South Sudan-born
Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Drought, famine and war resulted in large numbers of Sudan-born and South Sudan-born refugees leaving for neighbouring countries, and many were resettled in Australia. Arrivals to Australia peaked between 2002 and 2007.

The Republic of South Sudan became independent from the Republic of Sudan on 9 July 2011.

The South Sudan-born were previously included in the Census count of the Sudan-born and were first counted separately in the 2011 Census, which recorded 3487 South Sudan-born people in Australia. However, at the time, it was likely that many still identified as being Sudan-born and as Sudanese and this may still be the case in the 2016 Census.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 7,699 South Sudan-born people in Australia, an increase of 120.9 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 2,750 followed by Queensland (1,430), Western Australia (1,201) and New South Wales (977).
**Age and Sex**

The median age of the South Sudan-born in 2016 was 33 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 6.0 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 19.6 per cent were 15-24 years, 55.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 17.5 per cent were 45-64 years and 1.4 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the South Sudan-born in Australia, there were 4,091 males (53.1 per cent) and 3,603 females (46.8 per cent). The sex ratio was 114 males per 100 females.

**Ancestry**

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that South Sudan-born people reported were South Sudanese (4,156), Sudanese (1,396) and African, so described (1,067).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 10,755 responses were towards South Sudanese 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 South Sudan-born people in Australia were Dinka (3,901), Arabic (1,565) and Nuer (565).

Of the 7,333 South Sudan-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 84.4 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 14.0 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.
**Religion**

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst South Sudan-born were Catholic (2,997), Anglican (2,471) and Christian, nfd (455).

Of the South Sudan-born, 2.3 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 3.0 per cent did not state a religion.

**Arrival**

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 70.6 per cent of the South Sudan-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total South Sudan-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 18.0 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 9.1 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.

**Median Income**

At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the South Sudan-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was $459, 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, 56.2 per cent of the South Sudan-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 South Sudan-born aged 15 years and over, 21.2 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.

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**Employment**

Among South Sudan-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 61.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 26.4 per cent.

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

Of the 3,193 South Sudan-born who were employed, 16.5 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.

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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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