



# Bangladesh-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

During the British partition of Bengal in 1947 as part of the partition of India, the western part became the West Bengal province of India while the eastern part became East Pakistan, a part of the newly formed nation Pakistan. East Pakistan was governed by West Pakistan, which was situated about 1,500 kilometres to the west, separated by India.

Differences between the two led to an outbreak of Bengali nationalism. After a short war, the independent state of Bangladesh – meaning 'Bengali nation' – was proclaimed on 26 March 1971. The new country became a parliamentary democracy under a 1972 constitution.

The Bangladesh-born are relatively new migrants to Australia. Since 1970, migration from Bangladesh steadily increased with the majority arriving as skilled migrants.

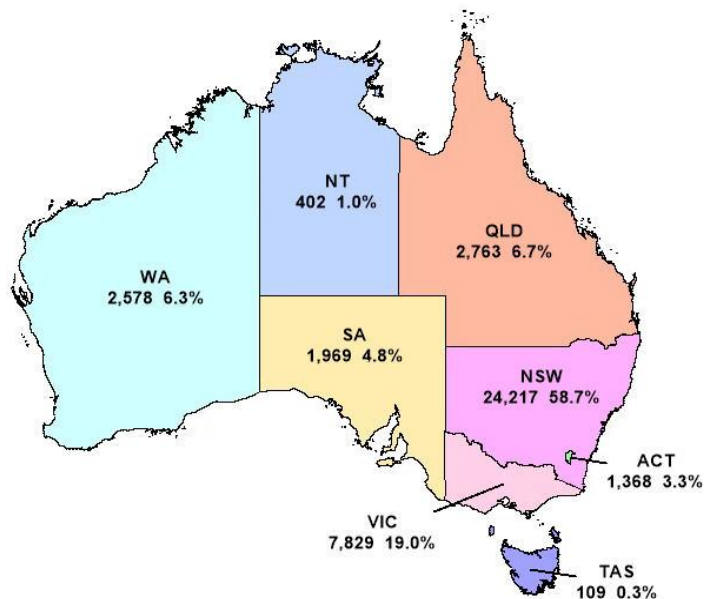
Most Bangladesh-born have settled in the urban areas of New South Wales while smaller numbers settled in other states and territories.

## 2016 Census

### Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 41,237 Bangladesh-born people in Australia, an increase of 48.3 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 24,217 followed by Victoria (7,829), Queensland (2,763) and Western Australia (2,578).

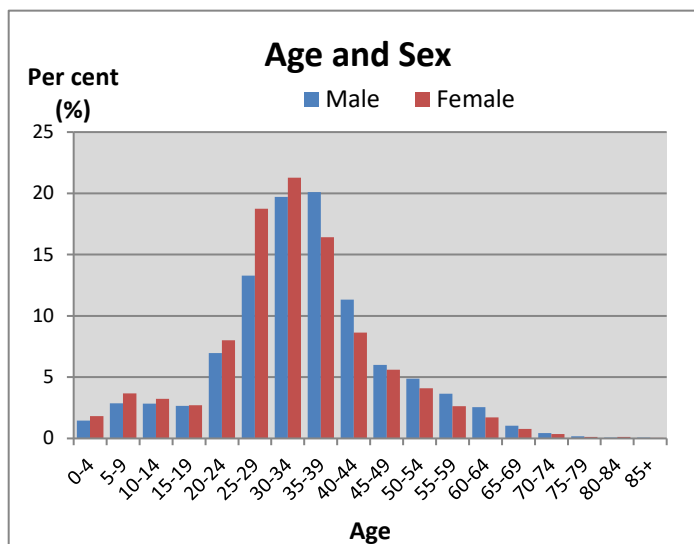


## Age and Sex

The median age of the Bangladesh-born in 2016 was 34 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 7.9 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 10.1 per cent were 15-24 years, 64.7 per cent were 25-44 years, 15.7 per cent were 45-64 years and 1.6 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Bangladesh-born in Australia, there were 22,850 males (55.4 per cent) and 18,383 females (44.6 per cent). The sex ratio was 124 males per 100 females.

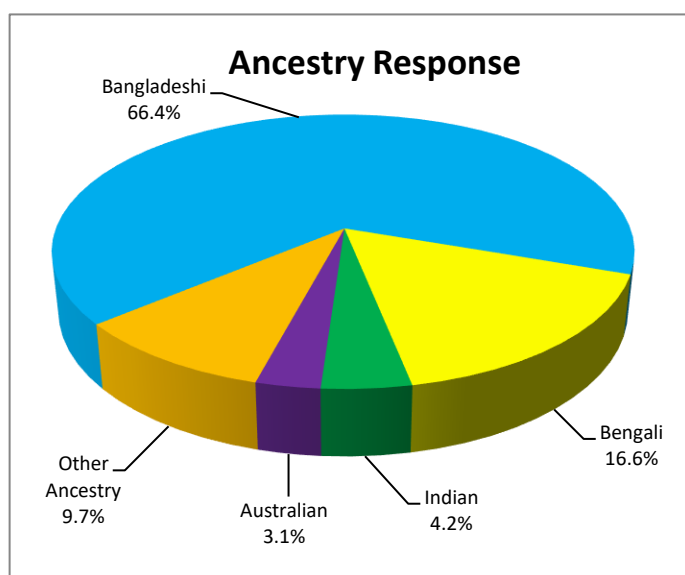


## Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that Bangladesh-born people reported were Bangladeshi (29,132), Bengali (7,265) and Indian (1,860).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\* 39,566 responses were towards Bangladeshi ancestry.

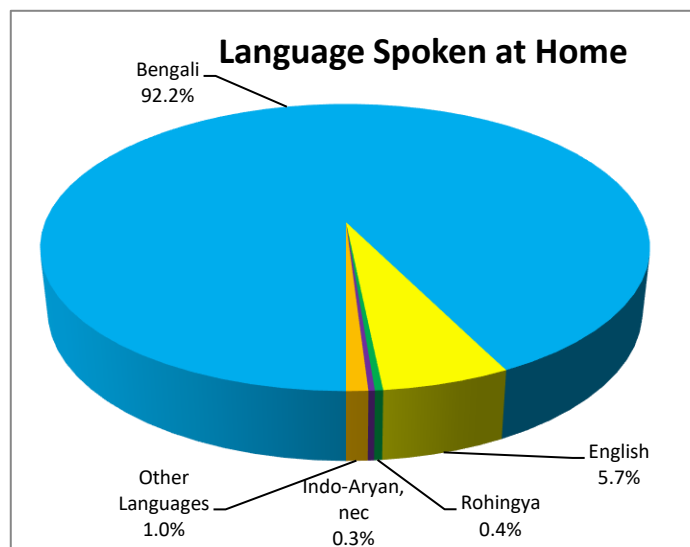
\* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by Bangladesh-born people in Australia were Bengali (38,010), English (2,364) and Rohingya (149).

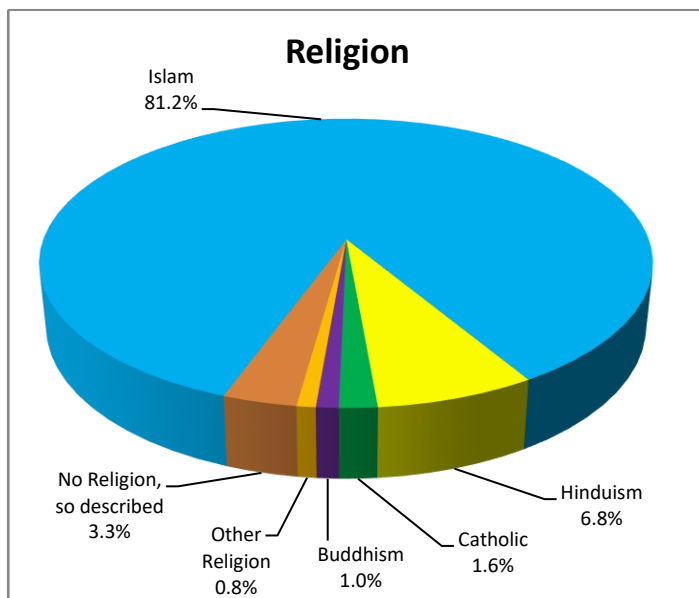
Of the 38,747 Bangladesh-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 92.8 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 6.6 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Bangladesh-born were Islam (33,502), Hinduism (2,824) and Catholic (673).

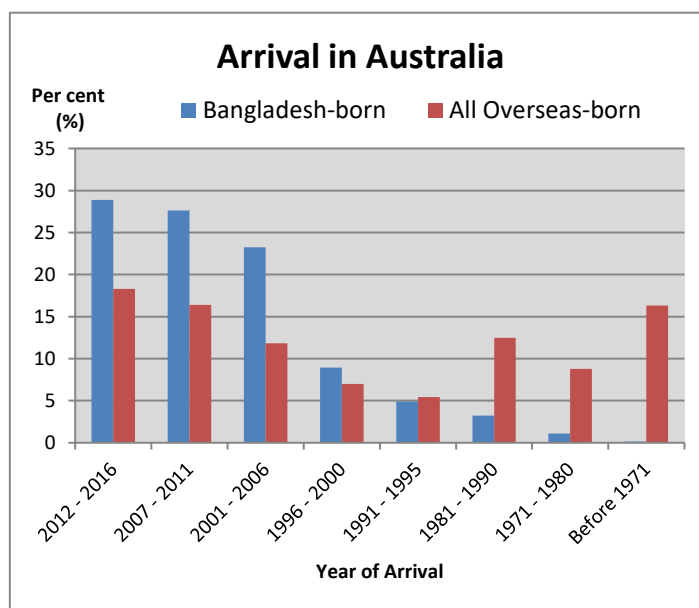
Of the Bangladesh-born, 3.3 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 5.0 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 41.6 per cent of the Bangladesh-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Bangladesh-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 27.6 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 28.9 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



## Median Income

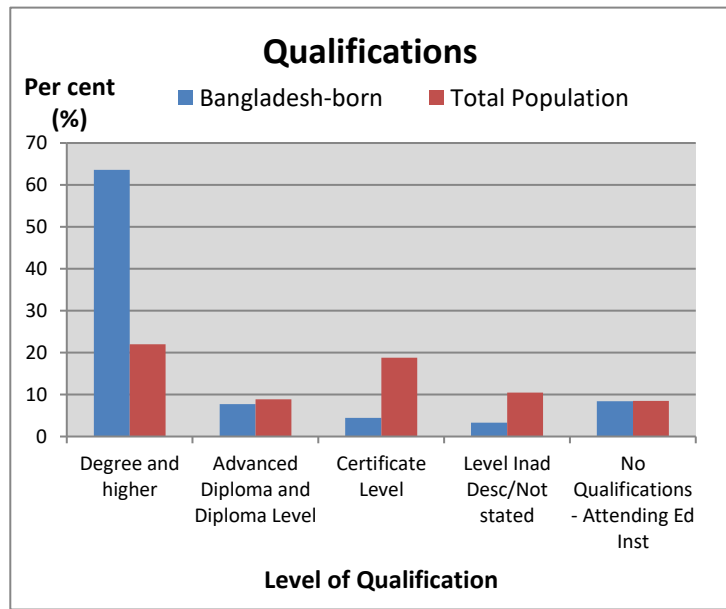
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Bangladesh-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$602, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

The total Australian population aged 15 and over had a median Individual Weekly Income of \$662.

### Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 79.0 per cent of the Bangladesh-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non-school qualification compared to 60.1 per cent of the Australian population.

Of the Bangladesh-born aged 15 years and over, 8.4 per cent had no qualifications and were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.5 per cent.

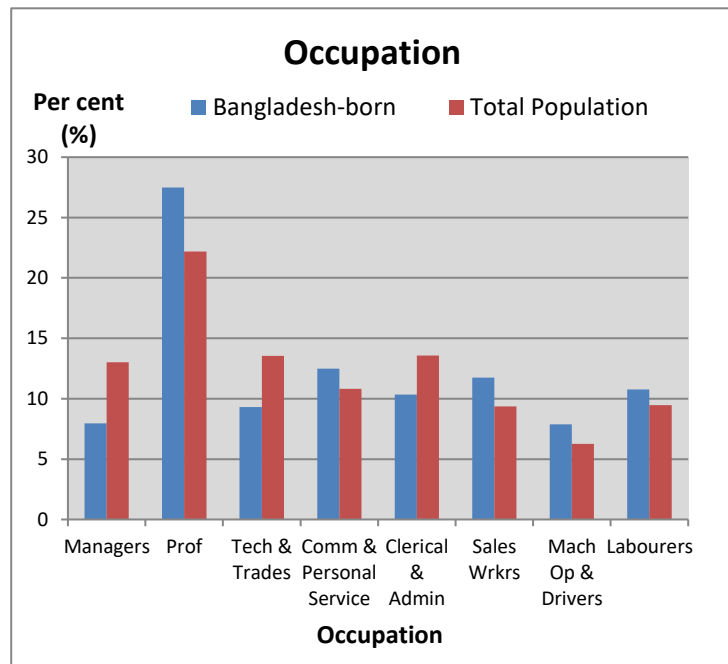


### Employment

Among Bangladesh-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 74.1 per cent and the unemployment rate was 10.9 per cent.

The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 per cent and 6.9 per cent respectively.

Of the 24,934 Bangladesh-born who were employed, 44.7 per cent were employed in either a skilled managerial, professional or trade occupation. The corresponding rate in the total Australian population was 48.8 per cent.



**Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the Department of Home Affairs**

All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing.