

# Community report

## Bayside (C)

Prepared from Community Explorer topic selections for briefing, planning and reporting use.

AREA

**Bayside (C)**

COMPARISON

**Greater Melbourne**

POPULATION

**Persons**

GENERATED

**30 March 2026**

### Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

**01** Religion

### Sources and method

- Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 and, where available, 2016 comparison data.
- Percentages are calculated from the denominator supplied for each topic. Change (pp) is the 2021 percentage minus the 2016 percentage when the topic is comparable across years.
- Usual residence topics describe where people usually live, rather than where they were counted on Census night.

# Religion

Bayside (C) | Greater Melbourne comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Bayside (C), accounting for 44% (44,580 people). This share was higher than Greater Melbourne (36.9%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 9,865 people and 8.2 percentage points.

## About this topic

Religion records a person's stated religious affiliation, including no religion and not stated responses. It is a measure of cultural identity and belief rather than practice or participation.

This topic helps show the religious diversity of an area and can support planning for community facilities, faith-based services, and inclusive engagement. It is best interpreted with ancestry, birthplace, and language, which together provide a broader picture of cultural composition.

## Interpretation notes

- This records stated religious affiliation, not attendance or level of religious practice.
- No religion and not stated are part of the overall picture, so interpretation should consider both affiliation and non-response.

## Religion - Ranked by size

Bayside (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	324	0.3%	0.4%	378	0.4%	0.5%	-54	-0.1
Buddhism	1,228	1.2%	3.9%	1,182	1.2%	3.8%	+46	0.0
Christianity, nfd	1,339	1.3%	2.7%	1,244	1.3%	2.6%	+95	0.0
Anglican Church of Australia	11,971	11.8%	5.5%	13,929	14.4%	7.6%	-1,958	-2.6
Anglican Catholic Church	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Anglican, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Baptist	519	0.5%	1.3%	557	0.6%	1.3%	-38	-0.1
Brethren	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	+2	0.0
Catholic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Western Catholic	21,564	21.3%	20.5%	22,039	22.7%	23.2%	-475	-1.4
Maronite Catholic	5	0.0%	0.1%	5	0.0%	0.1%	0	0.0
Melkite Catholic	5	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Ukrainian Catholic	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Syro Malabar Catholic	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Catholic, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Churches of Christ, nfd	13	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	56	0.1%	0.1%	63	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	118	0.1%	0.2%	86	0.1%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	39	0.0%	0.2%	46	0.0%	
Community of Christ	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Lutheran	369	0.4%	0.2%	396	0.4%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian Apostolic	38	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	118	0.1%	0.2%	82	0.1%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	11	0.0%	0.1%	7	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	9	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Ancient Church of the East	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	15	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Albanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Antiochian Orthodox	62	0.1%	0.1%	49	0.1%	–
Greek Orthodox	3,516	3.5%	3.3%	3,255	3.4%	–
Macedonian Orthodox	79	0.1%	0.4%	40	0.0%	–
Romanian Orthodox	19	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	–
Russian Orthodox	251	0.2%	0.1%	237	0.2%	–
Serbian Orthodox	171	0.2%	0.3%	164	0.2%	–
Ukrainian Orthodox	32	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	–
Eastern Orthodox, nec	8	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Presbyterian	1,375	1.4%	1.1%	1,799	1.9%	–
Reformed	18	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	–
Salvation Army	36	0.0%	0.1%	42	0.0%	–
Seventh-day Adventist	39	0.0%	0.2%	41	0.0%	–
Uniting Church	2,700	2.7%	1.7%	3,260	3.4%	–
Pentecostal, nfd	272	0.3%	0.8%	220	0.2%	–
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Bethesda Ministries International (Bethesda Churches)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Foursquare Gospel Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Revival Centres	8	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Rhema Family Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Christian Church in Australia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pentecostal City Life Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Victory Worship Centre	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Worship Centre Network	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Other Protestant, nfd	137	0.1%	0.2%	128	0.1%	–
Born Again Christian	6	0.0%	0.1%	8	0.0%	–
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
Congregational	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
Independent Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Wesleyan Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Christian Community Churches of Australia	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Methodist, so described	84	0.1%	0.1%	96	0.1%	–
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	–	–	–	
Christadelphians	7	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Christian Science	8	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Gnostic Christians	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	8	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Ratana (Maori)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Temple Society	8	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	13	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Hinduism	778	0.8%	4.1%	578	0.6%	
Islam	675	0.7%	5.3%	439	0.5%	
Judaism	2,928	2.9%	0.9%	2,607	2.7%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Baha'i	37	0.0%	0.1%	24	0.0%	
Ancestor Veneration	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Confucianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	24	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Druse	19	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	–
Shinto	15	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	–
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Tenrikyo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Japanese Religions, nec	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nature Religions, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Animism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Paganism	12	0.0%	0.1%	19	0.0%	–
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	12	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Nature Religions, nec	10	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	–
Sikhism	120	0.1%	1.7%	105	0.1%	–
Spiritualism	31	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	–
Mandaean	3	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Yezidi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Church of Scientology	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
Eckankar	5	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Rastafari	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Satanism	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Theosophy	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Jainism	16	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	–
Zoroastrianism	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Religious Groups, nec	18	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	44,580	44.0%	36.9%	34,715	35.8%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	139	0.1%	0.1%	94	0.1%	
Atheism	131	0.1%	0.1%	130	0.1%	
Humanism	19	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Rationalism	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	8	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Multi Faith	12	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
New Age	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	121	0.1%	0.1%	100	0.1%	
Theism	22	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	17	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Not stated	4,863	4.8%	5.8%	8,391	8.6%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,295</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>97,036</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.