

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

3 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

Melbourne (C) | Greater Melbourne 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 Melbourne (C), accounting for 81.3% (113,403 people). This share was higher than Greater Melbourne (68.1%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in not providing unpaid child care, which increased by 15,085 people and 4 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

Melbourne (C) – Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | | Change | |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|------------|
| | Count | % | Greater Melbourne % | Count | % | Greater Melbourne % | Count | pp |
| Provided Unpaid Child Care (All) | 14,867 | 10.7% | 26.5% | 13,365 | 10.5% | 27.5% | +1,502 | +0.2 |
| Cared For Own Child Ren | 11,470 | 8.2% | 20.9% | 9,312 | 7.3% | 20.3% | +2,158 | +0.9 |
| Cared For Other Child Ren | 3,202 | 2.3% | 5.2% | 3,863 | 3.0% | 6.5% | -661 | -0.7 |
| Cared For Own Child Ren And Other Child Ren | 192 | 0.1% | 0.5% | 188 | 0.1% | 0.7% | +4 | 0.0 |
| No Unpaid Child Care Provided | 113,403 | 81.3% | 68.1% | 98,318 | 77.3% | 65.2% | +15,085 | +4.0 |
| Not Stated | 11,247 | 8.1% | 5.4% | 15,545 | 12.2% | 7.3% | -4,298 | -4.1 |
| Total | 139,515 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 127,232 | 100.0% | 100.0% | +12,283 | 0.0 |

Data basis: usual residence.