

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

26 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

Shellharbour (C) | 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 Shellharbour (C), accounting for 36.7% (27,973 people). This share was lower than Regional NSW (37.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 10,844 people and 11.7 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

Shellharbour (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	243	0.3%	0.4%	272	0.4%	0.4%	-29	-0.1
Buddhism	509	0.7%	0.8%	518	0.8%	0.8%	-9	-0.1
Christianity, nfd	2,215	2.9%	2.2%	2,010	2.9%	2.2%	+205	0.0
Anglican Church of Australia	11,857	15.5%	17.0%	14,080	20.6%	21.9%	-2,223	-5.1
Anglican Catholic Church	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Anglican, nec	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Baptist	578	0.8%	1.2%	568	0.8%	1.3%	+10	0.0
Brethren	-	-	0.1%	3	0.0%	0.1%	-	-
Catholic, nfd	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Western Catholic	18,889	24.8%	21.0%	19,114	27.9%	23.8%	-225	-3.1
Maronite Catholic	26	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	0.0%	+9	0.0
Melkite Catholic	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Ukrainian Catholic	7	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Syro Malabar Catholic	21	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Catholic, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Churches of Christ, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	62	0.1%	0.1%	70	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	444	0.6%	0.4%	443	0.6%	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	97	0.1%	0.1%	110	0.2%	
Community of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lutheran	298	0.4%	0.3%	388	0.6%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian Apostolic	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Coptic Orthodox Church	51	0.1%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	41	0.1%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ancient Church of the East	–	–	–	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Antiochian Orthodox	24	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Greek Orthodox	845	1.1%	0.4%	794	1.2%	
Macedonian Orthodox	1,486	1.9%	0.3%	1,342	2.0%	
Romanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian Orthodox	48	0.1%	0.0%	44	0.1%	
Serbian Orthodox	295	0.4%	0.1%	229	0.3%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian	1,238	1.6%	2.6%	1,638	2.4%	
Reformed	15	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Free Reformed	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Salvation Army	132	0.2%	0.2%	197	0.3%	
Seventh-day Adventist	76	0.1%	0.4%	73	0.1%	
Uniting Church	1,769	2.3%	3.3%	2,300	3.4%	
Pentecostal, nfd	583	0.8%	0.7%	543	0.8%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	16	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	10	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.1%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	36	0.0%	0.1%	86	0.1%	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	–	–	0.0%	8	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%	–	–	
United Pentecostal	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Church in Australia	–	–	–	–	–	
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nfd	34	0.0%	0.1%	32	0.0%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Born Again Christian	24	0.0%	0.0%	30	0.0%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congregational	10	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Independent Evangelical Churches	10	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	5	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Methodist, so described	82	0.1%	0.1%	67	0.1%	
United Methodist Church	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christadelphians	–	–	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Christian Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Gnostic Christians	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ratana (Maori)	3	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	7	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Hinduism	267	0.4%	0.7%	142	0.2%	
Islam	890	1.2%	0.7%	641	0.9%	
Judaism	28	0.0%	0.1%	12	0.0%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	13	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
Baha'i	41	0.1%	0.0%	44	0.1%	
Confucianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	11	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druse	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Animism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paganism	48	0.1%	0.1%	29	0.0%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	26	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Sikhism	47	0.1%	0.3%	27	0.0%	
Spiritualism	34	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	
Mandaeen	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Yezidi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Church of Scientology	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eckankar	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Rastafari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Satanism	21	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Theosophy	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jainism	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Zoroastrianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Groups, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	27,973	36.7%	37.4%	17,129	25.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	69	0.1%	0.1%	66	0.1%	
Atheism	102	0.1%	0.1%	78	0.1%	
Humanism	3	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Rationalism	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Secular Beliefs, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Multi Faith	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
New Age	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	71	0.1%	0.1%	60	0.1%	
Theism	10	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	12	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Not stated	4,439	5.8%	7.7%	4,874	7.1%	
Total	76,265	100.0%	100.0%	68,462	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.