

The Somalia-born in Australia are a new community, mostly arriving since the onset of civil war in Somalia in 1991. Previously, there were only a small number of Somalia-born students in Australia. The peak period for arrival from Somalia was 1994 to 1998 when about 55% of the current Somalia-born community arrived in Australia, mainly as young adult refugees or through family reunion.

At the 2006 Census, there were 2,626 Somalia-born persons in Victoria (60.8% of Australia's total) increasing by 13.6% from 2,311 persons in 2001. Only 4.6% of the Somalia-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1991. The community was mainly concentrated in the local government areas of Moonee Valley (19.1%); Banyule (15.0%); Darebin (12.7%); and Melbourne City (10.9%). There were 3,992 persons who identified with Somali ancestry.

The Somalia-born community showed a young age profile: 24.0% were aged 18 years and below; 17.5% were aged 19-25 years; and 42.1% were aged 26-44 years. The median age was 29 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The gender ratio was 90 males to 100 females. The majority (86.8%) spoke Somali at home; 3.3% spoke Arabic; 1.6% spoke Italian; and 3.9% spoke English only. A significant proportion (15.3%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Most of the Somali-born were Muslims (96.2%). Over three-quarters (79.5%) 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 | 2,594 | 60.1 | 2,290 | 61.7 | 1,389 | 67.5 | 13.3 | 64.9 |
| Rest of Victoria ¹ | 32 | 0.7 | 21 | 0.6 | 8 | 0.4 | 52.4 | 162.5 |
| Total Victoria | 2,626 | 60.8 | 2,311 | 62.3 | 1,397 | 67.9 | 13.6 | 65.4 |
| Total Australia | 4,316 | 100.0 | 3,711 | 100.0 | 2,057 | 100.0 | 16.3 | 80.4 |

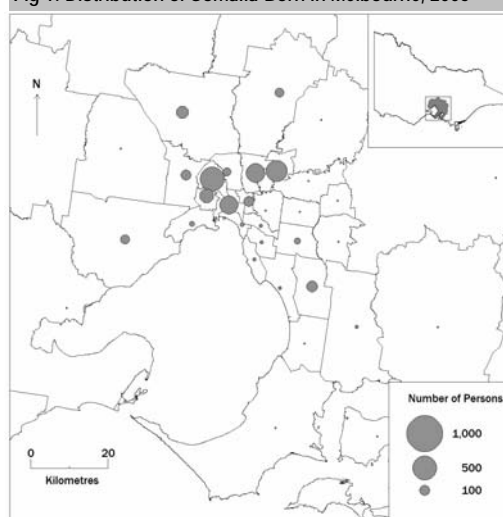
¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

| Local Government Area | 2006 Census | | 2001 Census | | Rank in 2001 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | Persons | % | Persons | % | |
| Moonee Valley (C) | 502 | 19.1 | 468 | 20.1 | 1 |
| Banyule (C) | 394 | 15.0 | 404 | 17.4 | 2 |
| Darebin (C) | 333 | 12.7 | 288 | 12.4 | 3 |
| Melbourne (C) | 285 | 10.9 | 281 | 12.1 | 4 |
| Maribyrnong (C) | 183 | 7.0 | 153 | 6.6 | 5 |
| Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb | 896 | 34.1 | 708 | 30.4 | |
| Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic | 31 | 1.2 | 24 | 1.0 | |
| Total Victoria | 2,624 | 100.0 | 2,326 | 100.0 | |

| | 2006 Census | 2001 Census | 2001-2006 % change |
|---|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Somali ancestry | | | |
| Total First & Second Responses ¹ | 3,992 | 3,239 | 23.2 |
| Total Somalia-born, persons | 2,626 | 2,311 | 13.6 |

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

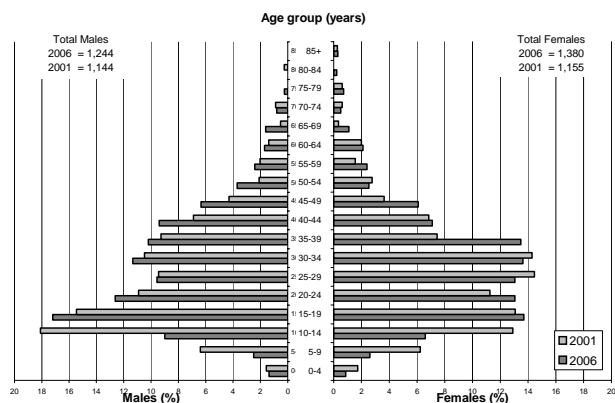
Fig 1: Distribution of Somalia-Born in Melbourne, 2006



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

| Age group (years) | 2006 Census | | 2001 Census | | 2001-2006 % change |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | Persons | % | Persons | % | |
| 0-4 | 29 | 1.1 | 38 | 1.7 | -23.7 |
| 5-11 | 134 | 5.1 | 268 | 11.7 | -50.0 |
| 12-18 | 468 | 17.8 | 509 | 22.1 | -8.1 |
| 19-25 | 458 | 17.5 | 361 | 15.7 | 26.9 |
| 26-44 | 1,106 | 42.1 | 856 | 37.2 | 29.2 |
| 45-64 | 357 | 13.6 | 227 | 9.9 | 57.3 |
| 65-74 | 52 | 2.0 | 27 | 1.2 | 92.6 |
| 75+ | 20 | 0.8 | 13 | 0.6 | 53.8 |
| Total | 2,624 | 100.0 | 2,299 | 100.0 | 14.1 |
| <i>Sex Ratio</i> | <i>90</i> | | <i>males per 100 females</i> | | |

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



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

| Language | 2006 Census | | 2001 Census | | 2001-2006 % change |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | Persons | % | Persons | % | |
| Somali | 2,277 | 86.8 | 2,011 | 86.8 | 13.2 |
| Arabic | 86 | 3.3 | 120 | 5.2 | -28.3 |
| Italian | 42 | 1.6 | 21 | 0.9 | 100.0 |
| Swahili | 13 | 0.5 | 4 | 0.2 | 225.0 |
| Oromo | 9 | 0.3 | 8 | 0.3 | 12.5 |
| English only | 102 | 3.9 | 54 | 2.3 | 88.9 |
| Other languages ¹ | 21 | 0.8 | 43 | 1.9 | -51.2 |
| Not stated | 73 | 2.8 | 55 | 2.4 | 32.7 |
| Total | 2,623 | 100.0 | 2,316 | 100.0 | 13.3 |

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

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

| Proficiency in English | 2006 Census | | 2001 Census | | 2001-2006 % change |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | Persons | % | Persons | % | |
| Speaks English only | 118 | 4.5 | 54 | 2.3 | 118.5 |
| <i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i> | | | | | |
| Very well | 1,197 | 45.6 | 913 | 39.3 | 31.1 |
| Well | 808 | 30.8 | 813 | 35.0 | -0.6 |
| Not well | 344 | 13.1 | 385 | 16.6 | -10.6 |
| Not at all | 57 | 2.2 | 67 | 2.9 | -14.9 |
| Not stated ¹ | 101 | 3.8 | 92 | 4.0 | 9.8 |
| Total | 2,625 | 100.0 | 2,324 | 100.0 | 13.0 |

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

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

| Religion | 2006 Census | | 2001 Census | | 2001-2006 % change |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | Persons | % | Persons | % | |
| Islam | 2,526 | 96.2 | 2,253 | 97.6 | 12.1 |
| Western Catholic | 6 | 0.2 | 3 | 0.1 | 100.0 |
| Anglican | 3 | 0.1 | - | - | N/A |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No religion | 15 | 0.6 | 6 | 0.3 | 150.0 |
| Not stated ¹ | 75 | 2.9 | 46 | 2.0 | 63.0 |
| Total | 2,625 | 100.0 | 2,308 | 100.0 | 13.7 |

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

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

| Age group (years) | 2006 Census | | 2001 Census | | 2001-2006 % change |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | Persons | % | Persons | % | |
| 0-4 | 16 | 0.8 | 20 | 1.2 | -20.0 |
| 5-11 | 82 | 3.9 | 177 | 10.7 | -53.7 |
| 12-18 | 364 | 17.4 | 347 | 21.1 | 4.9 |
| 19-25 | 345 | 16.5 | 253 | 15.4 | 36.4 |
| 26-44 | 917 | 43.9 | 638 | 38.7 | 43.7 |
| 45-64 | 313 | 15.0 | 176 | 10.7 | 77.8 |
| 65-74 | 39 | 1.9 | 25 | 1.5 | 56.0 |
| 75+ | 12 | 0.6 | 11 | 0.7 | 9.1 |
| Total | 2,088 | 100.0 | 1,647 | 100.0 | 26.8 |

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