

2001 CENSUS - AUSTRALIA'S DIVERSITY

- The 2001 Census recorded 18,972,350 people in Australia
- Just over one-fifth of Australia's population (22%) was born overseas.
- English was the only language spoken at home by 79.1% of the population, a decrease from 81.4% in 1996.
- Italian, with 353,605 speakers, is the most popular language other than English spoken at home, followed by Greek, 263,717, Cantonese, 225,307, Arabic 209,372, and Vietnamese with 174,236 speakers.
- For the first time, Chinese languages (in total) have eclipsed Italian as the nation's most commonly spoken non-English languages.
- Arabic is the second most commonly spoken foreign language in Sydney (3.6 per cent).
- In Sydney, the dominance of English looks less complete, with 66 per cent of people speaking only English at home.
- Western Australia has the highest proportion of total population born overseas (27%). New South Wales and Victoria have equal proportions of overseas born people (about 23%), followed by the ACT and South Australia (21% each), Queensland (17%), NT (14%) and Tasmania (10%).
- There were 2,133,676 people born in Europe (including UK) or 11.2% of the population, 982,519 were born in Asia or 5.2% of the population, and Middle East and North Africa accounted for 213,942 people or 1.1% of the population.
- The region with the lowest proportion of Australia-born residents was Dandenong in Victoria.
- 5 in every 100 Australians were born in Asia.
- Sydney is the migrant and ethnic centre of Australia, with 31 per cent of its population born overseas. Six of the 10 areas in the country with the lowest proportion of Australia-born residents are in Sydney.
- The number of Australian residents born in Asia (from Pakistan to Japan) rose by just 15 per cent to 982,519.
- The census recorded 267,030 Asia-born people living in Melbourne, almost 8 per cent of the city's population.
- For the first time, the Indian community has made the top 10 by birthplace, partly due to the high number of Indian fee-paying students attending colleges and universities.
- The least diverse capital is Hobart (84 per cent Australia-born and 91 per cent of households speaking English only).
- People of more than 210 ethnicities today call Melbourne home, a figure that has climbed from 95 in 1981, when Australia was considered one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world.
- Immigration from African nations has increased. Twenty years ago in Victoria just under 20,000 people originated from just eight African countries. Today, the state is home to more than 36,700 people from 40 African countries. Immigrants from South Africa alone now number more than 15,500, doubling since 1981. In 1981, the top 10 ethnicities in the state apart from Australians and New Zealanders were all European. Today, while

Australia, Britain, Italy and Greece still rank from one to four, Vietnam, China, India and Sri Lanka have all entered the top 10.

- There were over 200 different ancestries reported in the 2001 Census. The most common ancestry was Australian, with 6,739,594 or 35.9% of all people choosing this as one of their responses; next most popular were English (6,358,880 or 33.9%), Irish (1,919,727 or 10.2%), Italian (800,256 or 4.3%)
- German (742,212 or 4.0%), Chinese (556,554 or 3.0%), Scottish (540,046 or 2.9%) and Greek (375,703 or 2.0%).
- One in every 30 Australians has at least one Chinese ancestor and one in 20 Sydney families speak a Chinese language at home.
- 20 per cent define their origins as at least partly Italian, German, Greek or elsewhere in continental Europe.
- More than 10 per cent of Australians now define themselves as being of Asian or Middle Eastern ancestry .
- 234,432 migrants and temporary residents settled in Sydney between 1996 and 2001. Three in every eight arrivals in Australia (37.4 per cent) chose Sydney as home.
- In Sydney, Chinese-born people (2.1 per cent) now equal New Zealanders, and more people described themselves as being of Chinese ancestry (248,579) than Italian (167,411). There were more Lebanese (114,491) than Greeks (112,426) and more Indians (66,100) than Vietnamese (58,650).

BIRTHPLACE COUNTRIES

Australia	13 629 685
United Kingdom(c)	1 036 245
New Zealand	355 765
Italy	218 718
Viet Nam	154 831
China (a)	142 780
Greece	116 431
Germany	108 220
Philippines	103 942
India	95 452
Netherlands	83 324
South Africa	79 425
Malaysia	78 858
Hong Kong	67 122
Lebanon	71 349
Poland	58 110
Yugoslavia	55 365
USA	53 694
Sri Lanka	53 461
Croatia	51 909
Ireland	50 235
Indonesia	47 158
Fiji	44 261
Macedonia, FYROM	43 527
Malta	46 998
Korea, Republic of (South)	38 900
Singapore	33 485
Egypt	33 432
Turkey	29 821
Canada	27 289
France	17 268
Born elsewhere overseas	708 069
Not stated	1 034 120
Overseas visitors	203 101
Total	18 972 350