

Following independence from Britain in 1948, many Anglo-Burmese left Burma to escape economic hardship due to unemployment and forced retirement. A small number (about 3,500) migrated to Australia between 1947 and 1959. A further 2,500 persons arrived between 1965 and 1972. More recent arrivals were mainly spouses and relatives of the Anglo-Burmese in Australia, as well as students and refugees who came to Australia via Thailand. Western Australia was the preferred state due to a pre-existing community of support.

At the 2006 Census, there were 1,797 Burma (Myanmar)-born persons in Victoria (14.5% of Australia's total), increasing by 50.9% from 1,191 persons at the 2001 Census. One-third (32.3%) of the Burma (Myanmar)-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1986; and 50.9% had arrived more recently between 2001 and 2006, mainly under the Humanitarian Program.

The Burma (Myanmar)-born community was distributed throughout metropolitan Melbourne, with slight concentrations in Greater Dandenong (10.8%); Wyndham (10.6%); and Hobsons Bay (9.2%). There were 1,690 persons identified with Burmese ancestry, including second and later generations. The Burma (Myanmar)-born also identified with other ancestries such as English, Karen, Chinese and Indian ancestries.

The Burma (Myanmar)-born community showed a young to maturing age profile: 38.2% were aged 26-44 years; 24.8% were aged 45-64 years; and 17.8% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 41 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The sex ratio was 103 males to 100 females. The main languages spoken at home were Burmese (40.1%); Karen (12.7%); Chinese (10.3%); and English only (28.5%). Over a quarter (27.9%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. The Burma (Myanmar)-born followed a variety of religions: Buddhism (28.5%); Baptist (23.4%); Western Catholic (21.2%); Anglican (8.7%); and Islam (5.0%). Over half (58.3%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

1 Persons born in Burma 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	1,731	14.0	1,132	10.3	950	9.4	52.9	19.2
Rest of Victoria ¹	66	0.5	59	0.5	62	0.6	11.9	-4.8
Total Victoria	1,797	14.5	1,191	10.9	1,012	10.0	50.9	17.7
Total Australia	12,379	100.0	10,973	100.0	10,139	100.0	12.8	8.2

¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

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

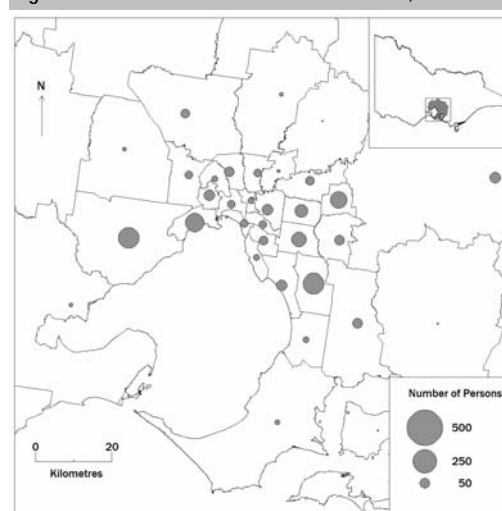
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Greater Dandenong (C)	194	10.8	152	12.8	1
Wyndham (C)	190	10.6	8	0.7	28
Hobsons Bay (C)	165	9.2	67	5.7	3
Maroondah (C)	137	7.6	13	1.1	24
Monash (C)	104	5.8	85	7.2	2
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	935	52.2	793	67.0	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	67	3.7	66	5.6	
Total Victoria	1,792	100.0	1,184	100.0	

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

	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Burmese ancestry			
Total First & Second Responses ¹	1,690	1,100	53.6
Total Burma-born, persons	1,797	1,191	50.9

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

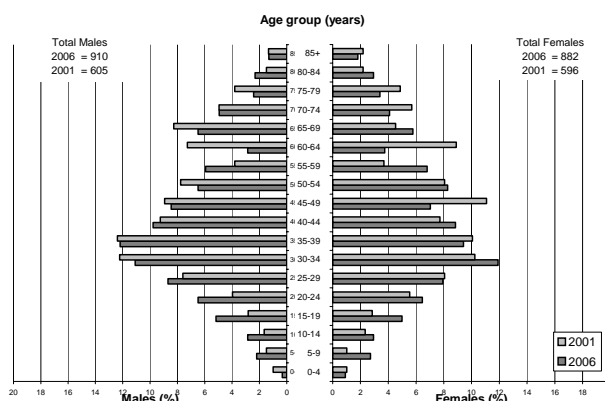
Fig 1: Distribution of Burma-Born in Melbourne, 2006



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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	11	0.6	12	1.0	-8.3
5-11	65	3.6	21	1.7	209.5
12-18	97	5.4	45	3.7	115.6
19-25	173	9.7	75	6.2	130.7
26-44	684	38.2	455	37.9	50.3
45-64	444	24.8	357	29.7	24.4
65-74	191	10.7	141	11.7	35.5
75+	127	7.1	95	7.9	33.7
Total	1,792	100.0	1,201	100.0	49.2
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>103</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

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



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

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Burmese & related	717	40.1	555	46.4	29.2
Karen	227	12.7	N/A	-	N/A
Chinese, nfd	184	10.3	18	1.5	922.2
Mandarin	53	3.0	48	4.0	10.4
Cantonese	27	1.5	23	1.9	17.4
English only	510	28.5	490	41.0	4.1
Other languages ¹	56	3.1	56	4.7	0.0
Not stated	15	0.8	6	0.5	150.0
Total	1,789	100.0	1,196	100.0	49.6

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

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

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	512	28.6	478	39.4	7.1
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	327	18.3	271	22.4	20.7
Well	434	24.3	302	24.9	43.7
Not well	395	22.1	137	11.3	188.3
Not at all	103	5.8	15	1.2	586.7
Not stated ¹	18	1.0	9	0.7	100.0
Total	1,789	100.0	1,212	100.0	47.6

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

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

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Buddhism	512	28.5	356	29.9	43.8
Baptist	420	23.4	107	9.0	292.5
Western Catholic	380	21.2	385	32.4	-1.3
Anglican	157	8.7	93	7.8	68.8
Islam	89	5.0	70	5.9	27.1
Other religions	129	7.2	92	7.7	40.2
No religion	61	3.4	47	4.0	29.8
Not stated ¹	48	2.7	39	3.3	23.1
Total	1,796	100.0	1,189	100.0	51.1

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

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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	-	-	3	0.3	-100.0
5-11	26	2.5	6	0.7	333.3
12-18	38	3.6	18	2.1	111.1
19-25	38	3.6	24	2.8	58.3
26-44	342	32.6	314	36.1	8.9
45-64	339	32.3	301	34.6	12.6
65-74	163	15.6	126	14.5	29.4
75+	102	9.7	79	9.1	29.1
Total	1,048	100.0	871	100.0	20.3

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Population and Housing Census, 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