

Community report

Greater Bendigo (C)

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

AREA

Greater Bendigo (C)

COMPARISON

Regional Vic.

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

26 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

Greater Bendigo (C) | 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 Greater Bendigo (C), accounting for 46.8% (56,784 people). This share was higher than Regional Vic. (44.9%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 17,074 people and 10.8 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

Greater Bendigo (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	537	0.4%	0.4%	560	0.5%	0.5%	-23	-0.1
Buddhism	1,442	1.2%	0.9%	1,078	1.0%	0.8%	+364	+0.2
Christianity, nfd	2,561	2.1%	2.1%	2,457	2.2%	2.1%	+104	-0.1
Anglican Church of Australia	11,814	9.7%	9.8%	14,427	13.1%	13.3%	-2,613	-3.4
Anglican Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Anglican, nec	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Baptist	2,699	2.2%	1.2%	2,264	2.0%	1.3%	+435	+0.2
Brethren	178	0.1%	0.1%	138	0.1%	0.1%	+40	0.0
Catholic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Western Catholic	22,899	18.9%	19.7%	24,356	22.1%	22.7%	-1,457	-3.2
Maronite Catholic	10	0.0%	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%	6	0.0%	
Syro Malabar Catholic	132	0.1%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Catholic, nec	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Churches of Christ, nfd	13	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	146	0.1%	0.2%	156	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	264	0.2%	0.3%	272	0.2%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	–	–	–	8	0.0%	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	133	0.1%	0.1%	138	0.1%	
Community of Christ	32	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Lutheran	369	0.3%	0.7%	412	0.4%	
Armenian Apostolic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Coptic Orthodox Church	82	0.1%	0.0%	67	0.1%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	32	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Albanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Antiochian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Greek Orthodox	325	0.3%	0.5%	303	0.3%	
Macedonian Orthodox	5	0.0%	0.1%	6	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Romanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Russian Orthodox	20	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Serbian Orthodox	23	0.0%	0.1%	18	0.0%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Presbyterian	1,902	1.6%	2.2%	2,460	2.2%	
Reformed	11	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Salvation Army	174	0.1%	0.2%	250	0.2%	
Seventh-day Adventist	299	0.2%	0.2%	205	0.2%	
Uniting Church	5,922	4.9%	4.7%	7,556	6.8%	
Pentecostal, nfd	1,175	1.0%	0.7%	977	0.9%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	9	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	63	0.1%	0.0%	63	0.1%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	–	–	–	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	12	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	–	–	–	
Revival Centres	11	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Revival Fellowship	16	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Worship Centre Network	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nfd	61	0.1%	0.1%	28	0.0%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	–	–	–	
Born Again Christian	39	0.0%	0.0%	57	0.1%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	–	–	–	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congregational	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Independent Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	11	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	11	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Methodist, so described	111	0.1%	0.1%	105	0.1%	
United Methodist Church	–	–	–	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	–	–	–	
Christadelphians	7	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Christian Science	3	0.0%	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%	–	–	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	4	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Temple Society	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Hinduism	825	0.7%	0.7%	493	0.4%	
Islam	759	0.6%	0.9%	460	0.4%	
Judaism	59	0.0%	0.1%	40	0.0%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	18	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Baha'i	20	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Ancestor Veneration	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Confucianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	14	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druse	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Japanese Religions, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nfd	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Animism	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Druidism	9	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Paganism	127	0.1%	0.1%	103	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	49	0.0%	0.0%	44	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	18	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Sikhism	408	0.3%	0.4%	190	0.2%	
Spiritualism	35	0.0%	0.0%	53	0.0%	
Mandaeen	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	4	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Eckankar	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Rastafari	5	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Satanism	33	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Theosophy	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Jainism	7	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Zoroastrianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Groups, nec	16	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	56,784	46.8%	44.9%	39,710	36.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	136	0.1%	0.1%	90	0.1%	
Atheism	191	0.2%	0.2%	190	0.2%	
Humanism	7	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
Rationalism	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Multi Faith	10	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
New Age	–	–	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	99	0.1%	0.1%	84	0.1%	
Theism	19	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	3	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	24	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Not stated	8,135	6.7%	7.7%	10,204	9.2%	
Total	121,444	100.0%	100.0%	110,453	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.