

What is cultural diversity?

Cultural diversity relates to a person's country of birth, their ancestry, the country of birth of their parents, what languages they speak, whether they are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, and their religious affiliation. The Census collects information on many characteristics that highlight the rich cultural diversity of Australian society.

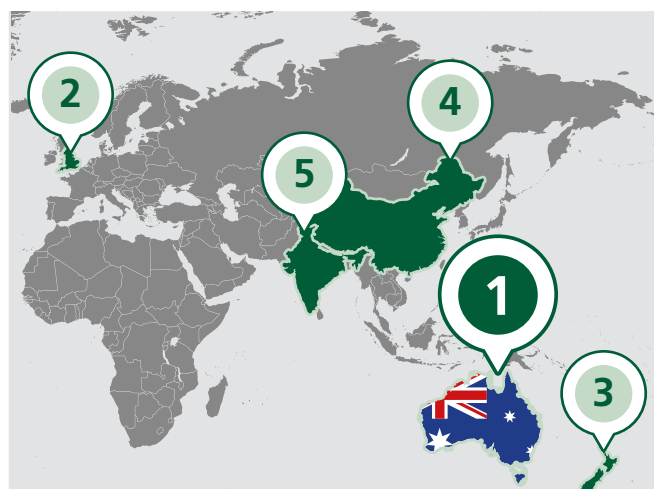
Country of birth

The 2016 Census shows that two thirds (67%) of the Australian population were born in Australia. Of the 6,163,667 overseas-born persons, nearly one in five (18%) had arrived since the start of 2012.

While England and New Zealand were still the next most common countries of birth after Australia, the proportion of people born overseas who were born in China and India has increased since 2011 (from 6.0% to 8.3%, and 5.6% to 7.4% respectively).

The Philippines has swapped places with Italy in the top 10 list, moving from number 8 to number 6.

Malaysia now appears in the top 10 countries of birth (replacing Scotland) and represents 0.6% of the Australian population.



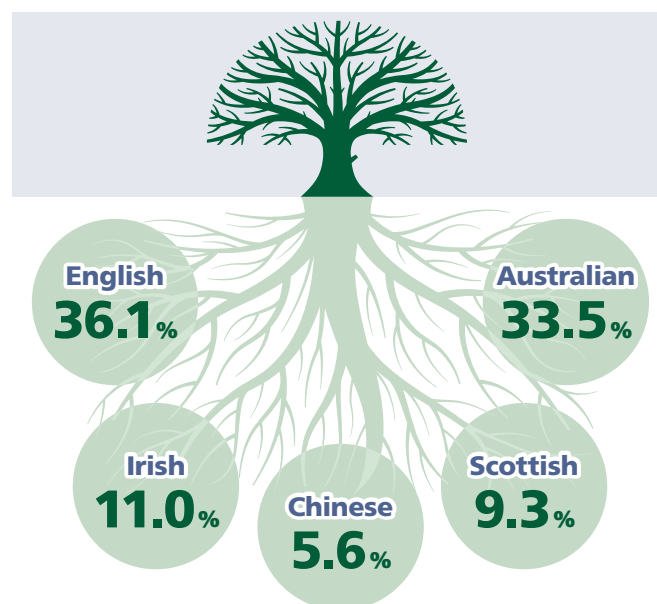
Top Five		2011		2016
Country		%		
1	Australia	69.8	▼	66.7
2	England	4.2	▼	3.9
3	New Zealand	2.2		2.2
4	China	1.5	▲	2.2
5	India	1.4	▲	1.9

Ancestry

Ancestry is an indication of the cultural group that a person most closely identifies with.

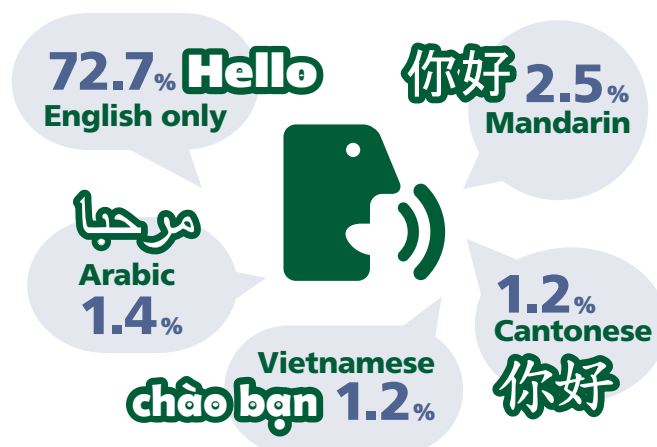
Over 300 ancestries were separately identified in the 2016 Census. The most commonly reported ancestries were English (36%) and Australian (34%).

A further six of the leading ten ancestries reflected a European heritage. The two remaining ancestries in the top 10 were Chinese (5.6%) and Indian (4.6%).



Languages

In 2016, there were over 300 separately identified languages spoken in Australian homes. More than one-fifth (21%) of Australians spoke a language other than English at home.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples



The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population has increased since 2011 from 2.5% to 2.8% of the Australian population. Further information is available in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population Data Summary sheet.

Religion

In 2016, Christianity was the main religion reported in Australia (52%).

Religious Affiliation		Population ('000)	Population (%)
Christian		12 201.6	52.1
Other Religions	Islam	604.2	2.6
	Buddhism	563.7	2.4
	Hinduism	440.3	1.9
	Sikhism	125.9	0.5
	Judaism	91.0	0.4
	Other	95.7	0.4
	Total	1 920.8	8.2
No Religion ^a		7 040.7	30.1
Australia ^b		23 401.9	100.0

^a No religion includes secular and other spiritual beliefs.

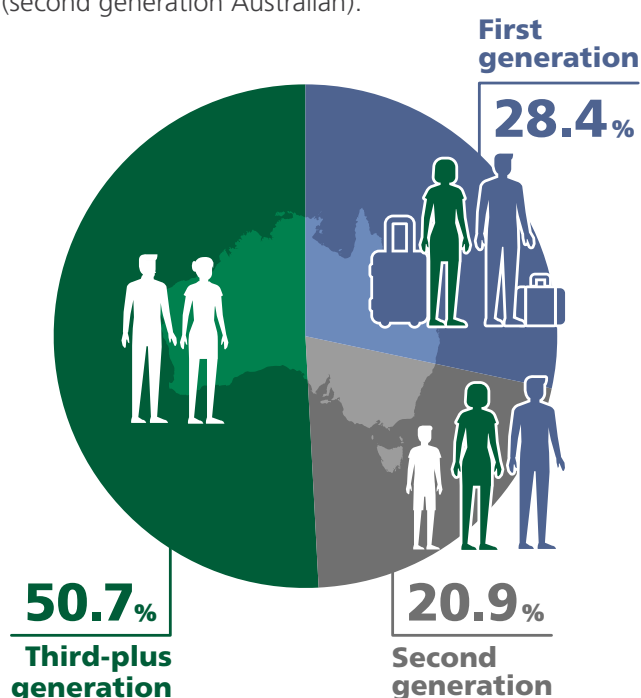
^b As religion was an optional question, the total for Australia will not equal the sum of the items above it.

While the Islamic population made up only 2.6% of the total population, it was the second largest religion reported in the 2016 Census after Christianity. Islam was closely followed by Buddhism (2.4%)

The 'No Religion' count increased to almost a third of the Australian population between 2011 and 2016 (22% to 30%).

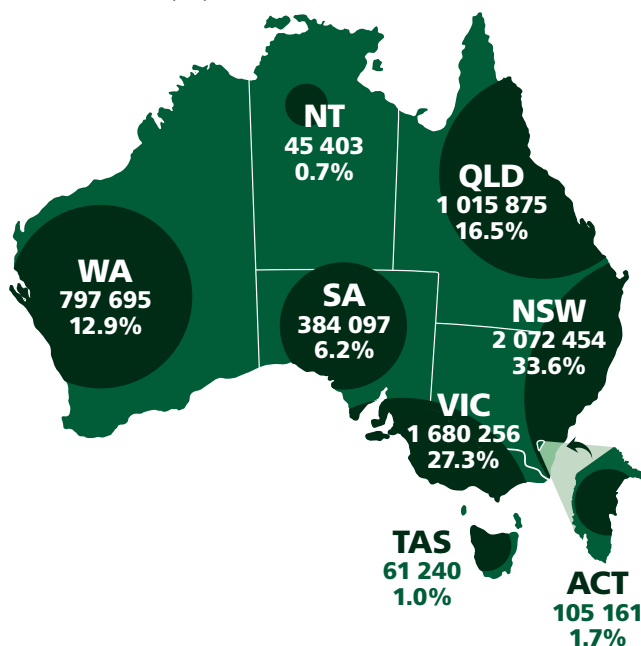
The generations of Australians

In 2016, nearly half (49%) of Australians had either been born overseas (first generation Australian) or one or both parents had been born overseas (second generation Australian).



Where migrants live

For Australia's overseas-born population, New South Wales was still the most popular state or territory to live in 2016 (2,072,454 people or 34% of the overseas-born population).



In 2016, 83% of the overseas-born population lived in a capital city compared with 61% of people born in Australia. Sydney had the largest overseas-born population.

Source: All visual representations are based on data collected in the 2016 Census. For definitions of the terms used above, see the Census Dictionary. For more information about 2016 Census data release and products, go to www.abs.gov.au/census