

Community report

Melbourne (C)

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

AREA

Melbourne (C)

COMPARISON

Greater Melbourne

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

1 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Service age groups

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.

Service age groups

Melbourne (C) | Greater Melbourne comparison | Persons

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Key takeaway

In 2021, Early career adults (25 to 34) was the most common category among residents in Melbourne (C), accounting for 35.4% (52,954 people). This share was higher than Greater Melbourne (16%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in Early career adults (25 to 34), which increased by 8,535 people and 2.7 percentage points.

About this topic

Service age groups divide the population into broad life-stage bands such as children, young adults, working-age adults, and older people. The groupings are designed to reflect typical demand for age-based services and facilities rather than exact five-year cohorts.

This view is useful for planning childcare, schools, recreation, aged services, and other community infrastructure. It works best alongside five year age groups, household type, and dwelling data, which add more detail about who is living in an area and how needs may change over time.

Interpretation notes

- This is a derived grouping rather than a direct Census question, so the age bands are planning-oriented summaries built from standard age data.
- Percentages relate to the total population; use five year age groups when exact cohort detail matters.

Age structure - Service age groups

Melbourne (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	pp
Early childhood (0 to 4)	4,353	2.9%	5.9%	4,380	3.2%	6.4%	-27	-0.3
Primary school age (5 to 11)	4,198	2.8%	8.7%	3,228	2.4%	8.5%	+970	+0.4
Secondary school age (12 to 17)	3,127	2.1%	6.9%	3,276	2.4%	6.7%	-149	-0.3
Young adults (18 to 24)	29,918	20.0%	8.9%	38,196	28.1%	10.0%	-8,278	-8.1
Early career adults (25 to 34)	52,954	35.4%	16.0%	44,419	32.7%	16.3%	+8,535	+2.7
Mid-life adults (35 to 49)	29,475	19.7%	21.5%	21,165	15.6%	21.1%	+8,310	+4.1
Pre-retirement adults (50 to 59)	10,358	6.9%	11.9%	8,816	6.5%	11.9%	+1,542	+0.4
Retirement transition (60 to 69)	7,831	5.2%	9.5%	6,821	5.0%	9.3%	+1,010	+0.2
Established seniors (70 to 84)	6,198	4.1%	8.6%	4,401	3.2%	7.7%	+1,797	+0.9
Advanced age (85 years and over)	1,182	0.8%	2.0%	1,264	0.9%	2.0%	-82	-0.1
Total	149,615	100.0%	100.0%	135,959	100.0%	100.0%	+13,656	0.0

Data basis: usual residence.