

# Community report

## Wollongong (C)

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

AREA

**Wollongong (C)**

COMPARISON

**Regional NSW**

POPULATION

**Persons**

GENERATED

**3 April 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

Wollongong (C) | Regional NSW comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Wollongong (C), accounting for 38.2% (81,996 people). This share was higher than Regional NSW (37.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 25,383 people and 10.4 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

Wollongong (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	827	0.4%	0.4%	945	0.5%	0.4%	-118	-0.1
Buddhism	2,472	1.2%	0.8%	2,574	1.3%	0.8%	-102	-0.1
Christianity, nfd	6,113	2.8%	2.2%	5,881	2.9%	2.2%	+232	-0.1
Anglican Church of Australia	27,153	12.7%	17.0%	33,863	16.6%	21.9%	-6,710	-3.9
Anglican Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Anglican, nec	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Baptist	1,750	0.8%	1.2%	1,820	0.9%	1.3%	-70	-0.1
Brethren	307	0.1%	0.1%	283	0.1%	0.1%	+24	0.0
Catholic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Western Catholic	48,523	22.6%	21.0%	51,799	25.4%	23.8%	-3,276	-2.8
Maronite Catholic	169	0.1%	0.0%	108	0.1%	0.0%	+61	0.0
Melkite Catholic	6	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	0.0%	-5	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Ukrainian Catholic	19	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	22	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Syro Malabar Catholic	157	0.1%	0.0%	119	0.1%	
Catholic, nec	10	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Churches of Christ, nfd	20	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	168	0.1%	0.1%	242	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	743	0.3%	0.4%	778	0.4%	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	251	0.1%	0.1%	320	0.2%	
Community of Christ	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Lutheran	616	0.3%	0.3%	760	0.4%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian Apostolic	14	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	84	0.0%	0.0%	59	0.0%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	232	0.1%	0.0%	145	0.1%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	14	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Assyrian Church of the East	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Ancient Church of the East	–	–	–	7	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	36	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
Antiochian Orthodox	168	0.1%	0.0%	130	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Greek Orthodox	3,366	1.6%	0.4%	3,373	1.7%	
Macedonian Orthodox	4,156	1.9%	0.3%	3,956	1.9%	
Romanian Orthodox	12	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Russian Orthodox	114	0.1%	0.0%	129	0.1%	
Serbian Orthodox	1,406	0.7%	0.1%	1,130	0.6%	
Ukrainian Orthodox	10	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Presbyterian	3,503	1.6%	2.6%	4,752	2.3%	
Reformed	129	0.1%	0.0%	155	0.1%	
Free Reformed	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Salvation Army	455	0.2%	0.2%	626	0.3%	
Seventh-day Adventist	258	0.1%	0.4%	275	0.1%	
Uniting Church	5,168	2.4%	3.3%	7,020	3.4%	
Pentecostal, nfd	1,646	0.8%	0.7%	1,972	1.0%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	21	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	54	0.0%	0.0%	102	0.1%	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	8	0.0%	0.1%	8	0.0%	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Foursquare Gospel Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Revival Centres	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
United Pentecostal	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Church in Australia	–	–	–	–	–	
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Pentecostal, nec	14	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Other Protestant, nfd	224	0.1%	0.1%	193	0.1%	
Aboriginal Evangelical Missions	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Born Again Christian	69	0.0%	0.0%	57	0.0%	
Christian and Missionary Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Congregational	60	0.0%	0.0%	67	0.0%	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	15	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Independent Evangelical Churches	170	0.1%	0.1%	8	0.0%	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	3	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Methodist, so described	177	0.1%	0.1%	214	0.1%	
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nec	10	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christadelphians	31	0.0%	0.0%	43	0.0%	
Christian Science	7	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Gnostic Christians	10	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	17	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Ratana (Maori)	19	0.0%	0.0%	31	0.0%	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	15	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Temple Society	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	19	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Hinduism	1,970	0.9%	0.7%	1,274	0.6%	
Islam	5,604	2.6%	0.7%	4,608	2.3%	
Judaism	155	0.1%	0.1%	112	0.1%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	31	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Baha'i	104	0.0%	0.0%	137	0.1%	
Confucianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	28	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druse	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	16	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nfd	8	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Animism	20	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Druidism	12	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Paganism	160	0.1%	0.1%	131	0.1%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	73	0.0%	0.0%	53	0.0%	
Nature Religions, nec	29	0.0%	0.0%	36	0.0%	
Sikhism	288	0.1%	0.3%	99	0.0%	
Spiritualism	70	0.0%	0.0%	68	0.0%	
Mandaeen	19	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Yezidi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Caodaism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Church of Scientology	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Eckankar	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Rastafari	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Satanism	66	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Theosophy	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Jainism	8	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Zoroastrianism	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Religious Groups, nec	37	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	
No Religion, so described	81,996	38.2%	37.4%	56,613	27.8%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Agnosticism	348	0.2%	0.1%	265	0.1%	
Atheism	400	0.2%	0.1%	286	0.1%	
Humanism	12	0.0%	0.0%	69	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional NSW %	Count	%	Regional
Rationalism	7	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	12	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	15	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Multi Faith	23	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
New Age	9	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	265	0.1%	0.1%	201	0.1%	
Theism	61	0.0%	0.0%	50	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	18	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	50	0.0%	0.0%	50	0.0%	
Not stated	11,538	5.4%	7.7%	15,005	7.4%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>214,546</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>203,599</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.