

The Lebanese community is one of the longest established non-European groups in Australia. Early immigrants were predominantly Christians engaged in trade and commerce and were widely dispersed throughout Australia, with about half living outside metropolitan areas. The community grew rapidly following the Arab-Israeli war in 1976 and continuing conflict in Lebanon. Although most of the Lebanese migrants had settled in Australia before 1981, small numbers continued to arrive after that date.

At the 2006 Census, there were 14,949 Lebanon-born persons in Victoria (20.0% of Australia's total), increasing by 5.5% from 14,168 persons in 2001. Over half (55.0%) of the Lebanon-born community in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1986. The Lebanon-born were mainly concentrated in the inner city suburbs in Moreland (19.0%) and Darebin (9.4%), and in the outer northern suburbs in Hume (16.0%) and Whittlesea (8.1%). There were 34,754 persons who identified with Lebanese ancestry, including second and later generations.

The Lebanon-born community showed a maturing age profile: 11.0% were aged 25 years or less; 41% were aged 26-44 years; and 36.5% were aged 45-64 years. The median age was 43 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The sex ratio was 106 males to 100 females. Most (89.2%) spoke Arabic at home; and 7.4% spoke English only. A significant proportion (20.5%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Almost half (42.5%) of the Lebanon-born were Muslims; 21.2% were Western Catholic; and 19.9% were of various Orthodox faiths. Most (89.3%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

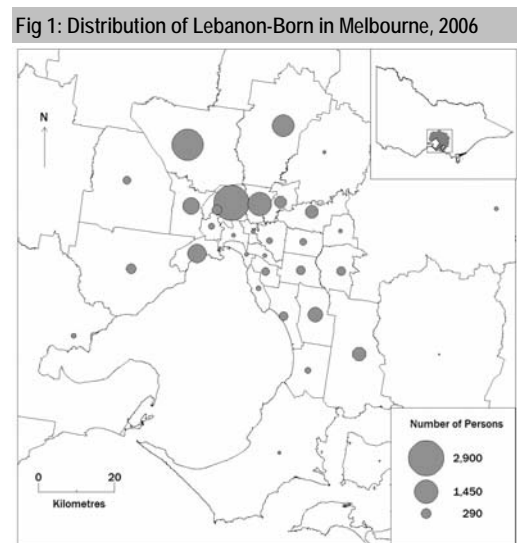
	2006 Census		2001 Census		1996 Census		2001-2006 % change	1996-2001 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%		
Melbourne	14,648	19.6	13,907	19.5	13,675	19.5	5.3	1.7
Rest of Victoria ¹	301	0.4	261	0.4	286	0.4	15.3	-8.7
Total Victoria	14,949	20.0	14,168	19.9	13,961	19.9	5.5	1.5
Total Australia	74,848	100.0	71,349	100.0	70,224	100.0	4.9	1.6

¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Moreland (C)	2,836	19.0	2,931	20.7	1
Hume (C)	2,399	16.0	1,954	13.8	2
Darebin (C)	1,404	9.4	1,558	11.0	3
Whittlesea (C)	1,216	8.1	999	7.1	4
Hobsons Bay (C)	942	6.3	960	6.8	5
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	5,844	39.1	5,498	38.8	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	307	2.1	265	1.9	
Total Victoria	14,948	100.0	14,165	100.0	

	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Lebanese ancestry			
Total First & Second Responses¹	34,754	31,150	11.6
Total Lebanon-born, persons	14,949	14,168	5.5

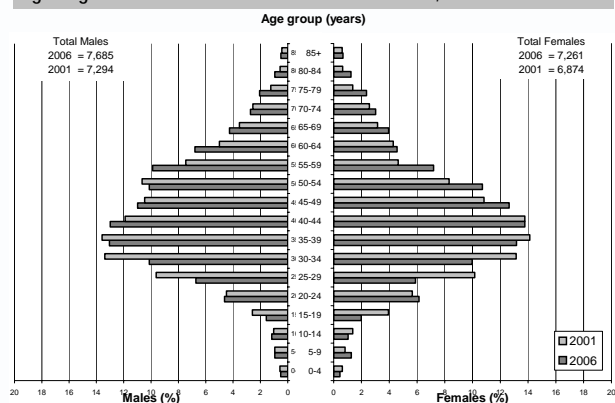
¹ Respondents had the option of nominating several ancestries, but only the first two responses were processed in the Census.



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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	73	0.5	84	0.6	-13.1
5-11	233	1.6	176	1.2	32.4
12-18	270	1.8	452	3.2	-40.3
19-25	1,059	7.1	1,072	7.6	-1.2
26-44	6,237	41.7	6,825	48.2	-8.6
45-64	5,453	36.5	4,379	30.9	24.5
65-74	1,043	7.0	838	5.9	24.5
75+	578	3.9	342	2.4	69.0
Total	14,946	100.0	14,168	100.0	5.5
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>106</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

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



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

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Arabic	13,321	89.2	12,799	90.4	4.1
Armenian	152	1.0	166	1.2	-8.4
Assyrian	117	0.8	105	0.7	11.4
Italian	36	0.2	31	0.2	16.1
French	25	0.2	18	0.1	38.9
English only	1,107	7.4	877	6.2	26.2
Other languages ¹	72	0.5	60	0.4	20.0
Not stated	112	0.7	107	0.8	4.7
Total	14,942	100.0	14,163	100.0	5.5

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

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

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	1,114	7.5	869	6.1	28.2
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	5,833	39.0	5,384	38.1	8.3
Well	4,784	32.0	4,620	32.7	3.5
Not well	2,588	17.3	2,514	17.8	2.9
Not at all	475	3.2	582	4.1	-18.4
Not stated ¹	148	1.0	172	1.2	-14.0
Total	14,942	100.0	14,141	100.0	5.7

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

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

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Islam	6,356	42.5	6,316	44.6	0.6
Western Catholic	3,168	21.2	2,718	19.2	16.6
Greek Orthodox	1,230	8.2	1,304	9.2	-5.7
Maronite Cath.	947	6.3	988	7.0	-4.1
Antiochian O'dox	660	4.4	476	3.4	38.7
Other religions	1,654	11.1	1,624	11.5	1.8
No religion	256	1.7	132	0.9	93.9
Not stated ¹	670	4.5	614	4.3	9.1
Total	14,941	100.0	14,172	100.0	5.4

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

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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	59	0.4	71	0.6	-16.9
5-11	187	1.4	160	1.2	16.9
12-18	239	1.8	416	3.2	-42.5
19-25	622	4.7	721	5.6	-13.7
26-44	5,462	40.9	6,156	47.9	-11.3
45-64	5,257	39.4	4,206	32.7	25.0
65-74	994	7.4	802	6.2	23.9
75+	536	4.0	319	2.5	68.0
Total	13,356	100.0	12,851	100.0	3.9

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