

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

30 March 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Language used at home

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.

Language used at home

Central Desert (R) | Regional NT comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, Warlpiri was the most common language used at home among residents in Central Desert (R), accounting for 45.7% (1,623 people). This share was higher than Regional NT (2.7%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd, which decreased by 266 people and 7.3 percentage points.

About this topic

Language used at home shows which languages people speak in their home life and whether English or another language is used most often. It is a key indicator of cultural diversity and language retention within communities.

This topic is useful for planning communication, multicultural services, and local engagement. It should be analysed together with proficiency in English and birthplace, because language alone does not show migration history or support needs.

Interpretation notes

- The Census records the language used most often at home, so it does not capture every language a person can speak.
- Language used at home is not a measure of English proficiency, literacy, or migration history on its own.

Language used at home - Ranked by size

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

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	–	–	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Non-verbal, so described	–	–	0.1%	16	0.4%	0.1%	–	–
Swiss, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Creole, nfd	–	–	0.0%	5	0.1%	0.2%	–	–
French Creole, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–
Pidgin, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Gaelic (Scotland)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Irish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Welsh	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–
English	568	16.0%	43.0%	496	13.6%	42.8%	+72	+2.4
German	3	0.1%	0.2%	–	–	0.3%	–	–
Dutch	–	–	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Afrikaans	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Danish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Norwegian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swedish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Estonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Finnish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
French	4	0.1%	0.2%	3	0.1%	
Greek	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Portuguese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Spanish	3	0.1%	0.2%	–	–	
Iberian Romance, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Italian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Maltese	–	–	–	–	–	
Lithuanian	–	–	–	–	–	
Hungarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bosnian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bulgarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Croatian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Macedonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Serbian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Czech	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Polish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Romanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pashto	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Persian (excluding Dari)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hazaraghi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arabic	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Hebrew	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kannada	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Malayalam	–	–	0.6%	–	–	
Tamil	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Telugu	3	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	
Bengali	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Gujarati	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Hindi	4	0.1%	0.3%	–	–	
Konkani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Marathi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nepali	–	–	0.5%	–	–	
Punjabi	3	0.1%	0.5%	–	–	
Sinhalese	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Urdu	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Dhivehi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Fijian Hindustani	4	0.1%	0.0%	—	—	
Indo-Aryan, nec	—	—	—	—	—	
Burmese	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Khmer	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Vietnamese	—	—	0.3%	—	—	
Thai	—	—	0.2%	3	0.1%	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Bisaya	—	—	0.1%	—	—	
Cebuano	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Ilokano	—	—	—	—	—	
Indonesian	—	—	0.1%	—	—	
Malay	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Tetum	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Tagalog	—	—	0.6%	—	—	
Filipino	3	0.1%	0.3%	3	0.1%	
Balinese	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Ilonggo (Hiligaynon)	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Chinese, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Cantonese	—	—	0.1%	—	—	
Hakka	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Mandarin	11	0.3%	0.5%	3	0.1%	
Min Nan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Japanese	—	—	0.1%	—	—	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Korean	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Mongolian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	21	0.6%	0.6%	287	7.9%	
Arnhem Land and Daly River Region Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Anindilyakwa	–	–	1.6%	–	–	
Maung	–	–	0.4%	–	–	
Ngan'gikurrunggurr	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Nunggubuyu	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Rembarrnga	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Tiwi	–	–	2.1%	–	–	
Dalabon	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gudanji	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iwaidja	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Jaminjung	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jawoyn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jingulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kunbarlang	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Larrakiya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Malak Malak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mangarrayi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maringarr	–	–	–	–	–	
Marra	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Marrithiyel	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Murrinh Patha	–	–	2.3%	–	–	
Na-kara	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Ndjebbana (Gunavidji)	–	–	0.4%	–	–	
Ngaliwurru	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Nungali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wambaya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wardaman	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Garrwa	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Ngandi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Waanyi	–	–	–	–	–	
Wagiman	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yanyuwa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gundjeihmi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kune	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Kuninjku	–	–	0.5%	–	–	
Kunwinjku	–	–	1.6%	–	–	
Mayali	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Burarran, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burarra	–	–	1.3%	–	–	
Gun-nartpa	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Gurr-goni	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arnhem Land and Daly River Region Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Yolngu Matha, nfd	–	–	1.8%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Dhangu, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Galpu	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Golumala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wangurri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhangu, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Dhay'yi, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Dhalwangu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhuwal, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Djambarrpuyngu	–	–	4.3%	–	–	
Djapu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Daatiwuy	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Marrangu	–	–	–	–	–	
Liyagalawumirr	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liyagawumirr	–	–	–	–	–	
Dhuwal, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhuwala, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gumatj	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Gupapuyngu	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Guyamirrilili	–	–	–	–	–	
Wubulkarra	–	–	–	–	–	
Djinang, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Wurlaki	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Djinang, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Djinba, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Ganalbingu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Djinba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Manyjalpingu	–	–	–	–	–	
Ritharrngu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wagilak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nhangu, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhuwaya	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Madarrpa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Warramiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rirratjingu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Yolngu Matha, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kuku Yalanji	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cape York Peninsula Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Torres Strait Island Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kalaw Kawaw Ya/Kalaw Lagaw Ya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Meriam Mir	–	–	–	–	–	
Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bilinarra	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Gurindji	5	0.1%	0.6%	–	–	
Gurindji Kriol	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jaru	5	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	
Malngin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mudburra	–	–	0.1%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Ngarinyman	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Walmajarri	–	–	–	–	–	
Warlmanpa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Warlpiri	1,623	45.7%	2.7%	1,521	41.6%	
Warumungu	9	0.3%	0.4%	5	0.1%	
Arandic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Alyawarr	50	1.4%	2.1%	44	1.2%	
Kaytetye	39	1.1%	0.1%	29	0.8%	
Anmatyerr, nfd	76	2.1%	0.2%	92	2.5%	
Central Anmatyerr	478	13.5%	0.5%	–	–	
Eastern Anmatyerr	97	2.7%	0.2%	3	0.1%	
Anmatyerr, nec	–	–	–	435	11.9%	
Arrernte, nfd	72	2.0%	1.4%	96	2.6%	
Eastern Arrernte	158	4.4%	0.5%	166	4.5%	
Western Arrarnta	7	0.2%	1.0%	8	0.2%	
Arrernte, nec	–	–	–	127	3.5%	
Kukatja	7	0.2%	0.0%	4	0.1%	
Luritja	4	0.1%	1.4%	4	0.1%	
Martu Wangka	–	–	–	–	–	
Ngaanyatjarra	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pintupi	3	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	
Pitjantjatjara	–	–	1.1%	–	–	
Yankunytjatjara	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Gooniyandi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Miriwoong	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ngarinyin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yawuru	–	–	–	–	–	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Adnymathanha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gamilaraay	–	–	–	–	–	
Kriol	6	0.2%	5.4%	–	–	
Lardil	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Narungga	–	–	–	–	–	
Ngarrindjeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyamal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyungar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wajarri	–	–	–	–	–	
Wiradjuri	–	–	–	–	–	
Aboriginal English, so described	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
African Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acholi	–	–	–	–	–	
Akan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mauritian Creole	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shona	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Somali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swahili	–	–	0.1%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Yoruba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Amharic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bemba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dinka	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Igbo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ndebele	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Nuer	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Tswana	–	–	–	–	–	
Anuak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Madi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandinka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Gilbertese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (Cook Island)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (New Zealand)	5	0.1%	0.1%	6	0.2%	
Samoan	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Tongan	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Rotuman	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tuvaluan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Bislama	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Norf'k–Pitcairn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Solomon Islands Pijin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Motu (HiriMotu)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tok Pisin (Neomelanesian)	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Auslan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Key Word Sign Australia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Not stated	280	7.9%	10.1%	296	8.1%	1
Total	3,551	100.0%	100.0%	3,652	100.0%	10

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.