

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 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

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

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Key takeaway

In 2021, Mid-life adults (35 to 49) was the most common category among residents in Surf Coast (S), accounting for 21.4% (8,083 people). This share was higher than Regional Vic. (17.6%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in Mid-life adults (35 to 49), which increased by 1,792 people.

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

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

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Early childhood (0 to 4)	2,302	6.1%	5.4%	1,863	6.3%	5.8%	+439	-0.2
Primary school age (5 to 11)	3,602	9.6%	8.4%	2,948	10.0%	8.7%	+654	-0.4
Secondary school age (12 to 17)	2,870	7.6%	7.2%	2,344	8.0%	7.4%	+526	-0.4
Young adults (18 to 24)	2,307	6.1%	7.3%	1,758	6.0%	7.9%	+549	+0.1
Early career adults (25 to 34)	3,658	9.7%	11.7%	2,932	10.0%	10.9%	+726	-0.3
Mid-life adults (35 to 49)	8,083	21.4%	17.6%	6,291	21.4%	18.1%	+1,792	0.0
Pre-retirement adults (50 to 59)	4,888	13.0%	13.1%	4,096	13.9%	13.9%	+792	-0.9
Retirement transition (60 to 69)	4,983	13.2%	13.6%	3,907	13.3%	13.4%	+1,076	-0.1
Established seniors (70 to 84)	4,277	11.3%	13.0%	2,684	9.1%	11.1%	+1,593	+2.2
Advanced age (85 years and over)	743	2.0%	2.7%	573	1.9%	2.7%	+170	+0.1
Total	37,694	100.0%	100.0%	29,397	100.0%	100.0%	+8,297	0.0

Data basis: usual residence.