

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 Qualifications

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.

Qualifications

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, no qualification was the most common qualification level among residents aged 15 and over in Cairns (R), accounting for 35.5% (48,004 people). This share was lower than Regional Qld (39.2%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in bachelor degree or higher, which increased by 5,586 people and 2.9 percentage points.

About this topic

Qualifications records the highest non-school qualification completed by people aged 15 years and over. It describes post-school educational attainment such as certificates, diplomas, and university degrees.

This topic is a key indicator of skill level and socio-economic opportunity within an area. It is most useful when read with employment status, occupation, and income, which show how qualifications relate to labour market outcomes.

Interpretation notes

– This topic uses highest completed non-school qualification, so incomplete study and current enrolment do not count as attained qualifications.

– It applies to people aged 15 years and over and should be read with schooling for the full education profile.

Highest qualification achieved

Cairns (R) – Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Bachelor Or Higher Degree	25,828	19.1%	17.1%	20,242	16.2%	14.0%	+5,586	+2.9
Advanced Diploma Or Diploma	13,280	9.8%	9.1%	11,536	9.2%	8.3%	+1,744	+0.6
Vocational	32,081	23.7%	24.1%	28,745	23.0%	23.1%	+3,336	+0.7
No Qualification	48,004	35.5%	39.2%	47,964	38.4%	42.4%	+40	-2.9
Not Stated	15,906	11.8%	10.5%	16,308	13.1%	12.1%	-402	-1.3
Total	135,099	100.0%	100.0%	124,795	100.0%	100.0%	+10,304	0.0

Data basis: usual residence.