

The Republic of Sudan in Africa has been ravaged by drought, famine and civil war since independence from joint British-Egyptian administration in 1956, resulting in population displacement and refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries such as Congo, Kenya or Uganda. The Sudan-born community in Australia has grown rapidly in recent years, almost all of them arriving as refugees under the Humanitarian Migration program.

At the 2006 Census, there were 6,205 Sudan-born persons in Victoria (32.6% of Australia's total), increasing by 528.7% from 987 persons in 2001. Most (80.4%) of the Sudan-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia between 2001 and 2006. The Sudan-born community had distinct concentrations in the suburbs of Greater Dandenong (26.6%) and Brimbank (19.7%). There were 6,222 persons who identified with Sudanese ancestry. The Sudan-born also identified with other ancestries such as Arabic, Egyptian, English, Eritrean, Ethiopian and Dinka.

The Sudan-born showed a young age profile: 42.1% were aged 18 years or less; 15.8% were aged 19-25 years; and 34.2% were aged 25-44 years. The median age was 22 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The gender ratio was biased with 115 males to 100 females. The Sudan-born originated from diverse cultures. Almost half (46.6%) spoke Arabic at home; 25.1% spoke Dinka; 9.1% spoke Nuer; and 3.4% spoke English only. One-third (33.7%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. The Sudan-born followed a variety of religions: 37.8% were Western Catholic; 16.9% were Anglican; 13.3% were Muslims; 11.0% were Presbyterian; and 3.4% were Coptic Orthodox. Just 38.4% 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	5,911	31.0	967	19.7	343	14.2	511.3	181.9
Rest of Victoria ¹	294	1.5	20	0.4	10	0.4	1370.0	100.0
Total Victoria	6,205	32.6	987	20.1	353	14.6	528.7	179.6
Total Australia	19,049	100.0	4,900	100.0	2,417	100.0	288.8	102.7

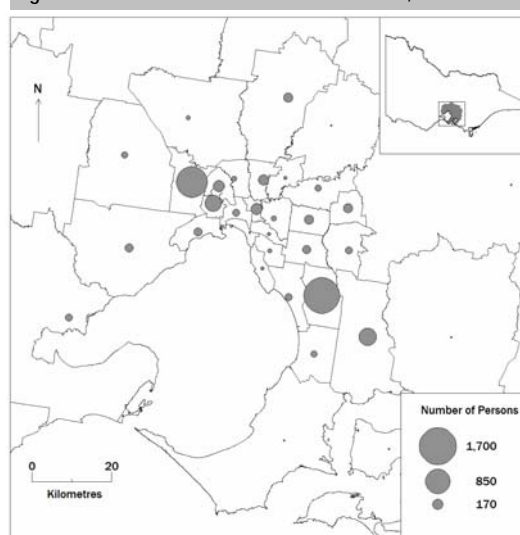
¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Greater Dandenong (C)	1,654	26.6	143	14.3	1
Brimbank (C)	1,224	19.7	63	6.3	7
Casey (C)	441	7.1	16	1.6	15
Maribyrnong (C)	394	6.3	127	12.7	2
Moonee Valley (C)	224	3.6	113	11.3	3
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	1,981	31.9	520	51.8	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	291	4.7	21	2.1	
Total Victoria	6,209	100.0	1,003	100.0	

Sudanese ancestry	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Total First & Second Responses ¹	6,222	668	831.4
Total Sudan-born, persons	6,205	987	528.7

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

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



4 Age and Gender Distribution of Sudan-born: 2006, 2001					
Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	294	4.7	31	3.2	848.4
5-11	1,143	18.4	176	17.9	549.4
12-18	1,178	19.0	195	19.8	504.1
19-25	984	15.8	121	12.3	713.2
26-44	2,121	34.2	308	31.3	588.6
45-64	439	7.1	128	13.0	243.0
65-74	34	0.5	19	1.9	78.9
75+	16	0.3	6	0.6	166.7
Total	6,209	100.0	984	100.0	531.0
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>115</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

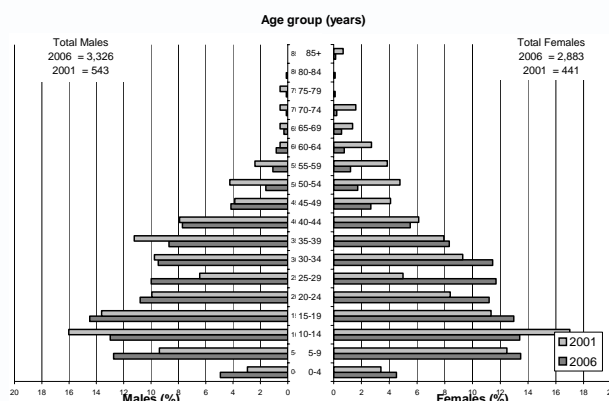
5 Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home by Sudan-born: 2006, 2001					
Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Arabic	2,892	46.6	627	63.4	361.2
Dinka	1,558	25.1	N/A	-	N/A
Nuer	562	9.1	N/A	-	N/A
African Langs, nec	225	3.6	N/A	-	N/A
African Langs, nfd	106	1.7	-	-	N/A
English only	208	3.4	57	5.8	264.9
Other languages ¹	514	8.3	297	30.0	73.1
Not stated	138	2.2	8	0.8	1625.0
Total	6,203	100.0	989	100.0	527.2

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

7 Top 5 Religions of Sudan-born: 2006, 2001					
Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Western Catholic	2,348	37.8	144	14.5	1530.6
Anglican	1,049	16.9	62	6.2	1591.9
Islam	826	13.3	257	25.8	221.4
Presbyterian	682	11.0	138	13.9	394.2
Coptic Orthodox	211	3.4	187	18.8	12.8
Other religions	883	14.2	169	17.0	422.5
No religion	25	0.4	6	0.6	316.7
Not stated ¹	181	2.9	33	3.3	448.5
Total	6,205	100.0	996	100.0	523.0

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

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



6 Proficiency in English of Sudan-born: 2006, 2001					
Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	217	3.5	51	5.2	325.5
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	1,607	25.8	399	40.3	302.8
Well	2,084	33.5	350	35.4	495.4
Not well	1,700	27.3	133	13.4	1178.2
Not at all	398	6.4	39	3.9	920.5
Not stated ¹	212	3.4	18	1.8	1077.8
Total	6,218	100.0	990	100.0	528.1

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

8 Sudan-born with Australian Citizenship by Age, 2006, 2001					
Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	51	2.1	5	0.9	920.0
5-11	341	14.3	92	16.9	270.7
12-18	466	19.5	117	21.5	298.3
19-25	351	14.7	54	9.9	550.0
26-44	869	36.5	150	27.5	479.3
45-64	263	11.0	102	18.7	157.8
65-74	24	1.0	13	2.4	84.6
75+	19	0.8	12	2.2	58.3
Total	2,384	100.0	545	100.0	337.4

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