

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

6 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Unpaid childcare

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 childcare

Lake Macquarie (C) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

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Key takeaway

In 2021, not providing unpaid child care was the most common response among residents aged 15 and over in Lake Macquarie (C), accounting for 66.4% (116,261 people). This share was lower than Regional NSW (67.1%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in not providing unpaid child care, which increased by 15,088 people and 3.7 percentage points.

About this topic

Unpaid childcare records whether people aged 15 years and over spent time looking after a child without pay, including their own children and other people's children. It reflects the role of parents, grandparents, extended family, and community networks in caring for children.

This topic helps show how childcare is supported outside the paid care sector and can highlight the role of family-based care. It is best interpreted with household type, employment, and income, because unpaid childcare patterns are shaped by family structure, work arrangements, and access to formal childcare.

Interpretation notes

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- This records unpaid childcare in the previous two weeks for people aged 15 years and over, including care for a person's own children and other children.
- It identifies whether childcare was provided, not the number of hours or whether care was regular, occasional, or shared with formal services.

Unpaid childcare

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

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Provided Unpaid Child Care (All)	50,696	29.0%	25.6%	49,881	30.9%	27.1%	+815	-1.9
Cared For Own Child Ren	35,467	20.3%	18.2%	32,271	20.0%	18.3%	+3,196	+0.3
Cared For Other Child Ren	13,899	7.9%	6.6%	16,133	10.0%	7.9%	-2,234	-2.1
Cared For Own Child Ren And Other Child Ren	1,328	0.8%	0.8%	1,477	0.9%	0.8%	-149	-0.1
No Unpaid Child Care Provided	116,261	66.4%	67.1%	101,173	62.7%	63.3%	+15,088	+3.7
Not Stated	8,124	4.6%	7.4%	10,208	6.3%	9.6%	-2,084	-1.7
Total	175,079	100.0%	100.0%	161,262	100.0%	100.0%	+13,817	0.0

Data basis: usual residence.