

# Community report

## Central Desert (R)

Prepared from Community Explorer topic selections for briefing, planning and reporting use.

AREA

**Central Desert (R)**

COMPARISON

**Regional NT**

POPULATION

**Persons**

GENERATED

**2 April 2026**

### Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

**01** Ancestry

### 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.

# Ancestry

Central Desert (R) | Regional NT comparison | Persons  
Community report section 1 of 1

SECTION

01

## Key takeaway

In 2021, the largest ancestry groups among residents in Central Desert (R) were Australian Aboriginal, English and Australian.

## About this topic

Ancestry describes a person's cultural association and ethnic background, and Census respondents can report more than one ancestry. It is a broader cultural measure than country of birth because it can reflect family heritage across generations.

This topic helps show the size and diversity of cultural groups in an area, including groups whose members were born in Australia. Because multiple ancestries can be reported, ancestry totals can exceed the total population, so it is best read with birthplace, language used at home, and religion.

## Interpretation notes

- People can report up to two ancestries, so category counts represent responses rather than a single unduplicated person count, while percentages are shown against the total population.
- ABS advises that ancestry is best used with birthplace and language, because ancestry alone is a broad measure of ethnicity and cultural background.
- The 2021 form added separate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mark boxes, so those categories need caution in over-time comparison.

## Ancestry - Ranked by size

Central Desert (R) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	3	0.1%	0.2%	–	–	0.2%	–	–
Asian, so described	4	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
African, so described	3	0.1%	0.4%	–	–	0.2%	–	–
European, so described	–	–	0.0%	3	0.1%	0.0%	–	–
Caucasian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Oceanian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Australian	220	6.1%	16.8%	307	8.3%	22.0%	-87	-2.2
Australian Aboriginal	2,824	78.6%	49.1%	2,826	76.9%	39.6%	-2	+1.7
Australian South Sea Islander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Torres Strait Islander	5	0.1%	0.7%	3	0.1%	0.2%	+2	0.0
Maori	3	0.1%	0.8%	21	0.6%	0.7%	-18	-0.5
New Zealander	9	0.3%	0.5%	9	0.2%	0.6%	0	+0.1

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Melanesian and Papuan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ni-Vanuatu	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Papua New Guinean	–	–	0.2%	3	0.1%	
Solomon Islander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
I-Kiribati	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Polynesian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cook Islander	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Fijian	6	0.2%	0.3%	–	–	
Niuean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Samoan	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Tongan	–	–	0.2%	3	0.1%	
Hawaiian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tahitian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tokelauan	–	–	–	–	–	
Tuvaluan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pitcairn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Polynesian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
North-West European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
British, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
English	222	6.2%	16.1%	192	5.2%	
Scottish	55	1.5%	4.5%	61	1.7%	
Welsh	5	0.1%	0.3%	3	0.1%	
Channel Islander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Manx	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
British, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Irish	68	1.9%	5.4%	83	2.3%	
Austrian	4	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	
Dutch	14	0.4%	0.8%	12	0.3%	
French	5	0.1%	0.3%	4	0.1%	
German	43	1.2%	2.8%	37	1.0%	
Swiss	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Belgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Luxembourg	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Northern European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Danish	5	0.1%	0.2%	4	0.1%	
Finnish	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Norwegian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Swedish	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Southern and Eastern European, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Southern European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Italian	13	0.4%	1.2%	7	0.2%	
Maltese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Portuguese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Spanish	–	–	0.2%	3	0.1%	
South Eastern European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Albanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bosnian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Bulgarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Croatian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Greek	5	0.1%	0.2%	–	–	
Macedonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Montenegrin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Romanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Roma Gypsy	–	–	–	–	–	
Serbian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Slovene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cypriot	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Czech	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Estonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hungarian	3	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	
Latvian	4	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	
Lithuanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Polish	9	0.3%	0.3%	3	0.1%	
Russian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Slovak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ukrainian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sorb/Wend	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
North African and Middle Eastern, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arab, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Egyptian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iraqi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jordanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lebanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Moroccan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Palestinian	–	–	–	–	–	
Syrian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jewish	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Peoples of the Sudan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dinka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nuer	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South Sudanese	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Sudanese	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Iranian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kurdish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandaeen	–	–	–	–	–	
Nubian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other North African and Middle Eastern, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Khmer (Cambodian)	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Lao	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Thai	–	–	0.2%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Vietnamese	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Mainland South–East Asian, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Filipino	7	0.2%	1.5%	6	0.2%	
Indonesian	–	–	0.2%	3	0.1%	
Javanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Malay	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Timorese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Balinese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Singaporean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maritime South–East Asian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chinese	18	0.5%	1.1%	4	0.1%	
Taiwanese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Japanese	3	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	
Korean	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Mongolian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Anglo–Indian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bengali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gujarati	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indian	7	0.2%	1.4%	–	–	
Malayali	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Nepalese	–	–	0.5%	–	–	
Pakistani	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Punjabi	3	0.1%	0.3%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Sikh	3	0.1%	0.2%	—	—	
Sinhalese	—	—	0.1%	—	—	
Bangladeshi	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Bhutanese	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Fijian Indian	3	0.1%	0.0%	—	—	
Sri Lankan	5	0.1%	0.1%	—	—	
Tamil, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Telugu	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Southern Asian, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Central Asian, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Afghan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Armenian	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Pathan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Uzbek	—	—	—	—	—	
Uighur	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Peoples of the Americas, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
North American, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
African American	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
American	—	—	0.3%	3	0.1%	
Canadian	—	—	0.1%	6	0.2%	
French Canadian	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Hispanic North American	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Native North American Indian	—	—	0.1%	—	—	
North American, nec	—	—	—	—	—	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
South American, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Argentinian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Brazilian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chilean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Colombian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Guyanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Peruvian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uruguayan	–	–	–	–	–	
Venezuelan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South American, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mexican	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Salvadoran	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Caribbean Islander, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cuban	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jamaican	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Puerto Rican	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Caribbean Islander, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Central and West African, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ghanaian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nigerian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Yoruba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sierra Leonean	–	–	–	–	–	
Cameroonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congolese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Igbo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Central and West African, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and East African, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaner	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethiopian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kenyan	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Mauritian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mozambican	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Namibian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Seychellois	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Somali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South African	3	0.1%	0.2%	–	–	
Tanzanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ugandan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zambian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zimbabwean	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Batswana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burundian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Madi	–	–	–	–	–	
Shona	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and East African, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Excludes ancestries with fewer than 10 responses (multi-response).

Data basis: usual residence.