



# Western Australian Community Profiles 2006 Census

## Somalia-born

### Population

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**The Somalia-born are a new and emerging community in Western Australia (WA). Small numbers of Somalia-born people settled here in the early 1990s, however, migration from Somalia has increased since the late 1990s. Most Somalia-born people have arrived under the Humanitarian Program. In 2006, there were 624 Somalia-born Western Australians, 33% more than in 2001. In 2006, Somalia-born Western Australians people less than 0.1% of the total WA population.\***

Somalia-born Western Australians are younger compared with the total WA population. The majority of Somalia-born people were aged 25–44 (41.5%) and 15–24 (29.5%), significantly higher proportions compared with the total WA population (28.5% and 13.2%, respectively). The cohort of Somalia-born people aged below 15 had decreased since 2001 (from 28.3% to 15.7%), and was slightly lower than for the total WA population (20%). For the same period there were slight increases in the cohorts of people aged 45–64 (from 8.8% to 11.5%) and 65 or older (from 0.6% to 1.8%), but these were significantly lower than for the total WA population (25.2% and 12%, respectively).

Women outnumbered men in all age cohorts except those aged 45–64 and 65 or older. The estimated sex-ratio (number of males per 100 females) of 85 was lower than for the total WA population (99.5).

### Family pattern

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More than half (52%) of Somalia-born Western Australians lived in couple families with children, significantly higher than for the total WA population (38.5%). The proportion of one-parent families was also higher (28.6%) than for the total WA population (10%). Somalia-born women were more likely than men (34.3% compared with 22%) to be living in one-parent families, similar to the total WA population (12.1% and 7.9%, respectively). In contrast, the proportion of Somalia-born people living as couple families without children was significantly lower than for the total WA population (4.3% compared with 19.4%).

### Geographic distribution

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The majority of Somalia-born Western Australians (98%) lived in the Perth Statistical Division. Local Government Areas (LGAs) recording relatively higher concentrations of Somalia-born people were Stirling (24.1%), Gosnells (20%) and Canning (11%), South Perth (8.3%), Wanneroo (7.7%) and Belmont (6.2%).

### Religious affiliation

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In 2006, the majority (95%) of Somalia-born Western Australians identified Islam as their religion, significantly higher than for the total WA population (1.2%). No Somalia-born people identified as having 'no religion' in contrast with nearly a quarter of the total WA population (22.6%).



## Languages

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The majority (93%) of Somalia-born Western Australians spoke a language other than English at home; the most common were Somali and Arabic. Of these, more than three-quarters (77.3%) reported speaking English very well or well. Somalia-born women were less likely than men (72.2% compared with 83.3%) to report speaking English very well or well. A very small proportion of Somalia-born people (4%) spoke only English at home.

## Education

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The proportions of Somalia-born Western Australians qualified at bachelor degree or higher, or advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level, were half those for the total population (7% compared with 14.3%, and 11.8% compared with 24.7%, respectively). Somalia-born men were almost 10 times more likely than Somalia-born women (13.4% compared with 1.4%) to have a bachelor degree or higher qualification and almost twice as likely as women (15.4% compared with 8.6%) to have obtained an advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level qualification. The proportion of Somalia-born people who did not attend school was significantly larger than for the total WA population (11.2% compared with 0.6%).

## Employment

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The majority (53%) of Somalia-born Western Australians were not in the labour force, significantly higher than for the total WA population (30.3%). Somalia-born women were more than twice as likely as men (67.5% compared with 37%) to be in this category. Gender differences, on a smaller scale, were also present in the total WA population (37.4% and 23.2%, respectively). The proportion of Somalia-born people who were employed almost doubled from 2001 to 2006 (15.9% to 28.9%), but was half that of the total WA population (59.1%). Somalia-

born women were less likely than men to be employed (13.6% compared with 46.3%). While the proportion of unemployed Somalia-born people decreased (from 18.2% to 10.6%), it remained significantly higher than for the total WA population (2.3%).

Somalia-born men were mainly employed as machinery operators and drivers (40%), labourers (19.3%), professionals and managers (11.4%), and community and personal workers (10.5%). Somalia-born women were mainly employed as labourers (45%), community and personal workers (15.8%), and professionals and managers (13.2%).

## Income

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Between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of Somalia-born Western Australians earning between \$250 and \$999 per week increased (from 20.3% to 31%), but remained lower than for the total WA population (43.2%). The proportion of Somalia-born people earning \$1000 or more per week was around one-fifth of the rate for the total WA population (4.4% compared with 20%).

More than one-third (37.6%) of Somalia-born people earned less than \$250 per week and 10% earned no income. These proportions were significantly higher than for the total WA population (19.2% and 6.4%, respectively).

Somalia-born women were more likely than Somalia-born men to earn no weekly income (12.1% compared with 6.9%) or less than \$250 (40.4% compared with 24.6%). Women were less likely than men to earn between \$250 and \$999 (28.2% compared with 34.1%) or \$1000 or more (1.4% compared with 7.7%) per week.

## Summary table

Variables	Somalia-born 2006			Somalia-born 2001	Total Western Australian population 2006		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
<b>AGE GROUP / GENDER</b>							
0–14	14.3	16.9	15.7	28.3	20.6	19.5	20.0
15–24	32.4	27.0	29.5	23.8	14.6	13.8	14.2
25–44	38.3	44.2	41.5	38.5	28.4	28.5	28.5
45–64	12.5	10.7	11.5	8.8	25.4	25.1	25.2
65+	2.4	1.2	1.8	0.6	11.0	13.1	12.0
All (#)	287	337	624	470	990,642	995,607	1,986,249
Sex-ratio			85				99.5
<b>FAMILY TYPE</b>							
Couple family without children	2.4	5.9	4.3	2.3	19.2	19.6	19.4
Couple family with children	55.4	49.1	52.0	52.6	38.7	38.3	38.5
One-parent family	22.0	34.3	28.6	28.4	7.9	12.1	10.0
<b>LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY</b>							
Speaks English only	3.5	4.4	4.0	4.0	80.6	81.3	80.9
Speaks other language and English; very well or well	83.3	72.2	77.3	69.1	9.6	9.9	9.8
Speaks other language and English; not well or not at all	8.4	21.9	15.7	21.0	1.5	2.0	1.7
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
Degree level	13.4	1.4	7.0	8.3	13.4	15.1	14.3
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	15.4	8.6	11.8	8.8	30.3	19.2	24.7
Completed Year 12 schooling	54.9	41.8	47.9	38.7	40.8	42.9	41.8
Did not attend school	5.7	16.1	11.2	8.2	0.5	0.7	0.6
<b>LABOUR FORCE (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
Employed	46.3	13.6	28.9	15.9	65.5	52.7	59.1
Unemployed	11.4	10.0	10.6	18.2	2.4	2.2	2.3
Not in LF	37.0	67.5	53.2	65.0	23.2	37.4	30.3
<b>WEEKLY INCOME (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
None	6.9	12.1	9.7	4.5	4.6	8.1	6.4
<\$250	34.6	40.4	37.6	57.9	13.8	24.4	19.2
<\$1000	34.1	28.2	31.0	20.3	39.7	46.7	43.2
\$1000 and more	7.7	1.4	4.4	2.1	29.9	10.4	20.0

Note: Totals do not always 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.

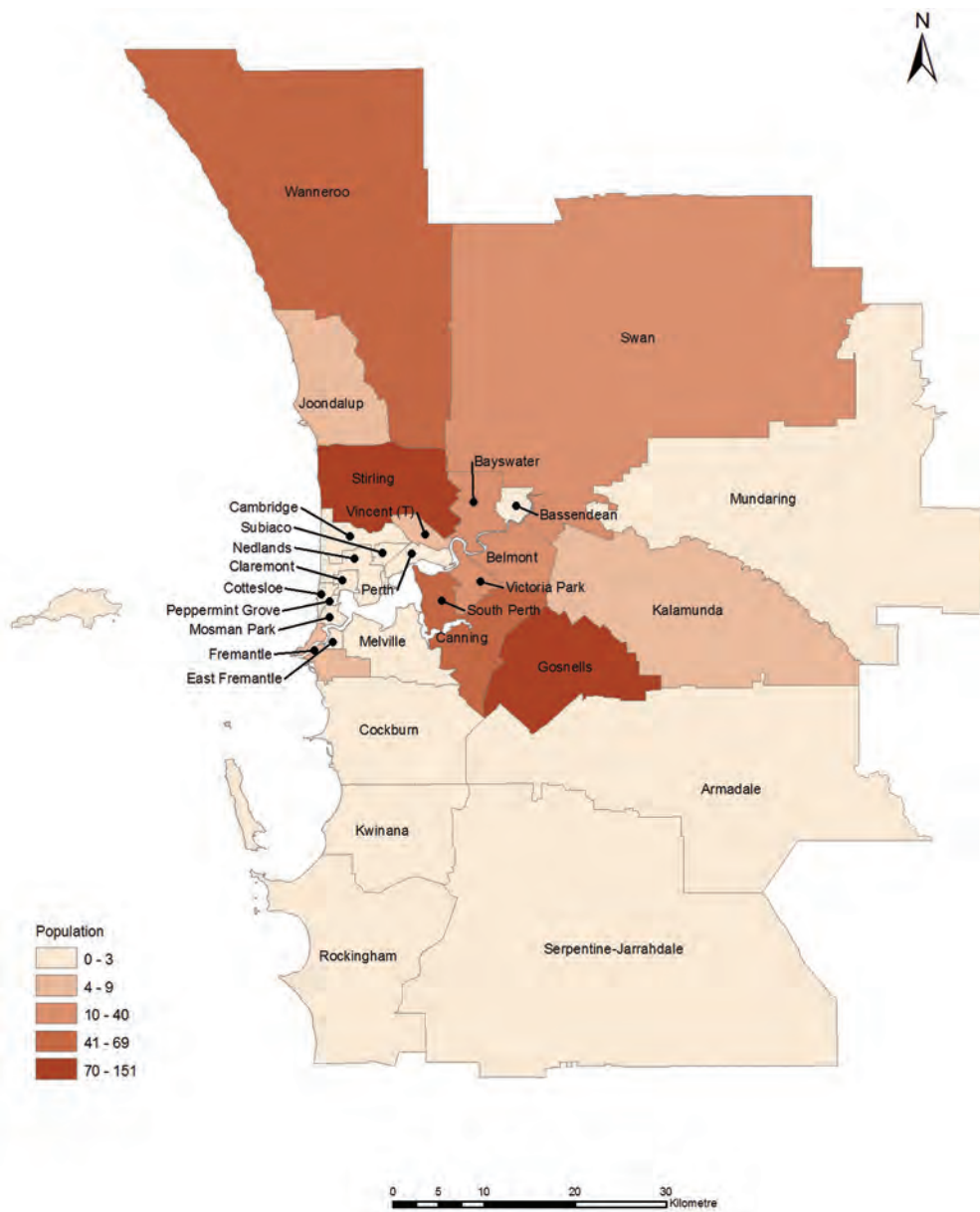


Figure 1: Distribution of Somalia-born people by settlement pattern in the LGAs of the Perth Metropolitan Area (Data Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing).