

Community report

Sutherland Shire (A)

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

AREA

Sutherland Shire (A)

COMPARISON

Greater Sydney

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

30 March 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

Sutherland Shire (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 Sutherland Shire (A), accounting for 33.5% (77,037 people). This share was higher than Greater Sydney (30.3%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 24,442 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

Sutherland Shire (A) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	674	0.3%	0.3%	797	0.4%	0.4%	-123	-0.1
Buddhism	2,589	1.1%	3.8%	2,362	1.1%	3.9%	+227	0.0
Christianity, nfd	4,656	2.0%	2.5%	4,275	2.0%	2.2%	+381	0.0
Anglican Church of Australia	37,516	16.3%	9.2%	45,168	20.7%	12.0%	-7,652	-4.4
Anglican Catholic Church	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Anglican, nec	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Baptist	3,583	1.6%	1.2%	3,924	1.8%	1.2%	-341	-0.2
Brethren	211	0.1%	0.1%	167	0.1%	0.1%	+44	0.0
Catholic, nfd	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Western Catholic	62,382	27.1%	22.1%	63,487	29.1%	24.2%	-1,105	-2.0
Maronite Catholic	426	0.2%	0.8%	308	0.1%	0.7%	+118	+0.1
Melkite Catholic	28	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	0.0%	+4	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Ukrainian Catholic	26	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Syro Malabar Catholic	11	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Catholic, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Churches of Christ, nfd	61	0.0%	0.0%	123	0.1%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	183	0.1%	0.1%	237	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	344	0.1%	0.2%	310	0.1%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	229	0.1%	0.2%	285	0.1%	
Community of Christ	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Lutheran	464	0.2%	0.2%	563	0.3%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian Apostolic	28	0.0%	0.1%	45	0.0%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	934	0.4%	0.4%	770	0.4%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	46	0.0%	0.1%	43	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	9	0.0%	0.2%	8	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	12	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Albanian Orthodox	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Antiochian Orthodox	274	0.1%	0.2%	195	0.1%	
Greek Orthodox	8,070	3.5%	2.3%	7,162	3.3%	
Macedonian Orthodox	1,299	0.6%	0.3%	1,093	0.5%	
Romanian Orthodox	29	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Russian Orthodox	541	0.2%	0.2%	413	0.2%	
Serbian Orthodox	425	0.2%	0.4%	300	0.1%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	39	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	13	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian	3,793	1.6%	1.5%	4,847	2.2%	
Reformed	125	0.1%	0.0%	183	0.1%	
Salvation Army	410	0.2%	0.1%	548	0.3%	
Seventh-day Adventist	130	0.1%	0.2%	137	0.1%	
Uniting Church	5,122	2.2%	1.5%	6,954	3.2%	
Pentecostal, nfd	1,919	0.8%	0.8%	1,755	0.8%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	103	0.0%	0.1%	99	0.0%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	10	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	34	0.0%	0.0%	56	0.0%	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Foursquare Gospel Church	11	0.0%	0.0%	7	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%	–	–	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Victory Worship Centre	–	–	–	–	–	
Worship Centre Network	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nfd	262	0.1%	0.2%	211	0.1%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Born Again Christian	55	0.0%	0.1%	39	0.0%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congregational	244	0.1%	0.0%	278	0.1%	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Independent Evangelical Churches	10	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	33	0.0%	0.0%	47	0.0%	
Methodist, so described	249	0.1%	0.1%	255	0.1%	
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christadelphians	106	0.0%	0.0%	106	0.0%	
Christian Science	6	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Gnostic Christians	11	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	–	–	0.0%	9	0.0%	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ratana (Maori)	36	0.0%	0.0%	47	0.0%	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	13	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	20	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Hinduism	1,395	0.6%	4.8%	1,215	0.6%	
Islam	2,068	0.9%	6.3%	1,533	0.7%	
Judaism	362	0.2%	0.7%	284	0.1%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	6	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Baha'i	27	0.0%	0.1%	28	0.0%	
Ancestor Veneration	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Confucianism	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Taoism	37	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Druse	3	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Shinto	10	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Sukyo Mahikari	7	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Tenrikyo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Animism	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Paganism	61	0.0%	0.0%	72	0.0%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	32	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	28	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Sikhism	163	0.1%	0.7%	204	0.1%	
Spiritualism	90	0.0%	0.0%	73	0.0%	
Mandaeen	4	0.0%	0.2%	7	0.0%	
Yezidi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	22	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Eckankar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rastafari	8	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Satanism	30	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Theosophy	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Jainism	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Zoroastrianism	24	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Religious Groups, nec	32	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	77,037	33.5%	30.3%	52,595	24.1%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Agnosticism	292	0.1%	0.1%	230	0.1%	
Atheism	287	0.1%	0.1%	254	0.1%	
Humanism	16	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	
Rationalism	–	–	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	8	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	10	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Multi Faith	28	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
New Age	3	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	228	0.1%	0.1%	148	0.1%	
Theism	27	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	45	0.0%	0.0%	45	0.0%	
Not stated	9,968	4.3%	6.2%	13,633	6.2%	
Total	230,221	100.0%	100.0%	218,448	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.