Changing Population Trends

New figures show the number of older residents in some NSW communities has exceeded the number of children for the first time in Australian history.

The Department of Planning and Environment has crunched the numbers on the state’s ageing population, to coincide with the International Day of Older Persons.

A Department spokesperson said the ABS figures show population trends across NSW are being transformed in a way never seen before in Australia.

“The number of people aged over 65 and older is beginning to outnumber those aged less than 15 years.

“This has already happened on the Central Coast and North Coast, as well as in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven and South East and Tablelands regions,” the spokesperson said.

Population projections indicate all areas outside of Sydney will have more older residents than under 15s by as early as 2021.

The Department is working to ensure this changing population trend is reflected in its planning of new communities, by providing a range of housing options in Priority Precincts, close to services.

“The Department is committed to planning for the future of NSW, and that includes new communities located close to public transport, to cater for residents as they age.

“Providing green space for older members of the community to enjoy also features in both Priority Precincts and land release areas,” the spokesperson said.

The Department is also working with other Government agencies and service providers to plan for the future needs of an ageing population.

“The Department recognises how important older Australians are to the community and the valuable contribution they make, and is working to ensure they’re properly catered for.”

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