

LIVEABILITY

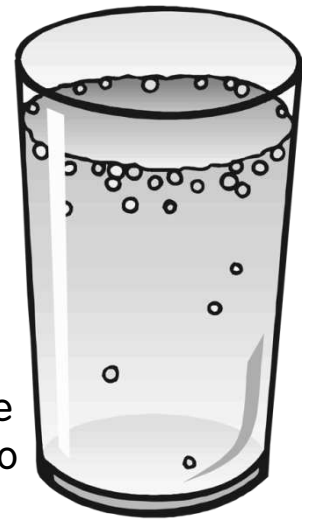
ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Whilst the majority of Australian people live in urban areas close to the coast, approximately a third of the population live in remote or rural areas of the country. Some people live in regional cities and large towns, others live in small country towns and agricultural areas. A small percentage live in remote and very remote areas of Australia. Access to resources in these areas varies. People living in urban areas have access to a wide variety of resources because that's where the majority of the population are located. People living in rural areas may have to travel long distances to access the resources they need like water, education and health services.

Water

People living in urban areas generally have ready access to clean drinking water through pipes plumbed to their homes. In rural and remote areas, accessing water can be more difficult. Most people rely on rainfall to replenish water supplies in water tanks on their properties.

Conserving water is very important in these areas and people may use water-saving techniques such as using greywater to water crops or installing long-drop toilets and water-saving shower heads. In parts of the world like Asia and Africa, people still have to walk long distances to water pumps to bring back buckets of water.



Education

People living in urban areas have access to a variety of schools and educational opportunities. Most students travel short distances to schools located in their local communities. In rural and remote areas, schools are located long distances away and daily travel to and from school is not possible. In Australia, some students attend boarding schools, or complete their lessons via email or post, with little interaction with teachers and students. School of the Air is another way for children in remote areas to access school via the internet or UHF radios. Many schools of the air organise annual sports carnivals or activities, so students and their families can socially interact. Many schools in rural areas aren't well resourced and therefore, technology can be extremely limited.



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Health Services

In urban areas a variety of health services are available to people. In an emergency an ambulance is usually a phone call away and most towns and cities have access to doctors and hospitals just a short distance away. Medical assistance can be pretty basic in rural and remote areas and medical help is not close by. People living in these areas rely on the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to provide regular health services and assistance in medical emergencies. If medical help is needed, the RFDS may fly to an isolated property, such as a station, mine site, road house or small community, a remote health facility, or to an accident site itself. The RFDS provides this service 24 hours a day to over 80% of the Australian continent.

1. Why do you think people in urban areas have access to such a wide variety of resources? _____

2. What are the differences between the way people access water in urban areas compared to rural and remote areas?

3. Think about your community. How does your family access water? Where do you attend school? What health services do you have available when needed? _____

