

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 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

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Cairns (R), accounting for 41.7% (69,627 people). This share was higher than Regional Qld (40.1%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 19,820 people and 10 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

Cairns (R) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	835	0.5%	0.4%	933	0.6%	0.4%	-98	-0.1
Buddhism	2,780	1.7%	1.0%	2,759	1.8%	1.1%	+21	-0.1
Christianity, nfd	4,554	2.7%	3.0%	4,209	2.7%	3.0%	+345	0.0
Anglican Church of Australia	16,475	9.9%	12.8%	21,035	13.4%	17.1%	-4,560	-3.5
Anglican Catholic Church	28	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	0.0%	+12	0.0
Anglican, nec	—	—	—	6	0.0%	0.0%	—	—
Baptist	1,563	0.9%	1.4%	1,719	1.1%	1.6%	-156	-0.2
Brethren	14	0.0%	0.1%	15	0.0%	0.1%	-1	0.0
Catholic, nfd	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Western Catholic	33,299	19.9%	18.7%	35,816	22.8%	22.0%	-2,517	-2.9
Maronite Catholic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Melkite Catholic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Ukrainian Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chaldean Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Syro Malabar Catholic	115	0.1%	0.0%	27	0.0%	
Catholic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Churches of Christ, nfd	24	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	168	0.1%	0.1%	175	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Jehovah's Witnesses	903	0.5%	0.5%	993	0.6%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	405	0.2%	0.3%	350	0.2%	
Community of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lutheran	935	0.6%	1.1%	1,166	0.7%	
Armenian Apostolic	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Coptic Orthodox Church	68	0.0%	0.0%	35	0.0%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	40	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	17	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ancient Church of the East	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	9	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Antiochian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %
Greek Orthodox	558	0.3%	0.3%	532	0.3%	0.3%
Macedonian Orthodox	9	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	0.0%
Romanian Orthodox	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%
Russian Orthodox	90	0.1%	0.0%	80	0.1%	0.0%
Serbian Orthodox	54	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	0.0%
Ukrainian Orthodox	16	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	0.0%
Eastern Orthodox, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	0.0%
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
Presbyterian	3,581	2.1%	2.3%	4,567	2.9%	2.3%
Reformed	52	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	0.0%
Free Reformed	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Salvation Army	190	0.1%	0.2%	235	0.1%	0.2%
Seventh-day Adventist	748	0.4%	0.3%	779	0.5%	0.3%
Uniting Church	4,396	2.6%	4.0%	5,698	3.6%	4.0%
Pentecostal, nfd	1,975	1.2%	1.1%	1,916	1.2%	1.1%
Apostolic Church (Australia)	27	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	0.0%
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	258	0.2%	0.1%	410	0.3%	0.1%
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	124	0.1%	0.1%	33	0.0%	0.1%
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	12	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Foursquare Gospel Church	26	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	0.0%
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	14	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	0.0%

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Revival Centres	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Rhema Family Church	–	–	–	–	–	
United Pentecostal	45	0.0%	0.0%	74	0.0%	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Church in Australia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal City Life Church	–	–	–	7	0.0%	
Revival Fellowship	16	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Victory Life Centre	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Worship Centre Network	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Other Protestant, nfd	196	0.1%	0.1%	171	0.1%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Born Again Christian	107	0.1%	0.1%	57	0.0%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	16	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Congregational	12	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	125	0.1%	0.0%	132	0.1%	
Independent Evangelical Churches	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	22	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Methodist, so described	216	0.1%	0.1%	240	0.2%	
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	–
Christadelphians	13	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	–
Christian Science	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Gnostic Christians	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
New Apostolic Church	–	–	0.0%	10	0.0%	–
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Ratana (Maori)	21	0.0%	0.0%	45	0.0%	–
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Temple Society	–	–	–	–	–	–
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Other Christian, nec	40	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	–
Hinduism	1,546	0.9%	0.7%	1,272	0.8%	–
Islam	766	0.5%	0.5%	563	0.4%	–
Judaism	168	0.1%	0.1%	155	0.1%	–
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	47	0.0%	0.0%	41	0.0%	–
Baha'i	104	0.1%	0.0%	97	0.1%	–
Chinese Religions, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Ancestor Veneration	22	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	–
Confucianism	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Taoism	44	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Druse	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Japanese Religions, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	45	0.0%	0.0%	58	0.0%	
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tenrikyo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese Religions, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Nature Religions, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Animism	71	0.0%	0.0%	65	0.0%	
Druidism	9	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Paganism	133	0.1%	0.1%	143	0.1%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	52	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	98	0.1%	0.0%	81	0.1%	
Sikhism	1,014	0.6%	0.3%	847	0.5%	
Spiritualism	52	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	
Mandaean	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Yezidi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Eckankar	8	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Rastafari	10	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Satanism	37	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Theosophy	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Jainism	–	–	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Zoroastrianism	4	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Religious Groups, nec	68	0.0%	0.0%	50	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	69,627	41.7%	40.1%	49,807	31.7%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Agnosticism	154	0.1%	0.1%	136	0.1%	
Atheism	245	0.1%	0.1%	239	0.2%	
Humanism	7	0.0%	0.0%	58	0.0%	
Rationalism	15	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	11	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Multi Faith	27	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	
New Age	10	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	198	0.1%	0.1%	157	0.1%	
Theism	48	0.0%	0.0%	50	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	48	0.0%	0.0%	46	0.0%	
Not stated	16,955	10.2%	8.8%	18,063	11.5%	
Total	166,919	100.0%	100.0%	156,896	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.