

Fact Sheet No. A-25 The Greece-Born Community in Victoria

Greeks have settled in Australia since the gold rush era of the 1860s. Most intended to return home. The Greek migrant community grew through chain migration from the early 20th Century onwards. Numbers increased significantly during the inter-war period with a predominance of men. Most of the Greece-born arrived in the post World War II period as displaced persons, and in the 1950s and 60s, to meet labour shortages in Australia. The Greece-born community in Melbourne is one of the largest outside Greece, and they continue to make significant contributions to many aspects of Victorian life – particularly in food and hospitality, manufacturing, small business and politics.

At the 2006 Census, there were 54,325 Greece-born persons in Victoria (49.4% of Australia's total), decreasing by 6.0% from 57,766 persons in 2001, due to ageing, some return migration, and lack of new arrivals. Most (90.0%) of the Greece-born in Victoria at the 2006 Census had arrived in Australia prior to 1986. The Greece-born were distributed throughout metropolitan Melbourne, with significant concentrations in Darebin (10.3%) and Monash (9.0%). There were 156,905 persons who identified with Greek ancestry, representing second and later generations.

The Greece-born community showed an older age profile: only 9.9% were aged 26-44 years; 44.2% were aged 45-64 years; and 44.2% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 63 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The gender ratio was 96 males to 100 females. There was strong language retention amongst the Greece-born community: 86.4% spoke Greek at home and 3.9% spoke Macedonian. A large proportion (34.4%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Most (90.3%) were of the Greek Orthodox faith. Most (95.6%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

	2006 Census		2001 Census		1996 Census		2001-2006 % change	1996-2001 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%		
Melbourne	52,277	47.5	55,735	47.9	59,724	47.2	-6.2	-6.7
Rest of Victoria ¹	2,048	1.9	2,031	1.7	2,166	1.7	0.8	-6.2
Total Victoria	54,325	49.4	57,766	49.6	61,890	48.9	-6.0	-6.7
Total Australia	109,988	100.0	116,428	100.0	126,520	100.0	-5.5	-8.0

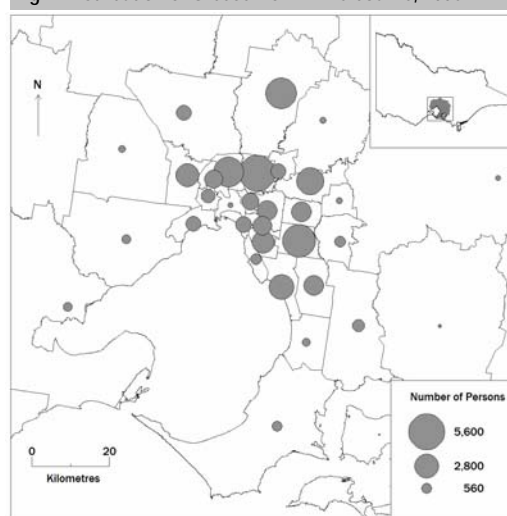
¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Darebin (C)	5,588	10.3	6,190	10.7	1
Monash (C)	4,878	9.0	5,320	9.2	2
Whittlesea (C)	4,197	7.7	4,408	7.6	4
Moreland (C)	4,076	7.5	4,464	7.7	3
Manningham (C)	3,365	6.2	3,625	6.3	5
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	30,172	55.5	31,722	54.9	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	2,044	3.8	2,033	3.5	
Total Victoria	54,320	100.0	57,762	100.0	

Greek ancestry	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Total First & Second Responses ¹	156,905		160,271		-2.1
Total Greece-born, persons	54,325		57,766		-6.0

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

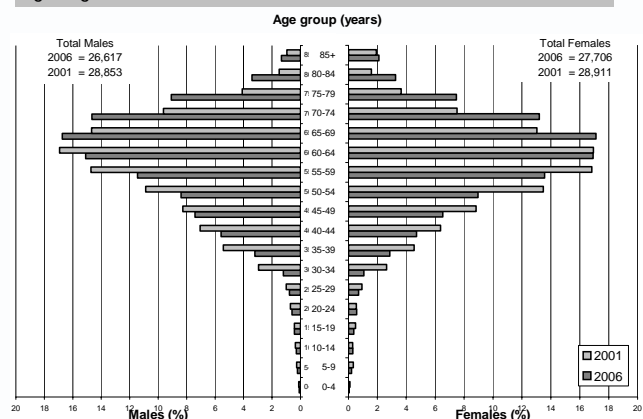
Fig 1: Distribution of Greece-Born in Melbourne, 2006



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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	40	0.1	67	0.1	-40.3
5-11	177	0.3	251	0.4	-29.5
12-18	267	0.5	322	0.6	-17.1
19-25	446	0.8	494	0.9	-9.7
26-44	5,383	9.9	8,848	15.3	-39.2
45-64	24,016	44.2	30,865	53.4	-22.2
65-74	16,759	30.9	12,953	22.4	29.4
75+	7,235	13.3	3,964	6.9	82.5
Total	54,323	100.0	57,764	100.0	-6.0
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>96</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

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



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

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Greek	46,925	86.4	50,974	88.3	-7.9
Macedonian	2,100	3.9	2,232	3.9	-5.9
Turkish	268	0.5	265	0.5	1.1
Italian	182	0.3	205	0.4	-11.2
Cantonese	87	0.2	32	0.1	171.9
English only	3,956	7.3	3,570	6.2	10.8
Other languages ¹	593	1.1	225	0.4	163.6
Not stated	216	0.4	255	0.4	-15.3
Total	54,327	100.0	57,758	100.0	-5.9

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

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

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	3,956	7.3	3,547	6.1	11.5
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	13,352	24.6	14,091	24.4	-5.2
Well	17,762	32.7	19,778	34.3	-10.2
Not well	17,340	31.9	17,930	31.1	-3.3
Not at all	1,331	2.5	1,516	2.6	-12.2
Not stated ¹	575	1.1	824	1.4	-30.2
Total	54,316	100.0	57,686	100.0	-5.8

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

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

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Greek Orthodox	49,054	90.3	53,082	91.9	-7.6
Maced. O'dox	924	1.7	910	1.6	1.5
Western Catholic	448	0.8	250	0.4	79.2
Islam	422	0.8	335	0.6	26.0
Jeh. Witness	377	0.7	374	0.6	0.8
Other religions	1,248	2.3	956	1.7	30.5
No religion	780	1.4	587	1.0	32.9
Not stated ¹	1,069	2.0	1,272	2.2	-16.0
Total	54,322	100.0	57,766	100.0	-6.0

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

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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	38	0.1	53	0.1	-28.3
5-11	161	0.3	214	0.4	-24.8
12-18	220	0.4	281	0.5	-21.7
19-25	356	0.7	416	0.8	-14.4
26-44	4,875	9.4	8,155	14.8	-40.2
45-64	23,100	44.5	29,685	53.9	-22.2
65-74	16,337	31.4	12,608	22.9	29.6
75+	6,866	13.2	3,681	6.7	86.5
Total	51,953	100.0	55,093	100.0	-5.7

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