

# >>> About Down syndrome

**Down syndrome occurs at conception. People from all different backgrounds and ages have children with Down syndrome.**



There is no national data collection on the number of people with Down syndrome in Australia.

>>> **Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition.**



The incidence of births of children with Down syndrome **increases** with the age of the mother. The chance of a woman conceiving a child with Down syndrome varies from **1 in 1400 for a woman 20 years of age to 1 in 30 at age 45 years.**



Younger women have babies more frequently, so the majority of babies born with Down syndrome are born to women **under 35 years of age.**

>>> **People with Down syndrome are living longer and healthier lives than they have in the past.**



Life expectancy of people with Down syndrome has dramatically increased over the past 50 years, with the average life expectancy of a person with Down syndrome in Australia being **60 years of age.**



It is estimated there are

**13,500**

people with Down syndrome living in Australia.



Applying these numbers to the Australian population, every 10,000 people there are

**5.2**

people with Down syndrome.

This is similar to other countries like the UK.



Approximately

**1 in every 1100**

babies born in Australia will have Down syndrome.

Each year there are approximately

**265**

new babies who have Down Syndrome.