



Demographic & Social Profiles 2009

Executive Summary

General Population

In the 2006 Census, there were 129,963 persons usually resident in the City of Canterbury. The 2006 total population of the area had a decrease of 984 people or 0.75% decline in the population since the 2001 Census.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics updates this figure to produce an Estimated Resident Population figure, which is more accurate than the figure from the Census. The Estimated Resident Population for 30 June 2007 was 137,755. This Estimated Resident Population is made up of the Census count plus residents who were temporarily overseas, an undercount adjustment for those who didn't complete a Census form and an over-count adjustment for anyone who was double-counted.

The most significant increase in population occurred in the 85 years and over and the 75-84 years age groups. The most significant decline occurred in the 15-19 years age group.

The City of Canterbury has a significantly higher population density than all other Councils in NSW with total populations over 100,000 (except City of Sydney).

The City of Canterbury has a relatively higher proportion of Eastern Orthodox, Islam and Buddhist communities compared to the Sydney Region.

The four most common ancestries identified by City of Canterbury residents were Chinese, Australian, Lebanese and Greek.

Of those born overseas, excluding overseas visitors, the main countries of birth were China, Lebanon, Greece, Vietnam, Italy and Korea.

There were 746 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) in the City of Canterbury area at the time of the 2006 Census. This represents 0.6% of the total population of the City of Canterbury. The overall indigenous unemployment rate was 13.6%. This is considerably higher than the unemployment rate for the City of Canterbury, which is 7.9%.

Of the total labour force in the City of Canterbury, significantly more males are employed (65.5%) than females (49.9%).

24.0% of City of Canterbury households earn less than \$25,999 per annum. This is less than \$499 per week. Across the Sydney Region only 16.7% of households earn less than \$25,999.

A significant 3.5% of City of Canterbury residents over the age of 15 never attended school at all (1,444 males and 2,207 females) compared to 1.4% across the Sydney Region.

Families

In the City of Canterbury 17.9% of families were one-parent families with children, dependent students or non-dependent children, compared to 15.6% of families in the Sydney Region.

Only 45.8% of City of Canterbury families earn over \$52,000 per year compared to 60.2% of families across the Sydney Region.

One-parent families in the City of Canterbury represent 10.8% of families earning less than \$1,000 per week. In the City of Canterbury, the majority of one-parent families are female (84.5% compared to 15.5% male).

People of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background

43.4% of City of Canterbury residents were born in a non-English speaking country.

The main countries of birth of those born in non-English speaking countries were China, Lebanon, Greece, Vietnam, Italy and Korea.

15,972 residents of the City of Canterbury, who were born overseas (59.9%), spoke English poorly or not at all at the time of the 2006 Census.

There was an increase of 18.3% in the number of people in the City of Canterbury speaking Mandarin (6,733). Previously this group already increase by 52.2% between 1996 and 2001. There was also a continuing increase (10.8%) in the number of people speaking Indonesian at home (1,817 people).

People with Disabilities

In all age ranges between 35 and 84 years, the City of Canterbury population has a higher percentage of people needing assistance for core activities when compared to the Sydney Region.

The City of Canterbury has higher percentages of people with profound/severe and mild disabilities when compared with the Inner West, while having exactly the same percentage of people with moderate disabilities. 35.3% of those with a moderate, severe or profound disability in the Inner West are City of Canterbury residents (9,902 people).

The majority of people accessing disability services in the City of Canterbury on the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care “snapshot” day had intellectual disabilities (47.4%) or physical disabilities (21.8%).

Children

The City of Canterbury has the highest density of 0-4 year olds per square kilometre (281.3 children per square kilometre) when compared with similar sized Local Government Areas (with total populations of more than 100,000).

Of those aged 0-12 years, the major countries of birth outside of Australia were New Zealand (20.5%, being of all City of Canterbury residents born in New Zealand), Iraq (12.1%), India (9.3%) and Korea (8.3%).

Youth

The City of Canterbury has a high density of young people per square kilometre (497 young people (15-24 years) per square kilometre) when compared to similar sized Local Government Areas.

The suburbs with the highest percentage of young people aged 12-24 are Punchbowl with 19.0% and Wiley Park with 18.2%.

Only 6.6% of training opportunities (673) offered in the Southern Sydney region were in the City of Canterbury area. Overall there has been a 1% increase in the number of training opportunities in the City of Canterbury.

26.8% of City of Canterbury residents have gone on to higher education after leaving school. This compares to 34.6% of Sydney Region residents.

Older People

There were 29,953 people over 55 years in the City of Canterbury at the time of the 2006 Census. This represents 23.0% of the total population.

People over 65 years living in the City of Canterbury represent 13.3% (17,348 people) of the total population.

The City of Canterbury has 898 older people over 55 years per square kilometre, which is significant when compared to other Local Government Areas of a similar population size (over 100,000).

The suburbs with the greatest percentage of older people as part of the total suburb population are Riverwood with 26.4%, Narwee (25.8%), Kingsgrove (23.5%) and Beverly Hills (23.2%).

Of those City of Canterbury residents over 65 years, who spoke a language other than English, 49.1% spoke English not well or not at all. This compares to 28.3% across the Sydney Region.

Crime

Data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (2002 – 2006) indicates there was a decrease in most crime categories apart from malicious damage to property (up 2.8%).

Recorded crime statistics indicate “Steal from Person” and “Break and Enter Non-Dwelling” have both decreased in the City of Canterbury (down by 26.1% and 14.6% respectively, between 2002 and 2006).

Recorded crime statistics indicate an increase of 2.5% of fraud offences. Fail to pay and deception offences are high in the City of Canterbury.

Data from Council’s 2007 Community Safety Survey reported strong evidence suggesting there is a large portion of crimes not reported to NSW Police.

Housing

At the 2006 Census there were 46,359 occupied private dwellings in the City of Canterbury. This represents a growth rate of 0.9% since the 2001 Census.

There has been a slight decrease (4.4%) in the number of unoccupied private dwellings in the City of Canterbury from 3,217 at the 2001 Census to 3,074 at the 2006 Census.

Since the 2001 Census, the most significant growth in occupied private dwellings has been in caravan, cabin or houseboat, increasing at a rate of 1000% (up from 3 in 2001 to 33 in 2006) in the City of Canterbury. There was an increase of 52.9% of semidetached, row or terrace houses or townhouse dwellings in the City of Canterbury.

29.4% of City of Canterbury residents live in a flat, unit or apartment, significantly more than across the Sydney Region (17.3%).

At the 2006 Census over one third of dwellings (36.4%) in the City of Canterbury were rented.

39.1% of City of Canterbury low and moderate income house purchasers experienced housing stress compared to 30.4% across the Sydney Region.

Transport

60.6% of households in the City of Canterbury had one or no motor vehicles compared to 51.7% across the Sydney Region.

A greater percentage of Canterbury residents (14.3%) utilise trains to travel to work than is generally true across the Sydney Region (8.0%).

NSW Roads and Traffic Authority Annual Accident Statistics indicate there were 530 casualties in the City of Canterbury for the year ended June 2006. The City of Canterbury has higher casualties in the 5-12, 21-25 and 40-49 year age groups compared to the Sydney Region.