



Census Population Growth

The NSW population at the August 2006 Census was 6.6 million, representing an increase of 214,000 or 3.4 per cent since the 2001 Census. NSW's population growth was less than the national average of 5.7 per cent. The Australian population reached 20.1 million in August 2006.

Sydney's population at the 2006 Census was 4.1 million, which was 151,000 or 3.7 per cent higher than five years earlier. The population of Non-Sydney NSW was 2.4 million, which was 62,000 or 2.6 per cent higher than in 2001.

The proportion of Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Sydney where the population declined between 2001 and 2006 was around one quarter (or 11 of 43) compared to 47 per cent (or 52 of 110) of LGAs in non-Sydney NSW.

Of the 21 coastal LGAs outside of Sydney, only one (Kiama) recorded a decline in population from 2001 to 2006. In contrast, 57 per cent (or 51 of 89) of the non-Sydney inland LGAs recorded a fall in population. Drought conditions have had a significant impact over much of inland NSW over the past few years.

However there were a number of non-Sydney inland LGAs that experienced very strong population growth over the period 2001-2006 including Yass Valley (15.7 per cent), Maitland (13.8 per cent), Palerang (14.4 per cent), Queanbeyan (11.7 per cent) and Murray (11.0 per cent). Only one coastal LGA outside of Sydney - Tweed with 10.2 per cent - recorded population growth in excess of 10 per cent.

NSW LGAs WITH LARGEST AND FASTEST POPULATION GROWTH 2001-2006

LGA	No.	%	LGA	No.	%
LARGEST GROWTH			FASTEST GROWTH		
Sydney	27,274	17.8%	Sydney	27,274	17.8%
Baulkham Hills	19,330	13.9%	Auburn	9,225	16.4%
Blacktown	15,964	6.2%	Yass Valley	1,786	15.7%
Liverpool	10,677	6.9%	Strathfield	4,154	14.7%
Auburn	9,225	16.4%	Palerang	1,555	14.4%

NSW LGAs WITH LARGEST AND FASTEST POPULATION DECLINE 2001-2006

LGA	No.	%	LGA	No.	%
LARGEST DECLINE			FASTEST DECLINE		
Campbelltown	-3,019	-2.1%	Central Darling	-530	-19.7%
Fairfield	-2,008	-1.1%	Warren	-479	-15.2%
Moree Plains	-1,552	-9.9%	Bourke	-571	-14.6%
Marrickville	-1,465	-2.0%	Walgett	-998	-12.0%
Broken Hill	-1,007	-4.9%	Carrathool	-347	-10.5%

Indigenous population

The NSW Indigenous population at the 2006 Census was 138,200, representing 2.1 per cent of the total population of NSW and 30.4 per cent of Australia's Indigenous population of 455,000. NSW is the most populous State for Indigenous persons followed by Queensland.

The number of Indigenous persons in NSW in 2006 was 18,300 or 15.3 per cent above the figure for 2001. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the growth rate reflected a natural population increase (the excess of births over deaths), improvements in data collection methods and people newly identifying their Indigenous origin in the Census. In contrast to total population growth, NSW's Indigenous population growth was above the national average of 11 per cent.

Between 2001 and 2006, Sydney's Indigenous population rose by almost 5,000 or 12.8 per cent to 43,700 while in non-Sydney NSW the Indigenous population rose by 13,300 or 16.5 per cent to 94,500.

Of the 152 LGAs in NSW, 129 or 85 per cent recorded a rise in their Indigenous population between 2001 and 2006. Ten of the 23 LGAs where there was no change or a fall in the Indigenous population were in Sydney.

NSW LGAs WITH LARGEST INDIGENOUS POPULATION GROWTH 2001-2006

LGA	Change in Indigenous population	2006 Indigenous population
Wyong	1,233	3,798
Blacktown	965	7,058
Tamworth Regional	962	3,740
Lake Macquarie	871	4,280
Wagga Wagga	615	2,382

NSW LGAs WITH LARGEST INDIGENOUS POPULATION DECLINE 2001-2006

LGA	Change in Indigenous population	2006 Indigenous population
Moree Plains	-170	2,637
Bankstown	-140	1,163
Bourke	-52	910
Lockhart	-48	41
Warren	-46	331

In addition to those in the above table, other LGAs which experienced significant growth in their Indigenous population between 2001 and 2006 included Penrith (607), Newcastle (590), Dubbo (510), Hastings (497) and Wollongong (478).

The five LGAs with the largest Indigenous population in NSW in 2006 were Blacktown (7,058), Lake Macquarie (4,280), Penrith (4,085), Dubbo (3,909) and Wyong (3,798).