

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2023/sep/mapping-digital-gap#:~:text=About%2043%25%20of%20the%201%2C545,to%20close%20the%20digital%20gap.>

About 43% of the 1,545 First Nations communities and homelands across Australia have no mobile service – including some with only a shared public phone or no telecommunications access – highlighting a need for action to close the digital gap.

Under the Australian Digital Inclusion Index ADII modelling, 45.9% of remote First Nations research participants are highly excluded, compared to 9.4% percent of the Australian population, illustrating the considerable disparities.

Nationally, the gap in digital access between First Nations people and other Australians is 7.5 points out of 100.

But the gap widens significantly to 24.5 points for remote First Nations people and 25.4 points for those living in very remote communities.

With residents in remote communities typically on low incomes, 84% of these respondents in the study used or shared a mobile device, and 94% of these used pre-paid services.

53.3% of First Nations people surveyed in the study said they had sacrificed paying for essentials such as food or bills to stay connected, compared to 19.1% of other Australians.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/older-people/older-australians/contents/demographic-profile>

## **Australia's older population**

Australia's population is ageing due to increasing life expectancy and declining fertility rates. Both the number of people at the older ages is growing and older people are representing an increasing share of the total population (CEPAR 2021).

Recent data show that:

- At 30 June 2020, there were an estimated 4.2 million older Australians (aged 65 and over) with older people comprising 16% of the total Australian population (ABS 2020b).
- The number of older Australians has increased from 1.0 million (8.3% of the total population) in 1970 and 2.1 million (12%) in 1995 (Figure 1.1) (ABS 2019).
- The number and percentage of older Australians is expected to continue to grow. By 2066, it is projected that older people in Australia will make up between 21% and 23% of the total population (ABS 2018).

## Language used at home - Summary

[export](#) [reset](#)

Australia - Total persons (Usual residence)	2021			2016			Change
Language summary	Number	%	Greater Capital Cities %	Number	%	Greater Capital Cities %	2016 to 2021
Speaks English only	18,303,661	72.0	65.5	17,020,418	72.7	66.3	+1,283,243
Non-English total	5,663,719	22.3	29.5	4,858,804	20.8	27.8	+804,915
Not stated	1,455,417	5.7	5.0	1,522,684	6.5	5.9	-67,267
Total Population	25,422,797	100.0	100.0	23,401,906	100.0	100.0	+2,020,891

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by [.id](#) (informed decisions).

[Please refer to specific data notes for more information](#)

## Language used at home - Ranked by size

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Australia - Total persons (Usual residence)	2021			2016			Change
Language (excludes English)	Number	%	Greater Capital Cities %	Number	%	Greater Capital Cities %	2016 to 2021
Mandarin	685,268	2.7	3.8	596,703	2.5	3.6	+88,565
Arabic	367,154	1.4	2.1	321,720	1.4	2.0	+45,434
Vietnamese	320,760	1.3	1.8	277,391	1.2	1.7	+43,369
Cantonese	295,292	1.2	1.7	280,943	1.2	1.7	+14,349
Punjabi	239,041	0.9	1.2	132,500	0.6	0.8	+106,541
Greek	229,643	0.9	1.3	237,583	1.0	1.5	-7,940
Italian	228,046	0.9	1.2	271,602	1.2	1.5	-43,556
Filipino/Tagalog	222,044	0.9	1.1	182,498	0.8	1.0	+39,546
Hindi	197,132	0.8	1.1	159,637	0.7	1.0	+37,495
Spanish	171,378	0.7	0.9	140,813	0.6	0.8	+30,565

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/321477/smartphone-user-penetration-in-australia/>

### Smartphone penetration as share of population in Australia 2017-2026

In 2017, 81 percent of the Australian population used a smartphone and the share was estimated to reach around 87 percent by 2026. This represents just over 23.6 million smartphone users across the country. With the uprising of 5G networks, along with advancements in mobile technology, the way Australians use smartphones may change in the near future.

<https://www.catch.com.au/mobile/top-australian-mobile-phone-statistics-2022>

Australia: the second smartphone penetration rate in the world with 79.60%, breathing down USA's neck with a rate of 81.90%.

### Use of mobile devices at home grows

The trend of adult Australians shifting from fixed to mobile communications for voice calls continues.

More adult Aussies are using only their mobile for voice calls at home. Over the last 6 years, those using only a mobile phone to make calls has doubled from 29% in the 12 months to June 2015, to 60% in 2020.

However, we are less likely to rely solely on a mobile service for our internet connection. Use of a mobile-only connection for the internet has dropped since 2015 but held steady over the last couple of years at 16%.

In the 12 months to June 2020:

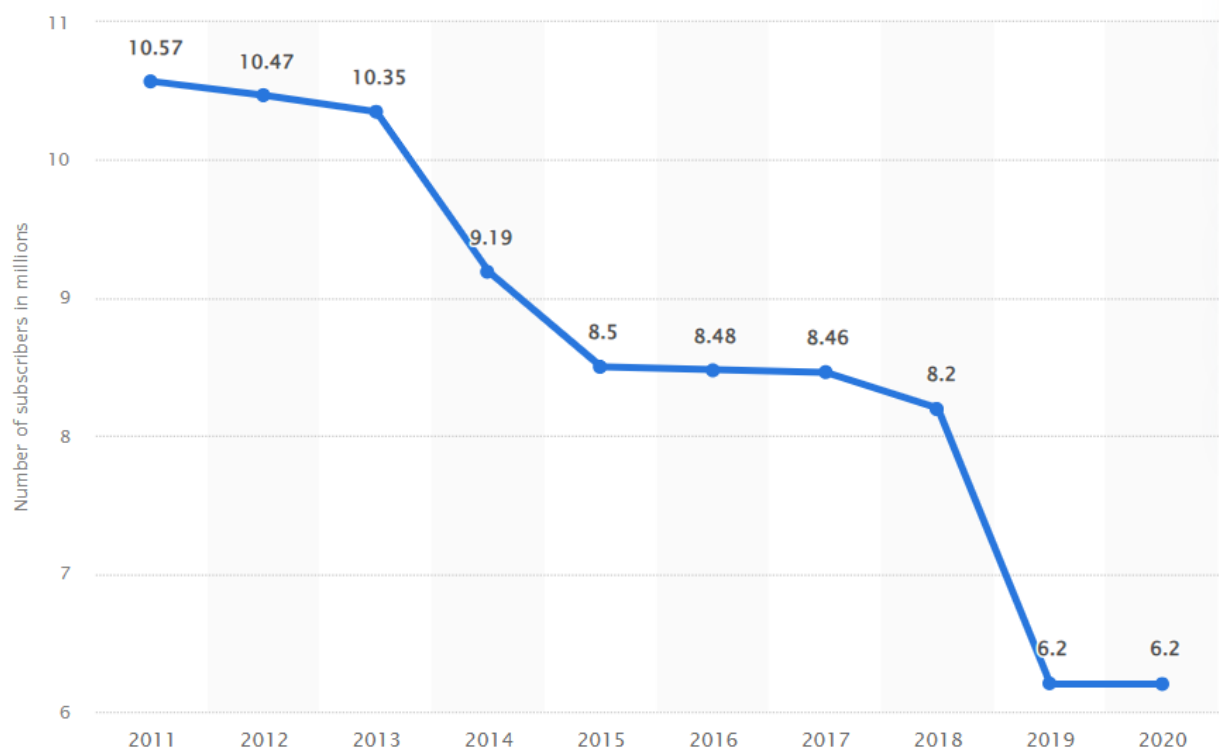
- 60% of Australian adults were mobile-only for voice calls at home (with a mobile but no landline). This is up from 29% in 2015.
- 16% were mobile-only for internet at home (with mobile broadband or mobile phone). This is down from 21% in 2015.
- 12% were mobile-only for both voice and internet at home. This has remained largely unchanged since 2015 (11%).

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoieMWE1YTczYzEtMzg4OS00OWNhLTkyYmYtY2JmMTQ3YTM4MjVmlwiwCI6IjBkYWYWM3ZjM5LWQyMGMtNGU3MS04YWYzLTcxZWU3ZTI2OGEyYiJ9>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1200737/australia-fixed-telephone-subscriptions/#:~:text=Number%20of%20fixed%20telephone%20subscriptions%20in%20Australia%202011%2D2020&text=In%202020%2C%20there%20were%20around,to%20make%20and%20receive%20calls.>

### Number of fixed telephone subscriptions in Australia 2011-2020

In 2020, there were around 6.2 million fixed telephone subscriptions in Australia. This was the lowest value reported in that decade, with consumers moving towards mobile technology to make and receive calls.



### Mobile and fixed line telephone usage in Australia FY 2016-2021

In the period from 2016 to 2021, the total time spent on fixed line telephone calls in Australia dropped by over 50 percent to around 8.7 billion voice call minutes. Mobile phone calls made up an increasing majority of total voice call minutes each year, with mobile originating phone calls reaching almost 73 billion minutes in total.