



# Somalia-born Community Information Summary

## Historical Background

The Somalia-born are a relatively new and small community in Australia. Small numbers of Somali students arrived in Australia during the 1980s.

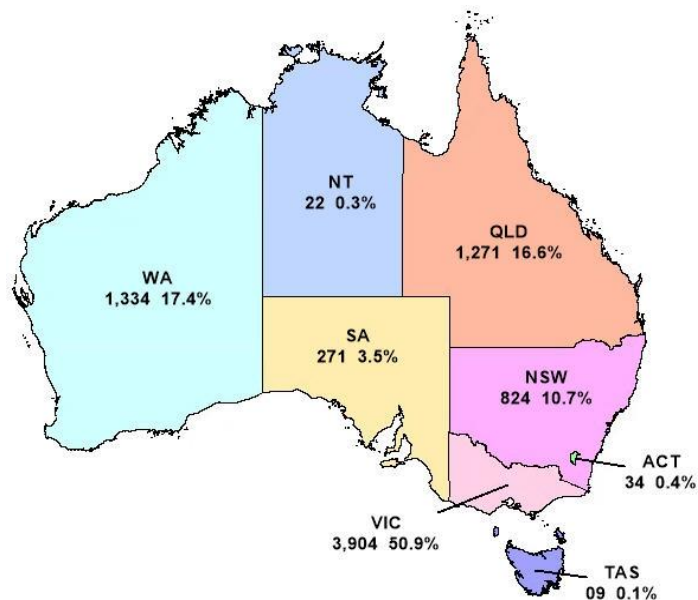
The majority of Somalia-born arrived in Australia from 1992 onwards, mostly as refugees as a result of civil war in Somalia during most of the 1990s. Since 2000, they have also been arriving as family migrants. The 2011 Census recorded 5687 Somalia-born people in Australia, an increase of 31.8 per cent from the 2006 Census.

## 2016 Census

### *Geographic Distribution*

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 7,668 Somalia-born people in Australia, an increase of 34.9 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 3,904 followed by Western Australia (1,334), Queensland (1,271) and New South Wales (824).

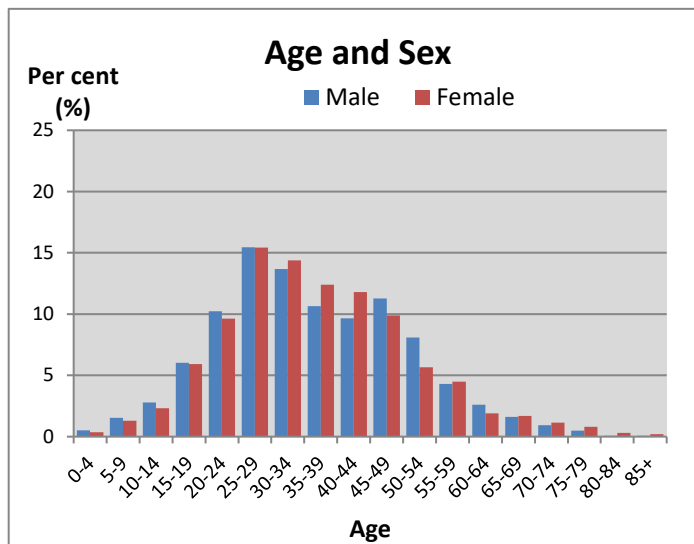


## Age and Sex

The median age of the Somalia-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 4.4 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 15.9 per cent were 15-24 years, 51.8 per cent were 25-44 years, 24.1 per cent were 45-64 years and 3.7 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Somalia-born in Australia, there were 3,612 males (47.1 per cent) and 4,059 females (52.9 per cent). The sex ratio was 89 males per 100 females.

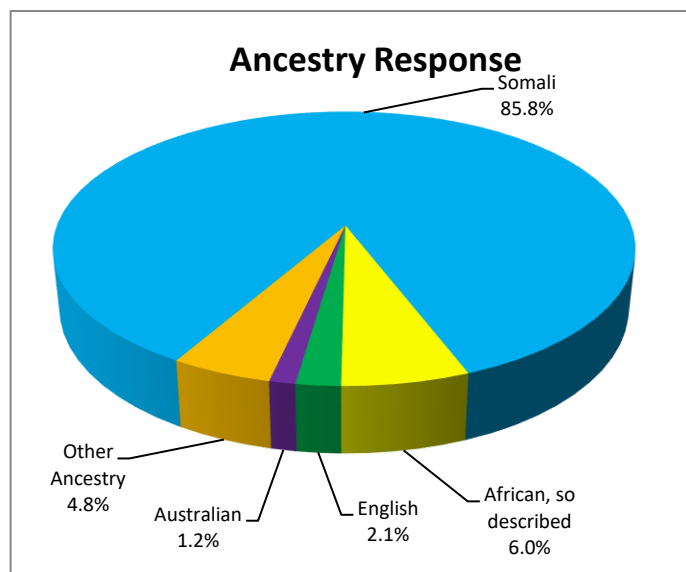


## Ancestry

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that Somalia-born people reported were Somali (6,740), African, so described (474) and English (166).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\* 16,169 responses were towards Somali ancestry.

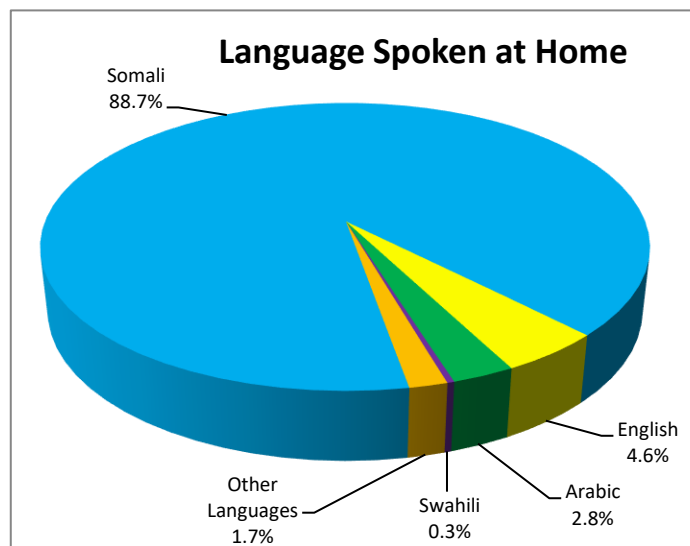
\* At the 2016 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore there can be more responses than total persons.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by Somalia-born people in Australia were Somali (6,799), English (356) and Arabic (214).

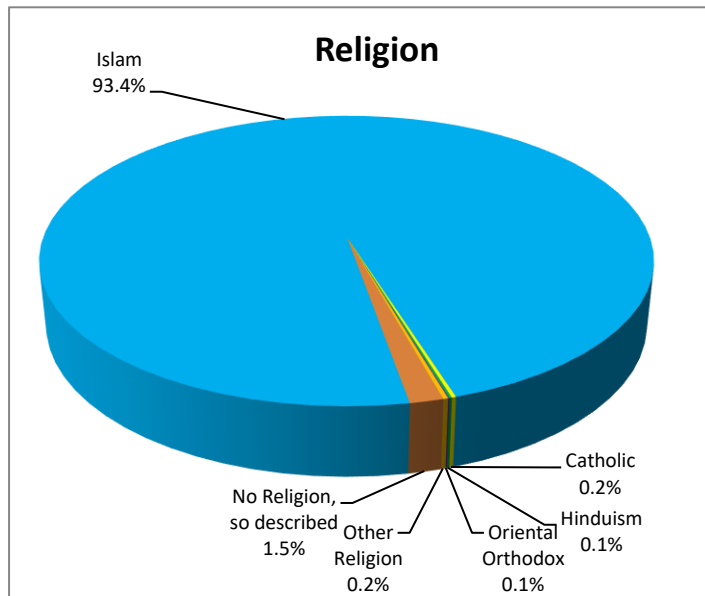
Of the 7,216 Somalia-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 78.2 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 20.3 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Somalia-born were Islam (7,162), Catholic (14) and Hinduism (9).

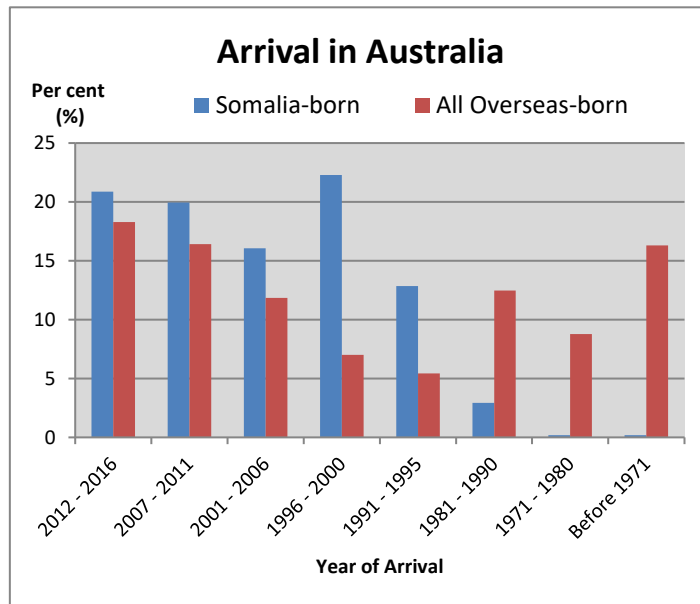
Of the Somalia-born, 1.5 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 4.3 per cent did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 54.5 per cent of the Somalia-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Somalia-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 19.9 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 20.9 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.



## Median Income

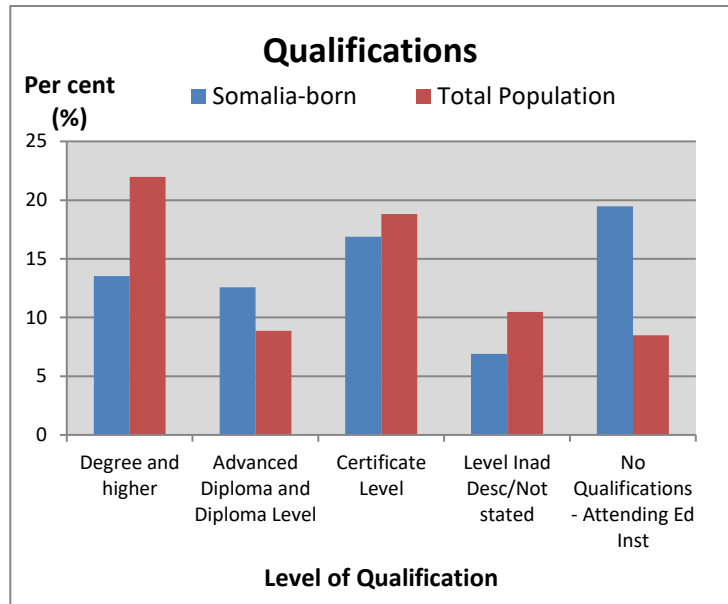
At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Somalia-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$378, compared with \$615 for all overseas-born and \$688 for all Australian-born.

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

## Qualifications

At the 2016 Census, 49.9 per cent of the Somalia-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 Somalia-born aged 15 years and over, 19.5 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.

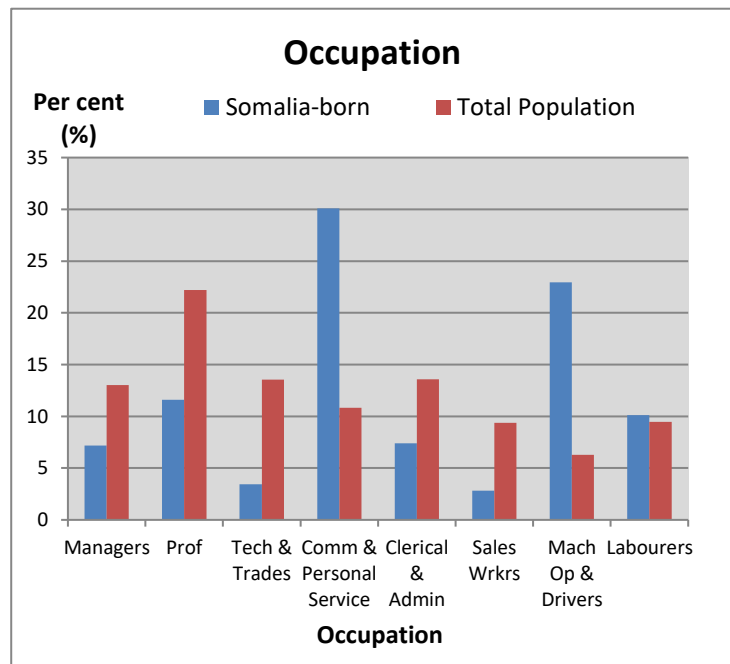


## Employment

Among Somalia-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 56.5 per cent and the unemployment rate was 25.7 per cent.

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

Of the 2,998 Somalia-born who were employed, 22.2 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.