

# The Thailand-Born Community in Victoria – 2016 Census (ranked 26)

## Demographic characteristics

At the 2016 Census, there were 15,979 Thailand-born persons in Victoria (24.1% of Australia's total), ranked 26<sup>th</sup> among the overseas-born communities in Victoria. The Thailand-born increased by 48.4% (5,212) from 10,767 persons in 2011. They are distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, with concentrations in the LGAs of Melbourne (10.9%), Wyndham (9.2%), Greater Dandenong (7.4%) and Casey (4.1%); 10.0% live in regional Victoria and 3.4% live in the regional LGA of Greater Geelong.

The Thailand-born reflected a young to adult profile: 34.5% were aged 25 years and under; 49.4% were aged 26-44; 14.2% were aged 45-64; and 2.0% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 31 years, compared to 37 years for total Victoria. The gender ratio was 52 males to 100 females, compared to 96 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

There were 15,000 persons identified with Thai ancestry. Most (72.8%) of them were born in Thailand; 22.5% were born in Australia. Almost one-fifth (17.3%) of the Thailand-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1996; 6.7% arrived in 1996-2000; 10.9% arrived in 2001-2005; 24.8% arrived in 2006-2010; and 34.9% arrived in 2011-2016.

Most of the Thailand-born speak Thai (60.2%), Karen (12.2%), Khmer (3.1%), Burmese (2.3%) and Vietnamese (1.1%); 17.1% speak English only. Of those who speak a language other than English, 17.6% speak English not well/not at all. Two-thirds (66.0%) of the Thailand-born are Buddhist; 7.1% are Baptist; 3.5% are Catholic; 2.9% are Anglican; and 2.6% are Muslim; 10.7% have no religion. Almost half (47.7%) of the Thailand-born have Australian citizenship, compared to 58.3% for overseas-born in Victoria.

(See p.3 on economic characteristics).

### Thailand-born in Victoria and Australia: 2016, 2011 and 2006 Census

Location	2016 Census		2011 Census		2006 Census		Change 2011-2016		Change 2006-2011	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	% change
Metro Melbourne <sup>(a)</sup>	13,909	21.0	9,518	20.9	6,455	21.1	4,391	46.1	3,063	47.5
Rest of Victoria <sup>(b)</sup>	2,073	3.1	1,243	2.7	606	2.0	830	66.8	637	105.1
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>10,767</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>7,056</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>5,212</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>3,711</b>	<b>52.6</b>
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>66,229</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>45,464</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30,554</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20,765</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>14,910</b>	<b>48.8</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Metro Melbourne is equivalent to ABS's Greater Capital Statistical Area.

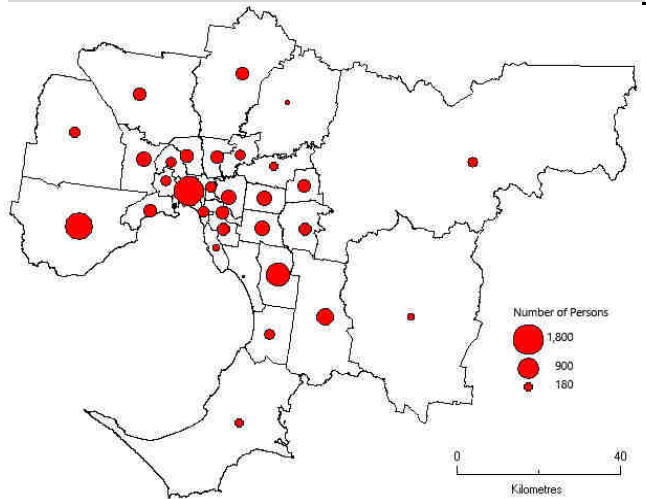
<sup>(b)</sup> Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria" and "Offshore Areas and Migratory, Victoria".

### Distribution of Thailand-born, Top 5 LGAs: 2016 Census

Local Government Area (LGA)	2016 Census		2011 Census		Rank in 2011
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Melbourne (C)	1,738	10.9	853	7.9	3
Wyndham (C)	1,466	9.2	903	8.4	1
Gter Dandenong (C)	1,178	7.4	854	7.9	2
Casey (C)	655	4.1	458	4.3	4
Greater Geelong (C)	550	3.4	372	3.5	9
Rest of Melbourne	8,795	55.0	6,423	59.7	-
Rest of Reg Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	1,597	10.0	936	8.7	-
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	-

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes "Unincorporated Vic" and "No Usual Address Vic".

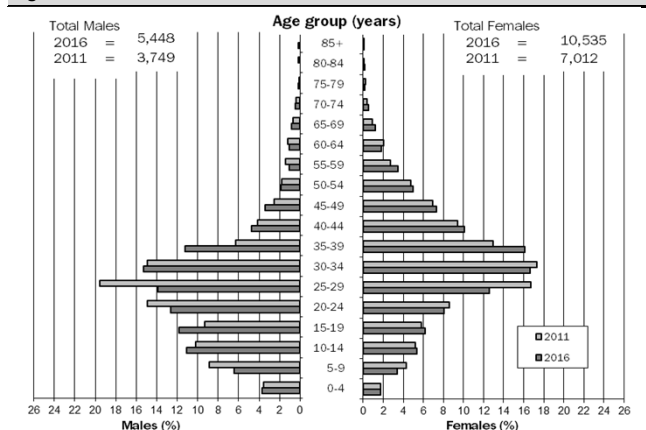
### Distribution of Thailand-born in Metro Melbourne, 2016



### Age Distribution of Thailand-born: 2016, 2011 Census

Age group (years)	2016 Census		2011 Census		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	386	2.4	263	2.4	46.8
5-11	1,188	7.4	934	8.7	27.2
12-18	1,710	10.7	1,044	9.7	63.8
19-25	2,231	14.0	1,658	15.4	34.6
26-44	7,891	49.4	5,311	49.3	48.6
45-54	1,578	9.9	978	9.1	61.3
55-64	684	4.3	420	3.9	62.9
65-74	253	1.6	122	1.1	107.4
75+	66	0.4	44	0.4	50.0
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48.4</b>
<i>Median Age</i>	31		29		
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	52		53		<i>males per 100 females</i>

### Age and Gender Distribution of Thailand-born, Victoria, 2016



**Top 5 Countries of Birth of Persons with Thai Ancestry: 2016, 2011**

Country of birth	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Thailand	10,920	72.8	7,110	74.5	53.6
Malaysia	109	0.7	53	0.6	105.7
Laos	68	0.5	41	0.4	65.9
New Zealand	64	0.4	52	0.5	23.1
Singapore	44	0.3	24	0.3	83.3
Australia	3,370	22.5	2,036	21.3	65.5
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	402	2.7	232	2.4	73.3
<b>Total responses<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,548</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57.1</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes all other countries, and birthplace not stated.

<sup>(b)</sup> Respondents have option of nominating several ancestries; only the 1st two responses were coded. This is the total of both 1st & 2nd responses.

This table is based on the ancestry with the most responses for Thailand-born persons.

**Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home, Thailand-born: 2016, 2011**

Language other than English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Thai	9,625	60.2	6,251	58.1	54.0
Karen	1,944	12.2	1,156	10.7	68.2
Khmer	501	3.1	552	5.1	-9.2
Burmese	370	2.3	165	1.5	124.2
Vietnamese	174	1.1	198	1.8	-12.1
Other languages <sup>(a)</sup>	538	3.4	515	4.8	4.5
English only	2,738	17.1	1,863	17.3	47.0
Not stated	61	0.4	67	0.6	-9.0
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48.4</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes "Inadequately described" and "Non-verbal, so described".

**Top 5 Religious affiliation, Thailand-born: 2016, 2011**

Religious affiliation <sup>(a)</sup>	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Buddhism	10,545	66.0	7,418	68.9	42.2
Baptist	1,127	7.1	709	6.6	59.0
Catholic	553	3.5	441	4.1	25.4
Anglican	467	2.9	417	3.9	12.0
Islam	420	2.6	175	1.6	140.0
Other religions	788	4.9	530	4.9	48.7
No religion <sup>(b)</sup>	1,709	10.7	835	7.8	104.7
Not stated	377	2.4	242	2.2	55.8
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48.4</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Religion based on 3 digit level of classification.

<sup>(b)</sup> No Religion, so described.

**Year of Arrival of Thailand-born: 2016**

Year of arrival <sup>(a)</sup>	Thailand-born		Total OSB, Vic <sup>(c)</sup>	
	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1996	2,761	17.3	716,865	42.7
1996 - 2000	1,073	6.7	104,975	6.2
2001 - 2005	1,748	10.9	149,043	8.9
2006 - 2010	3,956	24.8	269,729	16.1
2011 - 2016 <sup>(b)</sup>	5,575	34.9	381,130	22.7
Not stated	864	5.4	58,517	3.5
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,680,256</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Records the year of arrival in Australia for people born overseas

who intend staying in Australia for at least one year.

<sup>(b)</sup> Arrivals up to 9 Aug 2016.

<sup>(c)</sup> OSB stands for Overseas-born.

**Proficiency in English of Thailand-born: 2016, 2011**

Proficiency in English	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	2,738	17.1	1,863	17.3	47.0
<i>Speaks other languages and speaks English</i>					
Very well	4,154	26.0	2,882	26.8	44.1
Well	6,162	38.6	4,033	37.5	52.8
Not well	2,552	16.0	1,641	15.2	55.5
Not at all	248	1.6	204	1.9	21.6
Not stated <sup>(a)</sup>	130	0.8	140	1.3	-7.1
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48.4</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes those who did not state a language and/or proficiency in English.

**Thailand-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2016, 2011**

Age group (years)	2016		2011		2011-16 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	234	3.1	86	1.7	172.1
5-11	509	6.7	277	5.5	83.8
12-18	829	10.9	347	6.9	138.9
19-25	684	9.0	580	11.6	17.9
26-44	3,526	46.2	2,527	50.6	39.5
45-64	1,580	20.7	1,050	21.0	50.5
65-74	209	2.7	103	2.1	102.9
75+	52	0.7	30	0.6	73.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,626</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,998</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52.6</b>

% of Thailand-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 47.7%

% of Overseas-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 58.3%

## Economic characteristics

The education levels of the Thailand-born are higher than for total Victoria. More of them have a postgraduate degree (9.5%) and a bachelor degree (24.9%), compared to 5.4% and 16.5% for Victoria. Less of them have an advanced diploma or diploma (8.7%) and a certificate (8.0%), compared to Victoria (9.2% and 14.4%).

The labour force participation rate of the Thailand-born at 64.2% is higher than that of total Victoria at 60.5%. Their unemployment rate at 10.0% is also higher than total Victoria at 6.6%.

The occupational patterns of the Thailand-born are different from those for total Victoria. Less of them are managers (9.0%), professionals (11.1%) and clerical & administrative workers (8.8%), compared to Victoria (3.5%, 23.3% and 13.3%). More of them are technicians and trades workers (17.5%), community & personal service workers (22.3%) and labourers (9.0%), compared to Victoria (13.1%, 10.6% and 9.0%).

The industry of employment patterns of the Thailand-born are also different from those for total Victoria. More of them are employed in accommodation & food services (30.6%) and health care & social assistance (15.0%), compared to Victoria (6.6% and 12.5%). Less of them are employed in construction (2.3%), wholesale & retail trade (8.9%) and education & training (3.6%), compared to Victoria (8.3%, 13.4% and 8.6%).

The weekly personal income distribution pattern for the Thailand-born is lower than total Victoria. More of them receive nil income (20.1%), \$1-\$399 (27.2%) and \$400-\$799 (25.2%), compared to 9.7%, 20.1% and 23.1% for Victoria. Less of them receive \$800-\$1,249 (15.0%), \$1,250-\$1,999 (6.7%) and \$2,000 or more (2.4%), compared to 16.7%, 13.6% and 7.5% for Victoria.

### Highest level of educational attainment, Thailand-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Highest level of educational attainment <sup>(a)</sup>	Thailand-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
Postgraduate Degree	1,299	9.5	1,011	11.1	288	28.5	260,039	5.4	170,382	3.9	89,657	52.6
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	135	1.0	97	1.1	38	39.2	119,226	2.5	95,352	2.2	23,874	25.0
Bachelor Degree	3,421	24.9	2,126	23.3	1,295	60.9	798,270	16.5	641,219	14.7	157,051	24.5
Advanced Dip & Diploma	1,189	8.7	692	7.6	497	71.8	447,023	9.2	364,758	8.4	82,265	22.6
Certificate	1,091	8.0	635	7.0	456	71.8	698,036	14.4	614,689	14.1	83,347	13.6
School Education only <sup>(b)</sup>	5,504	40.1	3,728	40.9	1,776	47.6	1,877,183	38.7	1,876,620	43.1	563	0.0
No Educ Attainment <sup>(c)</sup>	236	1.7	138	1.5	98	71.0	48,920	1.0	41,809	1.0	7,111	17.0
Not stated etc <sup>(d)</sup>	847	6.2	693	7.6	154	22.2	597,010	12.3	550,419	12.6	46,591	8.5
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>13,722</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,126</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,596</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>4,845,710</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,355,243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>490,467</b>	<b>11.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

<sup>(b)</sup>Includes persons who completed school to between Year 8 or below, and Year 12 level.

<sup>(c)</sup>Includes persons whose qualification is out of scope of this variable.

<sup>(d)</sup>Includes "Inadequately described".

### Labour force participation, Thailand-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011

Labour force participation <sup>(a)</sup>	Thailand-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
<i>In the labour force</i>	8,802	55.1	5,755	53.5	3,047	52.9	2,929,590	49.4	2,675,478	50.0	254,112	9.5
Employed	7,918	49.6	5,223	48.5	2,695	51.6	2,736,125	46.2	2,530,635	47.3	205,490	8.1
Unemployed	884	5.5	532	4.9	352	66.2	193,465	3.3	144,843	2.7	48,622	33.6
<i>Not in the labour force</i>	4,817	30.1	3,280	30.5	1,537	46.9	1,610,130	27.2	1,451,593	27.1	158,537	10.9
<i>Not stated</i>	97	0.6	92	0.9	5	5.4	305,978	5.2	228,176	4.3	77,802	34.1
<i>Not applicable</i> <sup>(b)</sup>	2,259	14.1	1,640	15.2	619	37.7	1,080,919	18.2	998,793	18.7	82,126	8.2
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>15,979</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,212</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>5,926,624</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,354,039</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>572,585</b>	<b>10.7</b>
<i>Participation rate</i> <sup>(c)</sup>	64.2%		63.1%				60.5%		61.4%			
<i>Unemployment rate</i> <sup>(d)</sup>	10.0%		9.2%				6.6%		5.4%			

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to persons 15 years and over.

<sup>(b)</sup>Persons aged under 15 years.

<sup>(c)</sup>The participation rate represents the labour force (total employed and unemployed who are actively looking for work) expressed as a % of the civilian population aged 15 years and over, in the same age group.

<sup>(d)</sup>The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a % of the labour force.

**Occupation, Thailand-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011**

Occupation <sup>(a)</sup>	Thailand-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Managers	712	9.0	435	8.3	277	63.7	369,921	13.5	332,931	13.2	36,990	11.1
Professionals	881	11.1	735	14.1	146	19.9	636,220	23.3	564,779	22.3	71,441	12.6
Technicians and trades workers	1,388	17.5	935	17.9	453	48.4	358,749	13.1	350,757	13.9	7,992	2.3
Community&personal serv. wkrs	1,762	22.3	881	16.9	881	100.0	289,348	10.6	234,380	9.3	54,968	23.5
Clerical & administrative workers	693	8.8	545	10.4	148	27.2	363,216	13.3	364,497	14.4	-1,281	-0.4
Sales workers	442	5.6	317	6.1	125	39.4	265,142	9.7	245,335	9.7	19,807	8.1
Machinery operators & drivers	335	4.2	247	4.7	88	35.6	159,193	5.8	154,542	6.1	4,651	3.0
Labourers	1,572	19.9	997	19.1	575	57.7	247,428	9.0	227,184	9.0	20,244	8.9
Not stated <sup>(b)</sup>	146	1.8	125	2.4	21	16.8	46,924	1.7	56,224	2.2	-9,300	-16.5
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>7,918</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,223</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>2,736,125</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,530,635</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>205,490</b>	<b>8.1</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 years and over.

<sup>(b)</sup>Includes "Inadequately described".

**Industry of Employment, Thailand-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011**

Industry of employment <sup>(a)</sup>	Thailand-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Agri, forestry, fishing & mining	179	2.3	106	2.0	73	68.9	70,052	2.6	66,176	2.6	3,876	5.9
Manufacturing	657	8.3	617	11.8	40	6.5	212,723	7.8	271,051	10.7	-58,328	-21.5
Electr, gas, water & waste	35	0.4	33	0.6	2	6.1	30,808	1.1	27,630	1.1	3,178	11.5
Construction	182	2.3	124	2.4	58	46.8	228,149	8.3	210,972	8.3	17,177	8.1
Wholesale & retail trade	703	8.9	589	11.3	114	19.4	367,953	13.4	387,813	15.3	-19,860	-5.1
Accommod & Food services	2,426	30.6	1,571	30.1	855	54.4	180,825	6.6	153,898	6.1	26,927	17.5
Transp, postal & warehousing	180	2.3	120	2.3	60	50.0	130,069	4.8	118,214	4.7	11,855	10.0
Information, Media & Telecomm	79	1.0	84	1.6	-5	-6.0	52,200	1.9	50,091	2.0	2,109	4.2
Finance & Insurance	214	2.7	184	3.5	30	16.3	106,669	3.9	104,701	4.1	1,968	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	63	0.8	48	0.9	15	31.3	43,013	1.6	35,046	1.4	7,967	22.7
Prof, Scientific, Tech & Admin	761	9.6	477	9.1	284	59.5	310,711	11.4	279,422	11.0	31,289	11.2
Public Admin & Safety	117	1.5	99	1.9	18	18.2	144,321	5.3	134,949	5.3	9,372	6.9
Education & Training	284	3.6	210	4.0	74	35.2	236,276	8.6	202,317	8.0	33,959	16.8
Health Care & Soc Assistance	1,186	15.0	547	10.5	639	116.8	341,999	12.5	292,417	11.6	49,582	17.0
Arts, Recreation & Other serv	398	5.0	257	4.9	141	54.9	151,019	5.5	134,750	5.3	16,269	12.1
Inadeq Described/Not Stated	469	5.9	150	2.9	319	212.7	129,326	4.7	61,173	2.4	68,153	111.4
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>7,918</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,223</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>2,736,125</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,530,635</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>205,490</b>	<b>8.1</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 and over.

**Total Personal Income (Weekly), Thailand-born and Total Victoria: 2016, 2011**

Total personal income, weekly <sup>(a)</sup>	Thailand-born						Total Victoria					
	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016		2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Negative income	128	0.9	90	1.0	38	42.2	27,122	0.6	26,342	0.6	780	3.0
Nil income	2,763	20.1	1,803	19.8	960	53.2	467,934	9.7	351,430	8.1	116,504	33.2
\$1-399	3,728	27.2	2,769	30.3	959	34.6	975,345	20.1	1,224,693	28.1	-249,348	-20.4
\$400-\$799	3,459	25.2	2,341	25.7	1,118	47.8	1,118,244	23.1	964,124	22.1	154,120	16.0
\$800-\$1,249	2,055	15.0	1,208	13.2	847	70.1	811,256	16.7	715,662	16.4	95,594	13.4
\$1,250-\$1,999	914	6.7	477	5.2	437	91.6	658,020	13.6	491,972	11.3	166,048	33.8
\$2,000 or more	327	2.4	167	1.8	160	95.8	364,675	7.5	246,379	5.7	118,296	48.0
Not stated	351	2.6	271	3.0	80	29.5	423,108	8.7	334,649	7.7	88,459	26.4
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>13,722</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,126</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,596</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>4,845,710</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,355,243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>490,467</b>	<b>11.3</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

This fact sheet is available for free download at [www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au), which also contains the Community Profiles series for birthplace groups, with more detailed tables on a wider range of demographic and socio-economic data.

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2016, 2011, 2006*.