

# Community report

## The Hills Shire (A)

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

AREA

**The Hills Shire (A)**

COMPARISON

**Greater Sydney**

POPULATION

**Persons**

GENERATED

**4 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

The Hills 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 The Hills Shire (A), accounting for 26.7% (51,258 people). This share was lower than Greater Sydney (30.3%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 17,915 people and 5.5 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

The Hills Shire (A) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	423	0.2%	0.3%	396	0.3%	0.4%	+27	-0.1
Buddhism	5,918	3.1%	3.8%	4,572	2.9%	3.9%	+1,346	+0.2
Christianity, nfd	5,229	2.7%	2.5%	3,611	2.3%	2.2%	+1,618	+0.4
Anglican Church of Australia	20,892	10.9%	9.2%	23,489	14.9%	12.0%	-2,597	-4.0
Anglican Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Anglican, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Baptist	3,131	1.6%	1.2%	2,788	1.8%	1.2%	+343	-0.2
Brethren	510	0.3%	0.1%	457	0.3%	0.1%	+53	0.0
Catholic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Western Catholic	46,831	24.4%	22.1%	44,036	28.0%	24.2%	+2,795	-3.6
Maronite Catholic	1,652	0.9%	0.8%	1,224	0.8%	0.7%	+428	+0.1
Melkite Catholic	59	0.0%	0.0%	41	0.0%	0.0%	+18	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Ukrainian Catholic	26	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	5	0.0%	0.2%	–	–	
Syro Malabar Catholic	49	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Catholic, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
Churches of Christ, nfd	72	0.0%	0.0%	86	0.1%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	138	0.1%	0.1%	92	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	373	0.2%	0.2%	313	0.2%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	515	0.3%	0.2%	486	0.3%	
Community of Christ	24	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Lutheran	342	0.2%	0.2%	396	0.3%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Armenian Apostolic	166	0.1%	0.1%	189	0.1%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	906	0.5%	0.4%	688	0.4%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	125	0.1%	0.1%	60	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Assyrian Church of the East	46	0.0%	0.2%	27	0.0%	
Ancient Church of the East	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Assyrian Apostolic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	9	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Albanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Antiochian Orthodox	198	0.1%	0.2%	120	0.1%	
Greek Orthodox	2,261	1.2%	2.3%	2,103	1.3%	
Macedonian Orthodox	106	0.1%	0.3%	67	0.0%	
Romanian Orthodox	30	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Russian Orthodox	292	0.2%	0.2%	294	0.2%	
Serbian Orthodox	445	0.2%	0.4%	312	0.2%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	34	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	15	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian	3,836	2.0%	1.5%	3,990	2.5%	
Reformed	133	0.1%	0.0%	106	0.1%	
Salvation Army	177	0.1%	0.1%	179	0.1%	
Seventh-day Adventist	826	0.4%	0.2%	771	0.5%	
Uniting Church	3,964	2.1%	1.5%	4,599	2.9%	
Pentecostal, nfd	3,714	1.9%	0.8%	3,835	2.4%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	179	0.1%	0.1%	176	0.1%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	68	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	19	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sydney %
Foursquare Gospel Church	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	—
Revival Centres	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	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	16	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	—
Other Protestant, nfd	566	0.3%	0.2%	318	0.2%	—
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Born Again Christian	109	0.1%	0.1%	44	0.0%	—
Christian and Missionary Alliance	73	0.0%	0.0%	209	0.1%	—
Church of the Nazarene	4	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	—
Congregational	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	—
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	52	0.0%	0.0%	35	0.0%	—
Independent Evangelical Churches	16	0.0%	0.0%	35	0.0%	—
Wesleyan Methodist Church	—	—	0.0%	6	0.0%	—
Christian Community Churches of Australia	6	0.0%	0.0%	71	0.0%	—
Methodist, so described	185	0.1%	0.1%	186	0.1%	—
United Methodist Church	12	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—
Other Protestant, nec	7	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Other Christian, nfd	12	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christadelphians	77	0.0%	0.0%	86	0.1%	
Christian Science	5	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Gnostic Christians	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	15	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ratana (Maori)	6	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	34	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
Hinduism	15,064	7.9%	4.8%	7,063	4.5%	
Islam	8,504	4.4%	6.3%	4,045	2.6%	
Judaism	211	0.1%	0.7%	190	0.1%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Baha'i	606	0.3%	0.1%	472	0.3%	
Ancestor Veneration	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Confucianism	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Taoism	49	0.0%	0.0%	47	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Sydney %	Count	%	Greater Sy
Druse	14	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Shinto	8	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Tenrikyo	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Animism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Paganism	33	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	19	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	18	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Sikhism	2,787	1.5%	0.7%	1,440	0.9%	
Spiritualism	35	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	
Mandaeen	21	0.0%	0.2%	26	0.0%	
Yezidi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Caodaism	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	10	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Eckankar	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Rastafari	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Satanism	12	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Theosophy	3	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Jainism	254	0.1%	0.0%	91	0.1%	
Zoroastrianism	157	0.1%	0.0%	130	0.1%	
Religious Groups, nec	14	0.0%	0.0%	19	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	51,258	26.7%	30.3%	33,343	21.2%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	245	0.1%	0.1%	170	0.1%	
Atheism	177	0.1%	0.1%	148	0.1%	
Humanism	27	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Rationalism	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Multi Faith	22	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
New Age	4	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	89	0.0%	0.1%	66	0.0%	
Theism	23	0.0%	0.0%	35	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	18	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	
Not stated	7,143	3.7%	6.2%	8,890	5.7%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>191,844</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>157,238</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.