

Community report

Port Stephens (A)

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

AREA

Port Stephens (A)

COMPARISON

Regional NSW

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

30 March 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Qualifications

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.

Qualifications

Port Stephens (A) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, no qualification was the most common qualification level among residents aged 15 and over in Port Stephens (A), accounting for 40.1% (25,027 people). This share was higher than Regional NSW (39.1%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in bachelor degree or higher, which increased by 2,267 people and 2.7 percentage points.

About this topic

Qualifications records the highest non-school qualification completed by people aged 15 years and over. It describes post-school educational attainment such as certificates, diplomas, and university degrees.

This topic is a key indicator of skill level and socio-economic opportunity within an area. It is most useful when read with employment status, occupation, and income, which show how qualifications relate to labour market outcomes.

Interpretation notes

- This topic uses highest completed non-school qualification, so incomplete study and current enrolment do not count as attained qualifications.

- It applies to people aged 15 years and over and should be read with schooling for the full education profile.

Highest qualification achieved

Port Stephens (A) – Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Bachelor Or Higher Degree	8,565	13.7%	17.8%	6,298	11.0%	14.5%	+2,267	+2.7
Advanced Diploma Or Diploma	6,028	9.7%	8.7%	5,074	8.9%	8.2%	+954	+0.8
Vocational	17,292	27.7%	24.4%	15,372	26.9%	23.6%	+1,920	+0.8
No Qualification	25,027	40.1%	39.1%	23,447	41.1%	41.7%	+1,580	-1.0
Not Stated	5,475	8.8%	10.0%	6,848	12.0%	12.1%	-1,373	-3.2
Total	62,387	100.0%	100.0%	57,039	100.0%	100.0%	+5,348	0.0

Data basis: usual residence.