Income and socioeconomic position are inextricably linked and among the most important individual-level determinants. People with higher incomes generally enjoy better health and longer lives than those with a low income. This social gradient exists for a wide range of outcomes.  

**Personal income**

At $455, the median weekly personal income in the City of Playford was almost $100 lower than in Adelaide ($554), and $80 lower than in South Australia ($534).

People live in poverty when they do not have enough resources to reliably meet basic needs such as food, housing, heating and health care. In March 2011, the poverty line for a single person was estimated at around $300 per week.

Almost a third of City of Playford residents (32%) had a weekly personal income below the poverty line. This was higher than the proportion of residents living in poverty in Greater Adelaide (28%).

At the other end of the income scale, there were considerably fewer earning weekly incomes over $1,500 in the City of Playford at 4% of residents, compared with a much higher 10% of the population in Greater Adelaide.

Some of the differences in personal income between the City of Playford and Greater Adelaide can be accounted for by the youthful City of Playford population, as it is often the case that young workers have a lower income than older workers. However, it is clear that this pattern does not completely explain the income differential.

Young residents (aged 20-29 years) were most likely to have weekly incomes under $800, at 71% of their age group. However residents aged 50-59 years were over-represented in the weekly income bracket between $200 and $399, at 27% compared to 24% of those aged 20-29 years.

At the higher end of the income scale, those aged 40-49 years had the highest proportion earning more than $1,000 per week.
Household income
The City of Playford reported a median household income of $896 per week compared with $1,106 in Greater Adelaide.

Weekly household income, 2011

Government benefits and allowances
The City of Playford had a higher proportion of residents in receipt of benefits or concessions than the equivalent for Adelaide, both overall and when examined by the individual categories of benefits and concessions.

In 2009 in the City of Playford, there were 8,259 age pensioners (86% of the population aged over 65 years), 5,508 disability support pensioners (11% of eligible residents aged 16-64 years) and 2,700 female sole parent pensioners (13% of females).

Of the 4,316 people receiving an unemployment benefit, almost three quarters (3,169) had been on the benefit for longer than 180 days. Almost a quarter of families (3,958, 21%) were on low incomes and welfare dependent, compared to only 9% of Adelaide families.

More than a third of all City of Playford residents held a Centrelink concession card (35%), compared to 26% across Adelaide. Entitlement to either an Australian Government Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card is often used as a proxy for low socioeconomic status.

The Health Care Card provides access to reduced cost medical expenses, as well as to educational, recreational, transport or other concessions from national, state and local governments. People who have a Pensioner Concession Card include those in receipt of a number of pension and benefit types with the largest group being those who are receiving the Age Pension. Other groups include people with disabilities, carers and sole parents.

3. For this reference to Adelaide is defined by the Adelaide Statistical Division, not the new Greater Adelaide region, a reflection on the boundaries in use at 2009, the year which the data refers to.

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