

Community report

Sunshine Coast (R)

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

AREA

Sunshine Coast (R)

COMPARISON

Regional Qld

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

1 April 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

Sunshine Coast (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Sunshine Coast (R), accounting for 46.1% (157,888 people). This share was higher than Regional Qld (40.1%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 59,395 people and 12.6 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

Sunshine Coast (R) - Total persons (Usual residence)

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | | Change | |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|----------------|--------|-------|----------------|--------|------|
| | Count | % | Regional Qld % | Count | % | Regional Qld % | Count | pp |
| Inadequately described | 1,513 | 0.4% | 0.4% | 1,496 | 0.5% | 0.4% | +17 | -0.1 |
| Buddhism | 3,384 | 1.0% | 1.0% | 3,515 | 1.2% | 1.1% | -131 | -0.2 |
| Christianity, nfd | 11,553 | 3.4% | 3.0% | 10,177 | 3.5% | 3.0% | +1,376 | -0.1 |
| Anglican Church of Australia | 41,405 | 12.1% | 12.8% | 49,034 | 16.7% | 17.1% | -7,629 | -4.6 |
| Anglican Catholic Church | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | 0.0% | – | – |
| Anglican, nec | – | – | – | – | – | 0.0% | – | – |
| Baptist | 6,796 | 2.0% | 1.4% | 6,635 | 2.3% | 1.6% | +161 | -0.3 |
| Brethren | 205 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 195 | 0.1% | 0.1% | +10 | 0.0 |
| Catholic, nfd | – | – | – | – | – | 0.0% | – | – |
| Western Catholic | 53,893 | 15.7% | 18.7% | 53,780 | 18.3% | 22.0% | +113 | -2.6 |
| Maronite Catholic | 10 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0 |
| Melkite Catholic | – | – | 0.0% | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|---|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional Qld % | Count | % | Regional |
| Ukrainian Catholic | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Chaldean Catholic | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Syro Malabar Catholic | 176 | 0.1% | 0.0% | 63 | 0.0% | |
| Catholic, nec | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Churches of Christ, nfd | 95 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 90 | 0.0% | |
| Churches of Christ (Conference) | 396 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 469 | 0.2% | |
| Church of Christ (Non-denominational) | 4 | 0.0% | 0.0% | — | — | |
| International Church of Christ | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Jehovah's Witnesses | 2,039 | 0.6% | 0.5% | 2,112 | 0.7% | |
| Latter-day Saints, nfd | — | — | — | 5 | 0.0% | |
| The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | 942 | 0.3% | 0.3% | 900 | 0.3% | |
| Community of Christ | 7 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Lutheran | 3,274 | 1.0% | 1.1% | 3,659 | 1.2% | |
| Armenian Apostolic | 11 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 12 | 0.0% | |
| Coptic Orthodox Church | 31 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 29 | 0.0% | |
| Syrian Orthodox Church | 53 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 32 | 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 | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Eastern Orthodox, nfd | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 13 | 0.0% | |
| Antiochian Orthodox | 12 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 6 | 0.0% | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|--|--------|------|----------------|--------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional Qld % | Count | % | Regional |
| Greek Orthodox | 770 | 0.2% | 0.3% | 611 | 0.2% | |
| Macedonian Orthodox | 23 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 14 | 0.0% | |
| Romanian Orthodox | 16 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10 | 0.0% | |
| Russian Orthodox | 115 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 101 | 0.0% | |
| Serbian Orthodox | 63 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 55 | 0.0% | |
| Ukrainian Orthodox | 22 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 12 | 0.0% | |
| Eastern Orthodox, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Presbyterian | 7,064 | 2.1% | 2.3% | 9,020 | 3.1% | |
| Reformed | 77 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 62 | 0.0% | |
| Free Reformed | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Salvation Army | 520 | 0.2% | 0.2% | 729 | 0.2% | |
| Seventh-day Adventist | 572 | 0.2% | 0.3% | 621 | 0.2% | |
| Uniting Church | 12,751 | 3.7% | 4.0% | 15,744 | 5.3% | |
| Pentecostal, nfd | 4,485 | 1.3% | 1.1% | 4,415 | 1.5% | |
| Apostolic Church (Australia) | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God) | 272 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 302 | 0.1% | |
| C3 Church Global (Christian City Church) | 16 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10 | 0.0% | |
| International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres) | 291 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 154 | 0.1% | |
| CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade) | 11 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 13 | 0.0% | |
| Foursquare Gospel Church | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church) | 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|---|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional Qld % | Count | % | Regional |
| Revival Centres | 8 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10 | 0.0% | |
| Rhema Family Church | – | – | – | – | – | |
| United Pentecostal | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Acts 2 Alliance | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Christian Church in Australia | 4 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Pentecostal City Life Church | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Revival Fellowship | 12 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 15 | 0.0% | |
| Victory Life Centre | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Worship Centre Network | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Pentecostal, nec | 10 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 13 | 0.0% | |
| Other Protestant, nfd | 297 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 247 | 0.1% | |
| Aboriginal Evangelical Missions | 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Born Again Christian | 156 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 133 | 0.0% | |
| Christian and Missionary Alliance | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Church of the Nazarene | – | – | 0.0% | 6 | 0.0% | |
| Congregational | 22 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 21 | 0.0% | |
| Ethnic Evangelical Churches | 8 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 13 | 0.0% | |
| Independent Evangelical Churches | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Wesleyan Methodist Church | 41 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 80 | 0.0% | |
| Christian Community Churches of Australia | 130 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 121 | 0.0% | |
| Methodist, so described | 500 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 481 | 0.2% | |
| United Methodist Church | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Other Protestant, nec | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|---|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional Qld % | Count | % | Regional |
| Other Christian, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | 6 | 0.0% | |
| Apostolic Church of Queensland | 53 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 53 | 0.0% | |
| Christadelphians | 69 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 97 | 0.0% | |
| Christian Science | 19 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 26 | 0.0% | |
| Gnostic Christians | 16 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 14 | 0.0% | |
| Liberal Catholic Church | 7 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| New Apostolic Church | 49 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 59 | 0.0% | |
| New Churches (Swedenborgian) | – | – | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Ratana (Maori) | 8 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 25 | 0.0% | |
| Religious Science | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) | 11 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 28 | 0.0% | |
| Temple Society | – | – | – | – | – | |
| Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God) | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3 | 0.0% | |
| Other Christian, nec | 91 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 85 | 0.0% | |
| Hinduism | 2,280 | 0.7% | 0.7% | 1,100 | 0.4% | |
| Islam | 841 | 0.2% | 0.5% | 597 | 0.2% | |
| Judaism | 318 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 262 | 0.1% | |
| Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions | 21 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 32 | 0.0% | |
| Baha'i | 71 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 83 | 0.0% | |
| Chinese Religions, nfd | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Ancestor Veneration | – | – | 0.0% | 4 | 0.0% | |
| Confucianism | – | – | 0.0% | – | – | |
| Taoism | 43 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 54 | 0.0% | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|-------------------------|-------|------|----------------|-------|------|----------|
| | Count | % | Regional Qld % | Count | % | Regional |
| Druse | 3 | 0.0% | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Japanese Religions, nfd | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Shinto | 10 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 7 | 0.0% | |
| Sukyo Mahikari | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Tenrikyo | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Japanese Religions, nec | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Nature Religions, nfd | 17 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 19 | 0.0% | |
| Animism | 16 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 8 | 0.0% | |
| Druidism | 10 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 17 | 0.0% | |
| Paganism | 231 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 199 | 0.1% | |
| Wiccan (Witchcraft) | 81 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 77 | 0.0% | |
| Nature Religions, nec | 54 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 37 | 0.0% | |
| Sikhism | 807 | 0.2% | 0.3% | 368 | 0.1% | |
| Spiritualism | 213 | 0.1% | 0.0% | 239 | 0.1% | |
| Mandaeen | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Yezidi | — | — | 0.1% | — | — | |
| Caodaism | — | — | 0.0% | — | — | |
| Church of Scientology | 12 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 12 | 0.0% | |
| Eckankar | 8 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 8 | 0.0% | |
| Rastafari | 18 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 18 | 0.0% | |
| Satanism | 61 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 23 | 0.0% | |
| Theosophy | 15 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 19 | 0.0% | |
| Jainism | 6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 6 | 0.0% | |
| Zoroastrianism | 7 | 0.0% | 0.0% | — | — | |

| Category | 2021 | | | 2016 | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Count | % | Regional Qld % | Count | % | Regional |
| Religious Groups, nec | 81 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 83 | 0.0% | |
| Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd | 4 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 8 | 0.0% | |
| No Religion, so described | 157,888 | 46.1% | 40.1% | 98,493 | 33.5% | |
| Secular Beliefs, nfd | 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 12 | 0.0% | |
| Agnosticism | 416 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 333 | 0.1% | |
| Atheism | 596 | 0.2% | 0.1% | 511 | 0.2% | |
| Humanism | 36 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 139 | 0.0% | |
| Rationalism | 7 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 20 | 0.0% | |
| Secular Beliefs, nec | 13 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 18 | 0.0% | |
| Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd | 36 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 29 | 0.0% | |
| Multi Faith | 40 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 38 | 0.0% | |
| New Age | 12 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 53 | 0.0% | |
| Own Spiritual Beliefs | 666 | 0.2% | 0.1% | 593 | 0.2% | |
| Theism | 96 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 85 | 0.0% | |
| Unitarian Universalism | 7 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 13 | 0.0% | |
| Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec | 133 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 171 | 0.1% | |
| Not stated | 22,955 | 6.7% | 8.8% | 24,946 | 8.5% | |
| Total | 342,540 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 294,393 | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.