

2 Read the following projections about the future population of Australia.

Population projections

According to the latest available projections (which are based on several combinations of assumptions reflecting past trends in births, deaths and migration), the total population of Australia is likely to have increased to between 22.3 and 23.3 million by 2021.

The projected population will increase at a declining rate. The average annual growth rate is predicted to be between 0.5 and 0.8 during 2011–2021. Without overseas migration, the projected total population should peak at about 23.3 million in 2041, and then start to decline marginally.

Age distribution

The projected population will age progressively due to the increasing proportion of the elderly (aged 65 years or more) and the decreasing proportion of children (aged under 15 years). In brief, the number of persons aged under 15 is projected to be between 3.7 and 4.1 million in 2031; the population of working age (15–64 years) is projected to increase to between 14.4 and 15.0 million in 2031; and the number of persons aged 65 years or more is projected to increase to between 2.94 and 2.98 million in 2031. The projections also show significant increases in the number of persons aged 80 years or more.

Write the verbs in brackets in the future perfect tense. Then choose the correct ending for each sentence.

- 1 By the year 2021 the population of Australia (reach) a by the early 2040s.
- 2 The population of Australia (peak) b to almost 2.98 million.
- 3 By the year 2031 the number of children aged under 15 (rise) c a maximum of 23.3 million.
- 4 By 2031 the number of people of working age in Australia (grow) d to between 3.7 and 4.1 million.
- 5 By 2031 the number of people aged 65 and over (go up) e significantly.
- 6 By the year 2031 the number of people aged over 80 (increase) f to around 15 million.