

## Older people



Sixteen percent (16%) of SESLHD'S population is over the age of 65 years. The proportion of the district's population aged 65 years and over has increased by 14% between 2016 and 2021 compared with a 2% increase for people below 65 years. The highest rate of growth was in the 70-74 year age group (23.9%); followed by 75-79 years (22.5%) and thirdly 80-84 years (14.5%).<sup>1</sup>

Woollahra LGA has the highest proportion (21%) of residents aged 65 years and over within SESLHD. The LGAs with the highest rate of growth of persons aged 65 years and over between 2016 and 2021 were Sydney (19%); Georges River (17%) and Sutherland (17%).<sup>1</sup>

Fifty nine percent (59%) of SESLHD residents over 65 years and 69% of people over 85 years reported having one or more long term health conditions. Seventeen percent (17%) of SESLHD residents over 65 years and 45% over the age of 85 years identified that they required assistance with core activities. Approximately 9% of SESLHD's population identified as providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, a health condition or due to old age.<sup>1</sup>

Around half of one percent (0.5%) of residents over 65 years within SESLHD identified as Aboriginal, with the highest proportion of Aboriginal persons aged 65 years or over residing in the Sydney (1%) and Randwick LGAs (1%).<sup>1</sup>

The top 4 mainly non-English speaking countries of birth for people over 65 years in the district are: China, Greece, Italy and North Macedonia.

The top four languages spoken at home other than English for residents over age 65 years are: Greek, Cantonese, Mandarin and Arabic.<sup>1</sup>



In 2060-61, 23% of the Australian population is projected to be over 65, an increase of 7% from 2020-21.<sup>2</sup>

The prevalence of chronic health conditions and rate of hospitalisation increases markedly with age. In 2017-18, people aged 65 years and over reported two or more chronic health conditions from a select list (51%) compared to people aged 15-44 years (12%).<sup>3</sup>

People aged 65 years and over comprised over 43% of all NSW public hospital separations in 2020-21.<sup>4</sup>

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021, 'Population: Census'
2. The Treasury, 2021, '2021 Intergenerational Report'
3. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019, 'Australia's welfare snapshots 2019.'
4. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2023, 'Admitted Patient Care 2020-21, 3.'