

Community report

Cocos Islands

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

AREA

Cocos Islands

COMPARISON

Other Territories

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

30 March 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

Cocos Islands | Other Territories comparison | Persons
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SECTION

01

Key takeaway

In 2021, the largest ancestry groups among residents in Cocos Islands were Australian, Australian Peoples, nfd and Malay.

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

Cocos Islands - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	23	3.9%	0.8%	–	–	0.7%	–	–
Eurasian, so described	–	–	0.2%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Asian, so described	4	0.7%	0.3%	–	–	0.2%	–	–
African, so described	–	–	–	–	–	0.1%	–	–
European, so described	–	–	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Oceanian, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Australian Peoples, nfd	109	18.4%	2.2%	–	–	0.9%	–	–
Australian	147	24.8%	23.5%	–	–	23.9%	–	–
Australian Aboriginal	–	–	3.1%	–	–	2.2%	–	–
Australian South Sea Islander	–	–	–	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Torres Strait Islander	–	–	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Norfolk Islander	–	–	6.7%	–	–	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Maori	–	–	1.1%	–	–	
New Zealander	6	1.0%	3.1%	–	–	
Ni-Vanuatu	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Papua New Guinean	5	0.8%	0.2%	–	–	
Polynesian, nfd	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Cook Islander	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Fijian	–	–	0.7%	–	–	
Niuean	–	–	–	–	–	
Samoan	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Tongan	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Tahitian	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Pitcairn	–	–	11.5%	–	–	
British, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
English	60	10.1%	19.0%	–	–	
Scottish	23	3.9%	5.5%	–	–	
Welsh	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Channel Islander	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Manx	–	–	–	–	–	
Irish	12	2.0%	4.6%	–	–	
Austrian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Dutch	–	–	1.1%	–	–	
French	–	–	0.5%	–	–	
German	3	0.5%	1.8%	–	–	
Swiss	–	–	0.1%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Belgian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Northern European, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Danish	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Finnish	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Norwegian	7	1.2%	0.3%	–	–	
Swedish	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Italian	–	–	0.7%	–	–	
Maltese	4	0.7%	0.3%	–	–	
Portuguese	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Spanish	3	0.5%	0.3%	–	–	
Croatian	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Greek	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Serbian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Slovene	–	–	–	–	–	
Czech	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Estonian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Hungarian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Latvian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Polish	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Russian	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Ukrainian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Arab, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Egyptian	–	–	–	–	–	
Lebanese	–	–	–	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Jewish	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Burmese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Thai	–	–	0.5%	–	–	
Vietnamese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Filipino	4	0.7%	1.4%	–	–	
Indonesian	72	12.1%	2.7%	–	–	
Javanese	55	9.3%	1.2%	–	–	
Malay	102	17.2%	7.8%	–	–	
Singaporean	8	1.3%	0.4%	–	–	
Maritime South–East Asian, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Chinese	13	2.2%	8.3%	–	–	
Japanese	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Korean	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Mongolian	–	–	–	–	–	
Indian	–	–	0.6%	–	–	
Malayali	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Pakistani	–	–	–	–	–	
Fijian Indian	–	–	–	–	–	
Tamil, nfd	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Southern Asian, nec	4	0.7%	0.1%	–	–	
American	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Canadian	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
South American, nfd	3	0.5%	0.1%	–	–	
Argentinian	5	0.8%	0.1%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Caribbean Islander, nec	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Seychellois	4	0.7%	0.1%	–	–	
South African	–	–	0.4%	–	–	
Zimbabwean	–	–	0.2%	–	–	

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

Data basis: usual residence.