



**FLINDERS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
65 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000

**Church Profile 2025**

## CONTENT

<b>Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
FSBC	
History	
Property	
<b>Vision</b>	<b>6</b>
Aims and Objectives	
Future Direction	
<b>About FSBC</b>	<b>7</b>
Congregation	
Demographics	
Attendance	
Finance	
<b>Theological Position</b>	<b>8</b>
Theological Beliefs	
What We Value	
<b>Church Ministries</b>	<b>9</b>
Sunday Services	
Church Bible Studies	
Home Group	
Prayer meeting	
20-40s Group	
English Classes	
Tuesday on Flinders	
Men's Coffee and Chat	
Church Lunches	
Street Library	
<b>Missions Support</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Church Governance</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Appendix 1   Current Staff</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Appendix 2   NCLS Summary</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Appendix 3   Pastors</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Appendix 4   Missionaries</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendix 4   Community Profile</b>	<b>18</b>

## OVERVIEW

### Flinders Street Baptist Church (FSBC)

Flinders Street Baptist Church is located at 65 Flinders Street, Adelaide. It is situated in the Adelaide city centre, a short walk east of Victoria Square and three streets south of the main shopping precinct in Rundle Mall. We are a community of people who are seeking by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit **to love, serve and follow Jesus Christ** and invite others into a long and lasting relationship with Him. Flinders Street Baptist Church has been worshipping in and serving the City of Adelaide since 1861. Our heritage-listed building was opened in 1863. We acknowledge that it stands on traditional Aboriginal Land.

Throughout our history we have engaged in worship and ministry to meet the needs of people living or working in the city. We follow the Biblical call to seek and pray for the welfare of the city. In addition to our Church based ministries we actively support WestCare (BaptistCare SA) who work with the homeless and those in need of shelter, food and support. The Church is affiliated with the Baptist Churches of South Australia and Northern Territory (BCSANT), the Australian Baptist Ministries (ABM),) and the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). It exercises an evangelical Bible-based ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our Church has people from many different countries and cultural backgrounds meeting and worshipping together.



### History

#### Early History

FSBC was established in 1861 under the pastoral leadership of Rev Silas Mead who set in place a church governance by elders, deacons, and deaconesses, while establishing an open membership policy. Mead was a formidable organiser, ably supported by a group of significant merchants and community leaders. Having been founded in 1861, FSBC has been a significant church in the Baptist movement in South Australia and in supporting Baptist world mission. The church sent out members of FSBC to form other congregations, such as Norwood, Richmond, Parkside and Hilton, established missions in the city (West

End Mission, now known as WestCare, and Halifax Street Mission). They instigated the formation of the South Australian Baptist Association in 1863, which was housed on the church property. In 1864 they initiated the formation of the South Australian Baptist Missionary Society and maintained a strong missional presence, including sending 23 persons to serve in other lands.

There were 26 foundational members which grew to 411 within 10 years and up to 1000 persons attended some services. At times the church has grown to a substantial size, being quite intergenerational, including large youth and children's ministries. FSBC was the second church in Australia to establish a Christian Endeavour Society and later formed a Family Bible Fellowship which was a model followed by many other churches. Many of those who were part of these discipleship programs became lay leaders, pastors and missionaries. The church has always supported women in leadership, having played a central role in supporting the Women's Christian Temperance Society and the Women's Suffrage Movement. Many of the church's young men went to war in WWI. Over the years, the church has also attracted many visitors in the city.

### Recent History

In recent history there has been a number of ventures in terms of witness for Christ. In the 1970s Neil Adcock was a radio presenter on 5DN and the Family Bible Fellowship was a formidable component of church life. During the 1980s Barrie Hibbert was a superb preacher of the Word and a caring pastor who eventually went on to serve as minister of Bloomsbury Baptist Church in London. Into the 1990s Tom Cadman enlivened the involvement of young families through church camps. At the end of the 1990s Graeme Pitt encouraged reading of the Bible by students with English as a Second Language and commenced the Tuesday concerts. In the 2000s Roger Bryson initiated weekday presentations on topics of social importance. During Scott Cadman's ministry (17 years) English classes during the week numbered 300 to 400 students until the Covid 19 pandemic disrupted the program. The leadership structure was changed to a Ministry Leadership Team. A 20/40 age group was formed. Scott concluded his ministry in April 2024. [See Appendix 1 for the list of current staff, Appendix 3 for the list of former ministers and Appendix 4 for the list of former missionaries.]

As the nature of the CBD (less residential and more commercial) has changed over the years and people connect more strongly to their local communities, there has been a substantial decline in the number of persons who call FSBC as home. However, there have been increasing numbers of persons from non-English backgrounds who are primarily students and immigrants. There has also been an increasing gap between the older generation in the church and the younger adults. There has been the loss of families, children and youth with 60% of the congregation now retired. However, this is now changing with more young residents moving into the city. [See appendix 5.]

FSBC is a city-based church (rather than a local church). Other than students, most congregational members live outside of Adelaide CBD. At the same time, the number of people who are now residents in the CBD is growing, though from different backgrounds and living in small apartments which have limited access to non-residents. There is also a contingency of transient persons and visitors to the city.

## Property

The congregation of Flinders Street Baptist Church was formed in 1861. The Gothic style chapel was constructed of bluestone with sandstone-capped buttresses and was completed in 1863, with the gallery added in 1872 and the pipe organ installed in 1886. The Hall known as Mead Hall was constructed of blue stone by 1870 with a second storey divided up into classroom-style rooms with a central corridor. At the back of the church is a large meeting room, small kitchen and an upstairs 'caretaker's apartment'. The original manse (Flinders House) constructed of bluestone was completed in 1877 and has now been converted into office space including the church office which faces into the courtyard opposite the chapel. There is an outdoor car park at the back of the church and further parking behind Mead Hall.



Chapel



Mead Hall

Courtyard



# VISION

## Aims and Objectives

According to the church constitution (Section 3), the aims and objectives of the church are:

To maintain and develop a strong centre of witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom in the City of Adelaide; as opportunity allows to support the work of Christian mission in the wider community, throughout Australia and beyond; to so preach and teach the Word of God that people may be led to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and may develop in Christian character and discipleship taking their place as members in the body of Christ and workers in the life of His Church, and in the community in which we serve.

## Future Direction

In regard to moving forward, 60% indicated in the 2025 NCLS survey the need to create a clearer vision for the church with 42% encouraging new approaches. In the survey, 91% said they would support the development of new initiatives in the ministry and mission of the church. The congregational members have since indicated that:

We envisage a future where we are:

- A Bible centred community where the Bible defines our beliefs, governs our behaviour, and is foundational to our church practices. We seek to be grounded in the teaching of the Scriptures, which is strongly relational and Kingdom-focused. We are committed to teaching the Scriptures in a way that is relevant and meaningful for all.

We envisage a future where we are:

- A healthy, vibrant worshipping community with a unified vision to see lives being transformed to become more like Jesus. We see this expressed in joyful worship and celebration gatherings that embrace a mix of traditional and contemporary approaches.

We envisage a future where we are:

- A caring community inclusive of people from all backgrounds and circumstances; in which all newcomers and regulars are welcome. We are a community that throughout the week is providing pastoral care and fellowship within the church's life and ministry.

We envisage a future where we are:

- A disciple making community of all ages and heritages, where people can grow in their faith, their relationships, and in the way they live; being renewed and refreshed along the journey. We are a place that equips and releases people into Christian service, as they transition through all of life's stages from young children, youth, young adults through to seniors. Our disciple making includes identifying and developing emerging leaders who are passionate and equipped, with succession planning for generational change.

We envisage a future where we are:

- A missional community, sharing the Gospel with people in fresh, relevant and relational ways which make it easily understood. This is a community where individuals will confidently share their faith and where we provide opportunities, resources and tools for our congregational members. There will be opportunities for people to hear and respond to the gospel.

## ABOUT FSBC

### Congregation

Flinders Street Baptist Church has a mix of persons with Australian/UK backgrounds plus a significant number of younger members from other ethnic backgrounds, primarily Indian and Chinese. There are about 70 members on the membership list, though some of these are housebound and so are not seen very regularly. About 15% of the congregational attendees live locally, within the CBD, while most other attendees are spread out across the wider metropolitan area, including to the northern, southern and western suburbs. 71% of the congregation have been here long-term with 29% having moved here from other churches.

Most have a strong sense of belonging (86%) and have found it easy to make friends (80%). 59% of the congregation are involved in some kind of group activity at the church beyond the Sunday services and 30% have indicated a desire to be more involved. [Summary of 2025 NCLS results can be found in Appendix 2.]

### Demographics

The average age of the Church based on the NCLS Survey 2025 is 65. 63% are over 70 while 9% are 50-69, 14% are 30-49 and 14% are 15-29. 64% are female. 72% of the congregational members have a bachelor's degree or higher. 41% have been born overseas with 29% of the congregation coming from non-English speaking backgrounds, predominately from Chinese and Indian heritage. 35% are migrants to Australia and 23% speak a language other than English at home. The majority of these are younger members of the congregation. There are a small number younger children and only a couple of youth.

60% of the congregation are retired while 32% are employed (12% full-time).

### Attendance

Most current attenders have come to FSBC from other churches, rather than having come to faith here. [However, in the past there have been those who have come to faith and gone on to serve elsewhere.] 69% of attenders have been here for more than 5 years with 34% for longer than 20 years. 41% are born overseas with 35% being migrants to Australia. Weekly attendance appears to have stabilised to around 70. 63% of the congregation is over 70 years of age.

### Finance

Our church is independently run and is funded by its members. Income includes office rent, property events hire, and managed investment funds as well as our weekly offerings. There has been an increase in giving over the past year. The heritage buildings on the site age, and so the cost of maintaining the property and insurance is substantial. Our proposed budget for 2025-26 is \$414,000.

## THEOLOGICAL POSITION

### Theological Beliefs

Section 4 of the *Constitution of Flinders Street Baptist Church Incorporated* states:

Without formally adopting binding creeds or doctrinal statements the Church gives general endorsement to the following Declaration of Faith as found in the model constitution drawn up by the South Australian Baptist Union.

- (a) That our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh is the sole and absolute authority in all matters of faith and practice. These are revealed in and through the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments. The church has the liberty and responsibility, through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, to interpret, to preach, and to administer Christ's will in these matters.
- (b) That Christian Baptism is commanded by our Lord and is expressed by immersion in water into the name of the Triune God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day.
- (c) That the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, instituted by our Lord as an obligation, is the privilege of all who have professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose atoning death is declared in the ordinance until He shall come again. This observance is a part of the responsibility of the Church in witnessing to the Gospel of Christ.

The members of the Church shall be those who desire to become sharers of its fellowship, declaring that they have come into personal fellowship with Jesus Christ, are resolved to live as His disciples, and pledge themselves to a life of Christian service and witness. The name of each member shall be entered on a Membership Roll. The teaching and practice of the Church shall be believer's baptism by immersion and members shall normally be admitted on this basis.

### What We Value

Through believer's baptism and regular participation in the Lord's Supper, FSBC members have committed themselves to being followers of Jesus. We value good preaching, thoughtful and inspiring worship, reading the Bible, being faithful in prayer, a balanced variety of music, supporting overseas mission, working with migrants and refugees. We provide a safe place for people of all ages and different cultural backgrounds to gather together and participate in a variety of church events. We seek to communicate God's message in word and deed. We desire to help people to develop their gifts and talents in the service of Christ the Lord.

## CHURCH MINISTRIES

### Sunday Services

Our main gathering is Sunday morning worship in the chapel followed by morning tea in Mead Hall. Currently the services follow a traditional format primarily using the Baptist Praise and Worship Hymnal supported by a pipe organ.

### Church Bible Studies

These are held fortnightly on Wednesday evenings in the church offices. It's a simple format of prayer, reading the Bible text, discussing its context and content, and sharing connections with life today. Studies have recently been about Paul the Preacher in his letters to Galatia and Thessalonica.



### Home Group

These are held weekly on Wednesday evenings in different homes, include a meal and discussing the questions arising from the previous Sunday's sermon.



### Prayer Meeting

These are held on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month. A weekly prayer guide is provided in the bulletin each week that covers a range of areas for prayer over the month. Areas of prayer are local, national and global.

### 20-40's Group

20/40 is for those in the 20 to 40 age range. It is a diverse group made up of people from different countries and various stages of life. They meet together for lunches, and community gatherings. It includes people who are single and married, students and workers, those who have been in Adelaide their whole lives or have recently arrived.



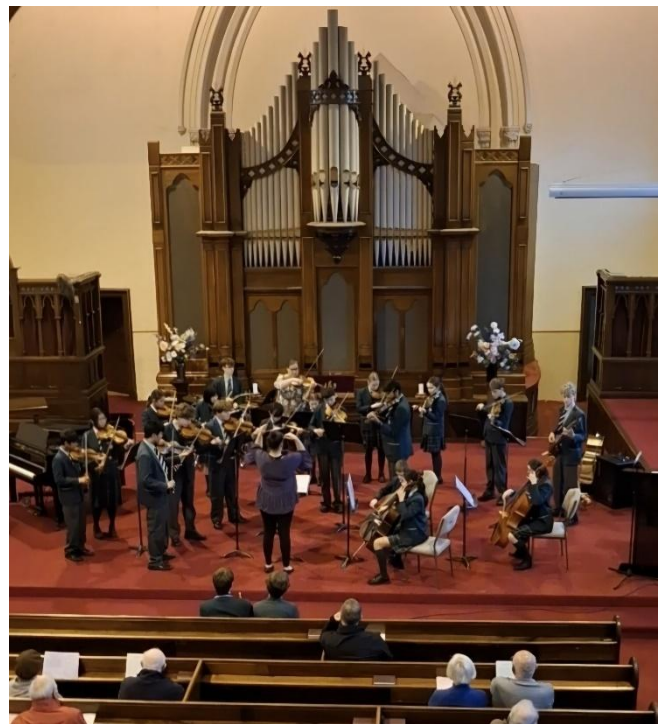
### **English Classes**

For many years we have been offering free English Conversation Classes. English classes during the week once numbered 300 to 400 students until the Covid 19 pandemic reduced them to weekend events. Currently, we run an English class for intermediate – upper-intermediate students on Saturday and Sunday. Both classes are free and are for those with English as a second language who are adults. Participants come from over 15 countries.

Potluck Dinners are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month when members of the church can share a meal and conversation with our English class participants.

### **Tuesday on Flinders**

On Tuesdays between 1pm and 2pm, 'Tuesdays on Flinders' concerts are a free music concert in the chapel involving a wide variety of talented artists. They have been running for 23 years and are still going strong, usually with 40-60 persons in attendance. One or two performers are associated with the church, but most are the church's guests. Music students from a few secondary schools are always enjoyed. The standards of performance generally range from excellent to outstanding. They are, in the main, recognised Adelaide musicians, though some come from further afield. Some are professional performers. They receive no remuneration from the church; they are simply delighted to perform.



### **Men's Coffee/Chat Fellowship**

A group of mainly retired men meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the Raws Room over coffee and morning tea to share about both life and ministry within the church.



### **Church Lunches**

These are held on bi-monthly Sundays in Mead Hall following the morning service.

### **Street Library**

This library is at the front of the church offering both Christian and non-Christian books for the public to take. This is well used and replenished each week.



## MISSIONS SUPPORT

Flinders Street Baptist Church has a history of missionaries beginning with Ellen Arnold and Marie Gilbert who went to India in 1882. They were the first Baptist missionaries from Australia as part of what is now known as Baptist Mission Australia. A Missionary Honour Roll on the western wall of the church building commemorates the procession of Flinders Street missionaries.

FSBC continues the missionary tradition with praying for and giving to the following missional activities: Baptist World Aid at Christmas, Crossover Australia at Easter, May Missions Month, and Jam Jar offering for Symbiosis in Jamalpur Bangladesh. The church also currently supports the following:

### **Baptist Mission Australia**

As well as raising funds and promoting May Missions Month, we support the following:

- Dema and Carolyn serving in Thailand
- Rob and Deb Griffiths serving in Cambodia
- Rachel Hutchinson serving in Cambodia
- Phil serving in South Asia

### **Symbiosis in Jamalpur, Bangladesh**

As a church we have adopted the Muslims of Jamalpur as a special group for our concern and prayers. Over the years we have sent an anniversary special gift through Symbiosis to bless them. While people have less coins these days to place in jam jars over the year we nonetheless continue to support this work

### **Vellore Hospital in India**

Vellore Christian Hospital has helped to ground our awareness of the struggles of hospitals world-wide in their present challenges. We are so thankful to God for the possibility of this huge hospital to be so effective in the care of people in need within India. Our donations support their training facilities and their treatment of the poor around Vellore.

### **Local Missions**

- WestCare Centre (BaptistCare SA) – a safe place where people from all walks of life are welcomed and include services for the homeless, socially isolated and victim of domestic violence, including emergency food relief and health support.
- Red Frogs – ministering to young people and providing a positive peer presence in the university accommodation centres, sports events and music festivals.

## CHURCH GOVERNANCE

Flinders Street Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Churches SA & NT. The church membership has full power to manage its own affairs and may delegate such powers from time to time to the leadership or other committees. There are 3 church meetings held each year.

In 2013, the leadership structure was changed to become a Ministry Leadership Team, consisting of elders, the treasurer, and ministry leaders with various responsibilities. Appointments are made for two-year periods, with half being elected each year. People can be reappointed after completing their term of service. Over recent years, the church has added to its leadership some from younger generations and other ethnic backgrounds.

*The church's organisational structure needs reviewing to create a structure to better support the future direction with a clarity between leadership, management and ministry roles.*

## APPENDIX 1

### CURRENT STAFF

Interim Pastor	Rev Ken Clendinning
Ministry Administrator	Svetlana Lakhonina
Organist/Musical Director	Tully Brookes
Church Resident	Stuart Clarke
Cleaner	Stuart Clarke

### Current Office Hours

Tuesday – Thursday 9.00am – 3 00pm

## APPENDIX 2

### NCLS SUMMARY 2025

#### **Most Value:**

- Sermons, preaching or Bible teaching 67%
- Traditional style of worship or music 48%
- Sharing in communion 48%
- Openness to social or cultural diversity 28%

#### **Want to Prioritise:**

- Creating a clear vision for the church 60%
- Encouraging new approaches 42%
- Worship services that are nurturing 33%

#### **Core Qualities in 2025:**

In order, ranked out of 10:

Worship: Always experience inspiration in church worship services 4.7

Service: Number of different ways attenders have helped others in the last 12 months 3.6

Belonging: Sense of belonging is strong and growing 3.1

Innovation: Strongly agree this church is always ready to try something new 3.1

Faith Sharing: Have invited someone in the last 12 months 3.1

Leadership Culture: Agree that leaders encourage attenders to find their gifts and skills to a great extent 2.9

Faith: Much growth in faith in the past year, through this church 2.6

Vision: Aware of and strongly committed to the vision of this church 2.1

Inclusion: Attenders certain they would follow up someone drifting from church 2.1

#### **How We Relate to God:**

- Experienced much growth in faith in the past 12 months 30%
- Private devotions at least weekly 87%
- Agree faith in God is an important part of who I am 96%
- Worship services usually/always challenge me to take action 61%

#### **How We Relate to Each Other:**

- Strong sense of belonging 86%
- Found it easy to make friends 80%
- Involved in group activities at church 59%
- Satisfied with activities for children under 12 years 0%

#### **How We Relate to Community:**

- Helped others in 3 or more informal ways in last year 50%
- Involved in local church service, justice or welfare activities 20%
- Part of community groups not connected to local church 76%
- Feel at ease sharing faith with others 66%

## APPENDIX 3

### PASTORS

Year	Name
1861 – 1897	Rev Silas Mead
1895 – 1905	Rev John G. Raws
1905 – 1908	Rev James Mursell
1908 – 1921	Rev Peter Fleming
1922 – 1926	Rev F. G. Benskin
1927 - 1933	Rev Donovan F. Mitchell
1934 – 1943	Rev J. Arthur Lewis
1945 - 1953	Rev Samuel Millar
1954 – 1968	Rev Leslie J. Gomm
1968 - 1977	Rev Neil W. Adcock
1972 - 1976	Rev Garry R. Billing (Associate)
1977 - 1979	Rev John Hughes
1979 – 1986	Rev Barrie E. Hibbert
1989 - 1992	Rev T. W. Cadman
1995 – 2000	Rev Graeme Pitt
2001 – 2006	Rev Roger Bryson
2007 – 2024	Rev Scott Cadman
2010 – 2013	Rev Danelle McLeay (Associate)
2013 – 2018	Rev Torrey A. Mead Wilson (Associate)

There have also occasionally been Acting or Interim Senior Pastors between the above Senior Pastors appointments.

## APPENDIX 4

### MISSIONARIES/CROSS-CULTURAL WORKERS

Name	Field	Date
Ellen A. Arnold	India	1882 - 1931
Marie Gilbert	India	1882 - 1926
Rev A. E. Summers	India	1887 - 1907
Mrs A. E. Summers	India	1890 - 1907
Miss Fanny Denness	India	1887 - 1893
Miss Agnes Pearce	India	1887 - 1889
Miss Amy Parsons	India	1888 - 1895
Miss Bertha Tuck	India	1890 - 1930
Dr Cecil S. Mead	India	1893 - 1921
Mr Alfred Rogers	China	1890 - 1894
Mr John B. Martin	East Africa	1893 - 1898
Miss Sarah Barbour	India	1909 - 1934
Mrs Agnes Alcorn	India - Pakistan	1949 - 1967
Rev Robert H. Bawden	India - Pakistan	1951 - 1967
Mrs Sheila Draper	New Guinea	1949 - 1975
Miss Bessie Schaefer	New Guinea	1953 - 1969
Dr Max G. Bawden	Pakistan	1956 - 1967
Miss Patricia Connell	Thailand	1959 - 1992
Dr D. Van Steenis	Pakistan	1961 - 1963
Dr Helen Van Steenis	Pakistan	1961 - 1962
Miss Ros M. Gooden	Pakistan	1965 - 1983
Mr John Buit	Congo	1969 - 1989
Miss Ros M. Gooden	A.B.M.S. Headquarters	1983 - 2004
Rev Roger Bryson	P.N.G.	1998 - 2001
Mrs Mary Bryson	P.N.G.	1998 - 2001

## APPENDIX 5

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

Flinders Street Baptist Church is situated in the heart of Adelaide CBD as part of the City of Adelaide's local government area. The City of Adelaide comprises of North Adelaide and Adelaide City which is 15.57 km<sup>2</sup> (6 sq miles) in the middle of the wider Adelaide metropolitan area.

Population. The wider Adelaide metropolitan area has a population of 1.3 million people and is the capital city of South Australia. The current population of the Adelaide Council area is 25000 residents, though it is expected to rise to 46000 by 2041, primarily in the city area, rather than North Adelaide. At it's peak the population was 43000 in 1915 but gradually declined to 13000 during the 1980s as the city became more commercial and less residential. There has been an annual 2.5% increase in population since 2001.

Age. The medium age of people residing in the city is 32, compared to 39 in the metropolitan area. The 20-29 age group is the dominant age group in the city who tend to be more transient. There is a low proportion of couples with children. There are a small proportion of vulnerable residents who are disabled, children and elderly.

Migration. Within the city area, 52% were born overseas (2016) with 33.2% bilingual with Mandarin (13.7%) and Cantonese (3.3%) spoken at home. 1.4% (339) residents identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Between 2016-21, 74% of the population turned over with one in four migrating from overseas and four in ten from interstate. It is forecast that there will be a continued growth in migrants and therefore further social, economic and cultural diversification.

Housing. The resident population is economically polarised between high and low/nil incomes. 49.9% of residents in the city are renting, 20.1% fully own their own homes and 14.7% have a mortgage. It is forecast to be a big increase in the building of high-density apartments in the city, primarily accommodating lone persons and couples without children. They will be 2 bedrooms or less.

There is also a higher rate of homelessness in the city, partly due to the centralisation of services as well transitioning communities who visit for appointments, cultural events or to visit family and friends. One survey in March 2023 identified 235 persons who were 'actively homeless'.

Education. Amongst the residents, 62% have bachelor's degrees or higher while 27% have no formal qualifications. 23% are involved in tertiary education. The city has 3 major universities plus research and medical innovation precepts.

People in the City on a Regular Day. On any given day those in the city precinct are made up of residents (9%), city workers (20%), students (18%), tourists (13%) and other visitors for shopping, entertainment, etc (46%). The number of people coming into the city had decreased. Over 10000 people are employed in tourist related industries which is expected to grow.

Council Plans. The city council has a 30-year plan that was last updated in 2017 with the following targets: 1. Containing our urban footprint and protecting our resources. 2. More ways to get around. 3. Getting active. 4. Walkable neighbourhoods. 5. A green liveable city. 6. Greater housing choice.