

Community report

Townsville (C)

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

AREA

Townsville (C)

COMPARISON

Regional Qld

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

31 March 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Language used at home

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.

Language used at home

Townsville (C) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, English was the most common language used at home among residents in Townsville (C), accounting for 83.9% (161,774 people). This share was higher than Regional Qld (83.7%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 2,697 people, while its share fell by 1.3 percentage points.

About this topic

Language used at home shows which languages people speak in their home life and whether English or another language is used most often. It is a key indicator of cultural diversity and language retention within communities.

This topic is useful for planning communication, multicultural services, and local engagement. It should be analysed together with proficiency in English and birthplace, because language alone does not show migration history or support needs.

Interpretation notes

- The Census records the language used most often at home, so it does not capture every language a person can speak.
- Language used at home is not a measure of English proficiency, literacy, or migration history on its own.

Language used at home - Ranked by size

Townsville (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	215	0.1%	0.1%	83	0.0%	0.0%	+132	+0.1
Non-verbal, so described	108	0.1%	0.0%	179	0.1%	0.1%	-71	0.0
Swiss, so described	12	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	0.0%	+1	0.0
Cypriot, so described	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Creole, nfd	498	0.3%	0.1%	294	0.2%	0.1%	+204	+0.1
French Creole, nfd	11	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0
Spanish Creole, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Pidgin, nfd	100	0.1%	0.0%	148	0.1%	0.0%	-48	0.0
Celtic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–
Gaelic (Scotland)	3	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	0.0%	-4	0.0
Irish	6	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	0.0%	-6	0.0
Welsh	5	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	0.0%	-11	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Celtic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
English	161,774	83.9%	83.7%	159,077	85.2%	
German and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
German	475	0.2%	0.3%	553	0.3%	
Letzeburgish	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Yiddish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dutch	177	0.1%	0.1%	164	0.1%	
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaans	442	0.2%	0.3%	445	0.2%	
Danish	33	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	
Icelandic	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Norwegian	45	0.0%	0.0%	44	0.0%	
Swedish	57	0.0%	0.0%	72	0.0%	
Scandinavian, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Estonian	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Finnish	32	0.0%	0.0%	53	0.0%	
French	348	0.2%	0.2%	298	0.2%	
Greek	376	0.2%	0.1%	380	0.2%	
Iberian Romance, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Catalan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Portuguese	134	0.1%	0.3%	92	0.0%	
Spanish	488	0.3%	0.4%	423	0.2%	
Italian	670	0.3%	0.3%	842	0.5%	
Maltese	22	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Basque	9	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Latin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Southern European Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Latvian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lithuanian	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Hungarian	34	0.0%	0.1%	21	0.0%	
Belorussian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian	104	0.1%	0.1%	114	0.1%	
Ukrainian	11	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Bosnian	4	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Bulgarian	4	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Croatian	39	0.0%	0.1%	42	0.0%	
Macedonian	4	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Serbian	23	0.0%	0.1%	31	0.0%	
Slovene	7	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Serbo–Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	3	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Czech	28	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
Polish	76	0.0%	0.1%	95	0.1%	
Slovak	15	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Czechoslovakian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Albanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Romanian	19	0.0%	0.0%	30	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Romany	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Eastern European Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Iranic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kurdish	–	–	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Pashto	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Balochi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dari	15	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Persian (excluding Dari)	65	0.0%	0.1%	86	0.0%	
Hazaraghi	18	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Middle Eastern Semitic Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Arabic	302	0.2%	0.2%	255	0.1%	
Hebrew	34	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	7	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandaean (Mandaic)	–	–	–	–	–	
Turkic, nfd	–	–	–	3	0.0%	
Turkish	19	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Azeri	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Turkmen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uygur	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uzbek	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Georgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	14	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Kannada	40	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	
Malayalam	793	0.4%	0.2%	558	0.3%	
Tamil	230	0.1%	0.1%	194	0.1%	
Telugu	114	0.1%	0.1%	85	0.0%	
Tulu	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Dravidian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indo-Aryan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Bengali	85	0.0%	0.0%	77	0.0%	
Gujarati	122	0.1%	0.1%	82	0.0%	
Hindi	358	0.2%	0.2%	313	0.2%	
Konkani	19	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Marathi	42	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Nepali	222	0.1%	0.2%	149	0.1%	
Punjabi	418	0.2%	0.3%	264	0.1%	
Sindhi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sinhalese	201	0.1%	0.1%	160	0.1%	
Urdu	117	0.1%	0.1%	91	0.0%	
Assamese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhivehi	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Kashmiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oriya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian Hindustani	14	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Indo-Aryan, nec	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Other Southern Asian Languages	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Southeast Asian Languages, nfd	—	—	—	—	—	
Burmese and Related Languages, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Burmese	52	0.0%	0.0%	51	0.0%	
Chin Haka	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Karen	87	0.0%	0.0%	107	0.1%	
Rohingya	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Zomi	—	—	—	—	—	
Burmese and Related Languages, nec	—	—	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Hmong	4	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Khmer	39	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
Vietnamese	429	0.2%	0.2%	351	0.2%	
Mon-Khmer, nec	—	—	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Lao	12	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Thai	302	0.2%	0.2%	259	0.1%	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	—	—	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Bisaya	58	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Cebuano	29	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Ilokano	3	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Indonesian	132	0.1%	0.1%	155	0.1%	
Malay	37	0.0%	0.0%	42	0.0%	
Tetum	—	—	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Timorese	—	—	0.0%	4	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Tagalog	960	0.5%	0.3%	795	0.4%	
Filipino	546	0.3%	0.3%	495	0.3%	
Balinese	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bikol	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Iban	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ilonggo (Hiligaynon)	16	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Javanese	–	–	–	–	–	
Pampangan	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Southeast Asian Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Asian Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Chinese, nfd	18	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Cantonese	330	0.2%	0.2%	357	0.2%	
Hakka	8	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Mandarin	563	0.3%	0.7%	582	0.3%	
Wu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Min Nan	14	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Chinese, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese	234	0.1%	0.4%	229	0.1%	
Korean	398	0.2%	0.3%	278	0.1%	
Tibetan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mongolian	10	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	134	0.1%	0.0%	56	0.0%	
Anindilyakwa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maung	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tiwi	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Gudanji	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Larrakiya	–	–	–	–	–	
Marrithiyel	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Murrinh Patha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Garrwa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Waanyi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yanyuwa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Marridan (Maridan)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burarra	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arnhem Land and Daly River Region Languages, nec	–	–	–	6	0.0%	
Yolngu Matha, nfd	–	–	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Djambarrpuyngu	–	–	–	–	–	
Cape York Peninsula Languages, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kuku Yalanji	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Guugu Yimidhirr	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kuuku-Ya'u	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wik Mungkan	10	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Djabugay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dyirbal	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Girramay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Koko-Bera	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kuuk Thayorre	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yidiny	11	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Cape York Peninsula Languages, nec	10	0.0%	0.1%	5	0.0%	
Torres Strait Island Languages, nfd	78	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	
Kalaw Kawaw Ya/Kalaw Lagaw Ya	30	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Meriam Mir	44	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole)	289	0.1%	0.3%	242	0.1%	
Gurindji	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jaru	3	0.0%	–	–	–	
Warlpiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Warumungu	11	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Alyawarr	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kaytetye	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Anmatyerr, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Arrernte	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Western Arrarnta	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nec	–	–	–	4	0.0%	
Kukatha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pitjantjatjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wangkatha	–	–	–	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Bardi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gooniyandi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Worla	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kija	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Adnymathanha	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bandjalang	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Batjala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bidjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhanggatti	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Diyari	–	–	–	–	–	
Gamilaraay	13	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Githabul	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gumbaynggir	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kayardild	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kriol	35	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Lardil	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Muruwari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Narungga	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ngarrindjeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyungar	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Paakantyi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wajarri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Wiradjuri	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Yorta Yorta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gudjal	–	–	–	3	0.0%	
Yugambeh	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Aboriginal English, so described	55	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	21	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Other Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
American Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Akan	31	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Mauritian Creole	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Oromo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shona	110	0.1%	0.0%	97	0.1%	
Somali	164	0.1%	0.0%	265	0.1%	
Swahili	523	0.3%	0.0%	235	0.1%	
Yoruba	23	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Zulu	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Amharic	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Bemba	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Dinka	27	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Ewe	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ga	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Hausa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Igbo	20	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Kikuyu	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Krio	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Luganda	6	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Luo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ndebele	21	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Nuer	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Nyanja (Chichewa)	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Tigrinya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tswana	5	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Xhosa	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Seychelles Creole	–	–	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Anuak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fulfulde	10	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)	61	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Kirundi (Rundi)	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kpelle	–	–	–	–	–	
Liberian (Liberian English)	–	–	–	5	0.0%	
Loma (Lorma)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Madi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandinka	3	0.0%	–	6	0.0%	
Mann	–	–	–	11	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Moro (Nuba Moro)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Themne	–	–	–	–	–	
Lingala	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nec	75	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian	92	0.0%	0.0%	74	0.0%	
Gilbertese	11	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Maori (Cook Island)	137	0.1%	0.0%	112	0.1%	
Maori (New Zealand)	135	0.1%	0.1%	117	0.1%	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Niue	4	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Samoan	85	0.0%	0.1%	73	0.0%	
Tongan	37	0.0%	0.0%	44	0.0%	
Rotuman	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Tokelauan	146	0.1%	0.0%	166	0.1%	
Tuvaluan	15	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Bislama	4	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Norf'k–Pitcairn	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Solomon Islands Pijin	9	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nfd	26	0.0%	0.0%	39	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Kiwai	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Motu (HiriMotu)	41	0.0%	0.0%	41	0.0%	
Tok Pisin (Neomelanesian)	127	0.1%	0.0%	170	0.1%	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Invented Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nfd	24	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Auslan	155	0.1%	0.1%	92	0.0%	
Key Word Sign Australia	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Sign Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Not stated	15,755	8.2%	7.4%	14,264	7.6%	
Total	192,735	100.0%	100.0%	186,723	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.