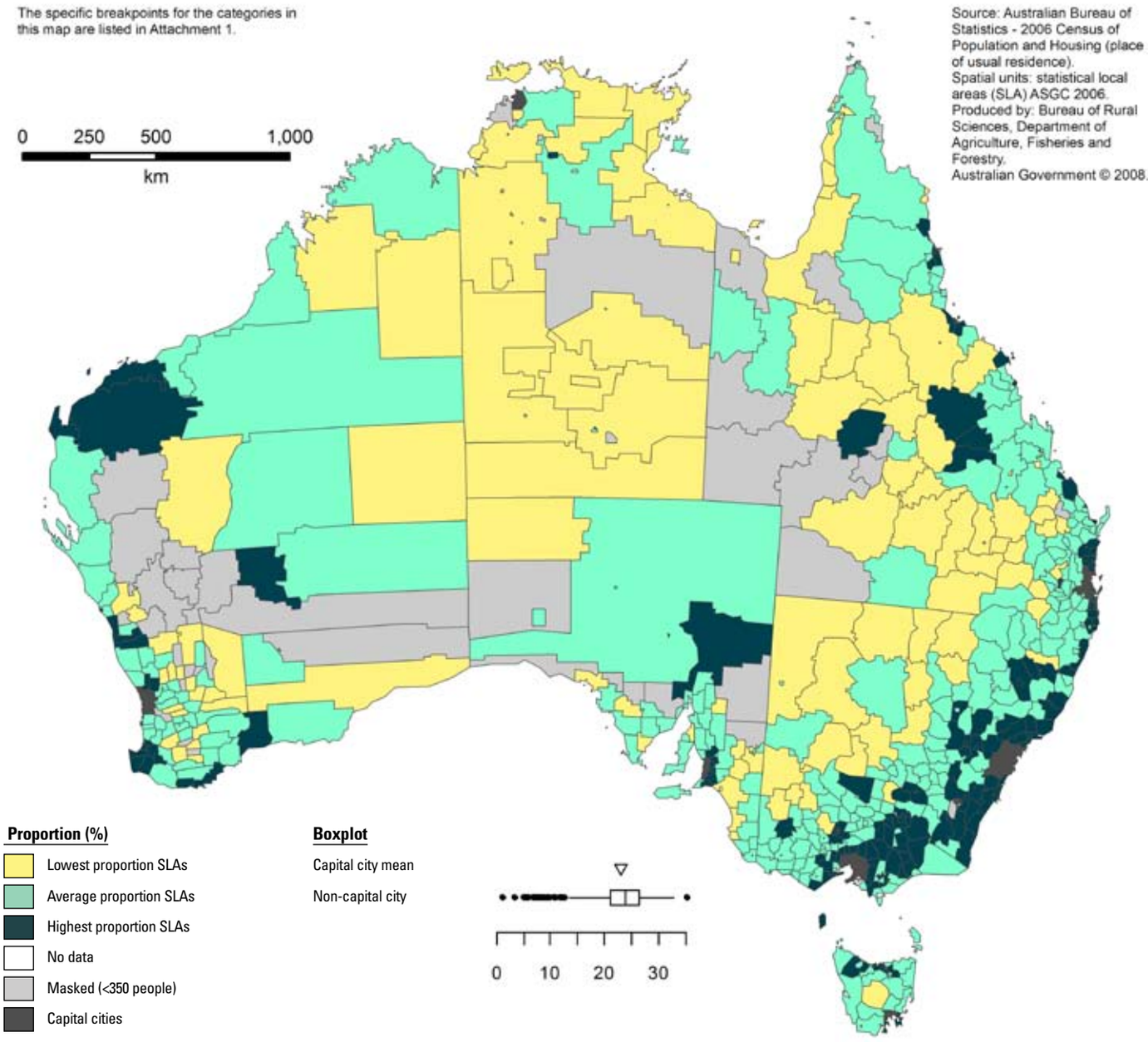
The number of people with a bachelor degree or higher qualification decreased in central parts of Australia, a number of areas around Perth, and some areas in Queensland. The largest decreases (more than 10.0%) occurred in remote communities.

Highest value of change SLAs

The increases in the number of people with a bachelor degree or higher qualification occurred throughout most parts of Australia, particularly in the less remote areas. The greatest increases (over 35.0%) were in areas close to the coast and surrounding capital cities, and the more moderate increases (20.0% to 35.0%) were in some areas in western Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland. Most occurred in growth areas of Tweed (133.9%) and the Gold Coast with Kingsholme-Upper Coomera (141.1%), Varsity Lakes (200.1%) and Pacific Pines-Gaven (244%), and in areas close to capital cities and regional centres.

MAP 49 People with vocational qualifications, 2006

Proportion of persons aged 15 and over with Certificate or diploma



In 2006, 23.8% of people aged 15 years or older had a vocational qualification (certificate or diploma), increasing from 21.8% in 2001 and 19.6% in 1996.

The highest proportion of people with vocational qualifications lived in rural areas (26.1%), followed by regional centres (25.1%), small towns (24.0%), and major urban centres (23.1%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

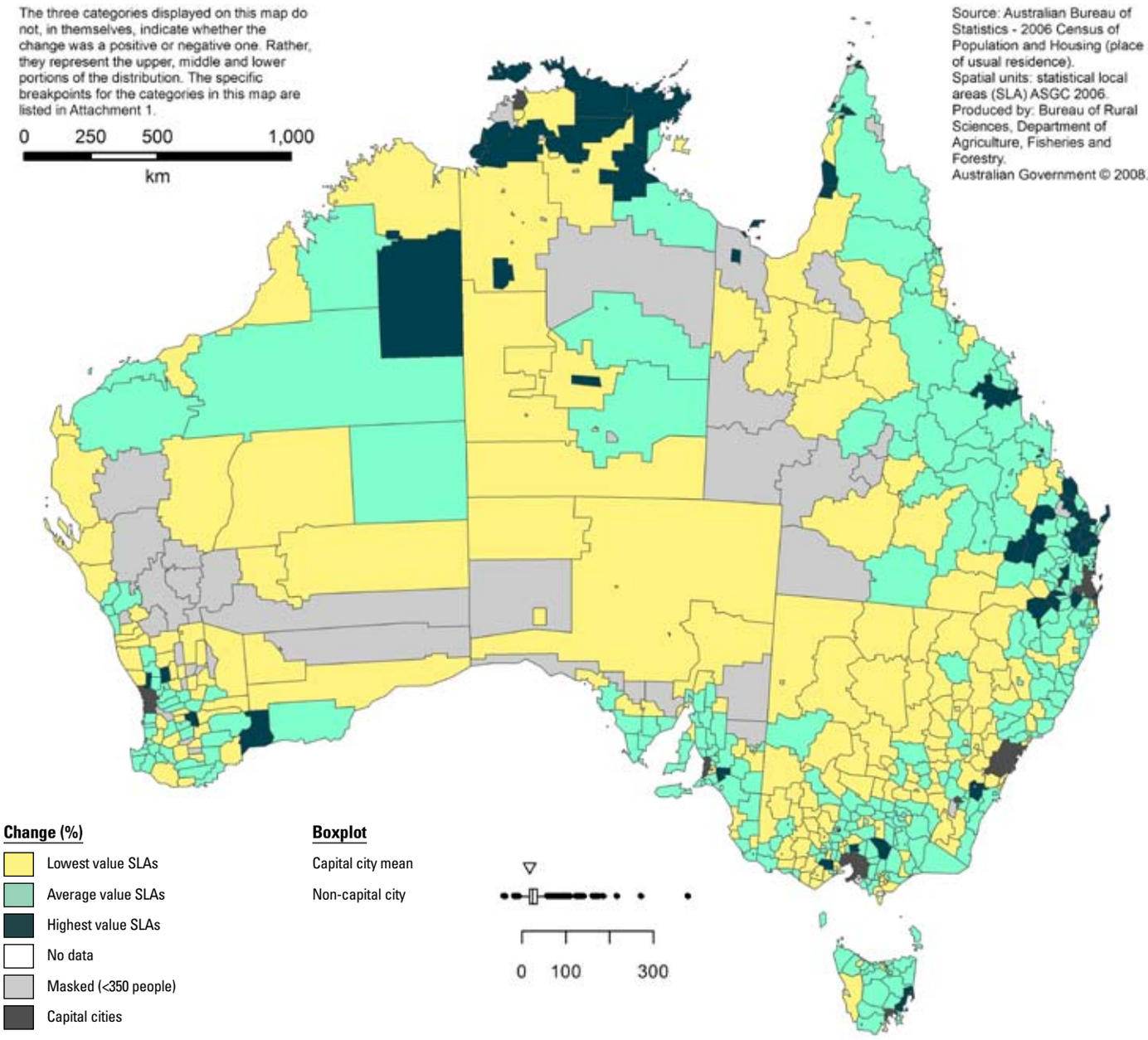
Low rates of people with vocational qualifications occur in the remote regions of central Australia and some inland rural areas. The lowest proportions not in remote areas include Swan Hill in northwest Victoria (14.1%), Balranald in southern New South Wales (16.2%), and Karooda East Murray east of Adelaide (16.2%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High rates of people with vocational qualifications occur in areas around capital cities, along the east coast, and around regional centres that have vocational educational institutions. The largest non-remote areas include Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia (32.4%), the Greater Hume Shire near Albury in New South Wales (31.8%), Kiama on the south coast of New South Wales (30.9%), the Adelaide Hills on the outskirts of Adelaide (30.9%), and Kingsholme-Upper Coomera on the Gold Coast (30.9%).

MAP 50 Change in the number of people with vocational qualifications, 2001–06

Change in the number of persons aged 15 and over with Certificate or diploma



Between 2001 and 2006, the number of people aged 15 years or older with vocational qualifications increased strongly (by 18.1%). Over the ten years to 2006, the number increased by 38.7%.

Increases were highest in small towns (the number increasing by 25.2%), regional centres (22.7%), major urban centres (16.9%), and rural areas (15.2%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

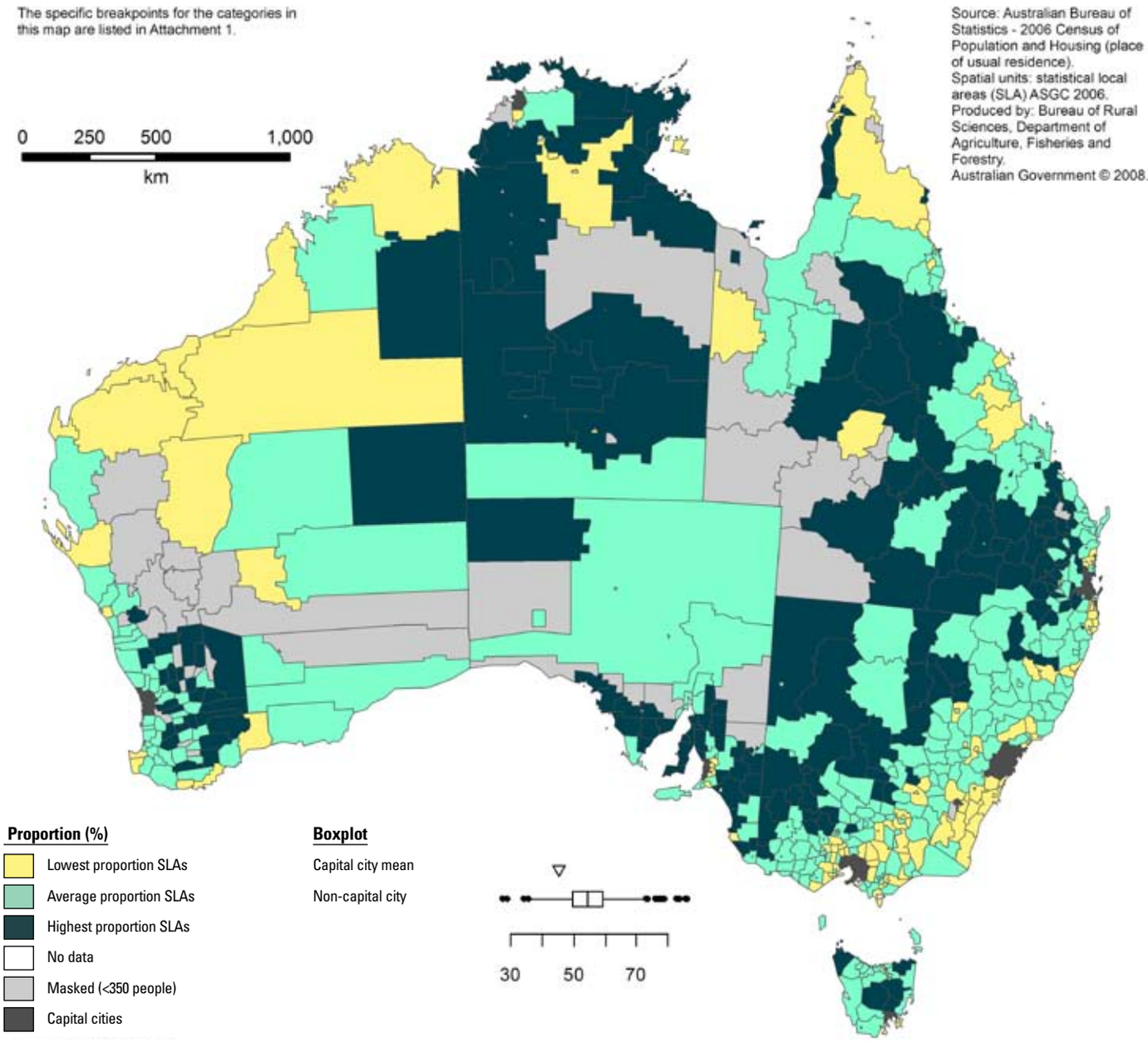
The number of people with a vocational qualification decreased in a number of the remote areas of South Australia and Western Australia, and the Gulf area of Queensland. The largest decreases occurred in remote communities, and other areas included Millmerran west of Brisbane (9.4%), Brewarrina in northwest New South Wales (5%), and Urana in southern New South Wales (4.7%).

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in the number of people with a vocational qualification occurred throughout most of the non-remote areas of Australia. The areas that experienced a moderate level of increase (20.0% to 30.0%) were throughout most of the eastern states, southern South Australia, and southwest Western Australia. The largest increases (over 30%) included the areas around the capital cities, southeast Queensland, and around Mackay. The largest increases were in a number of remote communities. Other large increases occurred in the growth area of Pacific Pines-Gaven on the Gold Coast (the number of people with vocational qualifications increasing by 161.8%), and Kingsholme-Upper Coomera (140.9%), Douglas near Cairns (136.2%), and Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia, south of Perth (126.6%).

MAP 51 People without post-school qualifications, 2006

Proportion of persons aged 15 or older who have not gained a recognised educational qualification after leaving school



Improving the education, training and skill levels assists industry productivity, demonstrates progress towards the goal of life-long learning, and provides people with better employment opportunities. In 2006, 47.5% of people aged 15 years or older had not attained any form of post-secondary school qualifications, decreasing from 53.9% in 2001 and 58.1% in 1996. This indicates the increasing level of education and training attainment and acceptance of a life-long learning culture in the workforce.

The highest level of the population *without* post-secondary school qualifications were in small towns (55.1% in 2006, but the proportion has decreased from 61.6% in 2001, and 64.7% in 1996), followed by regional centres (52.1% in 2006, decreasing from 58.4% in 2001, and 61.7% in 1996), rural areas (51.0% in 2006, decreasing from 56.8% in 2001, and 60.9% in 1996), and major urban centres (45.3% in 2006, decreasing from 51.8% in 2001, and 56.8% in 1996).

Lowest proportion SLAs

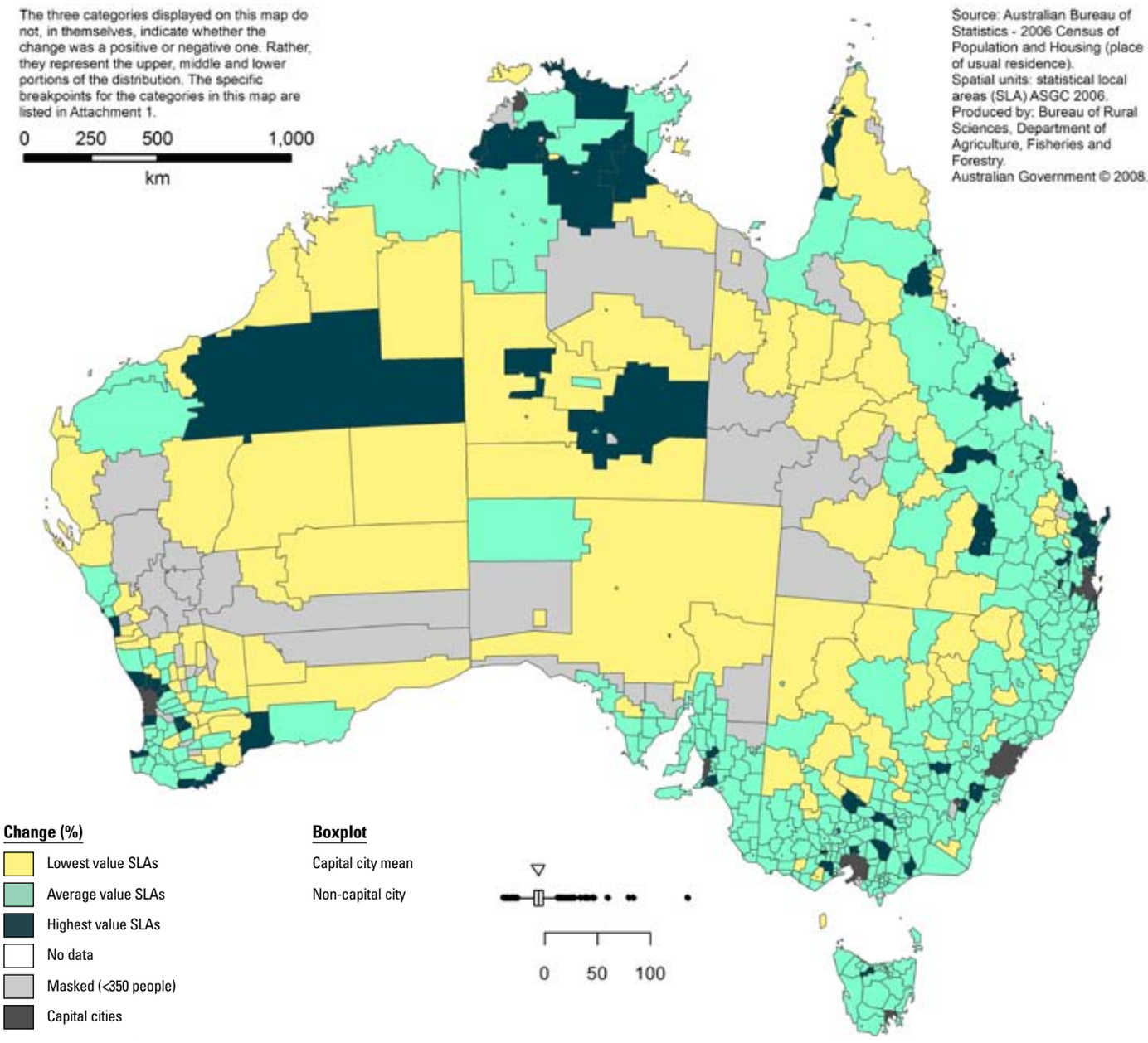
Low rates of people *without* post-secondary school vocational qualifications (from tertiary education and training institutions) are an indication of acceptance of adult learning and training in order to better participate in the modern workforce, and better access to institutions. Low rates occur in areas in proximity to education and training institutions in cities and regional centres.
The lowest rates occurred in Palerang east of Canberra (37.2%), Alice Springs-Stuart (37.0%), Cairns (37.0%), Port Hedland in Western Australia (36.4%), and Armidale Dumaresq in northern New South Wales (36.3%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High rates of people without post-secondary school vocational qualifications can indicate of low acceptance of adult learning and training to better participate in the modern workforce and a lack of access. The highest rates were in remote communities. The highest non-remote areas include: Taroom northwest of Brisbane (70.8%), Karooda East Murray east of Adelaide (67.9%), Jericho west of Townsville (67.6%), and Narembeen east of Perth (67.2%).

MAP 52 Change in the number of people without post-school qualifications, 2001–06

Change in the number of persons aged 15 or older who have not gained a recognised educational qualification after leaving school



Between 2001 and 2006, the number of people aged aged 15 years or older who had not attained post-secondary school qualifications decreased by 4.8%. Over the ten years to 2006, the number decreased by 6.7%.

Decreases in those without a post-secondary school qualification were highest in rural areas (decreasing by 9%), small towns (5.2%), major urban centres (4.5%), and regional centres (3.9%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

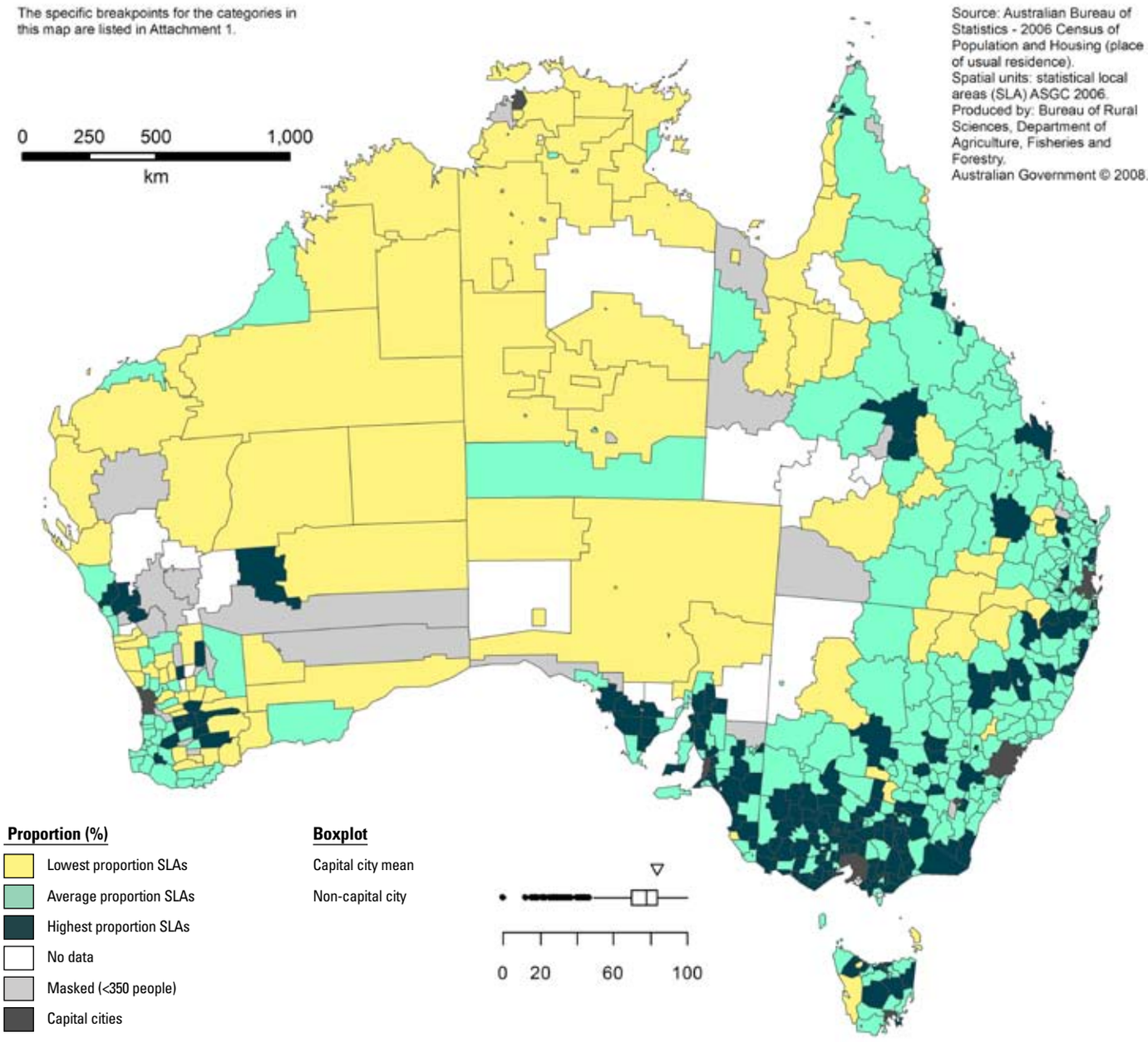
The decrease in the number of people *without* post-secondary school qualifications (that is more people obtained qualifications) generally occurred throughout most of Australia, particularly in country and inland areas. The largest improvements (by more than 20%) occurred in areas in central Australia, and moderate improvements (up to 20%) occurred across non-remote areas distant from the capital cities. Large decreases were also recorded in Railway Estate near Cairns (improving by 26.8%), Cherbourg west of the Sunshine coast (21.7%), Broadbeach-Mermaid Beach on the Gold Coast (19.8%), and Rosslea outside Townsville (18.9%).

Highest value of change SLAs

The increases in the number of people *without* post-secondary school qualifications (that is less people obtained qualifications) was concentrated in the Sunshine Coast and Hervey Bay, around Mackay in Queensland, and surrounding some capital cities. Increases also occurred around the coastal retirement areas in Queensland (because the increased population of people were retired and many do not have post-secondary school qualifications). The largest increases were in remote communities. Other regions included the Gold Coast areas of Pacific Pines-Gaven, Kingsholme-Upper Coomera, Hope Island, Varsity Lakes, Robina, Oxenford-Maudsland (all increasing by more than 27.0%), Livingstone near Rockhampton (59.6%), Douglas near Cairns (47.0%), Oonoonba-Idalia-Cluden near Cairns (46.1%), and Crows Nest west of Brisbane (26.0%).

MAP 53 16 year-olds in full-time education, 2006

Proportions of persons aged 16 enrolled in full-time study in an education institution



In 2006, for people aged 16 years, 227 000 remained in full-time education, 7500 in part-time education, and 27 700 were not in any education institution. The proportion of people aged 16 in full-time education was 81.7%, decreasing slightly from 2001 (83.2%), but similar to 1996 (81.3%).

The highest proportion of 16-year-olds in full-time education is in major urban centres (83.7%) and rural areas (81%), and the proportion is lower in regional centres (77.3%), and small towns (73.7%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

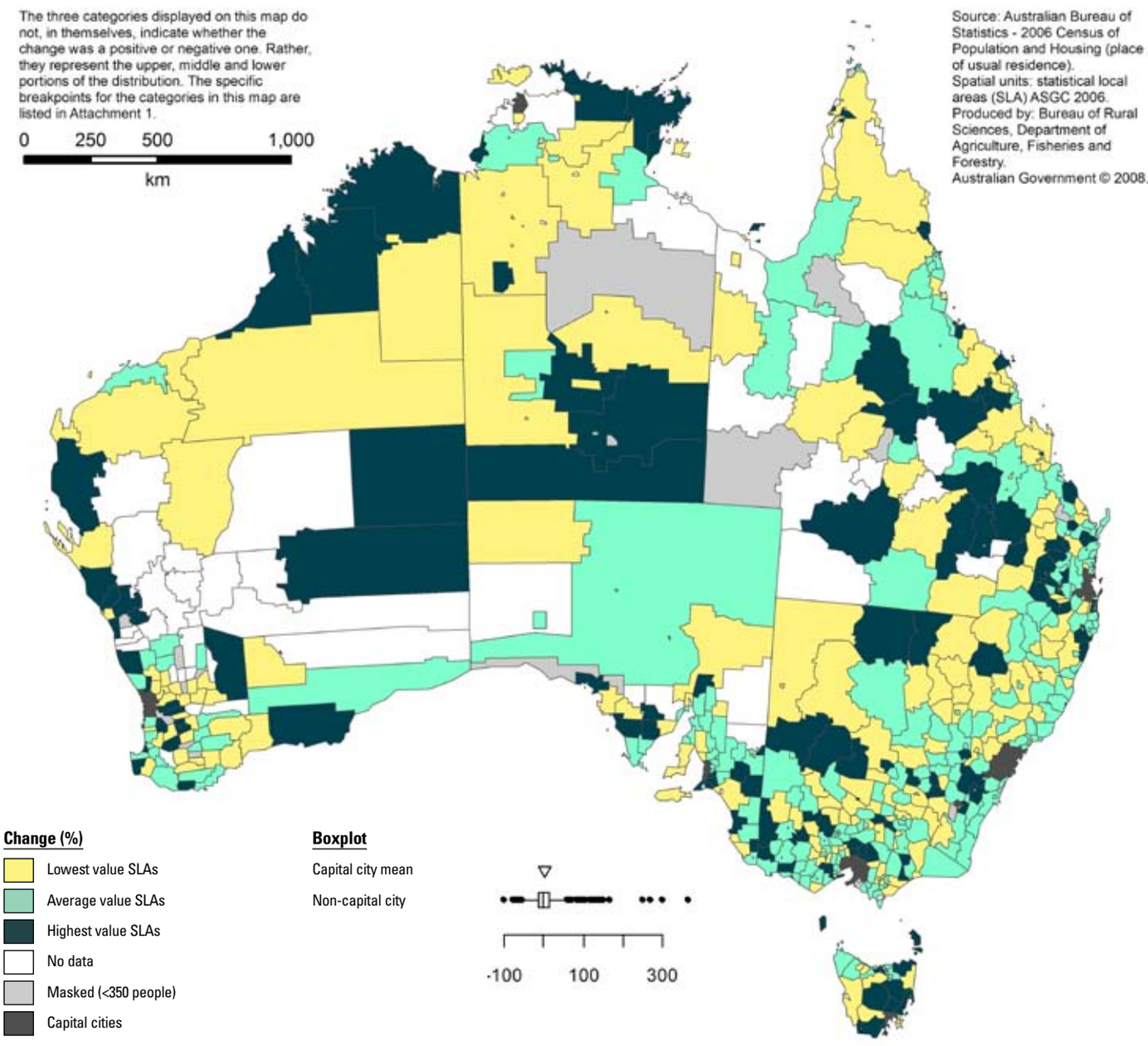
Low rates of 16-year-olds in full-time education are an indicator of people leaving school early, not completing Year 10 and Year 12, and that they could lack education and skills for the workforce in the future. Low rates occur throughout all areas of central Australia, western Queensland, northwest New South Wales, and parts of western Tasmania. The lowest rates in non-remote areas include Cranbrook south of Perth (36.4%), Robe southeast of Adelaide (40.0%), Bruce Rock east of Perth (61.8%), and Brookton south of Perth (62.0%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High rates of 16-year-olds in full-time education are an indicator of fewer people leaving school early, and most going on to complete Year 10. High rates occur in areas throughout Victoria, southern New South Wales, on the Eyre Peninsular, and areas surrounding Perth. The highest rates (100% remaining in education) were in Latrobe and George Town in Tasmania, Kent, and Cuballing in southwest Western Australia, Southern Mallee in southern South Australia, Aramac in central western Queensland, and Queenscliffe near Geelong, Buloke in the Mallee and Loddon in central Victoria.

MAP 54 Change in the number of 16 year-olds in full-time education, 2001–06

Change in the number of persons aged 16 enrolled in full-time study in an education institution



Between 2001 and 2006, the number of people in full-time education who were aged 16 years increased by 2.5%. Over the ten years to 2006, the number increased by only 0.4%.

Increases were highest in major urban centres (the number increasing by 4.3%), small towns (by 2.4%), but the number decreased in regional centres (decreasing by 0.5%), and rural areas (by 1.8%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

The regions that decreased were mostly located in areas distant from major cities and regional centres. The further the distance from the major centres, the greater was the decrease in the number of young people remaining in education. The greatest decreases were in a number of remote areas and communities, but there were many areas with substantial decreases (greater than 15%) in areas located close to major cities and towns, including in areas in southwest Western Australia. Other areas included Hepburn East in the Central Highlands-Wimmera in Victoria (27.2% decrease), Upper Hunter in Western Australia (25.7%), and Chinchilla on the Queensland Darling Downs (21.2%).

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in the number of people aged 16 years who were still in full-time education were mainly located close to major towns, and particularly in some locations around capital cities, south of Sydney, and in the western districts of Victoria. The largest increases included the growth area of Pacific Pines-Gaven on the Gold Coast (more than doubling), Elliston on the South Australia Eyre Peninsular (nearly doubling), Beverley south of Perth (increasing by 142.8%), and Latrobe in northern Tasmania (increasing by 125.0%).

FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

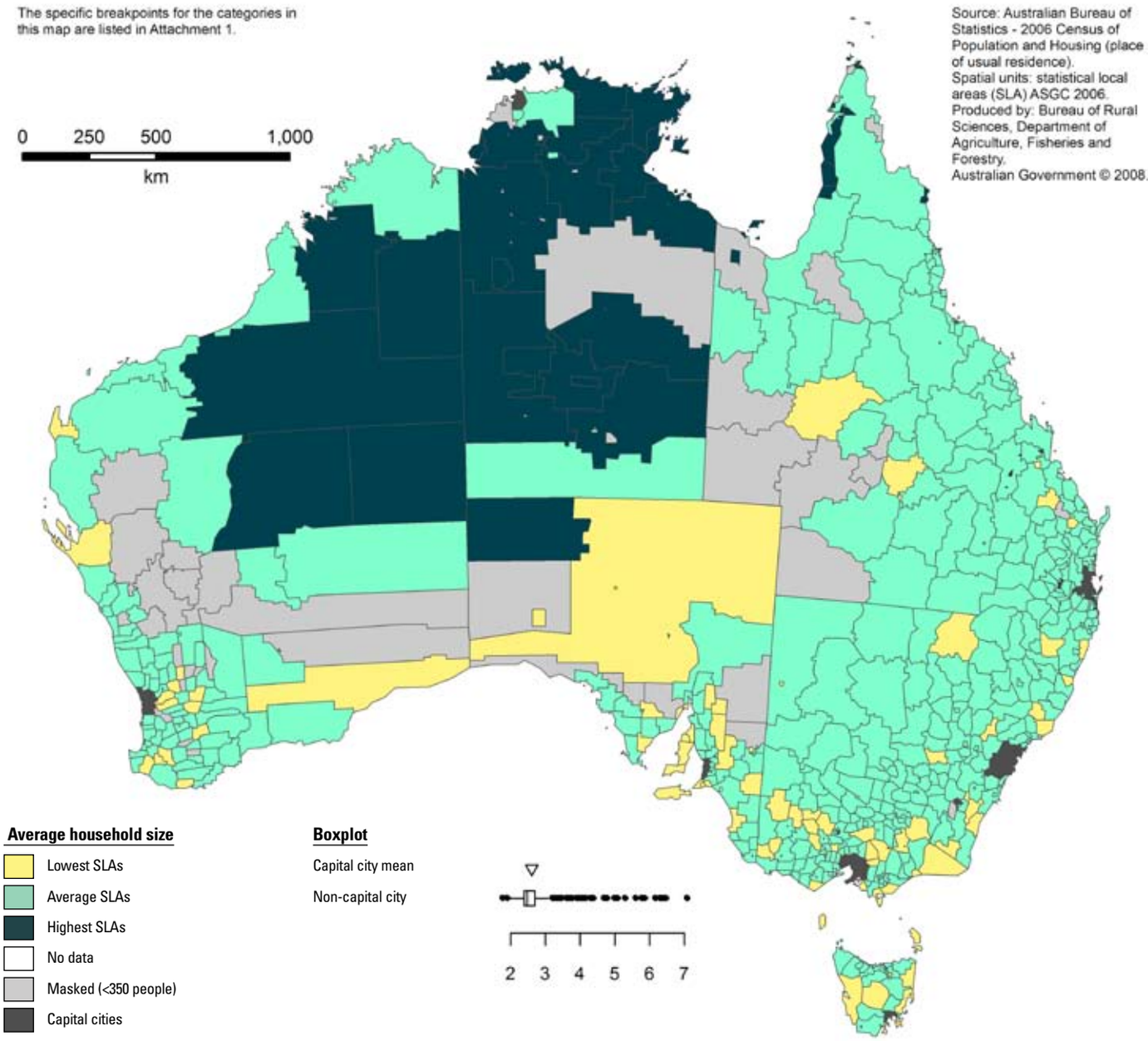
COUNTRY MATTERS

2008 SOCIAL ATLAS OF RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

MAP 55 Average household size, 2006

Average number of people per occupied private dwelling



The average (or mean) number of people in households is decreasing due to the impacts of falling levels of fertility, social and family changes, and ageing of the population.

In 2006, the average household size was highest in rural areas (2.8 people per household), followed by major urban centres (2.6), regional centres (2.5), and small towns (2.5).

Lowest household size SLAs

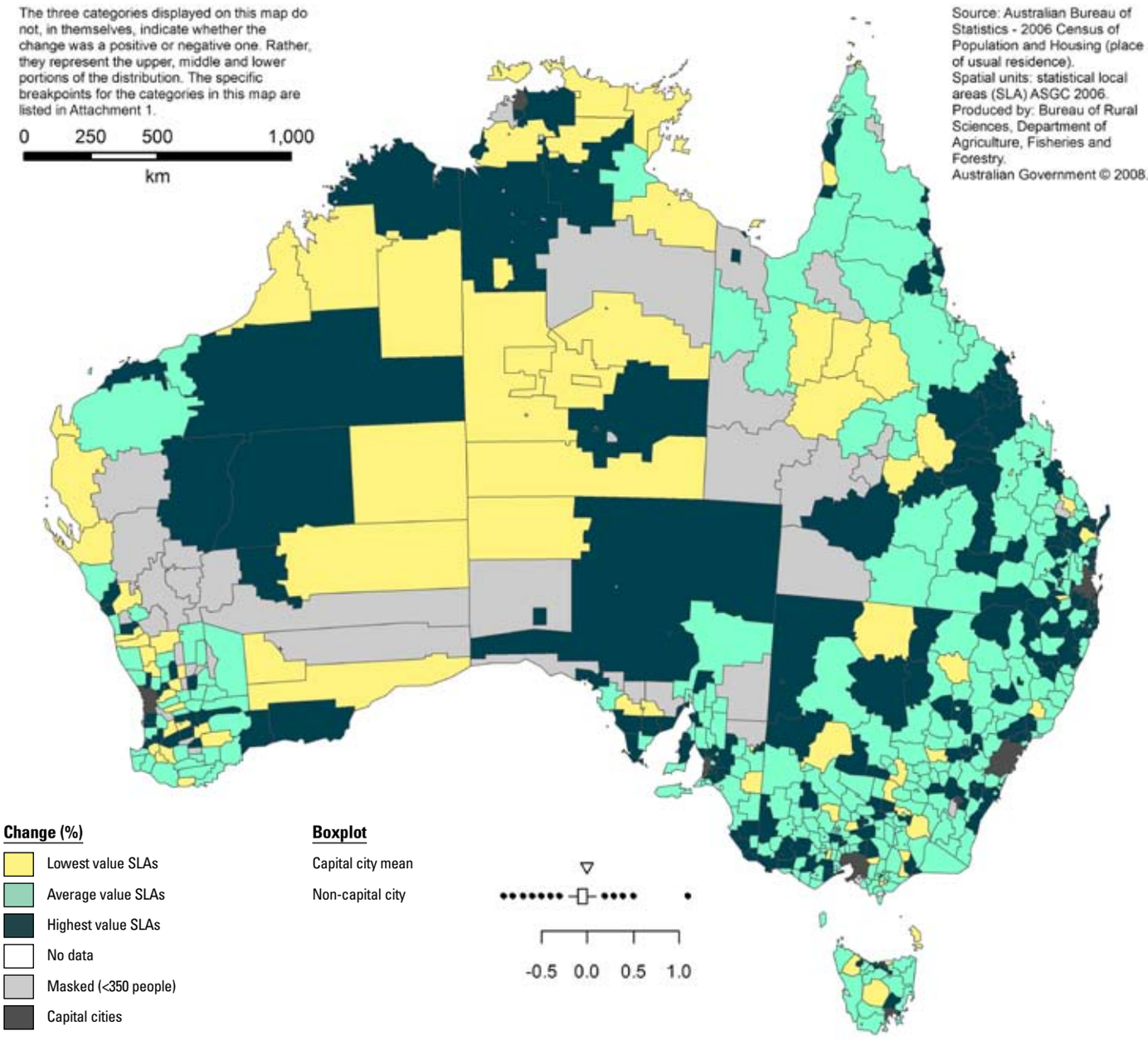
In statistical local areas (SLAs), low levels of household size are related to the age structure of the population, with older-aged households having fewer numbers of occupants. This occurs in areas where there are retired persons (for example along the east coast) or inland rural households with an older-age profile. The lowest level of household size was in Coober Pedy in South Australia (2.0). In Queensland the Gold Coast areas with large numbers of retired persons were Main Beach-South Stradbroke (1.9), Coolangatta (1.9), Surfers Paradise (1.9), and Broadbeach-Mermaid Beach (1.9). Cairns City (1.9), Rosslea near Cairns (2.0), and South Townsville (2.0) also had low levels of household size.

Highest household size SLAs

High levels of household size are related to a young-age structure of the population, particularly those with high proportions of Indigenous people. A number of these communities had more than an average of 5.0 persons per household.

MAP 56 Change in average household size, 2001–06

Change in the average number of people per occupied private dwelling



Between 2001 and 2006, average household size decreased most in small towns (average number decreasing by 0.2 persons per household), regional centres (0.1), major urban centres (0.1 persons), and rural areas (0.1).

Lowest value of change SLAs

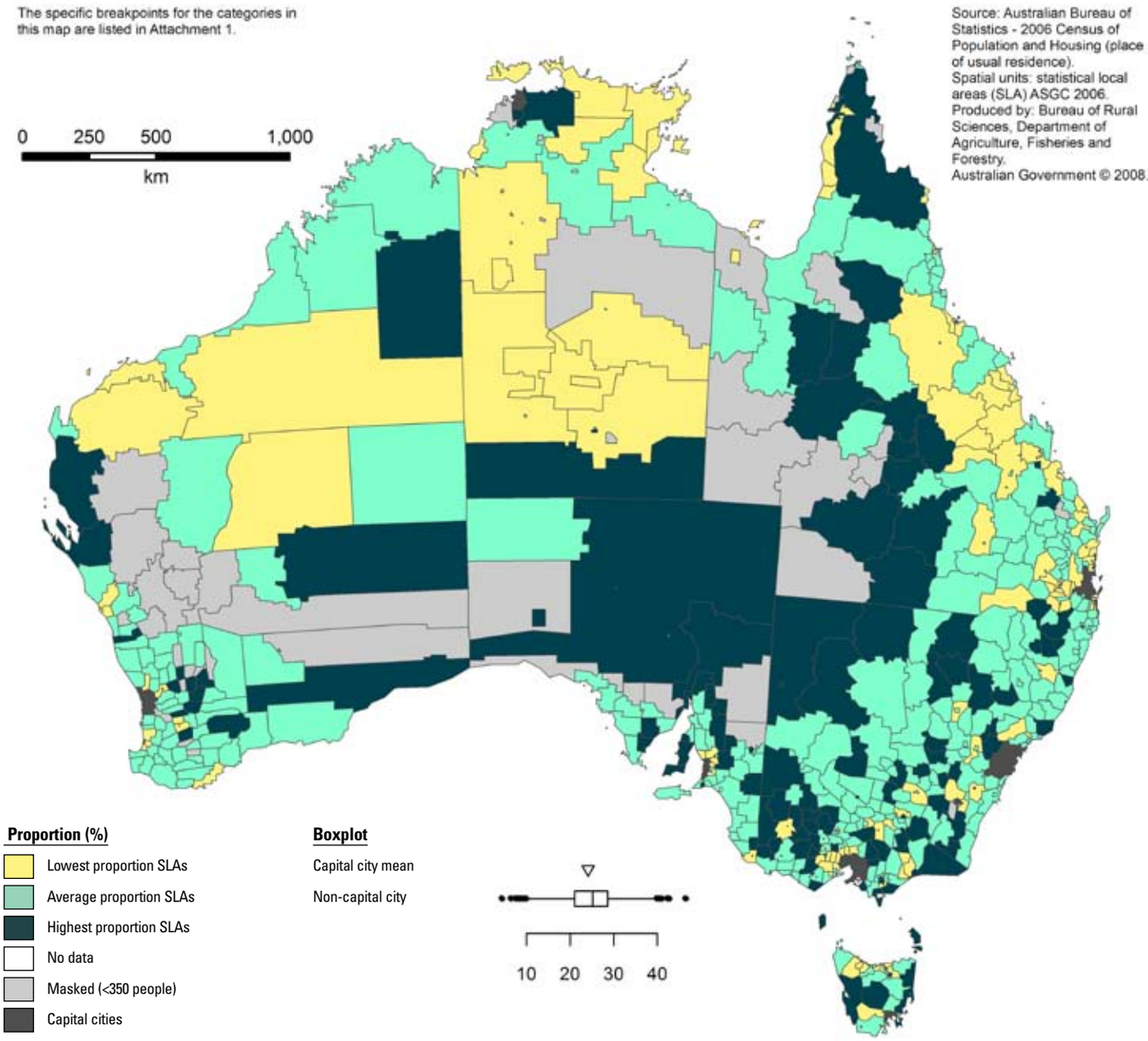
The average household size generally decreased across all of Australia. The largest decreases (of greater than 0.8 persons per household) occurred in some remote communities. There were also other areas scattered throughout country regions of New South Wales.

Highest value of change SLAs

Only a small number of areas experienced increased household size and most were remote communities. A number of these communities experienced an increase of more than 0.4 persons per dwelling.

MAP 57 One-person households, 2006

One-person households as a proportion of all occupied private dwellings



One-person households are concentrated at either end of the age spectrum: young people before they form family households and older people after the death of their partner.

In 2006, 24.4% of households were one-person households increasing from 22.9% in 2001, and 22.1% in 1996.

The proportion of one-person households was largest in regional centres (26.5%), small towns (26%), and major urban centres (24.4%). In contrast, the proportion in rural areas was much lower (18.1%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

The concentration of low proportions of one-person household is largely in the remote communities because most indigenous people live in family households.

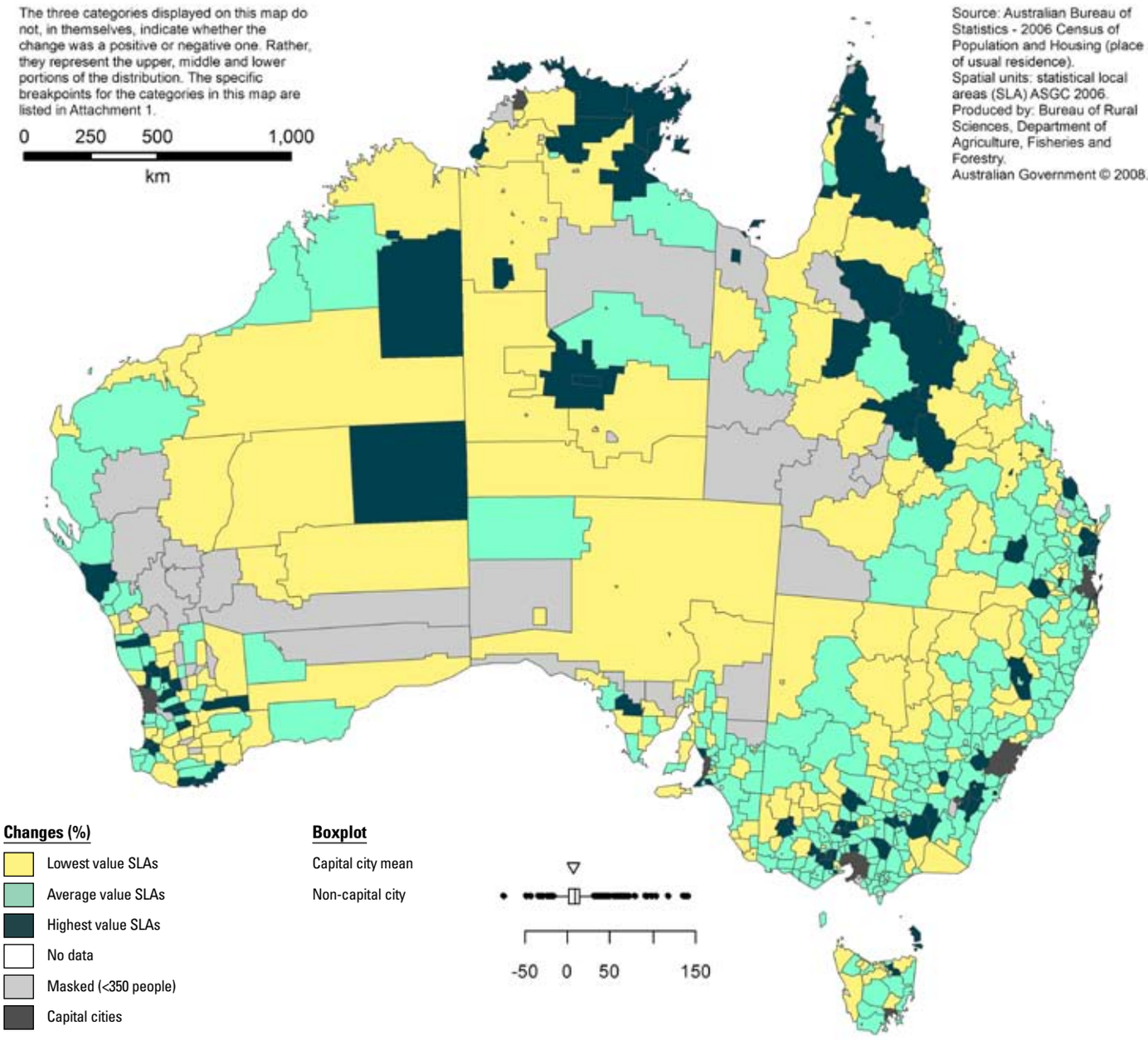
A number of these communities have less than 10.0% one-person households, and some growth areas also have low proportions of one-person households, including Pacific Pines-Gaven (7.7%) and Kingsholme-Upper Coomera (8.2%) on the Gold Coast in Queensland, and Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia (8.2%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High proportions of one-person households typically occur in places where retired people live, and inland rural areas. The areas with the highest concentration of people living alone include Coober Pedy in South Australia (46.6%), in Queensland in Pimlico in Townsville (40.2%), Rosslea in Townsville (42.9%), Cairns City (42.4%), and the Gold Coast areas of Coolangatta (40.2%), Main Beach-South Stradbroke (38.8%), and Surfers Paradise (38.8%).

MAP 58 Change in the number of one-person households, 2001–06

Change in the number of one-person households



Between 2001 and 2006, the number of one-person households increased by 7.7%. Over the ten years to 2006, the numbers increased by 21.5%.

Increases were highest in major urban centres (the number increasing by 8.7%), small towns (7.3%), regional centres (6.6%), and rural areas (2.0%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

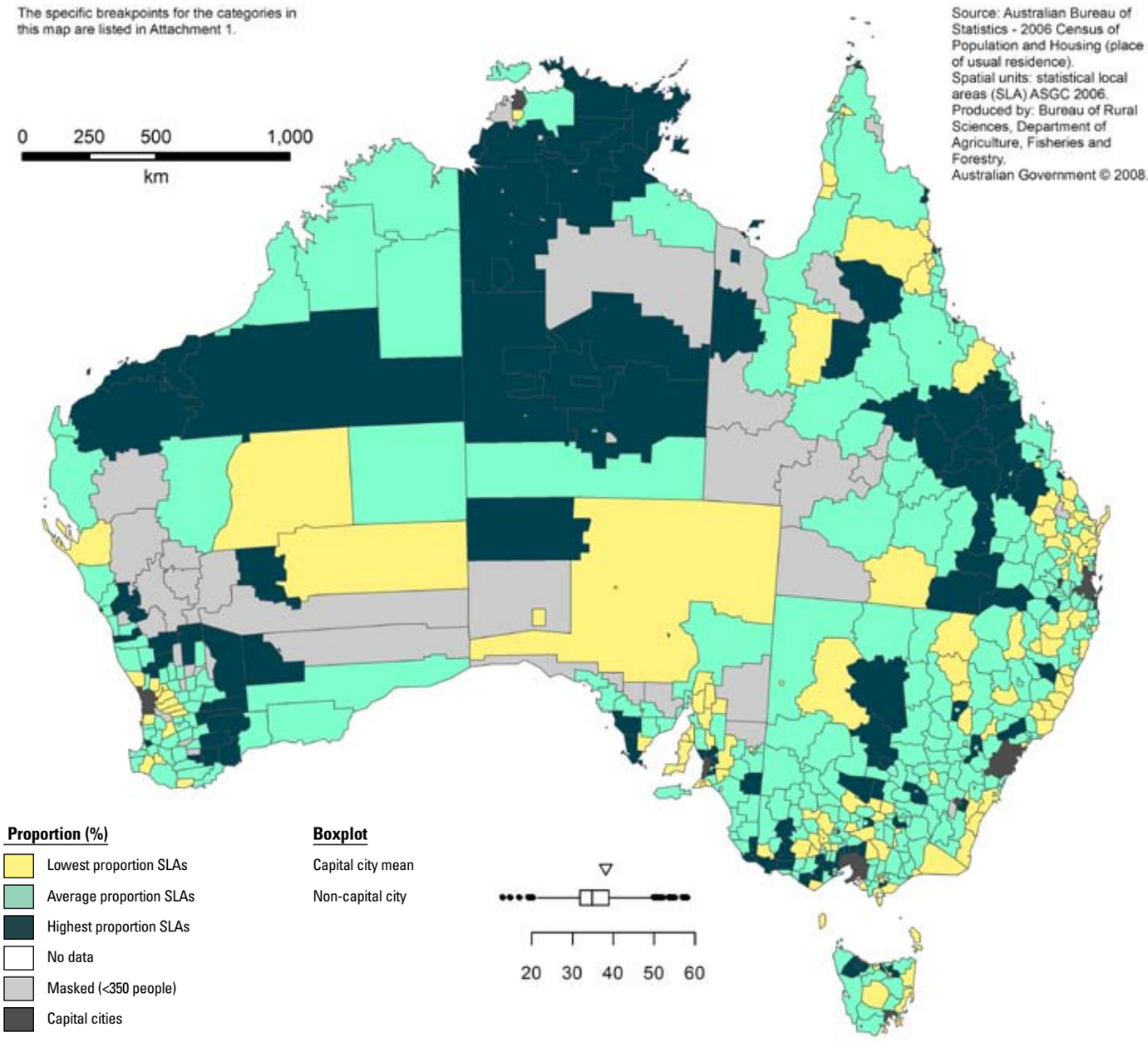
The number of one-person households decreased in the central parts of Australia, and around Perth, and in some country parts of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. The largest decreases were in the remote areas and were also associated with a declining population.

Highest value of change SLAs

One-person households increased in most areas around Australia. Moderate increases (up to 12.0%) occurred throughout the eastern states, and around Adelaide. The largest increases (over 12.0%) occurred in remote areas, but there were also large increases on the east coast, around the capital cities and some urban centres. A number of non-remote areas increased by more than 100%, including Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia (141.7%), Pacific Pines-Gaven on the Gold Coast (118.5%), Livingstone near Mackay (137.9%), and Cherbourg west of the Sunshine Coast (104.8%), all in Queensland.

MAP 59 Couples with dependent children, 2006

Couples with children less than 15 years, or students aged 15 to 24 years, as a proportion of all families



In 2006, 37.0% of all family households were couples with dependent children (up to 15 years of age) or students (15–24 years), decreasing from 38.6% in 2001, and 40.0% in 1996.

The proportion of family households with dependents was largest in rural areas (39.2%), followed by major urban centres (37.6%), small towns (34.4%), and regional centres (34.2%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

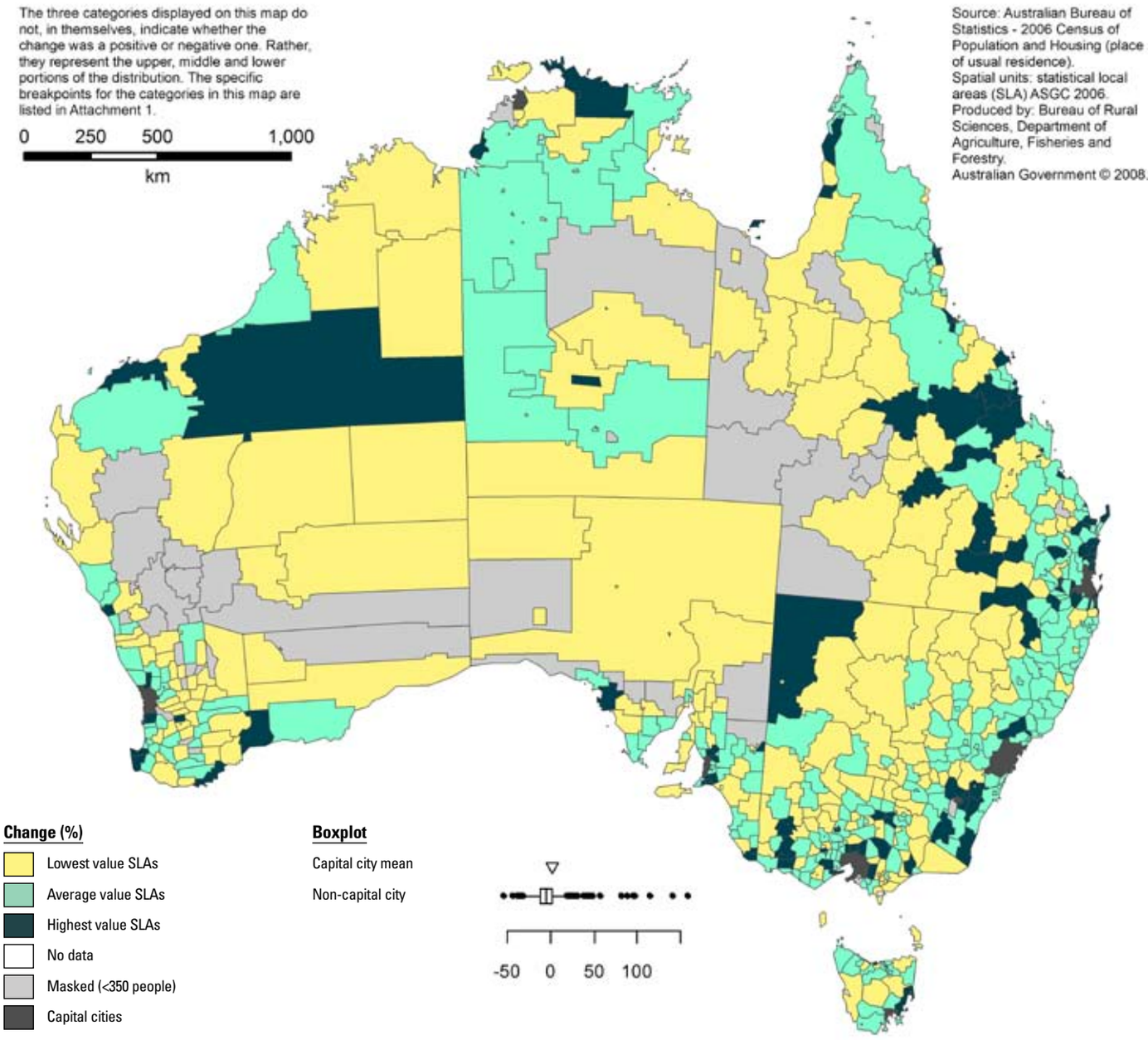
Low concentrations of couple families with dependent children are located where the population-age profile is older and in retirement areas. They occur mostly on the north and south coast of New South Wales, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast of Queensland, and areas around cities and regional centres. The lowest concentrations of couple families occurred in the retirement areas including Victor Harbour south of Adelaide (22.0%), and along the Queensland coast including Coolangatta (13.1%), Main Beach-South Stradbroke (14.9%), Surfers Paradise (17.1%), Biggera Waters-Labrador (20.0%), Maroochy-Maroochydore (21.4%), and Noosa (23.7%). Other areas of low concentration occur in rural areas experiencing population decline.

Highest proportion SLAs

High concentrations of couple families with dependent children are located where populations are growing and the population age profile is younger. It also occurs in remote communities. The non-remote areas include the growth areas of Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia (55.3%), Greater Bendigo in Victoria (52.3%), and Pacific Pines-Gaven on the Gold Coast in Queensland (48.1%).

MAP 60 Change in the number of couples with dependent children, 2001–06

Change in the number of couples with children less than 15 years, or students aged 15 to 24 years



Between 2001 and 2006, the number of couples with dependent children or students increased by 1.4%. Over the ten years to 2006, the numbers increased by 2.2%.

Increases were highest in major urban centres (the number increasing by 4.4%) and decreases were recorded in regional centres (2.6%), small towns (6.5%), and rural areas (7.4%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

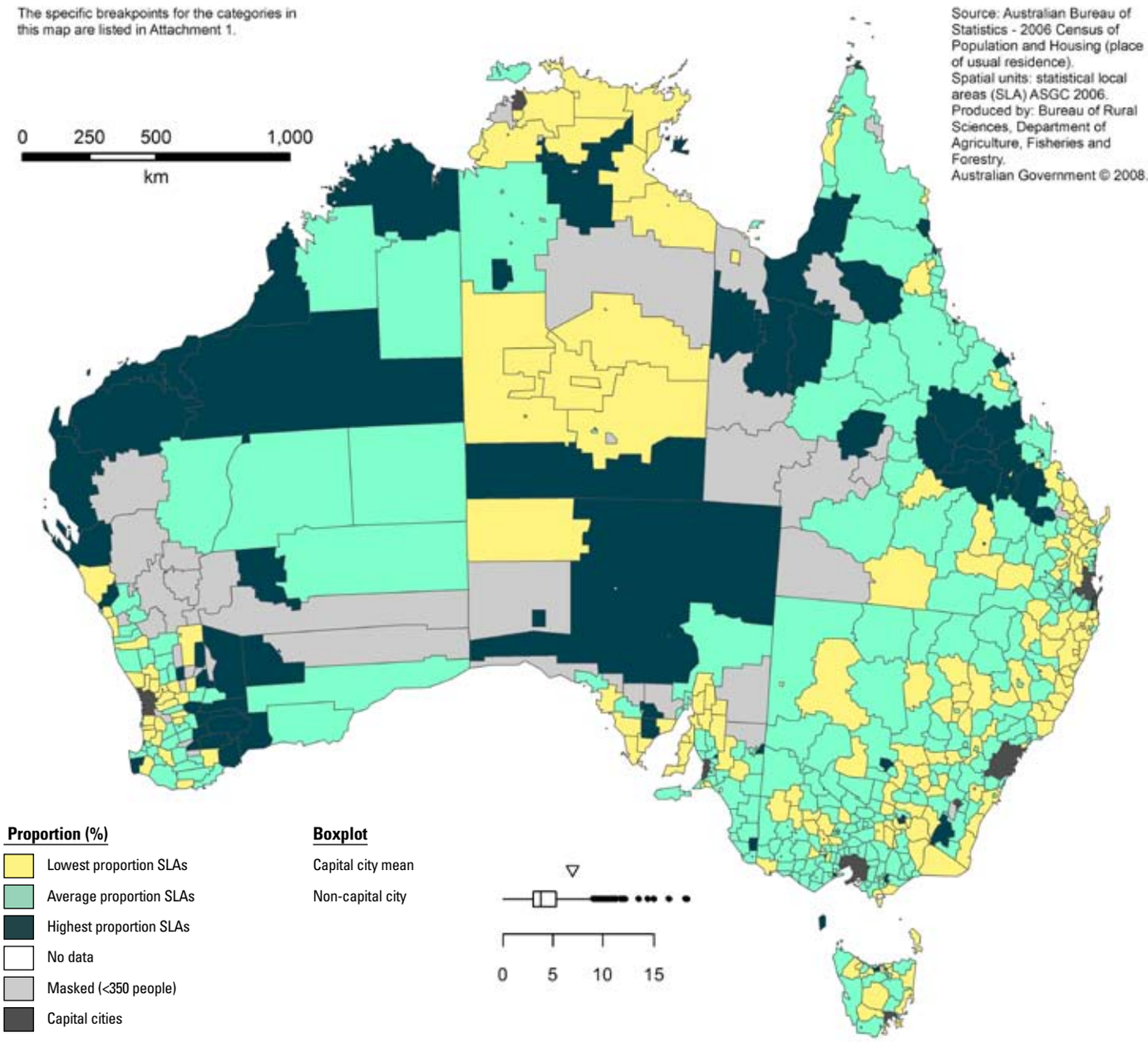
The number of couple with children households decreased in most parts of Australia as a consequence of the ageing population. The largest decreases (greater than 10%) occurred in the central parts of Australia (associated with population decline), and the more moderate declines (up to 10.0%) occurred throughout the coastal strip around Australia.

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in couple with children households occurred in those areas experiencing population growth, particularly around cities, some coastal areas, and around Mackay in Queensland. The highest increases included the growth areas in southeast Queensland including Pacific Pines-Gaven (increasing by 158.7%), Pimpama-Coomera (97.9%), Varsity Lakes (89.8%), and Caloundra (48.4%); Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia (140.9%), and Douglas near Cairns in north Queensland (82.0%).

MAP 61 DINKs (double income, no kids), 2006

The proportion of families that consists of couples (where the youngest partner is less than 40 years), where both are working 25 hrs or more per week, without children or other relatives



DINKs are people who choose to live in families that consist of couples without dependent children or other relatives in the household. Both partners work at least 25 hours per week, and the younger partner is aged less than 40 years.

In 2006, 6.0% of all families were DINK families, increasing slightly from 5.9% in 2001 and 1996.

Major urban centres had the highest proportion of DINK families (6.9%) because of the better range of work opportunities and career structures for both young-adult women and men. Regional centres (4.9%), small towns (3.4%), and rural areas (3.2%) had lower proportions of DINK families.

Lowest proportion SLAs

Low concentrations of DINK families occur in remote and rural areas where there are limited employment opportunities for both partners. It is also related to the age structure of the area.

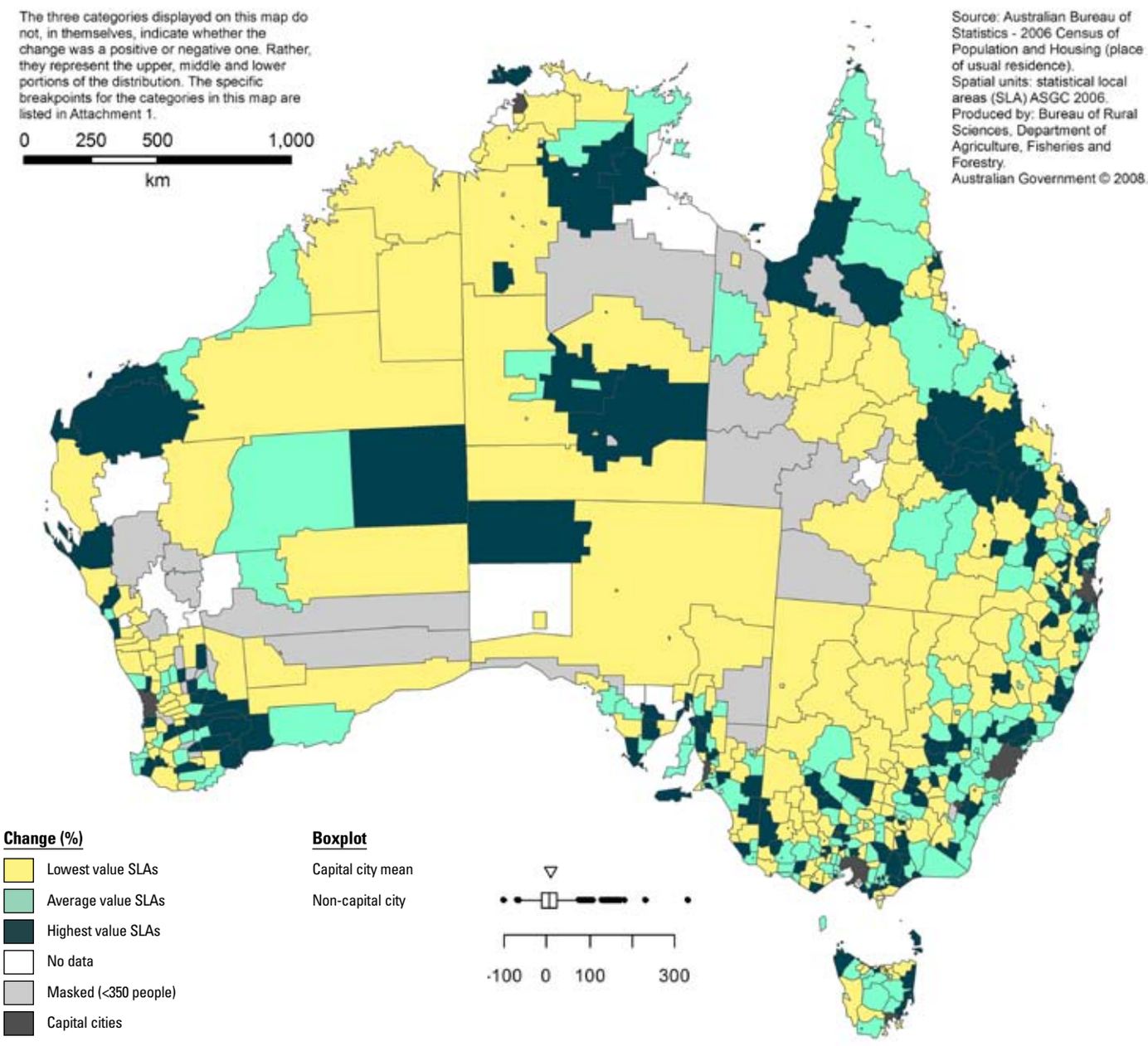
The areas with a low number of DINKs are concentrated along the north and south coast of New South Wales, the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, and areas surrounding Perth and Bendigo in Victoria. The lowest concentrations occur in remote communities. Low concentrations also occur in the non-remote areas of Mount Morgan near Gladstone in Queensland (0.9%), Tasman near Hobart (1.1%), Cuballing south of Perth (1.3%), Cherbourg west of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland (1.3%), and Quairading east of Perth (1.4%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels of DINKs occur in urban areas where there are concentrations of adults aged less than 40 years without children. They also occur in some rural areas (including farms) where both partners are working, and some remote areas where both partners have employment. The highest levels of DINK families were in the Queensland-tourism urban areas of Cairns City (18.2%), Broadbeach-Mermaid Beach (16.6%), South Townsville (12.2%), and Surfers Paradise (11.9%).

MAP 62 Change in the number of DINKs (double income, no kids), 2001–06

Change in the number of couples (where the youngest partner is less than 40 years), where both are working 25 hrs or more per week, without children or other relatives



Between 2001 and 2006, the number of DINK families increased by 14.1%. Over the ten years to 2006, the numbers increased by 8.6%.

Increases were highest in major urban centres (the number increasing by 21.3%), small towns (3.2%), and regional centres (3.0%), with decreases in rural areas (decreasing by 22.9%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

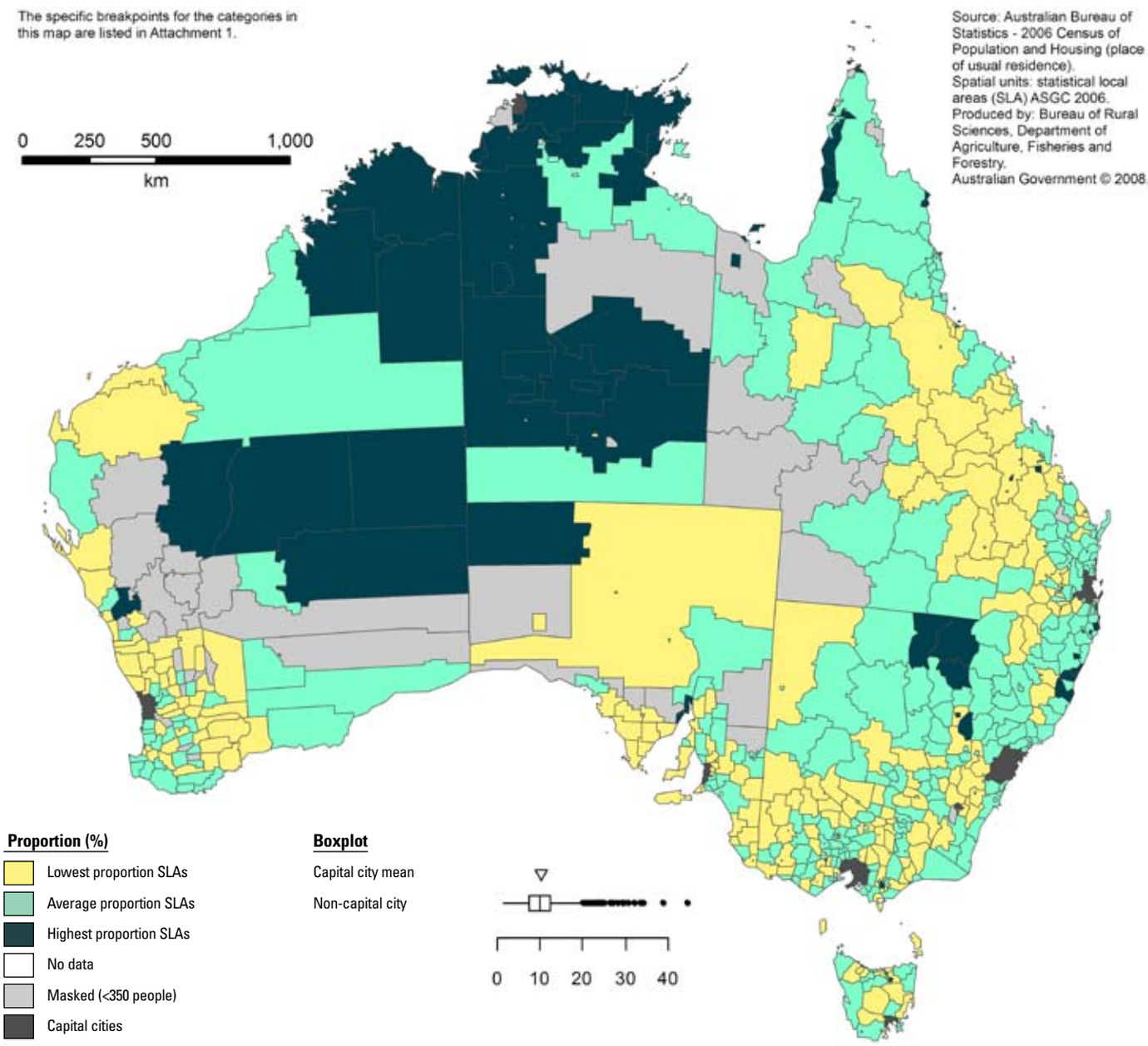
The number of DINK families decreased in most inland and remote parts of Australia, some by greater than 5%. Moderate decreases (from 5% to 10%) occurred in a number of country areas scattered throughout various states, including Meander Valley in northern Tasmania (9.9%), Buloke North in the Mallee in northwest Victoria (9.7%), and Wongan-Ballidu northwest of Perth (9.5%).

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in the number of DINK families occurred mainly along the coastal strip of Australia, and in the growth areas around cities and regional centres. The largest increases occurred in the growth areas in southeast Queensland including Varsity Lakes (increasing by 170%), Pimpama-Coomera (142.9%), and Caloundra (103%), and Douglas near Cairns (109%); and Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia (140%).

MAP 63 One-parent families, 2006

One-parent families with dependent children under 15 years, or students aged 15 to 24, as a proportion of all families



This includes family households that consist of one parent with dependent children aged less than 15 years, and those with dependent students aged 15 to 24 years.

In 2006, 10.7% of all households were one-parent families with dependent children or students, similar to 2001 (10.7%), and higher than 1996 (9.9%).

The proportion of one-parent families was largest in regional centres (12.9%), followed by small towns (11.5%), and major urban centres (10.6%). In contrast, only 6.7% of families in rural areas were one-parent families.

Lowest proportion SLAs

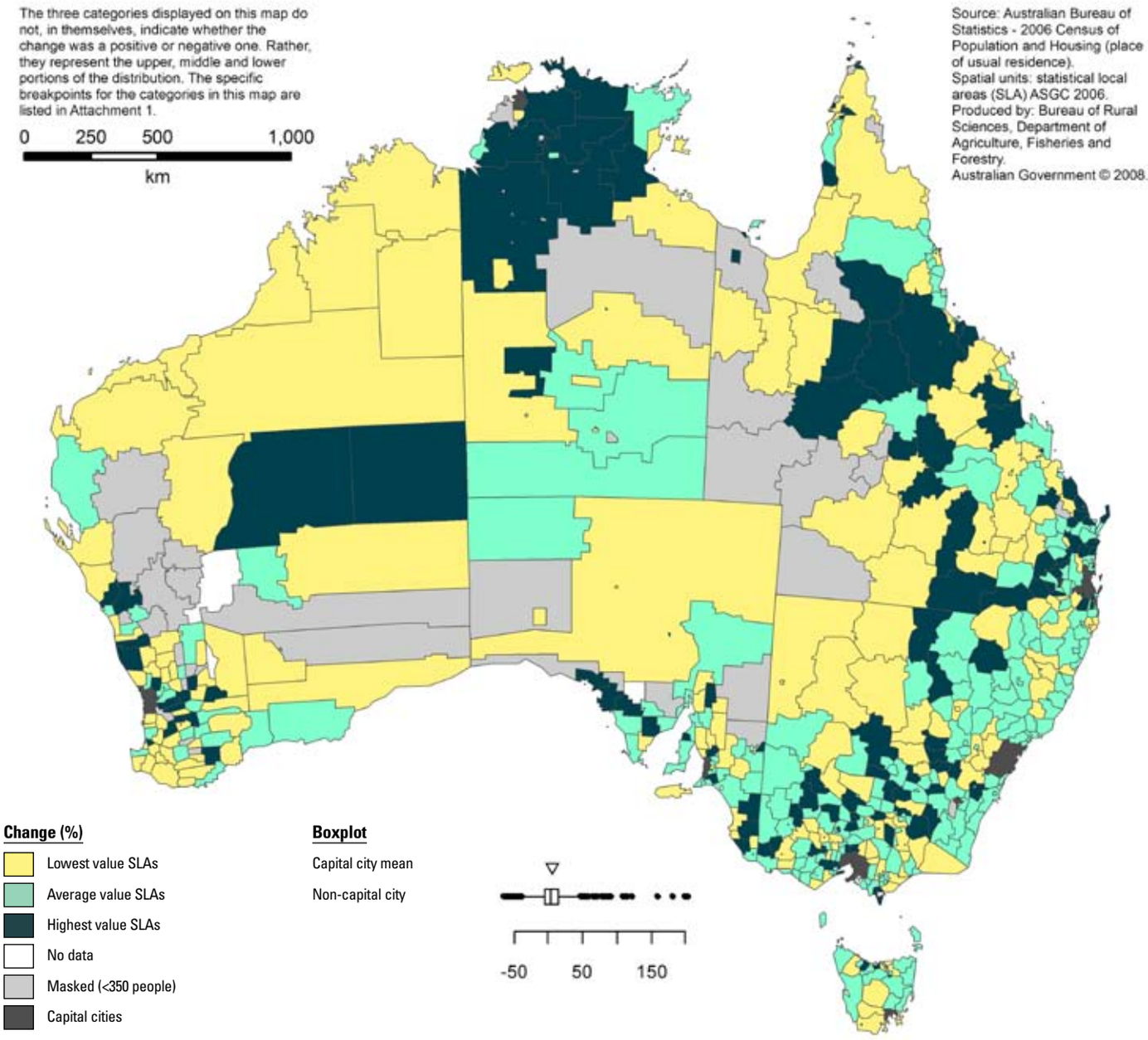
Low concentrations of one-parent families occur in rural areas throughout Australia and in areas that have older-age population profiles. The lowest proportions of one-parent families are in the rural areas of Warroo west of Brisbane (1.7%), Kent (1.8%) and Lake Grace (2.5%) both near Esperance in Western Australia, Kondinin in southwest Western Australia (2.4%), Victoria Plains north of Perth (2.5%), Unincorp in the far west of New South Wales (3%), and Peak Downs west of Townsville in Queensland (3.3%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High proportions of one-parent families occur in remote communities, particularly those in central Australia. However, Cherbourg west of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland had the highest proportion of one-parent families in non-remote Australia (44.6%). Other high proportions are in Garbutt in Townsville (24%), and Cairns Central (22.5%) both in Queensland, and Bendigo Central in Victoria (18.7%).

MAP 64 Change in the number of one-parent families, 2001–06

Change in the number of one-parent families with dependent children under 15 years, or students aged 15 to 24



Between 2001 and 2006, the number of one-parent families increased by 5.6%. Over the ten years to 2006, the numbers increased by 21.5%.

Increases were highest in major urban centres (the number increasing by 7.7%), small towns (2.7% %), and regional centres (2.5%), with a decrease recorded for rural areas (decreasing by 1.9%).

Lowest value of change SLAs

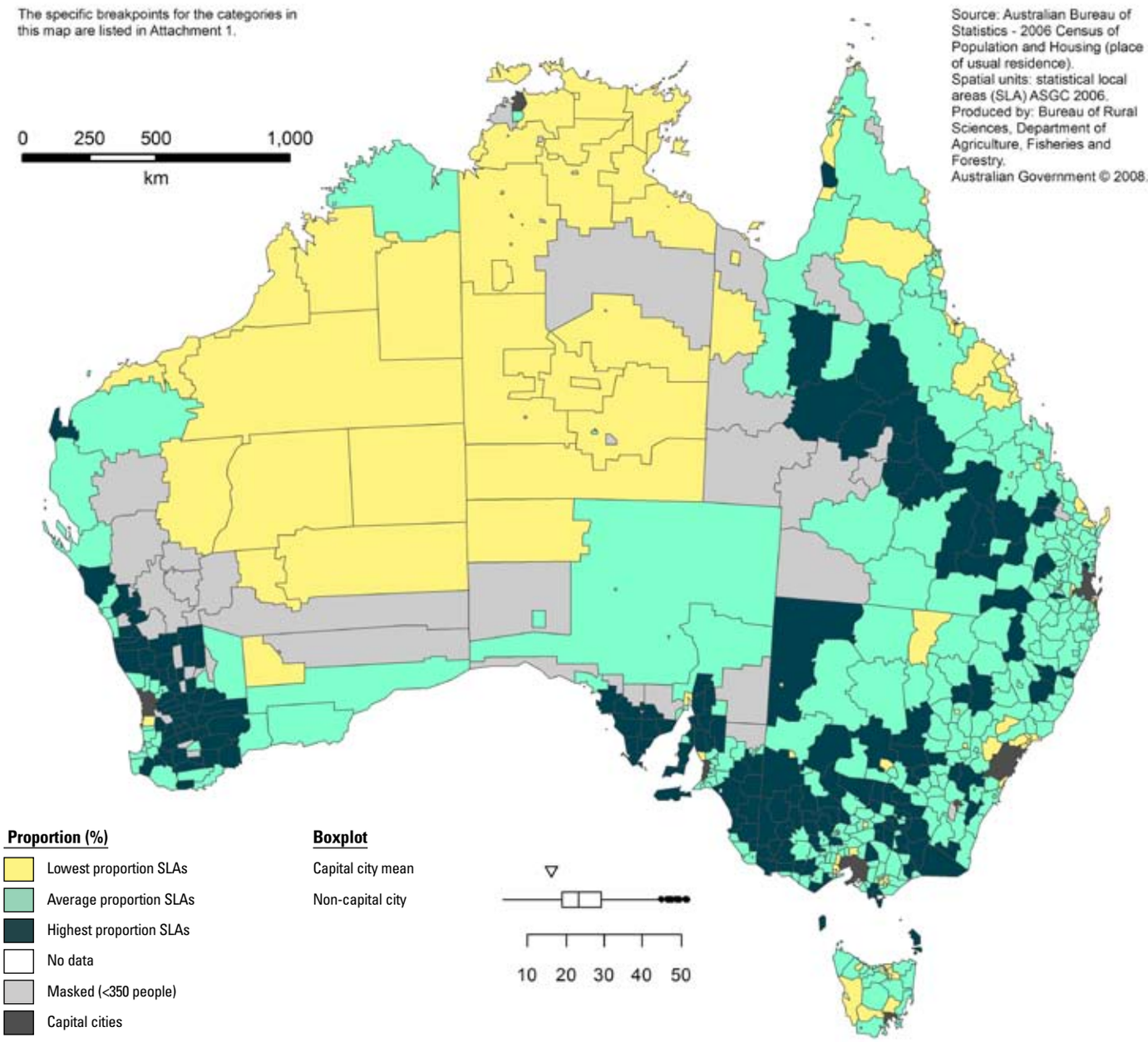
The number of one-parent families decreased in most parts of inland and remote parts of Australia, associated with the declining population. Many remote areas experienced large decreases (greater than 20% in the number of one-parent families).

Highest value of change SLAs

Increases in the number of one-parent families occurred mainly on coastal eastern Australia and around Perth. The largest increases occurred in a number of remote communities. Other areas to experience large growth were in the high-population growth areas, including Pacific Pines-Gaven on the Gold Coast in Queensland which experienced a 203.9% growth in the number of one-parent households, Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia (159%), and Pittsworth west of Brisbane (71.7%).

MAP 65 People undertaking voluntary work, 2006

Proportion of people aged 15 and over who have undertaken voluntary work in the 12 months before the 2006 census



Voluntary work is that undertaken by people aged 15 years or older in the 12 months prior to the Census and includes work done on both an irregular and regular basis for services, clubs, organisations or associations.

In 2006, 19.8% of people had contributed to voluntary work. The highest proportion of volunteering occurs by people in rural areas (27.9%), followed by small towns (26.6%), regional centres (22.7%), and is the lowest in major urban centres (17.6%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

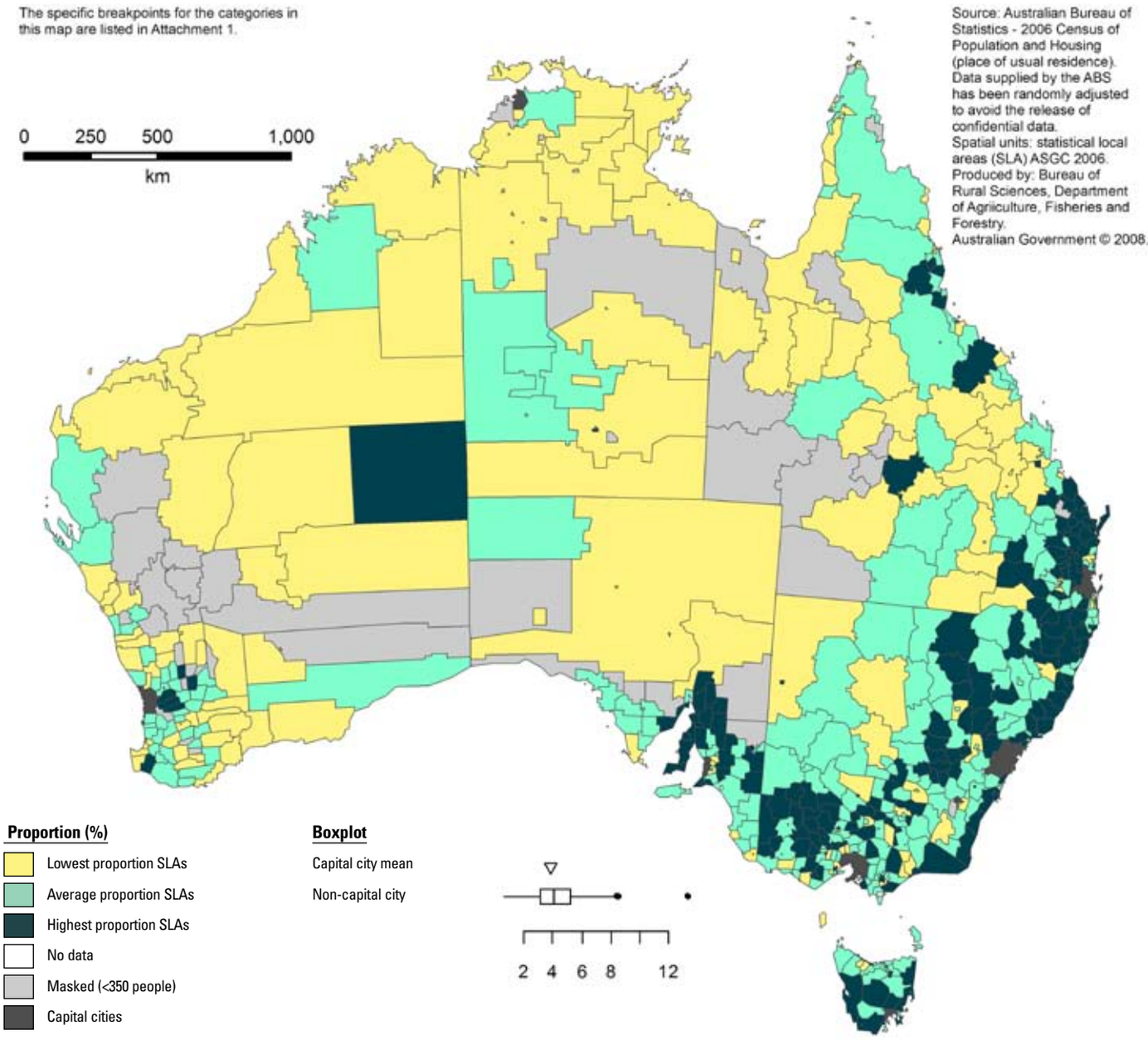
Low proportions of people volunteering occurred throughout remote areas. However, there are also areas with low proportions (less than 20.0%) in areas surrounding Sydney, Perth, around the Sunshine Coast, Hervey Bay and Townsville in Queensland, and parts of Tasmania. Examples include a number of Surfers Paradise areas (less than 13.0%) and Garbutt in Cairns (11.8%) both in Queensland, Greater Geelong in Victoria (13.3%), Shellharbour on the south coast of New South Wales (13.3%), and Cessnock in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales (13.9%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels of people volunteering occurred throughout country areas, particularly throughout the Mallee in northeast Victoria, the areas northeast and east of Perth, north of Adelaide and throughout the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, and some parts of central Queensland. The highest levels of volunteering occurred in areas in the Torres Strait (greater than 57.0%), Mount Marshall in inland Western Australia (51.7%), Kimba (51.3%) and Cleve (49.8%) both on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, and Yarriambiack North in the Wimmera in Victoria (47.9%).

MAP 66 People providing care to people with a disability, 2006

Proportion of people providing care in the two weeks prior to the census



An estimated 4.4% of the population provided unpaid assistance to people with a disability in Australia.

People in regional centres provided the highest proportion of unpaid assistance to people with a disability (5.3%), followed by people in small towns (5%), major urban centres (4.3%), and rural areas (3.4%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

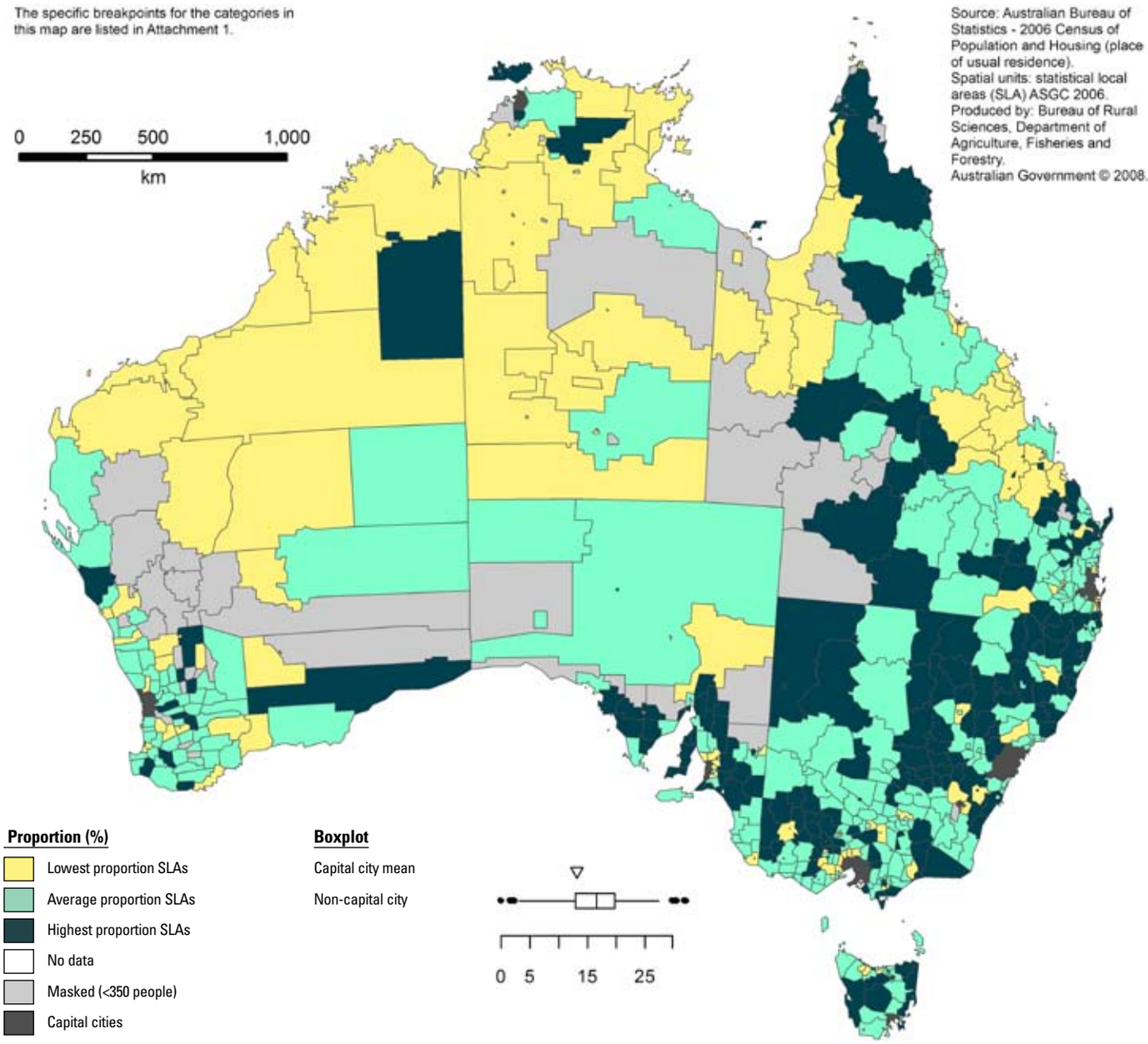
Low levels of unpaid assistance to people with a disability mostly occurred in remote areas and in inland Queensland. The areas with the lowest proportion of providing care included Ashburton in the Pilbara of Western Australia (with only 0.7%), Nebo inland from Bowen in Queensland (0.7%) and Peak Downs near Emerald in central Queensland (0.8%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels of care occurred throughout the Mallee and Wimmera in Victoria, the north coast of New South Wales, around Adelaide, and around Hervey Bay in Queensland. The highest levels of care for people with a disability were in Pallarenda-Shelley Beach near Townsville in north Queensland (13.3%); Kolan (8.3%) and Hervey Bay (7.8%) both north of Brisbane; and the areas of Nanango west of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland (8.5%), Peterborough north of Adelaide (8.4%), and Mount Morgan near Gladstone in Queensland (8.4%).

MAP 67 Low-income households, 2006

The proportion of households receiving a total weekly income of $350 or less



Low-income households are those that have a household income of less than $350 per week.

In 2006, 16.3% of all households were low-income households.

The highest proportion of low-income households were in small towns (20.6%), followed by regional centres (19.6%), major urban centres (15.2%), and rural areas (14.8%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

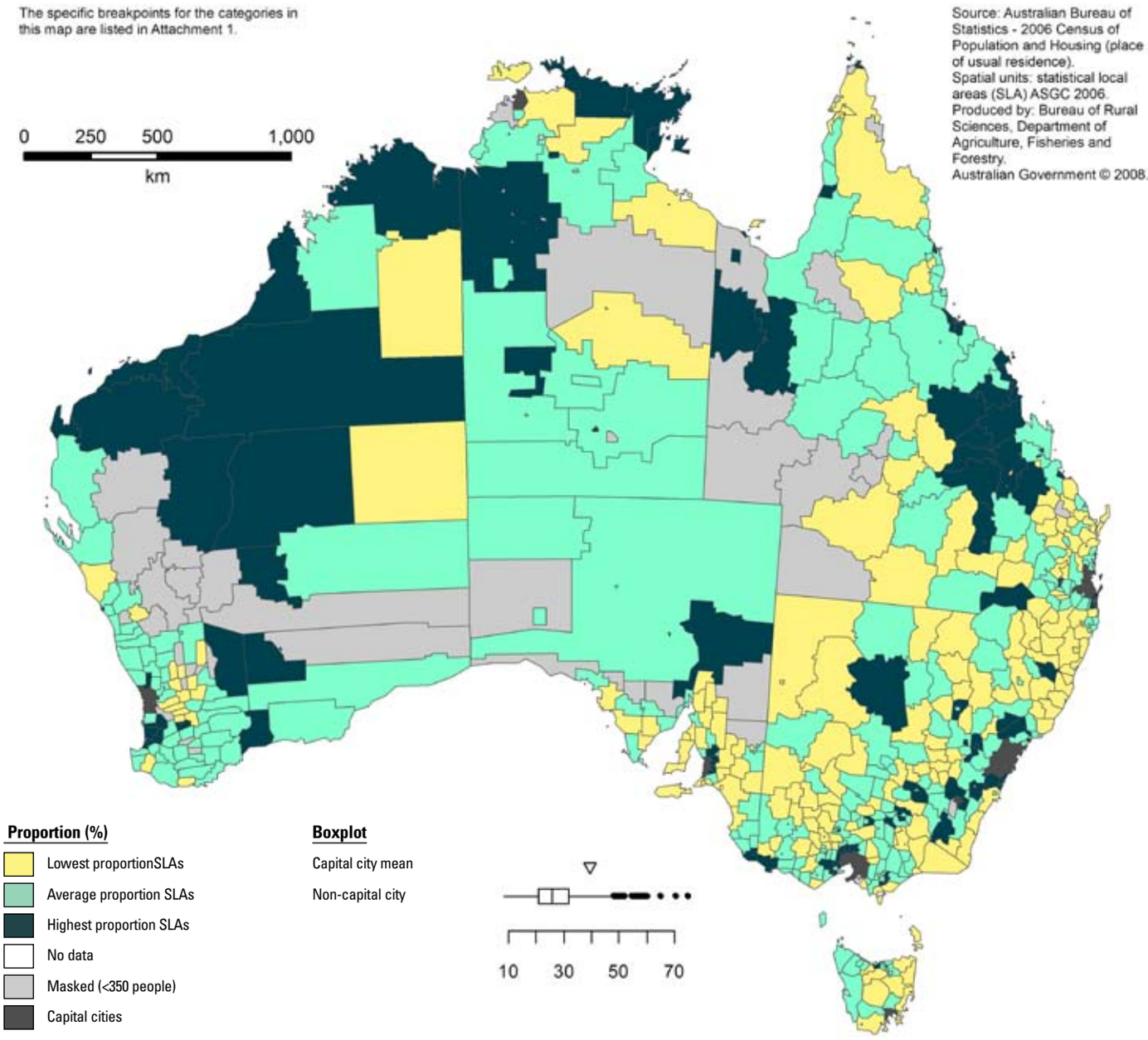
Low income is a major indicator of social disadvantage. Low proportions of people with low income are located in areas with high levels of employment. The lowest proportions of low-income households are in the resource and mining areas of Weipa on the Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria (1.6%), Jabiru east of Darwin (3.0%), and East Pilbara in northwest Western Australia (3.1%). The other areas with low proportions of low-income households are in the remote areas of Roxby Downs in central South Australia (1.7%), Doomadgee on the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland (1.9%), and Groote Eylandt on the Gulf of Carpentaria in the Northern Territory (2.0%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High proportions of low-income households can be in the areas with poverty and social disadvantage, but also occur in the areas with high levels of retired people. They are mainly located in rural areas throughout western New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, the north coast of New South Wales, southern South Australia and Tasmania. The highest proportions of low-income households are in Cooper Pedy in central South Australia (32.3%), Mount Morgan near Gladstone in Queensland (30.7%), Peterborough north of Adelaide (30.0%). Mount Alexander-Castlemaine (26.7%) and Loddon-South (25.9%) both near Bendigo in Victoria, and Nambucca on the north coast of New South Wales (25.9%) also had high proportions of low-income households.

MAP 68 High-income households, 2006

The proportion of households receiving a total weekly income of $1,200 or more



High-income households are those that had a household income of more than $1200 per week.

In 2006, 39.6% of all households were high-income households.

The highest proportion of high-income households is in major urban centres (43.2%), followed by rural areas (36.6%), and regional centres (31.3%), and is lowest in small towns (26.8%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

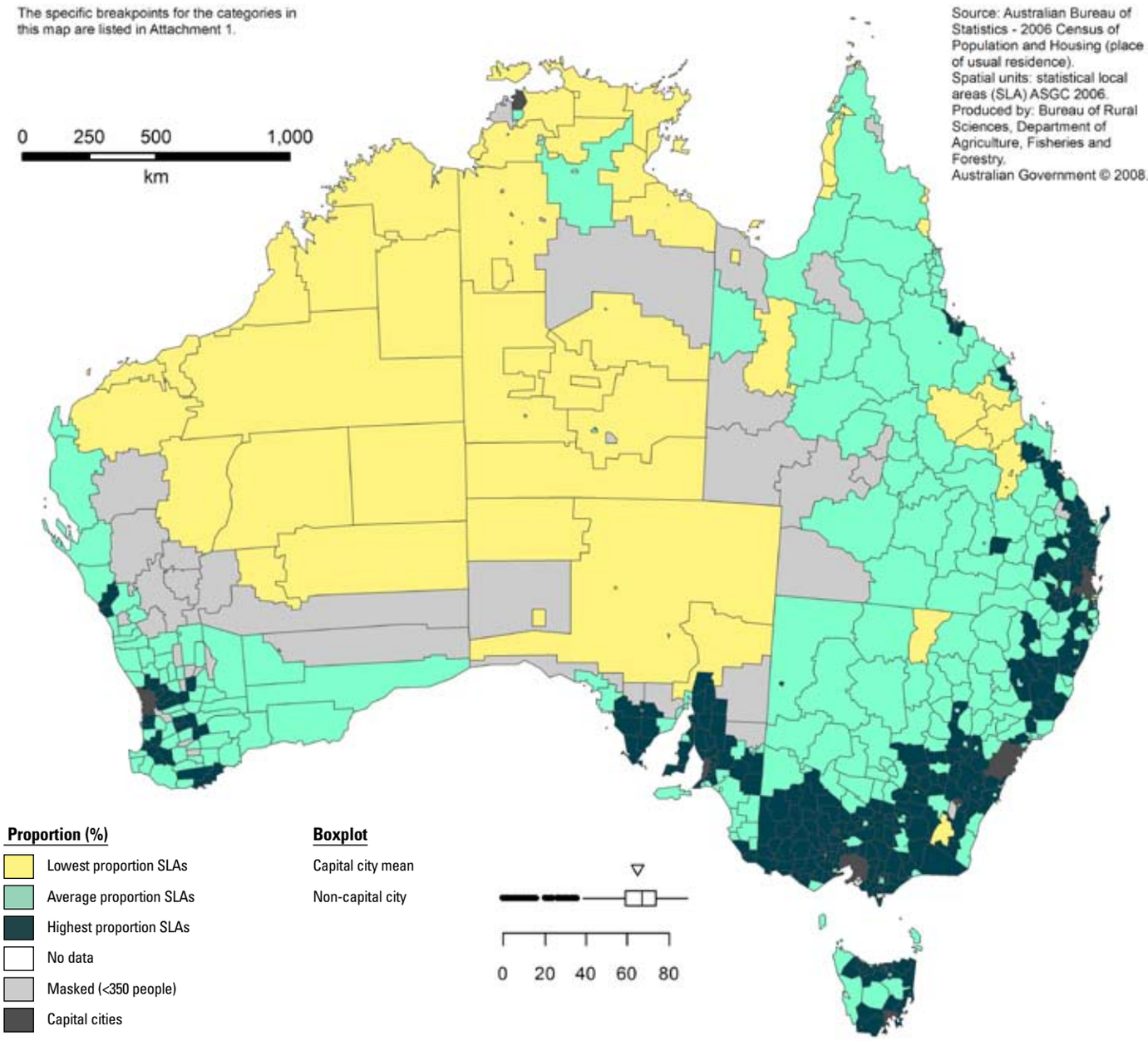
Low proportions of people with high income are located in areas of low levels of prosperity, but also in areas that have high numbers of retired people. These are located throughout rural areas, the Mallee in northwest Victoria, the north coast of New South Wales, the Sunshine Coast in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Highest proportion SLAs

High income is a major indicator of social advantage. High proportions of high-income households are located in a number of areas around capital cities, regional centres, around Mackay in Queensland, and the Pilbara in northwest Western Australia. High proportions of high income households are also in some remote areas, particularly those associated with mining and resource industries, eg Roxby Downs in central South Australia (with 74.9% of its households with high income), Ashburton (70.7%) and Roebourne (65.2%) both in the Pilbara in Western Australia, Nhulunbuy on the Gulf of Carpentaria in the Northern Territory (70.3%), Weipa on the Gulf of Carpentaria in Queensland (64.9%), and Mount Isa in central Queensland (51.9%).

MAP 69 Home ownership, 2006

Proportion of occupied private dwellings fully owned or being purchased



In 2006, there were 4,926,000 dwellings that were fully owned or being purchased in Australia, 64.9% of all dwellings. This is lower than the 66.2% in 2001, and 66.4% in 1996.

Rural areas had the highest proportion of home ownership (76.2%), followed by small towns (69.4%), regional centres and major urban centres (both 63.6%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

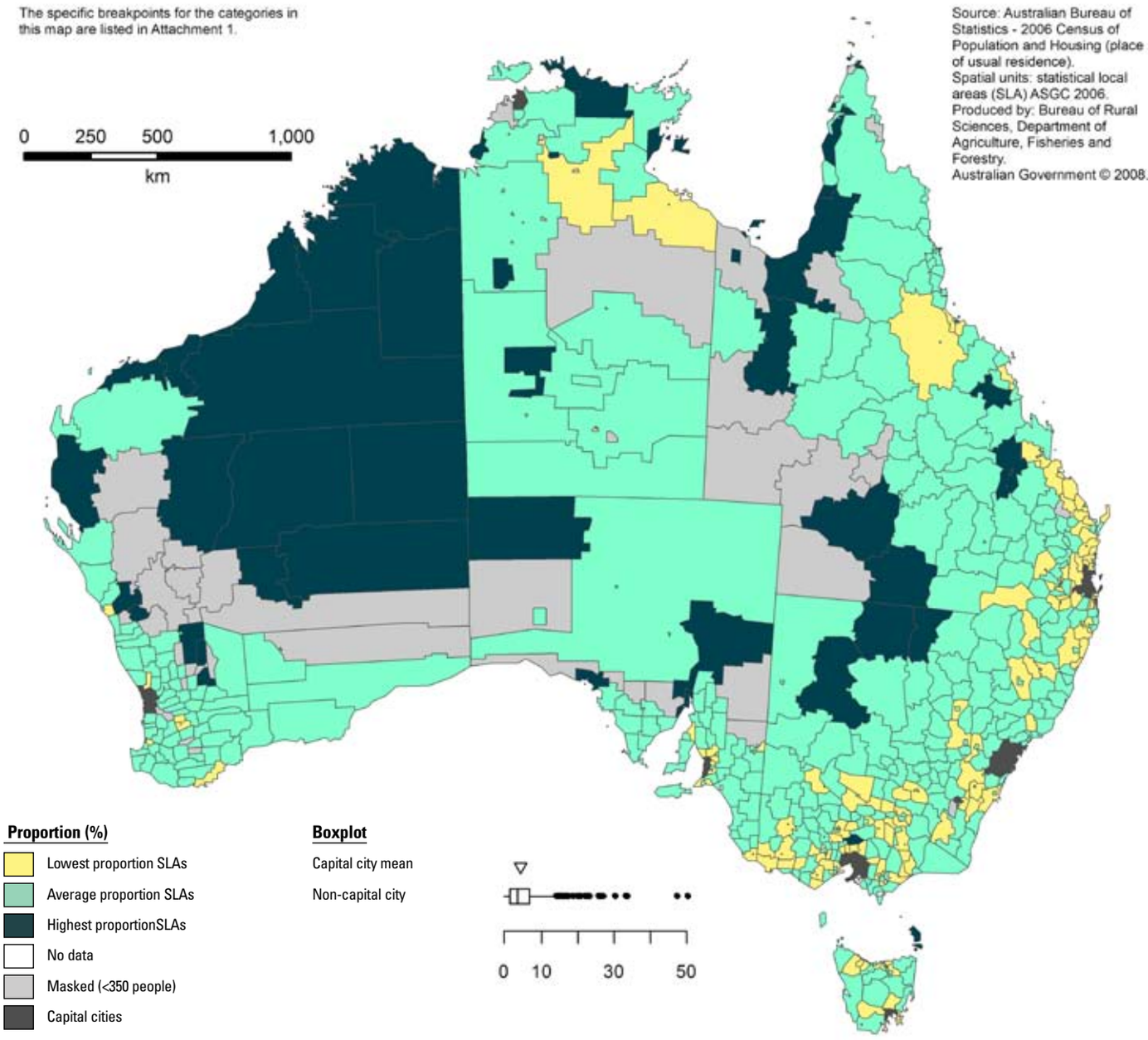
Low levels of home ownership occur in most remote areas of Australia (some areas have less than 5% home ownership), and around Mackay in Queensland, including Nebo (20.3%), Broadsound (39.7%), and Peak Downs (34.4%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels of home ownership occur along the coastal regions where there is an older-age profile and retired people. It occurs in southeast New South Wales, most of Victoria, around Adelaide, Perth, and parts of Tasmania. The highest level occurred in Livingstone near Mackay in Queensland (89.1% of households were owned), Greater Bendigo — S'saye in Victoria (88.5%), Golden Plains — North-West surrounding Bendigo in Victoria (88.5%), and Latrobe east of Melbourne (87.7%); Jondaryan (87.0%) and Crow's Nest (85.7%) both west of Brisbane, Golden Plains — South-East near Geelong in Victoria (86.7%), the Adelaide Hills on the outskirts of Adelaide (85.4%), and Woocoo near Hervey Bay in Queensland (84.6%).

MAP 70 Rented dwellings — government owned, 2006

Proportion of occupied private dwellings owned by government and rented out



In 2006, 4.4% of all dwellings were rented from government authorities in Australia. This is lower than 2001 (5.0%) and 1996 (5.7%).

Regional centres had the highest proportion of dwellings that were rented from government authorities (5.8%), followed by major urban centres (4.4%), small towns (3.8%), and rural areas (0.7%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

Low levels of people in government-rented dwellings tend to occur in areas with fewer public housing properties. These are located in various areas throughout Victoria, eastern parts of New South Wales and coastal Queensland.

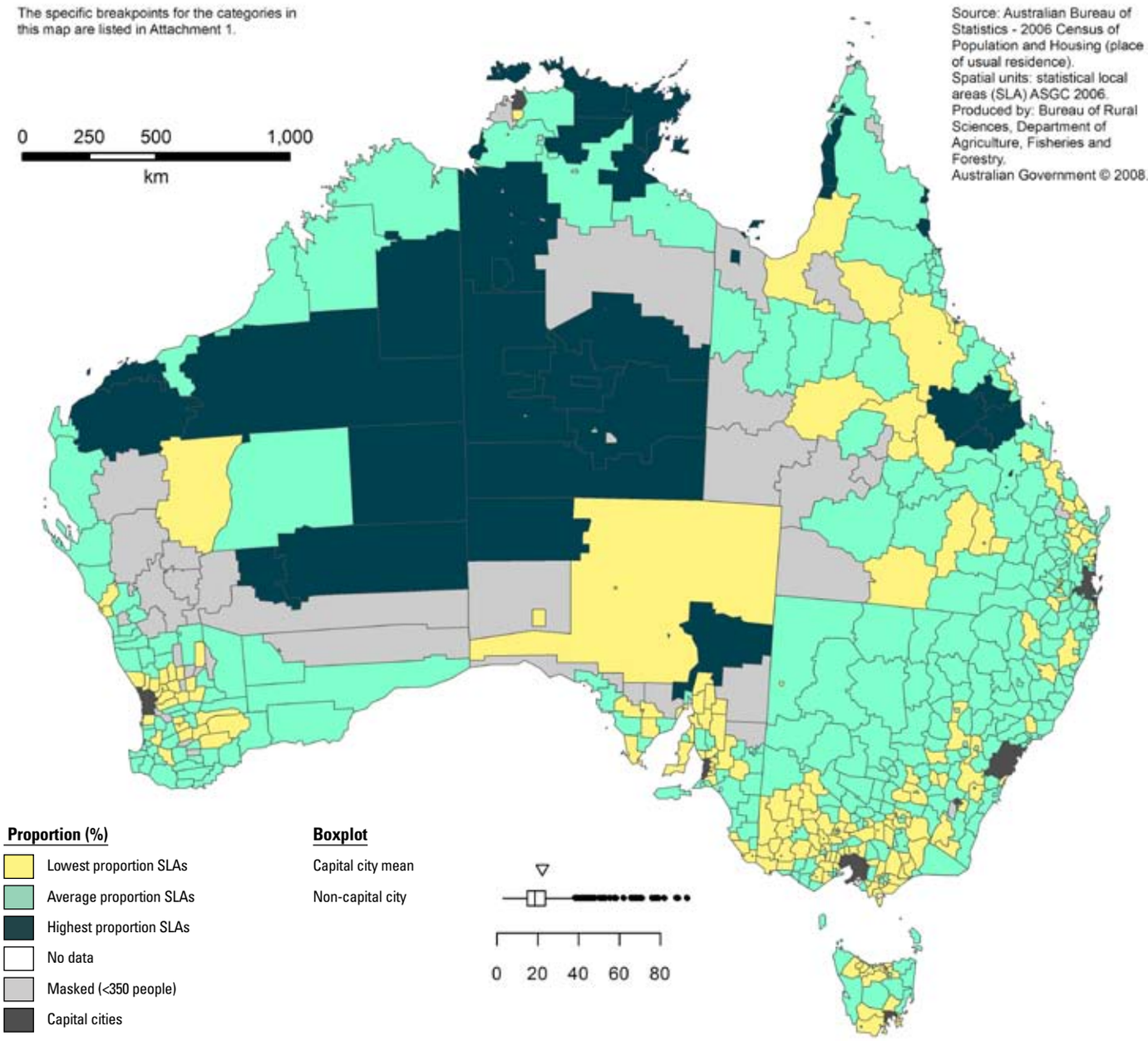
The lowest levels (less than 1.0%) were on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Palerang to the east of Canberra, Conargo in southern New South Wales, and the Adelaide Hills on the outskirts of Adelaide.

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels of government-rented tenure occur in some remote communities, a number with greater than 20.0%, and over 50.0% in the Torres Strait Islands.

MAP 71 Rented dwellings — privately owned, 2006

Proportion of occupied private dwellings owned privately and rented out



In 2006, 21.9% of all dwellings were privately rented in Australia. This is similar to 2001 and 1996 (22%).

Regional centres had the highest proportion of dwellings that were privately rented (22.2%), followed by major urban centres (23.1%), small towns (18.4%), and lowest in rural areas (only 13.2%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

Low levels of people in privately rented dwellings occur in areas where there are low levels of home ownership and low numbers of people in public housing. This occurs throughout Victoria, southwest Western Australia, South Australia, and parts of Queensland and Tasmania.

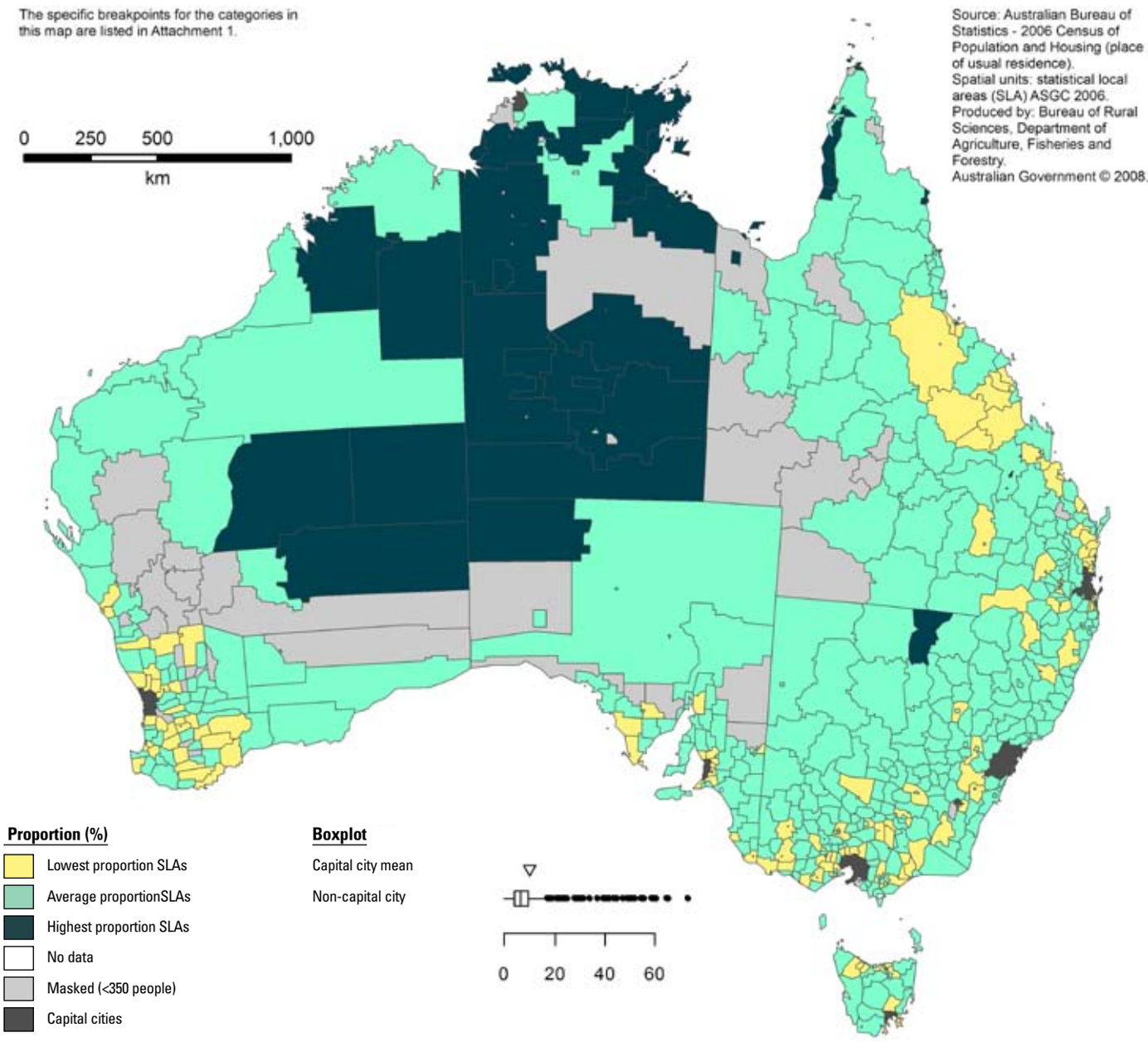
The lowest proportion of people renting privately is in remote areas. Other areas include Townsville in Queensland (7.4%), Latrobe east of Melbourne (6.3%), Greater Bendigo — S'saye around Bendigo in Victoria (7.9%), and the Yarra Ranges on the outskirts of Melbourne (7.9%).

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels of people renting privately occur in a number of remote communities (many with greater than 60.0% of dwellings rented privately), and parts of the Hunter Valley in New South Wales, around Mackay in Queensland, and northwest Western Australia.

MAP 72 Dwellings with no motor vehicle, 2006

Proportion of all occupied private dwellings without motor vehicle



In 2006, 10.0% of all occupied private dwellings did not own a motor vehicle, compared to 10.7% in 2001, and 12.3% in 1996.

The proportion of households without a motor vehicle was largest in major urban centres (11.2%), followed by regional centres (9.4%), small towns (8.2%), and rural areas (only 2.8%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

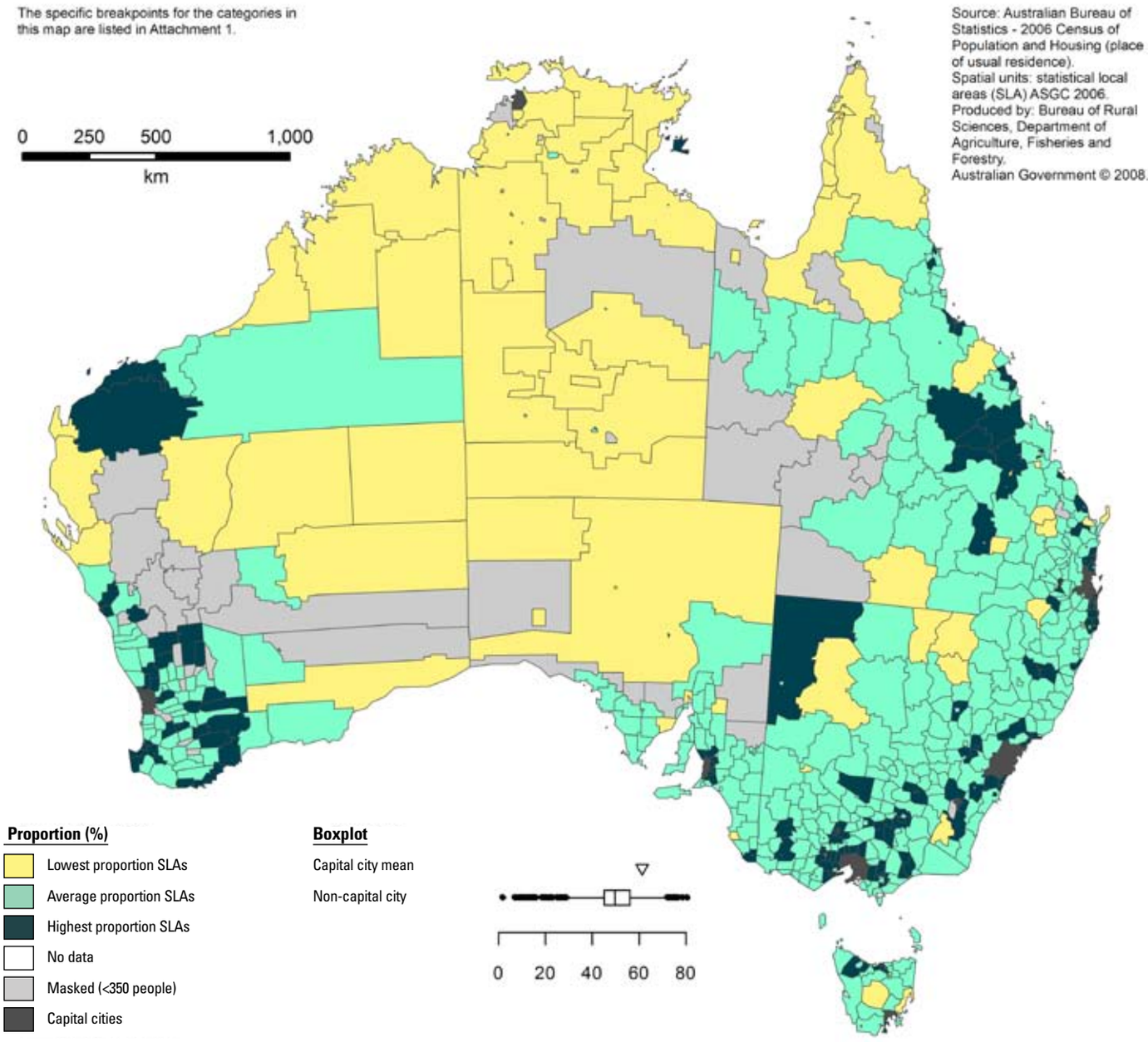
The proportion of people who have no access to a car in the household was lowest in country areas in Victoria, coastal Queensland, and areas surrounding Adelaide and Perth. Access to cars is less on the north and south coast of New South Wales, and decreases into the remote parts of Australia. Less than 1.0% of households had access to a car in Narrogin and Capel both in Western Australia, Conargo in southern New South Wales, Latrobe east of Melbourne, Rosalie west of Brisbane, Livingstone near Mackay in Queensland, Greater Bendigo — S'saye around Bendigo in Victoria, Jondaryan west of Brisbane, Greater Geelong in Victoria, Greenough north of Perth, and East Gippsland — South-West in eastern Victoria.

Highest proportion SLAs

High proportions of households with no access to a car occur in remote communities, particularly those in the Torres Strait and Tiwi Islands.

MAP 73 Households with access to the internet at home, 2006

Proportion of all occupied private dwellings with access to the internet



There has been significant growth in the number of households connected to the internet, increasing from 35.0% of dwellings in 2001 to 63.0% in 2006.

Access to the internet was highest in major urban centres (66.1% of dwellings, increasing by 25.1% since 2001) and rural areas (63.5% of dwellings, increasing by 28.5%). Access was lower in regional centres (54.8%, increasing by 26%) and small towns (51.3%, increasing by 26.9%).

Lowest proportion SLAs

The areas with the lowest proportion of people in households who have access to the internet are in remote parts of Australia (many with less than 30.0% of households with access). Areas with between 30.0% and the non-capital-city average of 47.0% access to the internet occur in western New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, but also in a number of the more closely settled areas, such as Coolangatta on the Gold Coast (32.3%), Eidsvold west of Hervey Bay (35.5%), and Garbutt near Townsville (35.8%) all in Queensland; Swan Hill-Robinvale in northern Victoria (36.3%), Goldfields-Maryborough near Ballarat in Victoria (37.2%); and Cairns City (38.3%), Bowen (38.9%), and Hervey Bay (40.2%), all in Queensland.

Highest proportion SLAs

High levels of connection to the internet generally occur in areas closer to the larger population centres. Above-average rates of connection are in southwest Western Australia, southern Victoria, along the Hume Highway to Sydney, the north and south coast of New South Wales; around Brisbane, Rockhampton and Mackay in Queensland; and Adelaide. The highest access (greater than 75.0%) is in Murray near Townsville in Queensland, Capel near Bunbury in Western Australia, Gr. Bendigo (C) — S'saye in Victoria; Pacific Pines-Gaven, Hope Island, Wolffdene-Bahrs Scrub, and Currumbin Valley-Tallebudgera on the Gold Coast; Crow's Nest west of Brisbane, Douglas near Cairns, all in Queensland; and Nhulunbuy on the Northern Territory Gulf of Carpentaria.

ATTACHMENTS

COUNTRY MATTERS

2008 SOCIAL ATLAS OF RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1: CLASS INTERVALS (BREAKPOINTS) USED FOR EACH MAP

Map no.	Map title	Range of lowest category	Range of average category	Range of highest category	Data description
1	Population density, 2006	0.0 to 0.6	0.7 to 3.5	3.6 to 3338.6	Population density (people per sq. km)
2	Population change, 2001–06	-91.8 to 0.6	0.7 to 8.3	8.4 to 152.5	Change (%)
3	Children, 2006	0.0 to 19.5	19.6 to 24.6	24.7 to 45.3	Proportion (%)
4	Change in the number of children, 2001–06	-100.0 to -7.8	-7.7 to 3.2	3.3 to 345.5	Change (%)
5	Young people, 2006	0.0 to 10.2	10.3 to 14.1	14.2 to 55.6	Proportion (%)
6	Change in the number of young people, 2001–06	-72.2 to -0.3	-0.2 to 10.6	10.7 to 196.4	Change (%)
7	People of prime working age, 2006	0.0 to 23.9	24.0 to 28.4	28.5 to 56.9	Proportion (%)
8	Change in the number of people of prime working age, 2001–06	-100.0 to -8.9	-8.8 to 0.2	0.3 to 144.4	Change (%)
9	People of older working age, 2006	0.0 to 23.8	23.9 to 29.1	29.2 to 49.9	Proportion (%)
10	Change in the number of people of older working age, 2001–06	-100.0 to 12.7	12.8 to 21.3	21.4 to 174.1	Change (%)
11	People of working age, 2006	52.0 to 62.6	62.7 to 67.2	67.3 to 92.2	Proportion (%)
12	Change in the number of people of working age, 2001–06	-94.2 to 1.0	1.1 to 8.9	9.0 to 153.1	Change (%)
13	People aged 65 to 74, 2006	0.0 to 5.7	5.8 to 8.8	8.9 to 44.4	Proportion (%)
14	Change in the number of people aged 65 to 74, 2001–06	-100.0 to 8.9	9.0 to 23.9	24.0 to 266.7	Change (%)
15	People aged 75 and over, 2006	0.0 to 4.0	4.1 to 7.2	7.3 to 18.0	Proportion (%)
16	Change in the number of people aged 75 and over, 2001–06	-100.0 to 12.5	12.6 to 31.2	31.3 to 325.0	Change (%)
17	Median age of the total population, 2006	18.3 to 35.0	35.1 to 41.3	41.4 to 54.4	Proportion (%)
18	Change in median age of the total population, 2001–06	-13.3 to 1.8	1.9 to 2.9	3.0 to 29.9	Change (%)
19	Total dependency ratio, 2006	8.4 to 49.5	49.6 to 60.0	60.1 to 92.4	Ratio
20	Older age dependency ratio, 2006	0.0 to 15.4	15.5 to 25.3	25.4 to 80.0	Ratio
21	Child dependency ratio, 2006	0.0 to 29.7	29.8 to 38.9	39.0 to 85.3	Ratio
22	Total sex ratio, 2006	77.4 to 98.1	98.2 to 111.0	111.1 to 210.8	Ratio
23	Older age sex ratio, 2006	0.0 to 82.4	82.5 to 122.3	122.4 to 400.0	Ratio
24	Young people sex ratio, 2006	0.0 to 97.5	97.6 to 128.1	128.2 to 375.0	Ratio
25	Indigenous population, 2006	0.0 to 5.0	5.1 to 26.0	26.1 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
26	Change in the number of Indigenous people, 2001–06	-100.0 to 11.8	11.9 to 32.9	33.0 to 433.3	Change (%)
27	Recent arrivals to Australia, 2006	0.0 to 0.5	0.6 to 2.0	2.1 to 9.5	Proportion (%)
28	Fluency in English, 2006	0.0 to 0.3	0.4 to 1.4	1.5 to 82.1	Proportion (%)
29	Labour force participation, 2006	19.7 to 59.4	59.5 to 69.1	69.2 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
30	Change in labour force participation, 2001–06	-31.8 to 0.3	0.4 to 2.5	2.6 to 33.0	Change (%)
31	Mature-age labour force participation, 2006	20.0 to 48.9	49.0 to 60.3	60.4 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
32	Change in mature-age labour force participation, 2001–06	-34.1 to 1.7	1.8 to 4.2	4.3 to 50.0	Change (%)
33	Young people labour force participation, 2006	0.0 to 59.4	59.5 to 71.5	71.6 to 100.0	Proportion (%)

ATTACHMENT 1: CLASS INTERVALS (BREAKPOINTS) USED FOR EACH MAP

Map no.	Map title	Range of lowest category	Range of average category	Range of highest category	Data description
34	Change in young people labour force participation, 2001–06	-34.5 to 0.8	0.9 to 4.7	4.8 to 51.8	Change (%)
35	Participation of mothers who had dependent children (or students) in the labour force, 2006	0.0 to 60.8	60.9 to 71.9	72.0 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
36	Change in the participation of mothers who had dependent children (or students) in the labour force, 2001–06	-38.5 to 2.9	3.0 to 6.8	6.9 to 60.0	Change (%)
37	Unemployment rate, 2006	0.0 to 2.1	2.2 to 4.2	4.3 to 36.7	Proportion (%)
38	Change in the unemployment rate, 2001–06	-17.6 to -3.0	-2.9 to -0.9	-0.8 to 58.4	Change (%)
39	Young people unemployment rate, 2006	0.0 to 4.3	4.4 to 8.0	8.1 to 37.7	Proportion (%)
40	Change in young people unemployment rate, 2001–06	-50.0 to -5.4	-5.3 to -1.7	-1.6 to 55.0	Change (%)
41	Mature-age unemployment rate, 2006	0.0 to 1.1	1.2 to 2.5	2.6 to 20.0	Proportion (%)
42	Change in mature-age unemployment rate, 2001–06	-17.2 to -2.4	-2.3 to -0.5	-0.4 to 55.6	Change (%)
43	People who travelled to work by car, 2006	0.0 to 64.9	65.0 to 84.6	84.7 to 94.8	Proportion (%)
44	People who travelled to work by public transport, 2006	0.0 to 0.3	0.4 to 3.4	3.5 to 27.2	Proportion (%)
45	Industry employment variance, 2006	28.1 to 43.9	44.0 to 57.6	57.7 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
46	Natural resource dependency, 2006	0.0 to 10.1	10.2 to 27.2	27.3 to 80.8	Proportion (%)
47	People with a bachelor degree or higher qualification, 2006	0.0 to 6.6	6.7 to 10.7	10.8 to 31.0	Proportion (%)
48	Change in the number of people with a bachelor degree or higher qualification, 2001–06	-100.0 to 20.7	20.8 to 38.1	38.2 to 266.7	Change (%)
49	People with vocational qualifications, 2006	0.0 to 20.2	20.3 to 25.5	25.6 to 39.0	Proportion (%)
50	Change in the number of people with vocational qualifications, 2001–06	-100.0 to 20.2	20.3 to 43.9	44.0 to 450.0	Change (%)
51	People without post-school qualifications, 2006	25.2 to 50.5	50.6 to 59.2	59.3 to 93.9	Proportion (%)
52	Change in the number of people without post-school qualifications, 2001–06	-88.5 to -10.3	-10.2 to 2.7	2.8 to 481.3	Change (%)
53	16 year-olds in full time education, 2006	0.0 to 59.2	59.3 to 82.7	82.8 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
54	Change in the number of 16 year-olds in full time education, 2001–06	-100.0 to -8.1	-8.0 to 13.6	13.7 to 366.7	Change (%)
55	Average household size, 2006	1.0 to 2.3	2.4 to 3.0	3.1 to 7.1	Proportion (%)
56	Change in average household size, 2001–06	-2.2 to -0.2	-0.1 to -0.1	0.0 to 2.5	Change (%)
57	One-person households, 2006	0.0 to 21.0	21.1 to 28.2	28.3 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
58	Change in the number of one-person households, 2001–06	-100.0 to 4.3	4.4 to 16.6	16.7 to 166.7	Change (%)
59	Couples with dependent children, 2006	0.0 to 32.6	32.7 to 39.5	39.6 to 60.4	Proportion (%)
60	Change in the number of couples with dependent children, 2001–06	-100.0 to -8.9	-8.8 to 1.6	1.7 to 188.9	Change (%)
61	Double income, no kids (DINKs), 2006	0.0 to 3.0	3.1 to 5.6	5.7 to 18.4	Proportion (%)

ATTACHMENT 1: CLASS INTERVALS (BREAKPOINTS) USED FOR EACH MAP

Map no.	Map title	Range of lowest category	Range of average category	Range of highest category	Data description
62	Change in the number of double income, no kids (DINKs), 2001–06	-100.0 to -3.1	-3.0 to 18.4	18.5 to 333.3	Change (%)
63	One-parent families, 2006	0.0 to 8.2	8.3 to 14.4	14.5 to 44.6	Proportion (%)
64	Change in the number of one-parent families, 2001–06	-100.0 to -1.3	-1.2 to 17.6	17.7 to 633.3	Change (%)
65	People undertaking voluntary work, 2006	0.0 to 19.7	19.8 to 29.4	29.5 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
66	People providing care to people with a disability, 2006	0.0 to 3.1	3.2 to 4.8	4.9 to 13.3	Proportion (%)
67	Low-income households, 2006	0.0 to 13.1	13.2 to 19.3	19.4 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
68	High-income households, 2006	0.0 to 21.9	22.0 to 31.7	31.8 to 74.9	Proportion (%)
69	Home ownership, 2006	0.0 to 48.3	48.4 to 70.1	70.2 to 89.1	Proportion (%)
70	Rented dwellings — government owned, 2006	0.0 to 1.5	1.6 to 10.8	10.9 to 93.9	Proportion (%)
71	Rented dwellings — privately owned, 2006	0.0 to 15.1	15.2 to 31.9	32.0 to 100.0	Proportion (%)
72	Dwellings with no motor vehicle, 2006	0.0 to 3.7	3.8 to 17.6	17.7 to 91.4	Proportion (%)
73	Households with access to the internet at home, 2006	0.0 to 40.7	40.8 to 54.6	54.7 to 80.7	Proportion (%)

ATTACHMENT 2: DATA DEFINITION

Overview

The analyses contained in the 2008 Social Atlas are based on data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from the Population Census for 2006, 2001 and 1996. The Population Census is an official count of population and dwellings. It collects detailed information gathered from everyone, including age, sex, and other characteristics of the population. The Census is the most comprehensive collection in Australia for all population groups and for all geographic areas. The date of the 2006 Census was Tuesday 8th August 2006.

The Atlas has adopted standard ABS geographic classifications for rural and remote areas, and is based on a Place of Usual Residence basis (not Place of Enumeration as used in the previous Atlas). This change will make the Atlas consistent with other analyses using ABS data. The Atlas does not use theAustralian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) non-standard classification for Metropolitan/Non-Metropolitan, Regional Cities, Population Coastal, Populated Inland, and Remote parts of Australia used in the previous Atlas because the classification has not been reviewed or updated.

The analyses are based on a Usual Residence data (the place where a person usually lives, which may not be the place where the person was counted on Census Night). The data were obtained from the 2006 Population Census and the change that has taken place since the 2001 Population Census. Any analyses on longer term change (between 1996 to 2006) has been based on data using Place of Enumeration (the counts people where they were located on Census night).

Statistical Local Area

The Statistical Local Area (SLA) is an Australian Standard Geographical Classification defined area. Fundamentally SLAs are Local Government Areas, or parts thereof. Where there is no incorporated body of local government, SLAs are defined to cover the unincorporated areas. SLAs cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

For example in the Statistical Division of Murray, in the Upper Murray (excluding Albury) Subdivision, there are the following four separate SLAs:

- Corowa Shire (A)
- Greater Hume Shire (A) — Pt B
- Tumbarumba (A)
- Urana (A).

Place of usual residence basis

This is the place where a person usually lives. It may, or may not be the place where the person was counted on Census night. Maps in the Atlas are based on place of usual residence basis.

Section of State

This geographical classification uses population counts to define areas as urban or rural. It provides statistics for urban concentrations and for small towns (bounded localities) and rural (balance) areas. Sections of State categories comprise Major Urban (population clusters of 100 000 or more, including capital cities), Other Urban (population clusters of 1 000 to 99 999), Bounded Locality (200 to 999), Rural Balance (remainder of state/territory) and Migratory.

In this Atlas the following terminology is used for ease of understanding and

Social Atlas terminology	ABS Terminology
Major urban centre	Major Urban
Regional centre	Other Urban
Small towns	Bounded Locality
Rural areas	Rural balance

ATTACHMENT 3: GLOSSARY

This glossary contains information about the technical terms used throughout the 2008 Social Atlas. Information has been mostly sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication, 2006 Census Dictionary (Australian Bureau of Statistics, cat 2901.0, Canberra, 2006).

Annual average population growth rate

Annual rate of population growth averaged over a given period.

ASGC

The Australian Standard Geographic Classification (AGSC) is used by the ABS for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics.

Bal

Refers to the 'Balance' of a Statistical Local Area (SLA), consisting of the predominantly rural areas of a shire outside the urban centre.

Boxplots

Each map (except map 1) includes a boxplot which displays three values. The value for the selected SLA (if any) is shown as a dot on the boxplot. This single value can be compared to the two ranges displayed above it; the Capital City mean value and the Non-Capital City distribution.

Capital City

Capital city is the statistical division of each of the 8 capital cities of Australia.

Children

Population aged 0 to 14 years of age.

Dependent children

Children under 15 years of age, including adopted or foster children, or young people aged 15–24 years living in a family and who are in full-time education, and with no partner or children of their own usually residing in the household.

Dependency ratio

The dependency ratio is a way of measuring the number of dependents aged 0–14 years or 65 and over, compared to the number of people of working age (15–64 years). The total dependency ratio is expressed as the total number of dependent people (0–14 years plus 65 years and over) in a population for each 100 members of the population of working age. The older age dependency ratio is the ratio of those 65 years and older, to those aged 15-64 years, and child dependency ratio is the ratio of people under age 15, to those aged 15 –64.

Double income, no kids

Double income, no kids (DINKs) are people who chose to live in families that consist of couples without dependent children or other relatives in the household. Both partners work at least 25 hours per week and the youngest partner is less than 40 years of age.

Education qualifications

This variable is coded using the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), Level of Education Classification. It describes the level of a person's highest completed non-school qualification into Postgraduate Degree Level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level, Bachelor Degree Level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level and Certificate Level.

Employed persons

People aged 15 years and over who, during the week before Census night, worked for payment or profit for 35 hours or more (full-time), or less than 35 hours in all jobs (part-time) or as unpaid workers in a family business, or who had a job from which they were on leave or otherwise temporarily absent.

English language proficiency

People who reported in the Census that they spoke a language other than English at home, were also asked how well they spoke English.

Fertility

The total fertility rate is the sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per female population of that age). It represents the number of children a female would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.

Home ownership

The proportion of occupied private dwellings that are either owned outright or being purchased.

Household

Refers to two or more related or unrelated people who usually reside in the same dwelling and make common provision for food and other essentials for living; or a person living alone (single person household).

Indigenous

These are persons who identified themselves as being of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Industry employment variance

Calculated by ranking the industries by the number of persons employed, from highest to lowest. Rank one is assigned to the industry with the highest employment, rank two to the next highest and so on. Industries with ranks one to three are identified as the three main industries. The sum of the number of persons employed in three main industries is divided by the total number of persons employed, multiplied by 100.

ATTACHMENT 3: GLOSSARY

Labour force

The labour force includes people aged 15 years and over who:

- work for payment or profit, or as an unpaid helper in a family business, during the week prior to Census Night;
- have a job from which they are on leave or otherwise temporarily absent;
- are on strike or stood down temporarily; or
- do not have a job but are actively looking for work and available to start work.

Employed people (the first three groups above), and unemployed people (the last group above), are classified as being in the labour force.

People aged 15 years and over who are neither employed nor unemployed are classified as not in the labour force. This includes people who are retired, pensioners and people engaged solely in home duties.

Labour force participation rate

The labour force participation rate is defined as the labour force (persons employed or unemployed) expressed as a percentage of the population.

Median age

The median age is the age at which half the population is older, and half is younger.

Occupied private dwellings

A dwelling is a structure which is intended to have people live in it, and which is habitable on Census night. Some examples of dwellings are houses, motels, flats, caravans, prisons, tents, humpies and houseboats. Private dwellings are enumerated using household forms, which obtain family and relationship data.

One-parent families

A one-parent family consists of a lone parent with at least one child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household and who has no identified partner or child of his/her own. The family may also include any number of other related individuals. Examples of one parent families include:

- a 25-year-old parent with dependent children;
- an 80-year-old living with a 50-year-old child.

A one-parent family with dependents are those with dependent children under 15 years, or students aged 15 to 24.

One-person household

Any private occupied dwelling in which there is only one usual resident at least 15 years of age, is classified as being a one-person household.

Outlier SLAs

One of the continuous areas of interest for the Social Atlas is the extremes — the highest and the lowest values. Often, the SLAs with very small populations show up as the extremes. For example, if there were only four people in an SLA in 2001, and there were five employed in that same SLA in 2006, this shows a 25% increase.

To prevent these very small SLAs from dominating the story in each map 82 SLAs with fewer than 350 people have been masked out in each map. They have been displayed in their own colour. However, information for each area is available.

Place of enumeration counts

The place of enumeration is the place at which the person is counted i.e. where he/she spent Census night, which may not be where he/she usually lives.

Place of usual residence

This is based on the person's place of usual residence on Census night. This is used for all the information about persons in the Atlas.

Population density

This refers to the number of people per unit of land area, the number of people per square kilometre.

Rural and regional Australia

This includes regional centres, small towns, rural and remote areas.

Section of state

This geographical classification uses population counts to define areas as urban or rural. It provides statistics for urban concentrations and for small towns (bounded localities) and rural (balance) areas. Sections of state categories comprise Major Urban (population clusters of 100,000 or more), Other Urban (population clusters of 1,000 to 99,999), Bounded Locality (200 to 999), Rural Balance (remainder of state/territory) and Migratory.

In this Atlas, the following terminology is used for ease of understanding and discussion:

Social Atlas terminology	ABS Terminology
Major urban centre	Major Urban
Regional centre	Other Urban
Small towns	Bounded Locality
Rural areas	Rural balance

Sex ratio

The ratio of males to females in a given population, usually expressed as the number of males for every 100 females. Sex ratios greater than 100 indicate a greater number of males than females; values below 100 are when there are more females than males in a given population.

Statistical Local Area

The Statistical Local Area (SLA) is an Australian Standard Geographical Classification defined area. Fundamentally SLAs are Local Government Areas, or parts thereof. Where there is no incorporated body of local government, SLAs are defined to cover the unincorporated areas.

Unemployed persons

Unemployed people are defined as those people aged 15 years and over who, in the week prior to Census night, did not have a job but were actively looking for, and available to, start work.

Unemployment rate

The proportion of the total labour force that is aged 15 years and older, and unemployed.

Unincorporated area

Refers to all areas not under the responsibility of an incorporated Local Government Council. For those parts of Australia which are not administered by incorporated local government bodies, an SLA is an unincorporated area.

Unpaid assistance to a person with a disability

People who had provided care or assistance in the two weeks prior to the Census in 2006 did activities such as: Unpaid care includes, but is not limited to, bathing, dressing, toileting and feeding; helping someone to move around; helping someone to be understood by others; providing emotional support and helping maintain friendships and social activities; helping with or supervising medication; dressing wounds; cleaning, laundry, cooking, managing diets and meal preparation; housework, light household repairs or maintenance, and household finances; driving or accompanying someone to appointments or activities. Data were collected on the number of people providing care in particular areas and did not include the amount of time spent providing care.

Voluntary work

Relates to that undertaken by people aged 15 years or older in the previous 12 months to the 2006 census.

Working age population

The working age population is aged from 15 to 64 years.

Young people

The youth population is aged 15 to 24 years.

ATTACHMENT 4: URBAN CENTRES

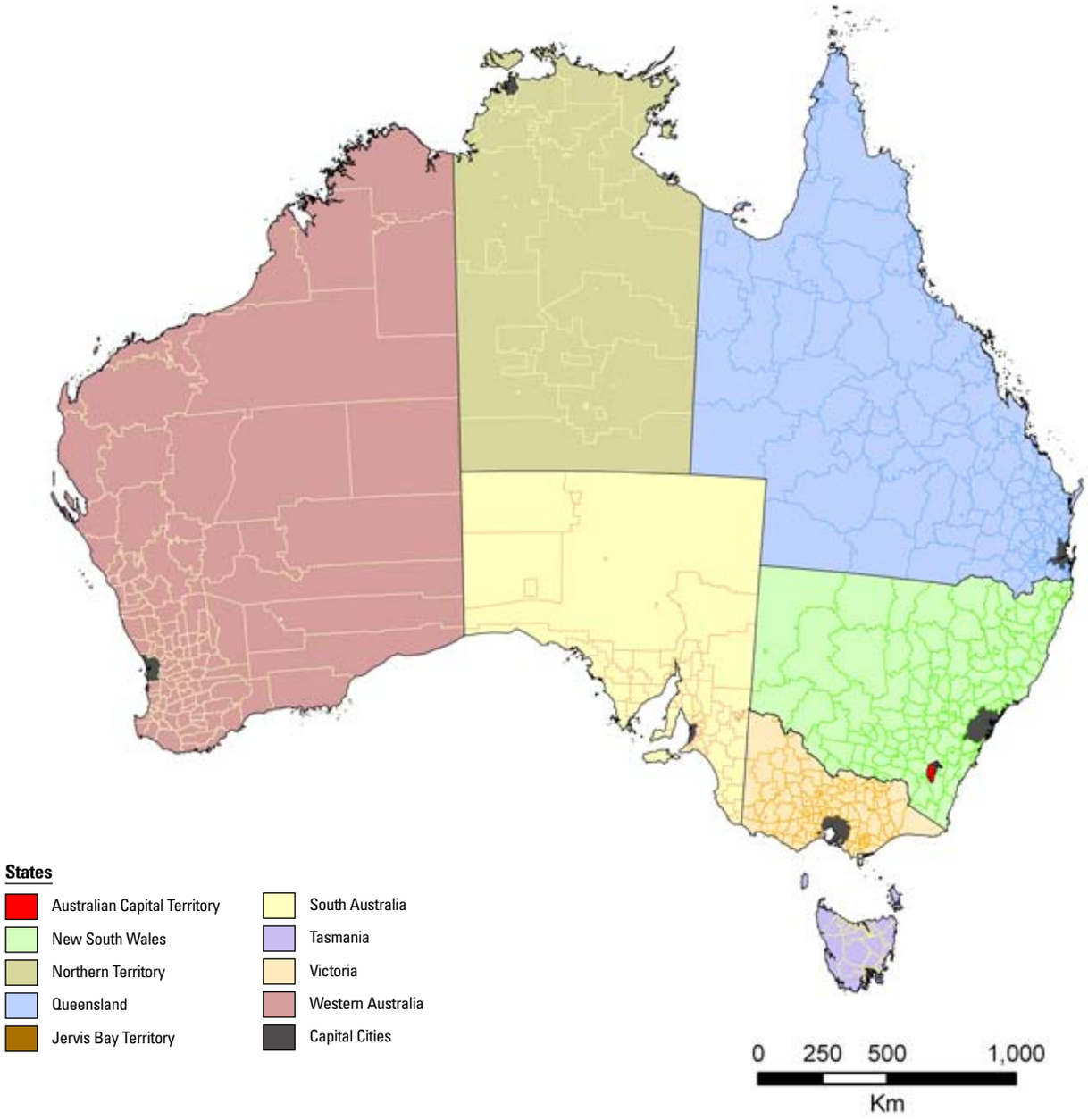
The following table shows the size of the estimated resident population in the major urban centres in Australia:

Statistical Districts	Estimated resident population, June 06
Kalgoorlie/Boulder	30,196
Warrnambool	31,501
Lismore	31,565
Nowra-Bomaderry	32,245
Bathurst	32,246
Geraldton	33,500
Dubbo	35,834
Orange	37,009
Port Macquarie	41,348
Tamworth	43,371
Gladstone	45,678
Shepparton	46,227
Mildura	47,911
Coffs Harbour	50,048
Hervey Bay	50,825
Wagga Wagga	55,195
Bunbury	57,744
Bundaberg	63,262
Mandurah	71,011
Rockhampton	73,333
La Trobe Valley	76,339
Mackay	77,544
Burnie-Devonport	79,932
Bendigo	85,080
Ballarat	88,437
Albury-Wodonga	100,826
Launceston	103,325
Toowoomba	121,894
Cairns	131,564
Townsville	152,954
Geelong	167,802
Sunshine Coast	224,127
Wollongong	277,972
Canberra-Queanbeyan	381,397
Newcastle	517,496
Gold Coast-Tweed	565,256
Capital City Statistical Divisions	
Canberra	330,940
Darwin	114,368
Hobart	205,566
Perth	1,519,510
Adelaide	1,146,119
Brisbane	1,820,400
Melbourne	3,744,373
Sydney	4,284,379

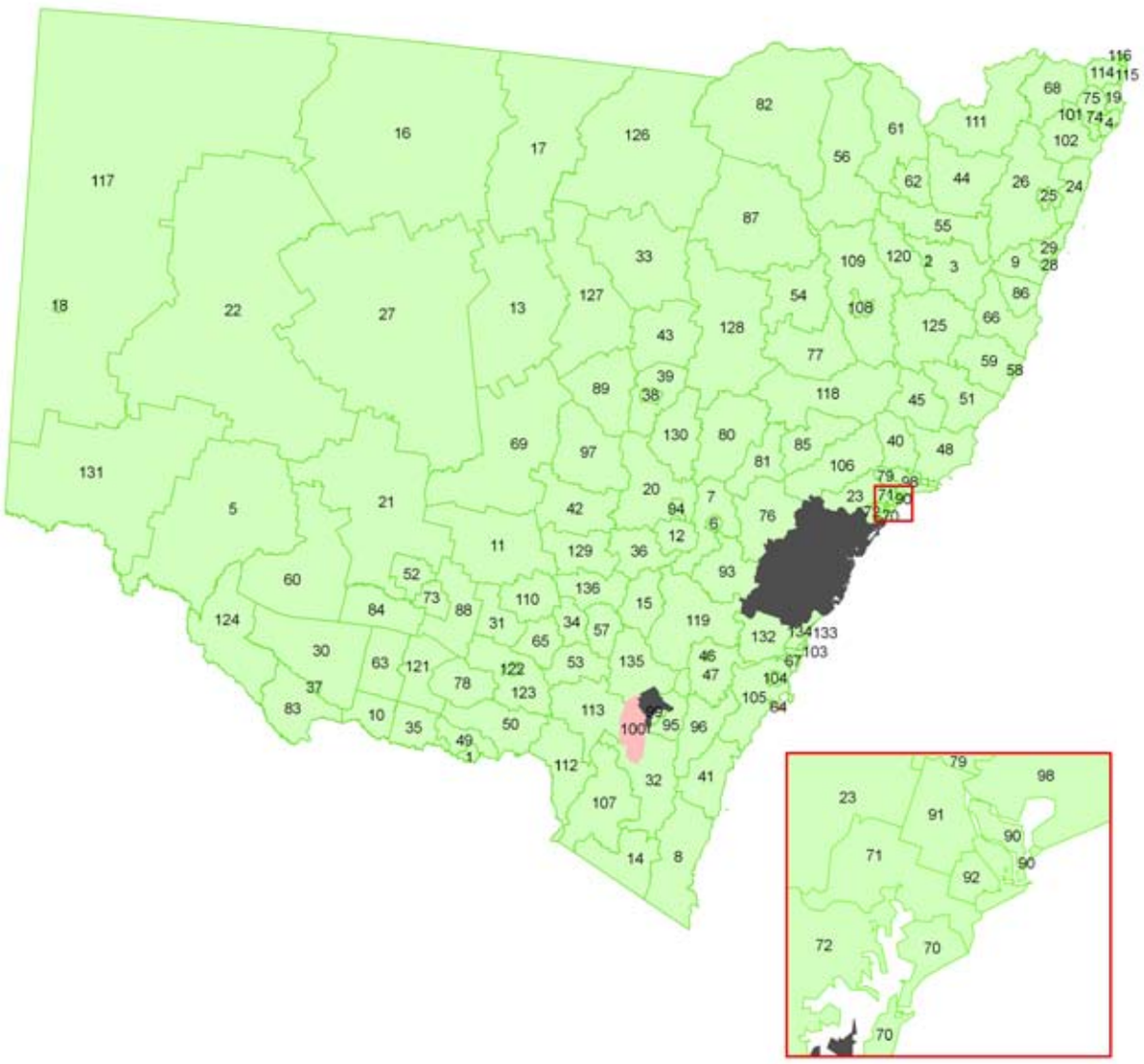
Source: ABS, cat 3101.0, Dec 07

ATTACHMENT 5: REFERENCE MAPS

MAP A1: STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS OF AUSTRALIA



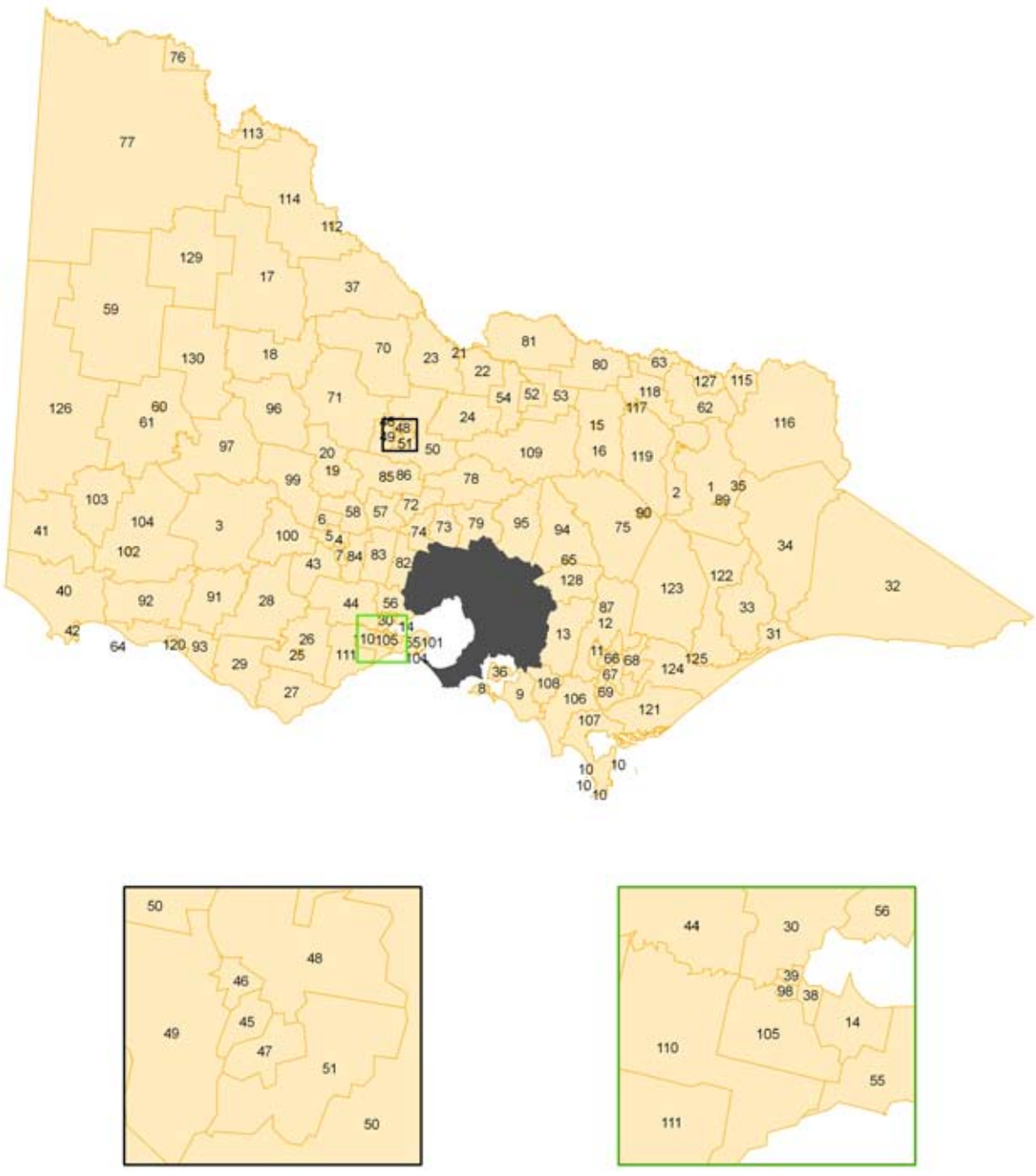
MAP A2: NEW SOUTH WALES — STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES



MAP A2: NEW SOUTH WALES — STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES

MAP KEYS	STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA
1	Albury (C)
2	Armidale Dumaresq (A) — City
3	Armidale Dumaresq (A) Bal
4	Ballina (A)
5	Balranald (A)
6	Bathurst Regional (A) — Pt A
7	Bathurst Regional (A) — Pt B
8	Bega Valley (A)
9	Bellingen (A)
10	Berrigan (A)
11	Bland (A)
12	Blayney (A)
13	Bogan (A)
14	Bombala (A)
15	Boorowa (A)
16	Bourke (A)
17	Brewarrina (A)
18	Broken Hill (C)
19	Byron (A)
20	Cabonne (A)
21	Carrathool (A)
22	Central Darling (A)
23	Cessnock (C)
24	Clarence Valley (A) — Coast
25	Clarence Valley (A) — Grafton
26	Clarence Valley (A) Bal
27	Cobar (A)
28	Coffs Harbour (C) — Pt A
29	Coffs Harbour (C)— Pt B
30	Conargo (A)
31	Coolamon (A)
32	Cooma-Monaro (A)
33	Coonamble (A)
34	Cootamundra (A)
35	Corowa Shire (A)
36	Cowra (A)
37	Deniliquin (A)
38	Dubbo (C) — Pt A
39	Dubbo (C) — Pt B
40	Dungog (A)
41	Eurobodalla (A)
42	Forbes (A)
43	Gilgandra (A)
44	Glen Innes Severn (A)
45	Gloucester (A)
46	Goulburn Mulwaree (A) — Goulburn
47	Goulburn Mulwaree (A) Bal
48	Great Lakes (A)
49	Greater Hume Shire (A) — Pt A
50	Greater Hume Shire (A) — Pt B
51	Greater Taree (C)
52	Griffith (C)
53	Gundagai (A)
54	Gunnedah (A)
55	Guyra (A)
56	Gwydir (A)
57	Harden (A)
58	Hastings (A) — Pt A
59	Hastings (A) — Pt B
60	Hay (A)
61	Inverell (A) — Pt A
62	Inverell (A) — Pt B
63	Jerilderie (A)
64	Jervis Bay Territory
65	Junee (A)
66	Kempsey (A)
67	Kiama (A)
68	Kyogle (A)
69	Lachlan (A)
70	Lake Macquarie (C)— East
71	Lake Macquarie (C)— North
72	Lake Macquarie (C)— West
73	Leeton (A)
74	Lismore (C) — Pt A
75	Lismore (C) — Pt B
76	Lithgow (C)
77	Liverpool Plains (A)
78	Lockhart (A)
79	Maitland (C)
80	Mid-Western Regional (A) — Pt A
81	Mid-Western Regional (A)— Pt B
82	Moree Plains (A)
83	Murray (A)
84	Murrumbidgee (A)
85	Muswellbrook (A)
86	Nambucca (A)
87	Narrabri (A)
88	Narrandera (A)
89	Narromine (A)
90	Newcastle (C) — Inner City
91	Newcastle (C) — Outer West
92	Newcastle (C) — Throsby
93	Oberon (A)
94	Orange (C)
95	Palerang (A) — Pt A
96	Palerang (A) — Pt B
97	Parkes (A)
98	Port Stephens (A)
99	Queanbeyan (C)
100	Remainder of ACT
101	Richmond Valley (A)— Casino
102	Richmond Valley (A) Bal
103	Shellharbour (C)
104	Shoalhaven (C)— Pt A
105	Shoalhaven (C) — Pt B
106	Singleton (A)
107	Snowy River (A)
108	Tamworth Regional (A) — Pt A
109	Tamworth Regional (A)— Pt B
110	Temora (A)
111	Tenterfield (A)
112	Tumbarumba (A)
113	Tumut Shire (A)
114	Tweed (A) — Pt B
115	Tweed (A)— Tweed Coast
116	Tweed (A)— Tweed-Heads
117	Unincorp. Far West
118	Upper Hunter Shire (A)
119	Upper Lachlan (A)
120	Uralla (A)
121	Urana (A)
122	Wagga Wagga (C)— Pt A
123	Wagga Wagga (C) — Pt B
124	Wakool (A)
125	Walcha (A)
126	Walgett (A)
127	Warren (A)
128	Warrumbungle Shire (A)
129	Weddin (A)
130	Wellington (A)
131	Wentworth (A)
132	Wingecarribee (A)
133	Wollongong (C)— Inner
134	Wollongong (C) Bal
135	Yass Valley (A)
136	Young (A)

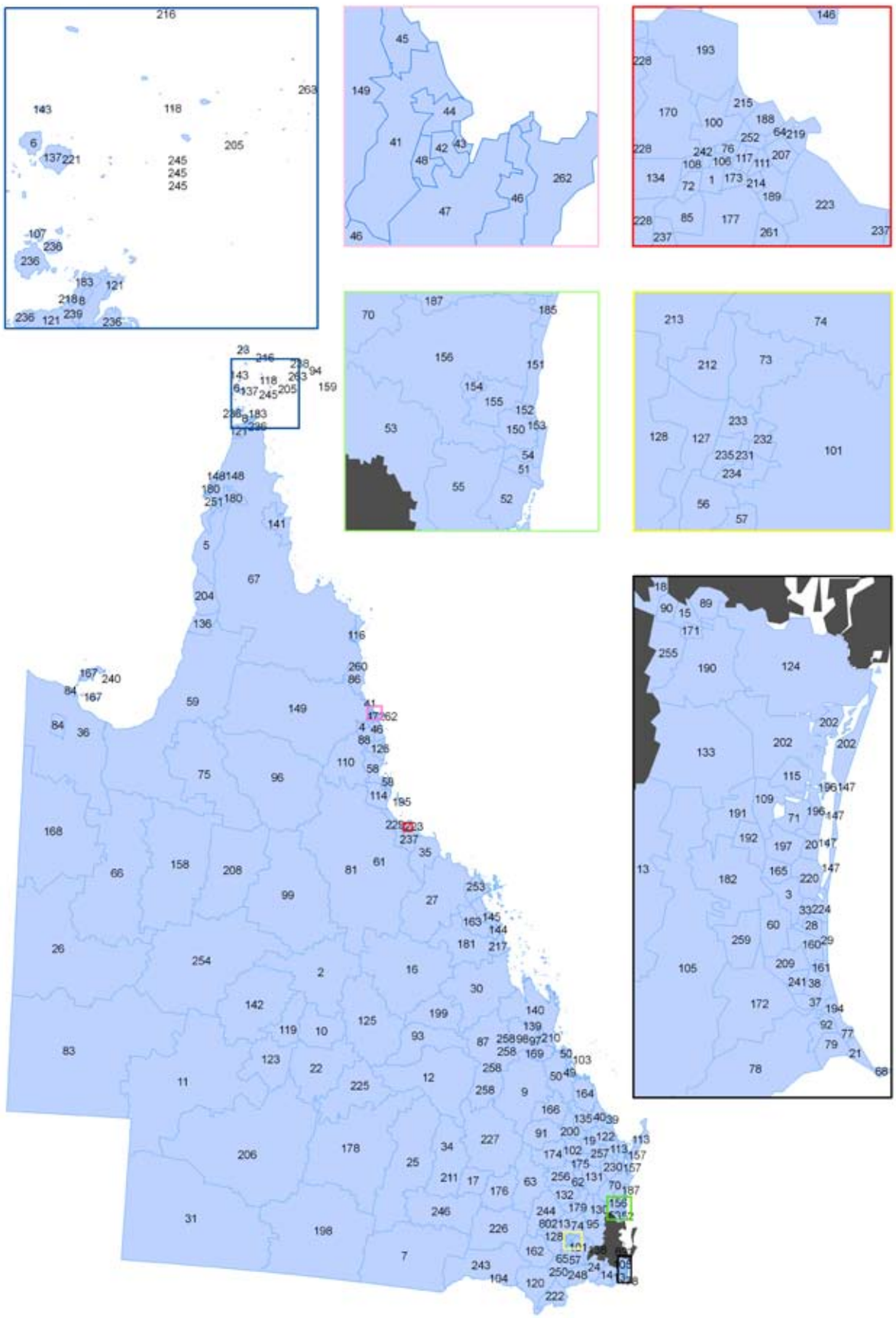
MAP A3: VICTORIA—STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES



MAP A3: VICTORIA—STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES

MAP KEYS	STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA
1	Alpine (S) — East
2	Alpine (S) — West
3	Ararat (RC)
4	Ballarat (C) — Central
5	Ballarat (C) — Inner North
6	Ballarat (C) — North
7	Ballarat (C) — South
8	Bass Coast (S) — Phillip Is.
9	Bass Coast (S) Bal
10	Bass Strait Islands
11	Baw Baw (S) — Pt A
12	Baw Baw (S) — Pt B East
13	Baw Baw (S) — Pt B West
14	Bellarine — Inner
15	Benalla (RC) — Benalla
16	Benalla (RC) Bal
17	Buloke (S) — North
18	Buloke (S) — South
19	C. Goldfields (S) — M'borough
20	C. Goldfields (S) Bal
21	Campaspe (S) — Echuca
22	Campaspe (S) — Kyabram
23	Campaspe (S) — Rochester
24	Campaspe (S) — South
25	Colac-Otway (S) — Colac
26	Colac-Otway (S) — North
27	Colac-Otway (S) — South
28	Corangamite (S) — North
29	Corangamite (S) — South
30	Corio — Inner
31	E. Gippsland (S) — Bairnsdale
32	E. Gippsland (S) — Orbost
33	E. Gippsland (S) — South-West
34	E. Gippsland (S) Bal
35	Falls Creek Alpine Resort
36	French Island
37	Gannawarra (S)
38	Geelong
39	Geelong West
40	Glenelg (S) — Heywood
41	Glenelg (S) — North
42	Glenelg (S) — Portland
43	Golden Plains (S) — North-West
44	Golden Plains (S) — South-East
45	Gr. Bendigo (C) — Central
46	Gr. Bendigo (C) — Eaglehawk
47	Gr. Bendigo (C) — Inner East
48	Gr. Bendigo (C) — Inner North
49	Gr. Bendigo (C) — Inner West
50	Gr. Bendigo (C) — Pt B
51	Gr. Bendigo (C) — S'saye
52	Gr. Shepparton (C) — Pt A
53	Gr. Shepparton (C) — Pt B East
54	Gr. Shepparton (C) — Pt B West
55	Greater Geelong (C) — Pt B
56	Greater Geelong (C) — Pt C
57	Hepburn (S) — East
58	Hepburn (S) — West
59	Hindmarsh (S)
60	Horsham (RC) — Central
61	Horsham (RC) Bal
62	Indigo (S) — Pt A
63	Indigo (S) — Pt B
64	Lady Julia Percy Island
65	Lake Mountain Alpine Resort
66	Latrobe (C) — Moe
67	Latrobe (C) — Morwell
68	Latrobe (C) — Traralgon
69	Latrobe (C) Bal
70	Loddon (S) — North
71	Loddon (S) — South
72	Macedon Ranges (S) — Kyneton
73	Macedon Ranges (S) — Romsey
74	Macedon Ranges (S) Bal
75	Mansfield (S)
76	Mildura (RC) — Pt A
77	Mildura (RC) — Pt B
78	Mitchell (S) — North
79	Mitchell (S) — South
80	Moira (S) — East
81	Moira (S) — West
82	Moorabool (S) — Bacchus Marsh
83	Moorabool (S) — Ballan
84	Moorabool (S) — West
85	Mount Alexander (S) — C'maine
86	Mount Alexander (S) Bal
87	Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort
88	Mount Buller Alpine Resort
89	Mount Hotham Alpine Resort
90	Mount Stirling Alpine Resort
91	Moyne (S) — North-East
92	Moyne (S) — North-West
93	Moyne (S) — South
94	Murrindindi (S) — East
95	Murrindindi (S) — West
96	N. Grampians (S) — St Arnaud
97	N. Grampians (S) — Stawell
98	Newtown
99	Pyrenees (S) — North
100	Pyrenees (S) — South
101	Queenscliffe (B)
102	S. Grampians (S) — Hamilton
103	S. Grampians (S) — Wannon
104	S. Grampians (S) Bal
105	South Barwon — Inner
106	South Gippsland (S) — Central
107	South Gippsland (S) — East
108	South Gippsland (S) — West
109	Strathbogie (S)
110	Surf Coast (S) — East
111	Surf Coast (S) — West
112	Swan Hill (RC) — Central
113	Swan Hill (RC) — Robinvale
114	Swan Hill (RC) Bal
115	Towong (S) — Pt A
116	Towong (S) — Pt B
117	Wangaratta (RC) — Central
118	Wangaratta (RC) — North
119	Wangaratta (RC) — South
120	Warrnambool (C)
121	Wellington (S) — Alberton
122	Wellington (S) — Avon
123	Wellington (S) — Maffra
124	Wellington (S) — Rosedale
125	Wellington (S) — Sale
126	West Wimmera (S)
127	Wodonga (RC)
128	Yarra Ranges (S) — Pt B
129	Yarriambiack (S) — North
130	Yarriambiack (S) — South

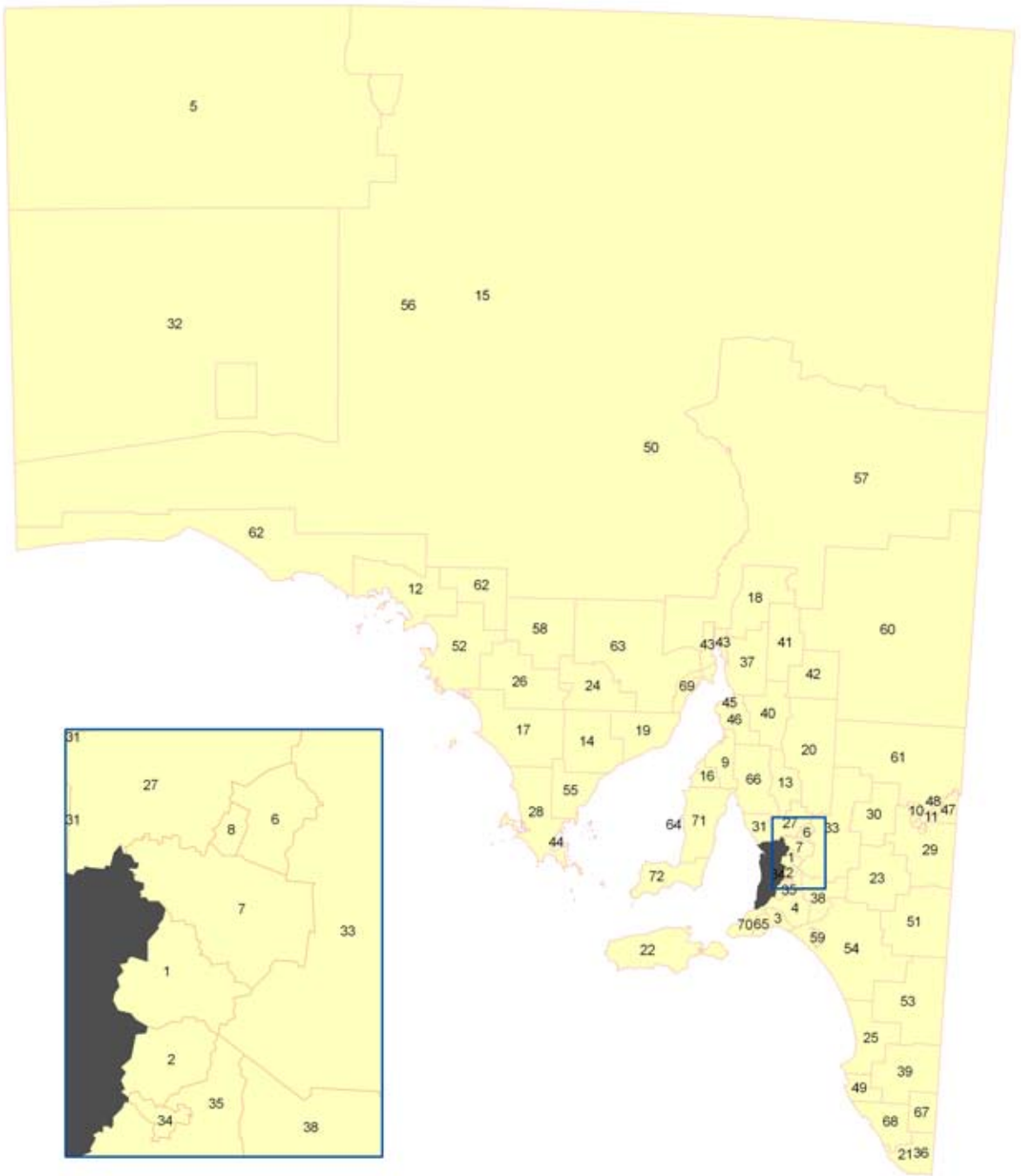
MAP A4: QUEENSLAND — STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES



MAP A4: QUEENSLAND — STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES

MAP KEYS	STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAME
1	Aitkenvale
2	Aramac (S)
3	Ashmore-Benowa
4	Atherton (S)
5	Aurukun (S)
6	Badu (IC)
7	Balonne (S)
8	Bamaga (IC)
9	Banana (S)
10	Barcaldine (S)
11	Barcoo (S)
12	Bauhinia (S)
13	Beaudesert (S) — Pt B
14	Beaudesert (S) — Pt C
15	Beenleigh
16	Belyando (S)
17	Bendemere (S)
18	Bethania-Waterford
19	Biggenden (S)
20	Biggera Waters-Labrador
21	Bilinga-Tugun
22	Blackall (S)
23	Boigu (IC)
24	Boonah (S)
25	Booringa (S)
26	Boulia (S)
27	Bowen (S)
28	Broadbeach Waters
29	Broadbeach-Mermaid Beach
30	Broadsound (S)
31	Bulloo (S)
32	Bundaberg (C)
33	Bundall
34	Bungil (S)
35	Burdekin (S)
36	Burke (S)
37	Burleigh Heads
38	Burleigh Waters
39	Burnett (S) — Pt A
40	Burnett (S) — Pt B
41	Cairns (C) — Barron
42	Cairns (C) — Central Suburbs
43	Cairns (C) — City
44	Cairns (C) — Mt Whitfield
45	Cairns (C) — Northern Suburbs
46	Cairns (C) — Pt B
47	Cairns (C) — Trinity
48	Cairns (C) — Western Suburbs
49	Calliope (S) — Pt A
50	Calliope (S) — Pt B
51	Caloundra (C) — Caloundra N.
52	Caloundra (C) — Caloundra S.
53	Caloundra (C) — Hinterland
54	Caloundra (C) — Kawana
55	Caloundra (C) — Rail Corridor
56	Cambooya (S) — Pt A
57	Cambooya (S) — Pt B
58	Cardwell (S)
59	Carpentaria (S)
60	Carrara-Merrimac
61	Charters Towers (C)
62	Cherbourg (S)
63	Chinchilla (S)
64	City
65	Clifton (S)
66	Cloncurry (S)
67	Cook (S)
68	Coolangatta
69	Cooloola (S) - Gympie only
70	Cooloola (S) (excl. Gympie)
71	Coombabah
72	Cranbrook
73	Crow's Nest (S) — Pt A
74	Crow's Nest (S) — Pt B
75	Croydon (S)
76	Currajong
77	Currumbin
78	Currumbin Valley-Tallebudgera
79	Currumbin Waters
80	Dalby (T)
81	Dalrymple (S)
82	Dauan (IC)
83	Diamantina (S)
84	Doomadgee (S)
85	Douglas
86	Douglas (S)
87	Duaringa (S)
88	Eacham (S)
89	Eagleby
90	Edens Landing-Holmview
91	Eidsvold (S)
92	Elanora
93	Emerald (S)
94	Erub (IC)
95	Esk (S)
96	Etheridge (S)
97	Fitzroy (S) — Pt A
98	Fitzroy (S) — Pt B
99	Flinders (S)
100	Garbutt
101	Gatton (S)
102	Gayndah (S)
103	Gladstone (C)
104	Goondiwindi (T)
105	Guanaba-Springbrook
106	Gulliver
107	Hammond (IC)
108	Heatley
109	Helensvale
110	Herberton (S)
111	Hermit Park
112	Hervey Bay (C) — Pt A
113	Hervey Bay (C) — Pt B
114	Hinchinbrook (S)
115	Hope Island
116	Hope Vale (S)
117	Hyde Park-Mysterton
118	Iama (IC)
119	Ilfracombe (S)
120	Inglewood (S)
121	Injinoo (S)
122	Isis (S)
123	Isisford (S)
124	Jacobs Well-Alberton
125	Jericho (S)
126	Johnstone (S)
127	Jondaryan (S) — Pt A
128	Jondaryan (S) — Pt B
129	Kelso
130	Kilcoy (S)
131	Kilkivan (S)
132	Kingaroy (S)
133	Kingsholme-Upper Coomera
134	Kirwan
135	Kolan (S)
136	Kowanyama (S)
137	Kubin (IC)
138	Laidley (S)
139	Livingstone (S) — Pt A
140	Livingstone (S) — Pt B
141	Lockhart River (S)
142	Longreach (S)
143	Mabuiag (IC)
144	Mackay (C) — Pt A
145	Mackay (C) — Pt B
146	Magnetic Island
147	Main Beach-South Stradbroke
148	Mapoon (S)
149	Mareeba (S)
150	Maroochy (S) — Buderim
151	Maroochy (S) — Coastal North
152	Maroochy (S) — Maroochydore
153	Maroochy (S) — Mooloolaba
154	Maroochy (S) — Nambour
155	Maroochy (S) — Paynter-Petrie Creek
156	Maroochy (S) Bal
157	Maryborough (C)
158	McKinlay (S)
159	Mer (IC)
160	Mermaid Wtrs-Clear Is. Wtrs
161	Miami
162	Millmerran (S)
163	Mirani (S)
164	Miriam Vale (S)
165	Molendinar
166	Monto (S)
167	Mornington (S)
168	Mount Isa (C)
169	Mount Morgan (S)
170	Mt Louisa-Mt St John-Bohle
171	Mt Warren Park
172	Mudgeeraba-Reedy Creek
173	Mundingburra
174	Mundubbera (S)
175	Murgon (S)
176	Murilla (S)
177	Murray
178	Murweh (S)
179	Nanango (S)
180	Napranum (S)
181	Nebo (S)
182	Nerang
183	New Mapoon (S)
184	Noosa (S) — Noosa — Noosaville
185	Noosa (S) — Sunshine — Peregian
186	Noosa (S) — Tewantin
187	Noosa (S) Bal
188	North Ward-Castle Hill
189	Oonoonba-Idalia-Cluden
190	Ormeau-Yatala
191	Oxenford-Maudsland
192	Pacific Pines-Gaven
193	Pallarenda-Shelley Beach
194	Palm Beach
195	Palm Island (S)
196	Paradise Point-Runaway Bay
197	Parkwood-Arundel
198	Paroo (S)
199	Peak Downs (S)
200	Perry (S)
201	Pimlico
202	Pimpama-Coomera
203	Pittsworth (S)
204	Pormpuraaw (S)
205	Poruma (IC)
206	Quilpie (S)
207	Railway Estate
208	Richmond (S)
209	Robina
210	Rockhampton (C)
211	Roma (T)
212	Rosalie (S) — Pt A
213	Rosalie (S) — Pt B
214	Rosslea
215	Rowes Bay-Belgian Gardens
216	Saibai (IC)
217	Sarina (S)
218	Seisia (IC)
219	South Townsville
220	Southport
221	St Pauls (IC)
222	Stanthorpe (S)
223	Stuart-Roseneath
224	Surfers Paradise
225	Tambo (S)
226	Tara (S)
227	Taroom (S)
228	Thuringowa (C) — Pt A Bal
229	Thuringowa (C) — Pt B
230	Tiaro (S)
231	Toowoomba (C) — Central
232	Toowoomba (C) — North-East
233	Toowoomba (C) — North-West
234	Toowoomba (C) — South-East
235	Toowoomba (C) — West
236	Torres (S)
237	Townsville (C) — Pt B
238	Ugar (IC)
239	Umagico (S)
240	Unincorp. Islands
241	Varsity Lakes
242	Vincent
243	Waggamba (S)
244	Wambo (S)
245	Warraber (IC)
246	Warroo (S)
247	Warwick (S) — Central
248	Warwick (S) — East
249	Warwick (S) — North
250	Warwick (S) — West
251	Weipa (T)
252	West End
253	Whitsunday (S)
254	Winton (S)
255	Wolffdene-Bahrs Scrub
256	Wondai (S)
257	Woocoo (S)
258	Woorabinda (S)
259	Worongary-Tallai
260	Wujal Wujal (S)
261	Wulguru
262	Yarrabah (S)
263	Yorke (IC)

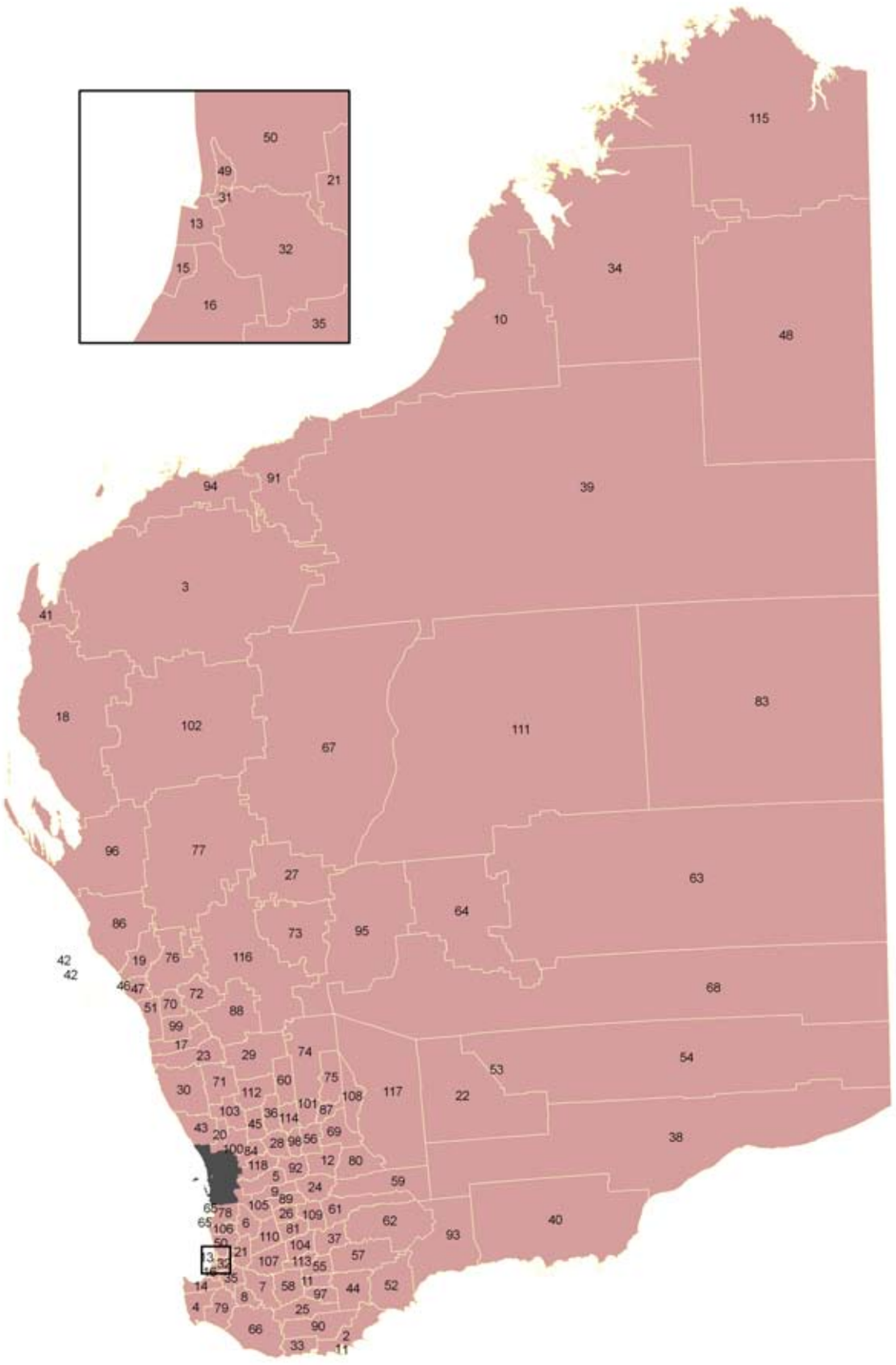
MAP A5: SOUTH AUSTRALIA — STATISTICAL AREA NAMES



MAP A5: SOUTH AUSTRALIA — STATISTICAL AREA NAMES

MAP KEYS	STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAME
1	Adelaide Hills (DC) — North
2	Adelaide Hills (DC) Bal
3	Alexandrina (DC) — Coastal
4	Alexandrina (DC) — Strathalbyn
5	Anangu Pitjantjatjara (AC)
6	Barossa (DC) — Angaston
7	Barossa (DC) — Barossa
8	Barossa (DC) — Tanunda
9	Barunga West (DC)
10	Berri & Barmera (DC) — Barmera
11	Berri & Barmera (DC) — Berri
12	Ceduna (DC)
13	Clare and Gilbert Valleys (DC)
14	Cleve (DC)
15	Coober Pedy (DC)
16	Copper Coast (DC)
17	Elliston (DC)
18	Flinders Ranges (DC)
19	Franklin Harbour (DC)
20	Goyder (DC)
21	Grant (DC)
22	Kangaroo Island (DC)
23	Karoonda East Murray (DC)
24	Kimba (DC)
25	Kingston (DC)
26	Le Hunte (DC)
27	Light (RegC)
28	Lower Eyre Peninsula (DC)
29	Loxton Waikerie (DC) — East
30	Loxton Waikerie (DC) — West
31	Mallala (DC)
32	Maralinga Tjarutja (AC)
33	Mid Murray (DC)
34	Mount Barker (DC) — Central
35	Mount Barker (DC) Bal
36	Mount Gambier (C)
37	Mount Remarkable (DC)
38	Murray Bridge (RC)
39	Naracoorte and Lucindale (DC)
40	Northern Areas (DC)
41	Orroroo/Carrieton (DC)
42	Peterborough (DC)
43	Port Augusta (C)
44	Port Lincoln (C)
45	Port Pirie C Dists (M) — City
46	Port Pirie C Dists (M) Bal
47	Renmark Paringa (DC) — Paringa
48	Renmark Paringa (DC) — Renmark
49	Robe (DC)
50	Roxby Downs (M)
51	Southern Mallee (DC)
52	Streaky Bay (DC)
53	Tatiara (DC)
54	The Coorong (DC)
55	Tumby Bay (DC)
56	Unincorp. Far North
57	Unincorp. Flinders Ranges
58	Unincorp. Lincoln
59	Unincorp. Murray Mallee
60	Unincorp. Pirie
61	Unincorp. Riverland
62	Unincorp. West Coast
63	Unincorp. Whyalla
64	Unincorp. Yorke
65	Victor Harbor (C)
66	Wakefield (DC)
67	Wattle Range (DC) — East
68	Wattle Range (DC) — West
69	Whyalla (C)
70	Yankalilla (DC)
71	Yorke Peninsula (DC) — North
72	Yorke Peninsula (DC) — South

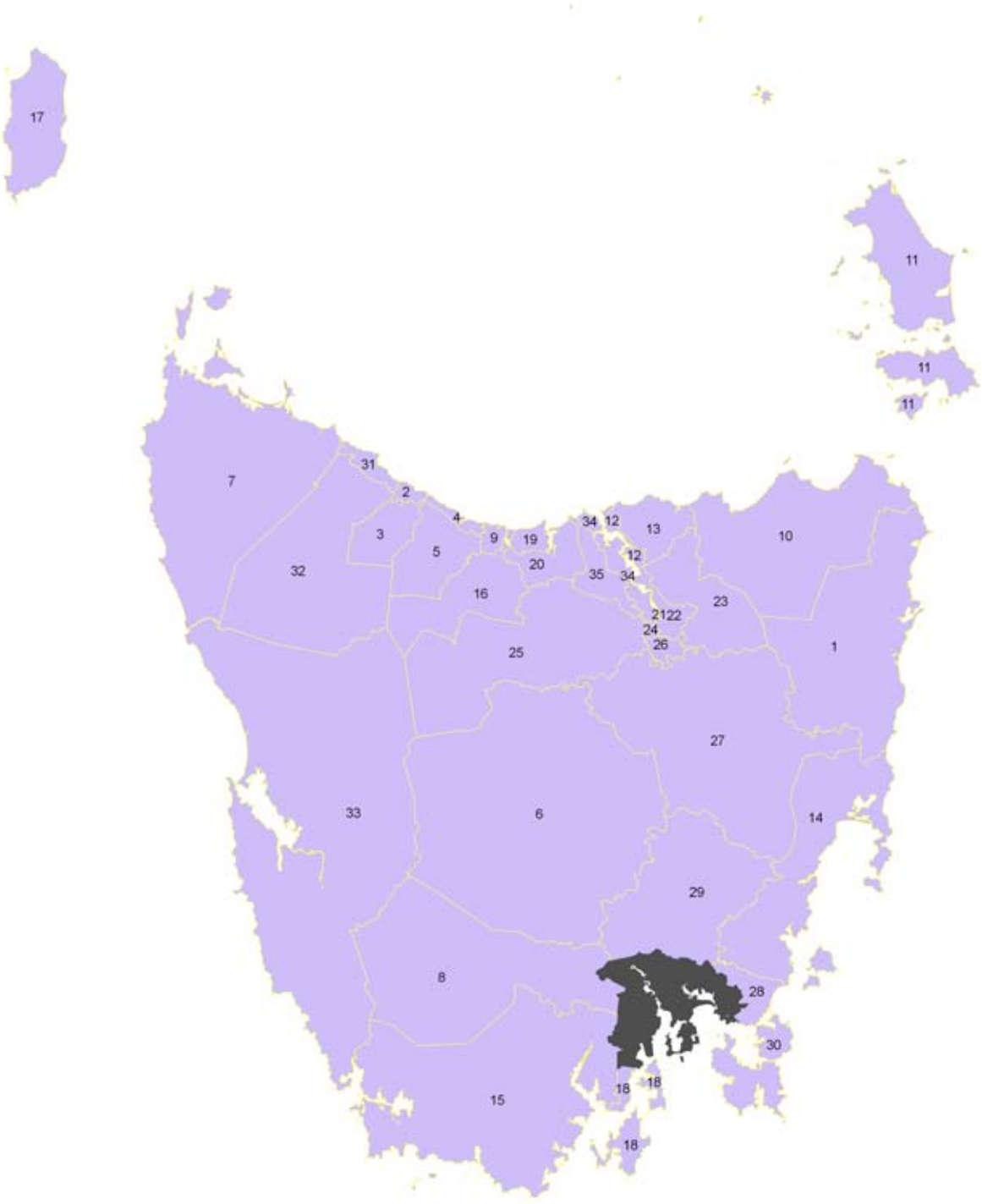
MAP A6: WESTERN AUSTRALIA — STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES



MAP A6: WESTERN AUSTRALIA — STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES

MAP KEYS	STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAME
1	Albany (C) — Central
2	Albany (C) Bal
3	Ashburton (S)
4	Augusta-Margaret River (S)
5	Beverley (S)
6	Boddington (S)
7	Boyup Brook (S)
8	Bridgetown-Greenbushes (S)
9	Brookton (S)
10	Broome (S)
11	Broomehill (S)
12	Bruce Rock (S)
13	Bunbury (C)
14	Busselton (S)
15	Capel (S) — Pt A
16	Capel (S) — Pt B
17	Carnamah (S)
18	Carnarvon (S)
19	Chapman Valley (S)
20	Chittering (S)
21	Collie (S)
22	Coolgardie (S)
23	Coorow (S)
24	Corrigin (S)
25	Cranbrook (S)
26	Cuballing (S)
27	Cue (S)
28	Cunderdin (S)
29	Dalwallinu (S)
30	Dandaragan (S)
31	Dardanup (S) — Pt A
32	Dardanup (S) — Pt B
33	Denmark (S)
34	Derby-West Kimberley (S)
35	Donnybrook-Balingup (S)
36	Dowerin (S)
37	Dumbleyung (S)
38	Dundas (S)
39	East Pilbara (S)
40	Esperance (S)
41	Exmouth (S)
42	Geraldton (C)
43	Gingin (S)
44	Gnowangerup (S)
45	Goomalling (S)
46	Greenough (S) — Pt A
47	Greenough (S) — Pt B
48	Halls Creek (S)
49	Harvey (S) — Pt A
50	Harvey (S) — Pt B
51	Irwin (S)
52	Jerramungup (S)
53	Kalgoorlie/Boulder (C) — Pt A
54	Kalgoorlie/Boulder (C) — Pt B
55	Katanning (S)
56	Kellerberrin (S)
57	Kent (S)
58	Kojonup (S)
59	Kondinin (S)
60	Koorda (S)
61	Kulin (S)
62	Lake Grace (S)
63	Laverton (S)
64	Leonora (S)
65	Mandurah (C)
66	Manjimup (S)
67	Meekatharra (S)
68	Menzies (S)
69	Merredin (S)
70	Mingenew (S)
71	Moora (S)
72	Morawa (S)
73	Mount Magnet (S)
MAP KEYS	STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAME
74	Mount Marshall (S)
75	Mukinbudin (S)
76	Mullewa (S)
77	Murchison (S)
78	Murray (S)
79	Nannup (S)
80	Narembeen (S)
81	Narrogin (S)
82	Narrogin (T)
83	Ngaanyatjarraku (S)
84	Northam (S)
85	Northam (T)
86	Northampton (S)
87	Nungarin (S)
88	Perenjori (S)
89	Pingelly (S)
90	Plantagenet (S)
91	Port Hedland (T)
92	Quairading (S)
93	Ravensthorpe (S)
94	Roebourne (S)
95	Sandstone (S)
96	Shark Bay (S)
97	Tambellup (S)
98	Tammin (S)
99	Three Springs (S)
100	Toodyay (S)
101	Trayning (S)
102	Upper Gascoyne (S)
103	Victoria Plains (S)
104	Wagin (S)
105	Wandering (S)
106	Waroona (S)
107	West Arthur (S)
108	Westonia (S)
109	Wickepin (S)
110	Williams (S)
111	Wiluna (S)
112	Wongan-Ballidu (S)
113	Woodanilling (S)
114	Wyalkatchem (S)
115	Wyndham-East Kimberley (S)
116	Yalgoo (S)
117	Yilgarn (S)
118	York (S)

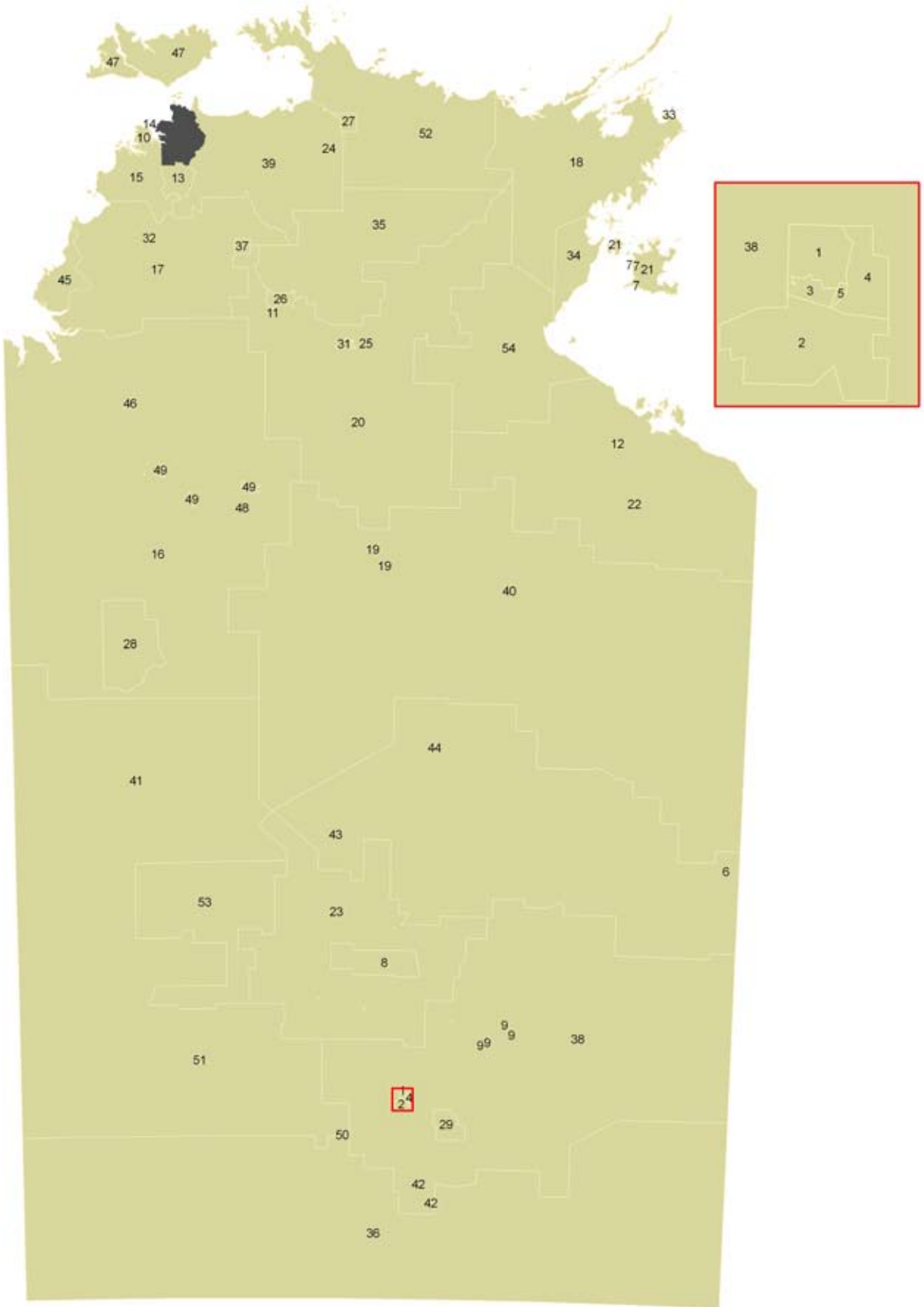
MAP A7: TASMANIA — STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES



MAP A7: TASMANIA — STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES

MAP KEYS	STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAME
1	Break O'Day (M)
2	Burnie (C) — Pt A
3	Burnie (C) — Pt B
4	Central Coast (M) — Pt A
5	Central Coast (M) — Pt B
6	Central Highlands (M)
7	Circular Head (M)
8	Derwent Valley (M) — Pt B
9	Devonport (C)
10	Dorset (M)
11	Flinders (M)
12	George Town (M) — Pt A
13	George Town (M) — Pt B
14	Glamorgan/Spring Bay (M)
15	Huon Valley (M)
16	Kentish (M)
17	King Island (M)
18	Kingborough (M) — Pt B
19	Latrobe (M) — Pt A
20	Latrobe (M) — Pt B
21	Launceston (C) — Inner
22	Launceston (C) — Pt B
23	Launceston (C) — Pt C
24	Meander Valley (M) — Pt A
25	Meander Valley (M) — Pt B
26	Northern Midlands (M) — Pt A
27	Northern Midlands (M) — Pt B
28	Sorell (M) — Pt B
29	Southern Midlands (M)
30	Tasman (M)
31	Waratah/Wynyard (M) — Pt A
32	Waratah/Wynyard (M) — Pt B
33	West Coast (M)
34	West Tamar (M) — Pt A
35	West Tamar (M) — Pt B

MAP A8: NORTHERN TERRITORY—STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES



MAP A8: NORTHERN TERRITORY—STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAMES

MAP KEYS	STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA NAME
1	Alice Springs (T) — Charles
2	Alice Springs (T) — Heavitree
3	Alice Springs (T) — Larapinta
4	Alice Springs (T) — Ross
5	Alice Springs (T) — Stuart
6	Alpurrurulam (CGC)
7	Angurugu (CGC)
8	Anmatjere (CGC)
9	Arltarlpilta (CGC)
10	Belyuen (CGC)
11	Binjari (CGC)
12	Borroloola (CGC)
13	Coomalie (CGC)
14	Cox Peninsula (CGC)
15	Cox-Finniss
16	Daguragu (CGC)
17	Daly
18	East Arnhem — Bal
19	Elliott District (CGC)
20	Elsey
21	Groote Eylandt
22	Gulf
23	Hanson
24	Jabiru (T)
25	Jilkminggan (CGC)
26	Katherine (T)
27	Kunbarllanjnja (CGC)
28	Lajamanu (CGC)
29	Ltyentye Purte (CGC)
30	Marngarr (CGC)
31	Mataranka (CGC)
32	Nauiyu Nambiyu (CGC)
33	Nhulunbuy
34	Numbulwar Numburindi (CGC)
35	Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre (CGC)
36	Petermann-Simpson
37	Pine Creek (CGC)
38	Sandover
39	South Alligator
40	Tableland
41	Tanami
42	Tapatjatjaka (CGC)
43	Tennant Creek — Bal
44	Tennant Creek (T)
45	Thamarrurr (CGC)
46	Timber Creek (CGC)
47	Tiwi Islands (CGC)
48	Victoria
49	Walangeri Ngumpinku (CGC)
50	Wallace Rockhole (CGC)
51	Watiyawanu (CGC)
52	West Arnhem
53	Yuendumu (CGC)
54	Yugul Mangi (CGC)

Australian Government

Bureau of Rural Sciences

Country Matters — Social Atlas of Rural and Regional Australia (the Atlas) is a publication that is prepared every five years by the staff at the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS), in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). It focuses on people, communities and industries in rural and regional Australia and will be a key information source to develop policy and programs for rural people and industries.

BRS has updated the Atlas with key information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Population Census on Australians who live outside capital cities. It includes maps, graphs and analytical commentary and makes comparisons with 2006, 2001 and 1996 data to illustrate social and economic trends.

The Atlas describes the unique characteristics of people, industries and communities in rural and regional Australia through the illustration of key demographic and socio-economic characteristics in relation to:

- Population
- Education and Training
- Employment and Industry
- Families and Households
- Income
- Internet
- Volunteering
- Care for people with a disability.

The Atlas continues to support policy makers, industry and rural communities in understanding the social and demographic landscape and trends in rural and regional Australia.

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