

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

31 March 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Religion

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.

Religion

Port Stephens (A) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Port Stephens (A), accounting for 38.7% (29,119 people). This share was higher than Regional NSW (37.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 11,136 people and 12.8 percentage points.

About this topic

Religion records a person's stated religious affiliation, including no religion and not stated responses. It is a measure of cultural identity and belief rather than practice or participation.

This topic helps show the religious diversity of an area and can support planning for community facilities, faith-based services, and inclusive engagement. It is best interpreted with ancestry, birthplace, and language, which together provide a broader picture of cultural composition.

Interpretation notes

- This records stated religious affiliation, not attendance or level of religious practice.
- No religion and not stated are part of the overall picture, so interpretation should consider both affiliation and non-response.

Religion - Ranked by size

Port Stephens (A) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	250	0.3%	0.4%	236	0.3%	0.4%	+14	0.0
Buddhism	523	0.7%	0.8%	510	0.7%	0.8%	+13	0.0
Christianity, nfd	1,627	2.2%	2.2%	1,534	2.2%	2.2%	+93	0.0
Anglican Church of Australia	14,863	19.7%	17.0%	17,328	24.9%	21.9%	-2,465	-5.2
Anglican Catholic Church	4	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Anglican, nec	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Baptist	1,259	1.7%	1.2%	1,498	2.2%	1.3%	-239	-0.5
Brethren	5	0.0%	0.1%	19	0.0%	0.1%	-14	0.0
Catholic, nfd	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Western Catholic	14,788	19.6%	21.0%	15,053	21.7%	23.8%	-265	-2.1
Maronite Catholic	11	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	+8	0.0
Melkite Catholic	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Ukrainian Catholic	8	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Syro Malabar Catholic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Catholic, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Churches of Christ, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	77	0.1%	0.1%	70	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
International Church of Christ	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Jehovah's Witnesses	211	0.3%	0.4%	215	0.3%	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	80	0.1%	0.1%	108	0.2%	
Community of Christ	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Lutheran	158	0.2%	0.3%	177	0.3%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Armenian Apostolic	3	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	9	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Assyrian Church of the East	—	—	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Ancient Church of the East	—	—	—	—	—	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Antiochian Orthodox	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Greek Orthodox	318	0.4%	0.4%	233	0.3%	
Macedonian Orthodox	46	0.1%	0.3%	25	0.0%	
Romanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian Orthodox	49	0.1%	0.0%	27	0.0%	
Serbian Orthodox	15	0.0%	0.1%	10	0.0%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian	1,859	2.5%	2.6%	2,274	3.3%	
Reformed	24	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Free Reformed	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Salvation Army	184	0.2%	0.2%	265	0.4%	
Seventh-day Adventist	142	0.2%	0.4%	153	0.2%	
Uniting Church	2,847	3.8%	3.3%	3,403	4.9%	
Pentecostal, nfd	767	1.0%	0.7%	736	1.1%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	23	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	6	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	105	0.1%	0.1%	147	0.2%	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	13	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Foursquare Gospel Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Revival Centres	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Church in Australia	–	–	–	–	–	
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Other Protestant, nfd	44	0.1%	0.1%	35	0.1%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Born Again Christian	17	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Congregational	15	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Independent Evangelical Churches	19	0.0%	0.1%	16	0.0%	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	98	0.1%	0.0%	97	0.1%	
Methodist, so described	113	0.2%	0.1%	113	0.2%	
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christadelphians	11	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Christian Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Gnostic Christians	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	7	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ratana (Maori)	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	10	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Hinduism	235	0.3%	0.7%	105	0.2%	
Islam	196	0.3%	0.7%	98	0.1%	
Judaism	47	0.1%	0.1%	35	0.1%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	18	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Baha'i	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Confucianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	14	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druse	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Animism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Paganism	58	0.1%	0.1%	63	0.1%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	30	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	6	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Sikhism	50	0.1%	0.3%	26	0.0%	
Spiritualism	28	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Mandaeen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yezidi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eckankar	6	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Rastafari	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Satanism	17	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Theosophy	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jainism	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Zoroastrianism	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Religious Groups, nec	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	29,119	38.7%	37.4%	17,983	25.9%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	69	0.1%	0.1%	58	0.1%	
Atheism	120	0.2%	0.1%	88	0.1%	
Humanism	4	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Rationalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Secular Beliefs, nec	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Multi Faith	10	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
New Age	5	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	77	0.1%	0.1%	59	0.1%	
Theism	16	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	15	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Not stated	4,500	6.0%	7.7%	6,358	9.1%	
Total	75,315	100.0%	100.0%	69,506	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.