



# Western Australian Community Profiles 2006 Census

## Afghanistan-born

### Population

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**In 2006, there were 1467 Afghanistan-born Western Australians, 11% less than in 2001. This contrasts with the growth of this group between 1996 and 2001, from 477 to 1648 persons. In 2006, Afghanistan-born people represented less than 0.1% of the total WA population.\***

Afghanistan-born Western Australians were younger compared with the total WA population. In 2006, almost one-quarter (24.6%) were aged 15–24 compared with 14.2% for the total WA population. This is also reflected in figures for the older population cohorts. A small number (3%) of Afghanistan-born people were aged over 65, four times smaller than the total WA cohort (12%).

Between 2001 and 2006, increases in the proportion of Afghanistan-born people aged under 15 (13.5% to 17.5%), 35–54 (20% to 30%), and 45–64 (9% to 14.9%) were recorded. There was a decrease in the cohort of people aged 15–24 (10%) for the same period.

Men outnumbered women in all age-cohorts except those aged 60 and over. The sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) was estimated at 117. This was a large decrease from 2001 (258) but high compared with the total WA population (99.5).

### Family pattern


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Almost two-thirds (65%) of Afghanistan-born Western Australians lived in couple families with children, more than in 2001 (40%). Only 5% of Afghanistan-born people lived in couple families without children. One-parent families grew between 2001 and 2006 (5% to 13%). There was a notable contrast between the Afghanistan-born and the total WA population in which 38.5% of people lived in couple families with children, 19.4% lived in couple families without children and 10% in one-parent families.

### Geographical distribution

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Between 2001 and 2006, the settlement pattern for Afghanistan-born Western Australians changed. In 2001, 57.8% lived within the Perth Statistical Division (SD) with significant settlement of Afghanistan-born people also in the Kimberley SD (24.1%) and Pilbara SD (10.9%). By 2006, the proportion living within the Perth SD had increased to 90%, with only 0.2% living in the Pilbara SD and no settlement recorded for the Kimberley SD. There was minor regional settlement in the Lower Great Southern (6.8%), South West SD (2.2%), South Eastern SD (0.5%) and Central SD (0.2%).



Within the Perth SD, Local Government Areas (LGAs) with relatively higher concentrations of Afghanistan-born people were Gosnells (15%), Stirling (14%), Wanneroo (13%), Joondalup (8%), Swan and Victoria Park (8% each), Canning (7.6%) and Belmont (4.5%).

## Religious affiliation

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The majority of Afghanistan-born Western Australians identified Islam as their religion (95%). This was significantly different to 2001 when 62.3% identified Islam as their religion and 36.2% did not state their religion.

## Languages

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More than two-thirds (67.9%) of Afghanistan-born Western Australians reported speaking English very well or well, an increase since 2001 (39.1%). Afghanistan-born women were almost twice as likely as men to report speaking English not at all or not well (35.9% compared with 19.7%). Only 2.2% of Afghanistan-born people reported speaking only English at home. The most common languages spoken at home were Dari, Pashto and Balochi.

## Education

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The proportion of Afghanistan-born Western Australians with qualifications at degree, advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level increased between 2001 and 2006 (12.8% to 20.8%). The proportion of people aged 15 and over who had completed Year 12 also increased for the same period (30% to 46.7%). However, the proportion of Afghanistan-born people who did not go to school at all doubled (to 15.8%) between 2001 and 2006, and was much larger compared with the total WA population (0.6%).

## Employment

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In 2006, the proportion of employed Afghanistan-born Western Australians almost doubled between 2001 and 2006 (20.3% to 40.1%). The proportion of those unemployed almost halved for the same period (from 9% to 5%) but was high compared with the total WA population (2%). The proportion of Afghanistan-born people not in the labour force was 52%; more than double the proportion of the total WA population (24%).

Afghanistan-born men were mainly employed as labourers (33.6%), machinery operators and drivers (20.2%), technicians and trade workers (18%) and professionals and managers (13.7%). This was in contrast to the total WA population in which a large number were employed as professionals and managers (31.1%) and a smaller number as labourers (11%).

Afghanistan-born women were more likely than men to be employed in community and personal services (28.9% and 5.1%, respectively) and as sales workers (21.9% and 5.6%, respectively).

## Income

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The proportion of Afghanistan-born Western Australians earning between \$250 and \$999 per week doubled between 2001 and 2006 (19.3% to 38.6%), comparable to the total WA population (43.2%). The proportion of Afghanistan-born people earning \$1000 or more per week also increased for the same period (1% to 4.8%), but remained significantly lower than for the total WA population (20%). The proportion of those without a weekly income also increased (from 2.9% to 8.7%).

## Summary table

Variables	Afghanistan-born 2006			Afghanistan-born 2001	Total Western Australian population 2006		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
<b>AGE GROUP /GENDER</b>							
0–14	16.2	19.0	17.5	13.5	20.6	19.5	20.0
15–24	25.9	23.0	24.6	34.6	14.6	13.8	14.2
25–44	40.6	38.7	39.7	40.5	28.4	28.5	28.5
45–64	14.3	15.7	14.9	9.0	25.4	25.1	25.2
65+	3.0	3.6	3.3	2.4	11.0	13.1	12.0
All (Number)	791	677	1468	1648	990,642	995,607	1,986,249
Sex-ratio			117	228			99.5
<b>FAMILY TYPE</b>							
Couple family without children	5.2	5.4	5.3	3.0	19.2	19.6	19.4
Couple family with children	59.9	70.5	64.8	40.0	38.7	38.3	38.5
One-parent family	10.2	16.7	13.2	5.2	7.9	12.1	10.0
<b>LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY</b>							
Speaks English only	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.2	80.6	81.3	80.9
Speaks other language and English; very well or well	74.6	60.1	67.9	39.1	9.6	9.9	9.8
Speaks other language and English; not well or not at all	19.7	35.9	27.2	23.5	1.5	2.0	1.7
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
Degree level	11.9	9.7	10.9	6.2	13.4	15.1	14.3
Advanced diploma/diploma/ certificate	10.4	9.3	9.9	6.6	30.3	19.2	24.7
Completed Year 12 schooling	48.9	44.2	46.7	30.0	40.8	42.9	41.8
Did not attend school	13.8	18.1	15.8	7.6	0.5	0.7	0.6
<b>LABOUR FORCE (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
Employed	56.1	20.8	40.1	20.3	65.5	52.7	59.1
Unemployed	6.2	3.6	5.0	9.0	2.4	2.2	2.3
Not in LF	35	72.6	52.0	69.8	23.2	37.4	30.3
<b>WEEKLY INCOME (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
None	6.8	10.9	8.7	2.9	4.6	8.1	6.4
<\$250	28.9	47.6	37.4	36.4**	13.8	24.4	19.2
<\$1000	45.7	28.8	38.6	19.3	39.7	46.7	43.2
\$1000 and more	6.9	2.2	4.8	1.0	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.

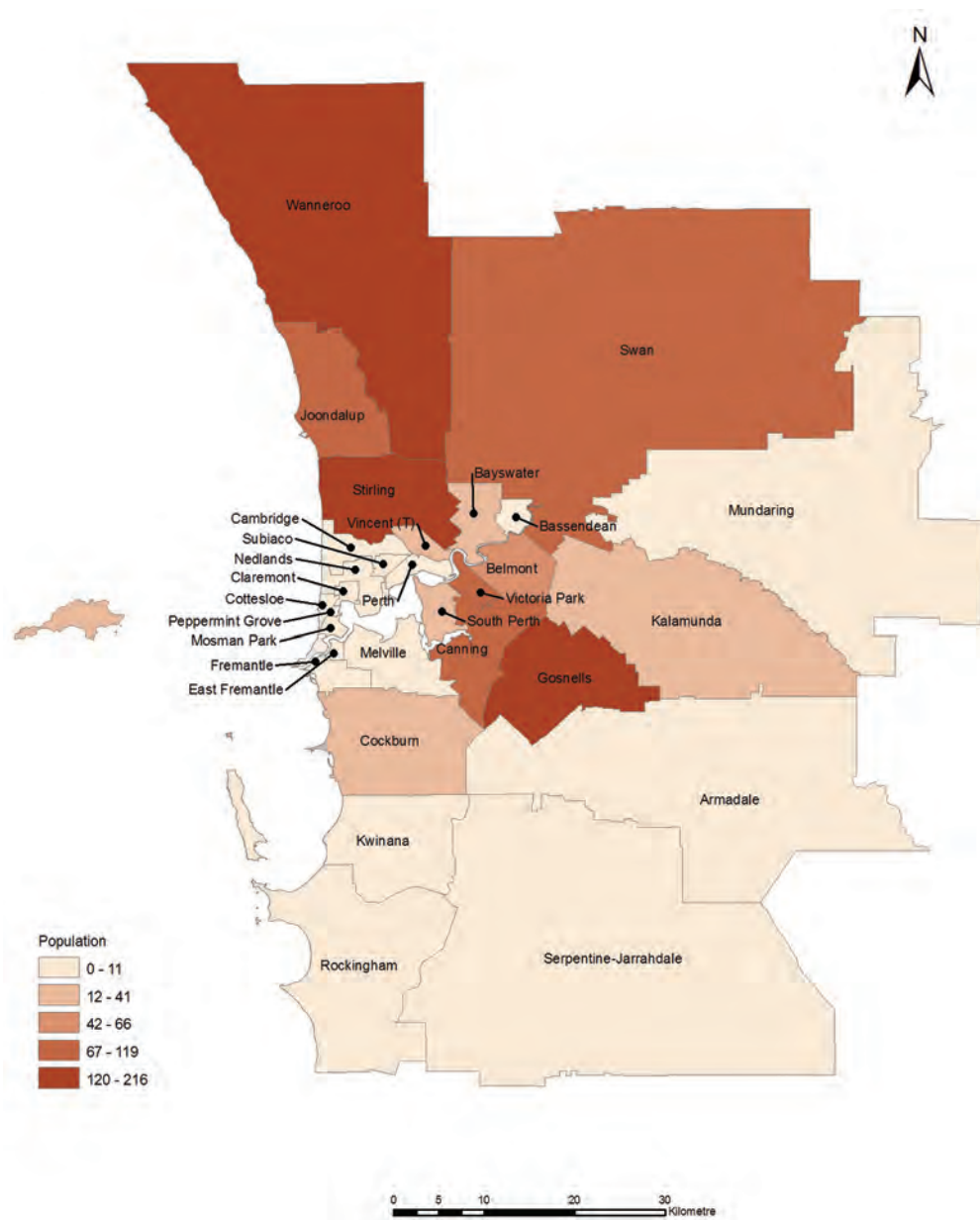


Figure 1: Distribution of Afghanistan-born people by settlement pattern in the LGAs of the Perth Metropolitan Area (Data Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing).