

Community report

Shoalhaven (C)

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

AREA

Shoalhaven (C)

COMPARISON

Regional NSW

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

30 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

Shoalhaven (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 Shoalhaven (C), accounting for 88.4% (95,928 people). This share was higher than Regional NSW (86.8%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 7,782 people, while its share fell by 0.1 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

Shoalhaven (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	55	0.1%	0.1%	30	0.0%	0.0%	+25	+0.1
Non-verbal, so described	39	0.0%	0.1%	38	0.0%	0.1%	+1	0.0
Swiss, so described	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Cypriot, so described	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Creole, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
French Creole, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Spanish Creole, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Pidgin, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Celtic, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Gaelic (Scotland)	12	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	0.0%	+3	0.0
Irish	—	—	0.0%	9	0.0%	0.0%	—	—
Welsh	3	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	0.0%	-6	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Celtic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
English	95,928	88.4%	86.8%	88,146	88.5%	86.8%
German and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
German	277	0.3%	0.2%	277	0.3%	0.2%
Yiddish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Dutch	90	0.1%	0.1%	117	0.1%	0.1%
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Afrikaans	59	0.1%	0.1%	45	0.0%	0.0%
Danish	19	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	0.0%
Icelandic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Norwegian	22	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	0.0%
Swedish	25	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	0.0%
Scandinavian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Estonian	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%
Finnish	26	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	0.0%
Finnish and Related Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	–
French	137	0.1%	0.1%	110	0.1%	0.1%
Greek	343	0.3%	0.2%	283	0.3%	0.3%
Catalan	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%
Portuguese	79	0.1%	0.1%	53	0.1%	0.1%
Spanish	330	0.3%	0.3%	228	0.2%	0.2%
Italian	322	0.3%	0.4%	365	0.4%	0.4%
Maltese	89	0.1%	0.0%	105	0.1%	0.1%
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	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Lithuanian	10	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Hungarian	38	0.0%	0.0%	64	0.1%	
Belorussian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian	71	0.1%	0.1%	55	0.1%	
Ukrainian	4	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Bosnian	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Bulgarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Croatian	153	0.1%	0.1%	173	0.2%	
Macedonian	60	0.1%	0.3%	49	0.0%	
Serbian	53	0.0%	0.1%	49	0.0%	
Slovene	17	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	16	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Czech	31	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Polish	62	0.1%	0.1%	81	0.1%	
Slovak	10	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Czechoslovakian, so described	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Albanian	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Romanian	5	0.0%	0.0%	7	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	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Pashto	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Dari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Persian (excluding Dari)	44	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Hazaraghi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arabic	130	0.1%	0.3%	87	0.1%	
Hebrew	13	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandaean (Mandaic)	–	–	–	–	–	
Turkish	22	0.0%	0.1%	9	0.0%	
Azeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkmen	–	–	–	–	–	
Uygur	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uzbek	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian	15	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Georgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kannada	6	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Malayalam	103	0.1%	0.2%	60	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Tamil	46	0.0%	0.1%	12	0.0%	
Telugu	42	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Tulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dravidian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indo-Aryan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Bengali	39	0.0%	0.1%	31	0.0%	
Gujarati	80	0.1%	0.1%	23	0.0%	
Hindi	123	0.1%	0.1%	67	0.1%	
Konkani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Marathi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nepali	160	0.1%	0.2%	44	0.0%	
Punjabi	111	0.1%	0.3%	51	0.1%	
Sindhi	5	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Sinhalese	46	0.0%	0.1%	27	0.0%	
Urdu	69	0.1%	0.1%	13	0.0%	
Assamese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhivehi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kashmiri	–	–	–	–	–	
Oriya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian Hindustani	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Indo-Aryan, nec	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Other Southern Asian Languages	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Burmese	3	0.0%	0.0%	7	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	20	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Vietnamese	111	0.1%	0.2%	79	0.1%	
Mon	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mon-Khmer, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Lao	16	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Thai	166	0.2%	0.2%	133	0.1%	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bisaya	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Cebuano	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Ilokano	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Indonesian	57	0.1%	0.1%	69	0.1%	
Malay	20	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Tetum	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Timorese	–	–	–	–	–	
Tagalog	232	0.2%	0.2%	155	0.2%	
Filipino	127	0.1%	0.1%	51	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Acehnese	–	–	–	–	–	
Balinese	–	–	0.0%	3	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	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Cantonese	173	0.2%	0.2%	143	0.1%	
Hakka	12	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Mandarin	209	0.2%	0.4%	180	0.2%	
Wu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Min Nan	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese	86	0.1%	0.1%	67	0.1%	
Korean	63	0.1%	0.1%	32	0.0%	
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Tibetan	55	0.1%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Mongolian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	29	0.0%	0.0%	12	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	–	–	–	5	0.0%	
Bandjalang	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhanggatti	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Diyari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gamilaraay	–	–	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	9	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Yindjibarndi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yorta Yorta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dharawal	12	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Aboriginal English, so described	8	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	51	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
American Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Akan	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Mauritian Creole	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oromo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Shona	14	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Somali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swahili	5	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Yoruba	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Zulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Amharic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bemba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dinka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ewe	–	–	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)	–	–	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)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kirundi (Rundi)	–	–	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	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Fijian	14	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Gilbertese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (Cook Island)	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (New Zealand)	37	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Niue	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Samoaan	23	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Tongan	11	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Rotuman	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Tokelauan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Tuvaluan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nfd	—	—	—	—	—	
Bislama	—	—	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Norfolk-Pitcairn	—	—	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%	5	0.0%	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Invented Languages	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Sign Languages, nfd	10	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Auslan	70	0.1%	0.1%	36	0.0%	
Key Word Sign Australia	—	—	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Sign Languages, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Not stated	7,303	6.7%	6.6%	7,490	7.5%	
Total	108,482	100.0%	100.0%	99,641	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.