

# 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** 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

Central Desert (R) | Regional NT comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, Baptist was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Central Desert (R), accounting for 25.5% (913 people). This share was higher than Regional NT (4.1%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in Lutheran, which decreased by 231 people and 5.8 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

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

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	25	0.7%	0.5%	9	0.2%	0.4%	+16	+0.5
Buddhism	9	0.3%	0.8%	9	0.2%	0.9%	0	+0.1
Christianity, nfd	76	2.1%	4.9%	39	1.1%	2.3%	+37	+1.0
Anglican Church of Australia	54	1.5%	6.3%	74	2.0%	8.0%	-20	-0.5
Anglican Catholic Church	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Baptist	913	25.5%	4.1%	915	24.9%	3.7%	-2	+0.6
Brethren	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Catholic, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Western Catholic	313	8.7%	14.9%	280	7.6%	17.7%	+33	+1.1
Syro Malabar Catholic	—	—	0.1%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Catholic, nec	—	—	0.0%	18	0.5%	0.0%	—	—
Churches of Christ (Conference)	—	—	0.1%	4	0.1%	0.0%	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Jehovah's Witnesses	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	44	1.2%	0.3%	23	0.6%	
Lutheran	679	19.0%	5.1%	910	24.8%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Syrian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Greek Orthodox	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Russian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Serbian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ukrainian Orthodox	–	–	–	–	–	
Presbyterian	4	0.1%	0.6%	19	0.5%	
Reformed	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Salvation Army	–	–	0.1%	3	0.1%	
Seventh-day Adventist	8	0.2%	0.5%	–	–	
Uniting Church	38	1.1%	6.1%	25	0.7%	
Pentecostal, nfd	164	4.6%	0.9%	197	5.4%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	44	1.2%	0.6%	41	1.1%	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Foursquare Gospel Church	–	–	–	–	–	
United Pentecostal	13	0.4%	0.0%	22	0.6%	
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.1%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Other Protestant, nfd	–	–	0.1%	8	0.2%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	1.2%	–	–	
Born Again Christian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	–	–	–	
Congregational	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Independent Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Methodist, so described	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christadelphians	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gnostic Christians	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ratana (Maori)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hinduism	9	0.3%	1.1%	–	–	
Islam	6	0.2%	0.5%	4	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Judaism	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	29	0.8%	3.7%	217	5.9%	
Baha'i	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Confucianism	–	–	–	–	–	
Taoism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	–	–	–	–	–	
Animism	–	–	–	–	–	
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paganism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sikhism	3	0.1%	0.5%	–	–	
Spiritualism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandaeen	–	–	–	–	–	
Church of Scientology	–	–	–	–	–	
Rastafari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Satanism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Theosophy	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jainism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Groups, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	734	20.5%	32.6%	508	13.8%	
Agnosticism	–	–	0.1%	3	0.1%	
Atheism	4	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NT %	Count	%	Region
Humanism	–	–	–	–	–	
Rationalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Secular Beliefs, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.1%	3	0.1%	
Multi Faith	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Theism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Not stated	412	11.5%	12.9%	339	9.2%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,581</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,670</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.