

There has been a long history of immigration to Australia from the region formerly known as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Since the Balkan wars of the 1990s, this region now covers the states of Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo. Serbia was recorded as a separate birthplace group for the first time in the 2006 Census, and therefore, no data comparisons are available with previous censuses, unlike the other fact sheets in this series.

At the 2006 Census, there were 6,035 Serbia-born persons in Victoria (38.5% of Australia's total). Although the community was distributed throughout metropolitan Melbourne, there were distinct concentrations in the outer suburbs of Brimbank (13.2%); Greater Dandenong (12.7%); and Casey (9.8%). There were 29,594 persons who identified with Serbian ancestry, attributed to the large number of second and subsequent generations.

The Serbia-born community showed an older age profile: 27.1% were aged 26-44 years; 39.1% were aged 45-64 years; and 18.8% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 48 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. There was gender balance, with 99 males to 100 females. The majority (71.1%) spoke Serbian at home; 6.8% spoke Albanian; 3.1% spoke Hungarian; and 8.3% spoke English only. A significant proportion (18.3%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Almost half (47.9%) of the Serbia-born followed the Serbian Orthodox religion; 15.1% followed a variety of Eastern Orthodox faiths; and 5.4% were Muslims. Most (91.0%) of the Serbia-born held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

1 Persons born in Serbia in Victoria and Australia: 2006 Census¹

	2006 Census	
	Persons	%
Melbourne	6,035	34.8
Rest of Victoria ¹	629	3.6
Total Victoria	6,664	38.5
Total Australia	17,326	100.0

¹As Serbia did not exist as a separate birthplace prior to 2006, no comparisons are available with previous census figures.

² Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

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

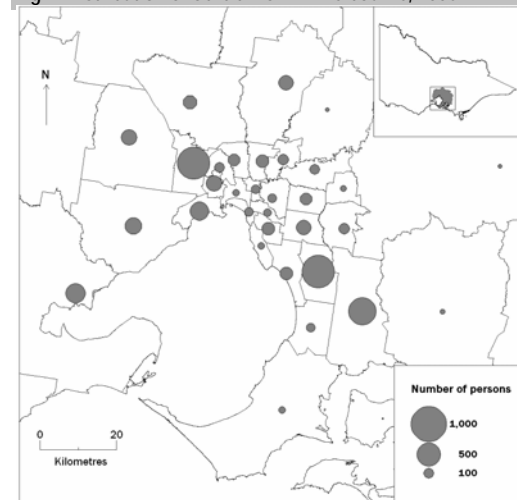
Local Government Area	2006 Census	
	Persons	%
Brimbank (C)	879	13.2
Greater Dandenong (C)	847	12.7
Casey (C)	652	9.8
Greater Geelong (C)	345	5.2
Hobsons Bay (C)	315	4.7
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	3,339	50.1
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	286	4.3
Total Victoria	6,663	100.0

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

Serbian ancestry	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Total First & Second Responses ¹	29,594	30,368	-2.5
Total Serbia-born, persons	6,664	N/A	N/A

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

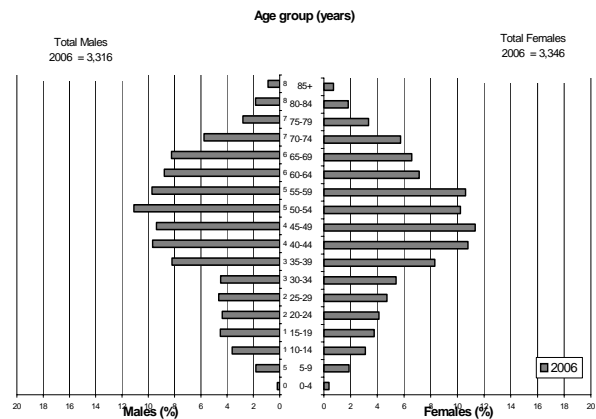
Fig 1: Distribution of Serbia-Born in Melbourne, 2006



4 Age and Gender Distribution of Serbia-born: 2006

Age group (years)	2006 Census	
	Persons	%
0-4	19	0.3
5-11	207	3.1
12-18	353	5.3
19-25	416	6.2
26-44	1,804	27.1
45-64	2,607	39.1
65-74	876	13.1
75+	380	5.7
Total	6,662	100.0
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>99</i>	

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



5 Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home by Serbia-born: 2006

Language	2006 Census	
	Persons	%
Serbian	4,778	71.7
Albanian	453	6.8
Hungarian	207	3.1
Serbo-Croat etc.	136	2.0
Slovak	129	1.9
English only	556	8.3
Other languages ¹	366	5.5
Not stated	39	0.6
Total	6,664	100.0

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

6 Proficiency in English of Serbia-born: 2006

Proficiency in English	2006 Census	
	Persons	%
Speaks English only	553	8.3
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>		
Very well	2,657	39.9
Well	2,145	32.2
Not well	1,089	16.3
Not at all	136	2.0
Not stated ¹	84	1.3
Total	6,664	100.0

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

7 Top 5 Religions of Serbia-born: 2006

Religion	2006 Census	
	Persons	%
Serbian O'dox	3,192	47.9
Eastern O'dox nfd	1,005	15.1
Western Catholic	597	9.0
Greek Orthodox	499	7.5
Islam	361	5.4
Other religions	446	6.7
No religion	351	5.3
Not stated ¹	213	3.2
Total	6,664	100.0

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

8 Serbia-born with Australian Citizenship by Age, 2006

Age group (years)	2006 Census	
	Persons	%
0-4	10	0.2
5-11	177	2.9
12-18	315	5.2
19-25	330	5.4
26-44	1,567	25.8
45-64	2,480	40.9
65-74	836	13.8
75+	348	5.7
Total	6,063	100.0

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