

Community report

Northern Beaches (A)

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

AREA

Northern Beaches (A)

COMPARISON

Greater Sydney

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

2 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Religion

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.

Religion

Northern Beaches (A) | Greater Sydney comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Northern Beaches (A), accounting for 43.1% (113,606 people). This share was higher than Greater Sydney (30.3%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 28,325 people and 9.4 percentage points.

About this topic

Religion records a person's stated religious affiliation, including no religion and not stated responses. It is a measure of cultural identity and belief rather than practice or participation.

This topic helps show the religious diversity of an area and can support planning for community facilities, faith-based services, and inclusive engagement. It is best interpreted with ancestry, birthplace, and language, which together provide a broader picture of cultural composition.

Interpretation notes

- This records stated religious affiliation, not attendance or level of religious practice.
- No religion and not stated are part of the overall picture, so interpretation should consider both affiliation and non-response.

Religion - Ranked by size

Northern Beaches (A) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	958	0.4%	0.3%	1,079	0.4%	0.4%	-121	0.0
Buddhism	3,634	1.4%	3.8%	3,706	1.5%	3.9%	-72	-0.1
Christianity, nfd	5,142	2.0%	2.5%	4,775	1.9%	2.2%	+367	+0.1
Anglican Church of Australia	38,198	14.5%	9.2%	45,098	17.8%	12.0%	-6,900	-3.3
Anglican Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Anglican, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Baptist	2,282	0.9%	1.2%	2,084	0.8%	1.2%	+198	+0.1
Brethren	10	0.0%	0.1%	9	0.0%	0.1%	+1	0.0
Catholic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Western Catholic	60,088	22.8%	22.1%	61,221	24.2%	24.2%	-1,133	-1.4
Maronite Catholic	66	0.0%	0.8%	45	0.0%	0.7%	+21	0.0
Melkite Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Ukrainian Catholic	15	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Syro Malabar Catholic	5	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Catholic, nec	10	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Churches of Christ, nfd	28	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	40	0.0%	0.1%	68	0.0%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	665	0.3%	0.2%	639	0.3%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	319	0.1%	0.2%	303	0.1%	
Community of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lutheran	707	0.3%	0.2%	877	0.3%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian Apostolic	931	0.4%	0.1%	987	0.4%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	85	0.0%	0.4%	79	0.0%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	15	0.0%	0.1%	22	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	67	0.0%	0.2%	7	0.0%	
Ancient Church of the East	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	6	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Albanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Antiochian Orthodox	25	0.0%	0.2%	15	0.0%	
Greek Orthodox	2,214	0.8%	2.3%	2,052	0.8%	
Macedonian Orthodox	117	0.0%	0.3%	97	0.0%	
Romanian Orthodox	19	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Russian Orthodox	301	0.1%	0.2%	298	0.1%	
Serbian Orthodox	1,264	0.5%	0.4%	1,101	0.4%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	52	0.0%	0.0%	35	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian	4,099	1.6%	1.5%	5,428	2.1%	
Reformed	110	0.0%	0.0%	115	0.0%	
Salvation Army	166	0.1%	0.1%	225	0.1%	
Seventh-day Adventist	177	0.1%	0.2%	198	0.1%	
Uniting Church	5,394	2.0%	1.5%	6,859	2.7%	
Pentecostal, nfd	1,962	0.7%	0.8%	2,571	1.0%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	46	0.0%	0.1%	109	0.0%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	11	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Foursquare Gospel Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Revival Centres	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Rhema Family Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Revival Fellowship	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Victory Worship Centre	–	–	–	–	–	–
Worship Centre Network	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Pentecostal, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Other Protestant, nfd	523	0.2%	0.2%	433	0.2%	–
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Born Again Christian	47	0.0%	0.1%	32	0.0%	–
Christian and Missionary Alliance	9	0.0%	0.0%	30	0.0%	–
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Congregational	29	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	–
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	40	0.0%	0.0%	39	0.0%	–
Independent Evangelical Churches	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	–
Wesleyan Methodist Church	17	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	–
Christian Community Churches of Australia	20	0.0%	0.0%	55	0.0%	–
Methodist, so described	262	0.1%	0.1%	334	0.1%	–
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Other Protestant, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Christadelphians	23	0.0%	0.0%	36	0.0%	–
Christian Science	25	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	–
Gnostic Christians	8	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
New Apostolic Church	3	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	–
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	14	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	–
Ratana (Maori)	10	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	10	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	–
Temple Society	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Other Christian, nec	21	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	–
Hinduism	2,221	0.8%	4.8%	1,654	0.7%	–
Islam	1,308	0.5%	6.3%	1,093	0.4%	–
Judaism	909	0.3%	0.7%	817	0.3%	–
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	9	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	–
Baha'i	182	0.1%	0.1%	220	0.1%	–
Ancestor Veneration	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Confucianism	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Taoism	44	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	–
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Druse	35	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Shinto	31	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Sukyo Mahikari	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Tenrikyo	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Japanese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nfd	8	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Animism	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Druidism	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Paganism	78	0.0%	0.0%	82	0.0%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	30	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	28	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Sikhism	562	0.2%	0.7%	524	0.2%	
Spiritualism	166	0.1%	0.0%	173	0.1%	
Mandaeen	3	0.0%	0.2%	8	0.0%	
Yezidi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Caodaism	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Church of Scientology	20	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Eckankar	5	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Rastafari	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Satanism	23	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Theosophy	8	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Jainism	8	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Zoroastrianism	28	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Religious Groups, nec	55	0.0%	0.0%	50	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	—	—	0.0%	3	0.0%	
No Religion, so described	113,606	43.1%	30.3%	85,281	33.7%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Agnosticism	358	0.1%	0.1%	340	0.1%	
Atheism	400	0.2%	0.1%	321	0.1%	
Humanism	24	0.0%	0.0%	89	0.0%	
Rationalism	6	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	20	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Multi Faith	37	0.0%	0.0%	36	0.0%	
New Age	13	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	446	0.2%	0.1%	290	0.1%	
Theism	58	0.0%	0.0%	64	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	75	0.0%	0.0%	57	0.0%	
Not stated	12,311	4.7%	6.2%	20,099	7.9%	
Total	263,505	100.0%	100.0%	252,869	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.