

The Egyptian community is among the longer established non-English speaking groups in Australia. In 1933, there were over 500 Egypt-born persons in Australia. By 1954, this number had grown to more than 8,000, many of whom were of Greek, Italian or Maltese origins from Alexandria. The peak period of migration to Australia was in the late 1960s and early 1970s when the Egypt-born population totalled approximately 34,000 in Australia.

At the 2006 Census, there were 11,581 Egypt-born persons in Victoria (34.6% of Australia's total), decreasing slightly (-0.1%) from 11,566 persons in 2001. Two-thirds (64.6%) of the Egypt-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1986. The community was well distributed throughout metropolitan Melbourne, the most populous LGA being Brimbank (9.1%). Just 3.8% resided in regional Victoria. There were 10,488 persons who identified with Egyptian ancestry, a slightly smaller number than the total Egypt-born population. This is attributed to the fact that many Egypt-born persons, including their Australia-born descendants, identified with various other ancestry origins such as Greek and Arabic.

The Egypt-born community showed an older age profile: 43.8% were aged 45-64 years and 29.0% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 56 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The sex ratio was balanced. Almost half (46.5%) spoke Arabic at home; 15.2% spoke Greek; 10.8% spoke Italian; and 20.3% spoke English only. Just 9.6% assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. The main religions were Western Catholic (26.9%); Coptic Orthodox (25.6%); Greek Orthodox (19.9%); and Islam (9.9%). Most (89.3%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

1 Persons born in Egypt 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	11,156	33.3	11,178	33.4	11,635	34.1	-0.2	-3.9
Rest of Victoria ¹	425	1.3	418	1.3	370	1.1	1.7	13.0
Total Victoria	11,581	34.6	11,596	34.7	12,005	35.1	-0.1	-3.4
Total Australia	33,497	100.0	33,432	100.0	34,159	100.0	0.2	-2.1

¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

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

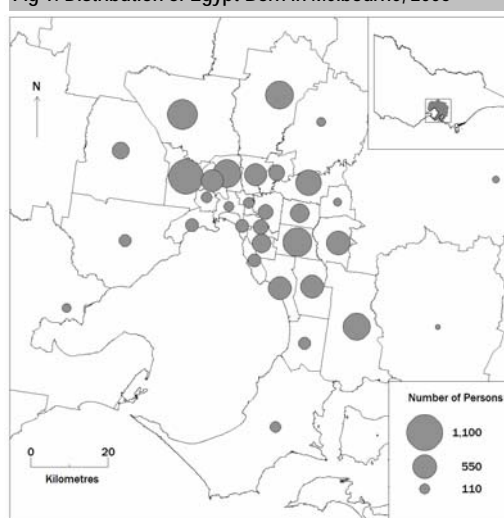
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Brimbank (C)	1,055	9.1	1,005	8.7	1
Hume (C)	804	6.9	753	6.5	4
Monash (C)	757	6.5	836	7.2	2
Whittlesea (C)	703	6.1	697	6.0	5
Moreland (C)	701	6.1	811	7.0	3
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	7,119	61.5	7,075	61.0	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	434	3.8	415	3.6	
Total Victoria	11,573	100.0	11,592	100.0	

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

Egyptian ancestry	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Total First & Second Responses ¹	10,488	9,511	10.3
Total Egypt-born, persons	11,581	11,596	-0.1

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

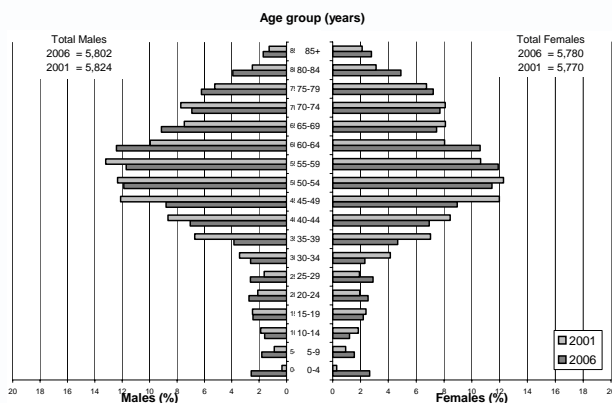
Fig 1: Distribution of Egypt-Born in Melbourne, 2006



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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	304	2.6	37	0.3	721.6
5-11	259	2.2	184	1.6	40.8
12-18	310	2.7	372	3.2	-16.7
19-25	418	3.6	320	2.8	30.6
26-44	1,855	16.0	2,396	20.7	-22.6
45-64	5,078	43.8	5,250	45.3	-3.3
65-74	1,809	15.6	1,818	15.7	-0.5
75+	1,549	13.4	1,217	10.5	27.3
Total	11,582	100.0	11,594	100.0	-0.1
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>100</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

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



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

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Arabic	5,379	46.5	5,063	43.6	6.2
Greek	1,755	15.2	2,005	17.3	-12.5
Italian	1,255	10.8	1,460	12.6	-14.0
French	234	2.0	272	2.3	-14.0
Armenian	155	1.3	186	1.6	-16.7
English only	2,352	20.3	2,342	20.2	0.4
Other languages ¹	348	3.0	207	1.8	68.1
Not stated	97	0.8	66	0.6	47.0
Total	11,575	100.0	11,601	100.0	-0.2

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

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

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	2,340	20.2	2,380	20.3	-1.7
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	4,964	42.9	5,043	43.0	-1.6
Well	3,036	26.2	3,164	26.9	-4.0
Not well	878	7.6	840	7.2	4.5
Not at all	236	2.0	160	1.4	47.5
Not stated ¹	122	1.1	154	1.3	-20.8
Total	11,576	100.0	11,741	100.0	-1.4

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

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

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Western Catholic	3,120	26.9	3,106	26.8	0.5
Coptic Orthodox	2,962	25.6	2,907	25.1	1.9
Greek Orthodox	2,304	19.9	2,613	22.5	-11.8
Islam	1,144	9.9	1,057	9.1	8.2
Armenian Apost.	185	1.6	227	2.0	-18.5
Other religions	1,270	11.0	1,062	9.2	19.6
No religion	273	2.4	241	2.1	13.3
Not stated ¹	325	2.8	377	3.3	-13.8
Total	11,583	100.0	11,590	100.0	-0.1

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

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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	55	0.5	14	0.1	292.9
5-11	153	1.5	134	1.3	14.2
12-18	273	2.6	339	3.2	-19.5
19-25	341	3.3	255	2.4	33.7
26-44	1,549	15.0	2,141	20.1	-27.7
45-64	4,843	46.8	4,993	46.8	-3.0
65-74	1,709	16.5	1,712	16.0	-0.2
75+	1,416	13.7	1,086	10.2	30.4
Total	10,339	100.0	10,674	100.0	-3.1

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