

Recreational marine licence census June 2016

About this publication

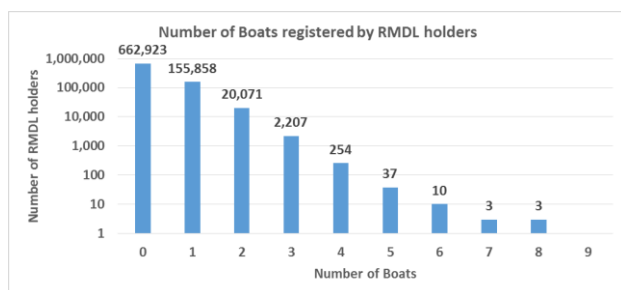
This publication presents the results of a census taken of the number of current Queensland recreational marine licences on 30 June 2016. The data presented in this publication was extracted from the Department of Transport and Main Roads TRAILS Registration System (the register) on 1 July 2016.

In Queensland, being issued a *Recreational Marine Driver Licence* (RMDL) is a necessary prerequisite to being issued with a *Personal Watercraft Licence* (PWCL). Both of these marine licences are issued for an unlimited term and so will remain current unless they are surrendered, cancelled, or until the passage of time assures the licence can no longer be in use.

The graphs and tables provide the number of current recreational marine licences classified by type, maritime region, the age and gender of the licensees, the year in which a licence was issued and whether or not a licensee was the registrant of a personal water craft (PWC) or boat (a vessel that is not a PWC). The particulars of the boats and PWC that licensees have registered can be found in the report “Recreational Vessel Census June 2016”.

Key Points

At 30 June 2016 records indicate that 841,761 people held a current marine license; two licenses for every nine people resident in Queensland who were 16 years of age or older.

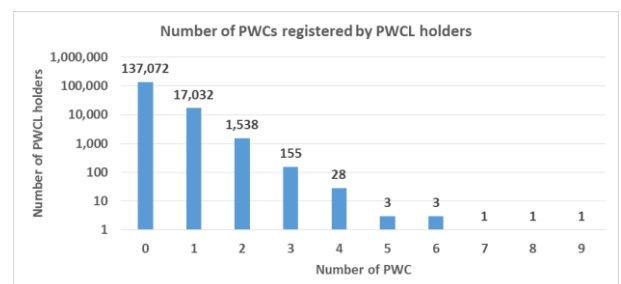


An RMDL was held by 841,366 people of whom 155,439 also held a PWCL. An additional 395 people, with interstate recreational boat licences or a commercial marine qualification, held a standalone PWCL.

Twenty-one per cent (178,504) of the 841,366 holders of an RMDL had registered at least one of 203,996 recreational boats. The majority of these registrants (19%) registered a single boat.

Over the past twelve months the number of RMDL holders increased by 3 per cent while the number of RMDL holders registering boats and the number of boats they had registered both increased by one per cent.

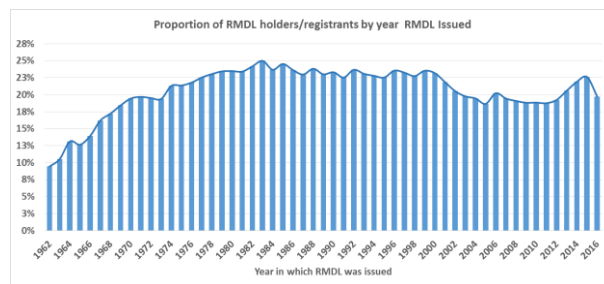
Twelve per cent (19,404) of the 155,834 holders of a PWCL had registered at least one of 21,421 PWC. The majority of these registrants (11%) registered a single PWC.



Over the past twelve months the number of PWCL holders increased by 10 per cent while the number of PWCL holders who registered a PWC and the number of PWC they registered increased by 7 and 8 per cent respectively.

Only half of one per cent of licensees (4285) had registered both a boat (5420 boats) and a PWC (4966 PWC). The majority of these licensees (2972) had registered a single boat and a single PWC.

Eighty-two per cent of current RMDLs were issued between 1962 when licenses were first issued and 2010. A further 16 per cent of RMDLs were issued between 2011 and 2015. (See Graph 1)

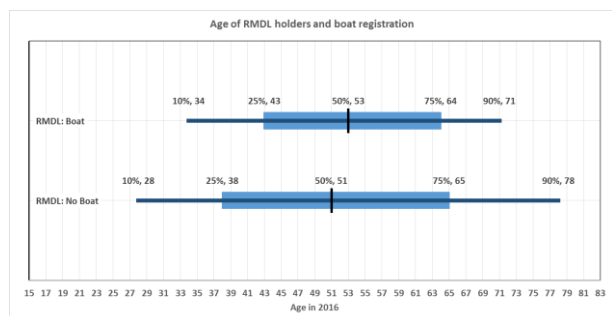


The proportion of these licensees who were registrants of at least one boat increased from 9.5 per cent of those issued an RMDL in 1962 to a maximum of 25 per cent among those issued an RMDL in 1982 before falling to 19 per cent of those issued an RMDL in 2011. At this point the proportion of licensees who were registrants rose to 23 per cent in 2015; coincident with the year in which the RMDL was issued.

The majority (63.5%) of RMDL holders were resident in the Brisbane Maritime Region followed by the Gladstone Maritime Region which accommodated a further 14.7 percent of RMDL holders. The Mackay, Townsville and Cairns regions accommodated 5.4, 7.5 and 7.8 per cent of RMDL holders respectively.

RMDL holders in the Mackay Maritime Region were the most likely (30%) to be the registrant of a boat and, at 1.2 boats per registrant, registered the highest average number of boats per registrant. RMDL holders in the Brisbane Maritime Region were the least likely (18%) to be the registrant of a boat and registered the lowest average number of boats at 1.1 boats per registrant.

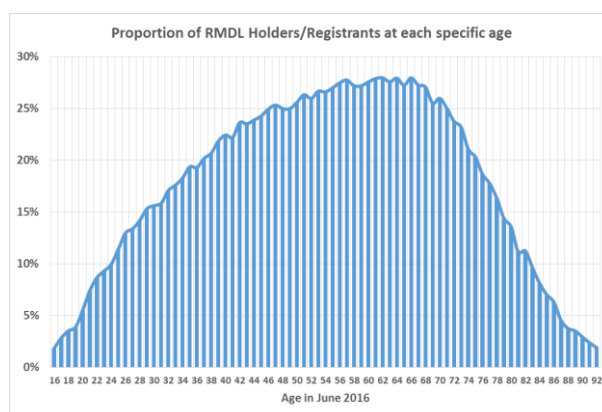
Sixteen per cent (139,508) of RMDLs had been issued to women, 6 per cent (7859) of whom had registered at least one of 8259 boats which accounts for 4.2 per cent of all the boats registered by licensees.



The mean age of the holder of an RMDL who had registered a boat was 52 years, while the median age was 53. Ten per cent of these RMDL holders were more than 71 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 34 years of age and 50 per cent were between 43 and 64 years of age. While the mean and median ages of RMDL holders who had not registered a boat were both 51 years, the distribution of these RMDL holders' ages was somewhat more dispersed. Ten per cent were more than 78 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 28 years of age while 50

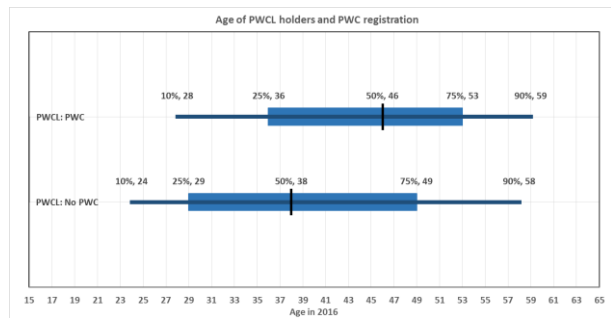
per cent were between 38 and 65 years of age.

It is of interest to note that the probability that the holder of an RMDL would be the registrant of a boat increased at a decreasing rate as the licensee became older. Only 2 per cent of 16 year old RMDL holders were the registrants of a boat. This proportion increased to 17 per cent at 32 years of age reaching a maximum of 28 per cent at 64 years of age. At this point boat registrations declined until only 2 per cent of 90 year old RMDL holders were the registrant of a boat.



The proportion of licensees who had been issued with both an RMDL and a PWCL decreased with the licensee's age and increased as the year in which the RMDL was issued became more recent.

For example 12 per cent of "Baby Boomers" (born 1947-1966) had both marine licenses while 25 per cent of the "X/Y Generation" (born 1967-1986) had both marine licenses as did 44 per cent of the "I Generation" (born 1987-2006). Likewise 39 per cent of licensees issued an RMDL between 2011 and 2015 also had a PWCL. This figure fell to 23 per cent between the years 2001 and 2010, 8 per cent between the years 1981 and 2000 and 3 per cent of those issued an RMDL between 1962 and 1980. It is of interest to note that women (26%) were far more likely than men (17%) to have both an RMDL and a PWCL.

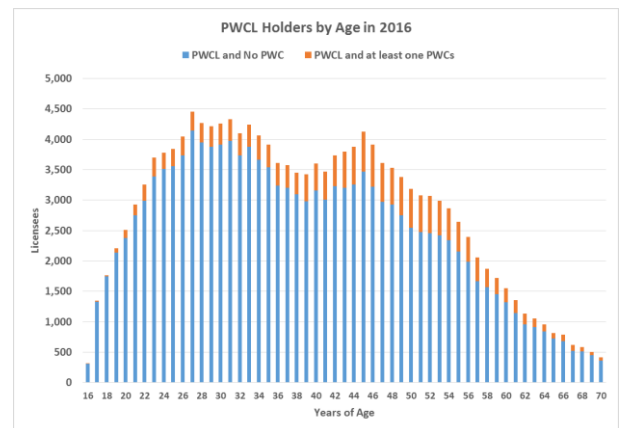


The mean age of the holder of a PWCL who had registered a PWC was 44 years, while the median age was 46. Ten per cent of these PWCL holders were more than 59 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 28 years of age and 50 per cent were between 36 and 53 years of age.

The mean age of the holder of a PWCL who had not registered a PWC was 39 years, while the median age was 38. Ten per cent of these PWCL holders were more than

58 years of age, 10 per cent were less than 24 years of age and 50 per cent were between 29 and 49 years of age.

The five year difference in the mean ages of PWCL holders who had and had not registered a PWC is a consequence of the distribution of licensees' ages having two peaks, the first centred around 30 years of age and the second around 45 year of age. While 50 per cent of PWCL holders were 39 years old or younger, those licensees who were 40 years old or older were twice as likely (16% vs. 8%) to be the registrant of a least one PWC.



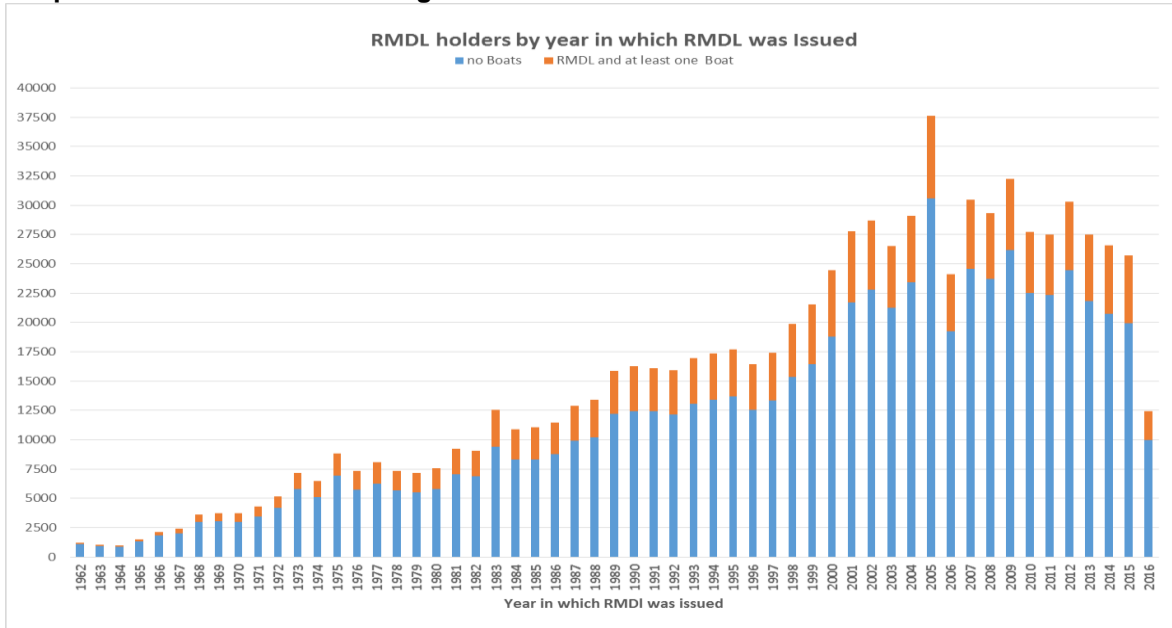
Twenty-three per cent (35,845) of PWCLs have been issued to women, 6 per cent (2105) of whom had registered at least one of 2304 PWC which accounts for 10.8 per cent of all the PWC registered by licensees.

Fifty-three per cent of current PWCL were issued between 2005, the first year in which PWCL were issued and 2010. Nine per cent of these licensees were the registrant of a PWC. The remaining 47% of PWCL were issued between 2011 and 2016. Sixteen per cent of these licensees were the registrant of a PWC.

The majority (77.4%) of PWCL holders were resident in the Brisbane Maritime Region followed by the Gladstone Maritime Region which accommodated a further 9.6 percent of PWCL holders. The Mackay, Townsville and Cairns regions accommodated 3.3, 4.5 and 4.2 per cent of PWCL holders respectively.

PWCL holders in the Townsville Maritime Region were the least likely (10.3%) to be the registrant of a PWC and, at 1.08 PWC per registrant, registered the lowest average number of PWC per registrant. In the other three Maritime Regions 12 to 12.8 per cent of PWCL holders were the registrant of a PWC, registering an average of 1.11 PWC per registrant.

Graph 1: Licensees and Boat Registrants



Graph 2: Licensees and Boat Registrants

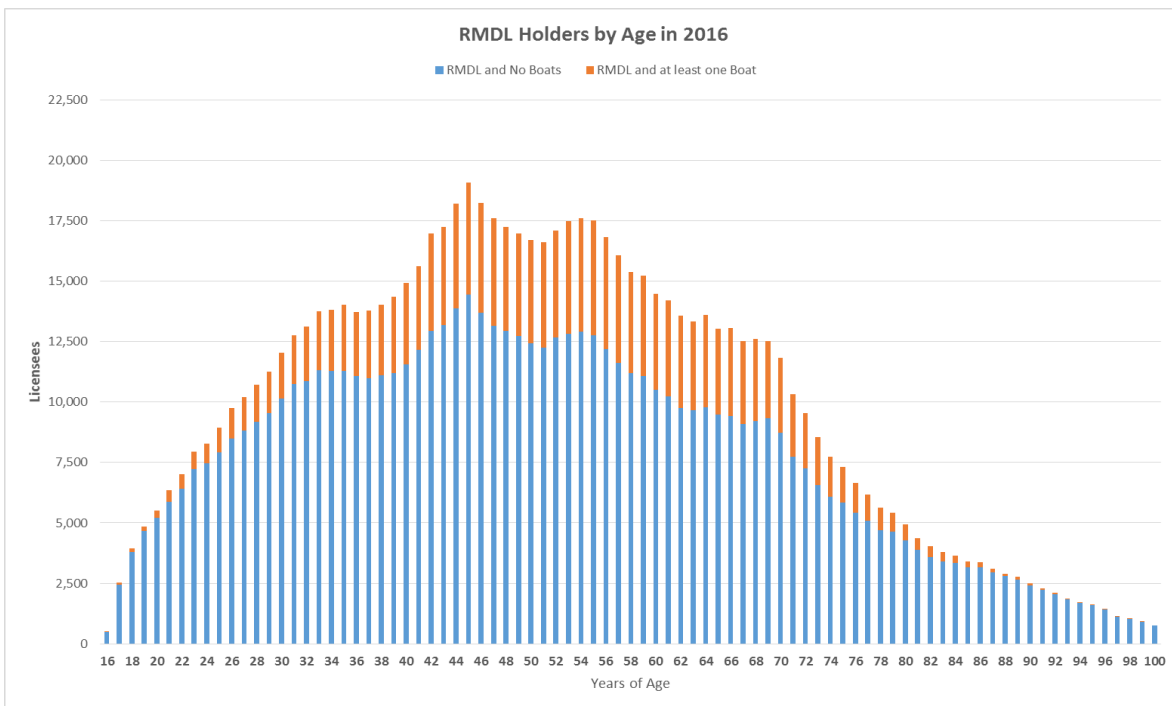


Table 1: Licenses, Registrants and Vessels

Column 1	Licenseses	RMDL	Registrant ¹	Boats	PWCL	Registrant ²	PWC
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Maritime Regions							
Brisbane	534,611	534,379	97,624	108,769	120,618	15,335	16,952
Gladstone	123,773	123,735	34,999	40,698	15,032	1802	1981
Mackay	45,436	45,391	13,479	16,132	5155	662	736
Townsville	63,383	63,372	16,673	19,774	7085	730	787
Cairns	65,472	65,416	15,456	18,333	6597	820	908
Ex QLD	9086	9073	273	290	1347	55	57
Gender							
Female	139,546	139,508	7859	8529	35,845	2105	2304
Male	702,107	701,751	170,643	195,465	119,988	17,299	19,117
Unspecified	108	107	2	2	1		
Age of Licensees							
Oldest Generation 1891–1926	20,686	20,686	263	279	3		
Lucky Generation 1927–1946	115,504	115,490	20,137	22,880	1957	288	312
Baby Boom 1947–1966	299,526	299,381	81,081	94,701	35,253	6359	7165
Generation Y 1967–1986	307,620	307,406	66,754	75,122	75,994	9874	10,889
I Generation 1987–2006	97,774	97,752	10,262	11,007	42,627	2883	3055
Not Recorded	651	651	7	7			
Year RMDL Issued							
1962 to 1980	89,740	89,740	18,329	22,406	2503	410	469
1981 to 2000	306,083	306,083	71,421	84,660	25,933	4949	5631
2001 to 2010	293,477	293,477	57,536	63,729	67,653	7011	7731
2011 to 2015	137,550	137,550	28,274	30,074	53,515	6304	6812
2016	12,417	12,417	2450	2537	5756	685	722
No RMDL issued	395		61	69	395	25	33
Not Recorded	2099	2099	433	521	79	20	23
Year PWCL Year							
2005	36,849	36,721	8484	10,408	36,849	3489	4023
2006 to 2010	46,215	46,059	6911	8025	46,215	4352	4839
2011 to 2015	65,605	65,507	9360	10,515	65,605	9716	10,598
2016	7165	7152	869	955	7165	1205	1282
No PWCL Issued	685,927	685,927	152,880	174,093		642	679
Total	841,761	841,366	178,504	203,996	155,834	19,404	21,421
1: Licensees who have registered at least one boat.							
2: Licensees who have registered at least one PWC.							

Disclaimer

The data sources used in the compilation of this report are subject to an ongoing process of data validation and consequently the numbers and calculations presented are subject to revision.

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