

# 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** Overseas arrivals

### 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.

# Overseas arrivals

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, 2001 to 2010 was the most common arrival period among overseas-born residents in Cairns (R), accounting for 23.4% (8,704 people). This share was higher than Regional Qld (22.7%).

## About this topic

Overseas arrivals groups the overseas-born population by the year they first arrived in Australia to live here for one year or more. It shows how recent or established migrant communities are within an area.

This topic only applies to people born overseas, not the total population. It is useful for understanding settlement trends and likely demand for newcomer services, and it is best read with birthplace, language used at home, and religion.

## Interpretation notes

- This topic applies only to overseas-born people who first arrived to live in Australia for one year or more, not to the total population.
- Year of arrival is most useful with birthplace and language, because arrival timing alone does not show current support needs.

## Overseas arrivals

Cairns (R) – Overseas born (Usual residence)

Category	2021 count	2021 %	Regional Qld %
Arrived in 1960 or earlier	1,609	4.3%	5.7%
1961 to 1970	2,772	7.4%	8.5%
1971 to 1980	3,303	8.9%	9.1%
1981 to 1990	4,576	12.3%	11.3%
1991 to 2000	4,500	12.1%	10.7%
2001 to 2010	8,704	23.4%	22.7%
2011 to 2015	5,303	14.2%	13.2%
2016 to Aug 2021	5,510	14.8%	16.0%
Not stated	990	2.7%	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,268</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data basis: usual residence.