

Ethiopia forms a part of the Horn of Africa - an area ravaged by natural disasters, wars, famine and drought, leading to internal population displacements and refugee exodus within and between neighbouring countries such as Somalia, Sudan, Kenya and Eritrea. Since 1991, Australia has accepted a number of refugees from Ethiopia (and other African countries), including family re-union.

At the 2006 Census, there were 3,104 Ethiopia-born persons in Victoria (55.1% of Australia's total), increasing by 57.6% from the 2001 Census. Many had spent considerable periods in refugee camps in other African countries: 43.0% of the Ethiopia-born persons in Victoria had arrived in Australia between 1991-2000; and 37.5% had arrived between 2001-2006.

The Ethiopia-born community was concentrated in a number of local government areas in metropolitan Melbourne, namely Maribyrnong (16.5%); Brimbank (12.6%); Moonee Valley (11.9%); Wyndham (10.5%) and Greater Dandenong (9.5%). There were 2,966 persons identified with Ethiopian ancestry. This smaller number is attributed to the fact that some Ethiopia-born also identified with other African ancestries such as Oromo, Eritrean, Sudanese and Armenian ancestries.

The Ethiopia-born showed a younger age profile: 26.4% were aged 25 years and below; and 58.7% were aged 26-44 years. The median age was 34 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The sex ratio was balanced, despite the Women at Risk humanitarian program encouraging the migration of a number of women. The community's diverse origins were reflected in the languages spoken at home: Amharic (38.7%); Oromo (17.6%); Tigrinya (7.7%); Harari (5.8%); Arabic (5.3%); and English only (7.7%). A significant percentage (13.3%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. The Ethiopia-born followed a variety of religions: Islam (32.2%); several Orthodox faiths (38.7%); Western Catholic (4.0%); and other religions (19.6%). A large proportion (71.8%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

1 Persons born in Ethiopia 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	3,034	53.9	1,918	54.1	1,320	56.1	58.2	45.3
Rest of Victoria ¹	70	1.2	52	1.5	28	1.2	34.6	85.7
Total Victoria	3,104	55.1	1,970	55.6	1,348	57.3	57.6	46.1
Total Australia	5,633	100.0	3,544	100.0	2,353	100.0	58.9	50.6

¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

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

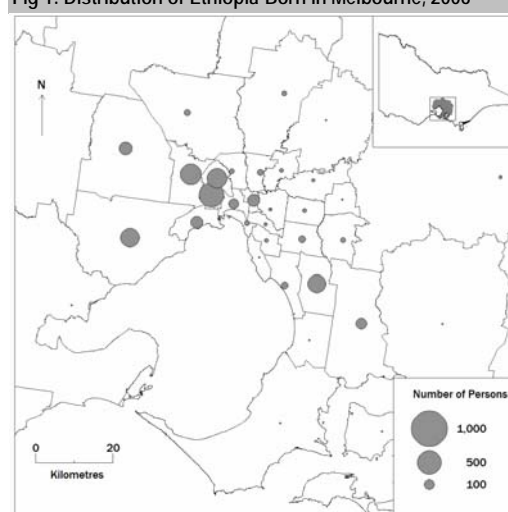
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Maribyrnong (C)	511	16.5	442	22.2	1
Brimbank (C)	390	12.6	135	6.8	4
Moonee Valley (C)	370	11.9	296	14.9	2
Wyndham (C)	326	10.5	89	4.5	7
Greater Dandenong (C)	296	9.5	194	9.7	3
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	1,129	36.4	769	38.6	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	79	2.5	66	3.3	
Total Victoria	3,101	100.0	1,991	100.0	

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

Ethiopian ancestry	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Total First & Second Responses ¹	2,966	1,649	79.9
Total Ethiopia-born, persons	3,104	1,970	57.6

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

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



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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	45	1.5	23	1.2	95.7
5-11	160	5.2	75	3.8	113.3
12-18	266	8.6	147	7.4	81.0
19-25	345	11.1	249	12.6	38.6
26-44	1,820	58.7	1,222	61.8	48.9
45-64	403	13.0	171	8.6	135.7
65-74	35	1.1	54	2.7	-35.2
75+	27	0.9	37	1.9	-27.0
Total	3,101	100.0	1,978	100.0	56.8
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>100</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

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

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Amharic	1,199	38.7	633	32.3	89.4
Oromo	547	17.6	324	16.5	68.8
Tigrinya	238	7.7	150	7.7	58.7
Harari	179	5.8	N/A	-	N/A
Arabic	164	5.3	181	9.2	-9.4
English only	240	7.7	140	7.1	71.4
Other languages ¹	476	15.4	502	25.6	-5.2
Not stated	57	1.8	30	1.5	90.0
Total	3,100	100.0	1,960	100.0	58.2

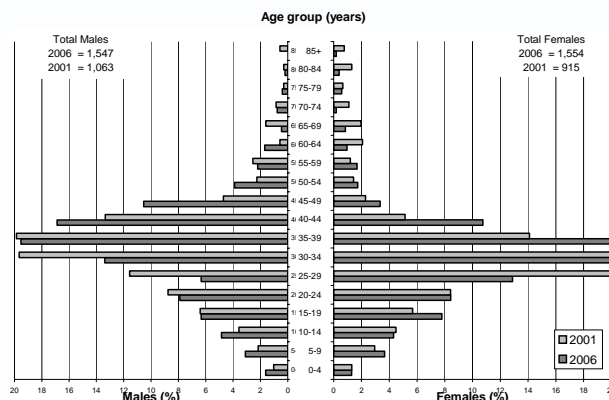
¹ Includes 'Inadequately described' and 'Non-verbal so described'.

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

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Islam	1,000	32.2	811	41.1	23.3
Ethiopian O'dox	528	17.0	310	15.7	70.3
Greek Orthodox	405	13.1	238	12.1	70.2
Eastern O'dox nfd	267	8.6	96	4.9	178.1
Western Catholic	125	4.0	71	3.6	76.1
Other religions	607	19.6	352	17.9	72.4
No religion	50	1.6	32	1.6	56.3
Not stated ¹	121	3.9	61	3.1	98.4
Total	3,103	100.0	1,971	100.0	57.4

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

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



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

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	243	7.9	174	8.5	39.7
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	1,201	38.8	804	39.5	49.4
Well	1,177	38.0	756	37.1	55.7
Not well	342	11.1	190	9.3	80.0
Not at all	69	2.2	27	1.3	155.6
Not stated ¹	63	2.0	85	4.2	-25.9
Total	3,095	100.0	2,036	100.0	52.0

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

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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	20	0.9	9	0.7	122.2
5-11	92	4.1	28	2.1	228.6
12-18	140	6.3	60	4.6	133.3
19-25	194	8.7	117	8.9	65.8
26-44	1,383	62.0	886	67.7	56.1
45-64	339	15.2	141	10.8	140.4
65-74	34	1.5	41	3.1	-17.1
75+	27	1.2	26	2.0	3.8
Total	2,229	100.0	1,308	100.0	70.4

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