

Community report

Western Downs (R)

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

AREA

Western Downs (R)

COMPARISON

Regional Qld

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

30 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

Western Downs (R) | 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 Western Downs (R), accounting for 86.2% (29,149 people). This share was higher than Regional Qld (83.7%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 488 people and 0.5 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

Western Downs (R) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	14	0.0%	0.1%	15	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0
Non-verbal, so described	7	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	0.1%	-5	0.0
Swiss, so described	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Cypriot, so described	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Creole, nfd	—	—	0.1%	7	0.0%	0.1%	—	—
French Creole, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Spanish Creole, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Pidgin, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Celtic, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Gaelic (Scotland)	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Irish	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Welsh	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Celtic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
English	29,149	86.2%	83.7%	28,661	85.7%	83.7%
German and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
German	40	0.1%	0.3%	37	0.1%	0.3%
Letzeburgish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Yiddish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Dutch	13	0.0%	0.1%	4	0.0%	0.1%
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Afrikaans	116	0.3%	0.3%	111	0.3%	0.3%
Danish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Icelandic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Norwegian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Swedish	4	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	0.0%
Scandinavian, nec	–	–	–	–	–	–
Estonian	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Finnish	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
French	31	0.1%	0.2%	8	0.0%	0.2%
Greek	8	0.0%	0.1%	9	0.0%	0.1%
Iberian Romance, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Catalan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Portuguese	16	0.0%	0.3%	6	0.0%	0.3%
Spanish	140	0.4%	0.4%	42	0.1%	0.4%
Italian	15	0.0%	0.3%	13	0.0%	0.3%
Maltese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Basque	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Latin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Southern European Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Latvian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lithuanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hungarian	6	0.0%	0.1%	5	0.0%	
Belorussian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian	4	0.0%	0.1%	13	0.0%	
Ukrainian	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Bosnian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bulgarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Croatian	5	0.0%	0.1%	7	0.0%	
Macedonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Serbian	5	0.0%	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Slovene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Czech	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Polish	12	0.0%	0.1%	7	0.0%	
Slovak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Czechoslovakian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Albanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Romanian	36	0.1%	0.0%	26	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %
Romany	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Other Eastern European Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	–
Iranic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Kurdish	–	–	0.1%	3	0.0%	–
Pashto	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Balochi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Dari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Persian (excluding Dari)	4	0.0%	0.1%	11	0.0%	–
Hazaraghi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Middle Eastern Semitic Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
Arabic	6	0.0%	0.2%	8	0.0%	–
Hebrew	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Mandaean (Mandaic)	–	–	–	–	–	–
Turkic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
Turkish	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Azeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Turkmen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Uygur	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Uzbek	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Armenian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Georgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kannada	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Malayalam	25	0.1%	0.2%	17	0.1%	
Tamil	8	0.0%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Telugu	20	0.1%	0.1%	23	0.1%	
Tulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dravidian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indo-Aryan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Bengali	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Gujarati	12	0.0%	0.1%	27	0.1%	
Hindi	41	0.1%	0.2%	43	0.1%	
Konkani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Marathi	–	–	0.0%	20	0.1%	
Nepali	18	0.1%	0.2%	–	–	
Punjabi	47	0.1%	0.3%	60	0.2%	
Sindhi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sinhalese	11	0.0%	0.1%	15	0.0%	
Urdu	13	0.0%	0.1%	8	0.0%	
Assamese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhivehi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kashmiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oriya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian Hindustani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indo-Aryan, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Other Southern Asian Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southeast Asian Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Burmese and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Chin Haka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Karen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rohingya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zomi	–	–	–	–	–	
Burmese and Related Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hmong	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Khmer	8	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Vietnamese	24	0.1%	0.2%	21	0.1%	
Mon-Khmer, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lao	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Thai	14	0.0%	0.2%	21	0.1%	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bisaya	11	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Cebuano	6	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Ilokano	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indonesian	6	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Malay	19	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	
Tetum	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Timorese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Tagalog	199	0.6%	0.3%	181	0.5%	
Filipino	201	0.6%	0.3%	173	0.5%	
Balinese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bikol	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iban	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ilonggo (Hiligaynon)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Javanese	–	–	–	–	–	
Pampangan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Southeast Asian Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Asian Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Chinese, nfd	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Cantonese	17	0.1%	0.2%	21	0.1%	
Hakka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandarin	38	0.1%	0.7%	27	0.1%	
Wu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Min Nan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chinese, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese	9	0.0%	0.4%	9	0.0%	
Korean	16	0.0%	0.3%	13	0.0%	
Tibetan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mongolian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	29	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	–
Anindilyakwa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Maung	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Tiwi	–	–	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	–	–	–	–	–	–
Yolngu Matha, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Djambarrpuyngu	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cape York Peninsula Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Kuku Yalanji	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Guugu Yimidhirr	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Kuuku-Ya'u	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Wik Mungkan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Djabugay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Dyirbal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regiona
Girramay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Koko-Bera	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kuuk Thayorre	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yidiny	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cape York Peninsula Languages, nec	–	–	0.1%	5	0.0%	
Torres Strait Island Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kalaw Kawaw Ya/Kalaw Lagaw Ya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Meriam Mir	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole)	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Gurindji	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Warlpiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Warumungu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Alyawarr	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kaytetye	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Anmatyerr, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Arrernte	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Western Arrarnta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Kukatha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pitjantjatjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wangkatha	–	–	–	–	–	
Bardi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

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

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Yorta Yorta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gudjal	–	–	–	–	–	
Yugambah	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Aboriginal English, so described	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
American Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Akan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mauritian Creole	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oromo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shona	11	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Somali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swahili	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Yoruba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Amharic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bemba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dinka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ewe	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ga	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Hausa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Igbo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kikuyu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Krio	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Luganda	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Luo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ndebele	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Nuer	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyanja (Chichewa)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tigrinya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tswana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Xhosa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Seychelles Creole	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Anuak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fulfulde	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kirundi (Rundi)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kpelle	–	–	–	–	–	
Liberian (Liberian English)	–	–	–	–	–	
Loma (Lorma)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Madi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandinka	–	–	–	–	–	
Mann	–	–	–	–	–	
Moro (Nuba Moro)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Themne	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lingala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
African Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Fijian	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Gilbertese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Maori (Cook Island)	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
Maori (New Zealand)	15	0.0%	0.1%	14	0.0%	–
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Niue	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Samoan	3	0.0%	0.1%	3	0.0%	–
Tongan	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Rotuman	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Tokelauan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Tuvaluan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bislama	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Norf'k–Pitcairn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Solomon Islands Pijin	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Papua New Guinea Languages, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Kiwai	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional
Motu (HiriMotu)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tok Pisin (Neomelanesian)	9	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Invented Languages	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Auslan	7	0.0%	0.1%	13	0.0%	
Key Word Sign Australia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Not stated	3,303	9.8%	7.4%	3,609	10.8%	
Total	33,826	100.0%	100.0%	33,429	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.