





# Fairfield Community Profile



# **Contents**

01 Introduction	5
02 Summary	6
03 Population Summary	10
04 Historical population and future trends	11
05 Number of residents who lived at the same address 5 years ago, came from other places in Australia or came from overseas	14
06 Number of residents who lived at the same address 1 year ago, came from other places in Australia or came from overseas	15
07 Age profile	16
08 Country of birth by year of arrival	18
09 Language used at home	21
10 Proficiency in spoken English by year of arrival	24
11 Religious affiliation	27
12 Need for assistance	29
13 Long-term health conditions	30
14 Health risk factor estimates	33
15 Qualifications	34
16 Labour force status	36
17 Resident employment by industry	39
18 Disengagement by age	42
19 Household income	45
20 Household type	47
21 Household size	48
22 Dwellings	50
23 SEIFA ranking	52
22 What does this data tell us about issues, opportunities and connections?	54
23 Useful resources to find out more	62





# 01 Introduction

The local government area of Fairfield City is located in Sydney's south-west, about 32kms from the Sydney CBD.

The Cabrogal clan of the Darug Nation are the traditional owners of the land and have cared for country here since time immemorial. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples continue to live in the area today. The Fairfield LGA is covered by the Deerubbin and Gandagara Local Aboriginal Land Councils, which provide services for Indigenous people in the area.

Fairfield City is home to a highly diverse population and has a long history of welcoming migrants to the community. Following the establishment of the rail line in 1856, Fairfield City's population initially remained a small community on the fringes of Sydney. The post-WWII shift in Australian migration policies saw the development of migrant hostels in Cabramatta and Villawood. At this time, large communities of typically southern and eastern European immigrants moved to the area and established a new life in Australia - leading to rapid population growth and urban development.

Through the 1970-80s, Fairfield City welcomed refugees and humanitarian entrants from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and South America. From 1990-2010, refugees have been welcomed from Iraq, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, The Congo, Burundi and Sierra Leone. In 2016 and 2017, conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Myanmar led to a surge in the number of humanitarian entrants settling in Fairfield City. Throughout 2012-2021, 32,275 migrants settled in Fairfield City, accounting for 4.4% of the NSW intake at the time, the 4th highest intake of migrants of any LGA in NSW. During this time, 18,910 humanitarian entrants settled in Fairfield City, accounting for 36% of the NSW intake at the time. As a Refugee Welcome Zone, Fairfield City is committed to welcoming refugees and enhancing cultural diversity in the community.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data states that in 2021, the population reached 208,475 persons and is forecast by the NSW Department of Planning, to reach 247,803 by 2041.

Note that the Local Government Area (LGA) of Fairfield will be referred to as Fairfield City.

# 02 **Summary**

# What do the Fairfield City statistics tell us about this community?

Fairfield City is a dynamic, multicultural community with a broad spectrum of people choosing to call the region home.

Fairfield City's population continues to grow and forecasts suggest an even greater number of people will live in the LGA in coming years. Population growth has a number of impacts including increased pressure on existing facilities and services. It is important therefore, to plan for this growth and use a wide range of initiatives and funding sources to help maximise the benefits and opportunities presented.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census data states that in 2021, the population of Fairfield City reached 208,475 persons. The population is rapidly growing and is forecast by the NSW Department of Planning to reach 247,803 by 2041.

All data following is from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of population and housing unless otherwise specified.

Note: The place of enumeration is the place at which the person is counted i.e. where they spent Census night, which may not be where they usually live.



The 2021 Census recorded that a total of 1,523 people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent were living in Fairfield City. 56% of people in Fairfield City were born overseas, compared with 38.6% in Greater Sydney.

The median age was 39 years which is the same as NSW but slightly higher than Greater Sydney at 37 years. The largest population (18.4%) were those identified as 'Parents and homebuilders (aged 35 to 49)'. This is compared to 21.5% in Greater Sydney.

Of the 56% of people born overseas, 16.3% were born in Vietnam and 12% were born in Iraq. In 2021, 69.7% of people spoke a language other than English at home. This is compared to 37.4% in Greater Sydney. The predominant language spoken at home was Vietnamese (21.1%), followed by Assyrian/Aramaic (11.9%). There are 81 different languages spoken in Fairfield and 22.9% of the entire population reported having difficulties speaking English. 61% of new arrivals before 2005 were proficient in the English language compared to 48.2% of new arrivals in 2019.

78.1% of residents held a religious belief compared to 62.8% in Greater Sydney. Only 14.7% of residents cited no religious affiliation compared to 30.5% in Greater Sydney. The main religions are Western (Roman) Catholic (26.3%), Buddhism (19.9%), Islam (6.3%), and Assyrian Apostolic (4.8%).

The Socio Economic Index for Australia(SEIFA) ranked Fairfield City 1st out of all NSW Local Government areas on the relative index of social disadvantage.

33.1% of the population aged 15 and over held educational qualifications, and 58.0% had no qualifications. This was compared to 57.9% and 34.2% respectively for Greater Sydney. There was a significant increase in residents who held educational qualifications between 2016 and 2021 with, for example, an additional 4,568 persons in 2021 with a Bachelor or Higher degree.

ABS 2021 Census stated that the most common long-term health condition identified by residents was arthritis at 7.1% followed by diabetes at 6.8%, compared to 6.7% and 4.6% respectively in Greater Sydney. According to Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) data, in 2017/18, approximately 111,578 residents (53.5%) over the age of 2 years, were either overweight or obese. In 2021, 19,285 people (or 9.3%) in Fairfield City reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to a disability compared to 5.2% in Greater Sydney.

Fairfield City saw a significant decline of 13% in its labour force (participation rate) from 80,340 persons in 2016 to 69,896 persons in 2021. Out of the 19 industry sectors of employment identified, 16 of them (84%) experienced a decline in numbers of resident workers between 2016 and 2021. Only three sectors experienced growth in the resident workforce between 2016 and 2021: Healthcare and Social Services; Transport, Postal and Warehousing; and Education and Training. There was an increase of 23% in residents who were disengaged (not currently studying or working) between 2016 and 2021.

39.7% of households in Fairfield City were made up of Couples with Children at of the population. This is higher than Greater Sydney with 34.4% of all households. Two persons households were 24.5% of the population, compared to 30.7% in Greater Sydney. There was a high proportion of larger households (40%) (those with 4, 5 and 6 or more persons per household) compared to 28.8% in Greater Sydney. One parent families were 17.5% which is comparatively higher than Greater Sydney at 10.5%. The greatest rise was seen in lone person households with an additional 1,669 households (18.5% increase) between 2016 and 2021.

32.5% of households fell into the lowest income quartile, earning \$886 or less per week, compared to Greater Sydney at 21.3%. 15.7% of households fell into the highest income quartile, earning \$3,135 or more per week compared to Greater Sydney at 30%.

In 2021 the commonest dwelling type was a separate house representing 70.7% of all dwelling types. Separate houses have increased by 3,142 since 2016. Medium density represents 18.7% of total dwelling structures with high density representing 9.8%. Dwellings with 3 bedrooms were the most common in Fairfield City comprising 37.6% of all dwellings with 4 bedrooms comprising 24.9% of total dwellings.

### PROFILE OF FAIRFIELD CITY

Fairfield City is located in South Western Sydney, about **32 KILOMETRES** from the Sydney Central Business District.

**27** 

101.6

209,030

Suburbs

Square kilometres

Population in 2021



**AGE** 



Median age



Younger than 25

### SPEAK MORE THAN

80

Different languages

### TOP 5 LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME

21.1% Vietnamese

11.9% Assyrian/Aramaic

9.3% Arabic

3.7% Cantonese

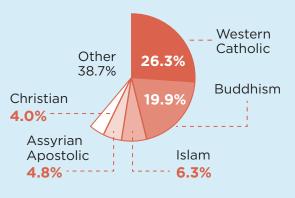
3.3% Khmer (Cambodian)

69.7%

Speak a language other than English at home



### **TOP FIVE RELIGIONS**



### **EDUCATION**

58.0% No Qualification

13.3%

Bachelor or Higher degree 12.6%

Vocational

7.2%

Advanced Diploma or Diploma

# **2,874**Vales 19.3%)

### **MIGRATION TRENDS**

Fairfield City is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia and is a major settlement city for migrants and refugees.

The three main types of migration are overseas, interstate and withinstate migration. In the last five years, in Fairfield City,

8.1%

Arrived from overseas

21.9%

Arrived from elsewhere in Australia





BORN IN MORE THAN

108

Different countries

### TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OUTSIDE OF AUSTRALIA

16.3% Vietnam

12.0% Iraq

3.6% Cambodia

2.8% Syria

1.8% China



A

1,528

0.7%

Identify as Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander

### HOUSEHOLDS

39.7%

Live in a household that contain two parents and their children



Live in one-parent households



Couples live in childless households



### **EMPLOYMENT**

46.8%

In full-time employment

26.5%

In part-time employment

8.7%

Are unemployed





Need help in their day-to-day lives due to disability

# 03 **Population Summary**

The Census usual resident population of Fairfield City in 2021 was 208,475, living in 67,658 dwellings with an average household size of 3.2 people.

TABLE 1: FAIRFIELD CITY TOTAL PERSONS IN 2021

Population Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number	%
Estimated resident population	209,030	-
Usual resident population	208,475	-
Males	102,874	49.3
Females	105,605	50.7
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	1,523	0.7
Australian Citizens	163,081	78.2
Population over 15	171,230	82.1
Employed population	63,831	91.3
Total dwellings	67,658	100.0
Average household size per dwelling	3.2	-

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing.



# 04 Historical population and future trends

Historical population data provides us with an understanding of the past population numbers and whether these numbers have increased or decreased. It can provide a clearer understanding of the current population numbers and whether additional pressure is being placed on existing services or whether population decline is likely to reduce community and economic activity in the region.

Historical population data can also help to project future population trends and therefore, consider the likely impact on a region. Population trends essentially detail the direction of change in the total number of persons living within the LGA.

### What does this data tell us about Fairfield City?

Table 2 and Figure 1 provide the ABS Census population data for Fairfield City from 2011 to 2021. Between 2011 and 2021, the population increased by 20,711 persons or 11% to 208,475 persons. This represents an average annual increase of 1.1% between 2011 and 2021.

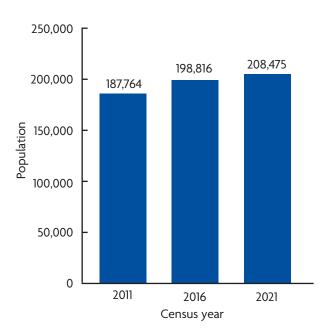
Between 2016 and 2021 the population increased from 198,816 persons to 208,475 persons. This equates to an increase of 9,659 persons or 4.9%.

### TABLE 2 FAIRFIELD CITY POPULATION 2011–2021

Total Persons (Usual residence)	2011	2016	2021
Males	92,526	97,960	102,874
Females	95,242	100,854	105,605
Total Persons	187,764	198,816	208,475

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing.

# FIGURE 1: FAIRFIELD CITY POPULATION 2011–2021



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing.

# Historical Estimated Residential Population from 2001–2021

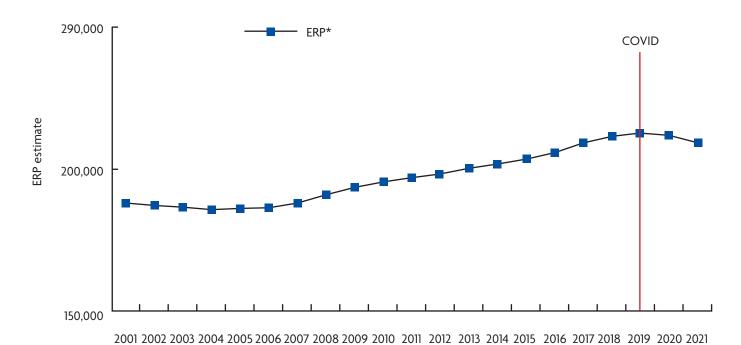
The ABS issues Estimated Residential Population statistics from 2001 to 2021. This data provides a clearer view of the LGA's population trends. The statistics are listed in Table 3 and Figure 2. Population rates have been increasing in Fairfield City except for some decline during the COVID-19 period of 2019–2021.

# TABLE 3 HISTORICAL ESTIMATED RESIDENTIAL POPULATION 2001–2021

Year	Number
2001	187,825
2002	187,089
2003	186,489
2004	185,562
2005	185,740
2006	186,117
2007	187,872
2008	190,654
2009	193,557
2010	195,174
2011	196,479
2012	198,106
2013	200,098
2014	201,788
2015	203,490
2016	205,675
2017	208,999
2018	211,179
2019	212,535
2020	211,770
2021	209,030

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Residential Population statistics from 2001 to 2021.

### FIGURE 2 HISTORIC ESTIMATED RESIDENTIAL POPULATION 2001–2021



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Residential Population statistics from 2001 to 2021.

Note: The Estimated Resident Population (ERP) is the official measure of Australia's population based on the concept of usual residence.



# Number of residents who lived at the same address 5 years ago, came from other places in Australia or came from overseas.

Table 4 shows the number of residents aged 5 years and over, who resided at the same address in Fairfield City 5 years ago and shows those who lived somewhere different to Fairfield City 5 years ago and where they came from.

# TABLE 4: PLACE OF USUAL RESIDENCE 5 YEARS AGO

Migration status Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number
Had the same address within Fairfield LGA	125,692
Moved to a different address within Fairfield LGA	9,534
Moved to Fairfield LGA from another state	32,681
Moved to Fairfield LGA from Overseas	16,068
Not stated	13,656
Total	197,627

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing.

# What does this data tell us about Fairfield City?

This data provides us with an understanding of how the demographics of the LGA are changing and an indication of the number of people who are choosing to stay in or move to Fairfield City.

The data shows that out of the 197,633 persons counted, 125,692 resided at the same address in the Fairfield City five years ago. This means that 63.6% of residents - the majority - were long-term residents.

Between 2016 and 2021, 9,534 persons or 4.8% moved within the LGA itself and therefore had a different address but ultimately, remained within Fairfield City.

Of the 59,318 persons who had a different address 5 years ago, the majority (31,448 persons or 53%) resided in another part of NSW, followed by 16,068 persons (27.1%) who came from overseas.



# Number of residents who lived at the same address 1 year ago, came from other places in Australia or came from overseas.

The data in Table 5 shows the number of residents aged 5 years and over, who resided at the same address in Fairfield City 1 year ago as of 2021. It also shows those who lived somewhere different to Fairfield City 1 year ago and therefore, came to Fairfield City from other places in Australia and from overseas.

# TABLE 5 PLACE OF USUAL RESIDENCE 1 YEAR AGO

Migration status Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number
Had the same address within Fairfield City	175,368
Moved to a different address within Fairfield City	4,057
Moved to Fairfield City from another state	13,531
Moved to Fairfield City from overseas	1,138
Not stated	12,399
Total	206,489

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing.

# What does this data tell us about Fairfield City?

This data provides us with an understanding of how the demographics of the LGA are changing and an indication of the number of people who may have more recently moved to Fairfield City.

The data shows that out of the 206,489 persons counted, 175,368 resided at the same address in Fairfield City one year ago. This means that 84.9% of residents have stayed in Fairfield City over the past year.

Of the 19,010 persons who had a different address 1 years ago, the majority (13,531 persons or 68.6%) resided in another part of NSW, followed by 1,138 persons (5.98%) who came from overseas.



# 07 Age profile

Understanding a population's age composition provides insights into changing population conditions and can highlight future social and economic trends. The investigation into age structure/distribution is also important in identifying potential school age population, labour force, retirement numbers, etc, and the demand for a range of services. It is also an essential component in the prediction of population changes and population planning.

It is also an indicator of Fairfield City's residential role and function and how it is likely to change in the future.

Service age groups divide the population into age categories that reflect typical life-stages. They indicate the level of demand for services that target people at different stages in life and how that demand is changing.

# What does this data tell us about Fairfield City?

According to the ABS 2021 Census, the median age in Fairfield City was 39 years which is the same as NSW but slightly higher than Greater Sydney at 37 years. Table 6 shows that the largest population were those identified as 'Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)', closely followed by 'Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)'.

The greatest increase in population cohort were those aged over 60 years of age equating to an additional 9,913 persons between 2016 and 2021 making up 23.4% of the total population in 2021.

TABLE 6 AGE STRUCTURE - SERVICE AGE GROUPS

Total Persons (Usual residence)		2021			2016		Change
Service age group (years)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016– 2021
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	10,848	5.2	6.0	12,090	6.1	6.4	-1,242
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	17,948	8.6	8.8	17,901	9.0	8.8	+47
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	17,034	8.2	7.1	16,247	8.2	6.9	+787
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	20,540	9.9	8.8	21,197	10.7	9.6	-657
Young workforce (25 to 34)	27,047	13.0	15.5	27,090	13.6	16.1	-43
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	38,282	18.4	21.5	38,313	19.3	21.1	-31
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	27,998	13.4	12.0	27,112	13.6	12.2	+886
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	25,171	12.1	9.8	20,503	10.3	9.5	+4,668
Seniors (70 to 84)	19,168	9.2	8.7	14,778	7.4	7.5	+4,390
Elderly aged (85 and over)	4,440	2.1	2.0	3,585	1.8	2.0	+855
Total	208,476	100.0	100.0	198,816	100.0	100.0	+9,660

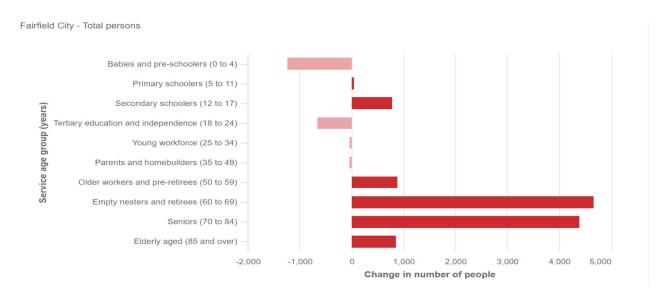
Compared to Greater Sydney in 2021 there was a similar proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years). There was a noticeable higher proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years), with 23.4% of residents aged over 60 years compared to 20.5% in Greater Sydney.

The major differences between the age structure of Fairfield City and Greater Sydney in 2021 were:

- A larger percentage of 'Empty nesters and retirees' (12.1% compared to 9.8%)
- A larger percentage of 'Older workers & pre-retirees' (13.4% compared to 12.0%)
- A smaller percentage of 'Parents and homebuilders' (18.4% compared to 21.5%)
- A smaller percentage of 'Young workforce' (13.0% compared to 15.5%)

Figure 3 shows the changes in age profile with the increase in the older population being significant between 2016 and 2021.

### FIGURE 3 CHANGE IN AGE STRUCTURE - SERVICE AGE GROUPS BETWEEN 2016 AND 2021



# 08 Country of birth by year of arrival

Year of arrival applies to people born overseas and states the year they first arrived in Australia, with the intention of staying for at least one year. This data can be used to analyse changes in the characteristics of migrants over time, particularly in distinguishing between recent migrants and those that arrived years earlier.

Country of Birth data identifies where people were born and is indicative of the level of cultural diversity in Fairfield City. The mix of Country of Birth groups is again, indicative of historical settlement patterns, as source countries for Australia's immigration program have varied significantly over time.

### What does country of birth by year of arrival tell us about Fairfield City?

In 2021, 56.0% of people in Fairfield City were born overseas, compared with 38.6% in Greater Sydney.

### TABLE 7 BIRTHPLACE SUMMARY

Birthplace		2021			2016		Change
Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Total overseas born	116,652	56.0	38.6	107,068	53.9	36.7	+9,584
Australia	80,400	38.6	56.8	80,771	40.6	57.1	-371
Not stated	11,417	5.5	4.6	10,971	5.5	6.3	+446
Total Population	208,469	100.0	100.0	198,810	100.0	100.0	+9,659

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2016 and 2021) Census of Population and Housing. Compiled and presented in profile.id by id(informed decisions).

In 2019, prior to COVID-19 immigration restrictions, 2,807 new arrivals to Fairfield City who were born overseas came from Iraq, accounting for 58% of new foreign arrivals in that period. This was followed by Vietnam, with 700 persons or 14.5%. Both Iraq and Vietnam have historically been those countries where a significant number of new residents have originated from. Table 7 shows the countries of birth with numbers of arrivals above 50 persons, per year.

TABLE 8 COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PERSON BY YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA

Country of birth Total Persons (Usual residence)	2001–2010	2011–2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Afghanistan	162	137	14	22	29	3	27
China (excludes SARs** and Taiwan)	749	320	147	88	73	14	5
Croatia	91	10	0	0	0	3	0
Egypt	63	43	8	0	0	0	0
Fiji	231	75	17	36	46	13	0
India	197	75	36	33	56	13	0
Indonesia	94	37	4	3	11	9	0
Iran	253	293	3	12	8	9	0
Iraq	5,475	4,648	1,917	1,023	2,807	639	23
Lebanon	399	169	70	47	125	27	5
Malaysia	97	85	46	43	66	12	0
New Zealand	583	389	73	64	33	25	8
Pakistan	60	85	23	33	32	20	3
Philippines	363	254	54	59	80	23	0
Thailand	313	236	25	30	34	4	0
United States of America	53	30	9	6	21	8	3
Vietnam	4,761	3,456	714	667	700	437	135
Born elsewhere	3,089	2,547	1,297	838	657	174	61
Total	17,465	13,183	4,521	3,074	4,844	1,458	288

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing.

This historic migration is reflected in the overall Birthplace data – not dependent on year of arrival. A summary showing the birthplace - ranked by size (top 10) is provided in Table 8. The majority of the migrant population originated in Vietnam, where 16.3% of the population, or 34,072 people, were born. Between 2016 and 2021, migrants from Vietnam and Iraq increased by 3,267 (Vietnam) and 6,231 (Iraq).

<sup>\*</sup> The year 2021 is the period 1 January 2021 to 10 August 2021.

<sup>\*\*</sup>SARs: Special Administrative Regions (SARs) comprise 'Hong Kong (SAR of China)' and 'Macau (SAR of China)'.

### TABLE 9 BIRTHPLACE - RANKED BY SIZE (TOP 10)

Birthplace		2021			Change		
Overseas born (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Vietnam	34,072	16.3	1.8	30,805	15.5	1.7	+3,267
Iraq	24,983	12.0	1.0	18,752	9.4	0.8	+6,231
Cambodia	7,507	3.6	0.3	7,384	3.7	0.2	+123
Syria	5,768	2.8	0.3	2,437	1.2	0.2	+3,331
China	3,846	1.8	4.6	4,048	2.0	4.7	-202
Italy	3,041	1.5	0.7	3,476	1.7	0.8	-435
Lebanon	2,717	1.3	1.2	2,472	1.2	1.2	+245
Philippines	2,385	1.1	1.7	2,381	1.2	1.6	+4
New Zealand	2,185	1.0	1.6	2,807	1.4	1.8	-622
Serbia / Montenegro (fmr Yugoslavia)	1,866	0.9	0.3	1,954	1.0	0.3	-88



# 09 Language used at home

Language statistics show the proportion of the population who speak a language at home other than English. They indicate how culturally diverse a population is and the degree to which different ethnic groups and nationalities continue to communicate in their native language.

### What does the language used at home tell us about Fairfield City?

There are 81 different languages spoken in Fairfield City. In 2021, 69.7% of people who use a language other than English at home. This is compared to 37.4% in Greater Sydney. There was a smaller proportion of people who only spoke English at home at 23.4% compared to 57.3% in Greater Sydney in 2021.

Between 2016 and 2021, the number of people who spoke a language other than English at home increased by 4,680 or 3.3%, and the number of people who only spoke English at home decreased by 597 or 1.2%.

### TABLE 10 LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME SUMMARY

Language spoken	2021	2021			2016		
Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Speaks English only	48,753	23.4	57.3	49,350	24.8	58.4	-597
Non-English total	145,301	69.7	37.4	140,621	70.7	35.8	+4,680
Not stated	14,421	6.9	5.3	8,848	4.5	5.8	+5,573
Total Population	208,475	100.0	100.0	198,819	100.0	100.0	+9,656

Table 11 shows the language used at home in Fairfield City, ranked by size. The dominant language used at home, other than English, in Fairfield City was Vietnamese, with 21.1% of the population, or 43,936 people using this language at home. This is significantly higher than Greater Sydney at 2.2%. This was followed by Assyrian/Aramaic at 24,762 persons or 11.9% of the population which, compared to Greater Sydney at 0.7%, is significantly greater.

TABLE 11 LANGUAGE USED AT HOME - RANKED BY SIZE

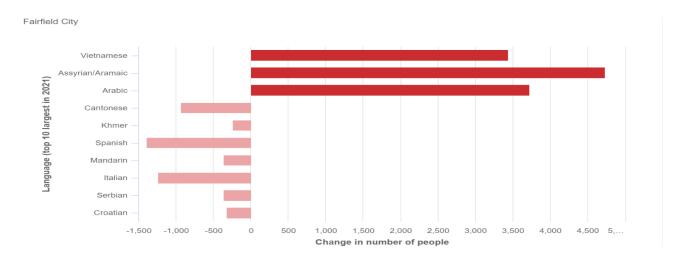
Language used		2021			201	6	Change
Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Vietnamese	43,936	21.1	2.2	40,492	20.4	2.1	+3,444
Assyrian/Aramaic	24,762	11.9	0.7	20,030	10.1	0.6	+4,732
Arabic	19,334	9.3	4.2	15,612	7.9	4.0	+3,722
Cantonese	7,668	3.7	2.8	8,599	4.3	2.9	-931
Khmer	6,891	3.3	0.2	7,131	3.6	0.2	-240
Spanish	4,832	2.3	1.2	6,223	3.1	1.2	-1,391
Mandarin	4,701	2.3	5.0	5,063	2.5	4.7	-362
Italian	3,931	1.9	1.0	5,166	2.6	1.3	-1,235
Serbian	3,343	1.6	0.4	3,705	1.9	0.4	-362
Croatian	2,360	1.1	0.3	2,674	1.3	0.4	-314

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2016 and 2021) Census of Population and Housing. Compiled and presented in profile.id by id(informed decisions).

The largest changes in the languages used at home for the population in Fairfield City between 2016 and 2021 were for those speaking:

- Assyrian/Aramaic (+4,732 persons)
- Arabic (+3,722 persons)
- Vietnamese (+3,444 persons)
- Spanish (-1,391 persons)
- Italian (-1,235 persons)

### FIGURE 4 CHANGES IN LANGUAGE USED AT HOME BETWEEN 2016 - 2021





# 10 Proficiency in spoken English by year of arrival

Proficiency in English measures the self-assessed proficiency in spoken English of people who speak a language other than English at home. By analysing the proficiency in spoken English by year of arrival we can better understand the changing population profile of Fairfield City and their fluency in the English language.

### What does proficiency in spoken English by year of arrival tell us about Fairfield City?

The ABS 2021 Census data, when viewed with other ethnic and cultural indicators, reflects Fairfield City's ethnic composition and how long those born overseas have been in Australia and their ability to communicate in English.

The data shows that those who arrived in Australia before 2005, who spoke another language and English are significantly more proficient in the English language than more recent arrivals. In fact, 61% of new arrivals before 2005 cited that they spoke English 'very well or well', compared to 48.2% of new arrivals in 2019.

### TABLE 12 PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH BY YEAR OF ARRIVAL

English proficiency				Year of arri	val		
Total Persons (Usual residence)	Before 2005	2005-2010	2011-2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Speaks English only	6,867	679	662	153	139	97	105
Uses other language and	speaks Engl	lish:					
Very well or well	36,811	6,703	7,248	3,568	2,395	1,600	2,286
Not well or not at all	23,343	4,178	5,229	2,916	1,971	1,362	2,418
Proficiency in English not stated	155	26	31	12	10	9	33
Total	60,309	10,907	12,508	6,496	4,376	2,971	4,737
Language and proficiency in English not stated	66	7	17	6	6	3	3
Total	67,242	11,593	13,187	6,655	4,521	3,071	4,845

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing.

### What does proficiency in English tell us about the overall population in Fairfield City?

This again has implications on how to best communicate with the community using not only English but other languages.

In Fairfield City, according to the ABS 2021 Census, 47,804 or 22.9% of residents who spoke a language other than English at home reported difficulty speaking English. Compared to Greater Sydney, there were significantly less people who only spoke English at home: 23.4% in Fairfield City compared to 57.3% in Greater Sydney.

The most significant changes in the proficiency in English of the population in this area between 2016 and 2021 were in those speaking:

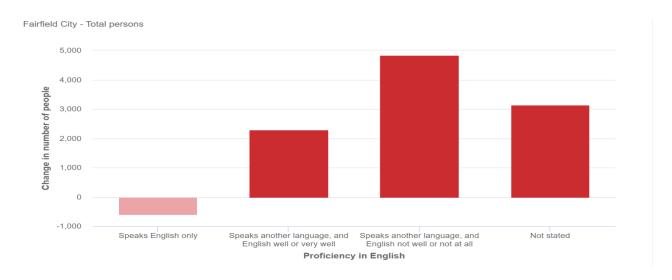
- Another language, and English not well or not at all (+4,831 persons)
- Another language, and English well or very well (+2,285 persons)
- English only (-597 persons)

### TABLE 13 PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH

English proficiency		2021			2016		Change
Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Speaks English only	48,753	23.4	57.3	49,350	24.8	58.4	-597
Speaks another language, and English well or very well	99,414	47.7	31.3	97,129	48.9	29.3	+2,285
Speaks another language, and English not well or not at all	47,804	22.9	6.4	42,973	21.6	6.5	+4,831
Not stated	12,508	6.0	5.0	9,365	4.7	5.8	+3,143
Total population	208,479	100.0	100.0	198,817	100.0	100.0	+9,662

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016 and 2021) Census of Population and Housing.

### FIGURE 5 CHANGE IN PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH BETWEEN 2016 - 2021





# 11 Religious affiliation

Religious affiliation provides an indicator of cultural identity and ethnicity as well as revealing the proportion of people with no religious affiliation.

There are a number of reasons for different religious compositions across areas including the country of birth and ethnic background of the population, the age of the population (belief in religion is generally stronger, the older the population) and changes in values and belief systems. The relationship between increased age and greater religious affiliation has also been reported by the ABS in the report titled, Religious affiliation in Australia: Exploration of the changes in reported religion in the 2021 Census.

Religion is often a major force in shaping values, norms, and practices. Religion can play an important role in an individual's life and experiences and can even improve health and well-being largely through the social interaction. People with religious beliefs and practices do tend to gather regularly and host religious festivities which can provide for a truly dynamic and multicultural environment driven by the community as a whole.

### What does religious affiliation tell us about Fairfield City?

Overall, 78.1% of the population in Fairfield City nominated a religion, and 14.7% said they had no religion, compared with 62.8% and 30.5% respectively for Greater Sydney.

The largest single religion in Fairfield City was Western (Roman) Catholic, with 26.3% of the population or 54,904 people. The greatest increase of 2,646 persons, was seen by those affiliated with 'Other Eastern Catholic' (originating from Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Ethiopia and India) followed by 'Assyrian Apostolic' (originating from northern Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran) with an increase of 2,473 persons. These increases are largely representative of the increased migration from these countries.

The major differences between the religious affiliation for the population of Fairfield City and Greater Sydney were:

- A larger percentage who nominated Buddhism (19.9% compared to 3.8%)
- A larger percentage who nominated Assyrian Apostolic (4.8% compared to 0.3%)
- A larger percentage who nominated Western (Roman) Catholic (26.3% compared to 22.1%)
- A smaller percentage who nominated Anglican (2.6% compared to 9.2%)

TABLE 14 TOP 10 RELIGIONS RANKED BY SIZE

Religion		2021			2016			
Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021	
Western (Roman) Catholic	54,904	26.3	22.1	55,837	28.1	24.2	-933	
Buddhism	41,473	19.9	3.8	41,136	20.7	3.9	+337	
Islam	13,190	6.3	6.3	11,797	5.9	5.3	+1,393	
Assyrian Apostolic	9,958	4.8	0.3	7,485	3.8	0.2	+2,473	
Christian, not further defined	8,369	4.0	2.5	7,198	3.6	2.2	+1,171	
Other Eastern Catholic	7,640	3.7	0.3	4,994	2.5	0.2	+2,646	
Anglican	5,449	2.6	9.2	7,355	3.7	12.0	-1,906	
Serbian Orthodox	2,967	1.4	0.4	2,884	1.5	0.3	+83	
Greek Orthodox	2,682	1.3	2.3	2,674	1.3	2.4	+8	
Baptist	2,292	1.1	1.2	2,488	1.3	1.2	-196	



# 12 Need for assistance

This data identifies people who report a need for assistance due to a 'profound or severe core activity limitation' due to a long-term health condition, disability or old age. This population is defined as people who need assistance in their day to day lives with any or all of the following activities – self-care, body movements or communication – because of a disability, long-term health condition, or old age.

Need for assistance information can help guide Council in the planning of local facilities, services such as day-care and occasional care and in the provision of information and support to carers.

### What does need for assistance tell us about Fairfield City?

In 2021, 19,285 people (or 9.3% of the population) in Fairfield City reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to a disability compared to 5.2% in Greater Sydney. This was an increase of 2,374 persons from 2016 or 14%. Total persons not needing assistance was 175,367 persons or 84.1%. This was lower than Greater Sydney at 89.4% of persons not needing assistance. This is a potential reflection of the ageing population.

### TABLE 15 NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

Assistance needed by		2021			·		
age group (years)  Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Change between 2016–2021
Total persons needing assistance	19,285	9.3	5.2	16,911	8.5	4.9	+2,374
Total persons not needing assistance	175,367	84.1	89.4	171,297	86.2	88.7	+4,070
Not stated	13,829	6.6	5.4	10,612	5.3	6.4	+3,217
Total Population	208,481	100.0	100.0	198,820	100.0	100.0	+9,661

# 13 Long-term health conditions

In 2021, the ABS Census for the first time examined the incidence levels of selected long-term health conditions in the community. The Census question asked respondents if they had been diagnosed with a specific condition (or other condition) from a list of ten conditions plus "other". The ten conditions identified actually result in approximately 60% of Australian deaths. Even those which are not considered to be terminal or deadly, contribute to the social, mental and economic burden of disease on the local and national economy.

### What does long term health conditions data tell us about Fairfield City?

In Fairfield City, the most common long-term health condition identified was arthritis at 7.1% followed by diabetes at 6.8%. This is higher than data for Greater Sydney which recorded figures of 6.7% and 4.6% respectively. This is reflective of the ageing population in Fairfield City and has implications on the demand for medical services and accessibility throughout the LGA.

Out of the 208,475 persons who responded to this question, 134,340 or 64.4% cited no long-term health conditions. 8.8% did not state whether they had a long-term health condition leaving 26.8% reporting a long-term health condition.

# TABLE 16 FAIRFIELD CITY - PERSONS (USUAL RESIDENCE) LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS 2021

Health condition Total Persons (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %
Arthritis	14,789	7.1	6.7
Asthma	11,167	5.4	6.8
Cancer (including remission)	3,921	1.9	2.4
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	1,869	0.9	0.7
Diabetes	14,216	6.8	4.6
Heart disease	7,426	3.6	3.4
Kidney disease	2,046	1.0	0.8
Lung condition	2,191	1.1	1.2
Mental health condition	10,189	4.9	6.6
Stroke	2,019	1.0	0.7
Other long-term health condition	17,635	8.5	7.4
No long-term health condition(s)	134,340	64.4	65.1
Not stated	18,250	8.8	7.4
Total responses	240,058		
Total persons*	208,475	100	100

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing.

Note\*: Respondents had the option to record multiple long-term health conditions therefore the sum of total responses count will not equal the total person count.





## 14 Health risk factor estimates

The Social Health Atlas of Australia¹ provides the most up to date Australian data on chronic diseases, conditions and their risk factors. It provides a detailed insight into the health status of Fairfield City's residents. Health risk factors identify those residents who are either obese or overweight. Overweight and obesity affects many Australians, starting in the early years and increasing with age. Being overweight or obese can have a serious impact on health leading to serious health consequences such as cardiovascular disease (mainly heart disease and stroke), type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders like osteoarthritis, and some cancers (endometrial, breast and colon).

According to a report by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) from 2019<sup>2</sup>, Australia had one of the highest rates of obesity with nearly one in three adults being obese. As a result, Australians live on average 2.7 years less due to overweight. The impact on the economy is significant: overweight accounts for 8.6% of health expenditure; and lowers labour market outputs by the equivalent of 371,000 full time workers per year. Combined, this means that overweight reduces Australia's GDP by 3.1%. To cover these costs, each Australian pays an additional \$678 in taxes per year.

### What do overweight and obesity rates tell us about Fairfield City?

In Fairfield City, 111,578 people (53.52%) over the age of 2 years are either overweight or obese. This equates to 52,936 adults being overweight, 48,783 adults being obese, 7,263 children being overweight and 2,596 children being obese.

This has a significant impact on the lives of these people both socially and economically. The impact on their overall health is significant and can result in a number of major health issues that can develop over time.

### TABLE 17 OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY RATES 2017–2018

	Total	% of total ABS 2021 Census population (208,475)
Estimated number of children aged 2-17 years who were obese (modelled estimates)	2,596	1.25%
Estimated number of children aged 2-17 years who were overweight	7,263	3.48%
Estimated number of people aged 18 years and over who were obese (modelled estimates)	48,783	23.40%
Estimated number of aged 18 years and over who were overweight (modelled estimates)	52,936	25.39%
Total	111,578	53.52%

Source: PHIDU Social Health Atlas of Australia, published December 2022.

Published by the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU), Torrens University Australia.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), (2019) The Heavy Burden of Obesity.

# 15 Qualifications

Educational Qualifications relate to any education completed outside of primary and secondary school. They are an important indicator of socio-economic status and help to evaluate the economic opportunities and identify skill gaps in the labour market.

### What do qualifications tell us about Fairfield City?

In 2021, 33.1% of the population aged 15 and over held educational qualifications, and 58.0% had no qualifications. This was compared to 57.9% and 34.2% respectively for Greater Sydney. There was, therefore, a lower proportion of people holding formal qualifications (Bachelor or higher degree; Advanced Diploma or Diploma; or Vocational qualifications), and a higher proportion of people with no formal qualifications when compared to Greater Sydney.

### TABLE 18 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ACHIEVED - PERSONS AGED 15+

Qualification level		2021			2016		
Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Bachelor or Higher degree	22,779	13.3	33.4	18,211	11.3	28.3	+4,568
Advanced Diploma or Diploma	12,338	7.2	9.7	11,535	7.2	9.3	+803
Vocational	21,583	12.6	14.8	21,926	13.6	15.1	-343
No qualification	99,331	58.0	34.2	95,702	59.5	37.7	+3,629
Not stated	15,210	8.9	8.0	13,507	8.4	9.6	+1,703
Total persons aged 15+	171,241	100.0	100.0	160,881	100.0	100.0	+10,360

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2016 and 2021) Census of Population and Housing. Compiled and presented in profile.id by id(informed decisions).

The data also shows that there was a significant increase in residents who held educational qualifications between 2016 and 2021 with, for example, an additional 4,568 persons in 2021 residing in Fairfield City with a Bachelor or Higher degree. In 2021, there were also an additional 3,629 people who had no qualifications.

Of the population aged over 15 years, 14.5% (24,744) completed year 10 and 49.6% (85,008) of the population aged over 15 years had completed year 12.



# 16 Labour force status

Labour Force statistics are based upon the resident population over the age of 15 years who are either employed or are actively looking for work. The labour force participation rate is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total population over 15. The number of people who are no longer actively searching for work would not be included in the participation rate.

The levels of full or part-time employment, unemployment and labour force participation indicate the status of the local economy and social characteristics of the population. Employment status is linked to a number of factors including Age Profile, which influences the number of people in the workforce; employment opportunities available in the area and the education and skill base of the population.

A region's labour force participation rate also helps to identify local workforce availability which in turn provides opportunities for businesses looking to expand and new businesses looking to establish themselves in the region.

### What does Fairfield City's labour force status tell us?

Fairfield City has seen a significant decline in its labour force (participation rate) from 80,340 persons in 2016 to 69,896 persons in 2021. This is a reduction of 10,444 persons or 13% over five years.

The total labour force participation rate in Fairfield City at 40.8% in 2021 is comparatively lower than that of Greater Sydney at 60%. There was significant increase in the number of residents who were no longer in the labour force in 2021, falling by 17,034 persons between 2016 and 2021. This is in spite of the labour force population itself increasing by 10,348 persons.

### TABLE 19 LABOUR FORCE STATUS

Labour force status		2021			2016		Change
Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Total labour force (Participation rate)	69,896	40.8	60.0	80,340	49.9	61.6	-10,444
Not in the labour force	89,693	52.4	34.6	72,659	45.2	32.3	+17,034
Labour force status not stated	11,639	6.8	5.4	7,893	4.9	6.1	+3,746
Total persons aged 15+	171,228	100.0	100.0	160,880	100.0	100.0	+10,348

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016 and 2021) Census of Population and Housing.

If we take a deeper look into these figures, we can see the age profile of the labour force and their labour status, in particular those not in the labour force.

Table 8 shows that under each age group, there was an increase in the those no longer in the labour force and therefore, no longer actively looking for employment.

The greatest fall in labour force status was in the 75 years and over age bracket. This is to be expected as people retire although the number is significant which supports the profile of a rapidly ageing population.

It should be noted that in fact all age groups have shown an increase in not being part of the labour force with an additional 17,034 persons in 2021 no longer in the labour force. Some of this can be attributed to the COVID-19 lockdowns and the resultant job losses. The younger cohorts could be attributed to full-time schooling. However, as the increases are high through all age brackets this could warrant further investigation as it suggests that a cohort exists who have disengaged from employment.

TABLE 20 LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY AGE

Age			2021				Change		
Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)	Total Labour Force	Not in the Labour Force	Labour Force status not stated	Total	Total Labour Force	Not in the Labour Force	Labour Force status not stated	Total	in people Not in the Labour Force between 2016–2021
15-19 years	3,388	10,244	801	14,439	4,318	9,305	548	14,169	939
20-24 years	8,541	5,334	812	14,686	10,497	4,144	689	15,334	1,190
25-29 years	8,860	4,391	939	14,190	9,948	3,355	746	14,044	1,036
30-34 years	7,249	4,704	897	12,855	8,602	3,777	661	13,037	927
35-39 years	6,806	4,995	857	12,655	7,708	3,702	585	11,999	1,293
40-44 years	6,376	5,071	854	12,304	8,245	3,917	610	12,776	1,154
45-49 years	7,182	5,337	799	13,316	8,553	4,283	703	13,539	1,054
50-54 years	6,990	6,082	798	13,872	8,426	4,547	620	13,593	1,535
55-59 years	6,591	6,671	866	14,129	7,314	5,552	649	13,518	1,119
60-64 years	5,130	7,950	734	13,816	4,623	6,278	519	11,424	1,672
65-69 years	2,051	8,665	643	11,358	1,545	7,078	450	9,079	1,587
70-74 years	550	7,823	641	9,014	383	5,476	322	6,178	2,347
75 years and over	184	12,417	2,001	14,600	149	11,253	786	12,189	1,164
Total	69,900	89,693	11,639	171,228	80,328	72,659	7,893	160,880	17,034

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing, Time Series Profile.

#### What does Fairfield City's employment status tell us?

Analysis of the employment status (as a percentage of the labour force) in Fairfield City in 2021 compared to Greater Sydney shows that there was a lower proportion in employment, and a higher proportion unemployed. Overall, 91.3% of the labour force was employed, and 8.7% unemployed, compared with 94.9% and 5.1% respectively for Greater Sydney.

The unemployment rate fell between 2016 and 2021, from 10.5% to 8.7%. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of people employed in Fairfield City showed a decrease of 8,075, and the number unemployed showed a decrease of 2,369. In the same period, the number of people in the labour force showed an overall decrease of 10,444 or 13.0%.

#### TABLE 21 PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Employment status		2021			2016		Change
Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Employed	63,831	91.3	94.9	71,906	89.5	94.0	-8,075
Employed full-time	32,677	46.8	55.5	45,227	56.3	61.2	-12,550
Employed part-time	18,496	26.5	27.7	22,633	28.2	28.2	-4,137
Employed, away from work	12,658	18.1	11.7	4,046	5.0	4.5	+8,612
Unemployed (Unemployment rate)	6,065	8.7	5.1	8,434	10.5	6.0	-2,369
Looking for full-time work	3,471	5.0	2.9	4,427	5.5	3.2	-956
Looking for part-time work	2,594	3.7	2.1	4,007	5.0	2.9	-1,413
Total labour force	69,896	100.0	100.0	80,340	100.0	100.0	-10,444

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016 and 2021) Census of Population and Housing.



# 17 Resident employment by industry

Fairfield City's resident employment by industry statistics identify the industry sectors in which the residents work. These jobs could be either within Fairfield City or elsewhere. The data refers to employed persons aged 15 years and over. These statistics are largely influenced by the employment opportunities in the region and the skill base and socio-economic status of the residents.

Some industry sectors are highly sensitive to the global marketplace such as Mining, Retail and sectors associated with Tourism which can result in employment fluctuations. Agriculture can be heavily impacted by favourable or unfavourable environmental factors also resulting in employment fluctuations.

The Manufacturing sector is also one known to be impacted by changes to the marketplace environment seeing many operations moving from Australia to overseas resulting in ongoing job losses. Sectors experiencing growth could indicate a general change in the diversity of the local economy. Increased employment in sectors classified as 'knowledge based' such as Financial and Insurance Services can result in a more affluent resident working population due to the comparatively higher salaries offered in this sector.

Opportunities present themselves to businesses within those high employing sectors looking to relocate as a pool of locally skilled residents is available. Industry sectors showing a decline in resident workforce still present opportunities to potential businesses looking for particular skills and industry experience as it is possible that a pool exists of such workers who may be seeking similar employment or looking to return to the sector should the opportunity arise.

## What does Fairfield City's resident workforce by industry tell us?

According to ABS 2021 Census data, the top three industry sectors employing the most Fairfield City residents, were Health Care and Social Assistance (7,359 residents or 11.5%), followed by Manufacturing (7,281 or 11.4%) and Retail Trade (7,040 or 11%).

Out of the 19 industry sectors identified, 16 of them (84%) experienced a decline in numbers of resident workers between 2016 and 2021. The greatest loss of resident workers were found in the Construction (-2,040), Manufacturing (-1,272) and Accommodation and Food Services sectors (-1,036).

The only three sectors which experienced growth in the resident workforce between 2016 and 2021, were Healthcare and Social Services (+634), Transport, Postal and Warehousing (+105) and Education and Training (+138).

COVID-19 would clearly have had an impact on the resident workforce resulting in a decline in employment in those sectors particularly adversely affected. Accommodation and Food Services sectors were amongst the most impacted industries during COVID-19. The Construction sector has experienced supply chain issues, state-enforced shutdowns, high material costs, and labour shortages resulting in a number of businesses failing. In addition to this, the sector has been hit hard by the economic downturn, with projects being cancelled or put on hold.

Comparatively speaking, other regions, such as the Liverpool LGA, also experienced similar significant declines in these sectors between 2016 and 2021

but not to such a great degree. For example, according to ABS 2016 and 2021 Census data, there were 713 fewer Liverpool LGA resident workers in the Construction sector in 2021 than there were in 2016.

TABLE 22 RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY 2011–2021

Industry sector of employment Employed persons (Usual residence)	2011	2016	2021	Change between 2016–2021	% Change between 2016– 2021
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	363	485	421	-64	-13.20
Mining	43	93	68	-25	-26.88
Manufacturing	12237	8553	7281	-1272	-14.87
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	520	522	475	-47	-9.00
Construction	5864	7401	5355	-2046	-27.64
Wholesale Trade	3786	2761	2442	-319	-11.55
Retail Trade	7918	7894	7040	-854	-10.82
Accommodation and Food Services	4237	4718	3682	-1036	-21.96
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	4622	4853	4958	105	2.16
Information Media and Telecommunications	1152	1042	767	-275	-26.39
Financial and Insurance Services	3186	3060	2994	-66	-2.16
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	809	964	809	-155	-16.08
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	3144	3325	3295	-30	-0.90
Administrative and Support Services	2341	2558	2246	-312	-12.20
Public Administration and Safety	2771	2763	2665	-98	-3.55
Education and Training	2915	3772	3910	138	3.66
Health Care and Social Assistance	5882	6725	7359	634	9.43
Arts and Recreation Services	710	782	519	-263	-33.63
Other Services	3115	3477	2598	-879	-25.28
Inadequately described/Not stated	3007	6160	4948	-1212	-19.68
Total	68622	71901	63835	-8066	-11.22

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) Census of Population and Housing, Time Series Profile.



## 18 Disengagement by age

Engagement in employment and education looks at the level of participation by age and gender of the population in the labour market, or full or part-time education.

A full-time employed or full-time student would be considered as "fully engaged", while part-time students may be fully engaged if they are also employed, or partly engaged if they are not working but studying.

Engagement in the labour and education market is highly dependent on age. Retirees are generally disengaged, while stay-at-home parents are also likely to be disengaged.

The rate of engagement, particularly in the younger and working age groups can be affected by access to strong employment and education markets and is a measure of socio-economic status and the level of welfare dependency in an area.

Reasons for youth disengagement are particularly varied and include: boredom, identity, school connectedness, academic motivation, sense of belonging, low self-esteem, socio-economic status, family dysfunction, mental illness and disability.3

#### What does disengagement by age tell us about Fairfield City?

The data shows that in 2021, 14.3% of the population aged between 15 and 24 years were considered to be disengaged, compared to 8.9% in Greater Sydney. Of those aged 25 to 54 years, 37.4% were disengaged compared to 17.5% in Greater Sydney. The highest proportion of disengagement in Fairfield City was found in those aged between 55 and 64 years, with 53% of this cohort disengaged, compared to 35.3% in Greater Sydney.

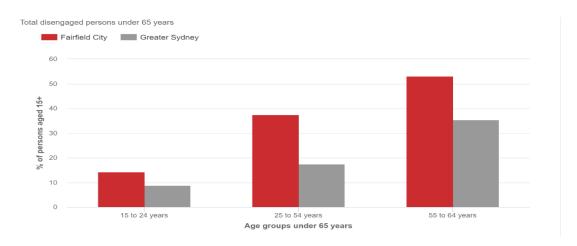
#### TABLE 23 DISENGAGEMENT BY AGE - PERSONS AGED 15+

Disengaged age group		2021			2016		_ Change between 2016–2021
Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	
15 to 24 years	4,173	14.3	8.9	3,283	11.1	7.6	+890
Total 15 to 24 years	29,118	-	-	29,503	-	-	-385
25 to 54 years	29,602	37.4	17.5	23,981	30.4	15.9	+5,621
Total 25 to 54 years	79,194	_	-	78,990	-	-	+204
55 to 64 years	14,805	53.0	35.3	12,231	49.0	33.9	+2,574
Total 55 to 64 years	27,939	-	_	24,947	-	-	+2,992

<sup>3</sup> Melbourne Graduate School of Education, (2019) "Those Who Disappear".

The comparison of disengaged persons by age in Fairfield City compared to Greater Sydney in 2021 is illustrated in Figure 6.

#### FIGURE 6 DISENGAGED PERSONS BY AGE



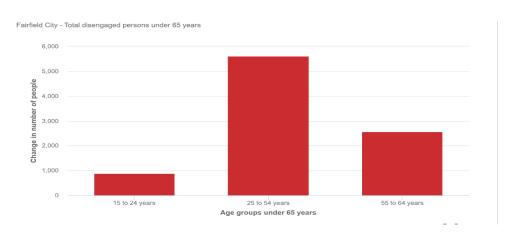


The data shows that there was a significant increase in residents who were disengaged between 2016 and 2021, changing from 39,495 persons in 2016 to 48,580 persons in 2021. This represents an increase of 23% between 2016 and 2021.

- The number of disengaged people aged 15 to 24 years showed an increase of 890 persons or 27.1%.
- The number of disengaged people aged 25 to 54 years showed an increase of 5,621 persons or 23.4%.
- The number of disengaged people aged 55 to 64 years showed an increase of 2,594 persons or 21.2%.

This change in disengagement between 2016 and 2021 is illustrated in Figure 7.

#### FIGURE 7 CHANGE IN DISENGAGED PERSONS BY AGE BETWEEN 2016 AND 2021





### 19 Household income

Household income data presents the total weekly incomes of all persons over the age of 15 in the household. Household Income is an important indicator of socio-economic status helping to clarify Fairfield City's socio-economic status and economic opportunities. Income quartiles allow us to compare relative income-earning capabilities over a particular time period.

Generally speaking, household income levels are not comparable over time because of the influences of economic change such as wage level fluctuations and inflation. The income quartile method is considered to be a more objective way of looking at income data and how it is changing as it takes into account such fluctuations. Income quartiles are created by ranking households from the lowest incomes to the highest incomes and then dividing the list into four equal groups or quartiles.

#### What do Household income quartiles tell us about Fairfield City?

The majority of households fell into the lowest quartile, earning \$886 or less per week. This equates to 32.5% of all households compared to 21.3% for Greater Sydney. This quartile also experienced the greatest increase in numbers of 3,136 households between 2016 and 2021. This equates to a 20% increase.

Fairfield City had the lowest number of households in the highest quartile, earning \$3,135 or more per week at 15.7%. This is much lower than Greater Sydney at 30% of all households in 2021. Although the number of households have increased, proportionally, there was not much change between the breakdown of quartile groups between 2016 and 2021 in Fairfield City.

#### TABLE 24 HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUARTILES

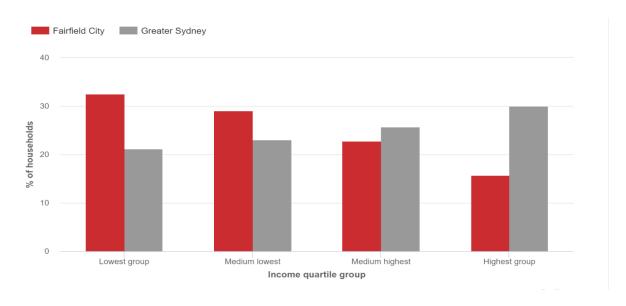
Household income					- Change		
quartiles Households (Enumerated)	Number	%	% Greater Sydney %		%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Lowest group	18,592	32.5	21.3	15,456	30.2	21.0	+3,136
Medium lowest	16,661	29.1	23.1	14,649	28.6	22.3	+2,012
Medium highest	13,019	22.7	25.7	12,152	23.7	26.1	+867
Highest group	8,984	15.7	30.0	8,972	17.5	30.6	+13
Total Households	57,259	100.0	100.0	51,231	100.0	100.0	+6,028

#### TABLE 25 HOUSEHOLD INCOME - QUARTILE GROUP DOLLAR RANGES

Household income ranges	2021	2016
Lowest group	\$0 to \$886	\$0 to 750
Medium lowest	\$887 to \$1,824	\$751 to \$1,481
Medium highest	\$1,825 to \$3,134	\$1,482 to \$2,554
Highest group	\$3,135 and over	\$2,555 and over

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2016 and 2021) Census of Population and Housing. Compiled and presented in profile.id by id(informed decisions).

#### FIGURE 8 HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUARTILES 2021



## 20 Household type

Fairfield City's household and family structure illustrates the area's residential role and function and provides key insights into the level of demand for services and facilities as most of these are related to age and household types.

#### What does household type tell us about Fairfield City?

In 2021, most households in Fairfield City were made up of couples with children at 39.7% of the population. This is higher than Greater Sydney with 34.4% of all households. Fairfield City had a large proportion of households in 2021 with one parent families at 17.5% which is comparatively higher than Greater Sydney at 10.5%. These figures suggest that Fairfield City is popular with families with children. There were 17% of households with couples without children which was comparatively lower than in Greater Sydney at 23.3%.

In 2021, the greatest rise was seen in lone person households with an additional 1,669 households (18.5% increase) between 2016 and 2021.

#### TABLE 26 HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Household type		2021			2016		— Change between	
Total Households (Enumerated)	Number	%	% Greater Sydney %		%	Greater Sydney %	2016–2021	
Couples with children	25,490	39.7	34.4	25,214	42.3	35.3	+276	
Couples without children	10,913	17.0	23.3	9,807	16.5	22.4	+1,106	
One parent families	11,226	17.5	10.5	10,639	17.9	10.4	+587	
Other families	1,233	1.9	1.2	1,205	2.0	1.3	+28	
Group household	1,388	2.2	4.0	1,323	2.2	4.5	+65	
Lone person	10,677	16.6	22.2	9,008	15.1	20.4	+1,669	
Other not classifiable household	2,894	4.5	3.7	2,107	3.5	4.7	+787	
Visitor only households	318	0.5	0.6	279	0.5	0.9	+39	
Total households	64,139	100.0	100.0	59,582	100.0	100.0	+4,557	

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2016 and 2021) Census of Population and Housing. Compiled and presented in profile.id by id(informed decisions).

#### Change in household type

The number of household type classifications in Fairfield City increased by 4,557 between 2016 and 2021. The largest changes in family/household types in Fairfield City between 2016 and 2021 were as follows:

- Lone person (+1,669 households)
- Couples without children (+1,106 households)
- One parent families (+587 households)
- Couples with children (+276 households)

## 21 Household size

Average persons per household (also known as Average household size) is the average number of persons usually resident in an occupied private dwelling.

Household size in general follow what can be called the 'life-cycle of families' – starting off with one or two persons, then as children are born, the household grows. This is then usually followed by a decline in household size as the children move out.

However, household size can also be influenced by the lack of affordable housing opportunities for young people and by migrants who often have a tradition of living with extended family members which significantly affects household size.

A declining household size may also indicate children leaving the area when they leave home, an increase in retirees settling in the area, or an attraction of young singles and couples to the area.

#### What does household size tell us about Fairfield City?

In 2021, most individual households in Fairfield City were made up of 2 persons at 24.5% of the population. This is lower than Greater Sydney with 30.7% of households. Fairfield City had a large proportion of households with 6 or more persons at 10.5% compared to 4.2% in Greater Sydney. Collectively speaking, there was a higher proportion of larger households (those with 4, 5 and 6 or more persons) in Fairfield City equating to 40% of all households. This is compared to 28.8% of all households in Greater Sydney accommodating, 4, 5 and 6 or more persons in a household.

#### TABLE 27 HOUSEHOLD SIZE

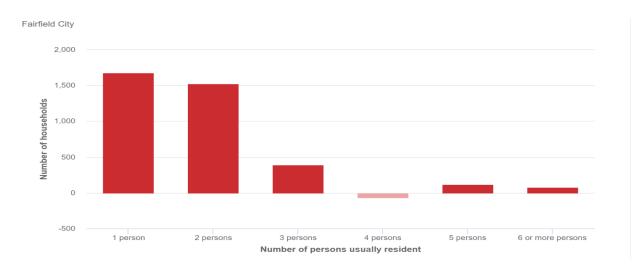
Household size		2021			2016		Change
Households (Enumerated)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
1 person	10,680	17.5	23.2	9,003	15.7	21.6	+1,677
2 persons	14,920	24.5	30.7	13,391	23.4	29.9	+1,529
3 persons	10,927	17.9	17.2	10,531	18.4	17.6	+396
4 persons	11,105	18.2	17.3	11,169	19.5	18.1	-64
5 persons	6,896	11.3	7.3	6,781	11.9	8.0	+115
6 or more persons	6,387	10.5	4.2	6,310	11.0	4.7	+77
Total classifiable households	60,915	100.0	100.0	57,185	100.0	100.0	+3,730

#### Change in household size

The number of households in Fairfield City increased by 3,730 between 2016 and 2021. The largest changes in the number of persons usually resident in a household in Fairfield City between 2016 and 2021 were as follows:

- 1 person (+1,677 households)
- 2 persons (+1,529 households)
- 3 persons (+396 households)
- 5 persons (+115 households)

#### FIGURE 9 CHANGE IN HOUSEHOLD SIZE



## 22 **Dwellings**

In 2021 the most common dwelling type was a separate house, representing 70.7% of all dwelling types. Separate houses have increased by 3,142 since 2016. Medium density represents 18.7% of total dwelling structures with high density representing 9.8%. Dwellings with 3 bedrooms were the most common in Fairfield City, comprising 37.6% of all dwellings and 4 bedroom accommodations comprising 24.9% of total dwellings.

In terms of housing tenure, 30% of households owned their dwelling; 25.7% were purchasing, and 36.4% were renting, compared with 26.7%, 31.9% and 34.7% respectively for Greater Sydney. Of those renting, 28.3% were renting privately, and 7.7% were in social housing.

Around one third of renting households (32.6%) were paying \$450 or more per week in rent.

#### TABLE 28 DWELLING STRUCTURE

Develling to a		2021			2016		Change
Dwelling type Dwellings (Enumerated)	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
Separate house	47,796	70.7	53.4	44,654	71.2	55.0	+3,142
Medium density	12,668	18.7	18.8	11,430	18.2	20.3	+1,238
High density	6,652	9.8	27.1	5,741	9.2	23.5	+911
Caravans, cabin, houseboat	98	0.1	0.1	98	0.2	0.2	0
Other	176	0.3	0.4	519	0.8	0.5	-343
Not stated	229	0.3	0.2	291	0.5	0.4	-62
Total Private Dwellings	67,619	100.0	100.0	62,733	100.0	100.0	+4,886

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2016 and 2021) Census of Population and Housing. Compiled and presented in profile.id by id(informed decisions).

#### TABLE 29 NUMBER OF BEDROOMS PER DWELLING

Number of hadrooms		202			2016		
Number of bedrooms Households (Enumerated	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	between 2016–2021
0 or 1 bedrooms	2,728	4.3	8.7	2,481	4.2	7.8	+247
2 bedrooms	11,056	17.2	24.8	9,606	16.1	23.7	+1,450
3 bedrooms	24,138	37.6	29.7	24,116	40.5	32.1	+22
4 bedrooms	15,987	24.9	23.1	14,746	24.8	22.0	+1,241
5 bedrooms or more	6,232	9.7	8.7	4,776	8.0	7.3	+1,456
Not stated	3,991	6.2	4.9	3,848	6.5	7.1	+143
Total households	64,132	100.0	100.0	59,573	100.0	100.0	+4,559

#### TABLE 30 HOUSING TENURE

Households		2021			2016		
(Enumerated)							Change
Tenure type	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	Number	%	Greater Sydney %	2016 to 2021
Fully owned	19,221	30.0	26.7	18,450	31.0	27.7	+771
Mortgage	16,500	25.7	31.9	16,545	27.8	31.5	-45
Renting - Total	23,325	36.4	34.7	19,589	32.9	31.8	+3,736
Renting - Social housing	4,942	7.7	4.1	4,782	8.0	4.6	+160
Renting - Private	18,174	28.3	30.4	14,627	24.6	27.1	+3,547
Renting - Not stated	209	0.3	0.2	180	0.3	0.2	+29
Other tenure type	973	1.5	1.7	910	1.5	1.6	+63
Not stated	4,102	6.4	5.0	4,075	6.8	7.4	+27
Total households	64,121	100.0	100.0	59,569	100.0	100.0	+4,552



The 'Telopea' design, the most popular secondary dwelling model in Fairfield City (Source: Ian Cubbit's Home)

## 23 SEIFA ranking

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is published by the ABS and ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The indexes are based on information from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing.

The SEIFA index takes into account and summarises high values (advantages) and low values (disadvantages) taken from Census variables such as households with low income (disadvantage) and people with a tertiary education (advantage). This provides a more balanced picture of the status of the local government area by taking into account both advantages and disadvantages. All areas are ordered from the lowest to highest rank - the lowest rank being 1 - and placed in deciles ranging from 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest decile of advantage/disadvantage. The area with the highest rank of 130 in NSW, (having the highest level of advantage) would be placed in the 10th decile of advantage/disadvantage.

#### What does Fairfield City's SEIFA rank mean?

In 2021, the SEIFA index placed Fairfield City in the 1st decile of advantage and disadvantage, that is, amongst the most relative disadvantaged Local Government Areas in NSW. This means that the number of households in Fairfield City possessing 'disadvantage' variables is significantly greater than the number of households benefiting from 'advantage' variables.

Fairfield City was ranked 1st in disadvantage of all 130 local government areas in NSW, meaning that there were no other local government areas that had a lower SEIFA ranking. A low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage in general. For example, an area with many households with low income, many people with no qualifications, or many people in low skilled occupations can contribute to a low score. Comparing to neighbouring local government areas, Cumberland is ranked 7th, Liverpool City is ranked 20th and Penrith City is ranked 82nd in NSW. The SEIFA ranking of disadvantage sees Fairfield now the lowest ranked LGA in NSW. In 2016 Fairfield City was ranked 4th.

When taking into account both advantage and disadvantage, Fairfield is ranked 4th in NSW. The three regional areas of Brewarrina, Central Darling and Kempsey were ranked lower.

## TABLE 31 SEIFA RANKINGS TO COMPARE FAIRFIELD CITY WITH NEIGHBOURING LGAS

Local Government Area	2021 SEIFA Ranking of Advantage and Disadvantage within NSW	2021 SEIFA Ranking of Disadvantage within NSW	2016 SEIFA Ranking of Advantage and Disadvantage within NSW	2016 SEIFA Ranking of Disadvantage within NSW
Fairfield City	4	1	8	4
Cumberland	71	7	69	26
Liverpool	82	20	82	41
Penrith	90	82	93	95

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2021) Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia (SEIFA).



# 22 What does this data tell us about issues, opportunities and connections?

The data has been assessed and reviewed in terms of identifying what the issues, opportunities and connections are and essentially what this data tells us about Fairfield City.

The key elements of the statistical review have been listed in Table 32. Additional links to the previously reported census data are also noted.

#### TABLE 32 FAIRFIELD CITY STATISTICS, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Key statistic	Why could this be an issue?	Why is this an opportunity?								
POPULATION										
ABS 2021 Census population of 208,475 persons.	<ul> <li>Stress on existing infrastructure, facilities and services.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Rapidly growing population will stimulate the economy and provide opportunities for business</li> </ul>								
ABS estimated resident population for 2021 is 209,030		<ul><li>growth.</li><li>Growing population will increase cultural diversity; provide</li></ul>								
Forecast population to reach 247,803 by 2041 - according to the NSW Department of Planning.		opportunities for cultures to learn from each other and appreciate similarities and differences.								
Majority of residents are long-term residents.	Housing stock not being released resulting in less available housing. This places additional pressure on	A less transient community provides the potential for a vibrant community environment where								
Linked to changing demographics.	those seeking accommodation.	<ul> <li>people know each other and help each other.</li> <li>A vibrant community gives people a sense of belonging increasing social capital, which reduces the risk of mental health disorders, lowers heart disease mortality, and contributes to better overall health and welfare.</li> </ul>								
In 2021, the largest population were those identified as 'Parents and homebuilders (aged 35 to 49)'.	<ul> <li>Pressure placed on existing infrastructure, services and community demands and expectations.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Significant population numbers which help support and drive the local economy and social activity.</li> <li>Opportunities for new businesses</li> </ul>								
Linked to the resident workforce, labour force and primary/secondary schoolers.		<ul><li>to establish.</li><li>Developing social capital within schools and services.</li></ul>								

Key statistic	Why could this be an issue?	Why is this an opportunity?
In 2021, the greatest increase in population cohort were those aged over 60 years of age.  Median age of 39 – slightly higher than Greater Sydney at 37.  Linked to labour force participation rates and health statistics.	<ul> <li>Ageing population placing additional pressure on services, for example - medical services.</li> <li>Accessibility implications to facilities and services.</li> <li>Reduced rates revenue to Council due to pensioner rebates</li> <li>Elderly living at home on own or with children</li> <li>Children staying at home longer could cause intergenerational issues</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Volunteering and mentoring opportunities.</li> <li>Provide unpaid support and care to all generations.</li> <li>Benefits of local knowledge and migration experience.</li> </ul>
In 2021, the number of primary schoolers and secondary schoolers consecutively increased by 47 and 787 children.  Linked to population type and households.	<ul> <li>Pressure placed on existing infrastructure/services and community demands and expectations. For example, schools, health services, sports facilities.</li> <li>Impacts on the size of households.</li> </ul>	More families in the LGA generating economic and social activity.
L	ABOUR FORCE AND INDUSTRY SECTOR	रऽ
The top three industry sectors employing the most Fairfield residents in 2021, were Health Care and Social Assistance (7,359 residents), followed by Manufacturing (7,281) and Retail Trade (7,040).  Linked to growing population and industry.	<ul> <li>Tightening labour market could entice workers away from the LGA.</li> <li>Pressure is already being felt by Fairfield Hospital compounded by ageing GPs and an increasing GP shortage.</li> <li>Population growth places pressure on all services, facilities and infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Potential to attract more qualified workers and businesses to tap into labour pool.</li> <li>A gap analysis could identify training or re-training opportunities for example, in aged care or disability services.</li> </ul>
Out of the 19 industry sectors identified, 16 of them (84%) experienced a decline in numbers of resident workers between 2016 and 2021.  Linked to labour force participation rates and market forces.	Potential shrinking of labour pool could impact businesses and services.	A gap analysis could identify training or re-training opportunities.
The greatest loss of resident workers between 2016 and 2021 were found in the Construction (-2,040), Manufacturing (-1,272) and Accommodation and Food Services sectors (-1,036).  Linked to labour force participation rates and market forces.	<ul> <li>Indicates a decline in these sectors and potential rises in unemployment. The reasons behind the decline warrants further research.</li> <li>Some decline may be due to the impact of COVID-19.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Existence of specialised employment pool or opportunities to support the growth of small businesses/sole traders.</li> <li>A gap analysis could identify training or re-training opportunities.</li> </ul>

Key statistic	Why could this be an issue?	Why is this an opportunity?
The three sectors which experienced growth in the resident workforce between 2016 and 2021, were Healthcare and Social Services (+634), Transport, Postal and Warehousing (+105) and Education and Training (+138).	Potential issues with the availability of suitably qualified workforce.	<ul> <li>Potential to attract more qualified workers and businesses to tap into labour pool.</li> <li>New business opportunities to service these growing industry sectors.</li> </ul>
Linked to labour force participation rates and market forces.		
Fairfield City has seen a significant decline in its labour force (participation rate) from 80,340 persons in 2016 to 69,896 persons in 2021. This is a reduction of 10,444 persons or 13% over five years.  Linked to unemployment; ageing population.	<ul> <li>Disengagement of the community creating a range of social issues.</li> <li>Businesses struggling to find and keep workers.</li> <li>Ageing population reducing labour pool.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A gap analysis could identify training or re-training opportunities.</li> </ul>
All age groups have shown an increase between 2016 and 2021 in not being part of the labour force.  Linked to unemployment; ageing population; new arrivals with unrecognised qualifications.	<ul> <li>Impact of COVID-19.</li> <li>Disengagement of the community creating a range of social issues.</li> <li>Businesses struggling to find and keep workers.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A gap analysis could identify training or re-training opportunities.</li> </ul>
Overall, in 2021, 91.3% of the labour force was employed, and 8.7% unemployed, compared with 94.9% and 5.1% respectively for Greater Sydney.  Linked to unemployment; new arrivals with unrecognised qualifications.	<ul> <li>Possible mental health/trauma of refugees may impact ability to gain employment.</li> <li>Disengagement of the community creating a range of social issues.</li> <li>Businesses struggling to find and keep workers.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Provide services to help with qualification recognition and mental health/trauma.</li> <li>A gap analysis could identify training or re-training opportunities.</li> </ul>
In 2021, 14.3% of the population aged between 15 and 24 years were considered to be disengaged, compared to 8.9% in Greater Sydney. 37.4% of those aged 25 to 54 years in Fairfield City were disengaged compared to 17.5% in Greater Sydney. The highest proportion of disengagement in Fairfield City was found in those aged between 55 and 64 years, with 53% of this cohort disengaged, compared to 35.3% in Greater Sydney.	<ul> <li>Impact of COVID-19 on schooling and work engagement.</li> <li>Businesses struggling to find and keep workers.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A gap analysis could identify training or retraining opportunities.</li> <li>Programs to reengage young people in employment or education.</li> <li>Provide services to help with qualification recognition and mental health/trauma.</li> </ul>

Key statistic	Why could this be an issue?	Why is this an opportunity?						
	EDUCATION							
The data shows that overall, in 2021, 33.1% of the population aged over 15 years held educational qualifications, and 58.0% had no qualifications. This was compared to 57.9% and 34.2% respectively for Greater Sydney.  Linked to SEIFA, workforce participation, education and population growth/migration.	Limits employment opportunities impacting economic, social and health status.	A gap analysis could identify training or re-training opportunities.						
There was a significant increase in residents who held educational qualifications between 2016 and 2021 with, for example, an additional 4,568 persons in 2021 residing in the LGA with a Bachelor or Higher degree. There were also an additional 3,629 in 2021 who had no qualifications.  Linked to SEIFA, workforce participation, education and population growth/migration.	<ul> <li>Those with no qualifications will be limited in their employment choices and opportunities.</li> <li>Employment opportunities are required locally to retain qualified residents working in the LGA or in Western Sydney.</li> <li>A proportion of those with qualifications may be new arrivals potentially seeking employment.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A gap analysis could identify training or re-training opportunities for those with no qualifications.</li> <li>Provide opportunities for local work experience to help in gaining employment.</li> <li>Recognition of overseas qualifications will increase workforce and improve outcomes.</li> </ul>						
	MIGRATION AND LANGUAGE							
In 2021, 56% of people in Fairfield City were born overseas, compared with 38.6% in Greater Sydney.  Linked to population growth and migration.	<ul> <li>Lack of awareness about services and supports available.</li> <li>Difficulty navigating government systems and services, e.g., Centrelink.</li> <li>Difficulty understanding legal rights and requirements.</li> <li>Miscommunication of information due to language barrier.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A multicultural community can bring many opportunities which celebrate diverse cultures through festivities and events.</li> <li>Projects can be developed that bring communities together to share knowledge about cultural practices and experiences.</li> <li>Projects to build capacity and develop skills.</li> </ul>						
In 2021, 69.7% of residents spoke a language other than English at home. This is compared to 37.4% in Greater Sydney.  Linked to population growth, migration, educational status and employment status.	<ul> <li>Miscommunication of information due to language barrier.</li> <li>Lack of awareness about services and supports available.</li> <li>Difficulty navigating government systems and services, e.g., Centrelink.</li> <li>Difficulty understanding legal rights and requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Messaging from Council and other groups to be multilingual.</li> <li>Engagement to be tailored to each community to ensure effectiveness.</li> <li>Projects in language to increase understanding of government and legal systems.</li> </ul>						

Key statistic	Why could this be an issue?	Why is this an opportunity?
Between 2016 and 2021, the number of people who spoke a language other than English at home increased by 4,680 or 3.3%, and the number of people who spoke English only decreased by 597 or 1.2%.  Linked to population growth, migration, educational status and employment status.	Miscommunication of information due to language barrier.	<ul> <li>Messaging from Council and other groups likely to be multilingual.</li> <li>English Language courses no longer capped at 520 hours enabling development of language skills to proficiency</li> </ul>
The dominant language spoken at home in 2021, other than English, was Vietnamese, with 21.1% of the population, or 43,936 people speaking this language at home. This is significantly higher than Greater Sydney at 2.2%. This was followed by Assyrian/Aramaic at 24,762 persons or 11.9% of the population which when compared to Greater Sydney at 0.7%, is significantly greater.  Linked to population growth, migration, educational status and employment status.	<ul> <li>Miscommunication of information due to language barrier.</li> <li>Language barrier can limit access to services and information around legal rights and requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Existing communities can support new arrivals and build social support and social capital.</li> <li>Messaging from Council and other groups likely to be multilingual.</li> </ul>
2021 data shows that new arrivals before 2005 are significantly more proficient in the English language than more recent arrivals.  Of the migrants who arrived in 2019 and cited speaking another language and English, 2,286 of them (48.2%) spoke English 'very well or well'; whilst 2,418 persons (51.1%), spoke English 'Not well or not at all'. In 2019, 0.7% did not state their proficiency in English.  Linked to population growth, migration, educational status and employment status.	<ul> <li>New arrivals are less likely to be proficient in English and need language support immediately.</li> <li>Local community supports new arrivals in own language may limit learning English.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Existing communities can support new arrivals and build social support and social capital.</li> <li>New provisions with English language training means more opportunity to learn beyond the 520 hour cap.</li> </ul>

Key statistic	Why could this be an issue?	Why is this an opportunity?
	RELIGION	
78.1% of the population in Fairfield City nominated a religion, and 14.7% said they had no religion, compared with 62.8% and 30.5% respectively for Greater Sydney.  Linked to religion, population growth and migration.	Lack of space and infrastructure for newer faith groups to establish.	<ul> <li>Faith groups can help to strengthen communities through guidance and social activities.</li> <li>Faith groups build social capital and support new and existing communities.</li> <li>Adds to our cultural diversity.</li> </ul>
S. 1.5. 1.1.0. S. 5. 5. 1.1.	HOUSEHOLDS	
In 2021, most households were made up of 2 persons at 24.5% of the population. This is lower than Greater Sydney with 30.7% of households. Collectively speaking, there was a higher proportion of larger households (those with 4, 5 and 6 or more persons) equating to 40% of all households. This is compared to 28.8% of households in Greater Sydney.  Linked to population growth, migration, education, employment status and household income.	<ul> <li>Pressure placed on existing housing.</li> <li>Existing housing does not meet the needs of larger households.</li> <li>Potential conflicts and difficult conditions in the home manifesting both at home and in the wider community.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Extended families can provide support within the home.</li> <li>Can be financially more viable for families resulting in greater disposable income.</li> <li>Planning considerations for larger dwellings as Fairfield increases its density.</li> </ul>
In 2021, most households were made up of couples with children at 39.7% of the population. This is higher than Greater Sydney with 34.4%.  In 2021 there was a large proportion of one parent families at 17.5% which is comparatively higher than Greater Sydney at 10.5%. In 2021, the greatest rise was seen in lone person households with an additional 1,669 households (18.5% increase) between 2016 and 2021.  Linked to population growth, migration, education, employment status and household income.	<ul> <li>Pressure placed on existing infrastructure/services and community demands and expectations. For example, schools, health services, sports facilities.</li> <li>Pressure placed on demand for housing.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>More families in the LGA generating economic and social activity.</li> <li>Services and support for one parent families could be increased.</li> </ul>

#### Key statistic Why could this be an issue? Why is this an opportunity?

The majority of households fell into the lowest quartile, earning \$886 or less per week. This equates to 32.5% of all households compared to 21.3% for Greater Sydney. This quartile also experienced the greatest increase in numbers of 3,136 households between 2016 and 2021. This equates to a 20% increase.

- Low-income earners tend to be more acutely affected by increases in costs/inflation and interest rate hikes.
- Rental increases will also be more difficult to deal with.
- These households are more susceptible to financial stress.
- Income and education status are linked and therefore an opportunity exists to help elevate the education status of residents through partnerships with educational institutions, RTOs, community groups and businesses.
- Services to support low-income families increased.

Linked to population growth, migration, education, employment status and household income.

Fairfield City had the lowest number of households in the highest quartile, earning \$3,135 or more per week at 15.7%. This is much lower than Greater Sydney at 30% of all households in 2021.

Linked to population growth, migration, education, employment status and household income.

 A lower proportion of highincome earners can result in a two-tier economy (the haves and the have-nots) which is socially detrimental to a community.  Income and education status are linked and therefore an opportunity exists to help elevate the education status of residents through partnerships with educational institutions, RTOs, community groups and businesses.

#### **HEALTH**

The most common long-term health condition identified was arthritis at 7.1% followed by diabetes at 6.8%. This is higher than data for Greater Sydney which recorded figures of 6.7% and 4.6% respectively.

Linked to population growth, migration, education, employment status and household income.

- Potential accessibility issues.
- Pressure placed on services such as health services.
- Audit of facilities and accessibility to help address any access issues for the betterment of the community as a whole.
- Opportunity to implement social prescribing initiatives to improve access to social and exercise groups.
- Provide free physical activity opportunities and access to facilities that will encourage physical activity.

In 2021 111,308 people over the age of 2 years are either overweight or obese.

- Long-term health issues and significant burden placed on a range of services.
- Initiatives to actively encourage greater participation in recreational activities and healthy living habits.

Linked to population growth, migration, education, employment status and household income.

- In 2021, 19,285 people (or 9.3% of the population) reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to a disability compared to 5.2% in Greater Sydney. This was an increase of 2,374 persons from 2016 or 14%. Linked to population growth, migration, education, employment status and household income.
- Burden placed on carers.
- Potential issues with accessibility.
- Audit of facilities and accessibility to help address any access issues for the betterment of the community as a whole.
- Support services for carers to be increased.

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#### **SEIFA**

In 2021, the SEIFA index placed Fairfield City in the 1<sup>st</sup> decile of advantage and disadvantage, that is, amongst the most relative disadvantaged Local Government Areas in NSW.

Linked to education, health status, employment status and household

- employment status and household income.

  In 2021, Fairfield City had the 1st SEIFA
- ranking of all local government areas in NSW meaning that there were no other local government areas that had a lower SEIFA ranking.

Linked to education, health status, employment status and household income.

- Disadvantage has multiple impacts on the community as a whole.
- The ability to shift/improve the SEIFA ranking is key to improving the overall social and economic environment of the LGA.
- Improving the SEIFA ranking is key as it reflects improvements to educational and employment status. All the opportunities listed here can help achieve this goal.
- Disadvantage has multiple impacts on the community as a whole.
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- Improving the SEIFA ranking is key as it reflects improvements to educational and employment status. All the initiatives listed here can help achieve this goal.



## 23 Useful resources to find out more

#### Census data

Places to find information on Census 2021 Data

- ABS
- Profile ID

#### **Research statistics**

- Crime data for each LGA in NSW NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- Health data collated from a range of sources for each LGA across Australia <u>Social Health Atlases</u> as well as <u>National Health Survey</u>: <u>First results</u>, <u>2017-18 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)</u>
- Health Stats NSW
- Refugee Council of Australia and Settlement Reports Dataset data.gov.au
- Centrelink <u>data</u> (numbers of people on different payments, job seeker numbers, unemployment figures)
- Unemployment rates for every LGA in Australia, each state and the national rate (quarterly) <u>Labour Market insights</u>

#### **Reports of interest**

- Mission Australia Annual Youth Survey
- Anglicare Rent Affordability <u>Annual Report</u>
- Poverty in Australia A snap Shot
- Brotherhood of St Lawrence research
- ACOSS Research

## Suburb data

Suburbs	Total Population 2021	Aboriginal and Torres Strait	Islander peoples	Aged over 65 years		Lone person	households	Use Vietnamese at	home	Use Assyrian/	Aramaic at home	Use Arabic at	home	Needing assistance	due to disability	Total young persons aged 15-24	Disengaged young	work or study)	Total households	Low income households (less	than \$800/week)	Total renting households	Rental costs > 30%	income	Households	housing	Number of households without a car	SEIFA rank of socio-economic disadvantage within NSW
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		Number	%		Number	%		Number	%	Number	%		
Abbotsbury	4,211	13	0.3	642	15.3	117	9.3	165	3.9	482	11.5	215	5.1	235	5.6	657	63	9.6	1,228	143	11.6	128	54	42.2	0	0.0	28	2853
Bonnyrigg	9,814	131	1.3	1,462	14.9	467	15.4	2,680	27.4	714	7.3	628	6.4	891	9.1	1,401	187	13.3	2,880	764	26.5	1,247	624	50.0	677	22.4	236	57
Bonnyrigg Heights	7,381	39	0.5	1,144	15.5	183	8.9	1,320	17.9	732	9.9	477	6.5	598	8.1	1,103	128	11.6	2,002	363	18.1	399	185	46.4	53	2.6	72	261
Bossley Park	15,530	130	0.8	3,049	19.7	619	13.3	689	4.4	3,581	23.1	1,625	10.5	1,682	10.9	2,086	298	14.3	4,465	1,061	23.8	1,353	692	51.1	228	4.9	263	237
Cabramatta	21,236	68	0.3	3,501	16.6	1,308	19.1	9,144	43.3	51	0.2	219	1.0	1,587	7.5	2,984	411	13.8	6,561	2,043	31.1	3,073	1,386	45.1	295	4.3	1,169	17
Cabramatta West	7,840	65	0.8	1,097	14.0	284	13.0	3,196	40.8	155	2.0	276	3.5	609	7.8	1,179	158	13.4	2,077	525	25.3	792	308	38.9	226	10.4	198	40
Canley Heights	12,390	84	0.7	1,679	13.6	506	14.2	5,183	42.1	466	3.8	416	3.4	941	7.6	1,911	266	13.9	3,350	858	25.6	1,312	600	45.7	338	9.5	316	35
Canley Vale	10,336	56	0.5	1,606	15.6	665	20.7	3,946	38.3	272	2.6	391	3.8	862	8.4	1,449	193	13.3	3,075	890	28.9	1,257	555	44.2	290	9.0	413	42
Carramar	3,487	15	0.4	660	19.0	373	29.7	747	21.5	37	1.1	424	12.2	225	6.5	413	63	15.3	1,169	395	33.8	546	231	42.3	112	8.9	212	48
Cecil Park	812	0	0.0	162	19.9	22	9.7	19	2.3	22	2.7	41	5.0	36	4.4	131	8	6.1	223	29	13.0	32	9	28.1	0	0.0	3	2516
Edensor Park	10,291	43	0.4	1,712	16.7	307	10.3	1,061	10.3	2,085	20.3	870	8.5	902	8.8	1,456	208	14.3	2,895	619	21.4	767	360	46.9	176	5.9	137	297
Fairfield	18,478	122	0.7	3,129	17.0	1,375	21.7	2,213	12.0	3,915	21.2	3,062	16.6	2,312	12.5	2,324	393	16.9	5,953	2,022	34.0	3,435	1,914	55.7	596	9.4	1,136	18
Fairfield East	5,221	41	0.8	822	15.8	316	19.9	1,281	24.6	160	3.1	851	16.3	497	9.5	757	118	15.6	1,481	496	33.5	643	300	46.7	280	17.7	179	31
Fairfield Heights	8,295	35	0.4	1,290	15.6	417	17.1	951	11.5	2,447	29.6	1,190	14.4	1,009	12.2	1,159	198	17.1	2,295	658	28.7	1,119	595	53.2	265	10.9	261	22
Fairfield West	13,010	75	0.6	1,981	15.3	463	12.4	2,456	18.9	2,296	17.7	1,458	11.2	1,174	9.1	1,898	272	14.3	3,586	852	23.8	1,249	673	53.9	59	1.6	265	74
Greenfield Park	5,411	21	0.4	897	16.6	183	11.8	718	13.3	1,791	33.2	390	7.2	514	9.5	809	110	13.6	1,500	354	23.6	442	250	56.6	30	1.9	72	98
Horsley Park	1,784	25	1.4	383	21.5	79	14.3	6	0.3	97	5.4	79	4.4	129	7.2	244	26	10.7	540	115	21.3	88	31	35.2	0	0.0	20	2165
Lansvale	2,608	31	1.2	445	17.1	154	19.0	884	34.0	6	0.2	175	6.7	158	6.1	373	49	13.1	777	207	26.6	179	71	39.7	27	3.3	42	130
Mount Pritchard	9,902	175	1.8	1,437	14.6	603	19.4	2,292	23.2	186	1.9	787	8.0	747	7.6	1,442	211	14.6	2,930	806	27.5	1,009	427	42.3	313	10.1	288	108
Old Guildford	2,862	17	0.6	285	10.0	93	12.8	64	2.2	8	0.3	1,166	40.9	193	6.8	467	111	23.8	672	157	23.4	222	119	53.6	13	1.8	44	80
Prairiewood	3,459	26	8.0	765	22.1	173	15.7	342	9.9	647	18.7	302	8.7	378		427	64	15.0	1,063	307	28.9		157	44.6		13.1	76	188
Smithfield	13,175	168	1.3	2,319	17.6	926	21.7	1,258	9.6	2,139	16.3	2,017	15.3	1,526	11.6	1,753	284	16.2	4,054	1,242	30.6	1,728	882	51.0	434	10.2	475	58
St Johns Park	6,300	24	0.4	1,457	23.1	222	12.1	1,504	23.9	407	6.5	306	4.9	649	10.3	788	91	11.5	1,789	414	23.1	372	161	43.3	54	2.9	102	202
Villawood	2,196	16	0.7	327	15.0	175	24.6	523	24.0	21	1.0	356	16.4	181	8.3	311	39	12.5	655	206	31.5	292	112	38.4	119	16.7	91	14
Wakeley	4,902	22	0.4	968	19.8	188	12.5	877	17.9		20.1	349	7.1	454	_	635	87	13.7	1,477	364	24.6	353	182	51.6	_	2.1	80	157
Wetherill Park	6,423	34	_	1,301	20.3		13.1	249		1,015	15.8	794	12.4		9.3		89	12.2	1,981	491	24.8		241	47.4		1.5	93	329
Yennora	1,678	20	_	436	26.0			159	9.5		2.2	450	26.8		12.3		45	21.0	522	219	42.0		108	37.8	_	24.8		21
Fairfield City	209,032	1,523	0.7	34,968		10,677	16.6	43,936		24,762	11.9	19,334	9.3	19,285		29,118	4,173	14.3	61,215	16,646		23,182	11,237	48.5		7.7	6,418	1
Greater Sydney	5,259,764	90,940	1.7	794,713	15.2	424,717	22.2	113,154	2.2	37,814	0.7	219,483	4.2	270,665	5.2	637,823	56,878	8.9	1,841,197	330,054	17.9	657,317	231,957	35.3	78,204	4.1	206,112	