

Community report

Colac-Otway (S)

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

AREA

Colac-Otway (S)

COMPARISON

Regional Vic.

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

31 March 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

Colac–Otway (S) | Regional Vic. comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Colac–Otway (S), accounting for 45.9% (10,286 people). This share was higher than Regional Vic. (44.9%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 2,991 people and 11.1 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

Colac-Otway (S) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	93	0.4%	0.4%	90	0.4%	0.5%	+3	0.0
Buddhism	174	0.8%	0.9%	114	0.5%	0.8%	+60	+0.3
Christianity, nfd	384	1.7%	2.1%	326	1.6%	2.1%	+58	+0.1
Anglican Church of Australia	1,844	8.2%	9.8%	2,318	11.0%	13.3%	-474	-2.8
Anglican Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Anglican, nec	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Baptist	186	0.8%	1.2%	176	0.8%	1.3%	+10	0.0
Brethren	–	–	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Catholic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Western Catholic	4,958	22.1%	19.7%	5,269	25.1%	22.7%	-311	-3.0
Maronite Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Melkite Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Ukrainian Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chaldean Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Syro Malabar Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Catholic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Churches of Christ, nfd	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	12	0.1%	0.2%	13	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	54	0.2%	0.3%	68	0.3%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	10	0.0%	0.1%	12	0.1%	
Community of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lutheran	61	0.3%	0.7%	60	0.3%	
Armenian Apostolic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Coptic Orthodox Church	9	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Albanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Antiochian Orthodox	7	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Greek Orthodox	80	0.4%	0.5%	77	0.4%	
Macedonian Orthodox	4	0.0%	0.1%	5	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Romanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian Orthodox	11	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.1%	
Serbian Orthodox	4	0.0%	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Presbyterian	583	2.6%	2.2%	898	4.3%	
Reformed	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Salvation Army	40	0.2%	0.2%	47	0.2%	
Seventh-day Adventist	12	0.1%	0.2%	13	0.1%	
Uniting Church	1,209	5.4%	4.7%	1,660	7.9%	
Pentecostal, nfd	176	0.8%	0.7%	118	0.6%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	9	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	–	–	–	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	–	–	–	
Revival Centres	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Worship Centre Network	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nfd	7	0.0%	0.1%	9	0.0%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	–	–	–	
Born Again Christian	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	–	–	–	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congregational	5	0.0%	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	14	0.1%	0.1%	20	0.1%	
United Methodist Church	–	–	–	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	–	–	–	
Christadelphians	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gnostic Christians	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Ratana (Maori)	–	–	0.0%	12	0.1%	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Hinduism	80	0.4%	0.7%	34	0.2%	
Islam	91	0.4%	0.9%	117	0.6%	
Judaism	14	0.1%	0.1%	12	0.1%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Baha'i	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ancestor Veneration	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Confucianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	8	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druse	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nfd	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Animism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paganism	15	0.1%	0.1%	11	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	7	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sikhism	30	0.1%	0.4%	17	0.1%	
Spiritualism	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Mandaeen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eckankar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rastafari	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Satanism	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Theosophy	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jainism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zoroastrianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Groups, nec	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	10,286	45.9%	44.9%	7,295	34.8%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	20	0.1%	0.1%	21	0.1%	
Atheism	20	0.1%	0.2%	23	0.1%	
Humanism	–	–	0.0%	16	0.1%	
Rationalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Secular Beliefs, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Multi Faith	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
New Age	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	17	0.1%	0.1%	19	0.1%	
Theism	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	7	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Not stated	1,832	8.2%	7.7%	2,012	9.6%	
Total	22,421	100.0%	100.0%	20,986	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.