

While the history of Indian immigration to Australia can be traced back to the 19th Century, significant numbers did not arrive until after World War II. The earliest immigrants were mainly men who came as hired labourers and returned to India on completion of their contracts. Late 19th Century Indian immigration to Australia included agricultural workers, hawkers and pedlars. Immigration slowed in the first half of the 20th Century, and did not recommence until after 1950 upon the acceptance of India-born British citizens and Anglo-Indians who left India after independence. Many of the India-born had resided in other countries (eg Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Britain and Fiji) before migrating to Australia. Recent arrivals are mainly skilled migrants and students.

At the 2006 Census, there were 52,853 India-born persons in Victoria (35.9% of Australia's total), increasing by 72.1% from 30,716 persons in 2001. The India-born are among the fastest growing communities in Victoria. In fact, 46.2% of the India-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia between 2001 and 2006. The community was well distributed throughout metropolitan Melbourne, with slight concentrations in Monash and Casey (both 8.9% of total). There were 79,350 persons who identified with Indian ancestry, including second and later generations, and those born in other countries besides India.

The India-born showed a relatively young age profile: 18.9% were aged 19-25 years; 42.4% were aged 26-44 years; and 20.8% were aged 46-64 years. The median age was 33 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The sex ratio was biased, with 132 males to 100 females, due in part to the high number of single male migrants. The India-born spoke a variety of languages at home, including Hindi (19.7%); Punjabi (11.1%); Tamil (6.3%); and English only (35.8%). Just 2.9% assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. The India-born followed a variety of religions: 42.0% were Hindus; 28.0% were Western Catholic; and 11.7% were Sikhs. Almost half (48.7%) of the India-born held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

1 Persons born in India 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	50,686	34.5	29,439	30.8	23,147	29.8	72.2	27.2
Rest of Victoria ¹	2,167	1.5	1,277	1.3	1,166	1.5	69.7	9.5
Total Victoria	52,853	35.9	30,716	32.2	24,313	31.4	72.1	26.3
Total Australia	147,106	100.0	95,452	100.0	77,551	100.0	54.1	23.1

¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

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

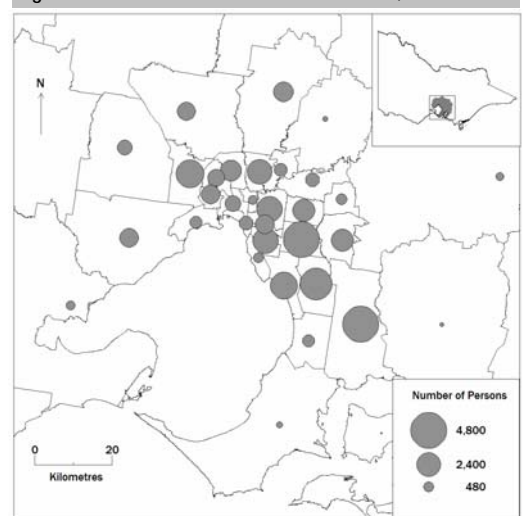
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Monash (C)	4,703	8.9	3,066	10.0	1
Casey (C)	4,697	8.9	2,518	8.2	3
Greater Dandenong (C)	3,822	7.2	2,600	8.5	2
Brimbank (C)	3,051	5.8	1,718	5.6	5
Kingston (C)	2,868	5.4	2,197	7.2	4
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	31,547	59.7	17,333	56.4	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	2,156	4.1	1,286	4.2	
Total Victoria	52,844	100.0	30,718	100.0	

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

Indian ancestry	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Total First & Second Responses ¹	79,350	48,773	62.7
Total India-born, persons	52,853	30,716	72.1

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

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



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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	881	1.7	363	1.2	142.7
5-11	1,905	3.6	1,099	3.6	73.3
12-18	2,348	4.4	1,759	5.7	33.5
19-25	9,983	18.9	3,665	11.9	172.4
26-44	22,395	42.4	12,143	39.5	84.4
45-64	10,987	20.8	8,265	26.9	32.9
65-74	2,508	4.7	2,073	6.7	21.0
75+	1,846	3.5	1,349	4.4	36.8
Total	52,853	100.0	30,716	100.0	72.1
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>132</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

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

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Hindi	10,409	19.7	4,533	14.8	129.6
Punjabi	5,863	11.1	2,264	7.4	159.0
Tamil	3,335	6.3	1,666	5.4	100.2
Telugu	2,861	5.4	1,101	3.6	159.9
Malayalam	2,322	4.4	758	2.5	206.3
English only	18,942	35.8	16,008	52.1	18.3
Other languages ¹	8,706	16.5	4,171	13.6	108.7
Not stated	407	0.8	224	0.7	81.7
Total	52,845	100.0	30,725	100.0	72.0

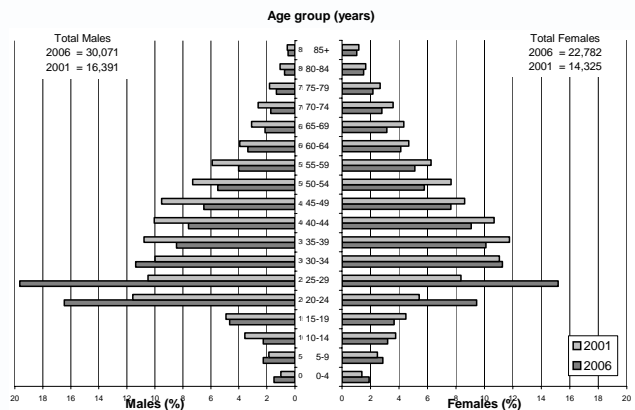
¹ Includes 'Inadequately described' and 'Non-verbal so described'.

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

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Hinduism	22,222	42.0	9,624	31.3	130.9
Western Catholic	14,807	28.0	11,949	38.9	23.9
Sikhism	6,192	11.7	2,588	8.4	139.3
Anglican	2,140	4.0	2,011	6.5	6.4
Islam	1,598	3.0	755	2.5	111.7
Other religions	3,463	6.6	2,178	7.1	59.0
No religion	1,148	2.2	705	2.3	62.8
Not stated ¹	1,282	2.4	908	3.0	41.2
Total	52,852	100.0	30,718	100.0	72.1

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

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



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

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	18,932	35.8	15,980	52.1	18.5
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	24,803	46.9	11,323	36.9	119.0
Well	7,131	13.5	2,431	7.9	193.3
Not well	1,099	2.1	551	1.8	99.5
Not at all	406	0.8	211	0.7	92.4
Not stated ¹	475	0.9	196	0.6	142.3
Total	52,846	100.0	30,692	100.0	72.2

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

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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	120	0.5	71	0.4	69.0
5-11	713	2.8	460	2.4	55.0
12-18	1,337	5.2	1,119	5.8	19.5
19-25	1,638	6.4	1,014	5.3	61.5
26-44	9,483	36.8	6,946	36.2	36.5
45-64	9,019	35.0	6,832	35.6	32.0
65-74	1,997	7.7	1,669	8.7	19.7
75+	1,461	5.7	1,060	5.5	37.8
Total	25,768	100.0	19,171	100.0	34.4

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