

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



Aboriginal people represent 1.1% of the District's population.

The LGAs with the largest Aboriginal communities are

- Sutherland (32% of the Aboriginal population),
- Randwick (23%) and
- Bayside (19%).

The number of people identifying as Aboriginal in SESLHD grew by 24% between the 2016 and 2021 census from 8,377 to 10,350 people.<sup>1</sup>

The Aboriginal population is younger for nearly all LGAs in SESLHD, with the median age for Aboriginal people being 20-24 years compared to the non-Aboriginal population being 30-34 years.

Aboriginal people experience health inequities, including poorer access to care, poorer experience of care and poorer health outcomes. These inequities are associated with the social determinants of health, including housing, income, education, and employment, as well as the ongoing impact of colonisation, racism and discrimination.

Aboriginal people are over represented in presentations to emergency departments, with injury being the most frequent reason for presentation.<sup>2</sup> Indicators of safety and quality of care for Aboriginal people, such as length of stay for sub-acute patients and discharge against medical advice indicate that there needs to be a focus on enhancing care to be culturally safe and person-centred, to better meet the needs of individuals and communities.<sup>2</sup>

Aboriginal people are overrepresented in other demographic indicators, such as: children under 5 years, young people 12-25 years, caring for more than one person, experiencing homelessness and having disability and/or a long-term health conditions.<sup>1</sup>

Long-term health conditions for which Aboriginal people have higher rates compared to the non-Aboriginal population include: mental health, respiratory, endocrine, and circulatory conditions.<sup>3</sup> Long-term health conditions are responsible for more than two-thirds (70%) of the gap in disease burden between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.<sup>4</sup>

Positive gains have been made in childhood vaccination. In 2020, 96.8% of Aboriginal children aged 5 years in SESLHD were fully vaccinated compared to 91.8% of non-Aboriginal children.<sup>3</sup>

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2022, 'Indigenous Status by LGA.'
2. South Eastern Sydney Local Health District 2021, 'Burudi Muru Yagu Aboriginal Health Plan.'
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2022, 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population Summary.'
4. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016, 'Australian Burden of Disease Study: impact and causes of illness and death in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 2011-Summary report.'