

# 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

**2 April 2026**

### Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

**01** Household size

### 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.
- Enumerated topics describe where people or dwellings were counted on Census night.

# Household size

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, 2 persons was the most common household size among households in Cairns (R), accounting for 35% (21,087 households). This share was lower than Regional Qld (36.9%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in 1 person, which increased by 1,743 households and 0.9 percentage points.

## About this topic

Household size shows how many people live in each household. It is a basic but important measure of family life, dwelling use, and the way people share housing.

This topic helps indicate demand for different dwelling sizes and can reflect life-cycle patterns, cultural norms, and affordability pressures. It is best read with household type, age structure, and dwelling type, because changes in household size can happen for very different reasons.

## Interpretation notes

- This counts the number of people usually resident in the dwelling, so it describes shared living arrangements rather than dwelling size.

- Household size should be read with bedrooms or dwelling structure before drawing conclusions about crowding or housing suitability.

## Household size

Cairns (R) – Households (Enumerated)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
1 person	16,313	27.0%	25.6%	14,570	26.1%	24.9%	+1,743	+0.9
2 persons	21,087	35.0%	36.9%	19,347	34.7%	36.8%	+1,740	+0.3
3 persons	9,450	15.7%	14.9%	8,970	16.1%	15.2%	+480	-0.4
4 persons	8,274	13.7%	13.6%	7,811	14.0%	14.0%	+463	-0.3
5 persons	3,239	5.4%	5.8%	3,266	5.9%	6.0%	-27	-0.5
6 or more persons	1,954	3.2%	3.2%	1,829	3.3%	3.2%	+125	-0.1
<b>Total classifiable households</b>	<b>60,318</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>55,790</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>+4,528</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Data basis: enumerated.