

# Community report

## Whittlesea (C)

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

AREA

**Whittlesea (C)**

COMPARISON

**Greater Melbourne**

POPULATION

**Persons**

GENERATED

**30 March 2026**

### Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

**01** Religion

### 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.

# Religion

Whittlesea (C) | Greater Melbourne comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Whittlesea (C), accounting for 24% (55,129 people). This share was lower than Greater Melbourne (36.9%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 15,454 people and 3.9 percentage points.

## About this topic

Religion records a person's stated religious affiliation, including no religion and not stated responses. It is a measure of cultural identity and belief rather than practice or participation.

This topic helps show the religious diversity of an area and can support planning for community facilities, faith-based services, and inclusive engagement. It is best interpreted with ancestry, birthplace, and language, which together provide a broader picture of cultural composition.

## Interpretation notes

- This records stated religious affiliation, not attendance or level of religious practice.
- No religion and not stated are part of the overall picture, so interpretation should consider both affiliation and non-response.

## Religion - Ranked by size

Whittlesea (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	731	0.3%	0.4%	842	0.4%	0.5%	-111	-0.1
Buddhism	7,637	3.3%	3.9%	6,569	3.3%	3.8%	+1,068	0.0
Christianity, nfd	9,616	4.2%	2.7%	7,888	4.0%	2.6%	+1,728	+0.2
Anglican Church of Australia	8,132	3.5%	5.5%	10,145	5.1%	7.6%	-2,013	-1.6
Anglican Catholic Church	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Anglican, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Baptist	1,682	0.7%	1.3%	1,481	0.7%	1.3%	+201	0.0
Brethren	75	0.0%	0.0%	69	0.0%	0.0%	+6	0.0
Catholic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Western Catholic	55,037	24.0%	20.5%	54,304	27.5%	23.2%	+733	-3.5
Maronite Catholic	414	0.2%	0.1%	243	0.1%	0.1%	+171	+0.1
Melkite Catholic	81	0.0%	0.0%	105	0.1%	0.0%	-24	-0.1

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Ukrainian Catholic	39	0.0%	0.0%	30	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	342	0.1%	0.1%	280	0.1%	
Syro Malabar Catholic	597	0.3%	0.1%	382	0.2%	
Catholic, nec	62	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Churches of Christ, nfd	8	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	95	0.0%	0.1%	100	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
International Church of Christ	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Jehovah's Witnesses	577	0.3%	0.2%	537	0.3%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	—	—	—	—	—	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	405	0.2%	0.2%	403	0.2%	
Community of Christ	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Lutheran	250	0.1%	0.2%	286	0.1%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	—	—	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Armenian Apostolic	49	0.0%	0.0%	42	0.0%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	858	0.4%	0.2%	796	0.4%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	497	0.2%	0.1%	302	0.2%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	7	0.0%	0.1%	—	—	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	18	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Assyrian Church of the East	92	0.0%	0.1%	88	0.0%	
Ancient Church of the East	20	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	68	0.0%	0.0%	47	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Albanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Antiochian Orthodox	259	0.1%	0.1%	173	0.1%	–
Greek Orthodox	13,062	5.7%	3.3%	12,479	6.3%	–
Macedonian Orthodox	7,041	3.1%	0.4%	6,681	3.4%	–
Romanian Orthodox	24	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	–
Russian Orthodox	99	0.0%	0.1%	110	0.1%	–
Serbian Orthodox	634	0.3%	0.3%	519	0.3%	–
Ukrainian Orthodox	25	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	–
Eastern Orthodox, nec	15	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	–
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Presbyterian	2,113	0.9%	1.1%	2,444	1.2%	–
Reformed	30	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	–
Salvation Army	221	0.1%	0.1%	286	0.1%	–
Seventh-day Adventist	332	0.1%	0.2%	332	0.2%	–
Uniting Church	2,099	0.9%	1.7%	2,664	1.3%	–
Pentecostal, nfd	2,318	1.0%	0.8%	1,936	1.0%	–
Apostolic Church (Australia)	5	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	109	0.0%	0.0%	141	0.1%	–
Bethesda Ministries International (Bethesda Churches)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	100	0.0%	0.0%	143	0.1%	–
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	6	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Foursquare Gospel Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	0.0%	8	0.0%	–
Revival Centres	4	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Rhema Family Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Christian Church in Australia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pentecostal City Life Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Revival Fellowship	12	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Victory Worship Centre	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Worship Centre Network	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Pentecostal, nec	15	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Other Protestant, nfd	305	0.1%	0.2%	193	0.1%	–
Born Again Christian	133	0.1%	0.1%	100	0.1%	–
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	0.0%	14	0.0%	–
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Congregational	16	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	–
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	22	0.0%	0.0%	31	0.0%	–
Independent Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Wesleyan Methodist Church	10	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	–
Christian Community Churches of Australia	9	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	–
Methodist, so described	188	0.1%	0.1%	160	0.1%	–
United Methodist Church	26	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	–	–	–	–
Christadelphians	6	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Christian Science	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Gnostic Christians	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Liberal Catholic Church	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
New Apostolic Church	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	–
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Ratana (Maori)	4	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	–
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Other Christian, nec	32	0.0%	0.0%	47	0.0%	–
Hinduism	14,332	6.2%	4.1%	8,269	4.2%	–
Islam	20,731	9.0%	5.3%	14,525	7.4%	–
Judaism	82	0.0%	0.9%	56	0.0%	–
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	24	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	–
Baha'i	196	0.1%	0.1%	131	0.1%	–
Ancestor Veneration	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
Confucianism	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Taoism	38	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Druse	37	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	–
Shinto	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	–
Sukyo Mahikari	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Tenrikyo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Japanese Religions, nec	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nature Religions, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Animism	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
Paganism	111	0.0%	0.1%	81	0.0%	–
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	42	0.0%	0.0%	35	0.0%	–
Nature Religions, nec	18	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	–
Sikhism	8,508	3.7%	1.7%	5,775	2.9%	–
Spiritualism	40	0.0%	0.0%	46	0.0%	–
Mandaean	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	–
Yezidi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Caodaism	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
Church of Scientology	18	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	–
Eckankar	11	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	–
Rastafari	4	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Satanism	35	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	–
Theosophy	11	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	–
Jainism	90	0.0%	0.0%	57	0.0%	–
Zoroastrianism	34	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Religious Groups, nec	51	0.0%	0.0%	30	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	55,129	24.0%	36.9%	39,675	20.1%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	173	0.1%	0.1%	135	0.1%	
Atheism	181	0.1%	0.1%	129	0.1%	
Humanism	13	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Rationalism	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Secular Beliefs, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	16	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Multi Faith	30	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
New Age	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	143	0.1%	0.1%	101	0.1%	
Theism	35	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	7	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	35	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	
Not stated	12,519	5.5%	5.8%	14,357	7.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,434</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>197,501</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.