

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

3 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Unpaid care

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.

Unpaid care

Lake Macquarie (C) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

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Key takeaway

In 2021, not providing unpaid care was the most common response among residents aged 15 and over in Lake Macquarie (C), accounting for 81.1% (142,022 people). This share was higher than Regional NSW (79.3%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in not providing unpaid care, which increased by 13,837 people and 1.6 percentage points.

About this topic

Unpaid care records whether people aged 15 years and over spent time providing unpaid help or assistance to someone because of disability, long-term illness, or problems related to old age. It captures informal care provided by family members or others in the community.

This topic is useful for understanding the demand placed on informal carers and the likely need for support services, respite, and home-based assistance. It does not measure the intensity or duration of care, so it should be read alongside need for assistance and other health and ageing indicators.

Interpretation notes

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- This records whether a person aged 15 years and over provided unpaid help or assistance in the previous two weeks because of disability, long-term illness, or old age.
- It identifies whether care was provided, not the intensity, frequency, or number of hours of care.

Unpaid care

Lake Macquarie (C) – Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Total Provided Unpaid Assistance	24,468	14.0%	13.1%	21,981	13.6%	12.6%	+2,487	+0.4
Total No Unpaid Assistance Provided	142,022	81.1%	79.3%	128,185	79.5%	77.0%	+13,837	+1.6
Total Unpaid Assistance Not Stated	8,586	4.9%	7.6%	11,091	6.9%	10.3%	-2,505	-2.0
Total	175,079	100.0%	100.0%	161,262	100.0%	100.0%	+13,817	0.0

Data basis: usual residence.