

A snapshot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Newcastle

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2021:



7,415 people identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, living in 3,954 households – **35% more** than the 2016 Census¹, although this number could be a lot higher – as not all people state whether they are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the Census.



4.4% of the total population identified as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (NSW=3.4%), as compared to **3.5%** in 2016.



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

- **Beresfield-Taro** with 442 residents making up **8.9% of the population** in that location, as compared to 5.5% in 2016.
- **Maryland** with 578 residents making up **7.4% of the population**, as compared to 5.7% in 2016.
- **Waratah West** with 226 residents making up **7.3% of the population**, as compared to 4.4% in 2016.
- **Wallsend** with 812 residents making up **6.1% of the population**, as compared to 4.9% in 2016.



Age

The age structure of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2021 was heavily skewed towards younger people, compared to the total population of Newcastle²:

- **Median age** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people = **25 years** (NSW=23). 37 years for the total population (NSW=39).
- **34%** of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community were aged **0 to 17 years**, as compared to **19%** for the total population of Newcastle.
- **6%** of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community were aged **65 years and over**, as compared to **17%** for the total population of Newcastle.

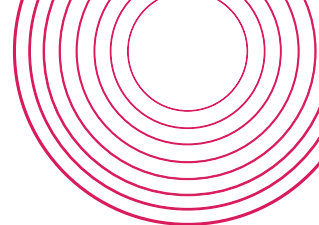


Housing costs & tenure in 2021:

- **56%** of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community **rented** (total population = 37%)
- **41%** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households either had a **mortgage, or owned their own home** (total population = 61%)
- **14%** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households lived in **public housing** (total population = 6%)



Employment and participation in the labour force



Workforce participation rate

for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2021 was **64%** as compared to 61% in 2016. In NSW the participation rate for the total population was 59% in 2021 and 64% for the Newcastle LGA.

Unemployment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

in 2021 was **9%** as compared to 15% in 2016. In NSW and Newcastle, the unemployment rate in 2021 for the total population was 5%.

The occupations of employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2021:

1. More **'Community and Personal Service Workers'** than any other occupation (**20%**), as compared 13% for the total Newcastle population – an increase of 85% since 2016.
2. **'Professionals' = 19%** (Newcastle total population = 29%)
3. **'Technicians and Trades Workers' = 13%** (Newcastle total population = 12%)
4. Proportion of **'Managers' (8%)** was lower than Newcastle total population = 11% but had increased by 110% since 2016.



Education levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

- **13%** had a **Bachelor degree level or higher**, compared to 28% for the total Newcastle population.
- **23%** had completed a **vocational qualification (Certificate III & IV Level)**, compared to 17% for the total Newcastle population.
- **41%** had **completed Year 12**, compared to 54% for the total Newcastle population, this is a 55% increase since 2016.

There was an increase in school attendance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children between 2016 to 2021.

Attendance at school education

- **Preschool attendance** increased by 53% since 2016.
- A larger percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander children attended primary school (13%) as compared to the total Newcastle population (7%).
- **Secondary school attendance** increased by 36% since 2021.
- 84% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 12-17 **attended secondary school** in 2016, compared to NSW average of 81% (general population = 92%)

In 2021, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander household income levels were similar to total household income level in Newcastle. There were some differences in personal income:

Personal income

The weekly household incomes in 2021 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

28%

of households earned a high income (\$2,500 per week or more), compared with 29% of total households in Newcastle

15%

of households earned a low income (less than \$650 per week).

The weekly personal income in 2021 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

5%

of individuals earned a personal income of \$2,000 per week or more, compared with 14% of non-indigenous individuals

45%

of individuals earned a personal income of \$650 or less, compared with 39% of non-Indigenous individuals.

NB:

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

• All references unless specified are 'i.dcommunity' First Nations Communities of Interest: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census 2021' and ABS Tablebuilder, Census 2021.

