

Community report

Shellharbour (C)

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

AREA

Shellharbour (C)

COMPARISON

Regional NSW

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

29 March 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Language used at home

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.

Language used at home

Shellharbour (C) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, English was the most common language used at home among residents in Shellharbour (C), accounting for 85.5% (65,160 people). This share was lower than Regional NSW (86.8%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 7,210 people and 0.9 percentage points.

About this topic

Language used at home shows which languages people speak in their home life and whether English or another language is used most often. It is a key indicator of cultural diversity and language retention within communities.

This topic is useful for planning communication, multicultural services, and local engagement. It should be analysed together with proficiency in English and birthplace, because language alone does not show migration history or support needs.

Interpretation notes

- The Census records the language used most often at home, so it does not capture every language a person can speak.
- Language used at home is not a measure of English proficiency, literacy, or migration history on its own.

Language used at home - Ranked by size

Shellharbour (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | | Change | |
|--------------------------|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------------|--------|------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | pp |
| Inadequately described | 39 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 27 | 0.0% | 0.0% | +12 | +0.1 |
| Non-verbal, so described | 45 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 66 | 0.1% | 0.1% | -21 | 0.0 |
| Swiss, so described | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | 0.0% | — | — |
| Cypriot, so described | — | — | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | — | — |
| Creole, nfd | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | 0.0% | — | — |
| French Creole, nfd | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | 0.0% | — | — |
| Spanish Creole, nfd | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pidgin, nfd | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | 0.0% | — | — |
| Celtic, nfd | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gaelic (Scotland) | — | — | 0.0% | 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | — | — |
| Irish | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | — | — | 0.0% | — | — |
| Welsh | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | 0.0% | — | — |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------|----------------|--------|-------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Celtic, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| English | 65,160 | 85.5% | 86.8% | 57,950 | 84.6% | 86.8% |
| German and Related Languages, nfd | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| German | 215 | 0.3% | 0.2% | 315 | 0.5% | 0.2% |
| Yiddish | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Dutch | 57 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 78 | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Frisian | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Afrikaans | 52 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 55 | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Danish | 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 14 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Icelandic | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Norwegian | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Swedish | 13 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 24 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Scandinavian, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Estonian | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 7 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Finnish | 25 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 14 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Finnish and Related Languages, nec | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| French | 61 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 58 | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Greek | 330 | 0.4% | 0.2% | 305 | 0.4% | 0.2% |
| Catalan | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Portuguese | 234 | 0.3% | 0.1% | 228 | 0.3% | 0.1% |
| Spanish | 705 | 0.9% | 0.3% | 758 | 1.1% | 0.3% |
| Italian | 425 | 0.6% | 0.4% | 566 | 0.8% | 0.4% |
| Maltese | 204 | 0.3% | 0.0% | 238 | 0.3% | 0.0% |
| Basque | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|--|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Latin | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Other Southern European Languages, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Eastern European Languages, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Latvian | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Lithuanian | – | – | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Hungarian | 73 | 0.1% | 0.0% | 67 | 0.1% | |
| Belorussian | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Russian | 38 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 35 | 0.1% | |
| Ukrainian | 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 7 | 0.0% | |
| Bosnian | 18 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 18 | 0.0% | |
| Bulgarian | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Croatian | 226 | 0.3% | 0.1% | 216 | 0.3% | |
| Macedonian | 1,570 | 2.1% | 0.3% | 1,517 | 2.2% | |
| Serbian | 298 | 0.4% | 0.1% | 279 | 0.4% | |
| Slovene | 31 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 37 | 0.1% | |
| Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described | 8 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 25 | 0.0% | |
| Czech | 8 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Polish | 104 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 101 | 0.1% | |
| Slovak | 10 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 7 | 0.0% | |
| Czechoslovakian, so described | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Albanian | 14 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Romanian | – | – | 0.0% | 4 | 0.0% | |
| Romany | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Other Eastern European Languages, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Iranic, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Kurdish | 3 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 3 | 0.0% | – |
| Pashto | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 4 | 0.0% | – |
| Dari | 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 5 | 0.0% | – |
| Persian (excluding Dari) | 50 | 0.1% | 0.0% | 35 | 0.1% | – |
| Hazaraghi | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Arabic | 309 | 0.4% | 0.3% | 199 | 0.3% | – |
| Hebrew | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Assyrian Neo-Aramaic | 12 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 11 | 0.0% | – |
| Chaldean Neo-Aramaic | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Mandaean (Mandaic) | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Turkish | 338 | 0.4% | 0.1% | 309 | 0.5% | – |
| Azeri | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Turkmen | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Uygur | 4 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | – |
| Uzbek | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Turkic, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Armenian | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Georgian | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | – |
| Southern Asian Languages, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | 4 | 0.0% | – |
| Kannada | 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 9 | 0.0% | – |
| Malayalam | 150 | 0.2% | 0.2% | 73 | 0.1% | – |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Tamil | 19 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Telugu | 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 17 | 0.0% | |
| Tulu | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Dravidian, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Indo-Aryan, nfd | 4 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Bengali | 22 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 12 | 0.0% | |
| Gujarati | 19 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 9 | 0.0% | |
| Hindi | 83 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 55 | 0.1% | |
| Konkani | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Marathi | 4 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 4 | 0.0% | |
| Nepali | 36 | 0.0% | 0.2% | – | – | |
| Punjabi | 50 | 0.1% | 0.3% | 33 | 0.0% | |
| Sindhi | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Sinhalese | 14 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 21 | 0.0% | |
| Urdu | 113 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 68 | 0.1% | |
| Assamese | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Dhivehi | – | – | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Kashmiri | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Oriya | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Fijian Hindustani | – | – | 0.0% | 5 | 0.0% | |
| Indo-Aryan, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Other Southern Asian Languages | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Burmese and Related Languages, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|---|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Burmese | – | – | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Chin Haka | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Karen | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Rohingya | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Zomi | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Burmese and Related Languages, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Hmong | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Khmer | 28 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 12 | 0.0% | |
| Vietnamese | 175 | 0.2% | 0.2% | 155 | 0.2% | |
| Mon | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Mon-Khmer, nec | – | – | – | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Lao | 24 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 31 | 0.0% | |
| Thai | 156 | 0.2% | 0.2% | 118 | 0.2% | |
| Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Bisaya | 8 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 11 | 0.0% | |
| Cebuano | 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Ilokano | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Indonesian | 44 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 18 | 0.0% | |
| Malay | 16 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 27 | 0.0% | |
| Tetum | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Timorese | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Tagalog | 159 | 0.2% | 0.2% | 127 | 0.2% | |
| Filipino | 104 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 61 | 0.1% | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|---|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Acehnese | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Balinese | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Bikol | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Iban | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Ilonggo (Hiligaynon) | – | – | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Javanese | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Pampangan | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Other Southeast Asian Languages | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Eastern Asian Languages, nfd | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Chinese, nfd | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 5 | 0.0% | |
| Cantonese | 87 | 0.1% | 0.2% | 102 | 0.1% | |
| Hakka | 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10 | 0.0% | |
| Mandarin | 179 | 0.2% | 0.4% | 176 | 0.3% | |
| Wu | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Min Nan | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 5 | 0.0% | |
| Japanese | 45 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 49 | 0.1% | |
| Korean | 42 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 48 | 0.1% | |
| Other Eastern Asian Languages, nfd | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Tibetan | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Mongolian | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd | 11 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|--|-------|---|----------------|-------|---|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Anindilyakwa | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Tiwi | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Gudanji | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Murrinh Patha | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Yolngu Matha, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Kuku Yalanji | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Kuuku–Ya'u | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Torres Strait Island Languages, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Kalaw Kawaw Ya/Kalaw Lagaw Ya | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole) | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Jaru | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Warlpiri | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Warumungu | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Anmatyerr, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Arrernte, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Luritja | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Pitjantjatjara | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Wangkatha | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Yankunytjatjara | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Bardi | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Bandjalang | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Dhanggatti | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|--|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Diyari | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Gamilaraay | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Githabul | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Gumbaynggir | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Kanai | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Kriol | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Muruwari | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Ngarrindjeri | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Nyungar | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Paakantyi | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Wajarri | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Wiradjuri | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 4 | 0.0% | |
| Yindjibarndi | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Yorta Yorta | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Dharawal | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Aboriginal English, so described | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec | 11 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| American Languages | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| African Languages, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | 10 | 0.0% | |
| Acholi | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Akan | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 4 | 0.0% | |
| Mauritian Creole | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Oromo | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|-------------------|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Shona | 11 | 0.0% | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Somali | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Swahili | 8 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Yoruba | 10 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Zulu | 7 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 7 | 0.0% | |
| Amharic | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Bemba | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Dinka | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Ewe | 4 | 0.0% | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Ga | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Harari | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Hausa | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Igbo | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Kikuyu | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Krio | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Luganda | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Luo | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Ndebele | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Nuer | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Nyanja (Chichewa) | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Tigrinya | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Tswana | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Xhosa | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Seychelles Creole | — | — | — | — | — | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Anuak | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Bari | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Bassa | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Dan (Gio-Dan) | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Fulfulde | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Kinyarwanda (Rwanda) | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Kirundi (Rundi) | 4 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Krahn | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Liberian (Liberian English) | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Madi | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Mandinka | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Mann | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Moro (Nuba Moro) | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Themne | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Lingala | – | – | – | – | – | |
| African Languages, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Pacific Austronesian Languages, nfd | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Fijian | 22 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 13 | 0.0% | |
| Gilbertese | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Maori (Cook Island) | 7 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 6 | 0.0% | |
| Maori (New Zealand) | 32 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 16 | 0.0% | |
| Nauruan | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Niue | – | – | 0.0% | 5 | 0.0% | |
| Samoan | 15 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 27 | 0.0% | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | % | Regional NSW % | Count | % | Regional |
| Tongan | 11 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10 | 0.0% | |
| Rotuman | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Tokelauan | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Tuvaluan | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nfd | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Bislama | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Norfolk-Pitcairn | – | – | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Solomon Islands Pijin | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Papua New Guinea Languages, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Motu (HiriMotu) | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Tok Pisin (Neomelanesian) | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Papua New Guinea Languages, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Invented Languages | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Sign Languages, nfd | 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Auslan | 62 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 62 | 0.1% | |
| Key Word Sign Australia | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Sign Languages, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Not stated | 3,639 | 4.8% | 6.6% | 3,398 | 5.0% | |
| Total | 76,236 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 68,459 | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.