

# 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** Service age groups

### 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.

# Service age groups

Shellharbour (C) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49) was the most common category among residents in Shellharbour (C), accounting for 18.7% (14,298 people). This share was higher than Regional NSW (17.5%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in Seniors (70 to 84), which increased by 1,797 people and 1.4 percentage points.

## About this topic

Service age groups divide the population into broad life-stage bands such as children, young adults, working-age adults, and older people. The groupings are designed to reflect typical demand for age-based services and facilities rather than exact five-year cohorts.

This view is useful for planning childcare, schools, recreation, aged services, and other community infrastructure. It works best alongside five year age groups, household type, and dwelling data, which add more detail about who is living in an area and how needs may change over time.

## Interpretation notes

- This is a derived grouping rather than a direct Census question, so the age bands are planning-oriented summaries built from standard age data.
- Percentages relate to the total population; use five year age groups when exact cohort detail matters.

## Age structure - Service age groups

Shellharbour (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	4,597	6.0%	5.5%	4,330	6.3%	5.8%	+267	-0.3
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	6,902	9.0%	8.6%	6,535	9.5%	8.9%	+367	-0.5
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	6,051	7.9%	7.4%	5,643	8.2%	7.3%	+408	-0.3
Tertiary education and independence (18 to 24)	6,471	8.5%	7.6%	6,089	8.9%	7.9%	+382	-0.4
Young workforce (25 to 34)	9,593	12.6%	11.6%	8,005	11.7%	11.0%	+1,588	+0.9
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	14,298	18.7%	17.5%	13,132	19.2%	18.0%	+1,166	-0.5
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	9,594	12.6%	12.8%	9,278	13.6%	13.8%	+316	-1.0
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	8,871	11.6%	13.3%	7,672	11.2%	13.1%	+1,199	+0.4
Seniors (70 to 84)	8,192	10.7%	13.0%	6,395	9.3%	11.4%	+1,797	+1.4
Elderly aged (85 and over)	1,695	2.2%	2.8%	1,375	2.0%	2.7%	+320	+0.2

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,271</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>68,460</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data basis: usual residence.