

A snapshot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Newcastle



City of Newcastle

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2016



5,479 people identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



2,824 dwellings - 39% more than the 2011 Census*, although this number could be a lot higher - it is possible that "3,000 people in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander households (almost 4 in 10) did not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander"



3.5% of the total population identified as being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (NSW = 2.5%)



The western parts of Newcastle LGA had the highest number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander residents:

- Wallsend - Elernmore Vale SA2 - 847 people in 420 dwellings
- Maryland - Fletcher - Minmi SA2 - 669 people in 275 dwellings
- Mayfield - Warabrook SA2 - 312 dwellings housing 569 people



Age

The age structure of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2016 were heavily skewed towards younger people, compared to the general population: *



21% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community were **children 9 years and under** (general population = 11%)



51% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community were aged **24 years and under** (general population = 31%)



17% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community were aged **50 years and over** (general population = 34%)



5% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community were aged **65 years and over** (general population = 16%)

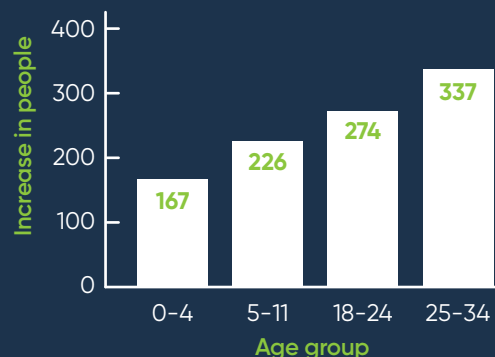
Median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community =

24 years (NSW = 22)

Median age of the general population =

38 years (NSW = 38)

Largest changes in age groups of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population between 2011 and 2016 were in the younger age groups **:



Household size and housing suitability

Average household size in 2016

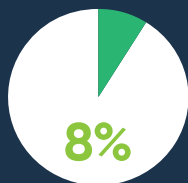


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

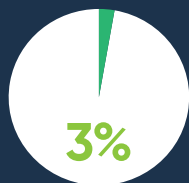


General population

Proportion of dwellings that needed 1 or more extra bedrooms



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



General population

Housing costs & tenure in 2016

Median monthly mortgage repayment = **\$1,733**
(general population = \$1,773)

Median weekly rent = **\$320** (general population = \$340)

25% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households received rent assistance from the Australian Government (NSW = 28%)

57% rented (general population = 35%)

40% of households were either buying, or owned their own home (general population = 62%)

49% of rental households were managed by real estate agents; 27% by public housing

15% of households lived in public housing (general population = 5%)

Employment and participation in the labour force

Workforce participation rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2016 = **61%** (NSW = **54%**) (general population in Newcastle LGA = **64%**).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men had a higher participation rate (**64%**) than women (**58%**).



52% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 15 years and over (almost 2,000 people) were employed in 2016.



Unemployment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2016 = **15%** (general population = **7%**).

The occupations of employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2016:

- More 'Professionals' than any other occupation (**358** or **18%**) (NSW = **24%**) – an increase of **53%** since 2011
- 'Community and Personal Service Workers' = the second highest occupation at **17%** (NSW = **10%**) – an increase of **58%** since 2011
- Proportion of Managers (**6%**) was much lower than the NSW = **14%**, but had increased **27%** since 2011
- Highest rate of growth since 2011 = 'Community and Personal Service Workers' and Labourers = **58%** each



Education Levels

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 15 years in 2016 were less likely to have educational qualifications than the general population:

11%

had a degree or higher (general population = 25%) (NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people = 7%)

49%

had a tertiary qualification (including Certificates) (general population = 61%) (NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people = 45%)

39%

had completed Year 12 (general population = 55%) (NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people = 30%)

Attendance at school education

There was an increase in school education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children between 2011 and 2016

Preschool attendance increased by **81%** since 2011

75% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 4–5 attended preschool in 2016 (general population = 78%) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW = 72%)

Secondary school attendance increased by **59%** since 2011

84% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 12–17 attended secondary school in 2016 (general population = 92%) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW = 81%)



Attendance at tertiary education

19% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15–24 attended university or other tertiary institutions in 2016 (general population = 35%) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW = 7%)

Personal income

In 2016, there was a significant difference in the average levels of personal income of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the general population over 15 years, and differences between men and women:

The average weekly personal income in 2016 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:



people: \$659

31% less than the general population (\$960) (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW = \$621)



men: \$696

65% of the overall male average for the Newcastle LGA, and \$28 higher than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in NSW



women: \$578

80% of the overall female average for the Newcastle LGA, and \$71 higher than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in NSW

Proportionally more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were in the **\$150–\$299** per week and nil/negative ranges

Proportionally fewer were in the **\$1000+** per week range

* Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census: data for Newcastle LGA
** iD Community Profile for Newcastle LGA <https://profile.id.com.au/newcastle/indigenous-age-structurefor>

A summary sheet of 'A demographic profile of diverse communities within the City of Newcastle'
Prepared by Jan Fallding, May 2021

NB:

• SA = Statistical Area (geographical area used in Population Census)

• All references unless specified are Aboriginal Affairs NSW, 2017: Community Portrait: Newcastle LGA – A portrait of the Aboriginal community of Newcastle, compared with NSW, from the 2016 and earlier Censuses



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