

Kempsey — Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community

3,959 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people · 12.9% of the Kempsey LGA population

1 in 8
people in Kempsey are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (12.9%) compared with 3.4% across NSW

25
median age

A young community
Half are younger than 25 (the wider Kempsey median is 48). Follow the journey below, across the life course.

IDENTITY & CULTURE — WOVEN THROUGH EVERY STAGE

96.3%
identify as Aboriginal (2.8% as both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander)

Dhanguddi
most-spoken Aboriginal language — 56 speakers at home
As reported on the ABS 2021 Census

3.2%
speak an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language at home

Early years · ages 0-4

About 1 in 4
Kempsey preschoolers are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
149 children in preschool (as at the 2021 Census) — about 27% of all Kempsey preschoolers, around 2.1x their 12.9% population share. The early years are a key point for investment.

School & study · ages 5-24

Highest level of education attained (aged 15+)
Share of all people aged 15+, grouped from ABS attainment levels (top number Aboriginal, below all-Kempsey). *Unknown = not stated or inadequately described.

Education Level	Aboriginal (%)	All Kempsey (%)
No attainment	0.4%	0.3%
Year 9 or below	15.5%	12.6%
Year 10-11	24.1%	20%
Year 12	11.7%	9.9%
Certificate	16.7%	22.2%
Diploma	5.6%	7%
University	4.3%	10.2%
Unknown	21.7%	17.7%

25 Median age 25 — about half of Kempsey's Aboriginal community is younger than this (the wider Kempsey median age is 48).

Working life · ages 25-54

18.7%
Unemployment

Aboriginal: 18.7%
All Kempsey: 7.2%
All NSW: 4.9%

2.6x the LGA rate

\$468
Median weekly personal income

Aboriginal: \$468
All Kempsey: \$550

Household income \$1,198/wk shared across 3.2 people

Top 5 occupations - Aboriginal community

- Community & personal service: 27.9%
- Professionals: 15.3%
- Labourers: 15%
- Technicians & trades: 9.9%
- Clerical & administrative: 9.9%

Family & home

1,205
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families

32.6%
One-parent families

Aboriginal: 32.6%
All Kempsey: 21.2%

52%
Households renting
25.3% mortgage · 17.8% owned outright

\$290
Median weekly rent
All Kempsey: \$300
3.2 people per household (All Kempsey 2.4)

Caring & community

24%
Provide unpaid child care
All Kempsey: 21%

16.4%
Provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, health condition or due to old age
All Kempsey: 14.2%

45.9%
Do unpaid domestic work
All Kempsey: 62.2%

10.1%
Volunteer through an organisation
All Kempsey: 13.8%

Health & wellbeing · all ages

47.6%
report no long-term health condition

Aboriginal: 47.6%
All Kempsey: 47%

Despite being a far younger population (median age 25 vs 48), about the same share report no long-term condition as the wider LGA (47.6% vs 47%) — a sign conditions are emerging earlier in life. Figures cover all ages.

Most common conditions — prevalence
Share reporting each condition. Categories overlap — a person may report more than one.

Condition	Aboriginal (%)	All Kempsey (%)
Mental health		
Aboriginal	14.6%	
All Kempsey		11.4%
Asthma		
Aboriginal	13.9%	
All Kempsey		9.9%
Diabetes		
Aboriginal	7.2%	
All Kempsey		6.4%
Arthritis		
Aboriginal	7.1%	
All Kempsey		14.1%
Heart disease		
Aboriginal	4.7%	
All Kempsey		6%

⚠ **Read with care:** These figures count only people who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the Census. Undercounting is common — the true population is likely larger. Small-area counts are also randomly adjusted by the ABS to protect privacy, so components may not sum exactly.

■ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander — Kempsey ■ All Kempsey LGA (whole population) ■ All NSW

Have your say — and explore more
Scan the code for a short survey about this data resource, then head to the Just Reinvest Data Hub for the full picture and more community resources.
tinyurl.com/kempsey-poster