

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 Volunteer work

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.

Volunteer work

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

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, not volunteering was the most common response among residents aged 15 and over in Surf Coast (S), accounting for 73.1% (22,121 people). This share was lower than Regional Vic. (75.5%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in not volunteering, which increased by 6,929 people and 8 percentage points.

About this topic

Volunteer work records whether people aged 15 years and over spent time doing voluntary work through an organisation or group in the previous 12 months. It is a measure of formal volunteering, not all informal help between neighbours, family, or friends.

This topic can indicate community participation, social connectedness, and the capacity of local organisations to attract volunteers. The 2021 Census should be interpreted carefully because COVID-19 restrictions reduced volunteering activity in many places.

Interpretation notes

- The Census counts voluntary work through an organisation or group, so it excludes informal help given outside formal organisations.

- The question refers to the previous 12 months for people aged 15 years and over.

- 2021 volunteering levels were affected by COVID-19 restrictions in many places, so change over time needs care.

Volunteer work

Surf Coast (S) – Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Total Volunteer	6,342	21.0%	17.3%	6,512	27.9%	24.3%	-170	-6.9
Total Not A Volunteer	22,121	73.1%	75.5%	15,192	65.1%	66.1%	+6,929	+8.0
Total Voluntary Work Not Stated	1,798	5.9%	7.3%	1,641	7.0%	9.6%	+157	-1.1
Total	30,258	100.0%	100.0%	23,345	100.0%	100.0%	+6,913	0.0

Data basis: usual residence.