

Bangladesh became a separate state from Pakistan in 1971. Bangladeshis were first counted separately in the 1976 Australian Census. The Bangladesh-born community is one of the smaller and emerging Asian groups in Australia. The majority arrived in the last decade or so, some as refugees, and increasingly as skilled migrants and students, and through family reunion.

At the 2006 Census, there were 3,011 Bangladesh-born persons in Victoria (18.7% of Australia's total), increasing by 112.8% from 1,415 persons at the 2001 Census. Only 5.7% of the Bangladesh-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1986; 58.6% had arrived between 2001 and 2006. The Bangladesh-born were well distributed throughout metropolitan Melbourne, with distinct concentrations in Maribyrnong (16.7%); Moreland (10.7%); and Monash (9.2%). There were 3,189 persons who identified with Bengali ancestry, including second and later generations.

The Bangladesh-born community showed a younger age profile: 22.0% were aged 19-25 years; 52.9% were aged 26-44 years. The median age was 29 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. There was a very distinct gender imbalance with 151 males to 100 females, attributed to a predominance of young adult male migrants and students. Most (89.5%) of the Bangladesh-born spoke Bengali at home, and 8.5% spoke English only. Only 5.0% assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Most (81.6%) were Muslim; 6.7% were Hindu; and 3.2% were Western Catholic. Less than half (42.4%) of Bangladesh-born held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

1 Persons born in Bangladesh in Victoria and Australia: 2006, 2001 and 1996 Census

	2006 Census		2001 Census		1996 Census		2001-2006 % change	1996-2001 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%		
Melbourne	2,787	17.3	1,328	14.6	842	16.6	109.9	57.7
Rest of Victoria ¹	224	1.4	87	1.0	78	1.5	157.5	11.5
Total Victoria	3,011	18.7	1,415	15.6	920	18.1	112.8	53.8
Total Australia	16,095	100.0	9,076	100.0	5,077	100.0	77.3	78.8

¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

2 Distribution of Bangladesh-born, Top 5 Local Govt Areas: 2006, 2001 Census

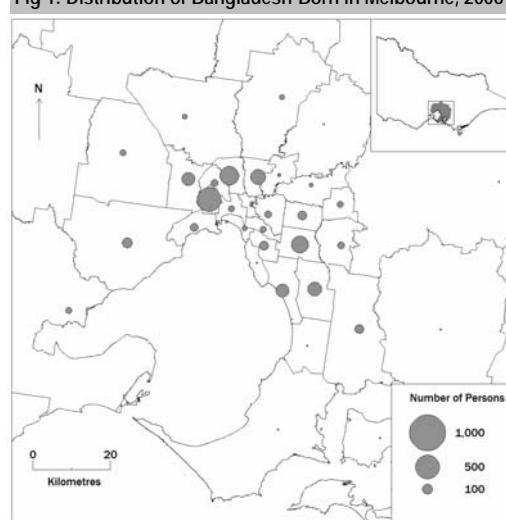
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Maribyrnong (C)	501	16.7	166	11.6	2
Moreland (C)	320	10.7	149	10.5	3
Monash (C)	276	9.2	213	14.9	1
Darebin (C)	209	7.0	96	6.7	5
Greater Dandenong (C)	192	6.4	62	4.4	7
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	1,270	42.3	651	45.7	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	235	7.8	88	6.2	
Total Victoria	3,003	100.0	1,425	100.0	

3 Persons Identifying with Bengali Ancestry, Total Responses, 2006, 2001

Bengali ancestry	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Total First & Second Responses ¹	3,189		1,497		113.0
Total Bangladesh-born, persons	3,011		1,415		112.8

¹ Respondents had the option of nominating several ancestries, but only the first two responses were processed in the Census.

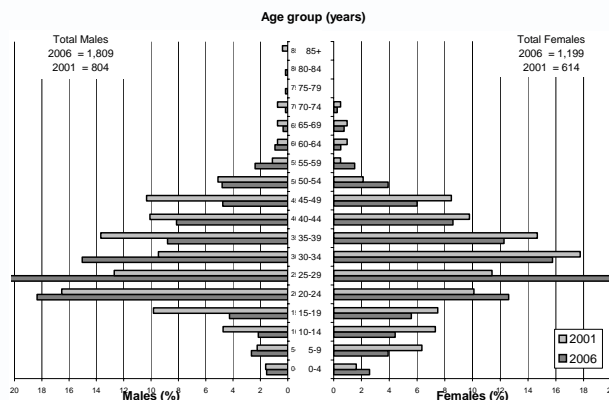
Fig 1: Distribution of Bangladesh-Born in Melbourne, 2006



4 Age and Gender Distribution of Bangladesh-born: 2006, 2001

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	59	2.0	23	1.6	156.5
5-11	135	4.5	93	6.6	45.2
12-18	157	5.2	138	9.7	13.8
19-25	663	22.0	269	19.0	146.5
26-44	1,591	52.9	658	46.4	141.8
45-64	376	12.5	213	15.0	76.5
65-74	21	0.7	21	1.5	0.0
75+	6	0.2	3	0.2	100.0
Total	3,008	100.0	1,418	100.0	112.1
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>151</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

Fig 2: Age and Gender Distribution of Bangladesh-Born, 2006



5 Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home by Bangladesh-born: 2006, 2001

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Bengali	2,691	89.5	1,207	85.5	122.9
Hindi	11	0.4	3	0.2	266.7
Urdu	10	0.3	11	0.8	-9.1
Italian	5	0.2	-	-	N/A
African Langs, nec	4	0.1	N/A	-	N/A
English only	255	8.5	160	11.3	59.4
Other languages ¹	16	0.5	19	1.3	-15.8
Not stated	14	0.5	12	0.8	16.7
Total	3,006	100.0	1,412	100.0	112.9

¹ Includes 'Inadequately described' and 'Non-verbal so described'.

6 Proficiency in English of Bangladesh-born: 2006, 2001

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	257	8.5	157	11.6	63.7
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	1,658	55.0	783	57.9	111.7
Well	934	31.0	338	25.0	176.3
Not well	130	4.3	45	3.3	188.9
Not at all	21	0.7	6	0.4	250.0
Not stated ¹	17	0.6	24	1.8	-29.2
Total	3,017	100.0	1,353	100.0	123.0

¹ Includes those who did not state a language or proficiency in English.

7 Top 5 Religions of Bangladesh-born: 2006, 2001

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Islam	2,454	81.6	1,145	81.0	114.3
Hinduism	203	6.7	73	5.2	178.1
Western Catholic	96	3.2	81	5.7	18.5
Baptist	18	0.6	26	1.8	-30.8
Buddhism	16	0.5	5	0.4	220.0
Other religions	21	0.7	16	1.1	31.3
No religion	73	2.4	17	1.2	329.4
Not stated ¹	127	4.2	50	3.5	154.0
Total	3,008	100.0	1,413	100.0	112.9

¹ Includes 'Religious Belief, nfd' and 'Not Defined'.

8 Bangladesh-born with Australian Citizenship by Age, 2006, 2001

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	9	0.7	3	0.4	200.0
5-11	48	3.8	51	6.4	-5.9
12-18	107	8.4	89	11.2	20.2
19-25	128	10.0	87	11.0	47.1
26-44	633	49.6	376	47.4	68.4
45-64	324	25.4	174	21.9	86.2
65-74	22	1.7	7	0.9	214.3
75+	6	0.5	6	0.8	0.0
Total	1,277	100.0	793	100.0	61.0

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing 2006*, Persons counted at Place of Usual Residence.

Some country background information is sourced from Jupp, J ed. (2001) *The Australian People*, Cambridge University Press, UK; and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, *Country Information Summary* series, 2004.

For more detailed tables on a wider range of demographic and socio-economic variables from the 2006 Census, refer to *Community Profiles Series: 2006 Census* available on the Victorian Multicultural Commission website: www.multicultural.vic.gov.au

