

From the 1950s, indigenous Africans from former British colonies, including Kenya, were eligible to enter Australia for study under the Colombo Plan or as British Commonwealth students. The majority were fluent in English and many held higher education qualifications. Some of the earlier Kenya-born migrants also had British, French and Indian origins. Due to a range of factors, including wars, political unrest, famines and drought from the 1970s onwards, large numbers of refugees from Africa were accepted by Australia.

At the 2006 Census, there were 1,946 Kenya-born persons in Victoria (19.6% of Australia's total), increasing by 74.8% from 1,113 persons in 2001. A quarter (24.0%) of the Kenya-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1986. A large proportion (45.5%) had arrived more recently between 2001 and 2006. The Kenya-born were well distributed throughout metropolitan Melbourne, with slight concentrations in Monash (6.9%), Casey (6.4%) and Greater Dandenong (6.3%). There were just 497 persons who identified with Kenyan ancestry, indicating that the Kenya-born had various other ancestry origins, including British, French, Italian, South African and Indian. Also, a significant number of Kenya-born were displaced persons from neighbouring countries such as Sudan.

The Kenya-born showed a relatively young age profile: 42.6% were aged 25 years or less; 30.4% were aged 26-44 years. The median age was 30 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The gender ratio was 92 males to 100 females. The main language spoken at home was English (38.9%); 17.9% spoke Swahili; 8.7% spoke Dinka; and 10.8% spoke Gujarati and Punjabi. Only 9.0% assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. The Kenya-born followed a variety of religions: Western Catholic (23.5%); Anglican (14.4%); Islam (12.8%); and Hinduism (9.9%). Just over half (54.8%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

### Demographic Background: 2006 Census

1 Persons born in Kenya 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	1,774	17.8	992	14.4	743	13.9	78.8	33.5
Rest of Victoria <sup>1</sup>	172	1.7	121	1.8	101	1.9	42.1	19.8
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>31.9</b>
<b>Total Australia</b>	<b>9,940</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,868</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,331</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>28.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

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

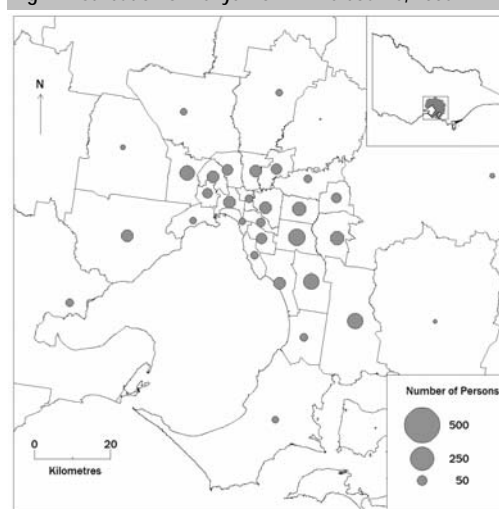
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Monash (C)	133	6.9	95	8.4	1
Casey (C)	125	6.4	44	3.9	7
Greater Dandenong (C)	122	6.3	30	2.6	15
Brimbank (C)	101	5.2	27	2.4	18
Knox (C)	93	4.8	43	3.8	8
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	1,187	61.2	750	66.0	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	177	9.1	147	12.9	
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

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

Kenyan ancestry	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Total First & Second Responses <sup>1</sup>	497	224	121.9
Total Kenya-born, persons	1,946	1,113	74.8

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

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



4 Age and Gender Distribution of Kenya-born: 2006, 2001					
Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	127	6.5	42	3.7	202.4
5-11	337	17.3	120	10.7	180.8
12-18	177	9.1	54	4.8	227.8
19-25	188	9.7	103	9.2	82.5
26-44	590	30.4	434	38.7	35.9
45-64	424	21.8	303	27.0	39.9
65-74	73	3.8	51	4.5	43.1
75+	27	1.4	15	1.3	80.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>73.2</b>
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>92</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

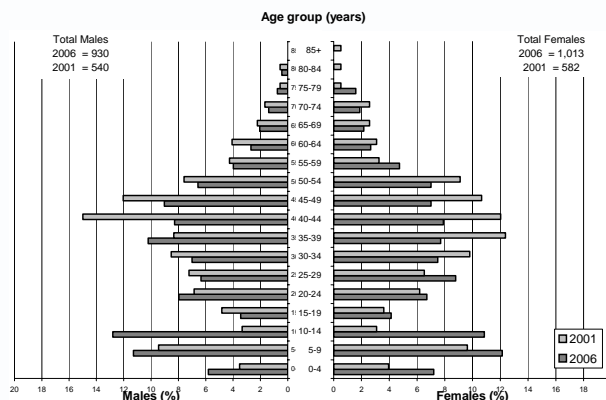
5 Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home by Kenya-born: 2006, 2001					
Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Swahili	348	17.9	107	9.7	225.2
Dinka	168	8.7	N/A	-	N/A
Somali	136	7.0	100	9.0	36.0
Gujarati	125	6.4	65	5.9	92.3
Punjabi	86	4.4	49	4.4	75.5
English only	756	38.9	621	56.0	21.7
Other languages <sup>1</sup>	291	15.0	151	13.6	92.7
Not stated	32	1.6	15	1.4	113.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,942</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 'Inadequately described' and 'Non-verbal so described'.

7 Top 5 Religions of Kenya-born: 2006, 2001					
Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Western Catholic	457	23.5	293	26.2	56.0
Anglican	279	14.4	149	13.3	87.2
Islam	249	12.8	150	13.4	66.0
Hinduism	193	9.9	108	9.6	78.7
Presbyterian	122	6.3	25	2.2	388.0
Other religions	420	21.6	225	20.1	86.7
No religion	120	6.2	102	9.1	17.6
Not stated <sup>1</sup>	104	5.3	68	6.1	52.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>73.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 'Religious Belief, nfd and 'Not Defined'.

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



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

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	751	38.9	609	57.3	23.3
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	826	42.8	354	33.3	133.3
Well	149	7.7	48	4.5	210.4
Not well	110	5.7	27	2.5	307.4
Not at all	64	3.3	15	1.4	326.7
Not stated <sup>1</sup>	32	1.7	9	0.8	255.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>81.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes those who did not state a language or proficiency in English.

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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	29	2.7	21	2.9	38.1
5-11	176	16.5	73	10.0	141.1
12-18	112	10.5	36	5.0	211.1
19-25	57	5.3	38	5.2	50.0
26-44	254	23.8	267	36.7	-4.9
45-64	359	33.6	240	33.0	49.6
65-74	57	5.3	40	5.5	42.5
75+	24	2.2	12	1.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46.9</b>

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](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au)