Nepal-born
Community Information Summary

Historical Background

The Nepal-born are relatively new migrants to Australia and the majority arrived in Australia since 2006. Most arrived as skilled, sponsored or business migrants or as students. Most Nepal-born have settled in the urban areas of New South Wales.

The Nepalese are also one of the fastest growing communities in Australia, with the Nepal-born more than quadrupling in number from 4,567 to 24,635 between 2006 and 2011, and then more than doubling from 24,635 to 54,757 between 2011 and 2016.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 54,754 Nepal-born people in Australia, an increase of 122.3 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 32,117 followed by Victoria (9,390), Queensland (5,074) and South Australia (2,856).
**Age and Sex**

The median age of the Nepal-born in 2016 was 29 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 5.4 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 21.9 per cent were 15-24 years, 67.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 4.7 per cent were 45-64 years and 0.6 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Nepal-born in Australia, there were 30,048 males (54.9 per cent) and 24,715 females (45.1 per cent). The sex ratio was 122 males per 100 females.

**Ancestry**

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Nepal-born people reported were Nepalese (51,433), Bhutanese (1,395) and English (1,147).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 62,806 responses were towards Nepalese 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 Nepal-born people in Australia were Nepali (51,881), English (1,620) and Hindi (348).

Of the 53,033 Nepal-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 94.3 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 5.1 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.
**Religion**

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Nepal-born were Hinduism (44,897), Buddhism (5,106) and Christian, nfd (376).

Of the Nepal-born, 3.2 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 2.0 per cent did not state a religion.

**Arrival**

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 10.8 per cent of the Nepal-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Nepal-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 39.9 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 46.8 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.

**Median Income**

At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Nepal-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was $666, 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, 68.8 per cent of the Nepal-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 Nepal-born aged 15 years and over, 14.8 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 Nepal-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 85.9 per cent and the unemployment rate was 7.8 per cent.

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

Of the 40,705 Nepal-born who were employed, 35.3 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.

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