



Western Australian Community Profiles 2006 Census

India-born

Population

There is a long history of migration from the Indian sub-continent to Western Australia (WA). Substantial migration from India to WA began with India's independence in 1947 and peaked under the Colombo Plan in the 1960s. The second significant period of Indian migration to WA was in the 1990s and 2000s with the increased arrival of Indian international students and professionals. In 2006, there were 15,155 India-born people in Western Australia, 15.7% more than in 2001. In 2006, India-born people represented approximately 0.8% of the total WA population.*

India-born Western Australians were older compared with the total WA population. In 2006, more than one-third (36.5%) were aged 45–64 and 21.8% aged 65 or over, compared with 25.2% and 12%, respectively, for the total WA population. The younger cohorts of India-born people were small; particularly those aged 0–15 years (4.9%) and 15–24 years (7.4%), and smaller compared with the total WA population (20% and 14.2%, respectively).

Women outnumbered men in all age cohorts. The sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) for the India-born population was estimated at 98, comparable to the total WA population (99.5).

Family pattern

More than one-third (36.9%) of India-born Western Australians lived in couple families with children, fewer than in 2001 (46.1%), but comparable to the total WA population (38.5%). A higher proportion of India-born people lived in couple families without children (27.3% compared with 19.4%) and a slightly smaller proportion in one-parent families (5.9% compared with 10%), than for the total WA population.

Geographical distribution

Between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of India-born Western Australians living in the Perth Statistical Division (SD) increased slightly (from 89.4% to 92.4%). Local Government Areas (LGAs) recording relatively higher concentrations of India-born people were Stirling (11.7%), Canning (9.8%) and Gosnells (9.4%), Swan (7.6%), Bayswater (7%) and Melville (6.9%). Settlement outside the Perth SD was mainly in the South West SD (2.7%) and Pilbara SD (1.5%).

Religious affiliation

In 2006, two-thirds (66.8%) of India-born Western Australians identified Christianity as their religion, less than in 2001 (77%), but still high compared with the total WA population (59%). The proportion of people identifying Hinduism as their religion almost doubled



between 2001 and 2006 (from 10.9% to 20.8%), and remained significantly larger compared with the total WA population (0.4%). A small proportion (3.1%) identified having no religion, contrasting with the total WA population (23%). The proportion of India-born people identifying Islam as their religion remained consistent (1.7% compared with 1.5%) from 2001 to 2006, comparable to the total WA population (1.2%).

Languages

Just over two-thirds of India-born Western Australians (68.6%) spoke only English at home, less than in 2001 (79.6%). The main languages spoken at home were Hindi, Tamil, Punjabi and Bengali. Almost one-third (29.3%) who spoke a language other than English at home reported speaking English very well or well, more than in 2001 (19.1%). There was also a slight increase in the proportion of India-born people reporting that they spoke English not well or not at all (0.8% and 1.4%, respectively).

Educational attainment

In 2006, one-third (33%) of India-born Western Australians were qualified at degree level, more than in 2001 (23.8%) and higher than the proportion of the total WA population (14.3%). The proportion of India-born people qualified at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level remained at 20.7%, slightly less than for the total WA population (24.7%). More India-born men (26.1%) than women (15.5%) were qualified at this level. A very small proportion of India-born people (0.4%) did not attend school, comparable to the total WA population (0.6%).

Employment trends

The proportion of India-born Western Australians in employment increased between 2001 and 2006 (54.3% to 58.4%), comparable to the total WA population (59.1%). The proportion of unemployed India-born people decreased during the same period (3.8% to 2.3%), to equal that of the total WA population. The proportion of India-born people not in the labour force also fell (from 40% to 37.1%), but remained higher than for the total WA population (30.3%).

Although the proportion of India-born men and women who were unemployed was the same, more men were employed than women (68.7% compared with 48.3%), while more women were not in the labour force than men (46.7% compared with 27.3%).

India-born men were employed mainly as professionals and managers (43.2%), technicians and trade workers (14%), and clerical and administrative workers (10.8%). India-born women were mainly employed as professionals and managers (33.7%), and clerical and administrative Workers (31.8%).

Income

From 2001 to 2006, the proportion of India-born Western Australians earning more than \$1000 per week increased significantly (from 12.1% to 22%), to be comparable to the total WA population (20%). India-born men were more likely than women (33% compared with 11.2%) to be in this income category, comparable to the total WA population (29.9% compared with 10.4%). The proportion of India-born people earning no weekly income or less than \$250 increased between 2001 and 2006 (6.7% to 8.7% and 20.2% to 25%, respectively). India-born women were more likely than men to earn no weekly income (12.3% compared with 5.1%) or less than \$250 (25% compared with 15.3%).

Summary table

Variables	India-born 2006			India-born 2001	Total Western Australian population 2006		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
AGE GROUP /GENDER							
0–14	5.0	4.9	4.9	3.8	20.6	19.5	20.0
15–24	8.6	6.2	7.4	6.0	14.6	13.8	14.2
25–44	30.1	28.9	29.5	29.0	28.4	28.5	28.5
45–64	37.1	35.8	36.5	39.4	25.4	25.1	25.2
65+	19.2	24.3	21.8	9.3	11.0	13.1	12.0
All (Number)	7494	7661	15155	13085	990,642	995,607	1,986,249
Sex-ratio			98	94.2			99.5
FAMILY TYPE							
Couple family without children	27.9	26.6	27.3	46.1	19.2	19.6	19.4
Couple family with children	37.3	36.5	36.9	26.1	38.7	38.3	38.5
One-parent family	3.2	8.5	5.9	7.1	7.9	12.1	10.0
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY							
Speaks English only	65.9	71.2	68.6	79.6	80.6	81.3	80.9
Speaks other language and English; very well or well	32.4	26.2	29.3	19.1	9.6	9.9	9.8
Speaks other language and English; not well or not at all	0.9	1.9	1.4	0.8	1.5	2.0	1.7
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
Degree level	35.0	31.0	33.0	23.8	13.4	15.1	14.3
Advanced diploma/diploma/ certificate	26.1	15.5	20.7	20.8	30.3	19.2	24.7
Completed Year 12 schooling	71.6	66.9	69.2	63.2	40.8	42.9	41.8
Did not attend school	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.6
LABOUR FORCE (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
Employed	68.7	48.3	58.4	54.3	65.5	52.7	59.1
Unemployed	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.8	2.4	2.2	2.3
Not in LF	27.3	46.7	37.1	40.0	23.2	37.4	30.3
WEEKLY INCOME (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
None	5.1	12.3	8.7	6.7	4.6	8.1	6.4
<\$250	15.3	25.0	20.2	34.7	13.8	24.4	19.2
<\$1000	43.2	46.6	44.9	42.1	39.7	46.7	43.2
\$1000 and more	33.0	11.2	22.0	12.1	29.9	10.4	20.0

Note: Totals do not add up to 100% because of the use of selected indicators.

* The 2006 Census recorded a total WA population of 1,959,095 people.

** For 2001, the cut-off point was \$299.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

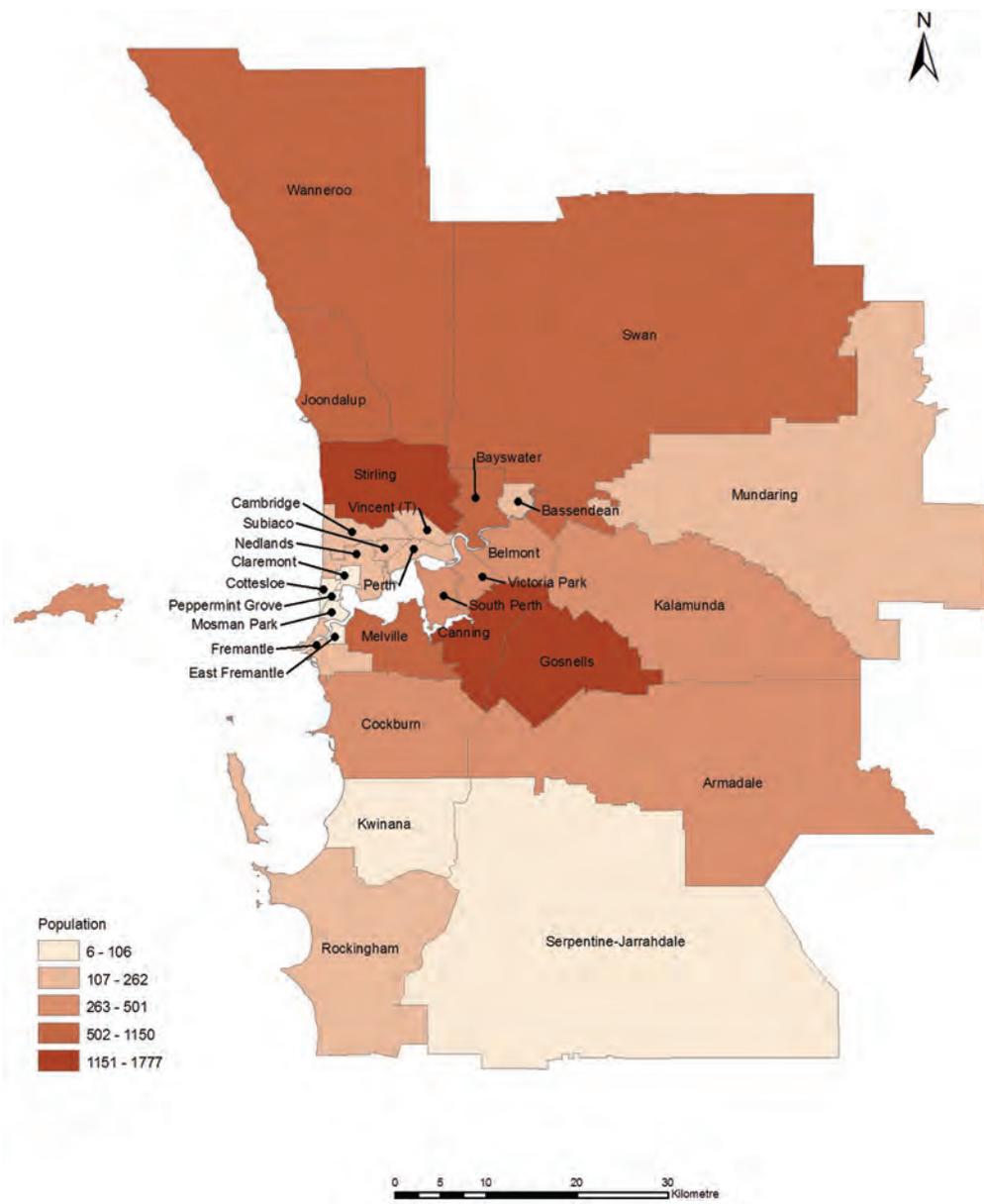


Figure 1: Distribution of India-born people by settlement pattern in the LGAs of the Perth Metropolitan Area (Data Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing)