



Government of South Australia

Multicultural SA

STUDENT INFORMATION KIT

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WHAT DOES MULTICULTURALISM MEAN?

Multiculturalism means:

- ❖ that we accept that we are all Australians regardless of our country or place of birth.
- ❖ that although some of us are born in other countries, our commitment to Australia is in no way lessened.
- ❖ that we understand that the cultural values we hold are important to us and to our children.
- ❖ understanding that people will want to preserve and express their cultural identity, and that there is nothing threatening in this concept.
- ❖ that we should know more about the cultures of Australia and how those cultures can strengthen and add to an ever changing, ever developing whole.
- ❖ helping people take a more active role in the whole community.
- ❖ harnessing the skills, vigour and vitality of Australia's richest resource, people, to build a better society.
- ❖ that we must all have equal access to the services available.
- ❖ that respect for cultural diversity is not simply an acceptance of diversity, but a recognition of the positive value of diversity in itself and how it enriches our community.
- ❖ that by providing the opportunity for different cultures to flourish in Australia, we have created a society in which different points of view and behaviours can freely interact.
- ❖ that all Australians are able to participate fully and effectively in all aspects of social, cultural, political and economic life and that there is equal access to appropriate services and resources, to career choices and life chances.
- ❖ the creation of an environment within which everyone can participate and contribute equally and in productive ways both for the benefit of the Australian economy and their own economic well-being.

*In summary: **Multiculturalism** means that we all have needs and desires; we have likes and dislikes. We are different but there is nothing wrong or threatening in that difference. We are all seeking a better life for ourselves and future generations and there is no place for an 'us and them' mentality in our society, today or in the future.*



WHAT IS CULTURE?

"A WAY OF LIFE OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE, THE BLUEPRINT FOR LIVING WHICH GUIDES THE ACTIONS, THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OF THAT GROUP AND MAKES THEM IDENTIFY WITH OTHERS IN IT".

Our culture is our routine of sleeping, bathing, dressing, eating and getting to work. It is our household chores and the actions we perform on the job, the way we buy goods and services, write and mail a letter, take a taxi or board a bus, make a telephone call, go to a movie, or attend church. It is the way we greet friends or address a stranger; the admonitions and scoldings we give our children and the way they regard what we consider good and bad manners, and even to a large extent what we consider right and wrong.

All these and thousands of other ways of thinking, feeling and acting seem so natural and right that we may even wonder how else anyone could do it. But, to millions of other people in the world, every one of these acts would seem strange, awkward, incomprehensible, unnatural or wrong. The people would perform many, if not all of the same acts, but they would be done in different ways that to them would seem logical, natural and right.

Culture is not only the way we do things. It is also our attitudes, thoughts, expectations, goals and values. It is the rules of our society - the norms that tell us what is and what is not acceptable in that society. We learn these through complex patterns of socialisation, first from our parents who introduce us to the world of ideas and values, then at school and then from a whole range of people and institutions that affect our lives.

Multiculturalism has contributed to a gradual change in lifestyle in South Australia. The society is now exposed to a proliferation of restaurants, diverse forms of entertainment, greater recreational use of open spaces, radical and beneficial changes in food habits, less conformism in dress and behaviour, curiosity about other cultures and openness to new ideas and to changes.

We should be prepared to learn from other cultures, and never to accept that our way of doing things is necessarily the best way, just because that is the way to which we are accustomed.



POSITIVE EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURALISM

- Research has clearly shown that immigration does not cause unemployment. Even in times of recession, there is no evidence that immigration has an adverse effect on the labour market through the unemployment rate. On the contrary, each immigrant family can create jobs.
- The South Australian economy benefits from the injection of substantial amounts of capital brought by immigrants, over and above the additional benefits of intellectual and cultural capital. Multiculturalism is also, therefore, about capitalising on our diversity in a reasonable, fair and commonsense way in the interests of society as a whole.
- The South Australian Government has affirmed its support for multiculturalism and Aboriginal reconciliation. South Australia has been a pioneer in opposing racial discrimination, both in multicultural policy and language education.
- The South Australian Government seeks to eliminate discrimination wherever it exists. It recognises and welcomes the enormous contribution that ethnic communities have made to this State and is committed to ensuring that migrants, refugees and their families have every opportunity to maintain their cultural values and achieve their aspirations. Central to the Government's philosophy is the belief that all South Australians should be given the same opportunities regardless of race, colour, sex, age or religion.
- South Australia has a proud record of racial tolerance, of welcoming people from other countries and supporting them to settle successfully. Australians of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds are entitled to the same respect whether we are indigenous people, whether we can trace our ancestry to the first settlers or whether we are more recently arrived.
- Policies dealing with cultural diversity have checks and balances. The right to maintain individual cultural heritages also requires all Australians to accept a commitment to Australia and the basic structures of Australian society - the Constitution and the rule of law. A fair go, tolerance, economic efficiency and social justice are the basis of our society and these values are the foundation stones of these policies. Our multicultural policies are working well.
- South Australia is proof that people from different cultures can live side by side, and that people can, and do, live together peacefully.



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THE MULTICULTURAL NATURE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

It is estimated that one third of South Australia's population has some link with other than British or Irish ancestry. One in five South Australians was either born overseas in a non-English speaking country or has at least one parent born in such a country. Many others are descendants of earlier immigrants from outside Britain and Ireland. In addition about 1.6% of the population is of Aboriginal descent.

In November 1838, less than two years after the proclamation of South Australia as a colony, the first German migrants arrived at Port Adelaide. They settled in the Adelaide Hills establishing towns that still bear German names, Hahndorf and Lobethal. By 1900 some 18,000 Germans had settled in the State, particularly in the Barossa Valley, a region now famous for its wines.

German, Polish, Sicilian and other European immigrants and Chilean muleteers were also attracted to new copper mines that opened in the 1840's in Kapunda and Moonta. Their numbers, however, never equalled that of the Cornish miners (themselves a linguistic minority in Britain).

Among the earliest settlers were also the Chinese, attracted to Australia by the gold rushes of the 1850's, the Afghan camel drivers who helped to build the telegraph line from Adelaide to Darwin and Italian and Greek fishermen who settled in Port Pirie and Port Adelaide.

While inauguration to South Australia slowed down at the turn of the century, post second world war immigration brought settlers from all parts of the globe. Immediately after the war, the largest influx of people came mainly from Europe, while in more recent years, people have come from Asia and the Pacific region, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Immigration has had an enormous influence on the diversity of the South Australian community, and on the economic development of the State. Migrants were instrumental in developing various regions, for example, the fruit and citrus growing regions of the Riverland.

In addition, festivals such as the Cornish Festival in Upper Yorke Peninsula, the Port Pirie Blessing of the Fleet, the Greek Orthodox Blessing of the Waters and the Highland Games still celebrate the cultural diversity that has been part of the State from its earliest settlement. Other festivals such as the Schutzenfest (German), Greek Glendi, Carnevale (Italian), Chinese New Year Festival, Vietnamese New Year Tet Festival, the Mela (Indian), Dozynki (Polish), French Festival and numerous other ethnic and folkloric activities are by contrast the result of post-war migration.

In recent years, South Australia's diverse communities have swelled the numbers in the annual Christmas Pageant, the Australia Day Community Parade and the ANZAC Day Eve Youth Vigil. They have also provided performances for the Police Tattoo, OzAsia Moon Lantern Festival and Showcasing Multiculturalism festivals at Marion Shopping Centre and in Rundle Mall in Adelaide.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S MULTICULTURAL POPULATION

Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, ABS

As expected, South Australia's population grew in the five years between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses. Migrants have had a major role in this growth.

There are 1,514,337 South Australians, 79% of whom were born in Australia and 21% of whom were born overseas, (10% in English-speaking countries and 11% in non-English speaking countries).

Arrival of skilled and business migrants from India, Malaysia, China, the Republic of Korea (South) and the Philippines has risen sharply. There has also been a steady flow of skilled and business migrants from South Africa.

African communities are growing due to humanitarian (refugee) entries.

The potentially big communities of the future are the Chinese, Indian, Filipino, Malaysian and South African communities. It should be remembered that English is widely spoken in the Philippines, India, Malaysia and South Africa.

The number of households where Malaysian, Filipino, Korean and the Chinese and Indian languages are spoken has increased accordingly.

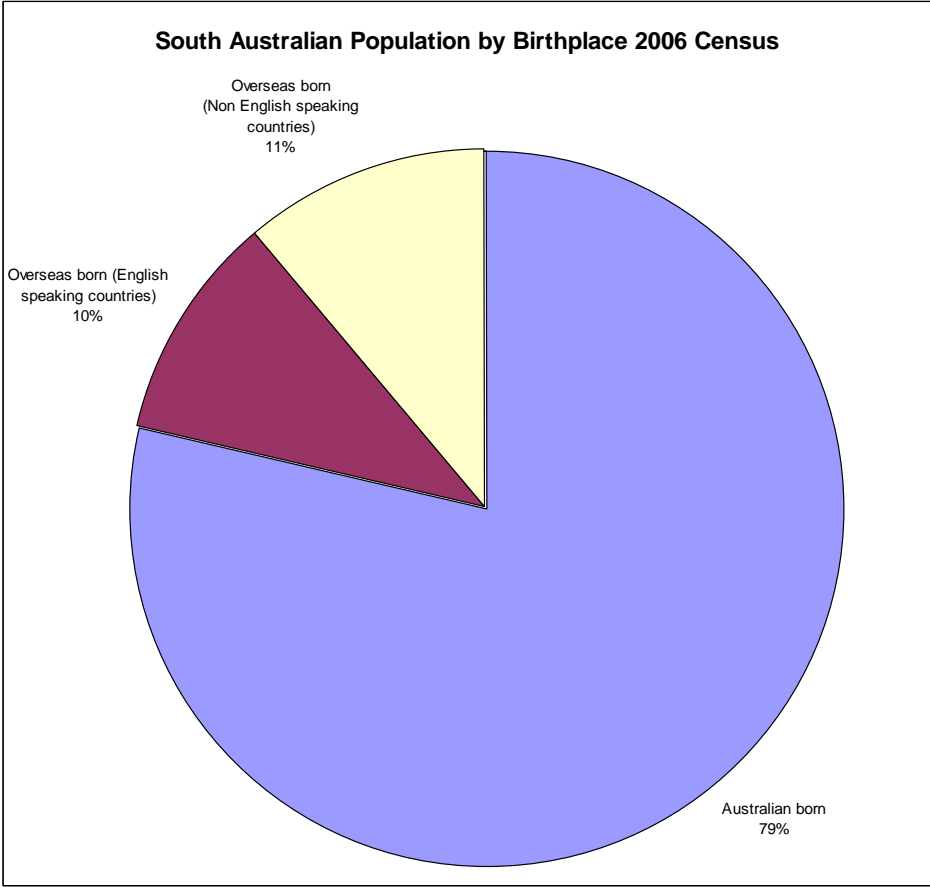
There has also been an increase in the number of households where African languages are spoken, though this increase is not large in terms of absolute numbers.

In contrast, some of the established communities – those migrants born in what were once considered the “traditional” source countries, such as Greece, Italy and the former Yugoslavia – are getting smaller, and increasingly aged. The proportion of people over the age of 65 in these communities is growing rapidly.

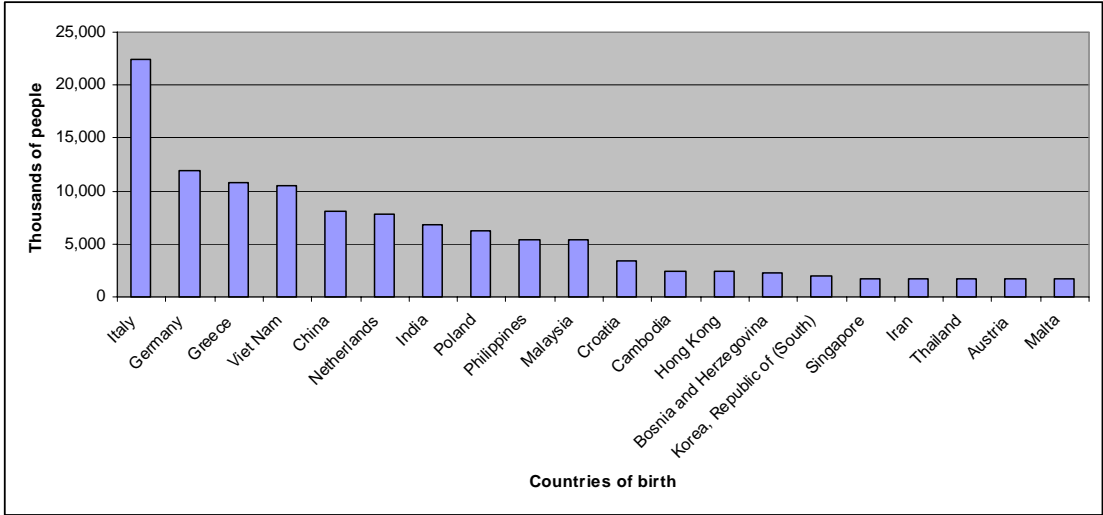
Consequently, the number of people who speak a language other than English at home in these communities is also diminishing. Varying numbers of the Australian-born descendants of original migrants are learning these languages, with varying degrees of proficiency, but not always fluently enough to speak them at home all the time.

Overall, the number of South Australians who speak a language other than English at home has increased by 3% since the 2001 Census. There has been a steep rise in the number of households where certain languages are spoken: Hindi (India) has risen by 105%, Mandarin Chinese by 127% and Korean by 210%.

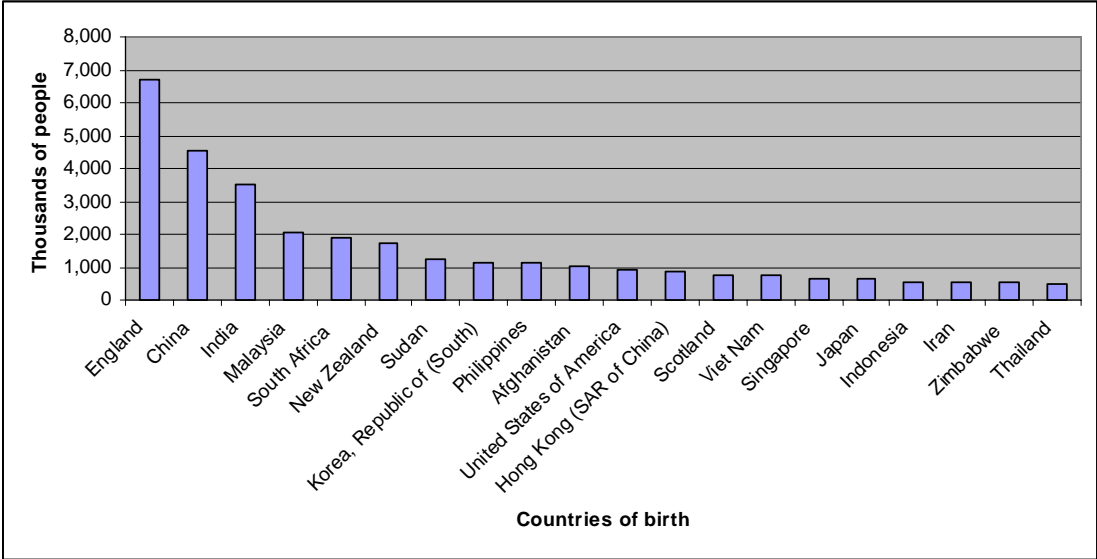
South Australia's population by birthplace



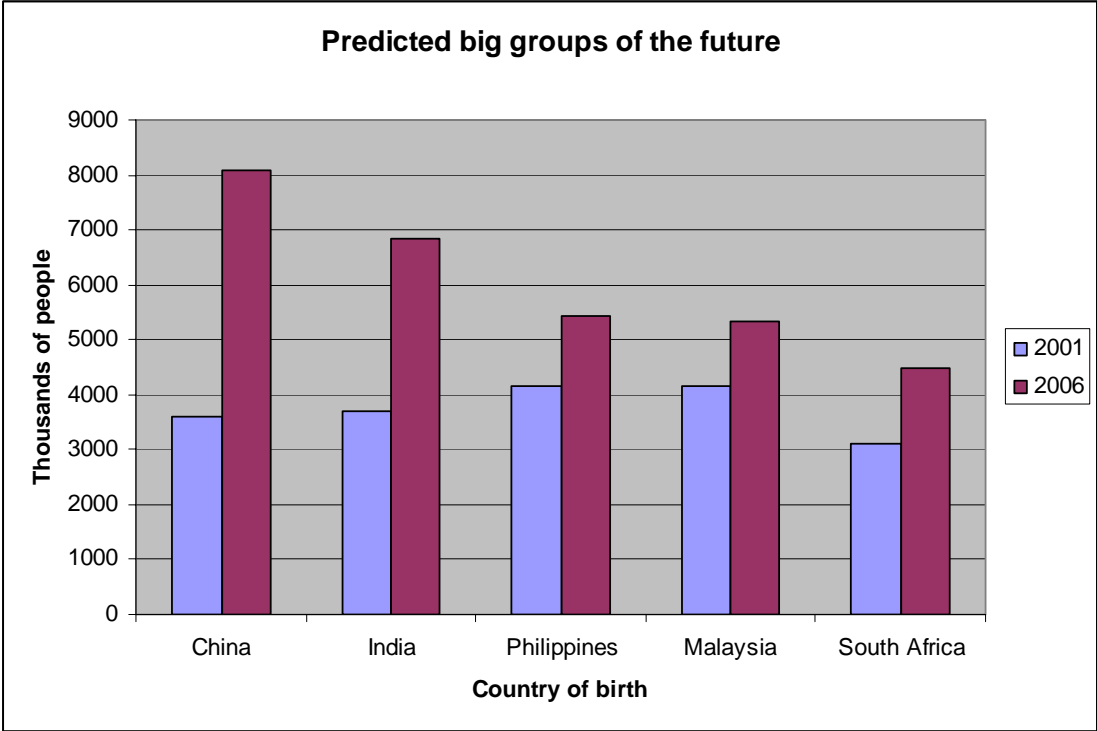
Overseas-born South Australians by major countries of birth (as at 2006)



Top 20 source countries of new migrants (2001-2006)



Predicted big groups of the future



South Australia's African communities

