The Jewish population of Australia

Key findings from the 2021 Census

Dr David Graham

May 2024

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/ Contents

1 Executive Summary 6

2 The 2021 Census 9

2.1 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic 9

2.2 The religion question 9

3 Australia's Jewish population in context 11

3.2 National religious landscape 12

3.3 The Jewish population in historical context 15

4 Geography 16

4.1 Jewish population change by state/territory 17

4.2 Urban areas and Jewish neighbourhoods 19

5 Demography 22

5.1 Jewish age and sex structure 22

5.2 Age structure of the Jewish and general population 25

5.3 Median age and sex ratio 25

5.4 Jewish births and fertility 26

5.5 Jewish deaths 27

6 Migration 29

6.1 Country of birth 29

6.2 Migration to Australia 33

6.3 Languages used at home 35

7 Jewish households 37

7.1 Jewish households – definitions 37

7.2 Household composition 37

7.3 Jewish households by state 38

7.4 Average household size 39

7.5 Jewish families 39

7.6 Jewish families by state 40

7.7 Children in families 41

8 Housing 42

8.1 Dwelling type 42

8.2 Home ownership 43

9 Jewish couples 45

9.1 Marital status 45

9.2 Same-sex couples (enumerated data) 46

10 Intermarriage 47

10.1 Intermarriage by religion of partner and partnership type 47

10.2 Intermarriage by location 49

10.3 Intermarriage by age 49

10.4 Religion of children of intermarried families 50

11 Education and qualifications 51

11.1 Educational institutions 51

11.2 Qualifications 55

12 Employment 58

12.1 Employment status 58

12.2 Industry 59

12.3 Occupation 60

13 Income 62

13.1 Personal income 62

13.2 Household income 63

14 Non-commercial economy 65

14.1 Volunteering 65

14.2 Unpaid domestic work 67

15 Communal establishments 68

16 Health, disability and care 70

16.1 Unpaid care provision 70

16.2 Health conditions 70

17 Australian Defence Force Service 74

Appendices 75

Appendix 1. Jewish population by various geographies 75

Appendix 2. 2021 Census adjustment methodology 78

Appendix 3. The use of unadjusted census data for Jewish families and multiperson households 80

Appendix 4. The undercount of Jewish people living in aged care facilities in NSW in the 2021 Census 81

Appendix 5. Glossary 84

1 / Executive Summary

The Australian census was held on 10th August 2021 and was carried out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

In the following report, estimated data are census figures on the Jewish population that have been adjusted for undercount. Enumerated data are unadjusted census figures. For an explanation of the rationale and methodology for adjusting the enumerated data see Appendix 2.

Total Jewish population

- Australia's total Jewish population was estimated to be 116,967 in 2021 and constituted 0.46% of the national population which stood at 25.4 million people.
- Between 2011 and 2021 the Jewish population grew by 1.2% compared with growth of 19% in the general population.
- The size of the enumerated Jewish population in 2021 was 99,956. However, we found that at least 494 Jewish care home residents were missing from the 2021 Census data (see Appendix 4).

Geography

- In 2021, the vast majority (94%) of Australia's Jewish population lived in its capital cities, more than double the national proportion (40%).
- 84% of Jews lived in either Melbourne (with an estimated 53,373 people) or Sydney (with an estimated 43,738 people).
- The most populous Jewish neighbourhood in Australia in 2021 was Caulfield – North in Melbourne with an estimated 10,884 Jewish people or 9% of all Jews in Australia. 49% of the population of Caulfield – North was Jewish. The adjacent area of Caulfield – South was second most populous area with 8,040 Jewish people.
- Among the largest Jewish communities in Australia, between 2011 and 2021, growth was strongest in Bentleigh East (in Melbourne – Inner South) at 12%. The greatest decline was seen in St. Ives (in North Sydney) down 27%.

Demography

- Between 2011 and 2021 the number of Jews aged 70-74 increased by 4,320. The number aged 0-4 decreased by 1,400.
- The median Jewish age was 44 years, older than the median age of Australians generally at 38 years.
- South Australia and Western Australia had the oldest Jewish median age at 49 years each. ACT had the youngest at 34 years.
- It is estimated that 1,204 babies were born to Jewish parents in Australia in the year to 10 August 2021.
- Communal records indicate there were 815 Jewish funerals in Australia in 2021.
- In 2021 Australia's Jewish population experienced a natural population increase of 389 people although this figure is likely higher than expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Migration

- In 2021, a majority (57%) of Jews were born in Australia, far lower than in the general population (71%). Similarly, 81% of Jews have at least one parent born overseas compared with 51% for all others.
- Younger Jewish people are far more likely to have been born in Australia than older Jewish people: among those aged under five it's 95%; aged 35-39 it's 52%; aged 70-74 it's 31%.
- The largest overseas-born Jewish populations were from South Africa with an estimated 15,368 Jews (13% of the population) and Israel with an estimated 8,077 Jews.
- An estimated 3,994 Jewish immigrants arrived in Australia from 2016 to 2020 (inclusive), compared with 4,128 in the previous period (2011-2015). However, it is likely the more recent figure was slightly depressed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- South Africa constituted 42% of all Jewish migrants between 2001 and 2005 but only 19% between 2016 and 2020.

- In 2021, the most common language spoken in Jewish homes other than English was Hebrew, spoken by an estimated 10,844 Jewish people followed by Russian, spoken by 7,517 Jewish people.

Jewish families and households (enumerated data)

- There were 49,040 Jewish households in Australia in 2021. 34% of these are couples with children, 31% are lone couples and 22% are lone persons.
- In 64% of households all persons are Jewish. This proportion is highest in Victoria (70%). In Queensland it is 41%.
- The average Jewish household size was 2.6, the same as in the general population.
- Jews were less likely to live in lone parent families (10%) than generally (16%) and Jews were more likely to live in lone couple families (43% versus 39% respectively), the latter being a reflection of the older Jewish age profile.
- 19,973 Jewish families in Australia had at least one child living at home in 2021.

Housing (enumerated data)

- In 2021, Jews in Australia were more than twice as likely to live in apartments than general (29% v 14%) and more likely to live in semi-detached homes/ townhouses (20% v 13%).
- 38% of Jews owned their home outright compared with 31% generally. This is the case for 53% of Jewish lone couple householders.
- In 2021, 16% of Jewish mortgage holders paid $5,000 or more per month in repayments compared with 4% generally. And 40% of Jewish renters paid $600 or more per week compared with 7% generally.

Non-private dwellings

- Non-private dwellings were particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While an estimated 2,282 Jewish people were recorded in such establishments in 2021, the equivalent figure in 2016 was over 4,000. Not only did the pandemic mean fewer people stayed in facilities like hotels and student halls, but our analysis has revealed that the religion of aged care home residents in Sydney was not recorded and that at least 494 Jewish residents are missing from the 2021 religion data (see Appendix 4).

Marital status (enumerated data)

- 32,081 Jewish couples were enumerated in Australia in 2021. Compared with couples generally, Jews were more likely to be married (84% v 80%). When both partners were Jewish, 94% of couples were married.
- 49,040 Jewish households were enumerated in 2021. Jewish householders were less likely to be 'Never married' than general (20% v 26%) and less likely to be separated (3% v 5%). But they were similarly likely to be divorced (13% each) and widowed (8% each).

Intermarriage (enumerated data)

- In 2021, seven out of ten (70%) Jews in Australia who were living with their partner (married or de facto) had a Jewish partner. 16% had a partner who reported No religion and 14% had a partner who reported an Other religion (mostly Christian).
- Jewish de facto partnerships made up 13% of all Jewish couples.
- There were 45,534 married Jews in Australia in 2021. Of these, 75% had a Jewish spouse, 12% had a spouse with No religion and 12% had a spouse with Other religion. The proportion of Jews with a Jewish partner has been slowly decreasing since at least 2001 when it was 80%.
- Jews in de facto partnerships were less than half as likely to have a Jewish partner as married Jews (32% v 75%).
- 81% of married Jews in Victoria had a Jewish spouse, compared with 38% of Jews in South Australia.
- Jews aged 35 to 39 were most likely to have a spouse that did not report Jewish (32%) compared with 22% of those aged 65 to 69.
- Among married couples where both parents were Jewish, 97% reported their children as Jewish, compared with 46% when the mother is Jewish and the father has an Other religion and 13% when the father is Jewish and the mother has an Other religion.

Education and qualifications

- In Australia in 2021, an estimated 18,289 Jewish children attended school, 12% more than in 2011. During this period the number in the secondary level grew by 19% and the primary level grew by 6%.
- In 2021, at the primary level, 55% of children attended private schools, compared with 70% at the secondary level.

- ACARA[1] data indicate 48% of Jewish children attended Jewish schools in Australia in 2021. It was 57% in Victoria, 45% in NSW and 45% in WA. The overall proportion in Australia has declined from 56% in 2011.
- In 2021, 82% of Jews aged in their thirties held a degree or higher level qualification compared with 57% for all others in that age group.
- 6% of Jews hold qualifications in law and 6% hold qualifications in accounting.

Employment

- In 2021, 34% of Jews worked full-time, similar to the general population (36%). Jewish men were far more likely to work full-time (45%) than Jewish women (24%) also similar to the general situation (46% men v 27% women).
- Jews were twice as likely to be self-employed ('owner managers') as the general population (31% v 15%).
- Jews were most likely to be working in the 'Health Care and Social Assistance' industry (19%) compared with 15% generally. Jews were more than twice as likely as all others to work in 'Professional, Scientific and Technical Services' industries (17% v 8%).
- Jews were almost twice as likely to work in Professional occupations as the general population (44% v 24%). Jewish men were almost twice as likely to have managerial occupations than Jewish women (26% v 15%).
- 30% of Jewish men were not in the labour force, compared with 41% of Jewish women, similar to the general population (31% men v 39% women).
- The most common Jewish profession was solicitor (an estimated 1,725 people) and Jews were five times more likely to be in this occupation than general.

Income

- In 2021 the Jewish median personal annual income was 43% higher than the general median income ($59,800 v $41,800).
- The Jewish median personal income was highest in ACT ($75,000) and was lowest in Tasmania ($38,000).
- At $76,700, the median personal income for Jewish men was 57% higher than median personal income for Jewish women ($48,800).
- The Jewish median annual household income was $134,900 or 49% higher than the general population ($90,800).
- Jewish median household income was highest in NSW ($149,200) and lowest in south Australia ($90,000).

Non-commercial economy

- 27% of Jews in Australia had volunteered in the 12 months prior to the 2021 Census, compared with 15% generally. Both figures are likely depressed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Jewish volunteering was highest in ACT (37%) and lowest in Queensland (22%). It was also highest among Jews aged 20 to 24 (36%).
- While 10% of Jewish men did 15 or more hours of unpaid domestic work per week, this was 28% among Jewish women and 31% among women in general.

Health, disability and care

- In 2021 an estimated 7,088 Jewish people in Australia were in 'need of assistance with core activities', 11% more than in 2011.
- Over half (52%) of those in need of assistance, an estimated 3,688 people, were aged 75 and above.
- A new census question on health conditions was asked in 2021. This showed that an estimated 36,127 Jewish people in Australia had at least one long-term health condition.
- An estimated 10,694 Jewish people (9.4%) had a 'Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)' peaking among those their 20s and 10,481 had 'Arthritis' peaking in the 80s and 90s. In both cases Jewish women were far more likely to report this than Jewish men.

1 The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

2 / The 2021 Census

The 2021 Census of Australia was carried out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on 10 August 2021.

2.1 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Following on from a problematic census taken in 2016,[2] the 2021 Census took place without any notable concerns. However, all censuses are unique and 2021 was no exception. The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2022 gave rise to an unprecedented impact on migration flows to and from Australia. The Federal Government closed the international border to all non-citizens and non-residents on 20 March 2020 and it did not fully reopen until 21 February 2022, almost two years later, and then only to fully vaccinated visa holders.[3] In addition, State Governments closed state borders intermittently further restricting movement within Australia. Many parts of Australia, including Melbourne and Sydney where the majority of Jews live, were in lockdown during the census period. As the Census Independent Assurance Panel notes "...more than half of the Australian population was in lockdown at some stage during the Census enumeration period. In addition, the situation was very fluid as many parts of south eastern Australia moved in and out of lockdown restrictions throughout the Census 'response window' in early August 2021". [4]

While the panel's assessment concluded that overall, the census data are 'fit-for-purpose', not least because of very high online participation, it is clear some aspects of the 2021 Census data were impacted by these events. For example, the border closures impacted census data on migration to and from Australia for the year 2020 and the period 1 January to 10 August 2021. Other impacts were seen on travel to work and place of work data as people moved from offices to working from home and data on volunteering which were lowered.[5] From the Jewish community's point of view, the greatest impact seems to have been on data relating to communal establishments with far fewer people staying in places like in hotels and student halls but, most importantly, it was discovered that at least 494 Jewish care home residents in Sydney have been omitted from the data on Jews since religion was not collected in the census returns of some of these establishments (see Appendix 4).

2.2 The religion question

Beyond the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, another issue affecting data relates to the religion question itself. In 2016, ABS revised the format of the religion question by moving the tick box for 'No religion' from the bottom to the top of the list of options which followed the question 'What is [person's name]'s religion?'. Prior to 2016, the first option had been Catholic (as it had been since 1991). This new format, placing No religion as the first option on the list, was retained in 2021 (see Exhibit 1). This inevitably boosted No religion responses and depressed responses to other groups, especially Christian denominations but also Judaism.[6] In other words, the change led to a modest level of 'switching', away from Jewish towards No religion between 2011 and 2016.

2 Graham D 2021 Religion Data from Australia's 2016 Census: The Case of Judaism with Broader Implications for Comparisons with Earlier Census Results, Journal for the Social Scientific Study of Religion doi: 10.1111/jssr.12744; Harding, S, Jackson Pulver L, McDonald P, Morrison P, Trewin D, and Voss A. 2017. Census Independent Assurance Panel to the Australian Statistician – Report on the quality of 2016 Census data https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/Independent+Assurance+Panel/$File/CIAP+Report+on+the+quality+of+2016+Census+data.pdf

3 The Senate – Select Committee on COVID-19 – Final Report, April 2022, Appendix 2, Commonwealth of Australia 2022 https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportsen/024920/toc_pdf/Finalreport.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf

4 Harding S, Liddle L, McDonald P, Morrison P, Trewin D, and Walters S, 2022 Report on the quality of 2021 Census data: Statistical Independent Assurance Panel to the Australian Statistician, p72 https://www.abs.gov.au/census/about-census/census-statistical-independent-assurance-panel-report

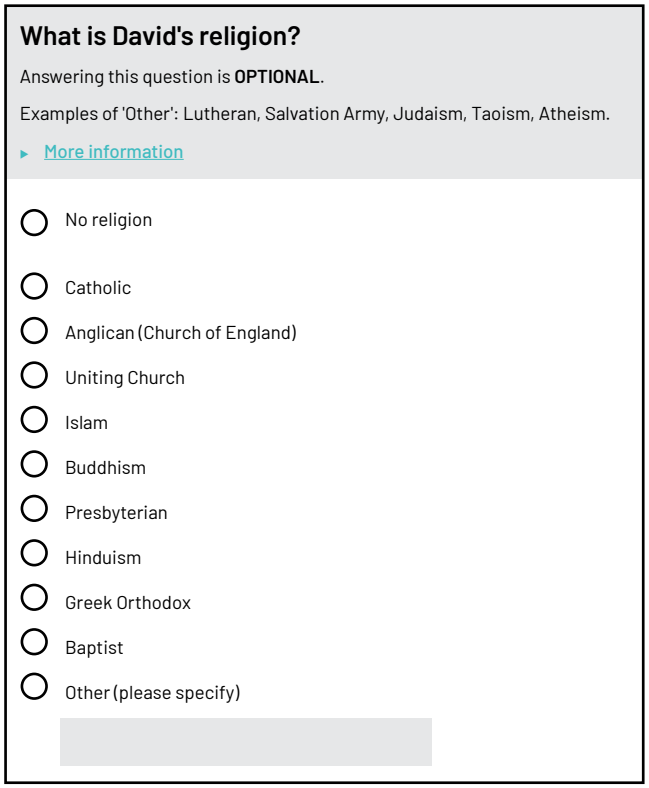
5 ABS 2021 Census – Cultural diversity data seminar, livestreamed on 20 September 2022.

6 Graham 2021 *op. cit.*

While the position of the No religion label in the religion question is neither 'right' nor 'wrong', a problem arises when comparing religion data from 2011 and earlier censuses with data from 2016 and later. At the time of writing, ABS was planning to test a further, and more radical, revision of the religion question so it not clear if this format will be carried forward.

Nevertheless, our opinion is that as things currently stand, this new format should be considered the 'new normal'; any permanent switching from Jewish to No religion resulting from this is effectively considered a one-off Jewish population contraction. As a result, the 2021 adjustment procedure does not include any attempt to adjust for this loss (see Appendix 2).

Exhibit 1. The religion question as seen by most people online in 2021*



* One of the many advantages of an online form is the ability to personalise the questions. This is a screenshot taken by the author.

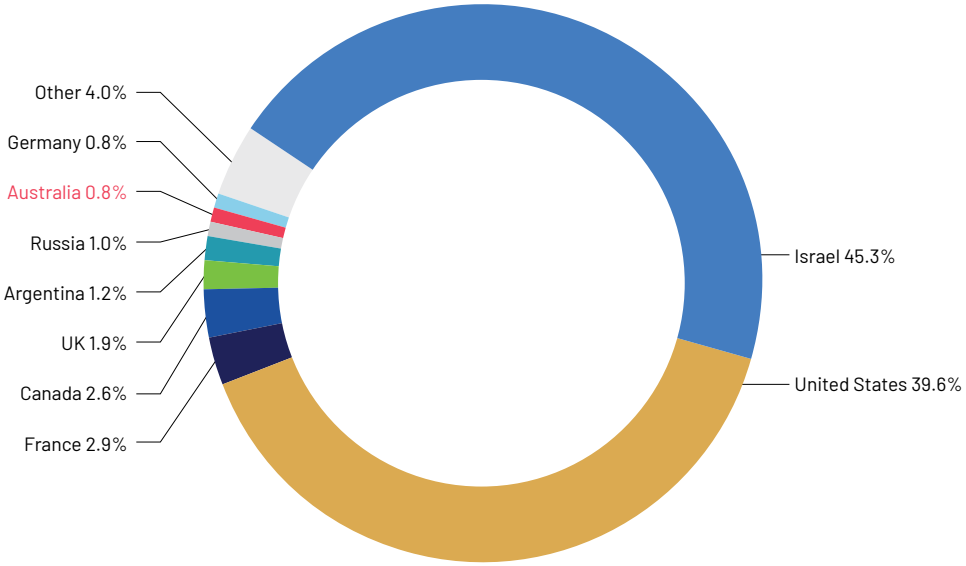
3 / Australia's Jewish population in context

In 2021 the Jewish population of Australia was estimated to be 116,967, an increase of 1.2% on the 2011 estimate of 115,630.[7,8] The total Jewish population grew by an estimated 1,336 people over the decade. The Jewish population peaked at an estimated 117,903 people in around 2016 and has since declined by 0.8%.[9] Meanwhile, the general population of Australia was enumerated to be 25.4 million and grew by 19% between 2011 and 2021.

3.1 Global Jewish context

Australia had the eighth equal largest Jewish population in the world, accounting for less than one percent (0.8%) of an estimated global Jewish population of 15.1 million in 2021 (Figure 1). The majority of world Jewry lives in either Israel or the United States—just 15% lives outside of these two countries.

Figure 1. World Jewish population by country, 2021 (N=15,166,200)



Source: Sergio DellaPergola. "World Jewish Population, 2021," in Arnold Dashefsky and Ira M. Sheskin. (Eds) *The American Jewish Year Book, 2021,* Volume 121 (2021) (Cham, SUI: Springer) pp. 9

7 An estimated census figure is an enumerated figure that has been adjusted to take account of non-response (See Appendix 2).

8 This is to be contrasted with an estimate of 118,000 for 2021 derived by DellaPergola et al. (Source: DellaPergola, S; Dashefsky, A; Sheskin, I, eds. (2016). "World Jewish Population, 2017. Current Jewish Population Reports." The American Jewish Year Book (Dordrecht: Springer) p.22.

9 This analysis has revealed that at least 494 Jewish residents of communal aged care facilities in NSW were omitted from the 2021 Census. This is discussed in the section on Non-private dwellings.

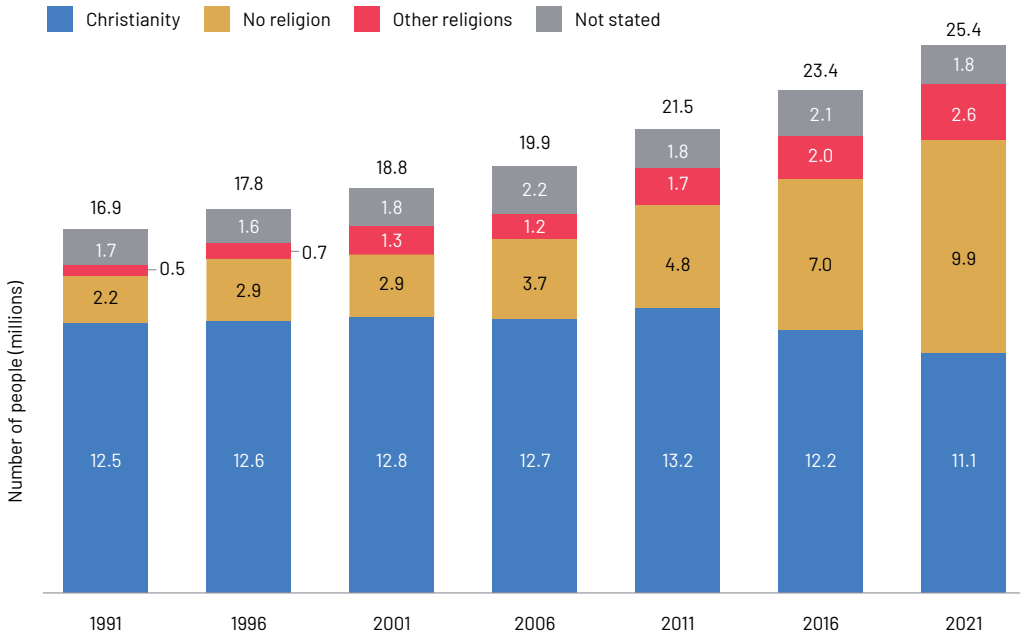
To complete the picture of Oceania, 5,274 people were enumerated as Jewish in New Zealand's 2018 Census, a decline of 23% on 2013 (6,867 (enumerated)) which itself was similar to the 2006 Census count of 6,858 (enumerated).[10] But as in Australia, there was a change to the religion question in 2018. Whereas 'Jewish' was listed as a tick-box category in the religion question of 2013, in 2018, only 'no religion' and 'object to answering' were tick-box options, with a single write-in/type-in box for all other religions. It can therefore be assumed that at least part, if not most, of this decline was a result of this change to the religion question. A census was carried out in March 2023 in New Zealand but the data had not been published at the time of writing.

3.2 National religious landscape

The largest religious group in 2021 was Christianity with 11.1 million adherents, although at 44% of the population, this was the first time it had accounted for less than half of the total. Meanwhile 2.5 million people reported a different religion (including Judaism) and 9.9 million reported No religion (a further 1.8 million people did not state a religion) (Figure 2).

Historically, the absolute size of the Christian group, barely changed between 1991 and 2011, but it declined by 15% from 2011 to 2021, this occurring while the national Australian population *increased* by 19%. Meanwhile, the category No religion increased by 106% in the decade, more than doubling in size (Figure 3). However, as discussed in Section 1, the changes are partly due to a change in the question on religion in 2016 Census whereby the tick option 'No religion' was moved from the bottom of the list (where it had been since 1991) to the top of the list.

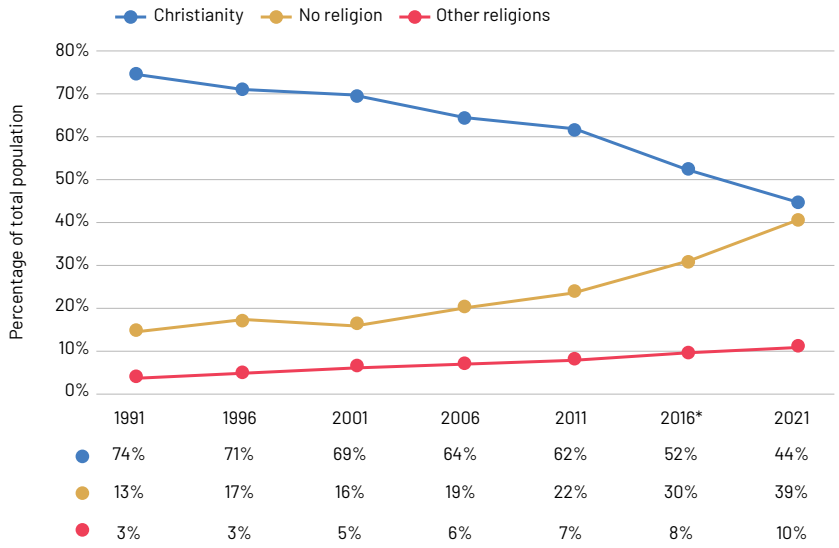
Figure 2. Total Australian population by religion, 1991 to 2021 (enumerated data)*



* Excludes religion 'Inadequately described'

10 Source: Statistics New Zealand.

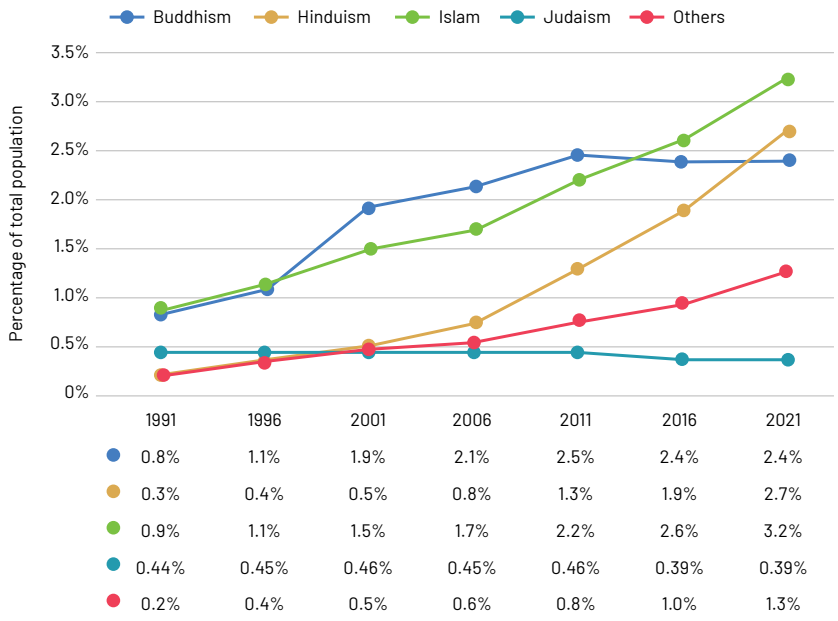
Figure 3. Change over time: Christianity, No religion, and all Other religions, Australia, 1991 to 2021 (enumerated data)



* In 2016 the religion question placed the category No religion as the first option in the list whereas it had previously been the last option

Looking at other religious groups, the largest non-Christian category in 2021 was Islam, with 813,000 adherents comprising 3.2% of the population, followed by Hinduism (2.7%) which was, for the first time, the third largest religious group (Figure 4). By comparison, Jews constituted a tiny proportion of the total (99,956 or just 0.39% enumerated). However, as a proportion of the adjusted Jewish population total of 116,967 Jews constituted 0.46%, down from 0.54% in 2011.

Figure 4. Proportionate size of non-Christian religious groups in Australia, 1991-2021 (enumerated data)



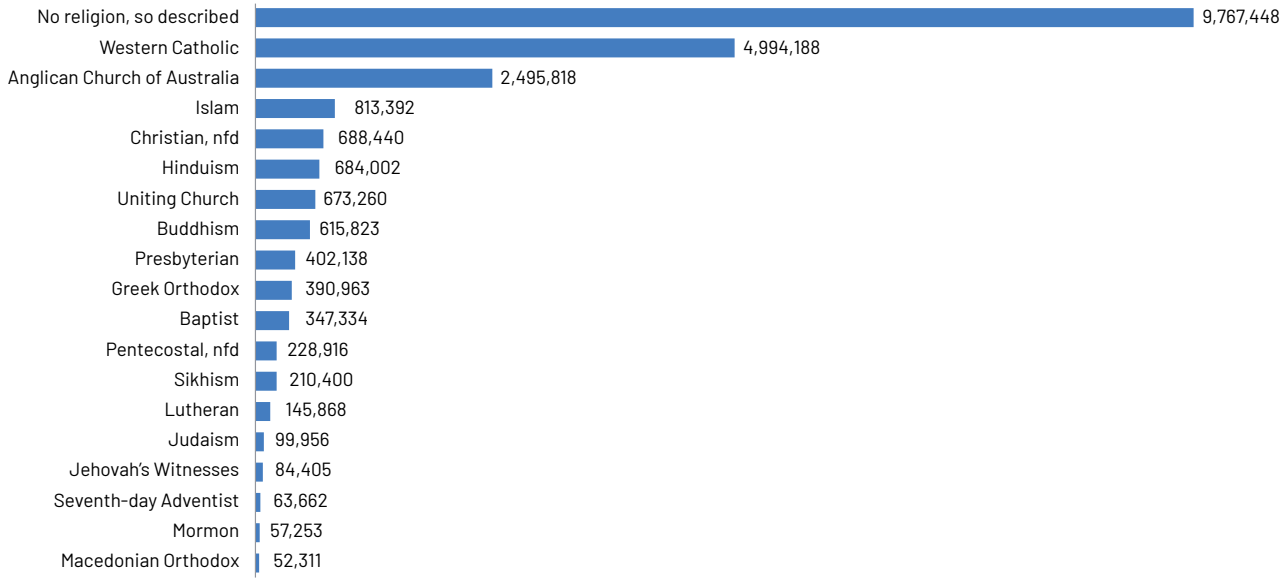
While Christianity accounts for 48% of people in NSW, in four states/territories it is now smaller than the No religion group (Table 1). In Tasmania, half the population (50%) identified as No religion. By proportion, Islam was largest in NSW (4.3%), Hinduism was largest in ACT (4.5%) and Buddhism was largest in Victoria (3.2%). Judaism was also largest in Victoria comprising 0.7% of the enumerated population.

Table 1. Religious groups by state, 2021, largest column percentages shaded

	NSW	Vic	QLD	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
Christianity	47.8%	41.0%	45.9%	40.2%	41.3%	38.5%	40.7%	38.3%	**44.0%**
Islam	4.3%	4.2%	1.2%	2.3%	2.5%	0.9%	1.4%	3.2%	**3.2%**
Hinduism	3.4%	3.3%	1.4%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	2.7%	4.5%	**2.7%**
Buddhism	2.8%	3.2%	1.4%	1.9%	2.2%	1.0%	2.1%	2.8%	**2.4%**
Judaism	0.5%	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	**0.4%**
Other	1.1%	1.8%	1.0%	1.5%	1.1%	0.8%	2.4%	1.3%	**1.3%**
No Religion	33.3%	39.4%	41.4%	45.9%	43.1%	50.2%	38.7%	44.4%	**39.0%**
Not stated	6.8%	6.4%	7.6%	6.0%	7.6%	6.7%	11.9%	5.2%	**6.9%**
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	100.0%
Enumerated population	8,045,815	6,477,881	5,134,414	1,774,681	2,648,552	555,452	231,463	452,394	25,325,412

The Census question does not contain a category called Christianity but, rather, presents sub-denominations (see Exhibit 1, page 10) the largest of which is Western Catholic with 5 million adherents. Measured this way, and excluding No religion, Judaism is the 15th largest group, while Islam is the 4th largest non-Christian group (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Detailed religious groups, Australia, 2021 (enumerated data)*



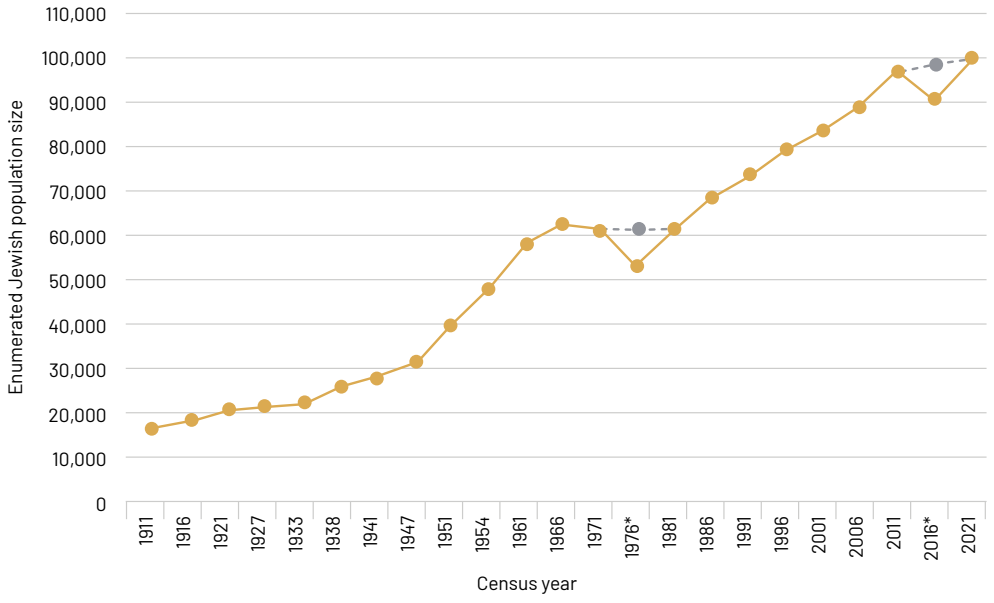
* all groups with more than 50,000 people. nfd = not further defined

3.3 The Jewish population in historical context

Australia's long history of census taking affords an opportunity to see how the size of the Jewish population has changed over time. Figure 6 shows that the enumerated total has, on average, steadily increased from under 20,000 in 1911 to just under 100,000 in 2021. Two distinct growth phases can be seen, the first following WWII and the second starting in the early 1980s, both driven by migration and family formation.

This growth has abated considerably since 2011. However, despite this historical growth, the Jewish population has remained consistently at about 0.5% of the total population because Australia's population has also risen over time.

Figure 6. The enumerated Jewish population of Australia, 1911-2011*



Sources: ABS Historical data

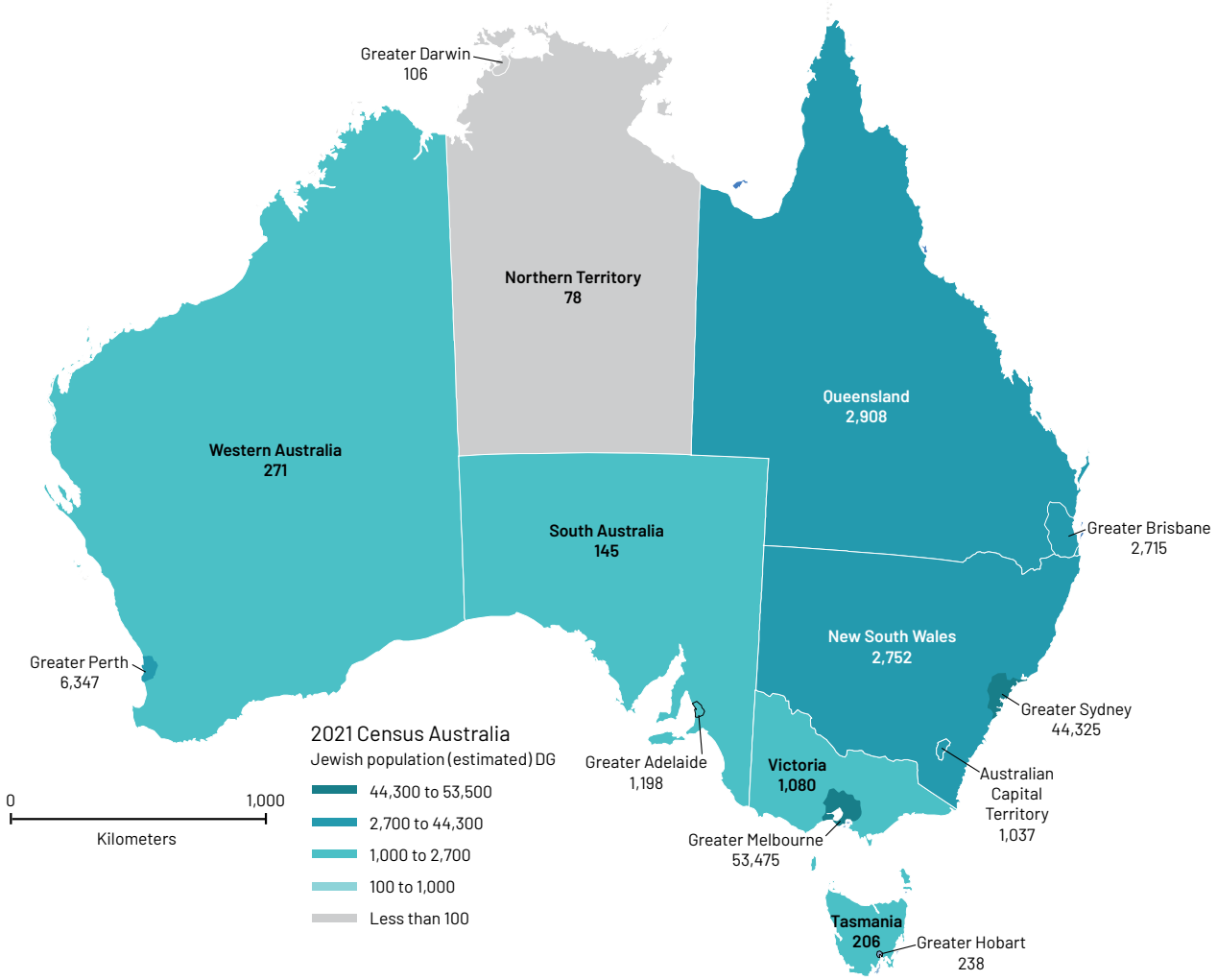
* Enumerated data on Judaism in 1976 and 2016 are considered inaccurate due to negative publicity about privacy concerns and other difficulties. Grey markers show interpolated figures (see Wright B, 2011 *A History of the Australian Census of Population and Housing*, ABS, Catalogue no. 2071.0; Graham 2021 *op. cit.*)

4 / Geography

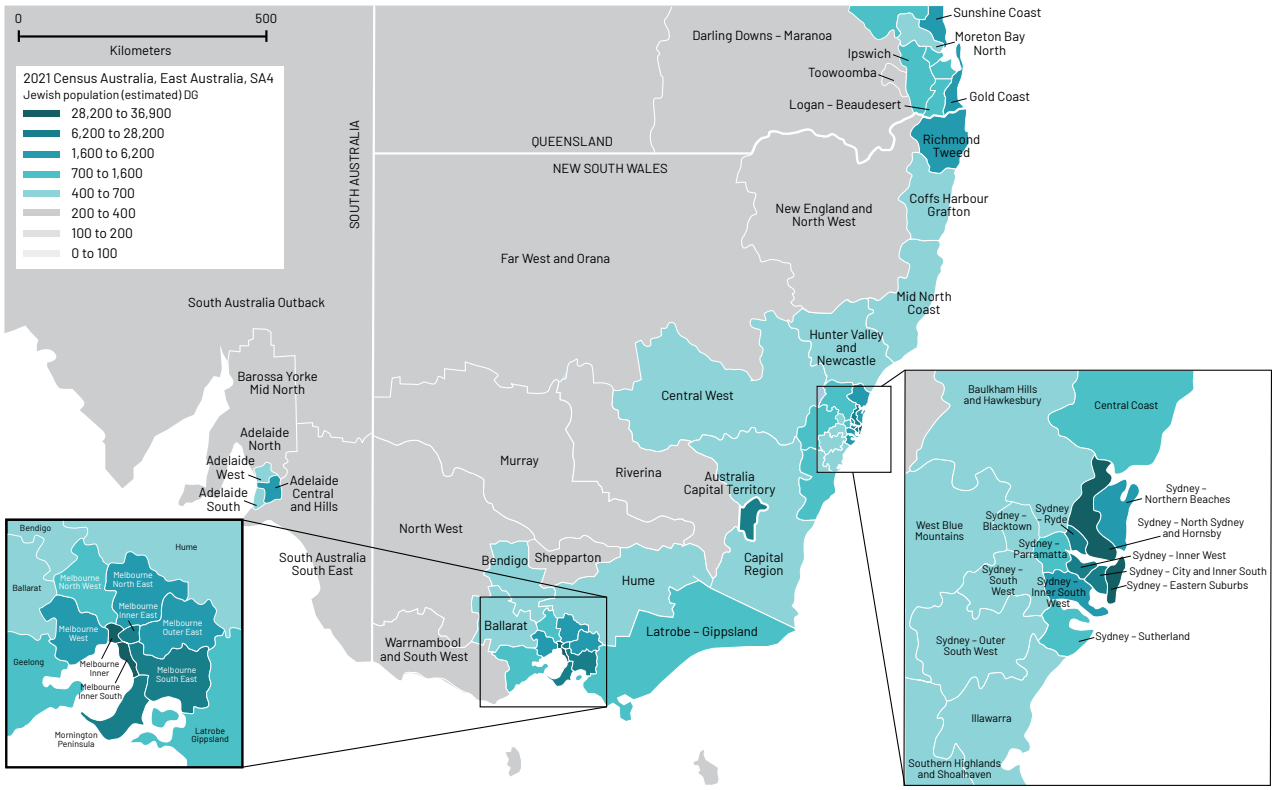
Continental Australia covers an area of over 7.5 million square kilometres but since two out of three people live in its capital cities, the majority of its territory is essentially uninhabited. Jews are even more concentrated in these urban areas than is generally the case. The total area of the neighbourhoods in which most Jews live is generously estimated to comprise up to 2,000 square kilometres—that is, under 0.3% of the country. Map 1 reveals the sparsity of Jews across the country and the very high concentrations in the two main centres: Melbourne and Sydney.

The vast majority (94%) of Australia's Jewish population lives in its capital cities. Indeed, the population is so highly concentrated that 84% lives in either Melbourne or Sydney. By comparison, 40% of the national population lives in these two cities. While other minority religious groups are also highly concentrated (93% of Muslims and 91% of Hindus live in the combined capital cities), neither of these groups is as geographically concentrated as the Jews in Sydney and Melbourne (73% of Muslims and 67% of Hindus live in these two cities).

Map 1. Jewish population distribution, Australia, 2021 (estimated counts)



Map 2. Jewish population distribution, South East Australia, 2021 (estimated counts)



Even within these urban centres, the Jewish population is concentrated in just a few neighbourhoods. In particular, Melbourne-Inner South and Sydney-Eastern Suburbs, where over half (56%) of the total Jewish population of Australia lives (Map 2). In addition, other regional centres are also observed in the map in Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and the Gold Coast (QLD) and adjacent Richmond/Tweed (NSW) area straddling the state border.

4.1 Jewish population change by state/territory

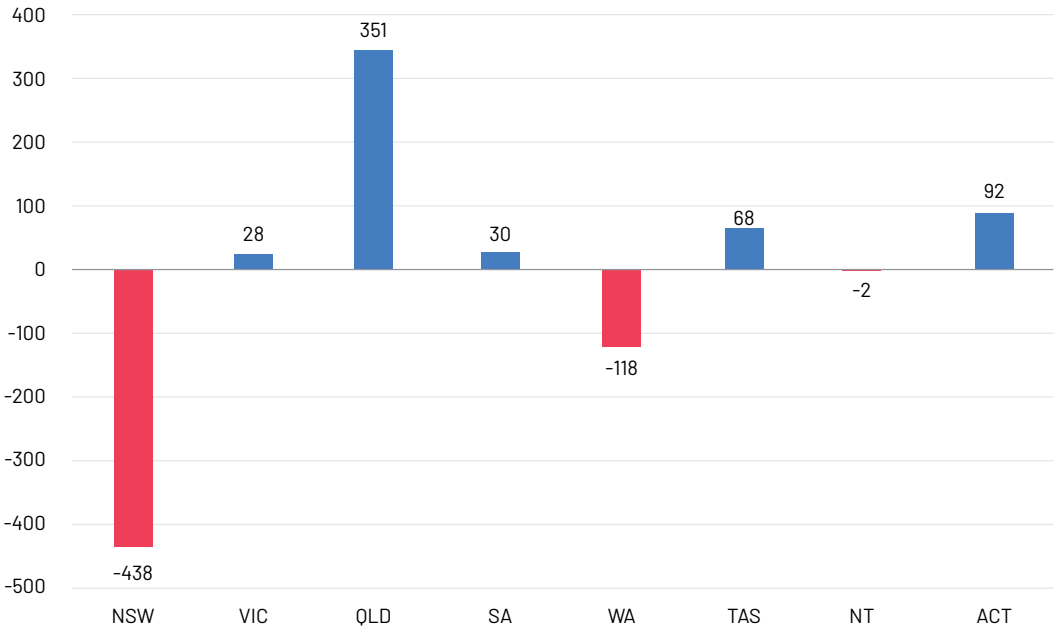
Between 2011 and 2021 the Jewish population of Australia increased by 1.2% but change at the state and territory level was highly variable. The largest increase was in Tasmania which grew by almost 50% in the decade, albeit from a small base, followed by ACT which grew by almost 30% (Table 2). However, two states experienced Jewish population declines: NSW down very slightly (0.2%) and Western Australia down 4.6%.

Table 2. Jewish population change by state, estimated counts and percentages, 2011 and 2021

	2011		2021		
	Jewish population size	% of total Jewish population	Jewish population size	% of total Jewish population	% change 2011 to 2021
Victoria	53,634	46.4%	54,583	46.7%	1.8%
NSW	47,195	40.8%	47,099	40.3%	-0.2%
Western Australia	6,957	6.0%	6,634	5.7%	-4.6%
Queensland	5,276	4.6%	5,634	4.8%	6.8%
South Australia	1,293	1.1%	1,340	1.1%	3.7%
ACT	801	0.7%	1,037	0.9%	29.5%
Tasmania	295	0.3%	440	0.4%	49.3%
Northern Territory	176	0.2%	191	0.2%	8.5%
Total	**115,626**	**100.0%**	**116,957**	**100.0%**	**1.2%**

Jewish population movement within Australia can also be measured by calculating the *net* flow between two different states or territories. The net is simply the difference between the population movement in one direction and the population movement in the opposite direction. For example, between 2016 and 2021 the Jewish net flow between Victoria and NSW was an estimated 136 people in Victoria's favour (a similar result occurred between 2011 and 2016). But between 2016 and 2021 the overall net flow between Victoria and all the other states and territories in Australia was just 28 in Victoria's favour (Figure 7). Overall, the largest decline in this period was NSW exhibiting a net loss of 438 Jews to all other states and territories whereas the largest increase was Queensland with a net gain of 351 Jews. Net movement into Queensland came from Victoria and NSW. It is likely this movement was related to the COVID-19 pandemic as some people moved away from major urban centers.

Figure 7. Net interstate migration between 2016 and 2021, estimated Jewish population



4.2 Urban areas and Jewish neighbourhoods

Although Jews are highly urbanised, they do not all live in the state capitals and, as Table 3 (and Map 2) shows, there are relatively large concentrations of Jewish people in other urban areas. For example, there are more Jews in Gold Coast (1,763) than in Adelaide (1,187) or Canberra (1,070). In the decade to 2021, the Jewish population was estimated to have increased by 1.2% but urban areas had quite varied experiences. Growth was strongest in Sunshine Coast (36%), Canberra (28%) and Central Coast (20%). Some of this growth may have been related to the COVID-19 pandemic with people moving away from denser city life. By contrast, Perth experienced a decline of 4% and Sydney declined by 2%, and this may also be pandemic-related movement.

Table 3. Estimated Jewish population by 'significant urban area', 2011 and 2021

Significant Urban Areas	2011	2021	Total change 2011–2021	Percent change 2011–2021	Percent of 2021 total (116,967)
Melbourne	52,782	53,373	591	1%	45.6%
Sydney	44,660	43,738*	-922	-2%	37.4%
Perth	6,602	6,331	-271	-4%	5.4%
Brisbane	2,595	2,668	74	3%	2.3%
Gold Coast - Tweed Heads	1,670	1,763	93	6%	1.5%
Adelaide	1,169	1,187	18	2%	1.0%
Canberra - Queanbeyan	833	1,070	237	28%	0.9%
Central Coast	423	509	86	20%	0.4%
Sunshine Coast	352	477	126	36%	0.4%
Newcastle - Maitland	236	366	130	55%	0.3%
Wollongong	168	242	75	45%	0.2%
Geelong	86	240	154	180%	0.2%
Hobart	169	231	62	37%	0.2%
Cairns	158	188	30	19%	0.2%
Other	3,730	4,584	853	23%	3.9%
Total Australia	**115,631**	**116,967**	**1,335**	**1%**	**100.0%**

* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

The smallest boundary unit in the ABS geographical system that uses real place names (rather than numerical codes) is the SA2 boundary. A total of 22 of these areas in Australia contain over 1,000 Jewish people as shown in Table 4. As in 2011, the largest Jewish population was in Caulfield – North in Melbourne's Inner South with an estimated 10,884 Jewish people. While this neighbourhood accounts for over 9% of all Jews in Australia, even here Jews don't quite form a majority of the local population at 49% of the total. The adjacent area of Caulfield – South is the second largest group with 8,040 Jewish people.

Table 4 also shows that a quarter of all Jews in Australia live in just five neighbourhoods (Caulfield – North, Caulfield – South, Dover Heights, Bellevue Hill*, and Bondi Beach – North Bondi) and half live in just 20. By contrast, 25% of the general population lives in 251 SA2 areas and 50% lives in 601. Given there are 2,309 'SA2' neighbourhoods in Australia we can immediately see how concentrated the general population is and even more so for the Jewish population.

Table 4. Jewish population size by neighbourhood, 2011 and 2021, SA2 areas with over 1,000 Jews in 2021 (estimated)^

2021 SA2 area name	2011	2021	Jewish population change 2011-2021	Percent of local area that is Jewish in 2021	Cumulative Jewish population %
Caulfield - North	10,565	10,884	319	49%	9%
Caulfield - South	7,964	8,040	76	44%	16%
Dover Heights	5,397	5,369	-28	48%	21%
Bellevue Hill*	N/A	3,645	N/A	25%	24%
Bondi Beach - North Bondi	3,476	3,365	-111	16%	27%
Rose Bay - Vaucluse - Watsons Bay	3,030	2,958	-72	25%	29%
Elsternwick	2,219	2,365	146	20%	31%
St Kilda East	2,496	2,103	-393	13%	33%
Bondi Junction - Waverly	1,913	2,078	166	12%	35%
Bondi - Tamarama - Bronte	2,136	2,074	-62	11%	37%
Bentleigh - McKinnon	2,014	2,070	56	8%	38%
St Ives	2,751	2,010	-741	9%	40%
Bentleigh East - North*	N/A	1,987	N/A	12%	42%
Brighton East	1,766	1,718	-49	10%	43%
Toorak	1,681	1,476	-205	11%	45%
Ormond - Glen Huntly	1,644	1,460	-184	11%	46%
Bentleigh East - South*	N/A	1,432	N/A	10%	47%
Carnegie	1,585	1,316	-268	7%	48%
Yokine - Coolbinia - Menora	1,226	1,219	-7	7%	49%
Double Bay - Darling Point*	N/A	1,197	N/A	12%	50%
Malvern - Glen Iris	1,150	1,176	26	6%	51%
Randwick - North*	N/A	1,140	N/A	7%	52%

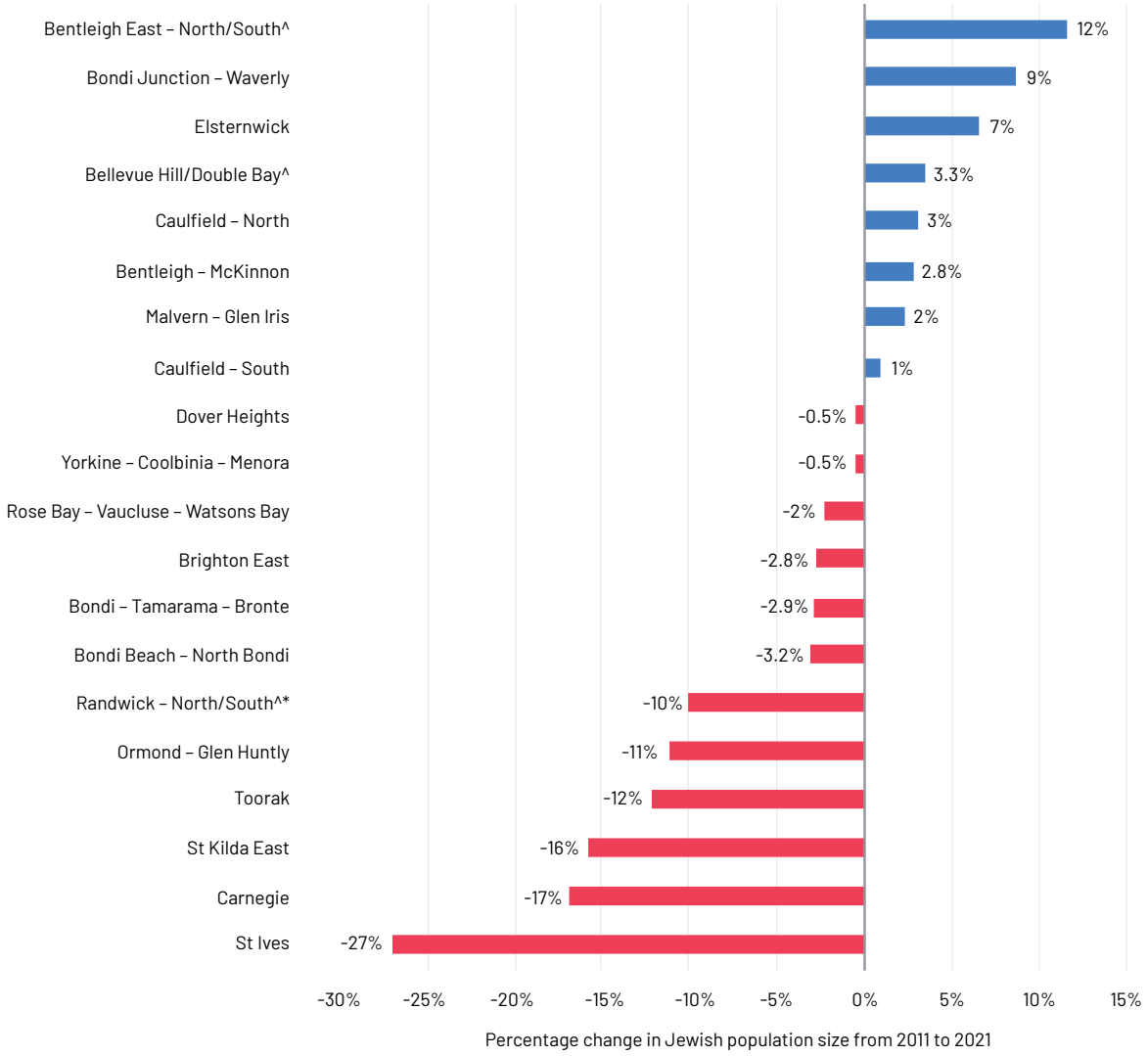
* The following boundary changes took place between 2011 and 2021: 'Double Bay – Bellevue Hill' was split into 'Bellevue Hill' and 'Double Bay – Darling Point'; 'Bentleigh East' was split into 'Bentleigh East – North' and 'Bentleigh East – South'; and 'Randwick' was split into 'Randwick – North' and 'Randwick – South'

^ Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in Randwick, Hunters Hill and Woollahra living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

By combining the estimated 2021 Jewish population counts for neighbourhoods that were split after 2011 we can calculate Jewish population change for the largest Jewish neighbourhoods over the decade. All these neighbourhoods had an estimated 1,000 or more Jewish people in 2021.

We see that the largest percentage *increases* were in Bentleigh East which grew by 12% followed by 'Bondi Junction – Waverly' which grew by 9% (Figure 8). The sharpest declines occurred in St Ives in Ku-ring-gai (down 27%), Carnegie (down 17%) and St Kilda East (down 16%).

Figure 8. Percentage change in Jewish population size by neighbourhood, 2011 to 2021, SA2 areas with over 1,000 Jews in 2021 (estimated)



^ The following boundaries changes took place between 2011 and 2021: 'Double Bay – Bellevue Hill' was split into 'Bellevue Hill' and 'Double Bay – Darling Point'; 'Bentleigh East' was split into 'Bentleigh East – North' and 'Bentleigh East – South'; and 'Randwick' was split into 'Randwick – North' and 'Randwick – South'

* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in Randwick, Hunters Hill and Woollahra living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

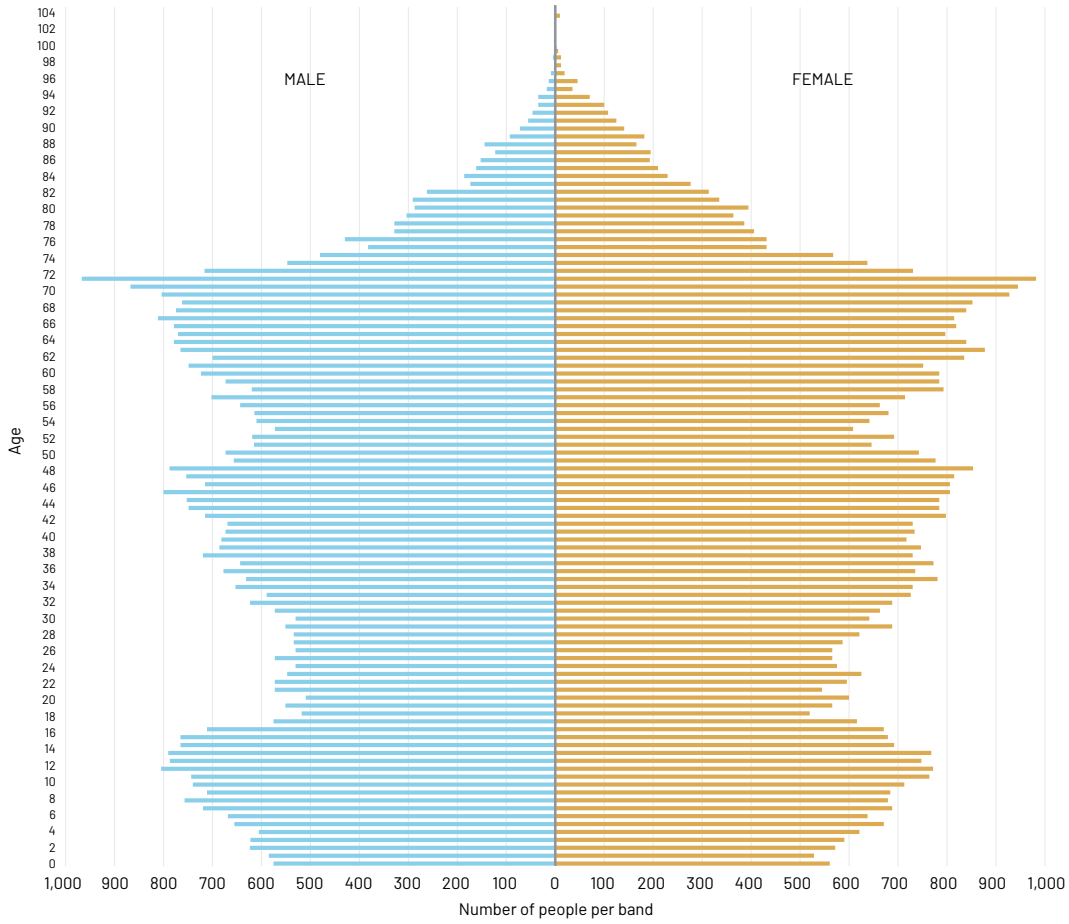
5 / Demography

5.1 Jewish age and sex structure

Australia's Jewish population increased by an estimated 1.2% (1,330 people) between 2011 and 2021. A convenient way to visualise the demographic profile of the population is with a population pyramid. This is a tool that shows the relative size of each age group by sex. Australia's Jewish population pyramid is shown in Figure 9. It reveals a population dominated by several peaks and troughs on either side of the central vertical line. The peaks indicate a larger than average presence of particular age groups and the troughs indicate a smaller than average presence. The chart shows three peaks on either side of the central vertical line. The peak nearest the top of the chart tops out in the early 70s and this is the post-Second World War 'baby boomers'; the middle peak tops out in the late 40s and early 50s which is the baby boomers' children, an 'echo' of the baby boom; and the lower peak tops out in the mid-teens which is the children of this echo – i.e. the boomers' grandchildren.

A closer look at Figure 9 also reveals the vertical gap between the top and middle peaks is shorter than the vertical gap between the middle and lower peaks (on both male and female sides). This indicates the length of a generation has grown; people have been having babies later in life.

Figure 9. Age and sex structure for Australia's Jewish population, 2021 (estimated)*



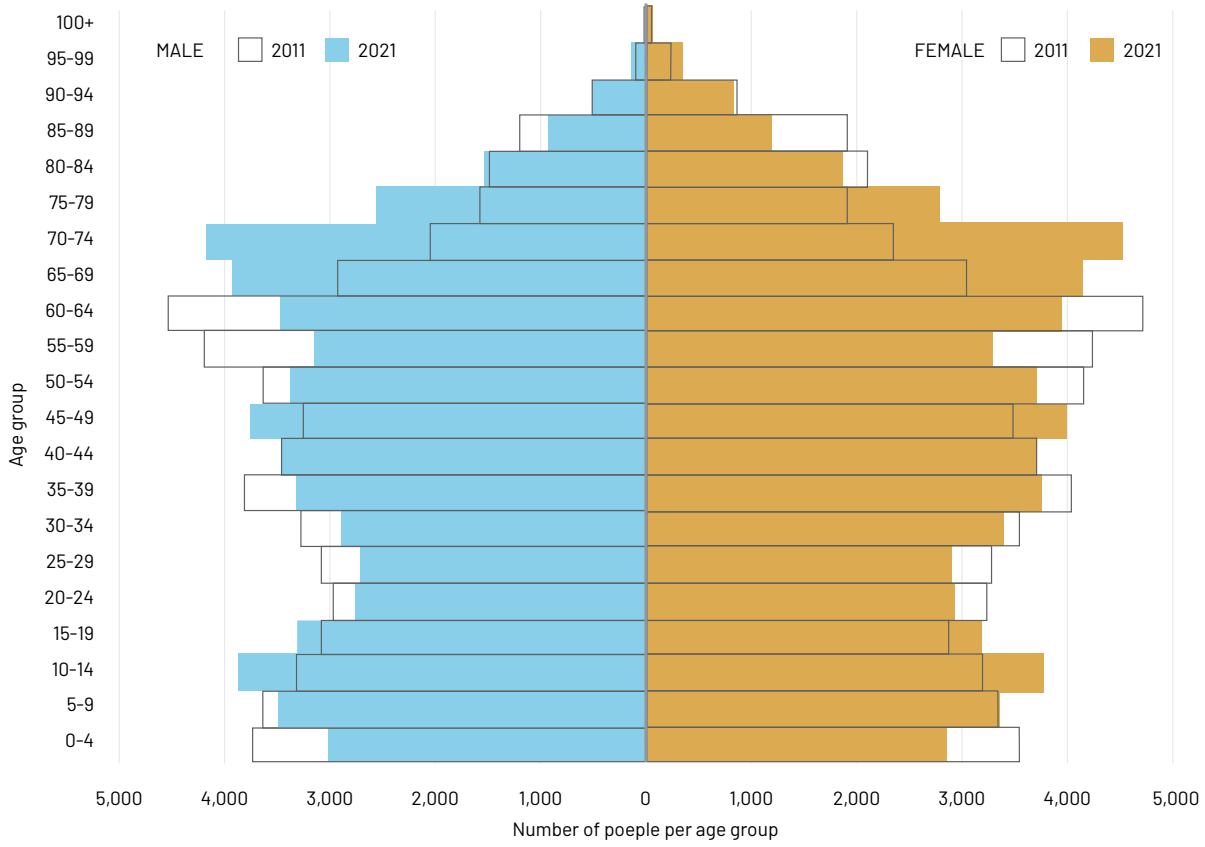
* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained). See Appendix 4

The population pyramid is a particularly valuable tool because it shows how much of the population dynamics the community experiences is already 'baked in' thereby helping us to understand not only what the picture is like now, but also, how it was in the past and, crucially, how it will likely change in the future.

In terms of the future, we can say with reasonable confidence that in 10 years' time (and in the absence of a demographic shock such as significant migration) the number of Jewish people aged in their mid-80s is set to dramatically increase. By contrast, the number of Jewish teens is set to decrease. Both of these trends are simply a reflection of the shape of the Jewish population as it is now and both have important implications for the Jewish community as a whole and service providers in particular.

This is more clearly observed when we look back. In Figure 10, two population pyramids are overlayed. One is the Jewish population in 2011 (outlined bands) and one is the Jewish population in 2021 (shaded bands). This allows us to see how the demographic makeup of Jewish population changed over the decade. Three factors influence change: natural increase (births) or decrease (deaths), net migration, and the 'baked in' age structure of the population[11]. For example, it shows baby boomers who were aged 60-64 in 2011 moving 'up' the chart to the 70-74 year position ten years later, this therefore is the main cause of the contraction of the 60-64 age group.

Figure 10. Age and sex structure of Australia's Jewish population, 2011 and 2021 (estimated)*

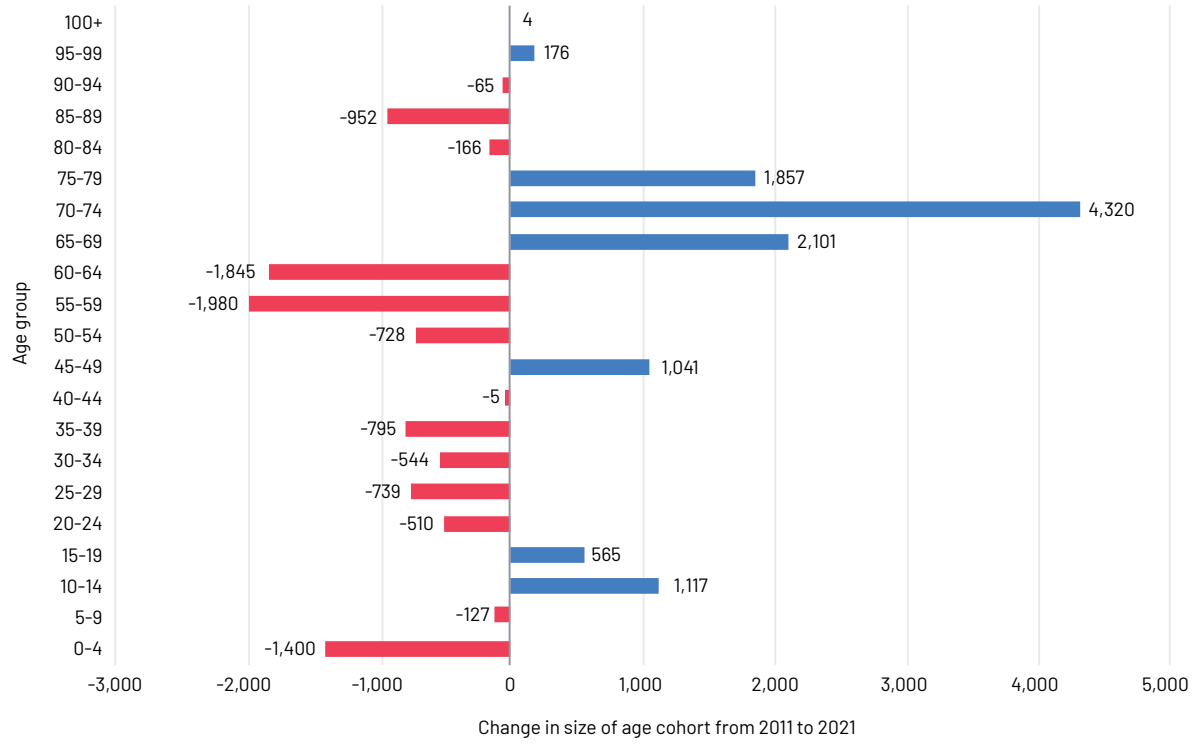


* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained). See Appendix 4

11 A possible fourth factor is 'ethnic or religious migration' and relates to accessions (primarily conversions) and secessions (assimilation). Neither of these is directly measured by the census.

Taking this one step further, we can examine the net change for each age cohort over the 2011-2021 decade. The largest change was in the group aged 70-74, the baby boomers, the size of which increased by 4,320 people (almost doubling) in the decade (Figure 11). Indeed, there were 8,279 more Jews aged 65-79 years in 2021 than there were in 2011. Similarly, there were 1,682 more Jewish teens in 2021 than 2011. But there 1,527 fewer Jewish children aged under 10, 2,589 fewer Jews aged in their twenties and thirties, and 4,552 fewer Jews aged 50-64.

Figure 11. Change in size of each age group from 2011 to 2021, Australia's Jewish population (estimated)*



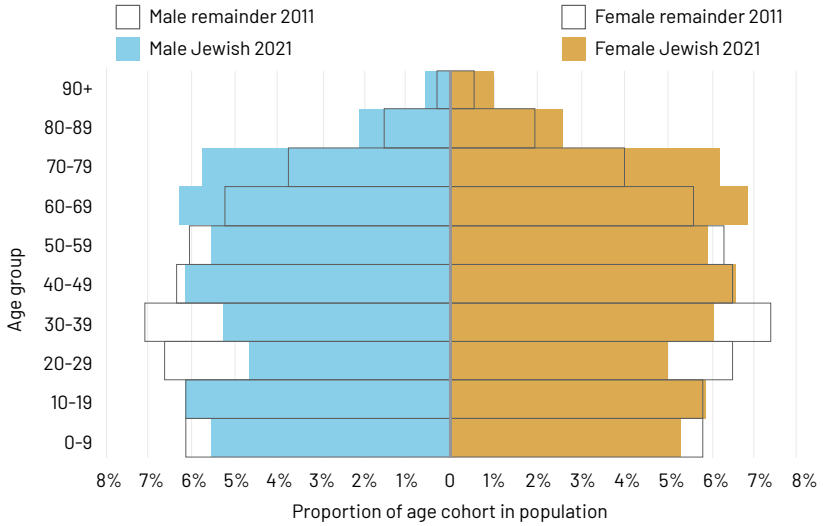
* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained). See Appendix 4

5.2 Age structure of the Jewish and general population

Jews have an older age structure than the general population. This is shown in the population pyramid in Figure 12 which compares the Jewish (shaded bars) and general Australian populations (outlined bars). It shows that in all age groups age 60 and above, there are proportionately more Jews than in the general population.

By contrast, there are relatively few Jews in their twenties and thirties as well as young children compared with the general population. In other words, the Jewish population has an older age profile than the general population. This is also shows in the next section on median age.

Figure 12. Age and sex structure of Australia's Jewish population compared with the Rest of Australia, 2021^*



^ The total of each population (males and females) sums to 100%

* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

5.3 Median age and sex ratio

The median age[12] of the general population in Australia is 38. Jews are quite a bit older than that with a median of 44 years although they are not the oldest group since the median age for Christianity is 47 (Table 5). Islam by contrast has a median of 28 years. The Jewish median age is unchanged from 2016.

Table 5. Median age by religious grouping, Australia, 2021*

	Age
Christianity	47
Judaism	44
Buddhism	40
No Religion	33
Hinduism	31
Other Religions	31
Islam	28
Total	**38**

* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

12 The median age is the age at which half the population is older and half is younger.

The highest Jewish median age is in South Australia and Western Australia, both at 49 years (Table 6). ACT has the youngest median age at 34 years. Jews in Victoria are younger than Jews in NSW and overall, Jewish men have a lower median age than Jewish women however this varies from state to state.

Table 6. Median age by sex and state, Jewish population, 2021*

	Male	Female	Total
South Australia	47	49	49
Western Australia	48	48	49
Tasmania	52	57	48
Queensland	48	47	47
New South Wales	44	46	45
Victoria	42	44	43
Northern Territory	43	38	43
ACT	35	31	34
Total	**44**	**45**	**44**

* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

Overall, there are an estimated 4,052 more Jewish women than men in Australia with a ratio of 107 women to 100 men. However, the sex ratio varies by age. In younger Jewish cohorts (ages 0 to 19) there are an estimated 593 more Jewish men than Jewish women but at all older age groups females outnumber males. Among Jews aged in their mid-90s, there are twice as many females as males.

5.4 Jewish births and fertility

Census data can be used to indicate the likely size of the Jewish birth cohort in 2021 since they contain information about the number of babies aged under 1 reported as Jewish on the night of the census (10 August 2021). However, the reporting of very small children in the census is known to be unreliable so the following data average out the number of Australia-born children aged 2 and 3 and use that figure instead. An estimated 1,204 babies were born in the year to 10 August 2021, a 21% reduction in the number estimated to have been born in 2011 (1,517). However, it is likely that the lower number of births was due to the COVID-19 pandemic as couples tend to delay childbirth in times of heightened uncertainty. Births can be expected to rebound afterwards.

Table 7. Estimated Jewish birth cohort (aged under 1) by state and sex, 2011 and 2021*

	2011			2021		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Victoria	375	398	773	310	297	606
New South Wales	299	319	618	244	227	471
Queensland	24	26	50	25	23	48
Western Australia	26	30	55	34	27	61
Other	11	10	21	12	5	17
Total Australia	**735**	**782**	**1,517**	**624**	**579**	**1,204**

* Very young children, especially babies, are underreported in censuses. Therefore, these figures use data on 2 and 3 year olds to estimate the size of birth cohorts

There are several ways to measure fertility in a population but the simplest, and perhaps most common, approach is the crude birth rate (CBR) which is a measure of the number of live births per 1,000 people. The Jewish CBR was 10.3 in 2021, compared with 11.6 generally (Table 8). The highest CBR was for Islam at 20.5 and the lowest was for Buddhism (6.4).

Table 8. Crude birth rate by religion, Australia, 2021

	Crude birth rate*
Islam	20.5
Other Religions	17.9
Hinduism	16.3
No religion	14.5
Judaism	10.3
Christianity	8.1
Buddhism	6.4
Total	**11.6**

* The crude birth rate measures the number of births per 1,000 people

As the name suggests, the *crude* birth rate has its limitations, not least because its calculation includes the size of the male population, even though men do not give birth. A more accurate measure is the total fertility rate (TFR). The total fertility rate refers to the total number of children that would be born to a woman in her reproductive lifetime if she were to experience all the age-specific fertility rates in the population[13]. It is generally considered that a TFR of 2.1 children per woman is 'replacement-level', i.e. sufficient to maintain a stable population, all else being equal. The TFR for Jews in Australia in 2021 was estimated to be 1.71, i.e. below replacement level, but slightly above the TFR for Australians generally at 1.66 (Table 9). The Jewish TFR was above replacement level in 2011 (at 2.16). Again, birth rates are likely to have been depressed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 9. Total fertility rate, Jewish and general population, Australia, 2011 and 2021

	2011	2021
Jewish population	2.16	1.71
General population	1.95	1.66

* The total fertility rate (TFR) for the Jewish population was calculated by using the Child-Woman Ratio approach (see Dubuc S 2009 Application of the Own-Children Method for estimating fertility by ethnic and religious groups in the UK, Journal of Population Research 26:207-225; Staetsky LD and Boyd J 2015 *Strictly Orthodox rising: What the demography of British Jews tells us about the future of the community*, Institute for Jewish Policy Research, London p18). The TFR for the general Australian population is from ABS: Births, Australia Released 25/10/22 https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release#data-downloads

5.5 Jewish deaths

Whilst the census does not contain data on Jewish deaths, data are available from funerary establishments inside and outside the Jewish community. These include those who had a Jewish funeral but exclude Jewish people who did not have a Jewish funeral (burial or cremation). There were 815 Jewish funerals in Australia in 2021 and an average of 915 from 2017 to 2021 inclusive. This is low compared with the Jewish average of 1,013 per year for period from 2012 to 2016.

The simplest measure of mortality is the crude death rate (CDR). This shows the number of deaths in a population per 1,000 people in a specified time period. The CDR for Jews in 2021 was 7.0, only slightly higher than for Australians generally at 6.7. However, as can be seen the number of Jewish deaths that occurred in 2021, it was considerably lower than in previous census years (Table 10). This is because responses to the COVID-19 pandemic suppressed deaths in the population since exposure to germs was reduced and people moved around less reducing the risk of accidents. Provisional data for 2022 show a rebound in deaths and we would expect a further rebound in the 2023 data.

13 An age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) is the number of live births per 1,000 women in a specific age group for a specified geographic area and for a specific point in time, usually a calendar year.

Table 10. Crude death rate, Jewish and general population, Australia

			Crude death rate	
	Total Jewish funerals^	Estimated Jewish population	Jewish population	General population
2011	1,005*	116,563	8.6	6.5
2016	1,007	117,903	8.5	6.6
2021	815	116,967	7.0	6.7

* Data outside NSW and Victoria are inferred based on the average for 2012 and 2013

^ Including Jewish cremations

Source: Australian Jewish Historical Society: Burials Database

Subtracting the crude death rate from the crude birth rate gives us the rate of natural increase, which provides a measure of population change, ignoring migration. For 2021, the Jewish rate of natural increase in Australia was 3.3 per 1,000 (CBR 10.3 – CDR 7.0). The general rate of natural increase was 4.9, about 50% higher than the Jewish rate.

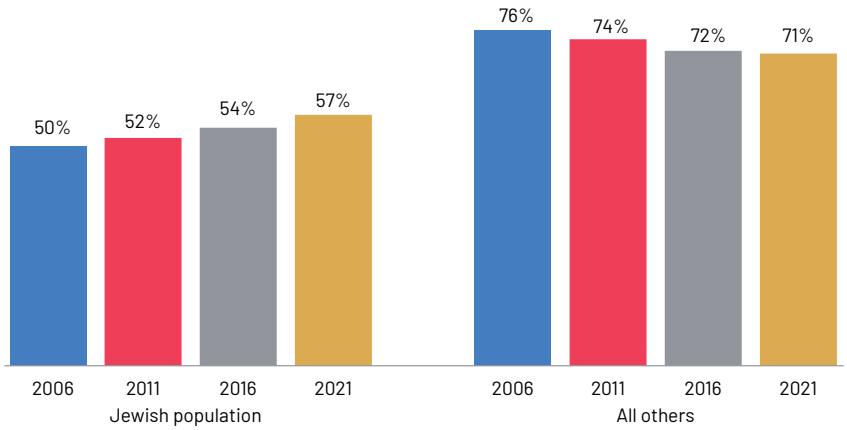
Finally, we can also compare Jewish births with Jewish deaths. There were an estimated 1,204 births in the year to 10 August 2021. Using this as a proxy for the 2021 calendar year, we can compare this figure with the 815 deaths recorded which indicated a natural rate of increase of 389 people in 2021. However, as mentioned, both births and especially deaths were, in all likelihood, temporarily lowered due to the COVID-19 pandemic so this figure is almost certainly higher than would otherwise have been the case.

6 / Migration

6.1 Country of birth

In 2021, a majority of the Jewish population was born in Australia (57%), a rather smaller proportion than in the general population (71%). But this gap is steadily decreasing as the proportion of Australia born Jews increases—having been 50% in 2006—and the proportion of Australia born in the general population steadily decreases (Figure 13). This reflects the two populations' very different migratory experiences. (Note that COVID-19 pandemic-related border closures may have impacted the 2021 data since the number of overseas-born arrivals may have been depressed.)

Figure 13. Proportion of Jewish and general population that is born in Australia, over time*^



* Excluding non-response and Inadequately described responses to the country of birth question

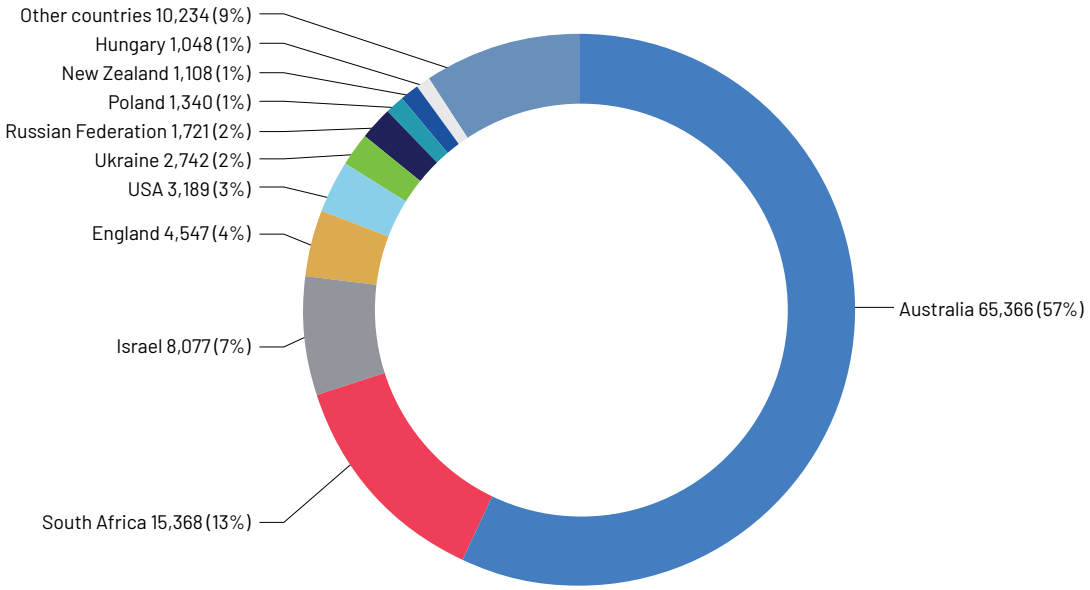
^ Data for 2021 omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

Nevertheless, the Jewish community is historically an immigrant community as reflected in far higher proportion of Jewish people born overseas (43% compared with 29% generally). This is also seen in terms of country of birth of parents. Jews are far more likely to have parents born overseas with 81% having at least one overseas-born parent (with 61% having both parents born overseas). By contrast, 51% of all others have at least one overseas-born parent (and 39% have two).

In 2021, the largest Jewish sub-group born overseas was from South Africa with 15,368 people[14] or 13% of the population, followed by Israel with 8,077 people (Figure 14).

14 This does not include 476 Jews born in Zimbabwe.

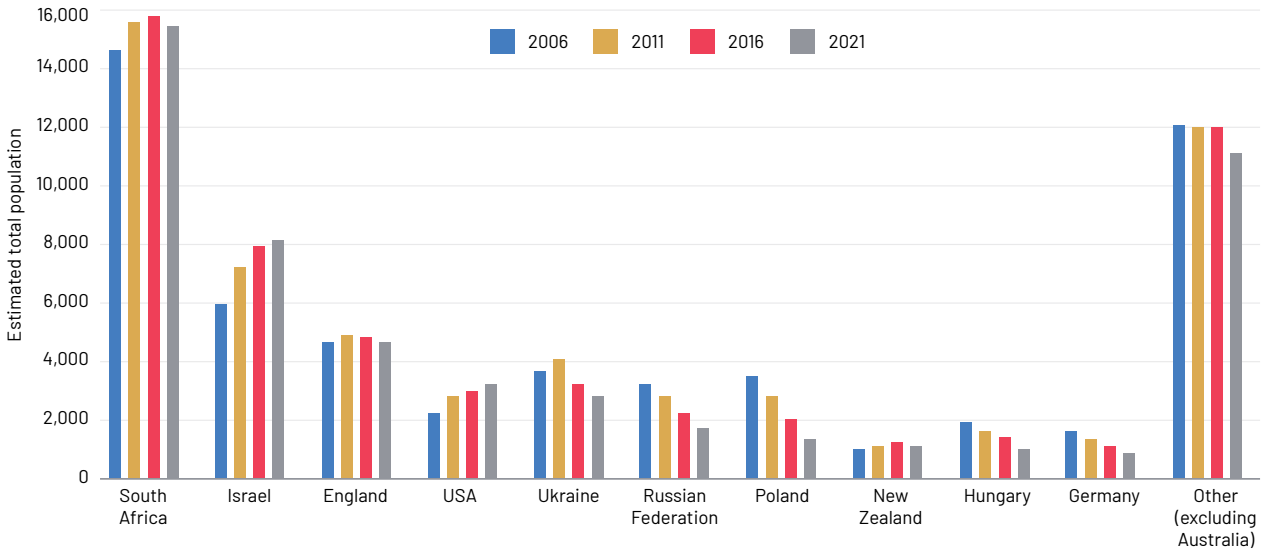
Figure 14. Country of birth, Jewish population, Australia (estimated)*



* Excluding non-response and inadequately described responses to the country of birth question totalling an estimated 3,913 Jewish people

While the size of the South African born Jewish population is the largest, its size peaked in 2016 and has since declined slightly (Figure 15). Of the other larger origin countries, most show consistent declines over the period, especially East European countries, mainly due to the passing of post-WWII migrants and holocaust survivors. However, some of the decline observed between 2016 and 2021 (especially for South Africa, England and 'Other') may be related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only two Jewish populations have exhibited consistent growth over the 2006-2021 period: Israel-born and American-born Jews and there is a notable decline in the rate of increase for the Israel born figures but this may also be COVID-19 pandemic related.

Figure 15. Estimated Jewish population by country of birth, 2021*

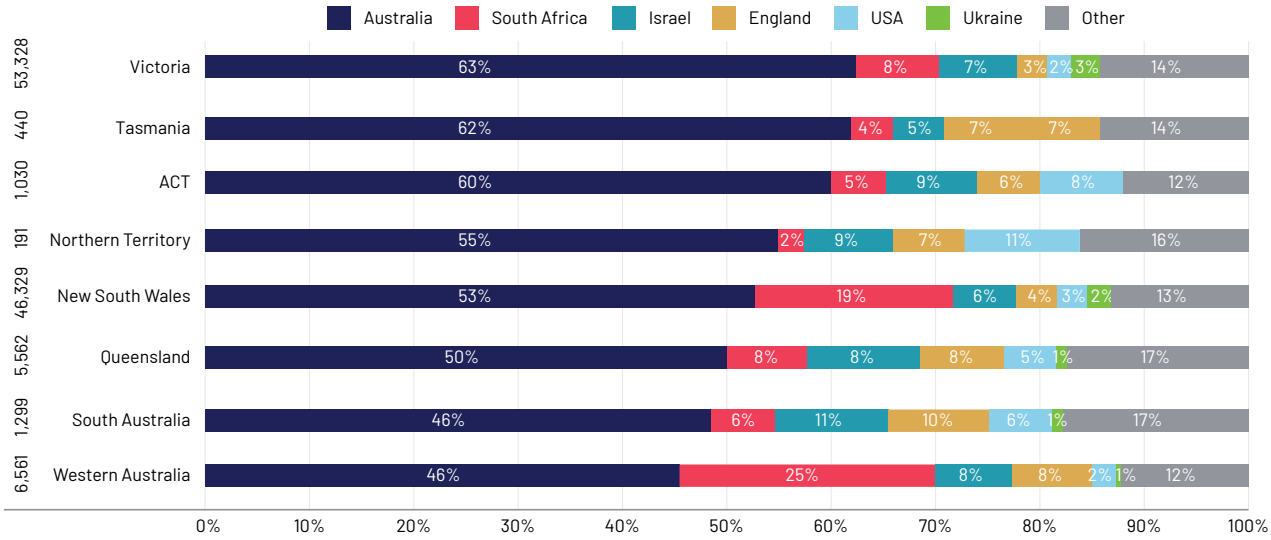


* All countries with more than an estimated 1,500 Jews in 2006

At the state and territory level, the place with the highest proportion of Australia born Jews in 2021 was Victoria (63%) which contrasts with 46% in Western Australia which is the lowest proportion (Figure 16). South Australia also has a minority (49%) of Australia born Jews.

In Western Australian a quarter (25%) of the Jewish population is South African born and this is the case for almost one in five Jews in NSW (19%).

Figure 16. Proportion of Jewish population by country of birth by state (estimated)*, 2021



* Excluding non-response and inadequately described responses to country of birth

Looking at the data from the perspective of migration groups, over half (57%) of South African born Jews live in NSW, whereas almost half (48%) of the Israel born Jews live in Victoria (Table 11). Two out of five (41%) Jews born in England are in NSW. A majority of Jews from the Russian Federation and Poland lives in Victoria and a majority of Hungarian Jews live in NSW (61%).

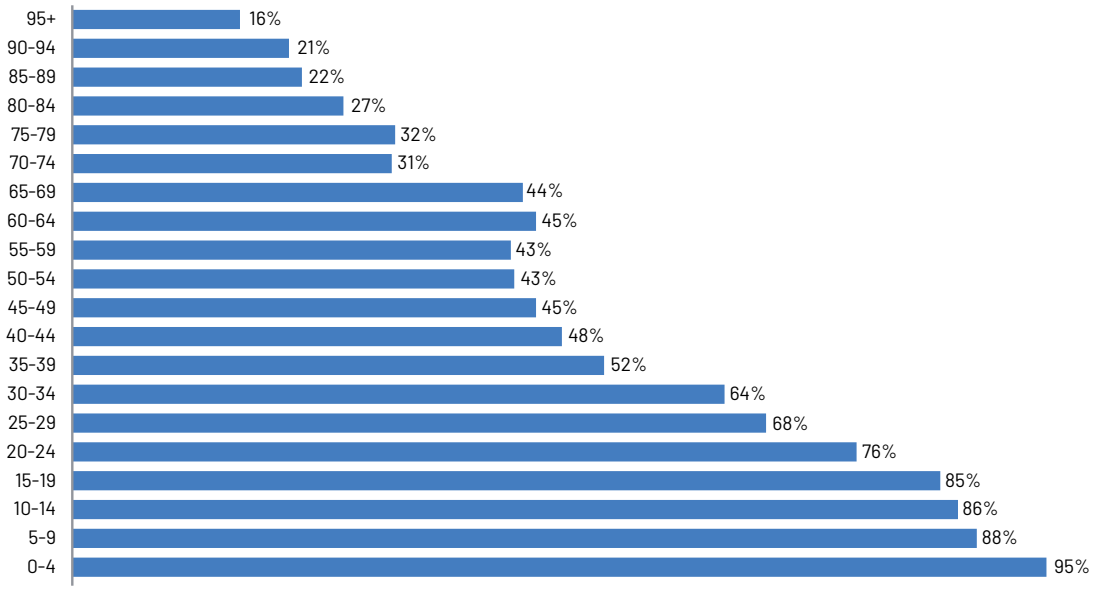
Table 11. Jewish population by country of birth and state of residence, shaded cells indicate highest proportion for each row, 2021*

Estimated Jewish population	Country of birth	Victoria	New South Wales	Western Australia	Queensland	Other states and territories	Total
65,364	Australia	51%	38%	5%	4%	2%	**100%**
15,370	South Africa	29%	57%	10%	3%	1%	**100%**
8,078	Israel	48%	35%	6%	7%	3%	**100%**
4,558	England	33%	41%	11%	10%	5%	**100%**
3,189	USA	39%	40%	5%	9%	7%	**100%**
2,741	Ukraine	58%	39%	<1%	2%	<1%	**100%**
1,713	Russian Federation	63%	34%	<1%	2%	<1%	**100%**
1,332	Poland	73%	23%	<1%	3%	<1%	**100%**
1,115	New Zealand	41%	33%	6%	17%	3%	**100%**
1,058	Hungary	32%	61%	1%	4%	1%	**100%**
114,739*	**Total Jewish population**	**46%**	**40%**	**6%**	**5%**	**3%**	**100%**

* Excluding non-response and inadequately described responses to country of birth

There is a close relationship between age and the likelihood of having been born in Australia. Almost all (95%) Jewish children aged under five years old were born in Australia (Figure 17). This compares with about half to two-thirds among their parents (52% for those aged in their late 30s). However, Jews aged in their 60s stand out from the general trend, being more likely than expected to have been born in Australia. Born in the 1950s, many of this groups' parents would have been WWII refugees and Holocaust survivors who delayed childbearing until they reached Australia and began forming families.

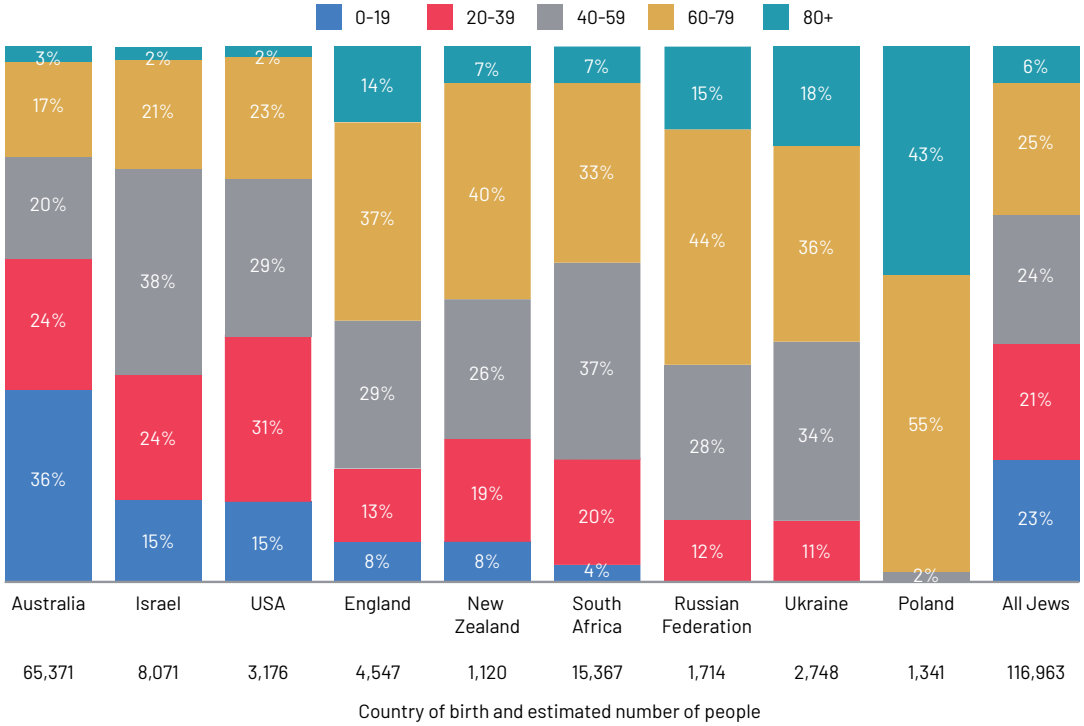
Figure 17. Proportion of each age group that is born in Australia, Jewish population, Australia, 2021



Jewish age structure also differs depending on country of birth since different groups migrated to Australia for different reasons and at different times. In 2021, Australian-born Jews were by far the youngest group with over a third (36%) aged under 20 years old (Figure 18). All immigrant groups are far older than this 'native' group.

While 80% of Australian-born Jews are aged under 60 years old, this is the case for about three quarters of those born in England and New Zealand, 60% of Jews born in South Africa and just 40% of Jews born in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Almost all (98%) Jews born in Poland are aged 60 year or older.

Figure 18. Age group by place of birth, Jewish population of Australia, 2021*



* All sub-groups with at least 1,000 people

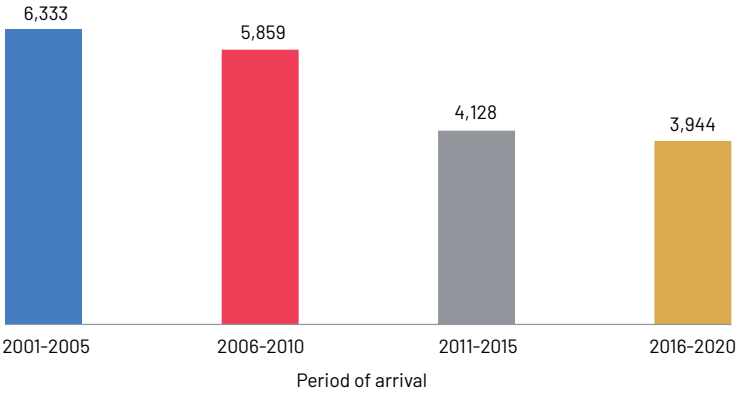
6.2 Migration to Australia

The permanent movement of people to and from Australia is a function of many things summarised by demographers as push and pull factors. For Jews, a typical push factor might be lack of security or economic stability in their home country, whereas a pull factor might be greater employment or study opportunities in Australia. Migrant flows are also subject to the vicissitudes of government policy towards the granting of Australian visas. However, the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2022 gave rise to an unprecedented impact on migration flows to and from Australia. The Federal Government closed the international border to all non-citizens and non-residents on 20 March 2020 and it was not fully reopened until 21 February 2022, almost two years later, and then only to fully vaccinated visa holders[15]. Since the Census took place during this period—10 August 2021—the border closure will have inevitably impacted Jewish migration to the country at that time.

The independent review into the 2021 Census concluded that "The impact of the pandemic and border restrictions is also evident in the number of new migrants to Australia in 2020 and 2021 [...] While 321,529 people reported that they arrived in 2019, only 127,532 reported arriving in 2020."[16]. This is a 60% decline in arrivals to Australia. The implication for the present analysis is that the 2020 Jewish arrivals figure may be about 2.5 times lower than it would otherwise have been. However, the rebound in migration following the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and re-opening of borders means that this 'loss' will probably have been recovered soon after and we may well see this spike in the 2026 Census data.

Nevertheless, Jewish migration to Australia has been steadily declining since the turn of the 21st Century (Figure 22). In the five-year period from 2016 to 2020 an estimated 3,944 Jewish migrants arrived in Australia. This total is slightly lower than the number arriving in the preceding period (2011 to 2015) and two thirds of the level recorded in the 2006 to 2010 period.

Figure 19. Estimated total number of Jewish overseas arrivals to Australia by period of arrival



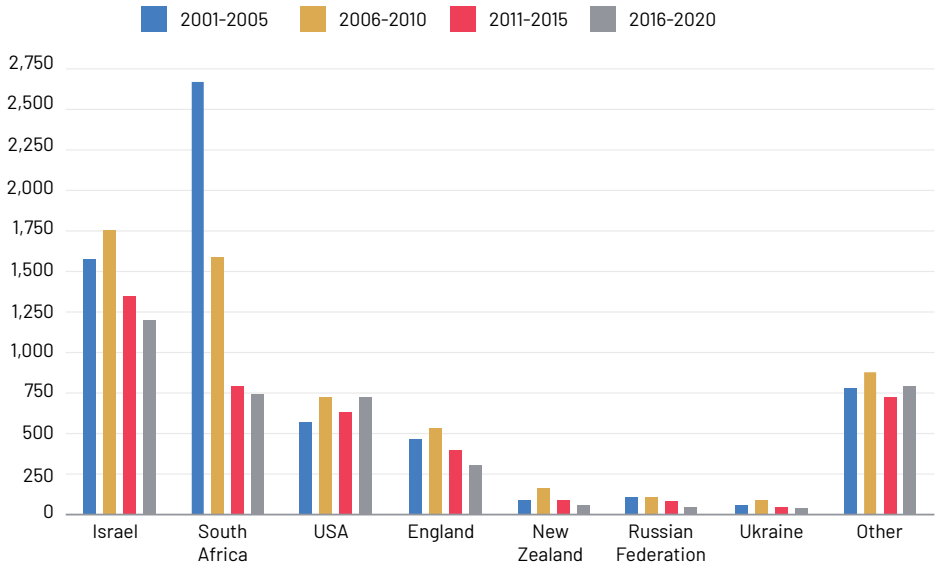
The bulk of the decline in Jewish migration is driven by the decline in migration from South Africa with no corresponding increase from other countries. As shown in Figure 20, migration from South Africa declined by 72% between the first wave shown (2001-2005 inclusive) and the most recent wave (2016-2020 inclusive) during which an estimated 759 South African-born Jews arrived in Australia.

South Africa constituted 42% of all Jewish migrants in the 2001-2005 period but only 19% in the most recent 2016-2020 period. Israel, by contrast, constituted 25% of all migrants in the 2001-2005 period rising to 31% in the 2016-2020 period. But as Figure 20 shows, in absolute terms, migration from Israel has steadily declined over the last three periods.

15 The Senate - Select Committee on COVID-19 – Final Report, April 2022, *op. cit.*

16 Harding et al. 2022 *op. cit.* p75-76

Figure 20. Estimated number of Jewish overseas arrivals to Australia by place of origin and period of arrival*



	Israel	South Africa	USA	England	New Zealand	Russian Federation	Ukraine	Other
2001-2005	1,568	2,678	566	465	96	104	76	779
2006-2010	1,763	1,576	722	549	163	108	93	885
2011-2015	1,342	784	633	399	101	76	57	736
2016-2020	1,206	759	721	310	59	49	40	799

* Totals show the estimated number of Jewish migrants arriving in Australia who were present on the census night of the relevant wave. Data for the first wave are from the 2006 Census, data for the second wave are from the 2011 Census and so on. Each wave relates to five full calendar years so those who arrived from January to August in a census year are included in the following wave (so those arriving from January to August 2021 are not included in this chart). Also, not included is anyone who arrived during a wave but left Australia prior to the census of that period. In this way the data provide an impression of migration *flows*, albeit using migration *stock* data.

The migration data cited above only relate to Jewish arrivals to Australia, they do not account for Jewish departures as these data are not available in the Australian census. However, data from Israel indicate that 452 people immigrated to Israel from 'Australia and New Zealand' in the 2016-2020 period—an average of 90 per year[17]. It can be assumed that the vast majority of these people would have come from Australia and would have been Jewish. This compares with an estimated 1,223 Jews migrating from Israel to Australia in this period—an average of 245 per year—in other words, a net gain for Australia of 771 Jews over the five year period.

Data from the 2021 Census of England and Wales showed that 345 Jews arrived there from Oceania in the 2016-2020 period. This means that the net flow between Australia and the UK was around nil (neither country gained) given Oceania includes Jews arriving from New Zealand. It is also likely that the net migration figure for the USA was also around zero.

Of the almost 4,000 Jewish people who arrived in Australia in the 2016-2020 period, a majority (1,679 or 43%) went to NSW and a further 37% went to Victoria (Table 12). South African migrants were more likely to go to NSW and Israeli migrants were more likely to go to Victoria.

17 Statistical Abstract of Israel, Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel

Table 12. Estimated number of Jews who arrived in Australia in the 2016-2020 period by country of birth and state of residence in 2021 (shaded cells indicates largest in row)

Country of birth	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	ACT	TAS	NT	Total
Israel	422	549	111	74	46	14			**1,223**
South Africa	390	238	37	42	18	5			**733**
USA	352	241	49	32		22			**701**
England	153	85	33	19		9	19		**311**
New Zealand	7	21	11	5	17	0			**43**
Russian Federation	7	27	0	0		0			**42**
Ukraine	25	7	0	0		0			**32**
Other	323	291	105	60	35	21	15	13	**864**
Total	**1,679**	**1,459**	**346**	**231**	**115**	**71**	**30**	**16**	**3,948**

6.3 Languages used at home

The vast majority (95%) of Jews in Australia speak English; over three-quarters (78.0%) speak no other language and a further 17% speak English 'Very well'. The most common language spoken in Jewish homes other than English is Hebrew, spoken by an estimated 10,844 people followed by Russian spoken by 7,517 people (Table 13). Together, English, Hebrew and Russian account for 94% of languages spoken in Jewish homes in Australia.

Over the decade from 2011 to 2021, the number of Hebrew speakers increased by 10% whereas the number of Russian speakers decreased by 27% (Table 13). Most other languages saw declines over this period with the exception of Spanish and Portuguese although in 2021, only 1.1% of Jews spoke either of these languages at home.

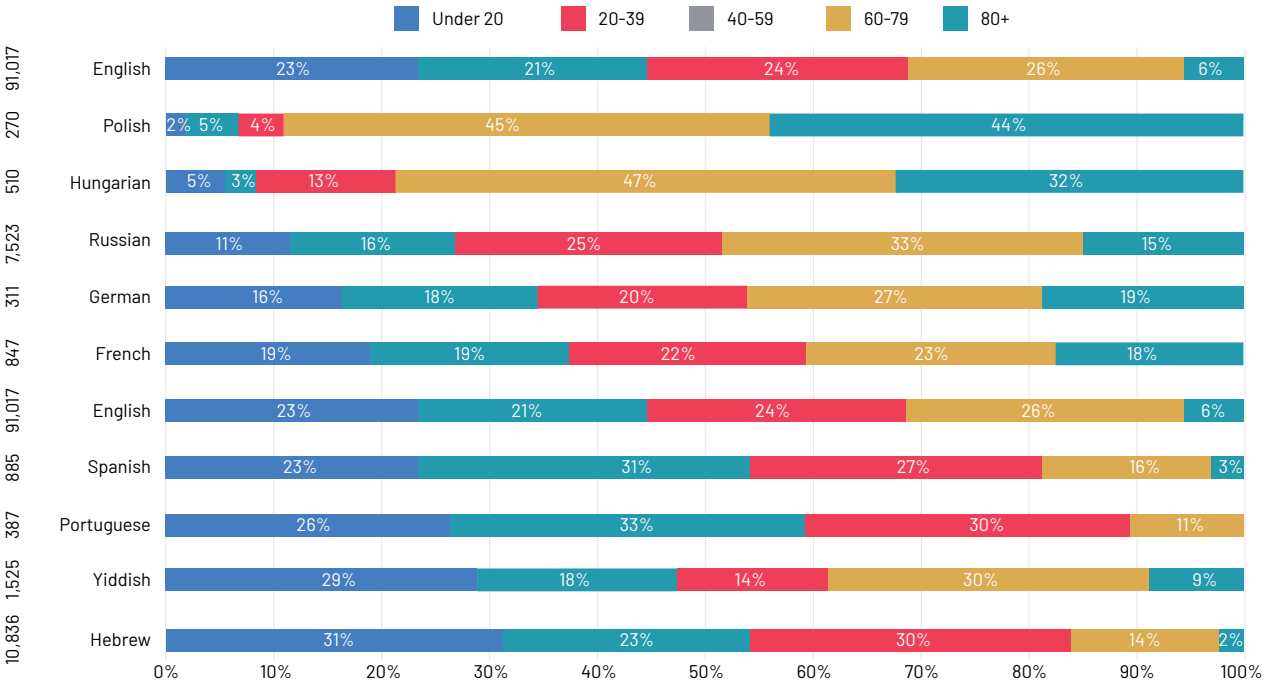
Table 13. Estimated number of Jewish people by language used at home, Australia, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021 and change over time

					Percent change		
Language	**2006**	**2011**	**2016**	**2021**	**15 years (2006-21)**	**10 years (2011-21)**	**5 years (2016-21)**
English	80,852	86,151	88,422	91,007	13%	6%	3%
Hebrew	7,975	9,852	10,707	10,844	36%	10%	1%
Russian	10,077	10,287	9,496	7,517	-25%	-27%	-21%
Yiddish	2,115	1,963	1,698	1,524	-28%	-22%	-10%
Spanish	550	638	815	900	64%	41%	10%
French	803	928	1,060	854	6%	-8%	-19%
Hungarian	1,439	1,177	1,005	515	-64%	-56%	-49%
Portuguese	114	204	282	386	238%	89%	37%
German	865	721	608	326	-62%	-55%	-46%
Polish	978	766	598	280	-71%	-64%	-53%
Other	3,322	2,945	3,212	2,813	-15%	-4%	-12%
Total	**109,090**	**115,631**	**117,903**	**116,967**	**7%**	**1%**	**-1%**

Like country of birth (shown in Figure 18), there is a relationship between languages spoken and age, also a result of historical migration patterns. The earliest migratory wave in the data arrived during and immediately after World War II as refuges and Holocaust survivors from Eastern Europe, hence many or most speakers of these languages are now elderly (Figure 21).

By contrast, speakers of Western and Southern European languages are far younger on average having arrived in Australia more recently. But the age group with the youngest profile is Hebrew speakers where almost one in three is aged under 20 years old.

Figure 21. Language spoken at home by age, Jewish population (estimated), Australia, 2021



The exception to this is Yiddish speakers. The majority (90%) of this group lives in Victoria and it comprises two very distinct Jewish populations. On the one hand, there are Jews from Eastern Europe who are now mostly elderly (and it can be assumed mainly secular) and on the other, Jews born in Australia, the US and Israel who have one of the youngest age profiles of any group and it can be assumed are predominantly strictly Orthodox.

7 / Jewish households

The following census data on Jewish households are enumerated (i.e. unadjusted) since the adjustment factor is only applicable to individuals (see Appendix 3).

7.1 Jewish households – definitions

A Jewish household is any dwelling in which at least one person reported being Jewish by religion in the 2021 Census. Four types of Jewish household are identified:

1. **Households where all members are Jewish** – all people in the household report Jewish.
2. **Jewish lone person households** – all people who live alone and report Jewish.
3. **Mixed Jewish and no religion/not stated households** – at least one person reports Jewish and at least one other person reports No religion or Not stated but no one reports a different religion.
4. **Mixed Jewish and other religion households** – at least one person reports Jewish and at least one person reports a different religion (in most cases this is Christian).

7.2 Household composition

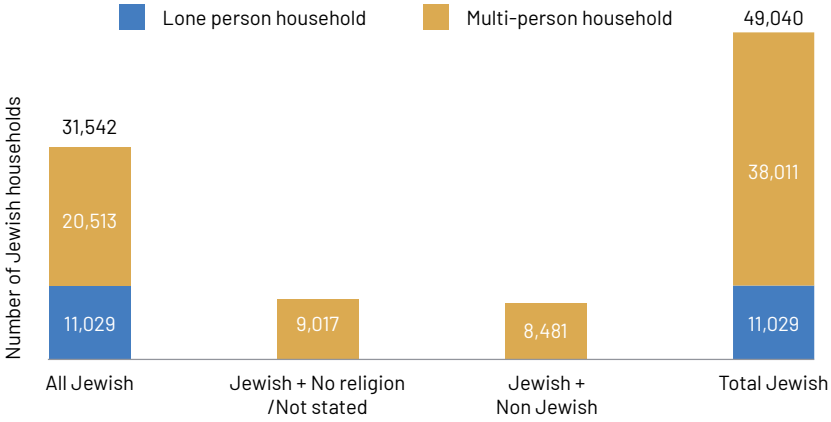
The total number of Jewish households in Australia in 2021 was 49,040 which is 0.53% of the total of 9.2 million Australian households. 11,029 Jewish households or 22% comprise Jews living alone. This is a lower proportion than in the general population where 26% of households are lone persons (Table 14). Another difference between Jewish and general households is that Jews are more likely to be in couple households (65% Jewish v 58% general) and less likely to be in one parent families (7% Jewish v 11% general).

Table 14. Household composition, Jewish and all other households, Australia, 2021

	Total Jewish households (enumerated)	Jewish households % (N=49,040)	All other households % (N=9.2m)
Couple family with children present	16,615	34%	31%
Couple family with no children present	15,367	31%	27%
One parent family	3,477	7%	11%
Other family	334	1%	1%
Group household	2,197	4%	4%
Lone person household	11,029	22%	26%
Total	**49,040**	**100%**	**100%**

In terms of religious makeup, in just under two out of three (64%) Jewish households all members are Jewish, with a further 18% comprising at least one Jewish person living with at least one person reporting No religion or not stating a religion (but no one stating a different religion) (9,017 households) and around one in six (17%) comprising at least one Jewish person living with a person who had an Other religion (mainly Christian) (8,481 households) (Figure 22).

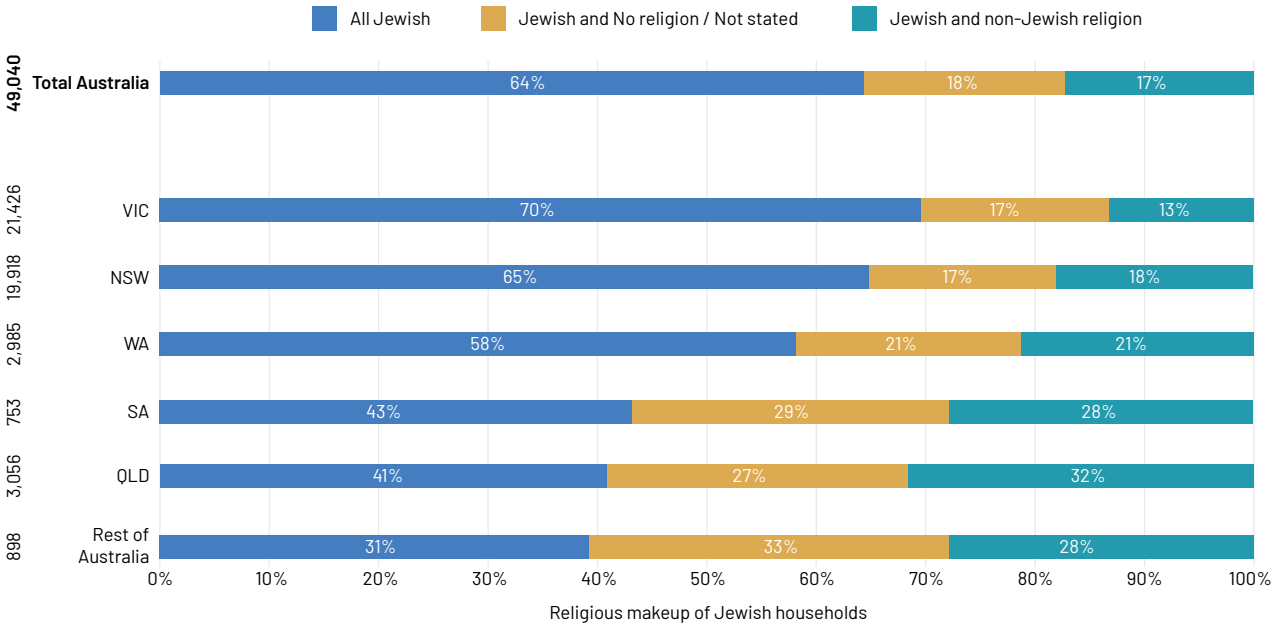
Figure 22. Total number of Jewish households by religious makeup, Australia, 2021 (enumerated households)



7.3 Jewish households by state

Victoria has the largest number of Jewish households in Australia at 21,426 followed by NSW at 19,918. Victoria also has the largest proportion of households in which all members are Jewish (70% or 14,940 including lone person households). In states with small Jewish populations this percentage is lower, for example, it is 41% in Queensland. In these states the majority of Jewish households comprise Jews living with people who did not report Jewish.

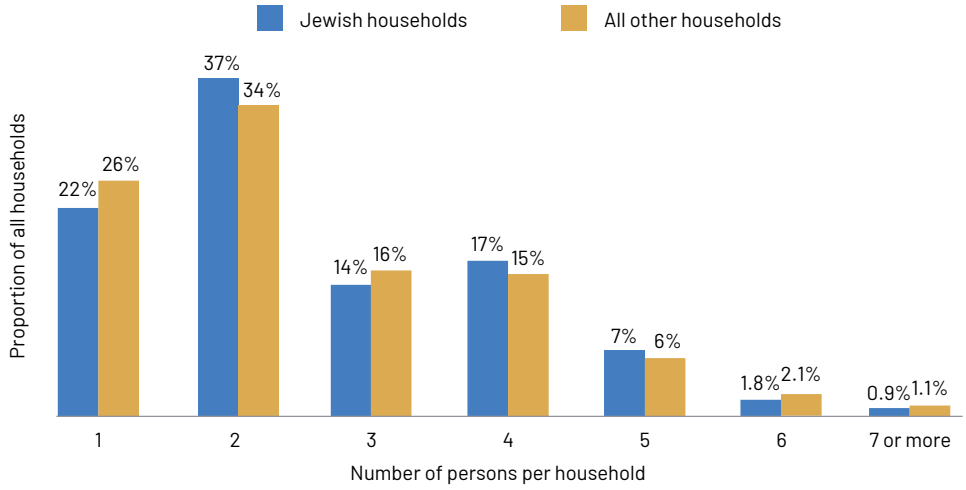
Figure 23. Jewish households by state and religious makeup (enumerated households), 2021



7.4 Average household size

Over one in three Jewish households (37%) comprise two people living together (not necessarily as a couple). Adding Jewish lone persons to this total and we find that six out of ten (59%) Jewish households comprise one or two people living together, the same proportion as in the general population (Figure 24).

Figure 24. Proportion of households by size, Jewish and all other households, Australia, 2021



The average size of Jewish households in Australia is 2.6 persons, the same as in the general population (Table 15). If we exclude lone person households, average size increases to 3.1 for both groups. The average size of Jewish households where all members are Jewish is 2.3 and it is 3.1 for multi-person all-Jewish households. The average household size of mixed Jewish households is 3.0 where a Jewish person lives with a person of No religion (or Not stated) and 3.1 where a Jewish person lives with someone reporting a non-Jewish religion.

Table 15. Average household size (persons per household) by household type, Australia, 2021

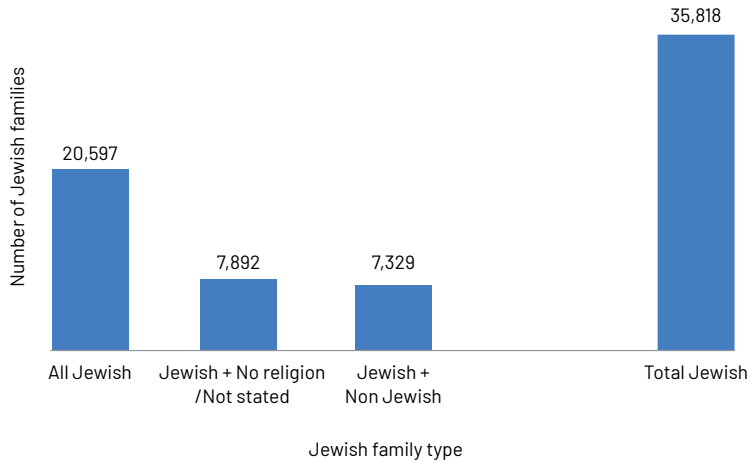
	Jewish household type				
	All Jewish	Jewish and no religion/ not stated	Jewish and other religion	Total Jewish	General population
All households	2.3	3.0	3.1	2.6	2.6
All households excluding lone person households	3.1	N/A	N/A	3.1	3.1

7.5 Jewish families

In the census a 'family' is a household in which two or more people live together who are related in some way, and if at least one of them reports Jewish in the census then we call this a Jewish family. In practice this means data on 'Jewish families' exclude Jewish lone person households and Jewish group households (where unrelated people share a dwelling). As with Jewish households, data on Jewish families are enumerated (unadjusted) (see Appendix 3).

There were 35,818 Jewish families in Australia in 2021 which is 0.53% of the 6.7 million families in total.
We identify three types of Jewish family in the census data: families where all the members are Jewish, families where at least one member was Jewish and all others stated No religion or Not stated and families where at least one member was Jewish and at least one other member was an Other religion (Figure 25).

Figure 25. Total number of Jewish families by religious makeup, Australia, 2021 (enumerated households)



Jewish families are more likely to consist of couples with no children present than in general (43% Jewish versus 39% general) (Table 16). But they are also slightly more likely to consist of couples with children present than in general (46% Jewish versus 44% general). That is mainly because Jews are far less likely to be in one parent families (10% v 16%).

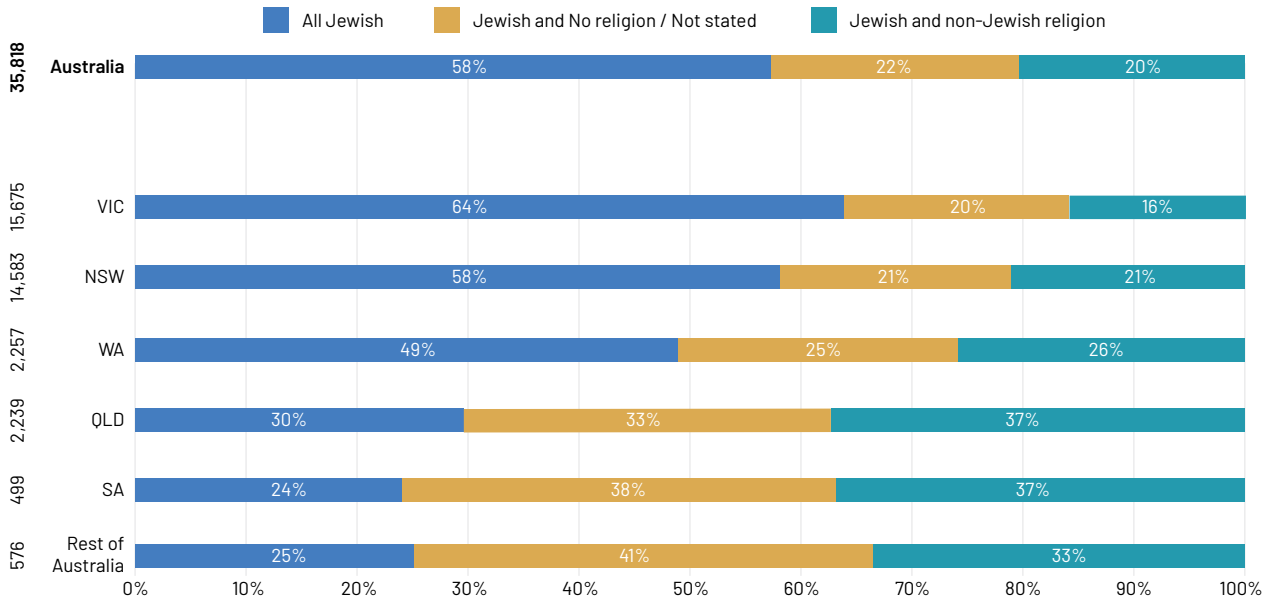
Table 16. Family composition, Jewish and all other families, Australia, 2021 (enumerated households)

	Total Jewish households (enumerated)	Percent of all Jewish families (N=35,818)	All other families % (N=6.7m)
Couple family with no children present	15,531	43%	39%
Couple family with children, none under 15	5,199	15%	14%
Couple family with children under 15	11,350	32%	30%
One parent family	3,424	10%	16%
Other family	313	<1%	2%
Total	**35,818**	**100%**	**100%**

7.6 Jewish families by state

Victoria has the largest number of Jewish families in Australia with 15,675 followed by NSW at 14,583. As with households (see Figure 23), Victoria also has the largest proportion of families in which all members are Jewish (64%) (Figure 26). In states with smaller Jewish populations this percentage is lower, for example it is just 30% in Queensland and 24% in South Australia. In these states the majority of Jewish families comprise Jews living with people who did not report Jewish.

Figure 26. Total number of Jewish families by state and religious makeup, Australia, 2021 (enumerated households)



7.7 Children in families

Jewish families in Australia are less likely to have children living at home than families in the general population (56% Jewish versus 60% general) (Table 17). However, Jewish families are just as likely to have dependent children* at home (46% Jewish versus 46% general). And they are slightly more likely to have three or more children, dependent or otherwise, living at home.

Table 17. Proportion of families with and without children living at home by religious family makeup, Australia, 2021 (enumerated households)

Number of families with:	All Jewish	Jewish + No Religion or Not Stated	Jewish + Other Religion	Jewish families	All other families
No children present	43%	45%	47%	44%	40%
At least one child (of any age) at home	57%	55%	53%	56%	60%
At least one dependent child* at home	47%	47%	44%	46%	46%
3 or more children (of any age) at home	15%	9%	9%	12%	11%
At least 3 or more dependent child* at home	13%	7%	7%	10%	9%
Total families	**20,597**	**7,892**	**7,329**	**35,818**	**6.7m**

* In the census, a dependent child is defined as any child under the age of 15 or, if older than 15, any child in school or a dependent student up to age 24

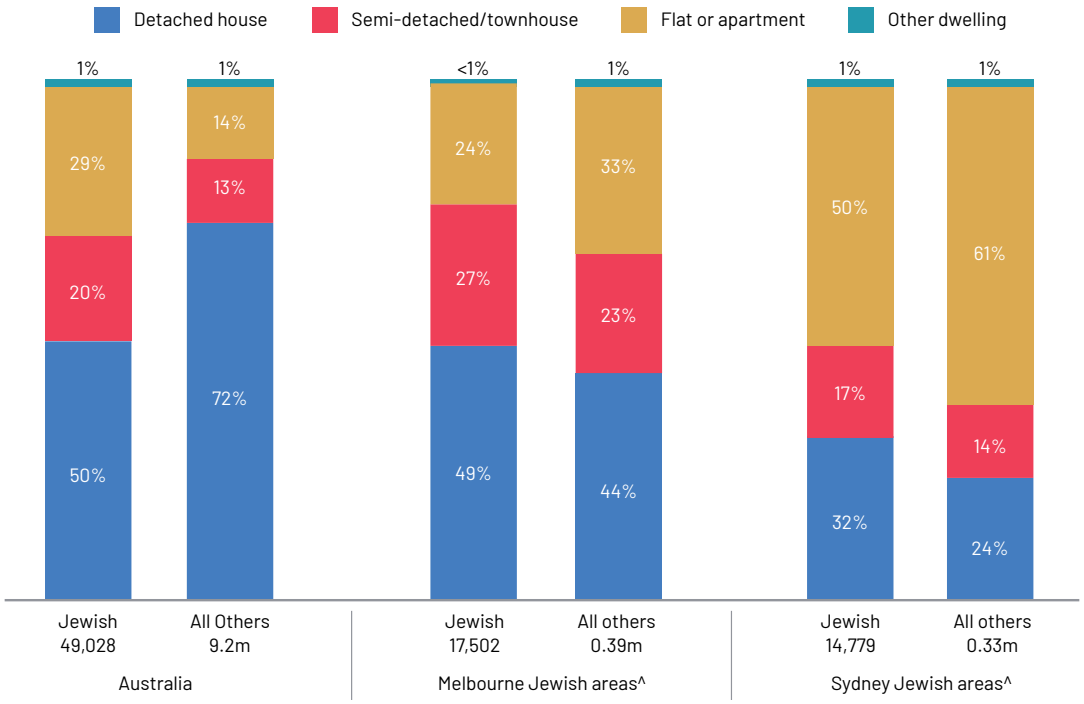
8 / Housing

Census data on Jewish households (including housing) are enumerated (i.e. unadjusted) as the adjustment procedure is only applicable to individuals rather than households (see Appendix 3).

8.1 Dwelling type

In 2021, Jews were more than twice as likely to live in flats and apartments as the general population (29% Jewish v 14% general) (Figure 27). Jews were also far more likely to live in semi-detached homes/townhouses (20%) than was generally the case (13%) but far less likely to live in detached homes (50% Jewish v 72% general). However, the type of housing that is available varies between urban and rural locations and Jews are more likely to live in urban locations than in general (see "Urban areas and Jewish neighbourhoods" on page 18). Indeed, when comparing like-for-like, in both Melbourne and Sydney, Jews are actually *more* likely than the general population to live in detached homes (Figure 27). This also shows differences between Melbourne and Sydney: half (49%) of Jews in Melbourne live in detached homes whereas half (50%) of Jews in Sydney live in flats. This is due to housing costs being lower on average in the Jewish areas of Melbourne than in the Jewish areas of Sydney.

Figure 27. Housing type for Jewish households and households in the general population, Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, 2021* (enumerated households)



* Excludes Not stated and Other dwelling

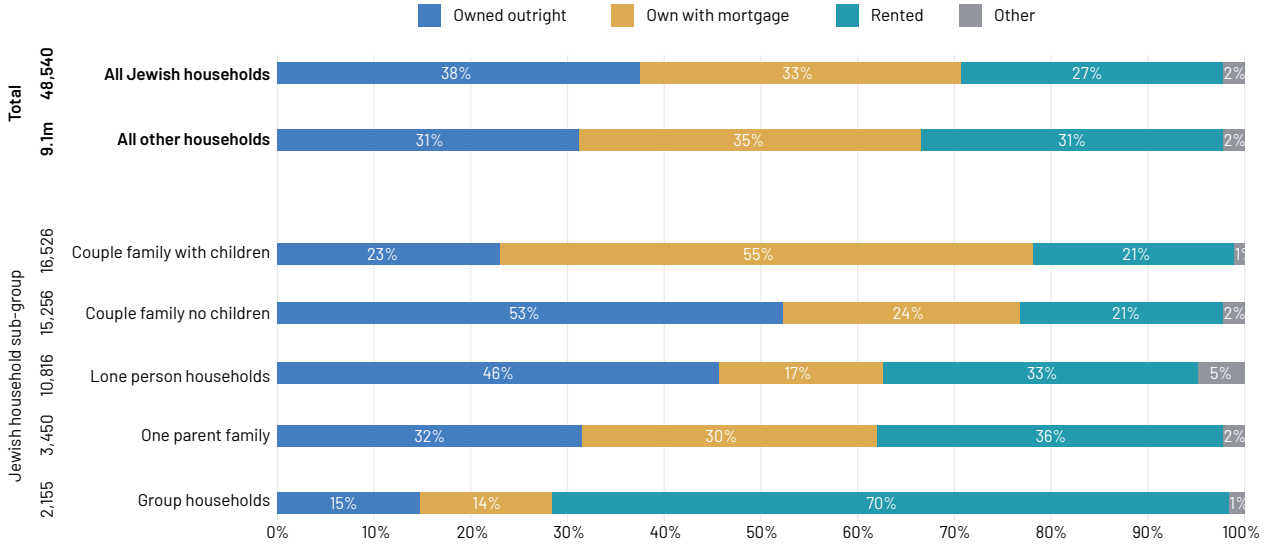
^ Jewish areas are based on SA3 boundaries. Sydney = Botany, Sydney Inner City, Eastern Suburbs – North, Eastern Suburbs – South, Chatswood – Lane Cove, Ku-ring-gai, North Sydney – Mosman. Melbourne = Port Phillip, Stonnington – West, Yarra, Boroondara, Bayside, Glenn Eira, Kingston, Stonnington – East, Monash

8.2 Home ownership

Jews are more likely to own their homes outright than people in the general population (38% versus 31% respectively), a reflection of an older Jewish age structure (since older people have had more time to pay off their mortgages) and of greater wealth in the Jewish population. And Jews are less likely to rent their home than is generally the case (27% Jewish v 31% general) (Figure 28).

Within the Jewish population, couples without children present are most likely to own their homes outright with over half doing so (53%); where children are present, 55% of families have mortgages. By contrast, seven out of ten (70%) Jewish group householders rented, and many of these will have been younger people sharing a home.

Figure 28. Type of household ownership by household composition, Australia, 2021* (enumerated households)

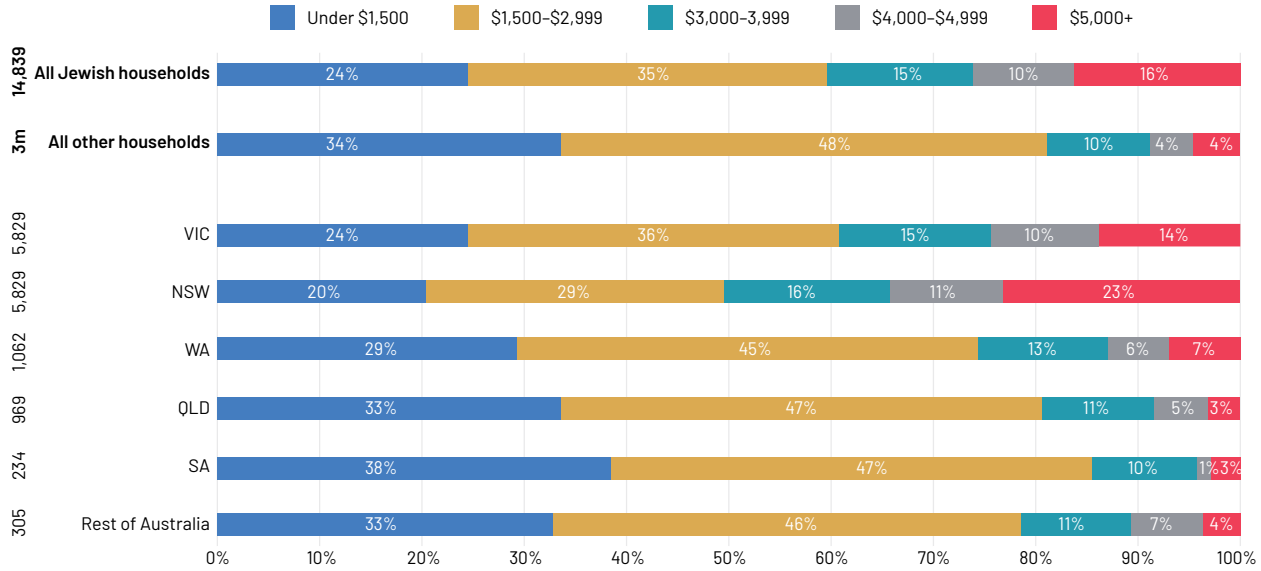


* Excludes Not stated

Among households owned with a mortgage, Jewish mortgagees in Australia have far higher repayments than other mortgagees. For example, 41% of Jewish homes owned with a mortgage incur monthly repayments of at least $3,000 compared with 19% generally. Jews are four times more likely to have repayments of $5,000 or more than in general (16% v 4%) (Figure 29).

Among mortgagees within the Jewish population, householders in NSW have the highest monthly costs with 51% paying $3,000 or more per month and those in South Australia having the lowest repayments with 15% at this level.

Figure 29. Monthly mortgage repayments* for Jewish households by state and all other households in Australia, 2021^ (enumerated households)

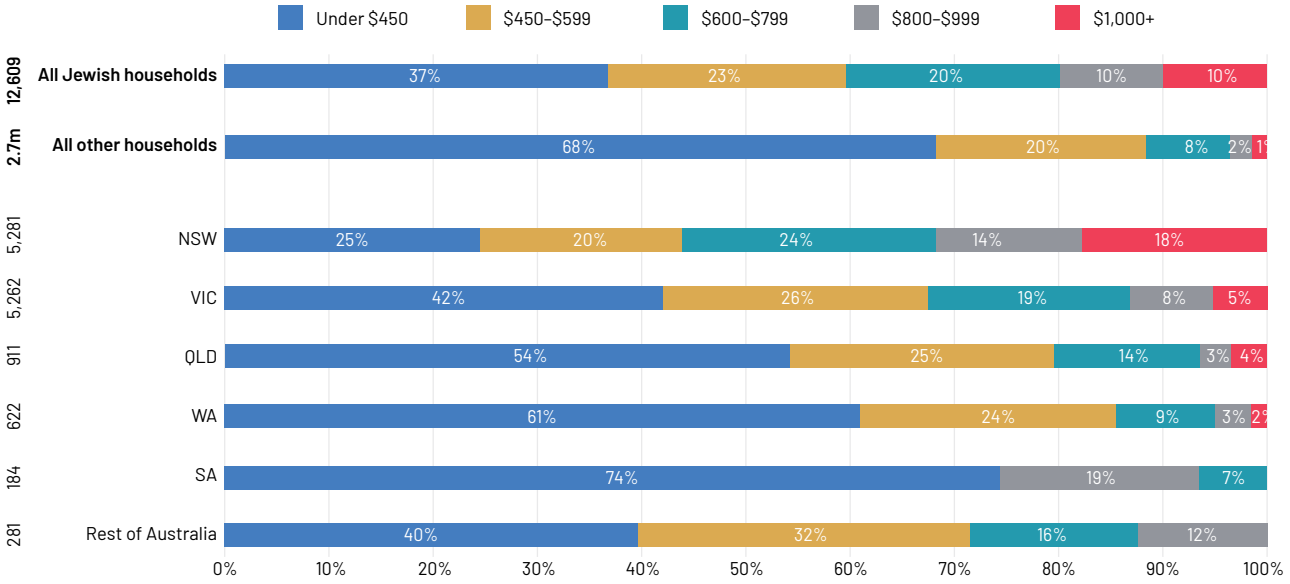


* Excludes Not stated and Not applicable

^ These data record the amount of money spent monthly on mortgage repayments. They do not take into account whether there is any capital repayment component (which can be regarded as savings rather than an expense) versus the interest component.

For Jewish households who rent, payments are also considerably higher than general. 40% of Jewish renters were paying $600 or more per week compared with 11% generally (Figure 30). Within the Jewish population, renters in NSW experienced the greatest rental costs with 56% paying $600 or more per week compared with 7% of renters in South Australia.

Figure 30. Weekly rental repayments* for Jewish households by state and all other households in Australia, 2021 (enumerated households)



* Excludes Not stated and Not applicable

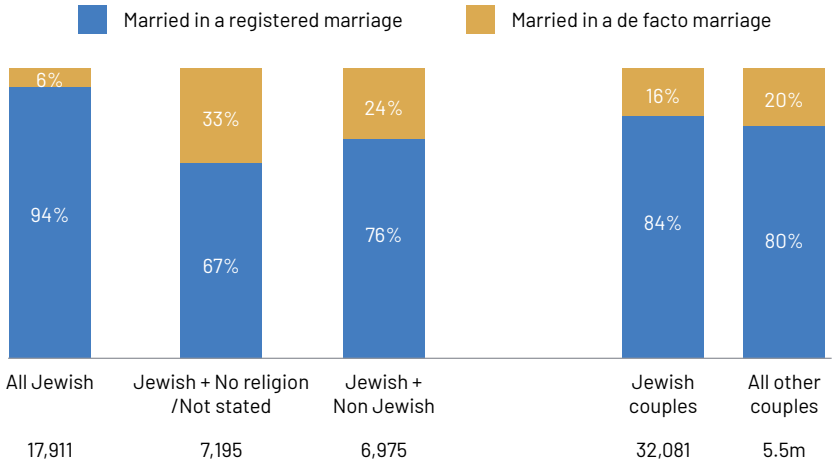
9 / Jewish couples

The following census data on Jewish households (including Jewish couples) are enumerated (i.e. unadjusted) as the adjustment procedure is only applicable to individuals rather than households (see Appendix 3).

9.1 Marital status

The 2021 Census enumerated 32,081 couples (married or de facto) in which at least one person reported Jewish. These Jewish couples were more likely to be married than couples in the general population (84% Jewish v 80% general) (Figure 31). But *within* the Jewish population there were important variations based on religious family type. When both partners are Jewish almost all couples are married (94%), illustrating how the traditional institution of marriage remains particularly strong among endogamous Jewish families. However, when this is not the case, we see among couples where one partner is Jewish and the other partner has an Other religion (mostly Christian), a quarter of couples are de facto and where the other partner has No religion (or Not stated) a third of couples are de facto.

Figure 31. Social Marital Status of Family Reference Person for couples in the Jewish and general population and by Jewish family type, Australia, 2021 (enumerated data)



Australian Jewish householders are more likely to be currently married (56%) than all other householders (48%) (Table 18). On the other hand, Jewish householders are less likely to be Never married (20% versus 26%). There is relatively little difference between the two populations in terms of householders being currently divorced or widowed, although Jewish householders are less likely to be separated.

Within the Jewish population, when all household members are Jewish, Jewish householders are far more likely to be divorced, separated, or widowed than in households where not all members reported Jewish.

Table 18. Registered marital status of household reference person, by religious household type, Jewish household and all other households, Australia, 2021 (enumerated households)

	Households				
Marital Status	**All Jewish**	**Jewish + No Religion or Not Stated**	**Jewish + Other Religion**	**All Jewish Households**	**All Other Households**
Married	53%	55%	65%	56%	48%
Divorced	15%	9%	10%	13%	13%
Separated	4%	3%	3%	3%	5%
Widowed	11%	2%	2%	8%	8%
Never married	17%	32%	21%	20%	26%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
Total households	**31,542**	**9,017**	**8,481**	**49,040**	**9.2m**

9.2 Same-sex couples (enumerated data)

There were 634 Jewish same-sex couples in Australia in 2021. This is 2.0% of all Jewish families in the country compared with 1.4% generally. In 16% of the Jewish same-sex couples both partners were Jewish, in 53% one partner was Jewish and one partner was No religion (or religion not stated) and in 30% one partner was Jewish and one partner had an Other religion (mostly Christian).

Overall, in 52% of these couples both partners were male and in 48% both partners female. Over a third (35%) of all-female Jewish same-sex couples had children present compared with just 12% of all-male Jewish same-sex couples.

10 / Intermarriage

The following census data on Jewish intermarriage are enumerated (i.e. unadjusted) as the adjustment procedure is only applicable to individuals rather than households (see Appendix 3). However, anyone who wrote in their ancestry as Jewish in the census but reported their religion as No religion or Not stated are included as Jewish in these data.[18]

10.1 Intermarriage by religion of partner and partnership type

In 2021, 52,435 Jewish people in Australia were living in a partnership, either married or de facto. Setting aside 377 Jewish people whose partner did not report a religion, seven out of ten (70%) of these partnered Jews had a Jewish partner, 16% had a partner who reported No religion and one in seven (14%) had a partner who reported Other religion (mainly Christian) (Table 19). Thus, 30% of all Jews living in a couple in Australia had a partner who did not report Jewish by religion or by ancestry in the 2021 Census.[19]

Examining the data in terms of *couples* (as opposed to individuals) in which at least one partner was Jewish, there were 34,185 such couples in 2021 of which 377 included a partner did not respond to the religion question. In just over half of these couples (54%) both partners were Jewish, in a quarter (25%) one partner was Jewish and one was No religion and in 21% one partner was Jewish and one partner had an Other religion.

While the majority of partnered Jews in Australia are married (87.5%), the proportion in de facto partnerships has been steadily rising from 7.4% in 2001 to 12.5% on 2021. Compared with married Jews, those in de facto partnerships were more than twice as likely to have a partner with an Other religion (25.3% de facto versus 12.1% married) and more than three times as likely to have a partner with No religion (42.3% de facto versus 25.3% married) (Table 19).

Table 19. Religion of partner for Jewish individuals by partnership status*, Australia, 2021

Religion of partner	Married	De facto	All partnered Jews
Jewish	75.5%	32.3%	70.1%
No religion	12.4%	42.3%	16.1%
Other religion	12.1%	25.3%	13.8%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
No religion + Other religion	24.5%	67.7%	29.9%
Number of Jews in a couple (enumerated)	45,534	6,519	52,058

* excluding Jews whose partner who did not state a religion

The proportion of married Jews who are in-married has been steadily declining over time. In 2001, 83.3% of married Jews had a Jewish spouse compared with 75.5% in 2021. Meanwhile, the proportion of married Jews with a spouse reporting No religion has been climbing from 4.8% in 2001 to 12.4% in 2021 (Table 20). And for the first time, in 2021 the number of married Jews with a spouse who reported No religion was larger than the number with a spouse reporting a non-Jewish religion (such as Christian).

18 A total of 3,980 people were enumerated with Jewish ancestry and No religion or Not stated religion. This is 7.6% of all Jews in partnerships.

19 The data exclude Jewish people in a partnership whose partner was temporarily away from home on census night. They also exclude Jews in same-sex couples (due to small counts).

Table 20. Religion of spouse for married Jewish individuals, Australia, 2001 to 2021^

	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021
Jewish	83.3%	82.3%	80.3%	78.5%	75.5%
No religion	4.8%	5.4%	7.0%	9.3%	12.4%
Other religion*	11.9%	12.3%	12.7%	12.2%	12.1%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
No religion + Other religion	16.7%	17.7%	19.7%	21.5%	24.5%
Number of married Jews (enumerated)	37,653	39,228	43,486	44,124*	45,534

* 2016 data are interpolated (see Glossary)

^ excluding married Jews whose spouse who did not state a religion

The differences between Jewish men and Jewish women in terms of the religion of their spouses are relatively small. Married Jewish women are slightly more likely to have a Jewish spouse than married Jewish men (76% women v 74% men) (Table 21). Jewish men are more likely to have a Christian wife, but Jewish women are more likely to have a husband with No religion, both of which are due to preferences in the general population rather than of Jews themselves.

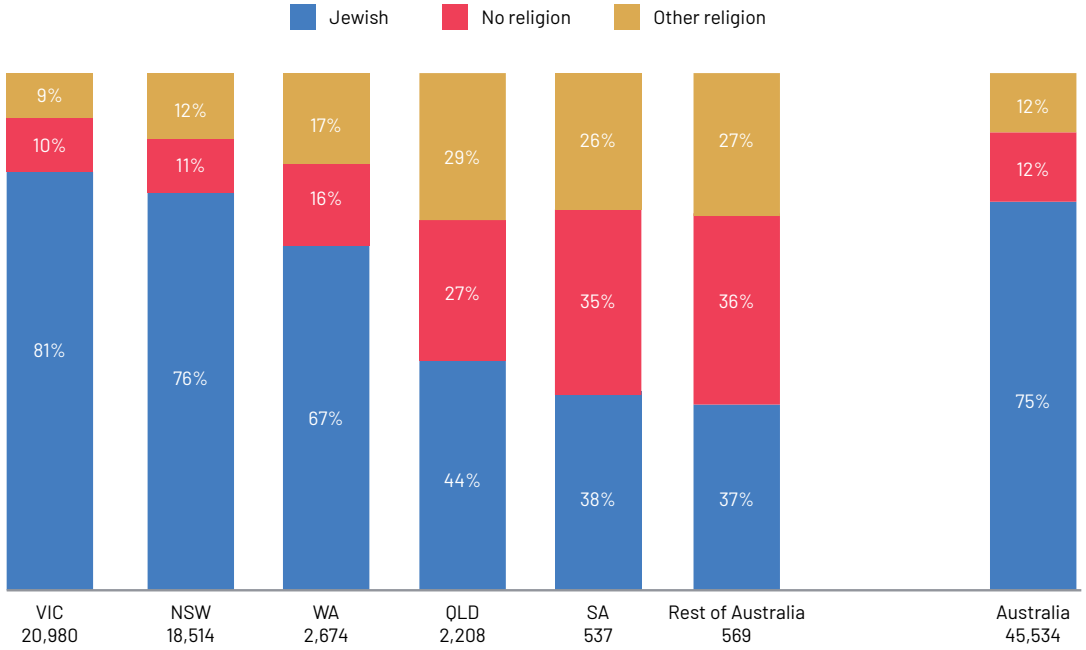
Table 21. Religion of spouse for married Jewish individuals by sex, Australia, 2021

	Jewish male: religion of wife	Jewish female: religion of husband	All married Jews
Jewish	73.9%	76.1%	75.0%
Christian	12.4%	8.8%	10.6%
Other religion	1.6%	1.2%	1.4%
No religion	11.4%	13.3%	12.3%
Not stated	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
Number of married Jews (enumerated)	23,249	22,570	45,819

10.2 Intermarriage by location

There is a close relationship between location and intermarriage. Jews who live in places with large Jewish populations are more likely to be in-married than those who live in places with smaller Jewish populations. Hence, in Victoria, which has the largest Jewish population in Australia, 81% of married Jews had a Jewish spouse, whereas in the combined total for those living in ACT, Tasmania and Northern Territory (Rest of Australia), places with small Jewish populations, this was the case for 37% of all married Jews (Figure 32).

Figure 32. Religion of spouse for all married Jewish individuals by state, Australia, 2021*



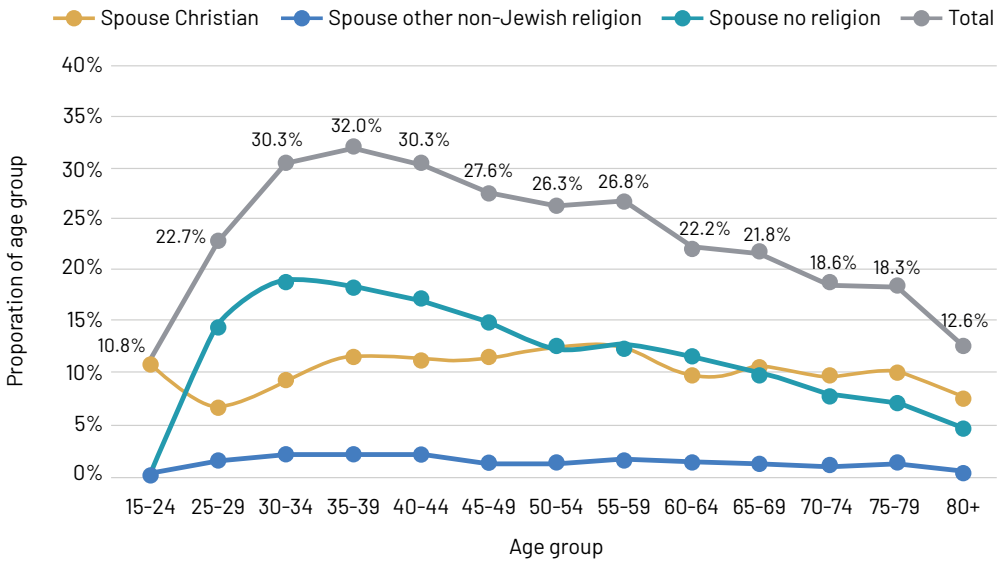
* excluding married Jews whose spouse who did not state a religion

10.3 Intermarriage by age

The likelihood of a Jewish person having a non-Jewish spouse is also related to their age although the relationship is not simple. In general, the younger people are, the more likely it is their spouse does not report being Jewish. However, Jews who marry in their teens or early twenties tend to be more religious than those who marry at a later age and more religious Jews tend to marry other Jews. Hence in Figure 33, the curve initially starts at young ages with low levels of intermarriage (11%), rises rapidly to peak in the late thirties with the highest levels of intermarriage (32%), and gradually declines thereafter so that the oldest married Jews (aged 80+) have intermarriage levels of 13%. That is because most Jews who marry today are less likely than their parents to marry other Jews.

Also of note is the changing religious status of the non-Jewish spouse over time. The non-Jewish spouse is more likely to be Christian among intermarried Jews aged 70 and above but more likely to be No religion among intermarried Jews aged 25 to 50. As discussed above, that is because of the trend in wider Australian society for people to switch from reporting Christian to reporting No religion in the census.

Figure 33. Age of married Jewish individuals by religion of non-Jewish spouse, Australia, 2021*



* excluding Jews with spouses who did not state a religion

10.4 Religion of children of intermarried families

The likelihood of a child being raised Jewish not only depends on the religion of the parents but also the sex of the non-Jewish parent. In the census we can use the religion reported for the youngest dependent child as a proxy for the religion in which all the children in a family are being raised. In doing so we find that when both parents are Jewish, 97% of families raise their children as Jewish (Table 22). When the mother is Jewish but the father has No religion, 48% of families respectively raise their children as Jewish. By contrast, when the father is Jewish but the mother has an Other religion (mainly Christian) the proportion falls 13%. This trend is common and reflects a reality whereby mothers tend have a greater influence on the religious identity of their children than fathers.

Table 22. Religion of youngest dependent child by religion of parents, married couple families, 2021

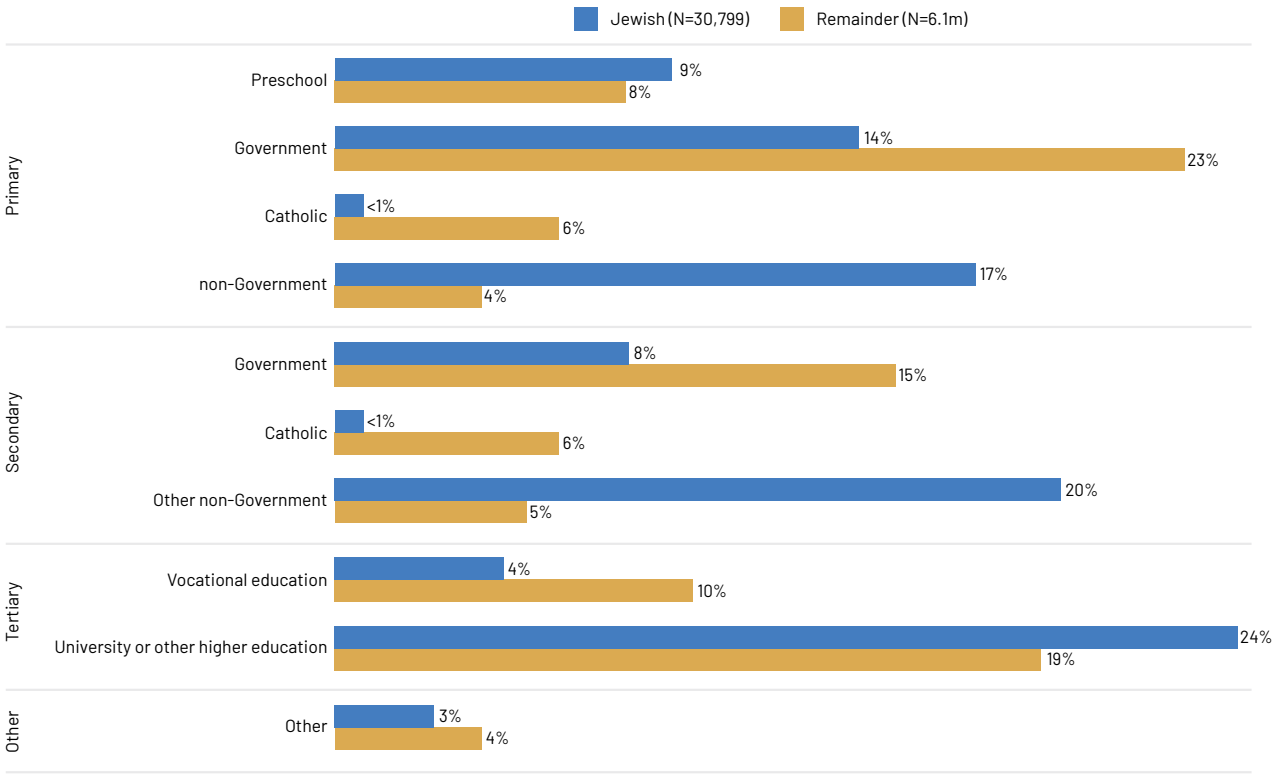
Religion of parents		% Youngest child reported as Jewish	Number of married couples
Both mother and father Jewish		97%	7,855
Mother Jewish	Father No religion	48%	1,582
	Father Other religion	46%	1,103
Father Jewish	Mother No religion	17%	1,369
	Mother Other religion	13%	1,512

11 / Education and qualifications

11.1 Educational institutions

In 2021, an estimated 30,779 Jews attended an educational institution in Australia. Of these, a third (32%) were in primary school, 28% were in secondary school and almost a quarter (24%) attended university. 38% of Jewish pupils attended a private (non-government) school compared with 22% of all others (including Catholic schools)[20] (Figure 34).

Figure 34. Type of educational institution attended, Jewish versus all others, Australia, 2021



In Australia in 2021, an estimated 18,289 Jewish children attended school, an increase of 12% over the 2011 to 2021 decade (Table 23). However, that increase took place mainly in the secondary sector which grew by 19% compared with a fairly modest increase of 6% in the primary sector. This is a product of the demographic structure of the Jewish population as a relatively large cohort of Jewish children moved from primary age to secondary age in the decade (see Figure 11 on page 24). Changes within each sector are also notable. The primary public sector grew by 18% in this period but the primary private sector *contracted* by 3%. Meanwhile, at the secondary level there was growth in both the public sector (up 39%) and the private sector (up 13%).

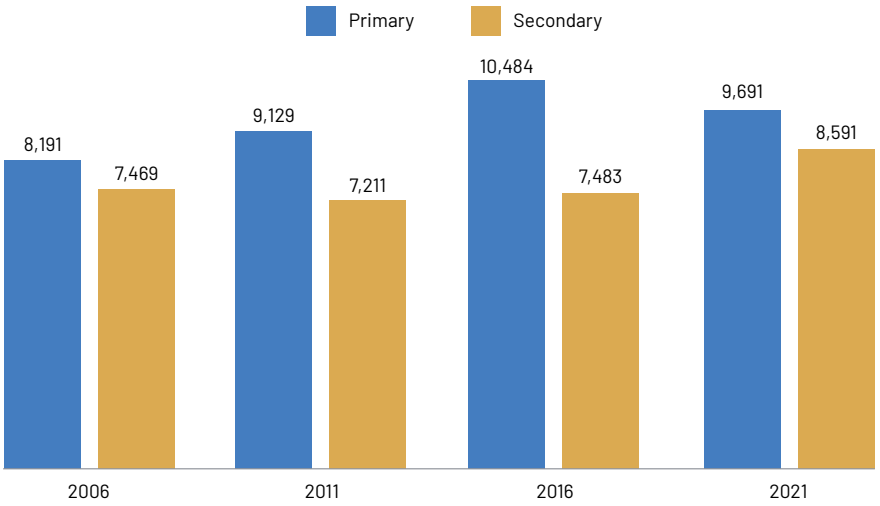
20 In Australia, Catholic schools are private but they tend to be heavily subsidised by the Catholic Church making them far less expensive than Jewish schools which are comparable in price to most other (non-Catholic) private schools. Not all Jewish pupils in the non-government sector attend Jewish schools.

Table 23. Estimated number of Jewish students by type of educational institution, Australia, 2011 and 2021

Institution		2011	2021	% change 2011 to 2021
Pre-school		2,761	2,777	1%
Primary	Government	3,630	4,302	18%
	Catholic	52	101	93%
	Non-Government	5,438	5,297	-3%
Primary total		**9,121**	**9,700**	**6%**
Secondary	Government	1,732	2,409	39%
	Catholic	118	157	33%
	Non-Government	5,351	6,023	13%
Secondary total		**7,200**	**8,589**	**19%**
Primary and secondary total		**16,321**	**18,289**	**12%**
Tertiary (University/TAFE)		8,597	8,858	3%

Looking further back in time we see that the number of Jewish pupils attending primary school (public or private) steadily increased between 2006 and 2016 and declined thereafter (Figure 35). Again, this is a reflection of the 'baked in' demographic structure of the population. It is replicated at the secondary school level, albeit with a five-year delay. The size of the Jewish population attending secondary school (public or private) was fairly stable between 2006 and 2016 but increased notably thereafter, a reflection of the movement of the peak in the primary level in 2016 ageing and moving into the secondary level in the 2021 data.

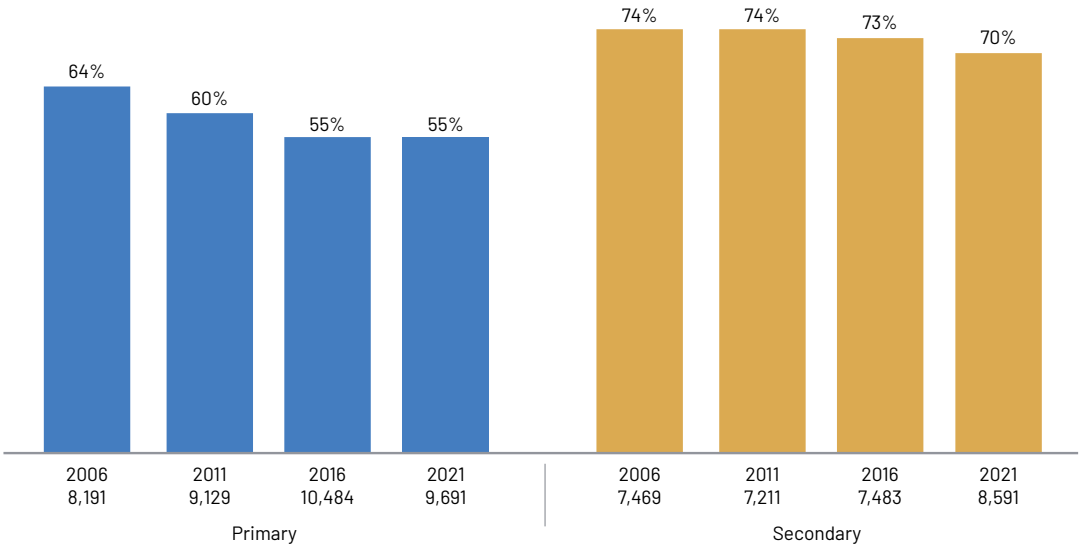
Figure 35. Estimated number of Jewish school pupils by school stage, 2006-2021, Australia



While Figure 35 shows that there are fewer Jewish pupils at secondary level than at primary level, Figure 36 shows that the proportion of Jewish pupils attending private (non-government) schools, which includes Jewish schools, is much higher at the secondary level (70%) than the primary level (55%).

It also shows that the proportion attending private primary schools declined from 64% in 2006 to 55% in 2016 and 2021. A slight decline is also seen at the secondary level from 2011 onwards.

Figure 36. Proportion of Jewish school pupils attending private (non-government) schools, 2006 to 2021, Australia (estimated data)



In Table 24 we show data on the estimated size of the Jewish population attending educational institutions by state and how this changed over the 2011 to 2021 decade.

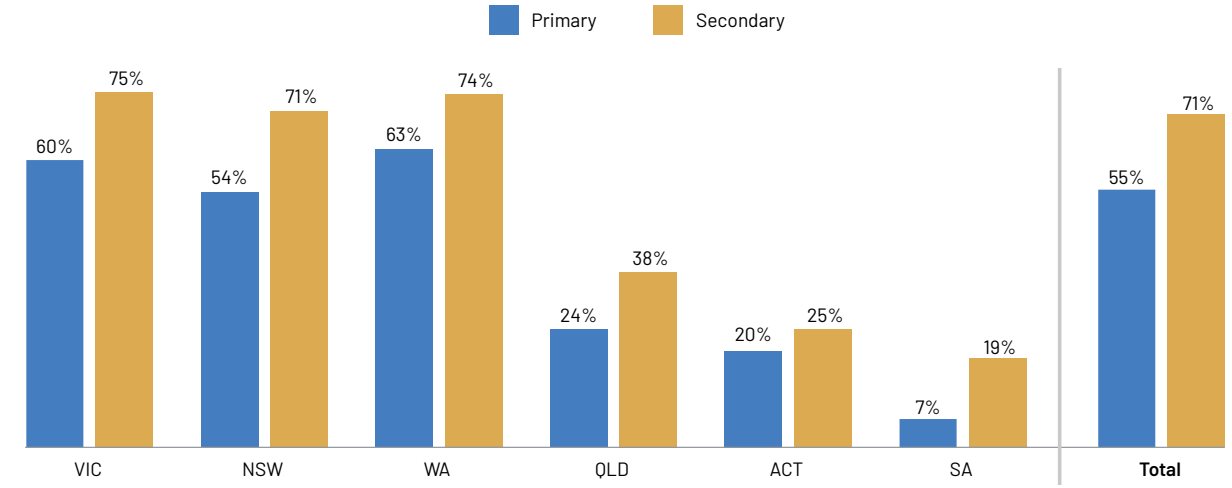
Western Australia was the only place that experienced a contraction in the size of the Jewish cohort attending educational institutions in this period.

Table 24. Estimated number of Jews attending educational institutions by stage and state, 2011 and 2021

	Year	Preschool	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Victoria	2021	1,451	4,766	4,161	4,091
	2011	1,369	4,420	3,406	3,870
NSW	2021	1,084	3,812	3,429	3,425
	2011	1,188	3,624	2,947	3,377
Western Australia	2021	98	445	417	538
	2011	116	543	380	590
Queensland	2021	87	337	283	455
	2011	56	314	264	453
ACT	2021	27	95	66	173
	2011	17	63	38	106
South Australia	2021	19	106	62	117
	2011	15	81	45	133
TAS and NT	2021	<10	34	16	61
	2011	<10	25	<10	49

In all states, Jewish school children are more likely to attend private (non-government) schools at the secondary level than at the primary level. Attendance at private primary schools is most likely in Western Australia (63%) and attendance at private schools at the secondary level is most likely in Victoria (75%) (Figure 37). The likelihood of attending private schools in Queensland, ACT, and South Australia is far lower.

Figure 37. Proportion of Jewish pupils attending private (non-government) schools* at the Primary and Secondary level, by state, 2021

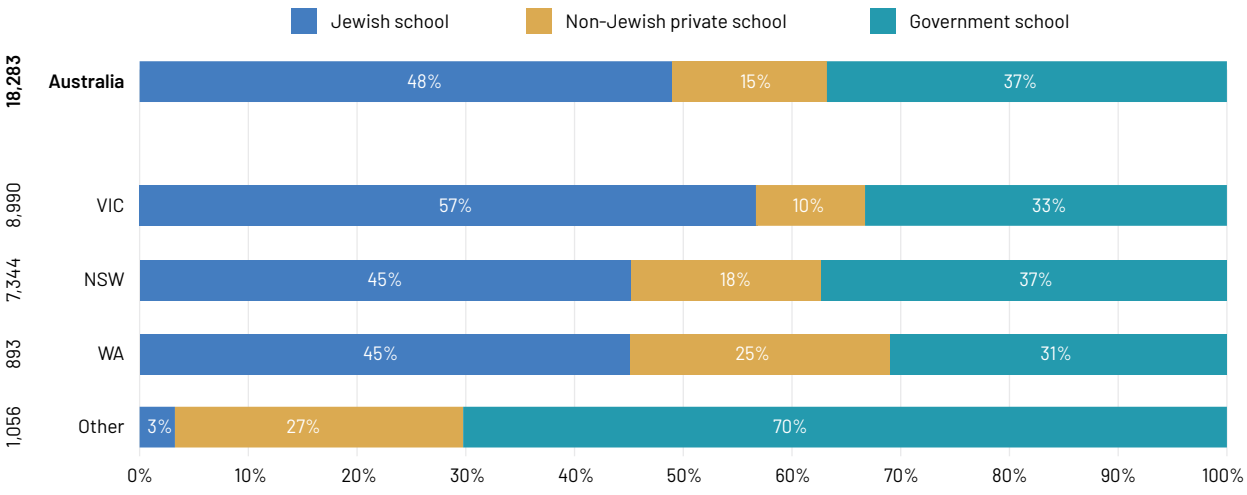


* including Jewish and non-Jewish schools but excluding Catholic schools

The census does not indicate whether the non-government school attended was a Jewish school, but these data are available from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority.[21] They show that 8,830 children were enrolled in Jewish schools in 2021 across Australia, of which 58% were in Victoria and 37% were in NSW. While not all these children were Jewish, the vast majority would have been.

The data indicate that about 48% of Jewish pupils attend Jewish schools in Australia (Figure 38). The proportion is highest in Victoria (57%) followed by NSW (45%). Jewish pupils are most likely to attend non-Jewish private schools (27%) and government schools (70%) outside of these three Jewish population centres.

Figure 38. Proportion of Jewish pupils attending Jewish schools by state, 2021* (estimated data)

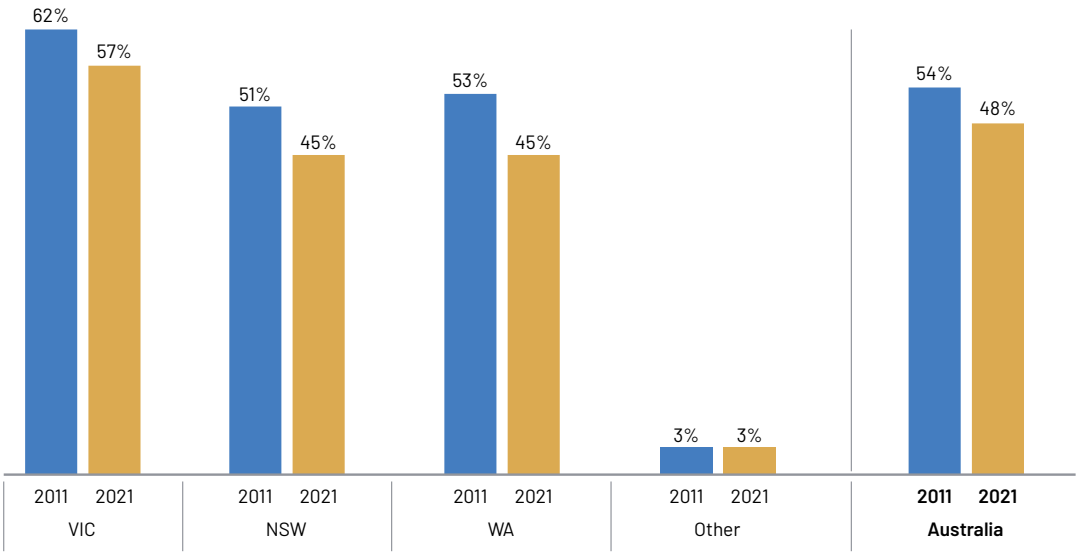


* Data on Jewish schools sourced from JCA (NSW) and ACARA (all other states). Population counts are from the 2021 Census (estimated)

21 Data for NSW were sourced from JCA. Data for all other states are from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) via https://www.myschool.edu.au/. While ACARA provides data on the size of the pupil population in schools identified as being Jewish, it does not provide data on the religion of pupils.

The proportion of Jewish children attending Jewish schools in Australia declined from 54% in 2011 to 48% in 2021. This decline was experienced in all large states (Figure 39). For example, in Victoria, 62% of Jewish children attended Jewish schools in 2011 compared with 57% in 2021.

Figure 39. Proportion of Jewish pupils attending Jewish schools by state, 2011 and 2021*

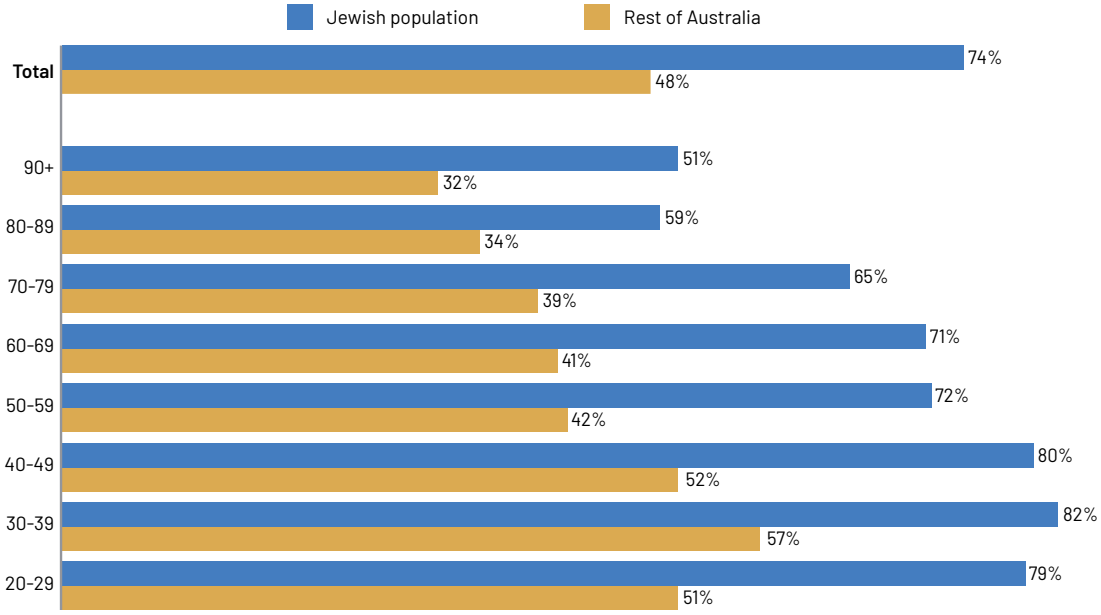


* Data on Jewish schools sourced from JCA (NSW) and ACARA (all other states). Population counts are from the 2021 Census (estimated)

11.2 Qualifications

Overall, three out of four (74%) Jews in Australia (aged 15 and above) have a bachelor degree or higher compared with less than half (48%) generally (Figure 40). However, educational attainment is a product of several factors including ability, culture, and opportunity. This is most obviously the case in terms of age since the opportunity to study beyond compulsory school age has increased over time. In general, the younger a person is, the more likely they are to have achieved a degree level qualification. Jews are almost three times as likely to hold a PhD: 4.9% v 1.8% for the rest of the population.

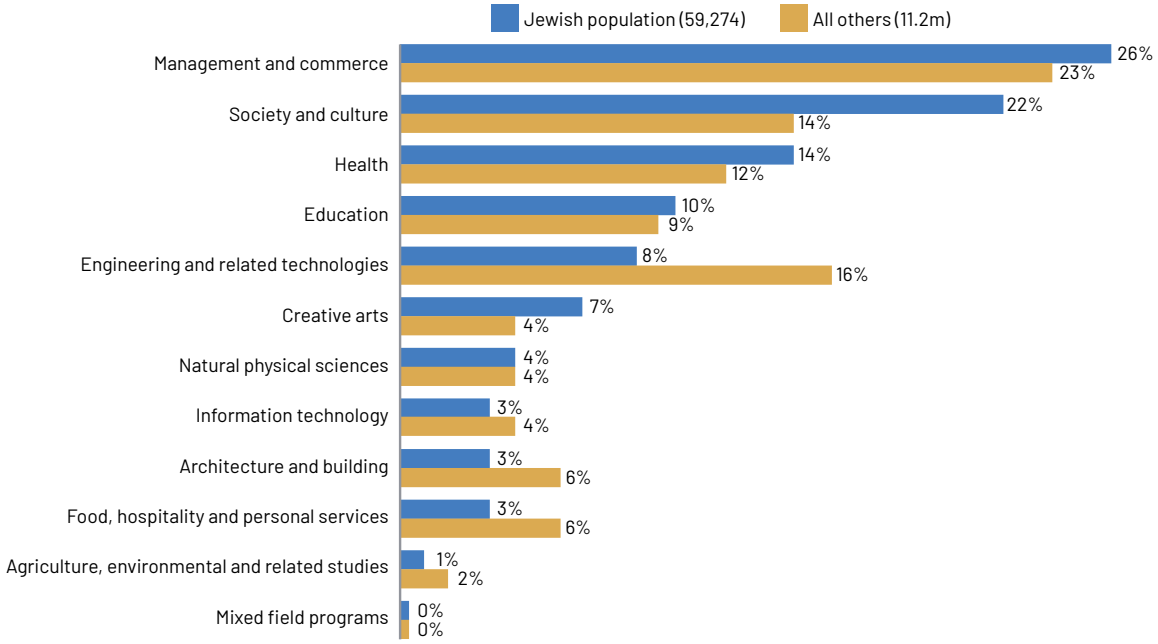
Figure 40. Proportion of people with degree level qualifications and above* by age, Jewish population versus Rest of Australia, 2021



* Based on highest completed non-school qualification. Higher level qualifications = Bachelor Degree or Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate or Postgraduate Degree. Proportions are based on each age group excluding inadequately described, not stated and not applicable.

In terms of type of qualifications achieved, Jews were most likely to have qualifications in 'Management and Commerce' (26%) but compared with the general population, they were far more likely to have qualifications in 'Society and Culture' (22%) but far less likely to have them in 'Engineering and Related Technologies' (Figure 41).

Figure 41. Non-school qualifications by field of study, Jewish population, (aged 15 and above) Australia, 2021*



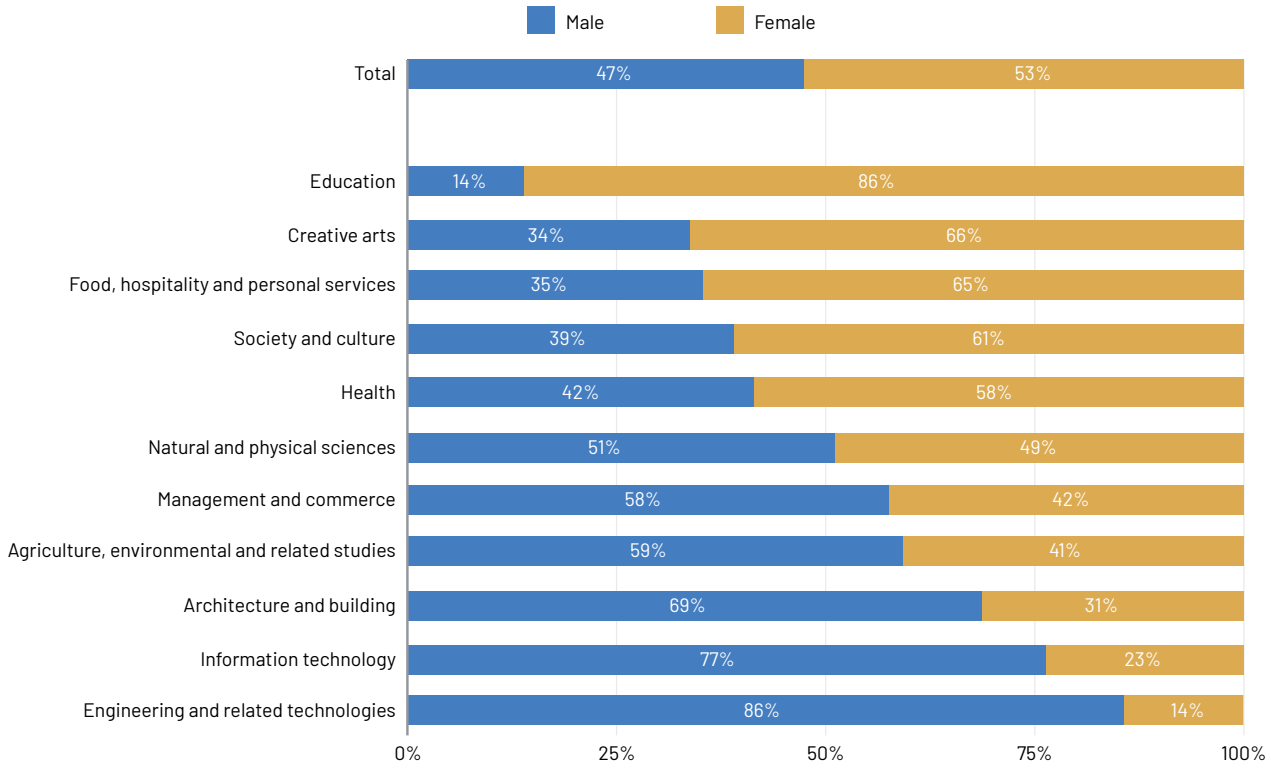
Looking at qualifications in more detail we see that Jews in Australia are most likely to have a qualification in law (6.2%), followed by accounting (6.2%). By contrast, the most common non-school qualification in the general population is business and management (5.1%) and general nursing (4.8%) the latter not even appearing in the Jewish top 10 list (Table 25).

Table 25. Top 10 non-school qualifications by detailed field of study, Jews and the general population (aged 15 and above), Australia, 2021

Jewish population		All others	
Law	6.24%	Business and Management	5.1%
Accounting	6.17%	General Nursing	4.8%
Business and Management	4.2%	Accounting	4.7%
Teacher Education	3.6%	Engineering and Related Technologies	3.3%
Psychology	3.5%	Teacher Education	2.8%
General Medicine	3.2%	Information Technology	2.7%
Management and Commerce	3.1%	Business Management	2.5%
Engineering and Related Technologies	2.6%	Hospitality	2.0%
Business Management	2.1%	Teacher Education: Primary	1.6%
Marketing	2.0%	Law	1.5%

Like all groups, the fields in which Jews are qualified are highly stratified by sex. For example, while Jewish women make up 52% of the population (aged 15 and above), they constitute 86% of Jews with qualifications in education (Figure 42). By contrast, they constitute 23% of Jews with IT qualifications and just 14% of Jews with engineering qualifications.

Figure 42. Field of non-school qualifications by sex, Jewish population, (aged 15 and above) Australia, 2021



12 / Employment

12.1 Employment status

In terms of employment, the Jewish and general populations aged 15 and above in Australia look quite similar, at least from a very general perspective. One in three (34%) Jews was employed full-time, similar to the general population (36%). One in four (24%) Jews was employed part-time, a slightly higher proportion than in general (20%). And in both groups, over a third were not in the labour force^ (36% and 35% respectively) (Table 26).

But the nature of economic activity is very different when examined in terms of sex. Among Jews, 45% of males were employed full-time compared with only 24% of Jewish females. By contrast, Jewish men were far less likely to work in part-time roles than Jewish women (18% versus 29% respectively). And Jewish women are also far more likely than Jewish men to be outside the labour force: 41% v 30% for males.

Table 26. Labour force status*, Jewish and general population, age 15 and above, by sex, Australia, 2021 (estimated)

	Jewish population	General population	Jewish population		General population	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
Employed, full-time	34%	36%	45%	24%	46%	27%
Employed, part-time	24%	20%	18%	29%	15%	26%
Employed, away from work	4%	5%	3%	4%	5%	5%
Unemployed	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%
Not in the labour force^	36%	35%	30%	41%	31%	39%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
Population total	95,792	19.5m	45,714	50,078	9.5m	10m

* Excludes Not stated and Not applicable

^ This includes persons who were 'keeping house (unpaid)', retired, voluntarily inactive, and permanently unable to work

Jews were twice as likely as the general population to be self-employed ('owner managers') (31% versus 15% respectively). Conversely, only 69% of Jews were employees, compared with 85% in the general population (Table 27). But within the Jewish population, men were far more likely to be self-employed as women (37% v 23% for females).

Table 27. Employment status*, Jewish and general population, age 15 and above, by sex, Australia, 2021 (estimated)

	Jewish population	General population	Jewish population	
			Male	Female
Employee	69%	85%	63%	77%
Owner manager^	31%	15%	37%	23%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
Population total	58,903	11.9m	30,352	28,551

* Excludes Not stated and Not applicable

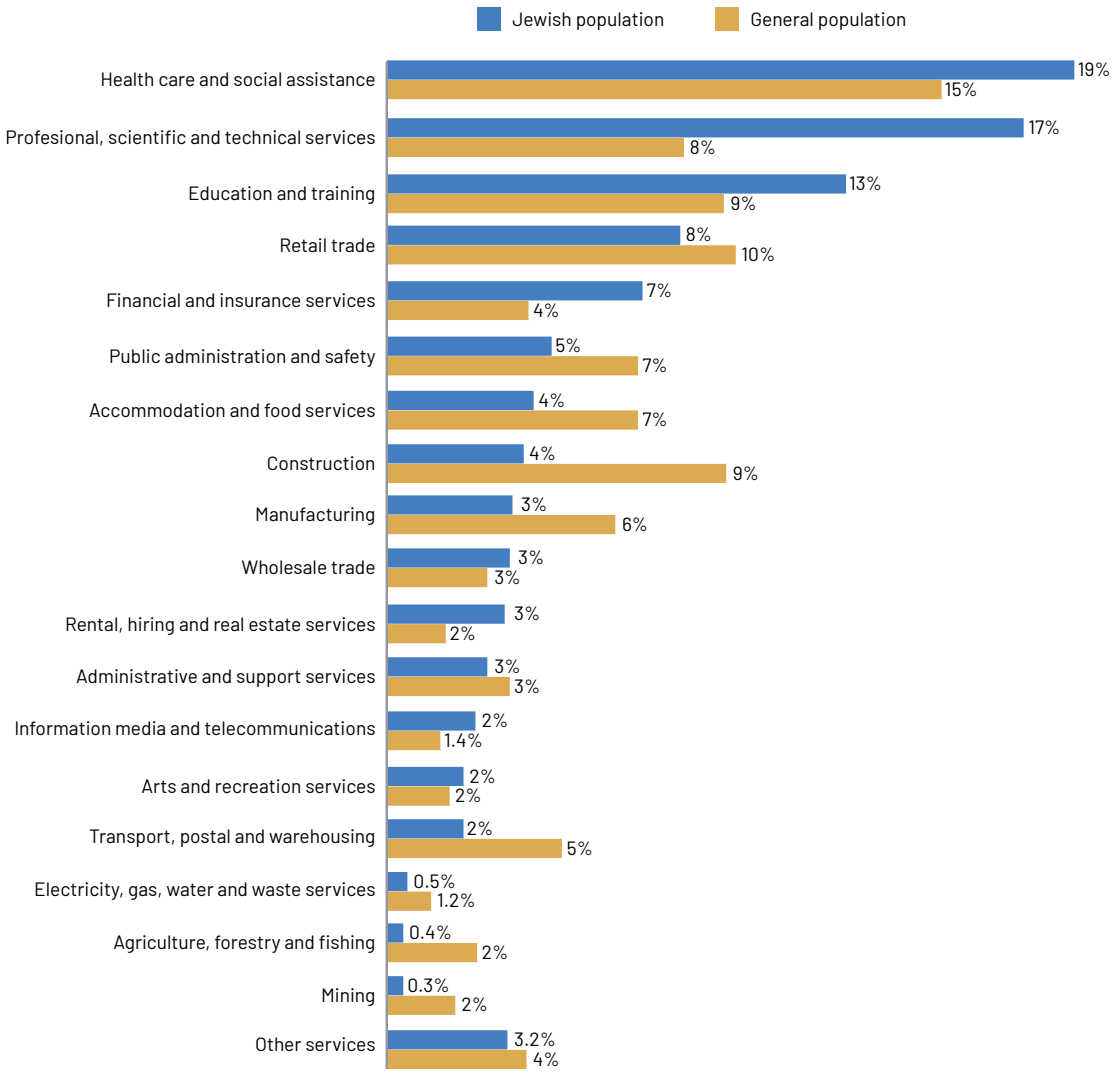
^ This category amalgamates several sub-categories of self-employment: owner managers of incorporated and unincorporated enterprises, with and without employees, as well as contributing family workers.

12.2 Industry

In terms of industry of employment, the Jewish profile was also rather different to that found in the general population (Figure 43). Although both groups were most likely to work in 'Health Care and Social Assistance', Jews were even more concentrated in this sector than general (19% v 15% generally). But almost as many Jews worked in 'Professional, Scientific and Technical Services' industries (including legal and accounting services) which was more than twice the general level (17% Jewish v 8% general). Jews were also overrepresented in Education and Training (13% Jewish v 9% general), and Financial and Insurance Services (7% Jewish v 4% general). On the other hand, Jews were underrepresented in the Accommodation and Food Services, Construction, Manufacturing, Transport, Postal and Warehousing, Agriculture, and Mining sectors (Figure 43).

In terms of sex, there are also some significant differences. Compared with Jewish men, Jewish women were twice as likely to work in Health Care and Social Assistance (13% men v 25% women) and Education and Training (7% men v 18% women) whereas Jewish men were more likely to work in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (20% men v 14% women), Financial and Insurance Services (10% men v 4% women), and Construction (6% men v 2% women).

Figure 43. Industry of employment*, Jewish and general populations, age 15 and above, Australia, 2021



* Excludes Inadequately described, Not stated and Not applicable

12.3 Occupation

There were also important differences in terms of occupation. As with industry, the most common category for both groups was the same, 'Professionals', but here Jews were almost twice as likely to be a professional as was generally the case (44% Jewish v 24% general) (Table 28). Jews were also much more likely to be Managers (20% Jewish v 14% general) but in all other occupation groups Jews were underrepresented, especially in manual occupations.

Again, sex plays a significant role in the occupations people work in. Jewish men were almost twice as likely to be Managers as Jewish women (26% men v 15% women), Jewish women were more than twice as likely to be Clerical and Administrative Workers, and Community and Personal Service Workers (Table 28).

Table 28. Occupation, Jewish and general population aged 15 and over, Australia, 2021*

	Jewish population	General population	Jewish population	
			Male	Female
Professionals	44%	24%	43%	46%
Managers	20%	14%	26%	15%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	12%	13%	7%	17%
Community and Personal Service Workers	8%	12%	5%	11%
Sales Workers	7%	8%	8%	7%
Technicians and Trades Workers	5%	13%	7%	3%
Labourers	2%	9%	3%	1%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	2%	6%	3%	<1%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**
Population total	58,085	25.3m	29,893	28,192

* Excludes Inadequately described, Not stated and Not applicable

Drilling down into the occupation data we see that, the most common occupation among Australian Jews is a solicitor with an estimated 1,725 performing that role in 2021. Jews are more than five times as likely to be solicitors than the rest of the population (Table 29). While the second most common occupation is, perhaps surprisingly, a general sales assistant, with 1,690 in this role in 2021, Jews are 30% less likely to perform this role than in general. The third most common occupation is chief executive or managing director (with as estimated 1,570 people), a reflection of the high level of owner occupier roles in the Jewish population (Table 27). But the highest Jewish over-representation (counting jobs done by at least 50 or more Jews (estimated)) is among cardiologists (11 times), ophthalmologists and dental specialists in both of which Jews are 10 times overrepresented (not shown).

Table 29. Top 10 most common occupations in the Jewish population aged 15 and over and comparison factors with the general population, Australia 2021

Occupation	Estimated total	Jewish over/under representation*
Solicitor	1,725	5.1
Sales Assistant (General)	1,690	0.7
Chief Executive or Managing Director	1,570	4.3
Sales and Marketing Manager	1,323	2.3
Accountant (General)	1,166	1.7
Retail Manager (General)	974	1.1
General Practitioner	927	3.9
Primary School Teacher	923	1.1
Secondary School Teacher	922	1.2
General Clerk	920	0.8

* greater than 1 = over representation, less than 1 = under representation

13 / Income

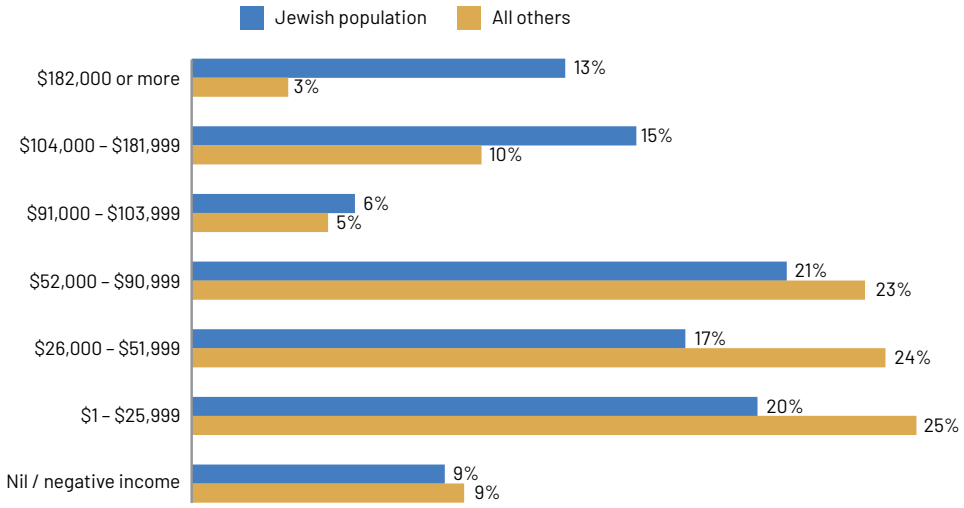
13.1 Personal income

In 2021, the largest personal income category measured on the census form was '$182,000 or more per year'. While income data form a very important subset of the census material, as we show, many Jewish people have incomes in excess of this total, but we are unable to disaggregate this group further in the census. This means that average income estimates will be depressed to a greater extent for Jews than for other groups.

The median[22] personal annual income for Jews in Australia in 2021 was $59,800 ($49,200 in 2016), compared with $41,800 for the rest of the Australian population, a difference of 43% (figures exclude persons under 15 and those who did not respond to the income question).

This difference is evident in Figure 44 which shows that, in terms of personal income, Jews were more than four times as likely as the rest of the Australian population to earn $182,000 per year or more (13% v 3% respectively). They were also far more likely to be in the $91,000 to $181,999 range but far less likely to earn under $91,000 (66% Jewish v 82% general).

Figure 44. Personal annual income* by income bracket, Jewish population and all others, aged 15 years and above, Australia, 2021



* Excluding income not stated (2.6% Jewish and 7.2% general)

22 The mean and median are two ways of measuring the average value. The mean is more prone to distortion by outliers (i.e. relatively small numbers of very large incomes) than the median which is the middle value where half the values fall above and half fall below.

Incomes varied by state with Jews in the ACT having the highest personal annual median incomes at $75,000 and those in Tasmania having the lowest at $38,000 (Table 30).

Jewish median incomes in NSW were 14% higher ($8,200) than in Victoria.

Table 30. Personal annual income by state, Jewish population aged 15 and above, Australia, 2021

State/Territory	Median annual income	Estimated number of people
ACT	$75,000	831
Northern Territory	$71,500	169
New South Wales	$66,100	38,223
Victoria	$57,900	42,947
Western Australia	$52,000	5,583
South Australia	$43,800	1,128
Queensland	$43,500	4,821
Tasmania	$38,000	391
Total	**$59,800**	**94,078**

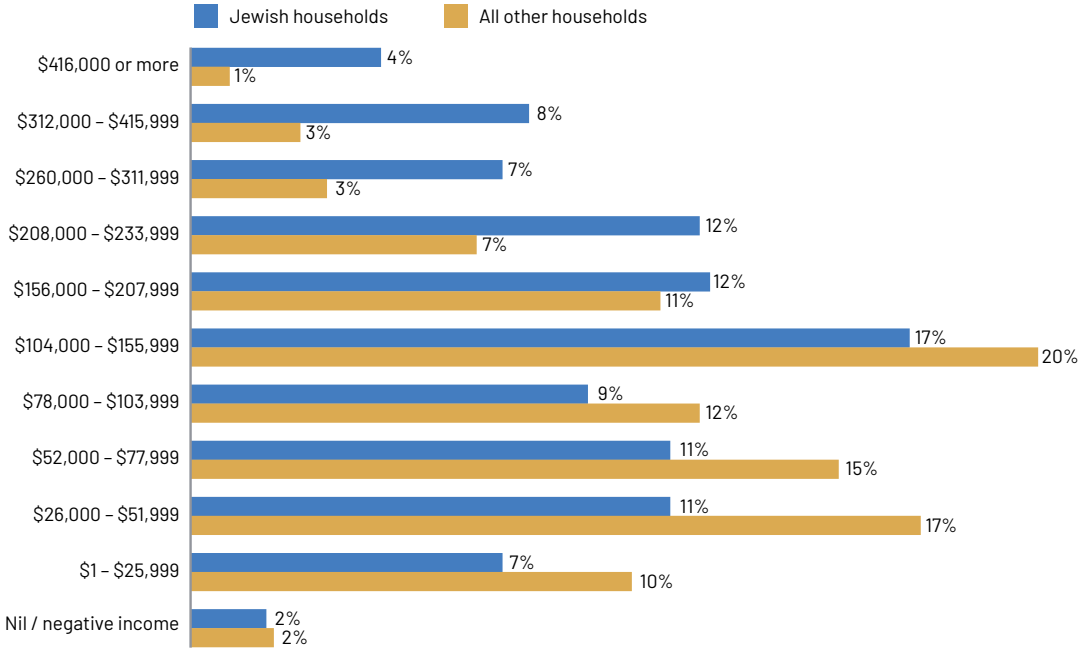
* Excluding income not stated (2.6%)

In terms of sex, the median income of Jewish men in Australia was $76,700 which was 57% higher than the equivalent for Jewish women at $48,800.

13.2 Household income

In the census, household income is calculated by summing together the individual incomes reported for each household. In 2021, the largest household income category published by ABS was '$416,000 or more per year'. On average, Jewish households have higher annual household incomes than households in the general population. While almost a third (31%) of Jewish households have annual household incomes of $208,000 or more, this is the case for just 13% of households generally (Figure 45).

Figure 45. Annual household income^, Jewish households and all other households, Australia, 2021



^ Figures exclude those who did not respond to the income question and includes income data for anyone aged 15 and above

With a median annual household income of $134,900 ($112,500 in 2016), Jewish household incomes were on average 49% higher in 2021 than the rest of Australian households ($90,800) (Table 31). NSW had the highest Jewish median household income at $149,200 and South Australia had the lowest at $90,000.

Table 31. Average household income*, Jewish and general households in Australia and Jewish households by state, 2021

	Mean annual household income	Median annual household income	Total number of households (enumerated)
New South Wales	$173,900	$149,200	18,834
Victoria	$156,500	$130,800	20,089
Queensland	$129,000	$106,200	2,881
Western Australia	$146,100	$122,200	2,799
South Australia	$120,000	$90,000	715
Rest of Australia	$153,000	$133,500	830
Total Jewish Australia	**$160,700**	**$134,900**	**46,195**
All others Australia	**$112,200**	**$90,800**	**8.5m**

* Figures exclude those who did not respond to the income question

Household income is related to household composition and Jewish couples with children at home had the highest median annual household incomes ($220,700) (Table 32). By contrast, Jewish one parent households had incomes that were less than half those of Jewish couple families with children ($92,100).

Table 32. Median annual household income^ by household composition, Jewish population, 2021

	Mean annual household income	Median annual household income	Total number of households (enumerated)
Couple family with children	$233,200	$220,700	15,398
Couple family with no children	$162,500	$136,800	14,702
One parent family	$113,100	$92,100	3,122
Other family	$113,700	$103,200	300
Group household	$141,900	$125,000	1,896
Lone person household	$72,700	$51,000	10,739
Total	**$160,700**	**$134,900**	**46,195**

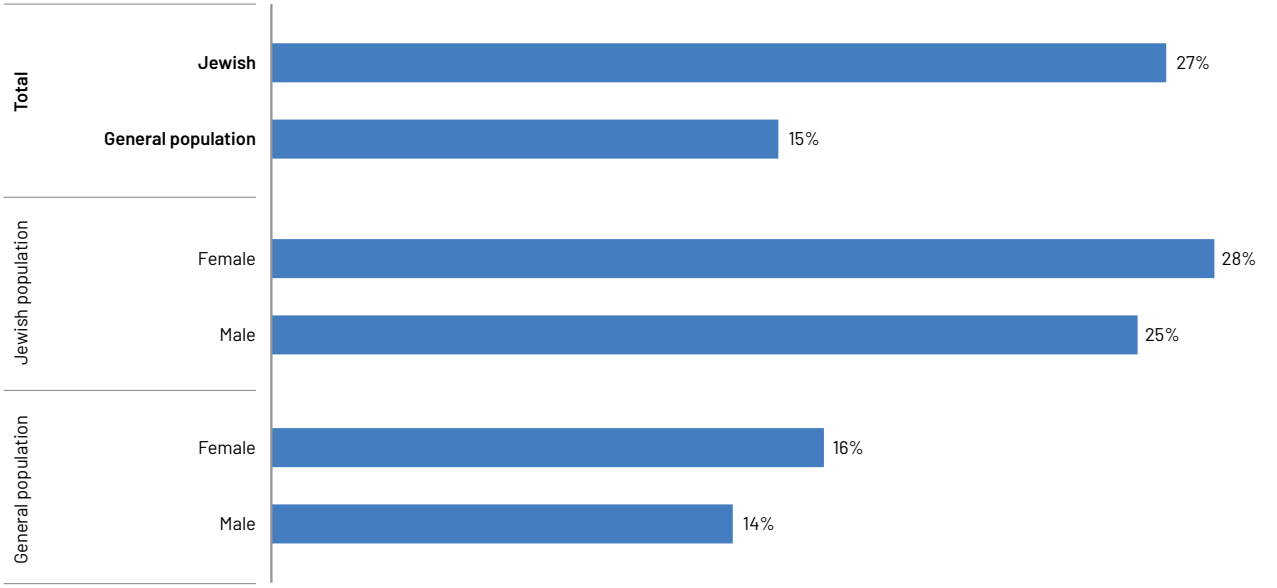
^ Figures exclude those who did not respond to the income question

14 / Non-commercial economy

14.1 Volunteering

Data on volunteering record whether a person spent any time engaged in unpaid voluntary work through an organisation or a group in the twelve months prior to the August 2021 Census for every person aged 15 and above. In total, 27% of Jewish people said they had volunteered (an estimated 25,351 people), a much higher proportion than among the rest of the Australian population (15%) (Figure 46). Jewish women were slightly more likely to volunteer than Jewish men (28% versus 25% respectively) as they are in the general population, albeit at lower levels.

Figure 46. Proportion of population aged 15 and above that volunteer by sex, Jewish and general population, Australia, 2021*

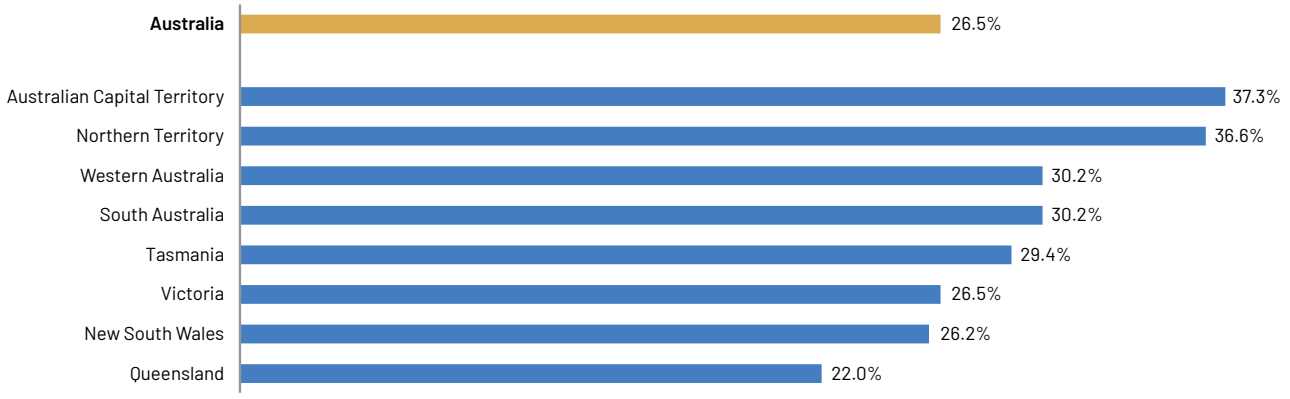


* Volunteered for a group or organisation in the 12 months prior to the census; Excluding Not stated

The total percentage of Jews who volunteered in 2021 (27%) was less than the proportion that did so in 2016 (31%). This is probably due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions related to lockdown rather than a reflection of a decline in the propensity for Jews to volunteer. In the general population the decline was even steeper from 21% in 2016 to 15% in 2021 again a reflection of the environment in the run up to the census.

The proportion of the Jewish population that volunteers varied by state. For example, in ACT 37% of Jews volunteered in the year before the 2021 Census, compared with 22% in Queensland (Figure 47).

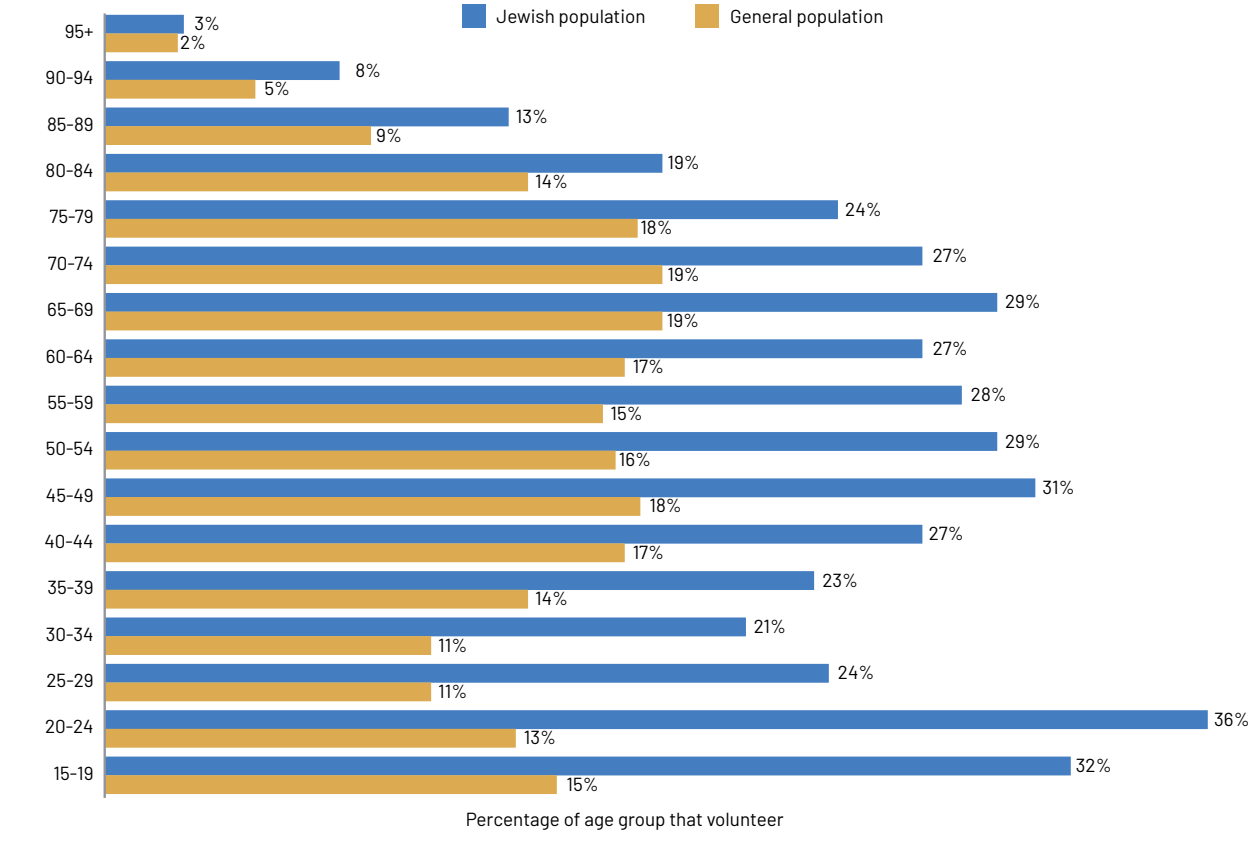
Figure 47. Proportion of Jewish people aged 15 and above who volunteer* by state and sex, 2021



* Volunteered for a group or organisation in the 12 months prior to the census; Excluding Not stated

Volunteering is also related to age. Jews aged in their early twenties (20-24) were the most likely to have volunteered; 36% said they had volunteered in the 12 months prior to the 2021 Census and almost three times the level generally at 13% (Figure 48). Volunteering declines in the late twenties and thirties, perhaps when people are less involved in organised communities, and picks up again in the late thirties, a period when most people forming families and raising children. In every age group except the very oldest (95+) Jews are more likely to volunteer than is generally the case.

Figure 48. Proportion of each age group that volunteer*, Jewish and general population, Australia, 2021



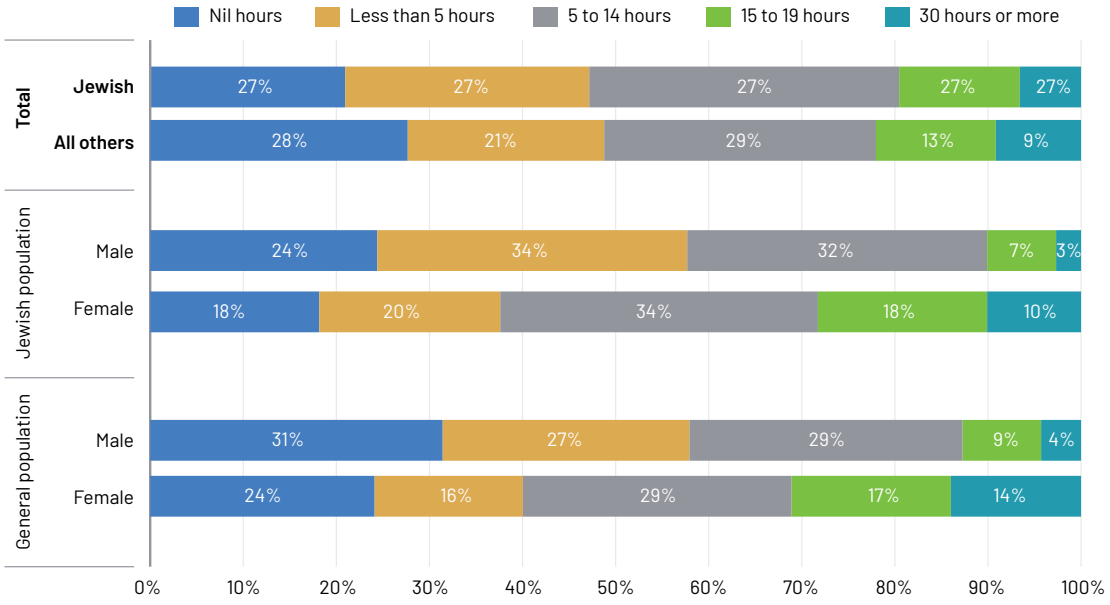
* Volunteered for a group or organisation in the 12 months prior to the census; Excluding Not stated

14.2 Unpaid domestic work

The census records the amount of unpaid domestic work carried out by individuals. It is based on the number of hours spent performing unpaid domestic work in the week prior to the census for each person aged 15 years and over. It includes 'work that the person did without pay, in their own home and in other places, for themselves, their family and other people in the household.'

Compared with the general population, Jews were more likely to do at least some unpaid domestic work (79% v 72%). In both populations, women did considerably more unpaid domestic work than men. Almost a quarter of all Jewish men (24%) did no domestic work in the week prior to the census, compared with 18% of Jewish women (Figure 49). Moreover, Jewish women were almost three times as likely to do 15 hours or more unpaid domestic work per week than Jewish men (28% women v 10% men). However, compared with 2016 this gender gap has narrowed in this respect (when it was 29% women v 7% men) but this may also be related to the COVID-19 pandemic since more men were working from home.

Figure 49. Number of hours spent doing unpaid domestic work per week by sex, Jewish and general population, Australia, 2021



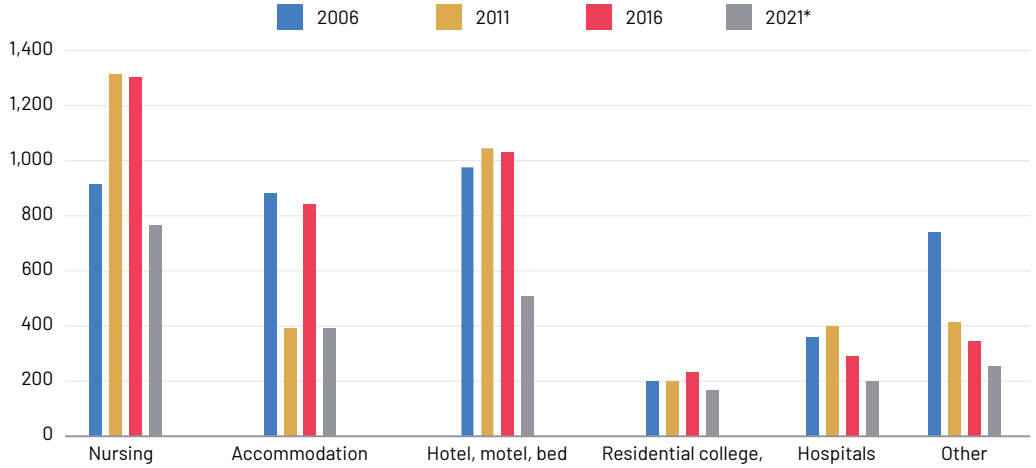
15 / Communal establishments

As discussed in *Section 2.1 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic*, the enumeration of communal establishments, called non-private dwellings by ABS, was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, in some instances severely (see Appendix 4). The following section is therefore a review of what was recorded and what is known to have been omitted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Census data on Jews living in non-private dwellings are based solely on individuals and have therefore been *adjusted* although this does not extend to an adjustment relating to data complications arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, an estimated 2,282 Jewish people were living in non-private dwellings in Australia, including 761 living in nursing homes. But, as can be seen in Figure 50, every type of communal establishment shows a decline since 2016 when an estimated 4,069 Jews were in such establishments. Taken at face value, it represents a decrease of 44% overall since 2016 and a decrease of 40% since 2011. And in the case of nursing homes, accommodation for the retired, and hotels was especially large and such a contraction demands an explanation.

Figure 50. Jews in non-private dwellings by type, 2006-2021, Australia (estimated)



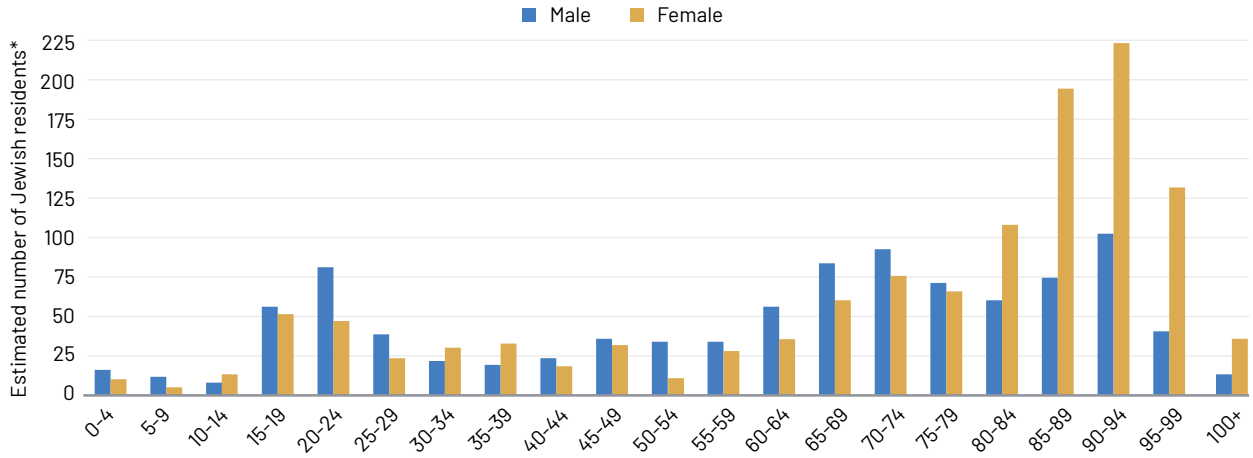
	Nursing home	Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)	Hotel, motel, bed and breakfast	Residential college, hall of residence	Hospitals	Other
2006	922	887	976	208	355	742
2011	1,316	397	1,044	196	403	416
2016	1,306	846	1,035	240	293	350
2021*	761	396	510	167	199	249

* Data for 2021 omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

The COVID-19 pandemic will have impacted the 2021 Census data on communal establishments in multiple ways. Indeed, the independent review of the 2021 Census noted that "With less movement of the population and a decrease in overseas visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a significant reduction in the number of people staying in some types of non-private dwellings."[23] As discussed in Section 2.1 The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on page 8, state and national border closures impacted travel, which in turn impacted hotel occupancy data. Similarly, students were more likely to be living at home and accessing classes remotely and this would have impacted halls of residence data. But in addition to this, the enumeration of people living in aged care facilities was impacted, especially in NSW (see Appendix 4). Crucially the recorded decline was *not* a result of people being absent from such dwellings, but rather it was due to an administrative decision (see Appendix 4). It is estimated that 494 Jewish people at aged care facilities in NSW were reported as religion Not stated in the Census and these individuals are unfortunately omitted from the 2021 Census data. They have *not* been included in the census adjustment.

Figure 51 shows the age and sex distribution of people who were living in non-private dwellings where their religion was recorded as Jewish. Notwithstanding the issues noted above, the data exhibit three peaks. First, age 15 to 24 corresponding to university accommodation; second, aged 70 to 74 corresponding to hotel accommodation and third, age 90 to 94 corresponding to care home residents. The number of Jewish women in the older age groups is far larger than Jewish men which in mainly due to longer female life expectancies.

Figure 51. Jews in non-private dwellings by age and sex, 2021 (estimated)*



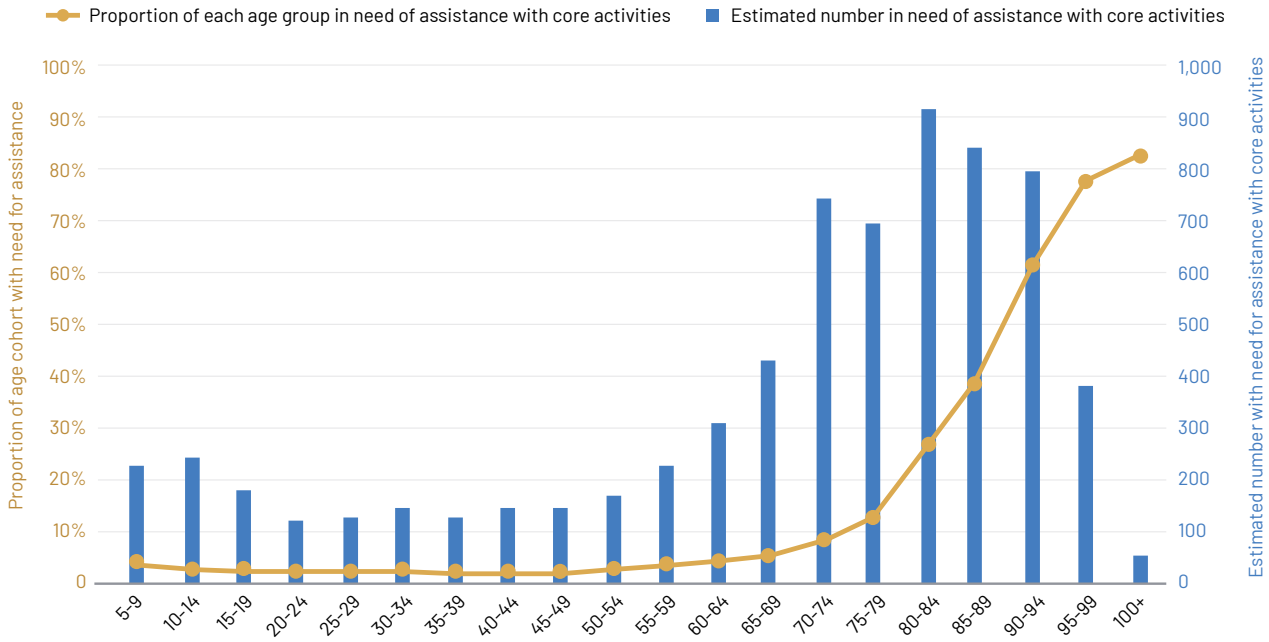
* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

23 Harding et al. 2022, *op. cit.* p76

16 / Health, disability and care

The 2021 Census recorded an estimated 7,088 Jewish people in Australia in 'need of assistance with core activities', compared with 6,365 in 2011, an 11% increase. Need, however, is closely related to age and over half (52%) of those in need of assistance, or an estimated 3,688 Jewish people, were aged 75 and above peaking among those aged 80 to 84 (an estimated 917 Jewish people) (Figure 52 orange columns). Meanwhile, the proportion of each age group in need of assistance increases precipitously beyond the 70s (blue line).

Figure 52. Need for assistance with core activities* by age, Jewish population (estimated), Australia, 2021



* ABS defines this as: "... People with a profound or severe core activity limitation are those needing assistance in their day to day lives in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of: a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age."

16.1 Unpaid care provision

Unpaid care[24] provision is also reported in the census and this shows that an estimated 15,822 Jews aged 15 and above provided unpaid care to other people (who were not necessarily Jewish) in Australia in 2021. Care givers were more likely to be female (58% are women) and care giving peaks in the 60 to 64 age group.

16.2 Health conditions

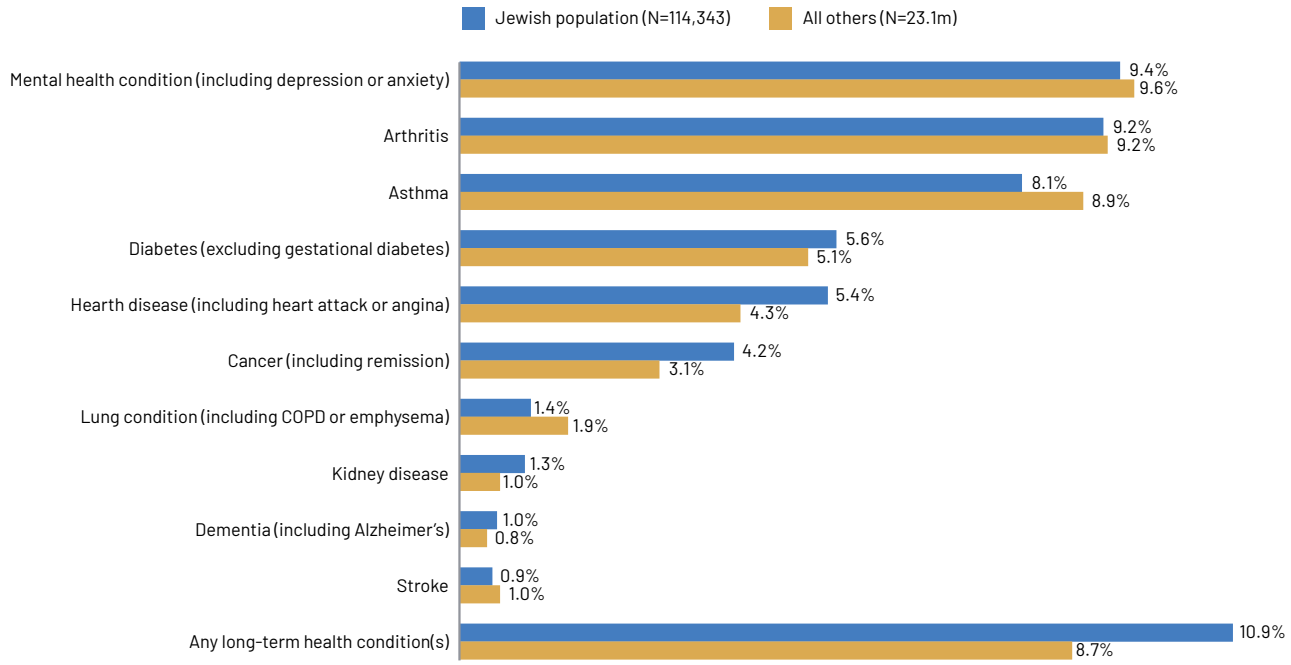
The 2021 Census included a new question on long-term health conditions. These data revealed that an estimated 36,127 Jewish people in Australia had at least one long-term health condition. 37% of Jews reported having at least one condition compared with 35% generally. (While 2% of Jews did not respond to this question, this was the case for 9% in the general population.)

24 This consists of unpaid help or supervision given in the previous two weeks to another person to assist them with daily activities because of a disability, a long-term health condition or problems related to old age.

A total of ten conditions were listed on the census form plus an Other option. Jews were most likely to select Other condition (10.9%) and were more likely to do this than the general population (8.7%) (Figure 53). The most common named long-term health condition experienced by Jews was 'Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)' suffered by an estimated 10,694 Jewish people (9.4%) followed by 'Arthritis' experienced by an estimated 10,481 Jewish people.

These were also the most common named conditions in the general population. Compared with the general population, Jews were less likely to suffer from asthma but more likely to suffer from diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

Figure 53. Type of long-term health condition, Jewish and general population, Australia, 2021*^



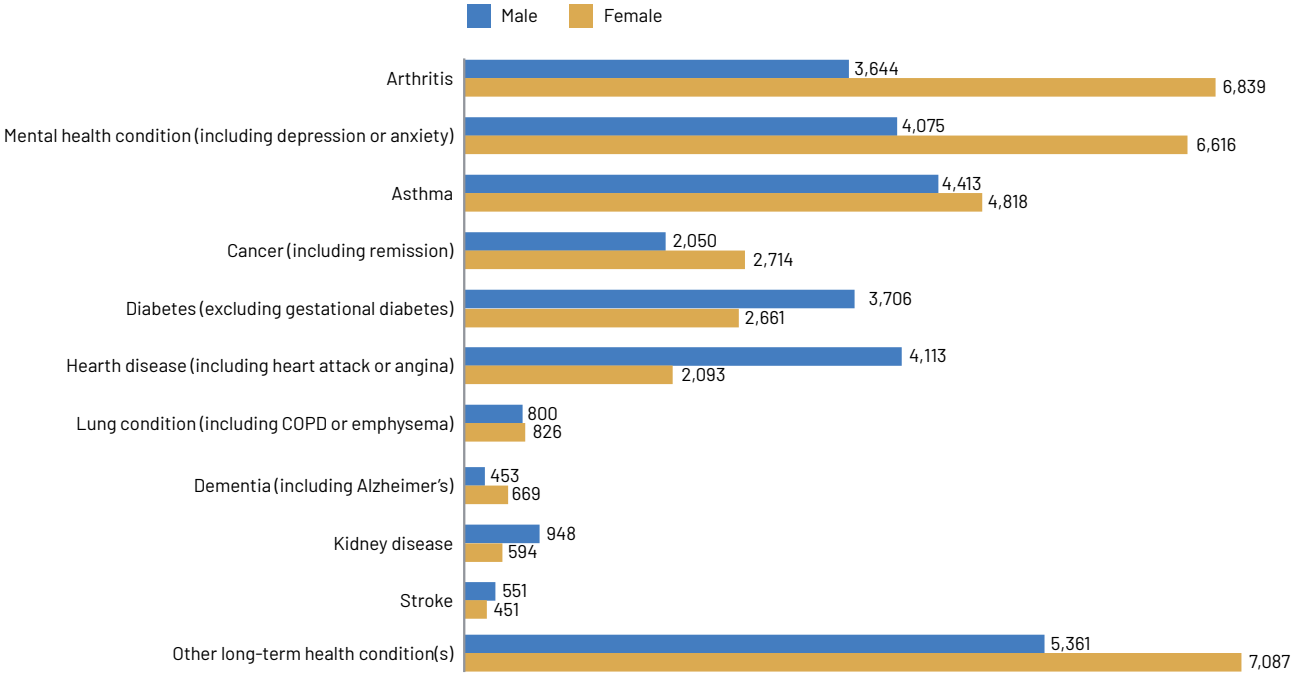
* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

^ excluding not stated

It was possible for more than one long-term health condition to be selected and this revealed that (setting aside non-response to this question), 22% of Jews reported one condition, 7% reported two conditions and 3% reported three or more conditions. This was very similar to the proportions in the general population.

Sex is an important factor in several of these conditions. For example, women are far more likely than men to suffer from arthritis and poor mental health as well as 'Other conditions' whereas men are far more likely than women to suffer from 'Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)' and 'Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)' (Figure 54).

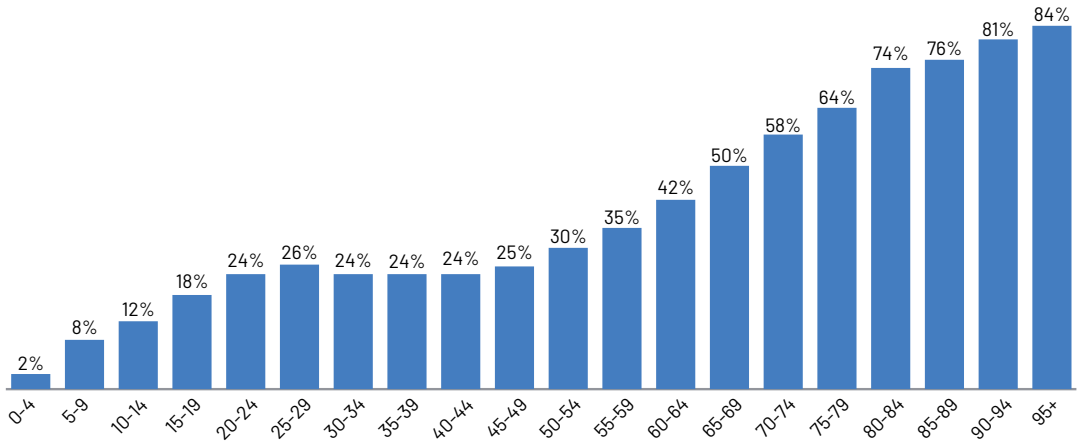
Figure 54. Type of long-term health condition by sex, Jewish population (estimated data), Australia, 2021*



* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

Age is also an important factor in the likelihood of reporting long term health conditions. In general, the likelihood of having at least one condition increases with age (Figure 55). For example, while 8% of Jewish children aged 5-9 have at least once condition, this is the case for 35% of those aged 55-59 and 84% of those aged 95 and above. However, there is a notable peak among people in their late twenties who are more likely than any other age group up to age 50 to report having at least one health condition.

Figure 55. Proportion of age group with at least one long-term health condition, Jewish population, Australia, 2021*

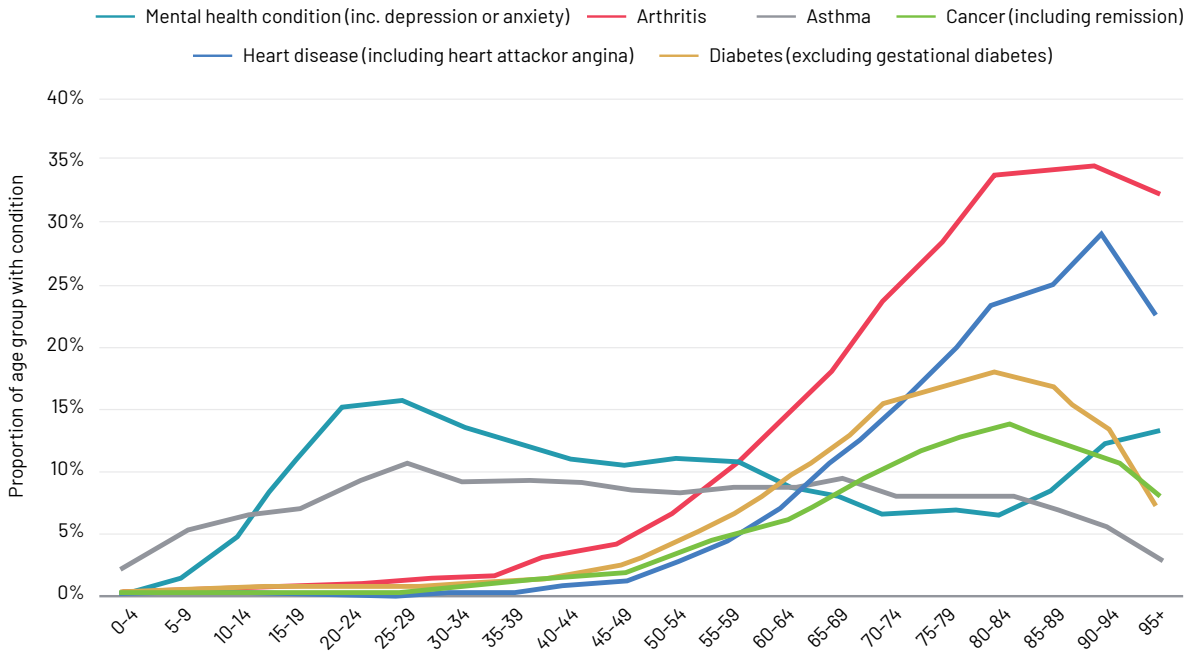


* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

While the relationship between the number of health conditions and age is a strong one, it is not simple. Arthritis and heart disease increase with age, with the likelihood of both rising rapidly after the late 40s (Figure 56). By contrast, diabetes, whilst also rising after the late 40s, peaks in the 80-84 year cohort (at 18%) and declines thereafter. Cancer follows a similar pattern.

But mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety), peak at 16% of those aged 25-29 then decline until rising again in old age. Asthma also peaks in the 25-29 age group at 11% although it exhibits a flat pattern thereafter. Together, mental health and asthma appear to explain the early peak observed in Figure 55.

Figure 56. Type of long-term health condition by proportion of each age group, Australia, 2021*

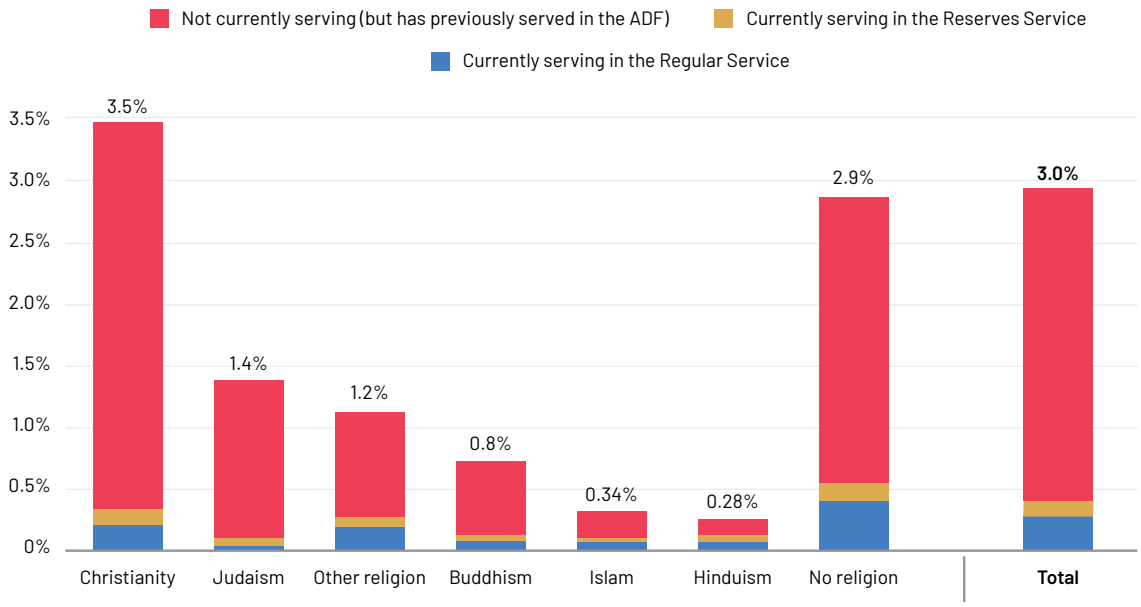


* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

17 / Australian Defence Force Service

Another new question added in the 2021 Census asked about military service in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). This found that 1.4% of Jews either currently or have formally served in the ADF compared with 3.0% of the general population (Figure 57). An estimated 131 Jewish people were currently serving in 2021, either in the Regular Service or Reserve Service.

Figure 57. Australian Defence Force (ADF) Service by religion, Australia, 2021



* Data omit at least 494 Jewish care home residents in NSW living in either Nursing homes or Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)

Appendices

Appendix 1. Jewish population by various geographies

This section provides additional data on the geography of Australia's Jewish population.

Table 33. Largest Jewish population centres by Local Government Areas (LGA), 2006 to 2021 and percentage change

	Estimate count*				Percentage change		
	2006	2011	2016	2021	2006 to 2021	2011 to 2021	2016 to 2021
Glen Eira	27,095	29,427	30,645	29,939	10.5%	1.7%	-2.3%
Waverley	12,537	12,920	13,049	12,883	2.8%	-0.3%	-1.3%
Woollahra	8,706	8,770	9,135	8,787	0.9%	0.2%	-3.8%
Randwick	5,233	6,385	6,547	6,397	22.3%	0.2%	-2.3%
Stonnington	5,622	5,433	5,294	5,293	-5.9%	-2.6%	0.0%
Port Phillip	4,816	4,620	4,575	3,988	-17.2%	-13.7%	-12.8%
Bayside (Vic.)	3,349	3,506	3,377	3,426	2.3%	-2.3%	1.5%
Ku-ring-gai	4,899	4,569	4,098	3,408	-30.4%	-25.4%	-16.9%
Stirling	3,448	3,547	3,575	3,277	-5.0%	-7.6%	-8.4%
Sydney	2,457	2,510	2,579	2,650	7.9%	5.6%	2.8%
Kingston (Vic.)	1,114	1,531	1,903	1,959	75.9%	27.9%	2.9%
Brisbane	1,772	1,951	1,991	1,928	8.8%	-1.1%	-3.1%
Boroondara	2,479	2,208	1,889	1,756	-29.2%	-20.5%	-7.0%
Gold Coast	1,427	1,597	1,558	1,639	14.9%	2.7%	5.2%

* 1,500 or more Jewish people in 2021 (estimated)

Table 34. Largest Jewish population centres* by postcode, estimated counts, 2011 and 2021 and percentage change

Postcode	Postcode area	State	2011	2021	Change	% change
3161	Caulfield North	VIC	7,749	8,064	315	4%
3162	Caulfield South	VIC	7,963	8,040	77	1%
2026	Bondi, Tamarama	NSW	5,294	5,197	-97	-2%
2030	Watsons Bay, Vaucluse, Dover Heights	NSW	5,338	5,145	-192	-4%
3183	Melbourne, St Kilda East, Balaclava	VIC	4,997	4,618	-379	-8%
3165	Bentleigh East	VIC	3,058	3,368	310	10%
2029	Rose Bay	NSW	3,322	3,364	43	1%
2023	Bellevue Hill	NSW	2,947	2,976	28	1%
3204	Bentleigh, McKinnon and Ormond	VIC	2,869	2,920	51	2%
3185	Elsternwick, Gardenvale and Ripponlea	VIC	2,451	2,592	141	6%
3163	Murrumbeena, Carnegie, Glen Huntly	VIC	2,653	2,268	-385	-15%

Table 34 continued:

Postcode	Postcode area	State	2011	2021	Change	% change
2035	Maroubra, Pagewood	NSW	2,077	2,092	16	1%
2075	St. Ives, St Ives Chase	NSW	2,751	2,010	-741	-27%
2031	Randwick, Clovelly	NSW	2,078	1,978	-100	-5%
3187	Brighton East	VIC	1,875	1,796	-78	-4%
2022	Bondi Junction, Queens Park	NSW	1,650	1,765	115	7%
6059	Dianella	WA	1,775	1,520	-255	-14%
3142	Toorak	VIC	1,680	1,464	-216	-13%
2027	Point Piper, Edgecliff, Darling Point	VIC	1,006	971	-35	-3%
2036	Matraville, Eastgardens, La Perouse, Little Bay, Port Botany, Hillsdale, Phillip Bay, Chifley, Malabar	NSW	687	956	269	39%
3144	Malvern, Kooyong	VIC	886	901	15	2%
2027	Darling Point, Edgecliff, Point Piper, Sydney	NSW	867	875	8	1%
2034	Coogee, South Coogee	NSW	764	830	66	9%
6060	Yokine, Tuart Hill, Joondanna	WA	769	800	32	4%
3145	Malvern East, Caulfield East	VIC	843	799	-44	-5%
3181	Prahran, Windsor	VIC	661	781	120	18%
2028	Double Bay	NSW	628	764	136	22%
3143	Armadale	VIC	627	741	113	18%
3146	Glen Iris	VIC	683	671	-13	-2%
2025	Woollahra	NSW	766	647	-119	-16%
3184	Elwood	VIC	665	625	-40	-6%
2024	Bronte, Waverley	NSW	577	605	28	5%
3141	South Yarra	VIC	715	596	-120	-17%
6050	Coolbinia, Menora and Mount Lawley	WA	611	592	-19	-3%
2032	Daceyville, Kingsford	NSW	550	576	26	5%
3182	St Kilda, St Kilda West	VIC	703	564	-139	-20%
2021	Centennial Park, Moore Park, Paddington	NSW	469	515	46	10%
6062	Morley, Noranda, Embleton	WA	637	473	-164	-26%
2010	Surry Hills, Darlinghurst	NSW	435	469	34	8%
2033	Kensington	NSW	469	453	-16	-3%
2017	Zetland, Waterloo	NSW	484	436	-47	-10%
2019	Botany, Banksmeadow	NSW	196	427	231	118%
2066	Lane Cove, Longueville, Lane Cove West, Lane Cove North, Linley Point, Northwood, Riverview	NSW	484	420	-63	-13%
2017	Zetland, Waterloo	VIC	297	407	110	37%

* All postcode areas with an estimated 400 or more Jews in 2021

Table 35. Largest 50 Jewish population centres by suburb*, estimated counts, 2011 and 2021 and change

Suburb	2011	2021	Change	% change	Suburb	2011	2021	Change	% change
Caulfield North	7,749	8,064	315	4%	Yokine	731	758	28	4%
Caulfield South	5,166	5,259	92	2%	Armadale (Vic.)	627	744	117	19%
St Kilda East	4,170	3,881	-288	-7%	Balaclava (Vic.)	823	735	-88	-11%
Bentleigh East	3,058	3,368	310	10%	Malvern East	778	729	-49	-6%
Rose Bay (NSW)	3,322	3,364	43	1%	Glen Iris (Vic.)	683	671	-13	-2%
Bellevue Hill	2,947	2,976	28	1%	Woollahra	766	647	-119	-16%
Caulfield	2,794	2,786	-8	0%	Elwood	665	625	-40	-6%
Vaucluse	2,743	2,666	-77	-3%	South Yarra	715	596	-120	-17%
North Bondi	2,467	2,398	-70	-3%	Glen Huntly	685	575	-111	-16%
Dover Heights	2,497	2,360	-137	-5%	Kingsford (NSW)	523	537	14	3%
Elsternwick	2,121	2,284	164	8%	St Kilda (Vic.)	651	507	-144	-22%
Maroubra	1,921	1,862	-59	-3%	Darling Point	522	487	-35	-7%
Brighton East	1,875	1,796	-78	-4%	Melbourne	349	486	136	39%
St Ives (NSW)	2,389	1,752	-637	-27%	Prahran	430	463	33	8%
Bondi	1,743	1,668	-75	-4%	Kensington (NSW)	493	453	-40	-8%
Randwick	1,848	1,665	-183	-10%	Coogee (NSW)	431	417	-15	-3%
Dianella	1,775	1,520	-255	-14%	Botany	196	414	218	111%
Toorak	1,680	1,464	-216	-13%	South Coogee	331	412	80	24%
Bondi Junction	1,321	1,361	40	3%	Matraville	312	411	98	31%
Carnegie	1,585	1,295	-289	-18%	Cheltenham (Vic.)	297	407	110	37%
Bentleigh	1,200	1,256	56	5%	Queens Park (NSW)	336	400	64	19%
Bondi Beach	1,019	1,018	-1	0%	Murrumbeena	381	400	19	5%
Brighton (Vic.)	1,006	971	-35	-3%	Hawthorn East	421	398	-23	-5%
Ormond	966	894	-72	-7%	Paddington (NSW)	354	383	29	8%
Malvern (Vic.)	808	843	35	4%	Rest of Australia	41,630	44,011	2,381	6%
McKinnon	702	769	67	10%					
Double Bay	628	764	136	22%	**Total Australia**	**115,631**	**116,967**	**1,335**	**1%**

* 2011 data are based on State Suburbs (SSC) boundaries which were renamed Suburbs and Localities (SAL) in the 2021 Census. These are an ABS approximation of officially recognised suburb boundaries in cities (and localities outside cities) as defined by the State and Territory governments of Australia.

Appendix 2. 2021 Census adjustment methodology

The following adjustment procedure was jointly agreed by JCA in Sydney and The Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC) at Monash University in Melbourne. This procedure is applicable to 2021 Census data but also amends or 'rebases' previous adjustment factors for 2011 and 2006, though not 2016.

In the Australian 2021 Census, 99,951 people typed or wrote *Judaism* or *Jewish* in the religion question. In the past, it has been customary to adjust this enumerated figure on the assumption that not all people who ordinarily identify as Jewish, do so in the census (see below). While there are many ways an adjustment can be derived, the following approach is considered to be an appropriate compromise.

Adjusting for non-response to the religion question

Typical reasons to assume religion data are undercounted are, first, that the religion question is optional (by law, as reporting one's religion is considered a matter of personal conscience). Second, the label 'Jewish' is not listed as a tick category in the religion question, although 'Judaism' is one of the categories listed as an example of an 'Other' response. Third, asking "What is [your] religion?" emphasises religious identity over ethnic or other types of Jewish identity, yet Jewishness is multifaceted, meaning that some Jewish people identify as Jewish in ancestral or cultural terms only and therefore would not identify as Jewish in the religion question.

In the 2021 Census, potential sources of Jewish undercount included: 6.9% non-response to the optional religion question in general across Australia; in the largest Jewish population centres this was 4.9% in 'Melbourne – Inner South' (SA4) and 7.3% in 'Eastern Suburbs'. Applying all three percentages to the enumerated data increases the Jewish total by 6,547 people.

Factoring in ABS adjustments

After the census is carried out, ABS runs a census post-enumeration survey (PES). This incorporates an adjustment to estimate the number of people who were not included in the census but who should have been, for example, those who were overseas on census night. ABS then produces an adjusted estimate of the population called the estimated resident population (ERP). In 2021 the difference between the national enumerated population and the ERP population was 0.7% in Victoria, 0.3% in NSW and 1.9% elsewhere in Australia. Applying all three percentages to the enumerated data increases the Jewish total by 722 people.[25]

Other Jewish groups missing from the religion data

In every census, a number of people identify as Jewish in the ancestry question but identify as No religion in the religion question.[26] In 2021 this amounted to 8,371 people. Further, we can also add those who reported the language they spoke at home as Hebrew or Yiddish, but with No Religion and no Jewish ancestry totalling 1,371 people (9,742 in total). Each of these additions is shown in Table 36.

The final step is to produce the inflation adjustment to be applied to enumerated 2021 Census data. This derives a factor of 1.170.

25 For more information see: Gruzman E 2020 *Appendix 1: Estimating The Australian Jewish Population At The 2016 Census* in Markus A, Munz T, Graham D and Gruzman E 2020 *The Jewish population of Victoria: Key findings from the 2016 Census,* ACJC, Monash University

26 Some identify as Not Stated in the religion question but these people have already been adjusted for in the earlier step.

Table 36. The adjustment procedure applied to 2006, 2011 and 2021 census data*

Row	Census year	2006	2011	2021
1	Enumerated Jewish population in Australia	88,831	97,336	99,956
2	Total estimated number of Jewish people with religion Not stated	13,357	10,387	6,547
3	Total estimated undercount of Jewish people based on ERP	3,966	3,974	722
4	Total additions for Jewish ancestry, Hebrew and Yiddish	2,936	3,934	9,742
5	Total additions (estimated Jewish undercount) (rows 2+3+4)	20,259	18,295	17,011
6	**Estimated Jewish population Australia** (rows 1+5)	**109,090**	**115,631**	**116,967**
7	Estimated percent Jewish population was undercounted by (row5/6)	18.6%	15.8%	14.5%
8	Inflation factor ((row5/row1)+1))	1.228	1.188	1.170

*The adjustment factor derived for 2016 of 1.295 (resulting in a Jewish population estimate of 117,903 for 2016) required a different approach and this is detailed in Graham D and Narunsky L 2019 *The Jewish population of Australia: Key findings from the 2016 Census*, JCA Sydney

It should be noted that no attempt has been made to adjust for the 635 residents of aged care facilities in NSW recorded as Religion not Stated in the 2021 Census. Analysis indicates that at least 494 of these residents were Jewish (see Appendix 4).

Appendix 3. The use of unadjusted census data for Jewish families and multiperson households

Census data on Jewish families and households have not been adjusted for estimated undercount since the adjustment procedure is based on individuals and not households. An inflation factor for households requires knowledge of the distribution of non-respondents to the census's voluntary religion question, who are nevertheless Jewish among all households, and this is not known. To explain why, consider three individuals who responded Jewish in the census and suppose, for convenience, the adjustment factor inflates enumerated data by 33%. The three enumerated Jews equate to four adjusted Jews. But we cannot take the same approach to households. Three enumerated Jewish households do not necessarily equate to four adjusted Jewish households. One reason for this is that the *individual* who did not respond Jewish in the previous example may live in one of these three Jewish households. Or she may live in a different household altogether where no one else reported Jewish. In the former case the adjustment would be 0% (the number of Jewish households does not change, it remains at three) but in the latter case it is 33% (the three enumerated households become four adjusted households). But we have no way of knowing which would be correct: 0% or 33%? Further, this example also assumes that the three enumerated Jews do not live *together* in one (or two) households. But if they did all live in the same household and our individual who did not respond Jewish lived in a separate household where no one else reported Jewish, the adjustment would add one extra household giving an adjustment factor of 100% (one enumerated household becomes two adjusted households). In addition to the distribution problem, we also do not know whether the propensity for Jews to respond Not stated (or No religion) differs if they live with other people who report Jewish, other people who report an Other (non-Jewish) religion or other people who report Not stated. With no reliable way to determine how much of the adjustment should be applied in each case, let alone overall, by far the most statistically robust analytical approach to is to use enumerated household data only.

While the adjustment of census data is carried out to ensure a more accurate assessment of the total number of Jewish people, it is also done to ensure direct comparisons can be meaningful between different censuses, for example, to measure change over time. Therefore, care should be taken when comparing unadjusted household data with results from other census. However, it is statistically valid to compare proportionate data from different censuses.

Appendix 4. The undercount of Jewish people living in aged care facilities in NSW in the 2021 Census

Data from the 2021 Census recorded a large decline in the number of Jewish people living in 'Nursing homes' and 'Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)'[27] in NSW. Historical census data show that in 2011, 754 Jewish people were recorded as living in such establishments compared with 694 in 2016. But in 2021 the number recorded was just 151 (Table 37). By contrast, data for similar facilities in Victoria showed an increase in the decade (from 544 to 682 people).

Table 37. Number of Jewish people by type of residential facility for the aged, 2006-2021, NSW and Victoria (enumerated data)

State	Accommodation type	2006	2011	2016	2021
NSW	Nursing home	383	613	398	121
	Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)	223	141	296	30
	Total New South Wales	**606**	**754**	**694**	**151**
VIC	Nursing home	316	375	484	399
	Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)	402	169	350	283
	Total Victoria	**718**	**544**	**834**	**682**

Following the 2021 Census, an independent assurance panel was set up by the Australian Statistician to assess the quality of the census data.[28] One of the objectives of the panel was to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Census. The report explained that *"...more than half of the Australian population was in lockdown at some stage during the Census enumeration period. In addition, the situation was very fluid as many parts of south eastern Australia moved in and out of lockdown restrictions throughout the Census 'response window' in early August 2021 as follows:*

- *Leading up to Census night, Victoria entered a state-wide lockdown which remained in place for Greater Melbourne and Shepparton until after Census night. [...]*
- *Greater Sydney and many parts of regional New South Wales were also in lockdown restrictions during the Census response period. [...]"*[29]

On further enquiry, JCA was advised by ABS staff[30] that the organisation received a directive from the NSW State Government preventing Census field staff from entering *"a variety of health care facilities (including nursing homes, hospitals and hostels for the disabled) in the Greater Sydney region due to the COVID-19 pandemic".* Therefore, *"in New South Wales, key Census data was provided by the facility rather than individually collected from residents on Census forms [by ABS staff]".* This meant "*ABS could only collect basic demographic information for residents, and was unable to collect data on a wide range of Census topics including but not limited to religion, language used at home, long-term health conditions, and service in the Australian Defence force."* It is not clear why the NSW State Government followed this approach while the Victoria State Government did not, despite both states experiencing similar lockdown restrictions.

27 ABS defines this as a "Type of Non-Private Dwelling (NPDD). It refers to hostel type accommodation (with common living and eating facilities) provided for retired or aged people who are generally in good health and capable of looking after themselves."

28 Harding et al. 2022, *op. cit.*

29 *Op. cit.* p72

30 ABS, Personal Communication (email), 2 February 2024 and 19 and 27 March 2024

While there are several Jewish care facilities in NSW, the largest are run by Montefiore at three sites in Sydney: Randwick, Hunters Hill, and Woollahra. Each of these is aligned with a census Mesh Block, the smallest scale of analysis in the ASGS nested geographical system. Each of these Mesh Blocks contains one large residential building aligning with the three care facilities. Therefore, Census data for non-private dwellings in these areas relate to the three Montefiore facilities. The data are summarised in Table 38 which shows that 303 people were living in a Nursing home, and 346 people were living in 'Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)' a total of 649 people. Importantly, almost all of these residents (635 people) were reported as religion Not stated.

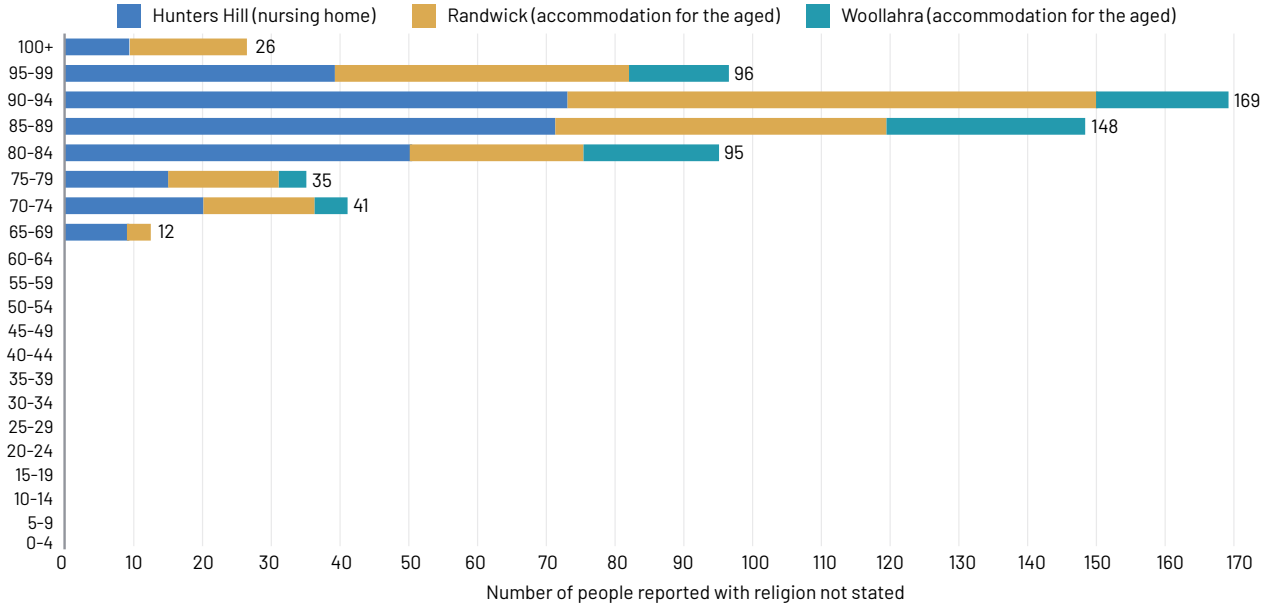
Table 38. Number of people living in care facilities by religion for the three Mesh Blocks aligning with Montefiore sites in Sydney, 2021 Census, enumerated data*

Type of facility (Non-private dwelling)	Facility name and address	Montefiore Randwick (36 Dangar St)	Montefiore Hunters Hill (120 High St)	Montefiore Woollahra (23 Nelson St)	
	SA2 label	**Randwick-North**	**Hunters Hill-Woolwich**	**Woollahra**	
	Mesh Block #	**11204674900**	**10387212000**	**11204703400**	**Total**
Nursing home	Jewish	0	9	0	9
	Not stated	0	289	0	289
	Other/No religion	0	5	0	5
	Total	**0**	**303**	**0**	**303**
Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained)	Jewish	0	0	0	0
	Not stated	250	0	96	346
	Other/No religion	0	0	0	0
	Total	**250**	**0**	**96**	**346**

* no reliance can be placed on very small census counts (u~20) due to confidentiality procedures employed by ABS such as cell swapping. Data relate to persons by place of enumeration

Further analysis reveals the age structure for residents at all three sites is as expected for aged care facilities. For all those with religion Not stated (622[31] people), a majority (86%) were aged 80 and above and almost half (47%) were aged 90 and above (Figure 57).

Figure 58. Age structure of people living in care facilities with religion Not stated for the three Mesh Blocks^ where Jewish care homes are located, 2021 Census, enumerated data*



* reliance cannot be placed on very small census counts (u~20) due to confidentiality procedures employed by ABS such as cell swapping

^ Mesh Blocks: 11204674900 (Randwick); 10387212000 (Hunters Hill); 11204703400 (Woollahra)

31 This enumerated figure varies from 635 noted above due to confidentiality procedures employed by ABS.

Finally, occupancy data from Montefiore (a constituent member of JCA), indicate that in August 2021, there were 588 residents across the three facilities (Table 39). Given that at least 622 residents were recorded with religion Not stated in the Census at these facilities, the difference (of 34) is sufficiently small to give confidence that the figures reinforce each other. Finally, Montefiore estimates that about 16% of residents were not Jewish which implies about 494 residents were Jewish and this therefore is the minimum Jewish aged care undercount for analytical purposes.

Table 39. Occupancy data for Montefiore during the week of 10 August 2021*

Suburb	Number of residents
Randwick	253
Hunters Hill	289
Woollahra	46
Total	**588**

* Montefiore estimates that about 20% of residents were not Jewish

To place this figure in context, and irrespective of the undercount adjustment applied throughout this report, these 494 Jewish people are equivalent to an undercount of 0.5% of the total enumerated Jewish population in Australia in 2021 (Table 40). However, given their older age structure, this also means there was a 6% undercount of Jews aged 80 and above in the 2021 Census. Finally, given this undercount relates solely to NSW, it can be concluded there was a 14% undercount of Jews aged 80 and above in NSW in the 2021 Census (Table 40).

Had these 494 residents been recorded as Jewish in the 2021 Census, rather than religion Not Stated, the total Australian Jewish population count for 2021 would have surpassed 100,000 for the first time.

Table 40. Estimated undercount resulting from Jewish care home residents in NSW being recorded with religion Not stated in the 2021 Census

	Total Jewish population Australia	Total Jewish population Australia aged 80 and above	Total Jewish population NSW aged 80 and above
1. Enumerated total	99,956	6,374	2,527
2. Estimated minimum undercounted	494	424	424
3. Revised total (1. + 2.)	100,450	6,798	2,951
4. Percent undercount (2. / 3. * 100)	0.5%	6.2%	14.4%

Appendix 5. Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard - boundary system used by ABS from 2011
De facto	A de facto marriage exists when the relationship between two people (of the same or opposite sex, who live together in the same household), is reported as either: de facto, partner, common law husband/wife/spouse, lover, boyfriend, or girlfriend (ABS).
Dependent child	A dependent child is a person who is either a child under 15 years of age, or a dependent student. To be regarded as a child the person can have no identified partner or child of his/her own usually resident in the household (ABS).
Enumerated data	The number, or count, as reported by ABS after anonymisation for small cell counts. These are called 'unadjusted' data in this report.
ERP	Estimated Resident Population – an adjustment made by ABS to rebase the enumerated census figure to account for people who were missed by the census, for example those who were overseas on census night.
Estimated data	An estimated census figure is an enumerated figure that has been adjusted to account for the likely effects of non-response. For 2021 Census data it is the enumerated figure multiplied by 1.170.
FRP	Family Reference Person (FRP) is usually Person 1 on the census form and is used to identify relationships between household members.
Interpolated	An estimate of what the enumerated census count for Jews in the religion question would have been had the 2016 Census been carried out under the same circumstances as preceding censuses. In theory, interpolated data are directly comparable with enumerated data from other censuses.
Jewish family	A Jewish family comprises any Jewish household in which at least one occupant reported Jewish and in which at least two or more people are related. It excludes Jewish lone persons and Jewish group households.
Jewish group household	Any household in which at least one occupant reported Jewish and with two or more unrelated people where all persons are aged 15 years and over. This excludes couple relationships, parent-child relationships or other blood relationships.
Jewish household	Any household in which at least one occupant reported Jewish, regardless of the religion responses of other household members.
LGA	Local Government Area – an historical boundary system independent of the ASGS system.
Married	ABS distinguishes between Registered and Social Marital Status. The former is based on the question 'What is the person's present marital status?', whereas the latter is derived from both this question and a question on household relationships. The counts of people in marriages differ depending on which variable is used.
No religion	In 2021 (and 2016) the full label employed by ABS for No religion was: 'Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation'.

Non-Private Dwelling (NPD)	Any communal establishment which provides a communal type of accommodation.
NSW	New South Wales
Registered Marital Status	This refers to the legal status of a person (whether married, divorced, widowed etc.) and not necessarily their current living arrangement (see Social Marital Status).
SA1, SA2 etc.	Statistical Area Levels within the ASGS system
Social Marital Status	This is based on stated partnerships within a household, i.e. married or de facto. Since family data exclude persons living alone and in shared 'group' households, 'Not married' in this context refers to someone who is not living with another person in a partnership but is living with other family members, for example, lone parent families.
Unadjusted data	See Enumerated data
WA	Western Australia

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