

Community report

Lake Macquarie (C)

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

AREA

Lake Macquarie (C)

COMPARISON

Regional NSW

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

Lake Macquarie (C) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Lake Macquarie (C), accounting for 42% (89,901 people). This share was higher than Regional NSW (37.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 32,787 people and 13.1 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

Lake Macquarie (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	749	0.4%	0.4%	794	0.4%	0.4%	-45	0.0
Buddhism	1,563	0.7%	0.8%	1,590	0.8%	0.8%	-27	-0.1
Christianity, nfd	5,467	2.6%	2.2%	4,789	2.4%	2.2%	+678	+0.2
Anglican Church of Australia	33,576	15.7%	17.0%	42,013	21.3%	21.9%	-8,437	-5.6
Anglican Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Anglican, nec	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Baptist	3,987	1.9%	1.2%	4,437	2.2%	1.3%	-450	-0.3
Brethren	131	0.1%	0.1%	137	0.1%	0.1%	-6	0.0
Catholic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Western Catholic	38,499	18.0%	21.0%	40,988	20.8%	23.8%	-2,489	-2.8
Maronite Catholic	23	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	0.0%	+8	0.0
Melkite Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Ukrainian Catholic	37	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Syro Malabar Catholic	46	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Catholic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Churches of Christ, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	102	0.0%	0.1%	115	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	820	0.4%	0.4%	816	0.4%	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	340	0.2%	0.1%	389	0.2%	
Community of Christ	27	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Lutheran	411	0.2%	0.3%	470	0.2%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian Apostolic	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	48	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	24	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Ancient Church of the East	–	–	–	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Antiochian Orthodox	15	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Greek Orthodox	849	0.4%	0.4%	800	0.4%	
Macedonian Orthodox	426	0.2%	0.3%	408	0.2%	
Romanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Russian Orthodox	114	0.1%	0.0%	101	0.1%	
Serbian Orthodox	97	0.0%	0.1%	77	0.0%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	21	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian	4,566	2.1%	2.6%	5,801	2.9%	
Reformed	37	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Free Reformed	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Salvation Army	707	0.3%	0.2%	953	0.5%	
Seventh-day Adventist	3,437	1.6%	0.4%	3,525	1.8%	
Uniting Church	8,705	4.1%	3.3%	11,677	5.9%	
Pentecostal, nfd	2,576	1.2%	0.7%	2,367	1.2%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	127	0.1%	0.0%	171	0.1%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	8	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	41	0.0%	0.1%	31	0.0%	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	9	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Foursquare Gospel Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Revival Centres	3	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Church in Australia	–	–	–	6	0.0%	
Revival Fellowship	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Pentecostal, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Other Protestant, nfd	222	0.1%	0.1%	213	0.1%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Born Again Christian	68	0.0%	0.0%	77	0.0%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congregational	27	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	10	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Independent Evangelical Churches	233	0.1%	0.1%	43	0.0%	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	12	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	49	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	
Methodist, so described	417	0.2%	0.1%	425	0.2%	
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nfd	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christadelphians	414	0.2%	0.0%	345	0.2%	
Christian Science	9	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Gnostic Christians	3	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
New Apostolic Church	29	0.0%	0.0%	43	0.0%	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ratana (Maori)	9	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	17	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	31	0.0%	0.0%	44	0.0%	
Hinduism	1,183	0.6%	0.7%	652	0.3%	
Islam	814	0.4%	0.7%	491	0.2%	
Judaism	123	0.1%	0.1%	84	0.0%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	43	0.0%	0.0%	51	0.0%	
Baha'i	28	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Confucianism	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	30	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druse	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Sukyo Mahikari	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nfd	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Animism	–	–	0.0%	11	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Druidism	11	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Paganism	179	0.1%	0.1%	131	0.1%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	65	0.0%	0.0%	63	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	29	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Sikhism	232	0.1%	0.3%	110	0.1%	
Spiritualism	70	0.0%	0.0%	93	0.0%	
Mandaeen	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Yezidi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	11	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Eckankar	7	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Rastafari	6	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Satanism	32	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Theosophy	15	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Jainism	12	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Zoroastrianism	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Religious Groups, nec	18	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	89,901	42.0%	37.4%	57,114	28.9%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Agnosticism	274	0.1%	0.1%	214	0.1%	
Atheism	364	0.2%	0.1%	337	0.2%	
Humanism	16	0.0%	0.0%	57	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Rationalism	–	–	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	6	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Multi Faith	51	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	
New Age	10	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	251	0.1%	0.1%	147	0.1%	
Theism	36	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	50	0.0%	0.0%	48	0.0%	
Not stated	10,768	5.0%	7.7%	13,404	6.8%	
Total	213,834	100.0%	100.0%	197,343	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.