

Community report

Inner West (A)

Prepared from Community Explorer topic selections for briefing, planning and reporting use.

AREA

Inner West (A)

COMPARISON

Greater Sydney

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

30 March 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Language used at home

Sources and method

- Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 and, where available, 2016 comparison data.
- Percentages are calculated from the denominator supplied for each topic. Change (pp) is the 2021 percentage minus the 2016 percentage when the topic is comparable across years.
- Usual residence topics describe where people usually live, rather than where they were counted on Census night.

Language used at home

Inner West (A) | Greater Sydney comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, English was the most common language used at home among residents in Inner West (A), accounting for 69.7% (127,518 people). This share was higher than Greater Sydney (57.3%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 10,234 people and 5.3 percentage points.

About this topic

Language used at home shows which languages people speak in their home life and whether English or another language is used most often. It is a key indicator of cultural diversity and language retention within communities.

This topic is useful for planning communication, multicultural services, and local engagement. It should be analysed together with proficiency in English and birthplace, because language alone does not show migration history or support needs.

Interpretation notes

- The Census records the language used most often at home, so it does not capture every language a person can speak.
- Language used at home is not a measure of English proficiency, literacy, or migration history on its own.

Language used at home - Ranked by size

Inner West (A) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	99	0.1%	0.1%	113	0.1%	0.0%	-14	0.0
Non-verbal, so described	181	0.1%	0.1%	277	0.2%	0.2%	-96	-0.1
Swiss, so described	—	—	0.0%	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—
Cypriot, so described	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Creole, nfd	20	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%	+15	0.0
French Creole, nfd	9	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	0.0%	+1	0.0
Spanish Creole, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese Creole, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Pidgin, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Celtic, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Gaelic (Scotland)	14	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	0.0%	+6	0.0
Irish	33	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Welsh	11	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Celtic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
English	127,518	69.7%	57.3%	117,284	64.4%	
German	779	0.4%	0.3%	805	0.4%	
Letzeburgish	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Yiddish	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Dutch	246	0.1%	0.1%	298	0.2%	
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaans	91	0.0%	0.1%	107	0.1%	
Scandinavian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Danish	80	0.0%	0.0%	81	0.0%	
Icelandic	3	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Norwegian	33	0.0%	0.0%	43	0.0%	
Swedish	136	0.1%	0.1%	115	0.1%	
Scandinavian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Finnish and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Estonian	44	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Finnish	51	0.0%	0.0%	65	0.0%	
Southern European Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
French	1,019	0.6%	0.4%	1,106	0.6%	
Greek	4,914	2.7%	1.4%	5,368	2.9%	
Iberian Romance, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Catalan	17	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Portuguese	1,931	1.1%	0.5%	2,032	1.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Spanish	2,737	1.5%	1.2%	2,682	1.5%	
Iberian Romance, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Italian	4,113	2.2%	1.0%	5,073	2.8%	
Maltese	145	0.1%	0.2%	199	0.1%	
Basque	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Latin	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Other Southern European Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Baltic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Latvian	32	0.0%	0.0%	57	0.0%	
Lithuanian	35	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Hungarian	160	0.1%	0.1%	187	0.1%	
Belorussian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian	467	0.3%	0.4%	436	0.2%	
Ukrainian	78	0.0%	0.0%	77	0.0%	
South Slavic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Bosnian	53	0.0%	0.1%	33	0.0%	
Bulgarian	31	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Croatian	481	0.3%	0.3%	471	0.3%	
Macedonian	452	0.2%	0.4%	484	0.3%	
Serbian	407	0.2%	0.4%	444	0.2%	
Slovene	29	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	38	0.0%	0.0%	55	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Czech	82	0.0%	0.1%	118	0.1%	
Polish	404	0.2%	0.2%	508	0.3%	
Slovak	77	0.0%	0.0%	58	0.0%	
Czechoslovakian, so described	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Albanian	33	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Aromunian (Macedo-Romanian)	—	—	—	—	—	
Romanian	88	0.0%	0.0%	75	0.0%	
Romany	10	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Other Eastern European Languages, nec	—	—	—	—	—	
Southwest and Central Asian Languages, nfd	—	—	—	—	—	
Iranic, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Kurdish	10	0.0%	0.1%	18	0.0%	
Pashto	4	0.0%	0.1%	14	0.0%	
Balochi	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Dari	7	0.0%	0.2%	11	0.0%	
Persian (excluding Dari)	269	0.1%	0.5%	273	0.1%	
Hazaraghi	9	0.0%	0.1%	—	—	
Iranic, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Middle Eastern Semitic Languages, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Arabic	2,270	1.2%	4.2%	2,439	1.3%	
Hebrew	101	0.1%	0.1%	90	0.0%	
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	58	0.0%	0.5%	54	0.0%	
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	6	0.0%	0.2%	4	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Mandaean (Mandaic)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Middle Eastern Semitic Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Turkish	633	0.3%	0.4%	605	0.3%	–
Azeri	4	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Tatar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Turkmen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Uygur	21	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Uzbek	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Turkic, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Armenian	55	0.0%	0.2%	49	0.0%	–
Georgian	8	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	–
Other Southwest and Central Asian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	34	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	–
Kannada	49	0.0%	0.1%	52	0.0%	–
Malayalam	135	0.1%	0.3%	231	0.1%	–
Tamil	343	0.2%	0.7%	292	0.2%	–
Telugu	141	0.1%	0.4%	229	0.1%	–
Tulu	5	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	–
Dravidian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Indo-Aryan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	–
Bengali	341	0.2%	0.7%	579	0.3%	–
Gujarati	110	0.1%	0.5%	214	0.1%	–
Hindi	781	0.4%	1.5%	941	0.5%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Konkani	16	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Marathi	118	0.1%	0.2%	114	0.1%	
Nepali	1,959	1.1%	1.2%	2,424	1.3%	
Punjabi	105	0.1%	0.8%	129	0.1%	
Sindhi	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sinhalese	120	0.1%	0.2%	110	0.1%	
Urdu	173	0.1%	0.8%	112	0.1%	
Assamese	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Dhivehi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kashmiri	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Oriya	10	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Fijian Hindustani	20	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Indo-Aryan, nec	11	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Other Southern Asian Languages	3	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Burmese and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese	100	0.1%	0.1%	94	0.1%	
Chin Haka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Karen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rohingya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese and Related Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hmong	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Khmer	66	0.0%	0.2%	68	0.0%	
Vietnamese	3,605	2.0%	2.2%	3,724	2.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Mon	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mon–Khmer, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tai, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Lao	46	0.0%	0.1%	47	0.0%	
Thai	1,196	0.7%	0.4%	1,483	0.8%	
Tai, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	53	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bisaya	25	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Cebuano	24	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Ilokano	7	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Indonesian	636	0.3%	0.6%	816	0.4%	
Malay	110	0.1%	0.1%	88	0.0%	
Tetum	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Timorese	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Tagalog	802	0.4%	0.9%	868	0.5%	
Filipino	573	0.3%	0.5%	626	0.3%	
Acehnese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Balinese	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Bikol	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iban	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ilonggo (Hiligaynon)	11	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Javanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pampangan	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nec	7	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—
Other Southeast Asian Languages	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Eastern Asian Languages, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Chinese, nfd	83	0.0%	0.1%	185	0.1%	—
Cantonese	3,471	1.9%	2.8%	3,476	1.9%	—
Hakka	21	0.0%	0.0%	43	0.0%	—
Mandarin	5,960	3.3%	5.0%	6,527	3.6%	—
Wu	107	0.1%	0.1%	100	0.1%	—
Min Nan	188	0.1%	0.1%	193	0.1%	—
Chinese, nec	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japanese	745	0.4%	0.3%	717	0.4%	—
Korean	798	0.4%	1.1%	779	0.4%	—
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nfd	—	—	—	3	0.0%	—
Tibetan	34	0.0%	0.0%	46	0.0%	—
Mongolian	67	0.0%	0.1%	59	0.0%	—
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec	—	—	0.0%	9	0.0%	—
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	15	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	—
Tiwi	—	—	—	5	0.0%	—
Jawoyn	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Yolngu Matha, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Kuku Yalanji	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Guugu Yimidhirr	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Wik Mungkan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Djabugay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yidiny	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Torres Strait Island Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kalaw Kawaw Ya/Kalaw Lagaw Ya	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Meriam Mir	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole)	–	–	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Gurindji	–	–	–	–	–	
Warlpiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Warumungu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Anmatyerr, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Pitjantjatjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wangkatha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bardi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yawuru	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Adnymathanha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bandjalang	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Batjala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhanggatti	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gamilaraay	31	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Gumbaynggir	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Kaurna	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kriol	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Mangala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Muruwari	–	–	–	3	0.0%	
Ngarrindjeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyamal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyungar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paakantyi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wajarri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wiradjuri	11	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Yorta Yorta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dharawal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yugambeh	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Aboriginal English, so described	7	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	15	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
American Languages	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Akan	17	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	
Mauritian Creole	13	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Oromo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shona	19	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Somali	8	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Swahili	38	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Yoruba	7	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Zulu	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Amharic	17	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Bemba	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Dinka	5	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Ewe	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Ga	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Harari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hausa	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Igbo	6	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Kikuyu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Krio	22	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Luganda	7	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Luo	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ndebele	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Nuer	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyanja (Chichewa)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shilluk	–	–	–	–	–	
Tigre	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tigrinya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tswana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Xhosa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Seychelles Creole	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Anuak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bassa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dan (Gio-Dan)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fulfulde	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Kirundi (Rundi)	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Kpelle	–	–	–	–	–	
Krahn	–	–	–	–	–	
Liberian (Liberian English)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Madi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandinka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mann	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Moro (Nuba Moro)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Themne	6	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Lingala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nec	10	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian	91	0.0%	0.1%	91	0.0%	
Gilbertese	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Maori (Cook Island)	21	0.0%	0.0%	36	0.0%	
Maori (New Zealand)	60	0.0%	0.0%	63	0.0%	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Niue	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Samoan	50	0.0%	0.3%	75	0.0%	
Tongan	217	0.1%	0.2%	225	0.1%	
Rotuman	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Tokelauan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tuvaluan	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Yapese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bislama	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Norfolk-Pitcairn	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Solomon Islands Pijin	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Motu (HiriMotu)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tok Pisin (Neomelanesian)	15	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Invented Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nfd	9	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Auslan	121	0.1%	0.0%	63	0.0%	
Key Word Sign Australia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Not stated	8,062	4.4%	5.3%	13,038	7.2%	
Total	182,862	100.0%	100.0%	182,032	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.