

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

31 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

Cocos Islands | Other Territories comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, Malay was the most common language used at home among residents in Cocos Islands, accounting for 60.8% (363 people). This share was higher than Other Territories (14.1%).

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

Cocos Islands - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–	–	–
Non-verbal, so described	–	–	–	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Pidgin, nfd	–	–	0.2%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
English	113	18.9%	40.9%	–	–	37.5%	–	–
German	–	–	0.1%	–	–	0.3%	–	–
Dutch	–	–	–	–	–	0.2%	–	–
Afrikaans	–	–	0.2%	–	–	0.5%	–	–
Norwegian	–	–	–	–	–	0.1%	–	–
French	–	–	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Greek	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–	–	–
Portuguese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–	–	–
Spanish	9	1.5%	0.3%	–	–	0.1%	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Italian	–	–	–	–	–	
Russian	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Croatian	–	–	–	–	–	
Serbian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Hazaraghi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Arabic	–	–	–	–	–	
Malayalam	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Tamil	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Hindi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Punjabi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Fijian Hindustani	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Vietnamese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Thai	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	7	1.2%	0.1%	–	–	
Bisaya	–	–	–	–	–	
Indonesian	–	–	0.4%	–	–	
Malay	363	60.8%	14.1%	–	–	
Tagalog	–	–	0.6%	–	–	
Filipino	–	–	0.4%	–	–	
Chinese, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Cantonese	–	–	1.3%	–	–	
Hakka	–	–	0.1%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Mandarin	–	–	5.1%	–	–	–
Min Nan	–	–	0.7%	–	–	–
Japanese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Korean	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Mongolian	–	–	–	–	–	–
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Dharawal	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Aboriginal English, so described	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
African Languages, nec	5	0.8%	0.1%	–	–	–
Fijian	–	–	0.6%	–	–	–
Maori (New Zealand)	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Bislama	–	–	–	–	–	–
Norf'k–Pitcairn	–	–	14.0%	–	–	–
Papua New Guinea Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
Not stated	100	16.8%	18.7%	–	–	–
Total	597	100.0%	100.0%	–	–	–

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.