

Community report

Cairns (R)

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

AREA

Cairns (R)

COMPARISON

Regional Qld

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

30 March 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Ancestry

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.

Ancestry

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons
Community report section 1 of 1

SECTION

01

Key takeaway

In 2021, the largest ancestry groups among residents in Cairns (R) were English, Australian and Irish.

About this topic

Ancestry describes a person's cultural association and ethnic background, and Census respondents can report more than one ancestry. It is a broader cultural measure than country of birth because it can reflect family heritage across generations.

This topic helps show the size and diversity of cultural groups in an area, including groups whose members were born in Australia. Because multiple ancestries can be reported, ancestry totals can exceed the total population, so it is best read with birthplace, language used at home, and religion.

Interpretation notes

- People can report up to two ancestries, so category counts represent responses rather than a single unduplicated person count, while percentages are shown against the total population.
- ABS advises that ancestry is best used with birthplace and language, because ancestry alone is a broad measure of ethnicity and cultural background.
- The 2021 form added separate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mark boxes, so those categories need caution in over-time comparison.

Ancestry - Ranked by size

Cairns (R) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	391	0.2%	0.2%	464	0.3%	0.2%	-73	-0.1
Eurasian, so described	14	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0
Asian, so described	137	0.1%	0.1%	81	0.1%	0.0%	+56	0.0
African, so described	282	0.2%	0.1%	201	0.1%	0.1%	+81	+0.1
European, so described	179	0.1%	0.1%	100	0.1%	0.1%	+79	0.0
Caucasian, so described	–	–	0.0%	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Creole, so described	12	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	0.0%	-6	0.0
Oceanian, nfd	118	0.1%	0.0%	150	0.1%	0.0%	-32	0.0
Australian Peoples, nfd	–	–	0.0%	30	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Australian	50,126	30.0%	35.3%	54,363	34.6%	37.7%	-4,237	-4.6
Australian Aboriginal	11,773	7.1%	5.1%	1,858	1.2%	1.2%	+9,915	+5.9
Australian South Sea Islander	308	0.2%	0.2%	542	0.3%	0.2%	-234	-0.1

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Torres Strait Islander	7,214	4.3%	1.3%	1,629	1.0%	
Norfolk Islander	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
New Zealand Peoples, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori	1,196	0.7%	1.0%	1,095	0.7%	
New Zealander	1,801	1.1%	1.2%	1,860	1.2%	
Melanesian and Papuan, nfd	148	0.1%	0.0%	89	0.1%	
New Caledonian	6	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Ni-Vanuatu	48	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Papua New Guinean	2,756	1.7%	0.3%	2,435	1.6%	
Solomon Islander	64	0.0%	0.0%	68	0.0%	
Melanesian and Papuan, nec	12	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Micronesian, nfd	12	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
I-Kiribati	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Nauruan	13	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Micronesian, nec	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Polynesian, nfd	76	0.0%	0.0%	70	0.0%	
Cook Islander	814	0.5%	0.1%	632	0.4%	
Fijian	360	0.2%	0.1%	333	0.2%	
Niuean	40	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Samoan	586	0.4%	0.2%	450	0.3%	
Tongan	151	0.1%	0.1%	138	0.1%	
Hawaiian	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Tahitian	38	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Tokelauan	15	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Tuvaluan	15	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Pitcairn	6	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Polynesian, nec	26	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
North-West European, nfd	16	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
British, nfd	64	0.0%	0.0%	56	0.0%	
English	57,347	34.4%	39.6%	55,025	35.1%	
Scottish	15,532	9.3%	10.4%	14,799	9.4%	
Welsh	1,117	0.7%	0.6%	1,042	0.7%	
Channel Islander	13	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Manx	10	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
British, nec	38	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Irish	17,453	10.5%	10.9%	18,158	11.6%	
Western European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Austrian	428	0.3%	0.2%	395	0.3%	
Dutch	2,728	1.6%	1.5%	2,458	1.6%	
Flemish	9	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
French	1,211	0.7%	0.6%	1,130	0.7%	
German	8,688	5.2%	6.3%	8,434	5.4%	
Swiss	420	0.3%	0.2%	425	0.3%	
Belgian	123	0.1%	0.1%	111	0.1%	
Frisian	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Luxembourg	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Western European, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Northern European, nfd	125	0.1%	0.1%	90	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Danish	780	0.5%	0.5%	723	0.5%	
Finnish	338	0.2%	0.2%	276	0.2%	
Icelandic	12	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Norwegian	288	0.2%	0.2%	238	0.2%	
Swedish	416	0.2%	0.2%	365	0.2%	
Northern European, nec	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Southern and Eastern European, nfd	21	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Southern European, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Basque	5	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Catalan	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Italian	8,372	5.0%	3.2%	7,511	4.8%	
Maltese	790	0.5%	0.5%	628	0.4%	
Portuguese	359	0.2%	0.2%	287	0.2%	
Spanish	884	0.5%	0.5%	805	0.5%	
Gibraltarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern European, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South Eastern European, nfd	126	0.1%	0.1%	170	0.1%	
Albanian	75	0.0%	0.0%	71	0.0%	
Bosnian	40	0.0%	0.1%	47	0.0%	
Bulgarian	29	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Croatian	681	0.4%	0.3%	531	0.3%	
Greek	946	0.6%	0.5%	878	0.6%	
Macedonian	58	0.0%	0.1%	39	0.0%	
Moldovan	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Montenegrin	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Romanian	77	0.0%	0.1%	67	0.0%	
Roma Gypsy	12	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Serbian	198	0.1%	0.1%	120	0.1%	
Slovene	83	0.0%	0.1%	72	0.0%	
Cypriot	66	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	
Vlach	–	–	–	–	–	
South Eastern European, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European, nfd	76	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Belarusan	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Czech	233	0.1%	0.1%	207	0.1%	
Estonian	79	0.0%	0.0%	52	0.0%	
Hungarian	474	0.3%	0.3%	412	0.3%	
Latvian	141	0.1%	0.1%	134	0.1%	
Lithuanian	90	0.1%	0.0%	70	0.0%	
Polish	1,065	0.6%	0.5%	898	0.6%	
Russian	489	0.3%	0.3%	391	0.2%	
Slovak	75	0.0%	0.0%	62	0.0%	
Ukrainian	269	0.2%	0.1%	194	0.1%	
Sorb/Wend	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European, nec	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
North African and Middle Eastern, nfd	27	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Arab, nfd	44	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %
Algerian	7	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	0.0%
Egyptian	143	0.1%	0.1%	87	0.1%	0.1%
Iraqi	11	0.0%	0.1%	17	0.0%	0.0%
Jordanian	—	—	0.0%	6	0.0%	0.0%
Kuwaiti	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Lebanese	165	0.1%	0.1%	120	0.1%	0.1%
Libyan	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—
Moroccan	22	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	0.0%
Palestinian	12	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	0.0%
Saudi Arabian	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	0.0%
Syrian	22	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	0.0%
Tunisian	11	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	0.0%
Yemeni	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Emirati	—	—	—	—	—	—
Omani	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Arab, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%
Jewish	75	0.0%	0.0%	57	0.0%	0.0%
Peoples of the Sudan, nfd	—	—	0.0%	10	0.0%	0.0%
Dinka	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Nuer	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Sudanese	—	—	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%
Sudanese	22	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	0.0%
Other North African and Middle Eastern, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %
Berber	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%
Coptic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%
Iranian	124	0.1%	0.1%	120	0.1%	0.1%
Kurdish	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%
Turkish	114	0.1%	0.1%	87	0.1%	0.1%
Assyrian	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	0.0%
Chaldean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%
Nubian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%
Yezidi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%
Other North African and Middle Eastern, nec	37	0.0%	0.0%	39	0.0%	0.0%
South-East Asian, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	0.0%
Mainland South-East Asian, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
Anglo-Burmese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%
Burmese	133	0.1%	0.0%	91	0.1%	0.0%
Hmong	898	0.5%	0.0%	852	0.5%	0.0%
Khmer (Cambodian)	93	0.1%	0.0%	83	0.1%	0.0%
Lao	145	0.1%	0.0%	118	0.1%	0.0%
Thai	825	0.5%	0.3%	590	0.4%	0.3%
Vietnamese	495	0.3%	0.2%	378	0.2%	0.2%
Karen	10	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	0.0%
Mon	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%
Chin	13	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%
Rohingya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Mainland South–East Asian, nec	123	0.1%	0.0%	56	0.0%	
Filipino	3,231	1.9%	1.3%	2,508	1.6%	
Indonesian	562	0.3%	0.2%	405	0.3%	
Javanese	10	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Malay	252	0.2%	0.1%	248	0.2%	
Sundanese	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Timorese	127	0.1%	0.0%	80	0.1%	
Balinese	10	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Bruneian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kadazan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Singaporean	20	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Maritime South–East Asian, nec	76	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Chinese	3,418	2.0%	1.6%	3,329	2.1%	
Taiwanese	169	0.1%	0.1%	137	0.1%	
Chinese Asian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese	2,709	1.6%	0.5%	2,554	1.6%	
Korean	973	0.6%	0.3%	1,039	0.7%	
Mongolian	13	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Tibetan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other North–East Asian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian, nfd	68	0.0%	0.0%	53	0.0%	
Anglo–Indian	14	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Bengali	15	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Burgher	15	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %
Gujarati	12	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Indian	2,148	1.3%	1.0%	1,784	1.1%	
Malayali	84	0.1%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Nepalese	903	0.5%	0.2%	549	0.3%	
Pakistani	100	0.1%	0.1%	85	0.1%	
Punjabi	513	0.3%	0.2%	200	0.1%	
Sikh	259	0.2%	0.1%	68	0.0%	
Sinhalese	148	0.1%	0.1%	46	0.0%	
Maldivian	11	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Bangladeshi	34	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	
Bhutanese	554	0.3%	0.0%	475	0.3%	
Fijian Indian	40	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Kashmiri	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Parsi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sindhi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sri Lankan	285	0.2%	0.1%	298	0.2%	
Sri Lankan Tamil	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Indian Tamil	7	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Tamil, nfd	83	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Telugu	22	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian, nec	25	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Central Asian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afghan	33	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Armenian	12	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Georgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kazakh	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pathan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uzbek	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Azeri	5	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Hazara	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Tajik	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Tatar	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Turkmen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uighur	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kyrgyz	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Central Asian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Peoples of the Americas, nfd	35	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
North American, nfd	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
African American	45	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
American	512	0.3%	0.3%	497	0.3%	
Canadian	379	0.2%	0.2%	357	0.2%	
French Canadian	34	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Hispanic North American	14	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Native North American Indian	63	0.0%	0.0%	42	0.0%	
Bermudan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
North American, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
South American, nfd	45	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Argentinian	73	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Bolivian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Brazilian	164	0.1%	0.2%	85	0.1%	
Chilean	120	0.1%	0.1%	67	0.0%	
Colombian	87	0.1%	0.1%	43	0.0%	
Ecuadorian	21	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Guyanese	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Peruvian	44	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
Uruguayan	30	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Venezuelan	20	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Paraguayan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South American, nec	15	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Central American, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mexican	51	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Nicaraguan	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Salvadoran	14	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Costa Rican	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Guatemalan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mayan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Central American, nec	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Caribbean Islander, nfd	43	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Cuban	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Jamaican	71	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	
Trinidadian Tobagonian	20	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Barbadian	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Puerto Rican	14	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Caribbean Islander, nec	17	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Sub-Saharan African, nfd	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Central and West African, nfd	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Akan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fulani	–	–	–	–	–	
Ghanaian	29	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Nigerian	25	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Yoruba	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ivorean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liberian	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sierra Leonean	16	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cameroonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congolese	158	0.1%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Igbo	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Krahn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandinka	–	–	–	–	–	
Senegalese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Themne	–	–	–	–	–	
Togolese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Central and West African, nec	24	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Southern and East African, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaner	26	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Angolan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eritrean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethiopian	19	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Kenyan	43	0.0%	0.0%	31	0.0%	
Malawian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mauritian	116	0.1%	0.1%	104	0.1%	
Mozambican	4	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Namibian	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Oromo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Seychellois	76	0.0%	0.0%	48	0.0%	
Somali	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
South African	647	0.4%	0.6%	467	0.3%	
Tanzanian	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ugandan	20	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Zambian	8	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Zimbabwean	106	0.1%	0.1%	95	0.1%	
Amhara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Batswana	7	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Masai	–	–	–	–	–	
Tigrayan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tigre	–	–	–	–	–	
Zulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burundian	20	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Madi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Ogaden	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rwandan	38	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Shona	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swahili	16	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Swazilander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and East African, nec	14	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	

Excludes ancestries with fewer than 10 responses (multi-response).

Data basis: usual residence.