

Before 1975, only a small number of Vietnamese students, wives of servicemen and war orphans had settled in Australia. However, between 1975 and the early 1990s, there were significant waves of refugees arriving under the Humanitarian Program. The Vietnamese community have also expanded through family reunion. Although migration from Viet Nam to Australia slowed in the late 1990s, they remain one of the largest recently arrived migrant communities.

At the 2006 Census, there were 58,878 Viet Nam-born persons in Victoria (36.8% of Australia's total), increasing by 3.9% from 56,664 persons in 2001. More than half (59.8%) of the Viet Nam-born population in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1990. The community was distinctly concentrated in the local government areas of Brimbank (25.7%); Greater Dandenong (18.0%); and Maribyrnong (10.4%). There were 63,638 persons who identified with Vietnamese ancestry, including second and later generations. A large number of the Viet Nam-born also identified with Chinese ancestry.

The Viet Nam-born community showed a maturing age profile: 48.9% were aged 26-44 years; and 31.6% were aged 45-64 years. The median age was 40 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The sex ratio was 89 males to 100 females. Over three-quarters (78.4%) spoke Vietnamese at home; 16.4% spoke Cantonese; and 0.7% who spoke Mandarin. A high proportion (42.2%) assessed themselves as speaking English not well or not at all. Over half (58.8%) of the Viet Nam-born were Buddhist; 21.6% were Western Catholic; and 12.3% had no religion. Most (88.3%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 67.5% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria.

Demographic Background: 2006 Census

1 Persons born in Viet Nam 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	57,926	36.2	55,859	36.1	54,590	36.1	3.7	2.3
Rest of Victoria ¹	952	0.6	805	0.5	627	0.4	18.3	28.4
Total Victoria	58,878	36.8	56,664	36.6	55,217	36.6	3.9	2.6
Total Australia	159,849	100.0	154,830	100.0	151,053	100.0	3.2	2.5

¹ Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria"

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

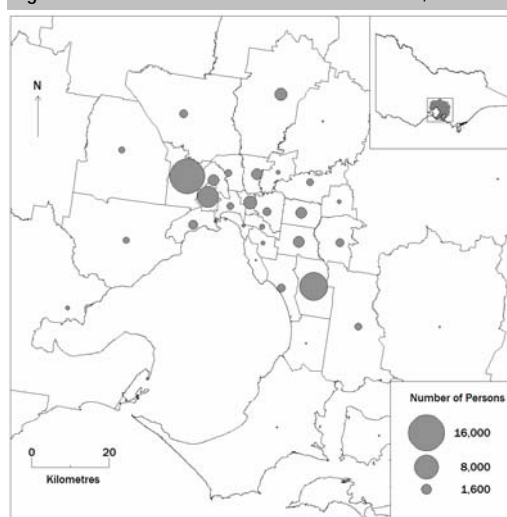
Local Government Area	2006 Census		2001 Census		Rank in 2001
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Brimbank (C)	15,123	25.7	13,483	23.8	1
Greater Dandenong (C)	10,607	18.0	10,420	18.4	2
Maribyrnong (C)	6,133	10.4	6,792	12.0	3
Yarra (C)	2,676	4.5	3,183	5.6	4
Whittlesea (C)	2,242	3.8	2,012	3.6	7
Rest of LGAs in Metro Melb	21,162	35.9	19,973	35.3	
Rest of LGAs in Reg. Vic	930	1.6	778	1.4	
Total Victoria	58,873	100.0	56,641	100.0	

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

Vietnamese ancestry	2006 Census	2001 Census	2001-2006 % change
Total First & Second Responses ¹	63,638	56,825	12.0
Total Viet Nam-born, persons	58,878	56,664	3.9

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

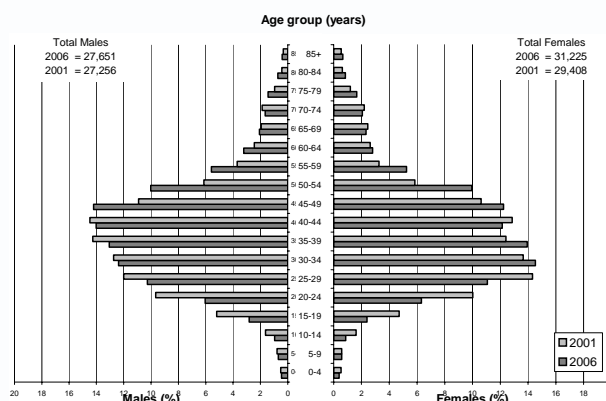
Fig 1: Distribution of Viet Nam-Born in Melbourne, 2006



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

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	243	0.4	297	0.5	-18.2
5-11	550	0.9	623	1.1	-11.7
12-18	1,482	2.5	2,718	4.8	-45.5
19-25	5,138	8.7	7,733	13.6	-33.6
26-44	28,791	48.9	28,841	50.9	-0.2
45-64	18,577	31.6	12,886	22.7	44.2
65-74	2,403	4.1	2,402	4.2	0.0
75+	1,692	2.9	1,164	2.1	45.4
Total	58,876	100.0	56,664	100.0	3.9
<i>Sex Ratio</i>	<i>89</i>		<i>males per 100 females</i>		

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



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

Language	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Vietnamese	46,155	78.4	44,123	77.9	4.6
Cantonese	9,671	16.4	9,841	17.4	-1.7
Mandarin	409	0.7	341	0.6	19.9
Teochew	341	0.6	292	0.5	16.8
Chinese, nfd	92	0.2	155	0.3	-40.6
English only	1,383	2.3	1,027	1.8	34.7
Other languages ¹	305	0.5	463	0.8	-34.1
Not stated	515	0.9	429	0.8	20.0
Total	58,871	100.0	56,671	100.0	3.9

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

6 Proficiency in English of Viet Nam-born: 2006, 2001

Proficiency in English	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Speaks English only	1,387	2.4	1,027	1.8	35.1
<i>Speaks other language and speaks English</i>					
Very well	12,802	21.7	12,492	22.0	2.5
Well	19,109	32.5	18,038	31.8	5.9
Not well	20,092	34.1	19,014	33.5	5.7
Not at all	4,761	8.1	5,272	9.3	-9.7
Not stated ¹	722	1.2	872	1.5	-17.2
Total	58,873	100.0	56,715	100.0	3.8

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

7 Top 5 Religions of Viet Nam-born: 2006, 2001

Religion	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Buddhism	34,635	58.8	33,145	58.5	4.5
Western Catholic	12,694	21.6	12,192	21.5	4.1
Baptist	721	1.2	733	1.3	-1.6
Christian, nfd	300	0.5	234	0.4	28.2
Uniting Church	238	0.4	259	0.5	-8.1
Other religions	941	1.6	1,062	1.9	-11.4
No religion	7,249	12.3	6,315	11.1	14.8
Not stated ¹	2,104	3.6	2,740	4.8	-23.2
Total	58,882	100.0	56,680	100.0	3.9

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

8 Viet Nam-born with Australian Citizenship by Age, 2006, 2001

Age group (years)	2006 Census		2001 Census		2001-2006 % change
	Persons	%	Persons	%	
0-4	152	0.3	234	0.5	-35.0
5-11	385	0.7	438	0.9	-12.1
12-18	832	1.6	2,168	4.3	-61.6
19-25	3,499	6.7	6,328	12.4	-44.7
26-44	25,567	49.2	26,114	51.4	-2.1
45-64	17,684	34.0	12,249	24.1	44.4
65-74	2,299	4.4	2,266	4.5	1.5
75+	1,581	3.0	1,039	2.0	52.2
Total	51,999	100.0	50,836	100.0	2.3

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