

## 2016 Census – Hills Shire Summary



### POPULATION

- The Hills population increased by 11% in the last 4 years, from 141,995 to 157,243.
- This percentage is higher than the average rate of growth experienced across Greater Sydney (9.8%).
- The median age has also increased by 1 year to 38.
- This is consistent with the national median, and is slightly higher than the Greater Sydney median of 36.



### INCOME

- The median weekly personal income in the Hills grew by 12% to \$827.
- This is a higher rate of growth than Greater Sydney, which saw a 4% increase to \$719.



### MORTGAGE REPAYMENTS

- The median monthly mortgage repayments for the Hills declined from \$2,600 to \$2,500.
- This is higher than the Greater Sydney median of \$2,167 which saw no change in the last 4 years.



### RENT

- The median weekly rent in the Hills increased from \$455 to \$560.
- Greater Sydney saw the same rate of growth, but has a significantly lower median weekly rent of \$440.



### HOME OWNERSHIP

- Despite a 2% fall, the most common housing tenure in the Hills remains "Own with a Mortgage" (45%)
- Home ownership (both outright and with a mortgage) has decreased in the Hills, accompanied by a 2.3% increase in renters.
- 95% of private dwellings in the Hills are occupied, compared to a 92% occupancy rate across Greater Sydney.



### HOUSEHOLD SIZE

- The average household size in the Hills has increased from 3.1 to 3.2.
- This is significantly higher than the national average of 2.6.
- Couple families with children remain the most common household type in the Hills (53%).
- This family type also saw the highest rate of growth (11% increase from 2011).
- Couple families with no children remain the second most common household type in the Hills but experienced more modest growth since 2011 (4%).
- Lone person households remain the third most common household type within the Shire.



### DWELLING STRUCTURE

- Despite a 3% decrease, single lot dwellings remain the predominant dwelling structure in the Hills (82%) for all family types.
- Semi-detached row or terrace houses and townhouses saw a 2% increase to comprise 12% of the total dwelling structures seen in the Hills.
- Flats, units and apartments increased slightly to result in 5.7% of the total dwelling structures in the Hills (4.6% in 2011).
- Couple families with children are opting to live in single lot dwellings more than any other family type.
- Lone person households and group households are opting to live in semi-detached row or terrace houses, townhouses, flats, units, and apartments more than any other family type.
- Despite this, one parent families and couple families with children produced the greatest shift from separate houses to other built forms.



### COUNTRY OF BIRTH

- Australia remains the most common country of birth for Hills residents, with a modest increase of 4%.
- Residents born in China more than doubled within the Shire to a total of 8,067 people, and those born in India increased by 56% to 5,703 people.
- Once dominant UK-born residents continued their decline, falling 6% in the last 4 years to 6,089 people.
- Half of the residents within the Shire have parents who were both born overseas. This is a 6% increase from 2011, which is higher than the national rate of 0.1%.



### RELIGION

- The Hills saw a 7% increase in no religious affiliation to 22% of the Shire population.
- Contrary to national trends, Catholicism is still the highest individual religious option in the Hills.
- Christianity fell 10%, and this decline was steady across almost all denominations of Christianity.
- There was a 1% rise in both Hinduism (4%) and Islam (3%), and 0.3% rise in Buddhism (3%).

***Housing diversity and apartment mix is more important now than ever. With the most common household types being larger in size accompanied by a shift from single lot houses to other types, it is essential that we provide a functional built form that targets the Shire's specific demographic.***