

# Health, Retirement & Aged Care Economic Snapshot June 2016



## Health Sector

Health providers in the Mount Barker region include:

### **Mount Barker and District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital**

The hospital has 34 beds and offers emergency, medical, surgical and obstetric services. Also, in October 2013 a new purpose-built six chair chemotherapy unit opened at the hospital and the Maternity Wing was expanded in February 2014. This Wing provides three birthing suites, eight postnatal rooms, a neonatal step down unit, four consulting rooms and associated office and meeting room space.

The hospital provides an expanded service for surgery and obstetrics to a population of around 80,000 people across the Adelaide Hills region.

### **Hills, Southern Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island Community Health Services: Mount Barker Campus**

Co-located with the hospital this service provides a range of health services aimed at promoting and sustaining good health. The facility works with other organisations including the Mental Health Department to ensure that residents have access to affordable community services which meet their needs.

### **Country Health SA Local Health Network**

Country Health works with the local hospital and Community Health Service to implement state-wide health plans which take into account the predicted population growth for the Greater Mount Barker region.

## GP Super Clinic

A new GP Super Clinic is also co-located within the hospital precinct and provides access to:

- Medical specialists
- General practitioners
- Allied Health
- Radiology
- Pathology
- Pharmacy.

The GP Super Clinic increases access to health services for Mount Barker residents including out-of-hours access to general practitioners.

## Retirement and Aged Care

Although the district has above average proportions of children and young people, mainly due to the housing developments which are being marketed towards first homebuyers and young families, the number of older people in the district is also rising as the resident population ages.

Between 2006 and 2011 the population increase in the over 60s age bracket accounted for 40% of population growth. This is partly in response to more 'retirement housing' being made available in the region and the types of dwellings offered, for example:

- Eldercare Sash Ferguson, Mount Barker offers units, villas and independent living options
- St Paul's Lutheran Retirement Living, Hahndorf offers serviced apartments, villas and independent living units
- The Laurels Retirement Village, Mount Barker offers serviced apartments, villas and independent living units.

## Current Status

The largest changes in age structure in the district between 2001 and 2011 were in the following age groups:

- Empty nesters and retirees aged 60 to 69 (+1600 persons)
- Older workers and pre-retirees aged 50 to 59 (+1259 persons)
- Parents and homebuilders aged 35 to 49 (+1207 persons)
- Tertiary education and independent aged 18 to 24 (+637 persons).

## Opportunities

With the projected growth in population in Mount Barker over the next 10-15 years the region has the capacity to attract older residents especially those seeking a lifestyle change as they progress into retirement.

As mentioned, this is also enabled by the significant residential developments occurring in the region at the present time that offer a range of housing options.

The increase in the ageing population will bring a variety of opportunities in the provision of facilities and services to support health and well-being. Places for people to gather and socialise, pursue hobbies and educational activities and to engage in physical activity will all be important. Programs and infrastructure to support these things will be important investment opportunities to consider.

