

A snapshot of older people (over 60 years) in Newcastle

How many older people live in Newcastle?

Age	Population (2021)	Population (2016)	% of population (2021)	% of population (2016)
60-64	9,415	9,074	5.6%	5.8%
65-69	8,175	7,492	4.8%	5.2%
70-74	7,090	6,258	4.2%	4.6%
75-79	5,226	4,462	3.1%	3.3%
80-84	3,738	3,380	2.2%	2.3%
85 and over	4,421	3,820	2.6%	2.3%
Total 60 and over	38,065	34,486	22.5%	23.5%
Total Newcastle LGA	168,891	165,571		

In 2021, there were estimated to be **38,065** people aged 60 and over, being **22.5%** of the total population (NSW= 23.5%)¹

How many older people will there be in the future?

There will be an increase in older people over the age of 60 in the Newcastle LGA. By 2041, there will be an additional

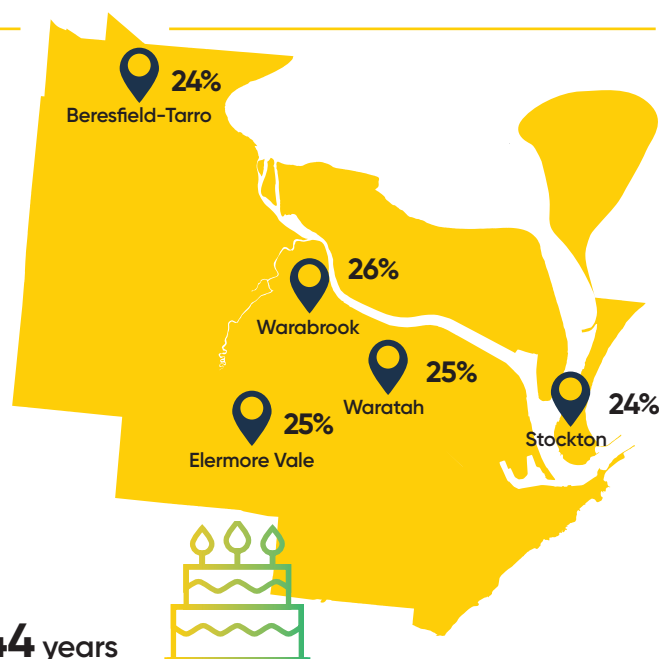
8,880 people aged 60 and over, being a **24% increase** on the 2021 population.

The highest rates of increase will be in the **75 to 79-year** age group (**41%**) and **80 to 84 years** (**41%**).²

By 2031, people 60 years and over will form 22% of the total population in Newcastle.

Where do older people live?³

- In 2021, **Warabrook** had the highest proportion of people aged over 65 years in Newcastle with **26%**.
- This was followed by **Elmore Vale (25%), Waratah (25%), Beresfield-Tarro (24%)** and **Stockton (24%)**.



Median Age⁴

Median age for Newcastle

37 years

Highest median age:


Stockton = **47 years**

Warabrook = **45 years**

Hamilton South - Hamilton East = **44 years**



Institutional Care⁵


- Total of **3,128 people (8%)** aged over 60 years lived in a 'non-private dwelling' (i.e. nursing home).
- The proportion **increased dramatically with age** e.g. **60–69 years = 3%**, while **90 years and over = 43%**.
- Of those people living in a non-private dwellings, **57%** of people aged 60 years lived in a 'nursing home' and **14%** lived in 'accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)'.



How many older people live alone?

- **52%** of people over 60 lived with a **husband, wife or partner**. This decreased with age (59% for 60–69 year olds; 15% for people over 90)
- **26%** of people over 60 were the **only person in their household**. This increased with age (23% for 60–69 year olds; 32% for people over 80)
- **6%** of people over 60 were a **lone parent**

Income

- **65%** of people over 65 years (almost 17,000 people) received the **Aged Care Pension** in 2021 (NSW=59%). The number and rate (68%) has declined since 2017 (NSW=63%)⁶
- Only **22%** of people aged 60 and over live in a household which has a **household income of more than \$2,000 per week**. This rate declines with higher age brackets

Health and Disability⁷

In 2021, **30% of all people aged 60 years and older had one long-term health condition (arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, mental health condition etc), 16% had two conditions and 12% had three or more conditions.**

- **33%** of people aged 60 years and older had **no long-term health conditions**.
- Of the long-term health conditions, **30%** of people aged 60 years and older had **arthritis, 15% had heart disease, 13% had diabetes and 11% had a mental health condition**.
- In 2021, **18%** of people aged 60 years and older had **need for assistance with core activities**. This increased with age, 35% of 80–89 year olds had need for assistance, 61% of 90–99 year olds and 66% of people aged 100 years and older.

Rates of volunteering may have declined due to COVID-19. On Census night in August 2021, Newcastle was in lockdown and many volunteering activities had been suspended.

Volunteering

- In 2021, **14%** of all people aged 60 years and older **volunteer**, which is the same as all persons aged 15 years and older in Newcastle. In 2016, this figure was 18.5%
- The **rate of volunteering declined with age** – e.g. 16% of people aged 60–69 (21% in 2016); 2% of people over 90 (5% in 2016). Comparisons: people 15 years and over = 18.5%, people aged 60 and over = 18.2%.

Participation in work

- **39%** of people aged 60 – 69 years **participated in the labour force** in 2021, falling to 5% of people aged 70 – 79 years, and 0.6% of people aged 80 – 89 years.
- **Working men** in their 60s were more likely to be **working fulltime (42%)** than **women (37%)**, however women were more likely to be working part-time (20%) than men (14%).

¹Reference: ABS Census 2021, prepared by .id (informed decisions) community profile

²Reference: Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2041, prepared by .id (informed decisions), June 2023.

³Reference: ABS Census 2021, prepared by .id community profile

⁴Reference: ABS Census 2021, prepared by .id social atlas

⁵Reference: ABS Census 2021, prepared in Table Builder

⁶Reference: Public Health Information Development Unit, June 2023: data for Newcastle LGA

⁷Reference: ABS Census 2021, prepared in Table Builder

NB:

- All references unless specified are: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census
- SA = Statistical Area (geographical area used in Population Census)

