

The People of Victoria

Statistics from the 2011 Census

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

2014

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About this Publication

The People of Victoria is a major compilation of statistics on birthplace, language, religion and ancestry from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. This publication has gone to considerable lengths to create a data source which is unique, accurate, detailed and comprehensive. Some of the features of this publication include:

- Customised local area tables. *The People of Victoria* presents ranked lists of birthplace, language and religion for each Local Government Area (LGA) in Victoria, along with age profiles of selected birthplace and language groups, and details on ancestry and birthplace of parents for all LGAs. This gives a very complete picture of the diversity of each area.
- Age-gender profiles for the most common birthplace, language and ancestry groups in Victoria show the diverse structure of our population.
- Detailed ancestry data by birthplace of parents, gives a clear picture of the extent of our migrant communities.
- English language competency by age, presenting the differing levels of competency amongst the various language and age groups.

How to use this Publication

This publication is presented in four sections, covering three broad geographical areas around which the data is arranged:

- Section 1 – Australian overview
- Section 2 – Victoria overview
- Section 3 – Metropolitan Melbourne by Local Government Areas
- Section 4 – Regional Victoria by Local Government Areas

The first two sections of the publication contain the most detailed data. They present a series of tables and graphics including:

- A full listing of birthplace, language, religion and ancestry data from the 2011 Census with comparisons to 2006 where appropriate.
- Graphics on the residential patterns of the major birthplace groups.
- Special cross-tabulations of language with birthplace, religion with birthplace and ancestry with birthplace of parents which reveal richer information on the make-up of the ethnic and religious communities in the State.
- Data on English language proficiency by age.
- Age-sex histograms on major birthplace, language and ancestry groups.

Sections 3 and 4 are comprised of a series of 4 page profiles containing statistics on birthplace, language, religion and ancestry for each LGA in Victoria. These profiles can be used to compare different areas in Victoria – for example identifying the LGA with the highest overseas born population. They can also be compared against the 4 page profile for VIC at the end of section 2 – for example, whether the proportion of Italian speakers for a given area is above or below the VIC average.

Notes on the Data

The figures in this publication are based on data from the 2011, 2006 and 2001 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and are based on usual resident counts, i.e. counts of where people usually lived at the time of the Census.

Geography

In the summary tables, charts and 4 page profiles presented for Victoria, the geographic level used is 2011 Local Government Areas (LGA). Some of these have changed substantially since 2006 and 2001. Where amalgamations have occurred the amalgamated data has been presented. When boundaries have changed due to new LGAs forming or existing LGAs redefining their boundary, 2006 data is presented by aggregating the constituent Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) or Collection Districts (CDs) of the LGA and 2001 data is not presented.

Introduced Random Error

Data released by the ABS is subject to randomisation of small cells to maintain confidentiality of respondents. The following selected text is taken from the ABS 2011 Census Dictionary (further details as to how and when the introduced random error is used can be found in the glossary of ABS 2011 Census Dictionary Cat 2901.0):
Care is taken in the specification of tables to minimise the risk of identifying individuals. In addition, a technique has been developed to randomly adjust cell values. Random adjustment of the data is considered to be the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable Census data. When the technique is applied, all cells are slightly adjusted to prevent any identifiable data being exposed... No reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment, respondent and processing errors.
(Source: ABS 2011 Census dictionary Cat 2901.0)

The effect of this randomisation is that there are small discrepancies in totals throughout the publication. For example, the total number of Chinese born people in Victoria in table 2.2 is 2 people less than the figure shown in table 2.3. This is because table 2.3 is derived from a different ABS source which cross tabulates birthplace by birthplace of parents, each cell of which is subject to different levels of introduced random error.

Due to this randomisation of small numbers, it would be misleading to present numbers with a value of less than 10 in these publications. Therefore such values are suppressed and presented in the tables as "...". It should be noted however, that even though these small values are not presented in the table, their values do contribute to the totals presented for each table.

Birthplace Data

In the 2011 Census the ABS coded the response to the birthplace question into 292 categories; these are based on the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) 2nd Edition, Revision 1. In the 2006 Census there were 285 categories.

The major differences between the 2011 and 2006 categories relate to new birthplaces categories being introduced or birthplaces used in 2006 being discontinued. As a result, 2011 data is reported for newly defined categories while 2006 data is not reported for discontinued categories. In order to maintain accurate totals, the data for discontinued 2006 categories is added to the *not elsewhere classified* category for 2006.

Language Data

In the 2011 Census, the ABS coded the response to the language question into 501 language categories based on the Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) 2nd Edition, Revision 1. In the 2006 Census there were 430 language categories based on the ASCL 2nd Edition, while the 2001 Census used 240 language categories based on the ASCL 1st Edition.

The major difference between the 2nd Edition, Revision 1 and 2nd edition ASCL results from the disaggregation of languages. This has resulted in the 2011 census reporting newly defined languages categories as well as making some 2006 language categories incomparable with 2011 data due to some elements being reassigned to different categories. Amalgamation of 2006 language categories and language name changes also occur.

In cases where it is not possible to provide comparable 2006 data, an entry of “..” along with a footnote will be presented and the counts from these categories will be incorporated into a *not elsewhere classified* category for 2006.

A selection of classification changes are listed below:

- The 2006 categories of Hokkien and Teochew have been amalgamated into the 2011 category Min Nan
- The 2006 category of Assyrian has been disaggregated into the 2011 categories Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, Chaldean Neo-Aramaic and Mandaean (Mandaic)

Religion Data

In the 2011 census there are 136 religion categories based on the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) 2nd Edition, Revision 1. The 2006 also had 136 religion categories. The only difference in classification is the renaming of Latter Day Saints, nfd to Latter-day Saints, nfd.

Ancestry Data

In the 2011 census there are 319 categories based on the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) 2nd Edition, Revision 1. The 2006 census used 275 categories.

The major differences between the 2nd Edition, Revision 1 and 2nd Edition ACCEG are due to the disaggregation of ancestries to produce increased classification detail. Many categories have retained the same name between 2006 and 2011 but still have changes in their underlying census classification. A footnote is included for cases in which a category should not be compared to a 2006 value due to some elements having been reassigned to new or existing categories.

In cases where it is not possible to provide comparable 2006 data, an entry of “..” along with a footnote will be presented and the counts from these categories will be incorporated into a *not elsewhere classified* category for 2006.

For both the 2006 and 2011 census, respondents were asked to mark the ancestries that they most closely identified with and to consider their ancestry back as far as three generations. Respondents had the option of reporting more than one ancestry but only the first two ancestries reported were coded for the census. Respondents did not have the option of ranking their answers to the ancestry question, so where a respondent reports two ancestries, those two ancestries have equal standing.

All ancestry data presented in the publication is based on a count of all responses (which can be up to two per person), meaning that double counting can occur. Where appropriate, the proportion of responses as well as the proportion of all persons in an area is presented along with the counts.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCCEG	Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups
ASCL	Australian Standard Classification of Languages
ASCRG	Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups
LGA	Local Government Area
LOTE	Language Other than English
MESC	Main English Speaking Countries
nec	Not elsewhere classified
nfd	Not further defined
NMESC	Non-Main English Speaking Countries
OSB	Overseas born
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SD	Statistical Division
SSD	Statistical Sub-Division

