Sudan-born
Community Information Summary

Historical Background

Before 2001, the Sudan-born arriving in Australia were mainly skilled migrants. By 2001, when the Census recorded 4910 Sudan-born in Australia, more than 98 per cent had arrived under the Humanitarian Program.

Drought, famine and war resulted in large numbers of Sudan-born refugees surviving by quickly getting to neighbouring countries, whereby many were resettled in Australia. Arrivals to Australia peaked between 2002 and 2007.

On 9 July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan became independent from the Republic of Sudan.

Even in the 2016 Census many South Sudanese may continue to identify as Sudanese and Sudan-born.

2016 Census

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2016 recorded 17,031 Sudan-born people in Australia, a decrease of 12.1 per cent from the 2011 Census.

The 2016 distribution by State and Territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 5,665 followed by New South Wales (5,093), Queensland (2,370) and Western Australia (2,196).
**Age and Sex**

The median age of the Sudan-born in 2016 was 31 years compared with 44 years for all overseas-born and 38 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 7.4 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 25.2 per cent were 15-24 years, 43.9 per cent were 25-44 years, 18.8 per cent were 45-64 years and 4.8 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Sudan-born in Australia, there were 8,593 males (50.5 per cent) and 8,439 females (49.6 per cent). The sex ratio was 102 males per 100 females.

**Ancestry**

In the 2016 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Sudan-born people reported were Sudanese (8,105), African, so described (1,604) and Egyptian (1,291).

In the 2016 Census, Australians reported over 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses* 18,012 responses were towards 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 Sudan-born people in Australia were Arabic (9,936), Dinka (2,793) and English (1,260).

Of the 15,506 Sudan-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 83.6 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 15.2 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.
Religion

At the 2016 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Sudan-born were Catholic (4,489), Islam (4,066) and Oriental Orthodox (2,410).

Of the Sudan-born, 2.7 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (29.6 per cent), and 4.4 per cent did not state a religion.

Arrival

Compared to 61.8 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 72.8 per cent of the Sudan-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2007.

Among the total Sudan-born in Australia at the 2016 Census, 13.2 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011 and 10.3 per cent arrived between 2012 and 2016.

Median Income

At the time of the 2016 Census, the median Individual Weekly Income for the Sudan-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was $377, 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, 51.5 per cent of the 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 Sudan-born aged 15 years and over, 21.3 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 Sudan-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 56.8 per cent and the unemployment rate was 26.8 per cent.

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

Of the 6,422 Sudan-born who were employed, 27.0 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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