

# Community report

## Surf Coast (S)

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

AREA

**Surf Coast (S)**

COMPARISON

**Regional Vic.**

POPULATION

**Persons**

GENERATED

**30 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

Surf Coast (S) | Regional Vic. comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Surf Coast (S), accounting for 53% (19,972 people). This share was higher than Regional Vic. (44.9%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 7,489 people and 10.5 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

Surf Coast (S) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	150	0.4%	0.4%	178	0.6%	0.5%	-28	-0.2
Buddhism	245	0.6%	0.9%	182	0.6%	0.8%	+63	0.0
Christianity, nfd	649	1.7%	2.1%	506	1.7%	2.1%	+143	0.0
Anglican Church of Australia	3,159	8.4%	9.8%	3,354	11.4%	13.3%	-195	-3.0
Anglican Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Anglican, nec	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Baptist	517	1.4%	1.2%	494	1.7%	1.3%	+23	-0.3
Brethren	–	–	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Catholic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Western Catholic	7,091	18.8%	19.7%	6,209	21.1%	22.7%	+882	-2.3
Maronite Catholic	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Melkite Catholic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Ukrainian Catholic	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Chaldean Catholic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Syro Malabar Catholic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Catholic, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Churches of Christ, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	28	0.1%	0.2%	33	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Jehovah's Witnesses	118	0.3%	0.3%	100	0.3%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	—	—	—	—	—	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	13	0.0%	0.1%	15	0.1%	
Community of Christ	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Lutheran	199	0.5%	0.7%	207	0.7%	
Armenian Apostolic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Coptic Orthodox Church	—	—	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	—	—	—	—	—	
Assyrian Church of the East	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Albanian Orthodox	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Antiochian Orthodox	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Greek Orthodox	174	0.5%	0.5%	142	0.5%	
Macedonian Orthodox	21	0.1%	0.1%	10	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Romanian Orthodox	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Russian Orthodox	19	0.1%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Serbian Orthodox	25	0.1%	0.1%	14	0.0%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Presbyterian	598	1.6%	2.2%	674	2.3%	
Reformed	10	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Salvation Army	34	0.1%	0.2%	53	0.2%	
Seventh-day Adventist	28	0.1%	0.2%	19	0.1%	
Uniting Church	1,521	4.0%	4.7%	1,687	5.7%	
Pentecostal, nfd	76	0.2%	0.7%	104	0.4%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	–	–	–	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	–	–	–	
Revival Centres	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Worship Centre Network	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nfd	21	0.1%	0.1%	18	0.1%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	–	–	–	
Born Again Christian	10	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	–	–	–	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congregational	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Independent Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Methodist, so described	19	0.1%	0.1%	29	0.1%	
United Methodist Church	–	–	–	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	–	–	–	
Christadelphians	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Christian Science	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Gnostic Christians	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Ratana (Maori)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hinduism	61	0.2%	0.7%	56	0.2%	
Islam	57	0.2%	0.9%	30	0.1%	
Judaism	55	0.1%	0.1%	30	0.1%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Baha'i	6	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Ancestor Veneration	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Confucianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druse	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Animism	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paganism	22	0.1%	0.1%	15	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sikhism	34	0.1%	0.4%	15	0.1%	
Spiritualism	7	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Mandaeen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Eckankar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rastafari	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Satanism	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Theosophy	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Jainism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zoroastrianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Groups, nec	7	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	19,972	53.0%	44.9%	12,483	42.5%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	41	0.1%	0.1%	33	0.1%	
Atheism	80	0.2%	0.2%	35	0.1%	
Humanism	8	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Rationalism	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Secular Beliefs, nec	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Multi Faith	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
New Age	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	54	0.1%	0.1%	28	0.1%	
Theism	4	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	16	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Not stated	2,480	6.6%	7.7%	2,492	8.5%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,714</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>29,364</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.