



Indonesia-born Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Links between Indonesia and Australia existed before European settlement. From the 1700s, and possibly earlier, to around 1900, seafarers from Macassar traded trepang (edible sea-slugs) with local Indigenous people in northern Australia for the Chinese market.

From the 1870s, Indonesians were recruited to work in the pearling and sugar cane industries in the north of Australia, with many being Javanese. With immigration restrictions in 1901, most sugarcane workers returned to Indonesia while some pearl divers remained. From the 1950s, many Indonesian students became temporary residents under the Colombo Plan.

During World War II, the Dutch East Indies Government-in-exile settled in Australia. It brought with it around 4500 Indonesian refugees, most of whom were repatriated after the Japanese surrender. As restrictions on the entry of non-Europeans eased in the late 1960s, more Indonesians settled in Australia, increasing four-fold during 1986-1996. Those who were new arrivals were students on temporary visas while others came under the family component or skilled migration programs.

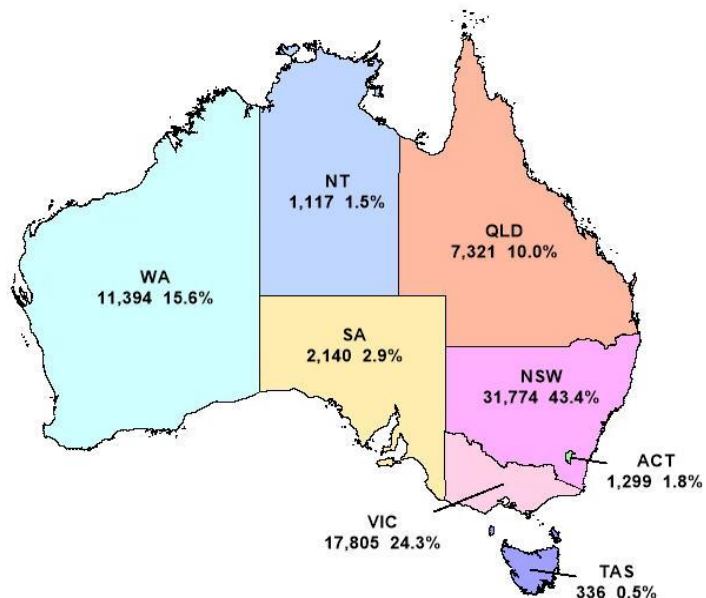
Today, the Indonesian community in Australia is made up of several diverse groups. The more recent arrivals are of mixed ancestries, reflecting the myriad of groups that make up the modern Indonesian nation.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 73,213 Indonesia-born people in Australia, an increase of 15.9 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 31,774 followed by Victoria (17,805), Western Australia (11,394) and Queensland (7,321).

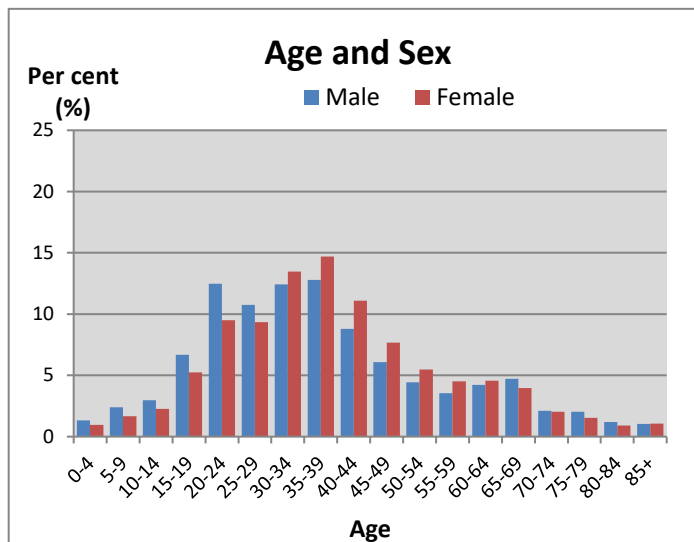


Age and Sex

The median age of the Indonesia-born in 2016 was 36 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 5.7 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 16.6 per cent were 15-24 years, 47.0 per cent were 25-44 years, 20.5 per cent were 45-64 years and 10.2 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Indonesia-born in Australia, there were 31,381 males (42.9 per cent) and 41,836 females (57.1 per cent). The sex ratio was 75 males per 100 females.

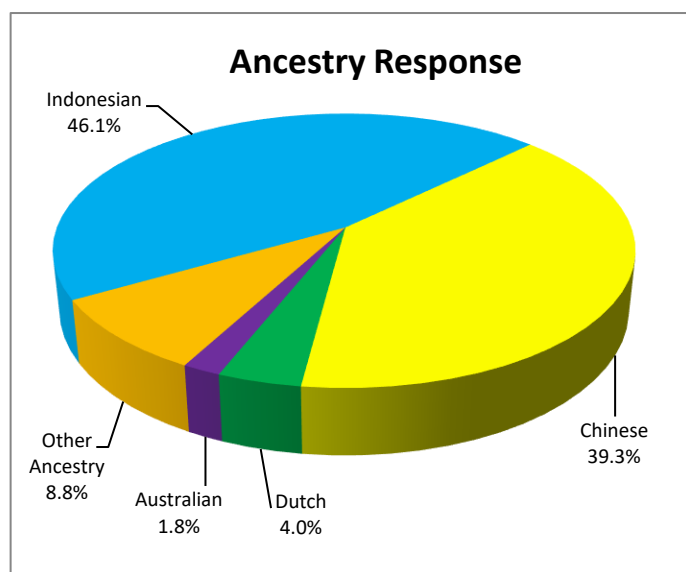


Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Indonesia-born people reported were Indonesian (40,342), Chinese (34,396) and Dutch (3,483).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 65,886 responses were towards Indonesian ancestry.

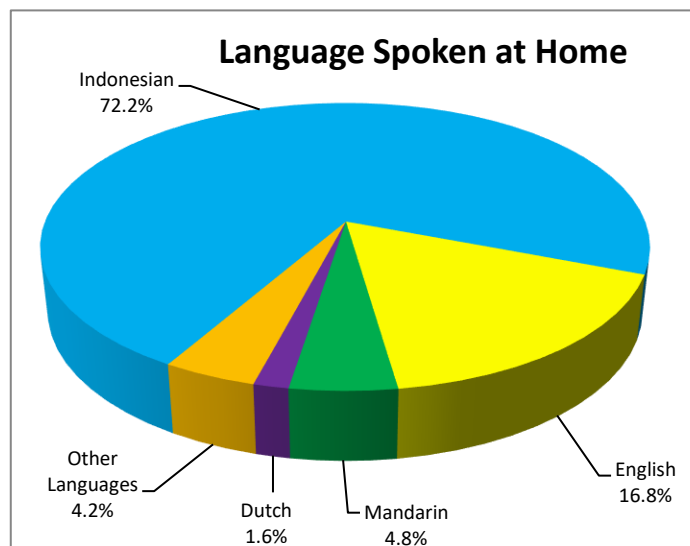
* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Indonesia-born people in Australia were Indonesian (52,833), English (12,327) and Mandarin (3,508).

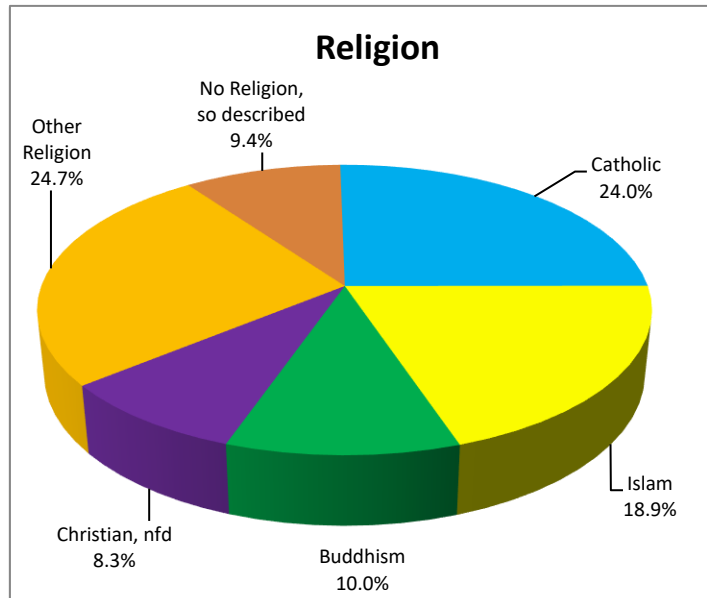
Of the 60,730 Indonesia-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 90.2 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 9.2 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Indonesia-born were Catholic (17,602), Islam (13,845) and Buddhism (7,346).

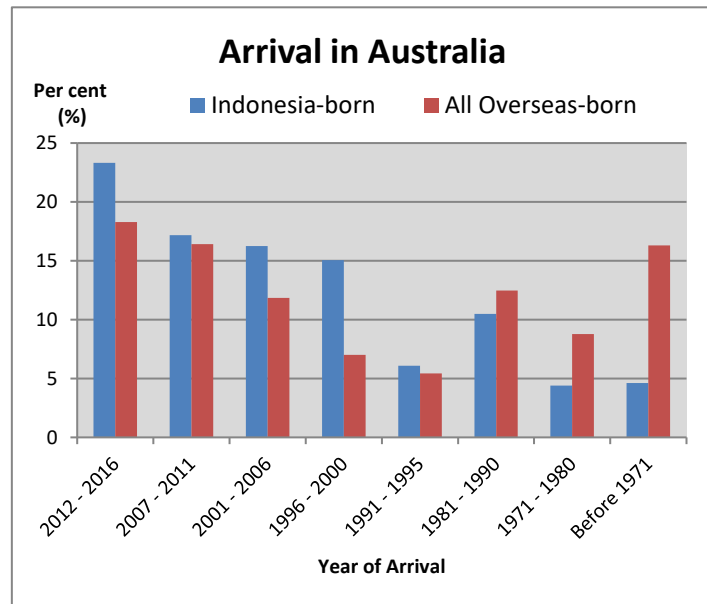
Of the Indonesia-born, 9.4 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 4.5 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 56.9 per cent of the Indonesia-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Indonesia-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 17.2 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 23.3 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



Median Income

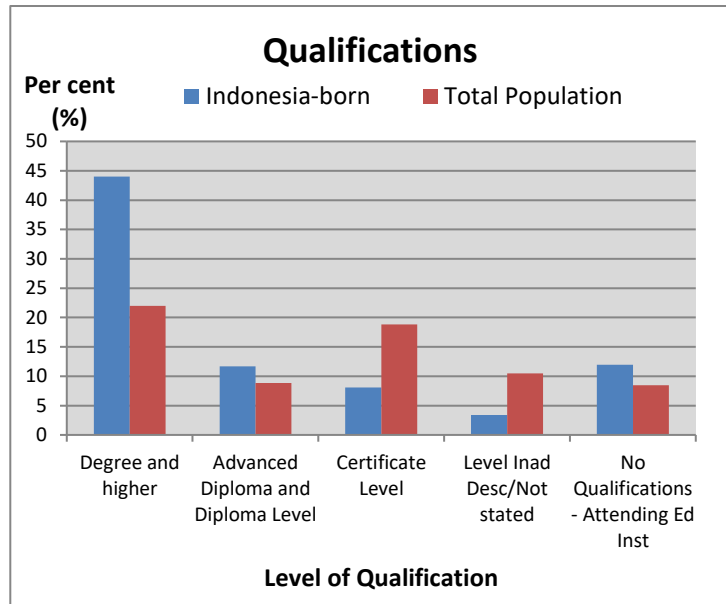
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Indonesia-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$572, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 67.2 per cent of the Indonesia-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 Indonesia-born aged 15 years and over, 12.0 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.

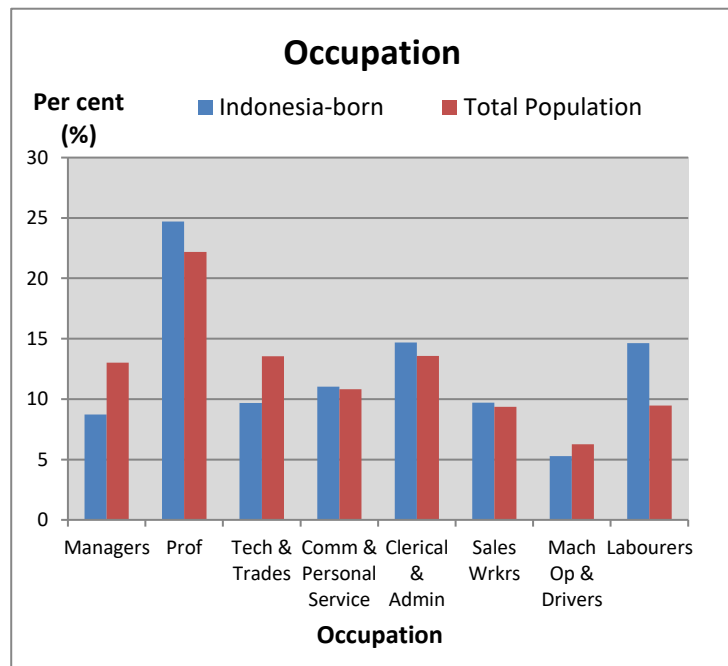


Employment

Among Indonesia-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 66.0 per cent and the unemployment rate was 9.4 per cent.

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

Of the 41,037 Indonesia-born who were employed, 43.1 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.