

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 Highest level of schooling

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.

Highest level of schooling

Cairns (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, Year 12 or Equivalent was the most common schooling level among residents aged 15 and over in Cairns (R), accounting for 52.6% (71,090 people). This share was higher than Regional Qld (49%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in Year 12 or Equivalent, which increased by 9,918 people and 3.6 percentage points.

About this topic

Highest level of schooling shows the highest year of primary or secondary school completed by people aged 15 years and over. It describes school attainment rather than post-school qualifications.

This topic helps indicate educational attainment and can support analysis of access to employment, training, and services. It is best read with qualifications and other socio-economic indicators, because school completion alone does not show a person's full skill profile.

Interpretation notes

- This records the highest year of primary or secondary school completed by people aged 15 years and over.

- It is not a measure of post-school qualifications, so it should be read with non-school qualifications for full attainment.

Highest level of secondary schooling completed

Cairns (R) – Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Year 8 Or Below	4,321	3.2%	4.3%	4,862	3.9%	5.3%	-541	-0.7
Year 9 Or Equivalent	6,270	4.6%	5.4%	5,565	4.5%	5.5%	+705	+0.1
Year 10 Or Equivalent	27,377	20.3%	24.2%	26,907	21.6%	25.6%	+470	-1.3
Year 11 Or Equivalent	11,704	8.7%	8.2%	11,471	9.2%	8.5%	+233	-0.5
Year 12 Or Equivalent	71,090	52.6%	49.0%	61,172	49.0%	44.6%	+9,918	+3.6
Did Not Go To School	1,002	0.7%	0.4%	923	0.7%	0.4%	+79	0.0
Not Stated	13,338	9.9%	8.5%	13,900	11.1%	10.2%	-562	-1.2
Total	135,102	100.0%	100.0%	124,800	100.0%	100.0%	+10,302	0.0

Data basis: usual residence.