Arncliffe Precinct Demographic Profile
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1 Introduction

This profile provides background population statistics to assist in planning the redevelopment of the Arncliffe Precinct as defined by NSW Department of Planning and Environment. This is largely based on information drawn for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing with the latest information relating to NSW population projections up to 2036.

The Arncliffe Precinct comprises the suburb of Arncliffe in Sydney’s south and includes the area surrounding the Arncliffe Railway Station along the Eastern-Suburbs and Illawarra Line.

The precinct is located within the Bayside Council Local Government Area (the former Rockdale Local Government Area). This profile is based on data relating to the former Rockdale Local Government Area.

Figure 1  Location of the Arncliffe Precinct
For the purpose of this profile:

- the Arncliffe precinct (see Figure 2) refers to the following:
  - Bureau of Transport Statistics (BTS) Travel Zones: 2703, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2711.
  - Rockdale refers to the former Rockdale Local Government Area, as defined on 1 July 2011.
  - Sydney refers to the Sydney Metropolitan planning region.

Figure 2  Arncliffe Precinct map identifying the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and Bureau of Transport’s Travel Zones
2 Age structure

In 2011, the Arncliffe Precinct was home to 5,107 residents, representing 5% of the entire Rockdale population.

In 2011, two out of three Arncliffe residents were of working age, with a high number in their late 20s to early 30s (Table 1). The precinct’s age profile mirrored that of Sydney as a whole with larger populations in the younger working ages (Figure 3).

A slightly smaller proportion of people living in Arncliffe were aged 65 years or older compared to Sydney as a whole. Overall, the ‘average’ Arncliffe resident was younger compared to Rockdale and Sydney as a whole (Table 2).

Table 1 Population by age group, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Distribution</th>
<th>Arncliffe</th>
<th>Rockdale</th>
<th>Sydney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>17,635</td>
<td>801,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-39</td>
<td>2,076</td>
<td>39,564</td>
<td>1,622,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-64</td>
<td>1,488</td>
<td>30,822</td>
<td>1,336,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and older</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>15,460</td>
<td>525,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,107</td>
<td>103,481</td>
<td>4,286,217</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Median Age (years), 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arncliffe</th>
<th>Rockdale</th>
<th>Sydney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3 Population pyramids, 2011
3 Culture and Language

In 2011, just over half of Arncliffe residents were born in Australia; this is less than Sydney as whole (62%) – so more were born overseas. Additionally, a higher proportion of Arncliffe residents (82%) were the children of migrants. The overseas-born population (2,217 residents) in Arncliffe was culturally diverse.

### Table 3 Population by place of birth, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Born in Australia</th>
<th>Overseas-born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arncliffe</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockdale</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>62.0%</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4 Population with one or both parents born overseas, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>At least one parent born overseas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arncliffe</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockdale</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>63.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5 Top 10 Countries of Birth of people who live in Arncliffe Precinct

1. Australia (53.2%)
2. Lebanon (10.7%)
3. Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia (4.5%)
4. China (excludes SARs and Taiwan) (3.4%)
5. Bangladesh (2.3%)
6. Nepal (1.7%)
7. New Zealand (1.5%)
8. Greece (1.5%)
9. Italy (1.4%)
10. Philippines (1.3%)

A smaller proportion of the residents in Arncliffe spoke English at home compared to the Rockdale population as a whole. People living in Arncliffe were almost twice as likely to speak a language other than English at home than Sydney residents overall. This is also reflective of the larger share of residents with at least one parent born overseas. Many other languages were spoken by residents of the Arncliffe community, reflecting the cultural diversity of the precinct.
Table 6  Top 10 Languages spoken at home in Arncliffe
1. English (34.3%)
2. Arabic (29.5%)
3. Macedonian (6.7%)
4. Greek (3.4%)
5. Cantonese (2.6%)
6. Mandarin (2.4%)
7. Bengali (2.2%)
8. Italian (2.0%)
9. Spanish (1.9%)
10. Nepali (1.7%)

4 Education
Most of the adult population (aged 15 years or older) in Arncliffe had completed at least Year 10 at school (82%) and 44% of them had a post school qualification. This is a lower rate of post-school qualification attainment compared to Rockdale’s residents (51%) and Sydney’s residents overall (55%) (refer to Table 7).

Table 7  Highest post-school qualification attained (1), 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Postgraduate Degree Level</th>
<th>Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level</th>
<th>Bachelor Degree Level</th>
<th>Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level</th>
<th>Certificate Level</th>
<th>No Post-school Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arncliffe</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockdale</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Of the total population aged 15 years and over.

The proportion of Arncliffe residents who were attending a technical or further education institution in 2011 (11.6%) was higher than the proportion of Sydney residents (9.8%).
Table 8  Type of education institution\(^{(1)}\) being attended by student population, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Preschool</th>
<th>Primary school</th>
<th>Secondary school</th>
<th>Technical or further education institution</th>
<th>Tertiary Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arncliffe</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockdale</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{(1)}\)Excludes “other” institutions.

5 Employment

In 2011, 2,285 Arncliffe residents were in the labour force. They represented 60.3% of the Arncliffe population that were aged 15 years and above—revealing a slightly lower labour force participation rate compared to Sydney as whole (66%). According to the 2011 Census, unemployment was higher for people living in Arncliffe than Rockdale and Sydney as a whole. (Table 9).

Table 9  Employment status of the population in labour force, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arncliffe</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockdale</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A higher concentration of residents in Arncliffe worked in transport, postal and warehousing, and accommodation and food services industries compared to Sydney as a whole.

6 Transport

Workers in Arncliffe were no different to those in Rockdale and Sydney as a whole — the car was the most common mode of transport used to get to work. Even so, traveling to work by car was less common among Arncliffe residents than either Rockdale or Sydney (Figure 6). On the other hand Arncliffe residents were more likely to have used public transport (train or bus) to get to work (39%) than Rockdale workers overall (32%) and much more likely that Sydney commuters overall (24%).

![Figure 6](image-url)  Mode of transport taken to work, 2011
Arncliffe households were far more likely to own or have the use of a motor vehicle than Sydney households as a whole (Figure 7). In 2011, only 2 per cent of Arncliffe households did not have a motor vehicle, compared with about 13 per cent of households in Rockdale LGA and Sydney.

![Figure 7](image-url)

**Figure 7**  Private motor vehicle ownership by occupied private dwellings, 2011

### 7 Households and Dwellings

There were 2,044 dwellings in Arncliffe in 2011. Just about half of these (51%) were a separate house. The precinct is also characterised by a higher density residential land use with 43% of all dwellings being a flat, unit or apartment (Figure 8) — a greater proportion than in Rockdale and Sydney overall.

![Figure 8](image-url)

**Figure 8**  Types of dwellings, 2011

The data reveals a strong relationship between the predominant type of household of an area, the population’s age profile and housing stock available. Nuclear families (a couple with children) made up more than one-third of all households in Arncliffe, similar to the Rockdale and Sydney as a whole. Arncliffe also had a similar proportion of people living alone when compared with Rockdale and Sydney residents as a whole (within the range of 22%-23%). As a result, they all share the same average household size (2.6 persons per household).
Six out of ten private dwellings in Arncliffe were owned outright or with a mortgage (Figure 11). More Arncliffe households were renting compared to Rockdale and Sydney as a whole (Figure 11).
8 Socio-Economic Advantage

There are slightly fewer families in Arncliffe experiencing housing stress compared to Rockdale. However, the proportion of families experiencing housing stress in Arncliffe is higher than that of Sydney as a whole. Overall, all three areas have more than 40% of families experiencing housing stress in relation to rent levels. This relates to the median income a family earns in Arncliffe ($52,000 - $64,999 annually) being less than Sydney as a whole ($65,000 - $77,999 annually).

Table 11  Share of families experiencing housing stress, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Families experiencing housing stress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arncliffe</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockdale</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 Projected Population

Rockdale’s population is expected to grow by 41,000 people over the next 20 years, from 114,450 to 155,450 by 2036. This 36% increase is marginally less than the growth expected in the Sydney region over the same period (37%).

Like everywhere else, the population of Rockdale is ageing. By 2036, there may be 29,700 residents aged 65 years or older in Rockdale, making up 19.1% of its total population; this older population made up 15.5% of Rockdale’s population in 2016.

In terms of age structure, Rockdale is projected to have a lower proportion of young people aged 0-29 years, a greater number of people aged between 30-44 and 75+ and a similar number of people aged 45-74 years compared to Sydney as a whole by 2036.

![Figure 12](Projected population of Rockdale, by age group 2016-2036)
Date prepared: October 2014

Updated: October 2016

Sources:

