

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

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

Shoalhaven (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 Shoalhaven (C), accounting for 41.2% (44,661 people). This share was higher than Regional NSW (37.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 15,699 people and 12.1 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

Shoalhaven (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	395	0.4%	0.4%	353	0.4%	0.4%	+42	0.0
Buddhism	894	0.8%	0.8%	909	0.9%	0.8%	-15	-0.1
Christianity, nfd	2,364	2.2%	2.2%	2,178	2.2%	2.2%	+186	0.0
Anglican Church of Australia	19,817	18.3%	17.0%	24,031	24.1%	21.9%	-4,214	-5.8
Anglican Catholic Church	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Anglican, nec	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Baptist	1,733	1.6%	1.2%	1,559	1.6%	1.3%	+174	0.0
Brethren	3	0.0%	0.1%	7	0.0%	0.1%	-4	0.0
Catholic, nfd	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Western Catholic	19,486	18.0%	21.0%	20,177	20.3%	23.8%	-691	-2.3
Maronite Catholic	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Melkite Catholic	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Ukrainian Catholic	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Syro Malabar Catholic	18	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Catholic, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Churches of Christ, nfd	6	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	81	0.1%	0.1%	123	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	514	0.5%	0.4%	527	0.5%	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	129	0.1%	0.1%	148	0.1%	
Community of Christ	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Lutheran	261	0.2%	0.3%	310	0.3%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian Apostolic	8	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	19	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ancient Church of the East	–	–	–	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Antiochian Orthodox	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Greek Orthodox	546	0.5%	0.4%	458	0.5%	
Macedonian Orthodox	30	0.0%	0.3%	28	0.0%	
Romanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian Orthodox	74	0.1%	0.0%	67	0.1%	
Serbian Orthodox	59	0.1%	0.1%	49	0.0%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian	2,680	2.5%	2.6%	3,423	3.4%	
Reformed	11	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Free Reformed	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Salvation Army	223	0.2%	0.2%	284	0.3%	
Seventh-day Adventist	123	0.1%	0.4%	104	0.1%	
Uniting Church	2,887	2.7%	3.3%	3,616	3.6%	
Pentecostal, nfd	547	0.5%	0.7%	636	0.6%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	26	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	0.0%	26	0.0%	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	132	0.1%	0.1%	164	0.2%	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	3	0.0%	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	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Church in Australia	–	–	–	–	–	
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Other Protestant, nfd	69	0.1%	0.1%	48	0.0%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Born Again Christian	28	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Congregational	25	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Independent Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Methodist, so described	123	0.1%	0.1%	170	0.2%	
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christadelphians	14	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Christian Science	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Gnostic Christians	4	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	12	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ratana (Maori)	6	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	10	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Hinduism	537	0.5%	0.7%	213	0.2%	
Islam	311	0.3%	0.7%	177	0.2%	
Judaism	121	0.1%	0.1%	88	0.1%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	35	0.0%	0.0%	36	0.0%	
Baha'i	25	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	
Confucianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	21	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druse	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Sukyo Mahikari	12	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Animism	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Druidism	3	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Paganism	130	0.1%	0.1%	76	0.1%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	38	0.0%	0.0%	51	0.1%	
Nature Religions, nec	14	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Sikhism	97	0.1%	0.3%	48	0.0%	
Spiritualism	27	0.0%	0.0%	54	0.1%	
Mandaean	5	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Yezidi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eckankar	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Rastafari	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Satanism	20	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Theosophy	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Jainism	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Zoroastrianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Groups, nec	10	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	44,661	41.2%	37.4%	28,962	29.1%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	98	0.1%	0.1%	90	0.1%	
Atheism	171	0.2%	0.1%	136	0.1%	
Humanism	10	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Rationalism	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	8	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Multi Faith	13	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
New Age	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	119	0.1%	0.1%	99	0.1%	
Theism	35	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	–	–	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	26	0.0%	0.0%	41	0.0%	
Not stated	8,507	7.8%	7.7%	9,671	9.7%	
Total	108,486	100.0%	100.0%	99,615	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.