

# 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

**6 April 2026**

### Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

**01** Unpaid childcare

### 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.

# Unpaid childcare

Western Downs (R) | Regional Qld comparison | Persons

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## Key takeaway

In 2021, not providing unpaid child care was the most common response among residents aged 15 and over in Western Downs (R), accounting for 63.1% (16,772 people). This share was lower than Regional Qld (66.2%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in not providing unpaid child care, which increased by 1,436 people and 4.2 percentage points.

## About this topic

Unpaid childcare records whether people aged 15 years and over spent time looking after a child without pay, including their own children and other people's children. It reflects the role of parents, grandparents, extended family, and community networks in caring for children.

This topic helps show how childcare is supported outside the paid care sector and can highlight the role of family-based care. It is best interpreted with household type, employment, and income, because unpaid childcare patterns are shaped by family structure, work arrangements, and access to formal childcare.

## Interpretation notes

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- This records unpaid childcare in the previous two weeks for people aged 15 years and over, including care for a person's own children and other children.

- It identifies whether childcare was provided, not the number of hours or whether care was regular, occasional, or shared with formal services.

## Unpaid childcare

Western Downs (R) – Persons aged 15+ (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	%	Regional Qld %	Count	pp
Provided Unpaid Child Care (All)	6,886	25.9%	25.4%	7,271	27.9%	27.2%	-385	-2.0
Cared For Own Child Ren	5,122	19.3%	18.7%	5,439	20.9%	19.6%	-317	-1.6
Cared For Other Child Ren	1,490	5.6%	6.0%	1,634	6.3%	6.8%	-144	-0.7
Cared For Own Child Ren And Other Child Ren	266	1.0%	0.8%	196	0.8%	0.8%	+70	+0.2
No Unpaid Child Care Provided	16,772	63.1%	66.2%	15,336	58.9%	62.9%	+1,436	+4.2
Not Stated	2,942	11.1%	8.4%	3,449	13.2%	9.9%	-507	-2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,596</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>26,057</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>+539</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Data basis: usual residence.