

The People of Queensland

Statistics from the 2006 Census

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

2008

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A message from the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary



Australia has, through migration, developed into one of the world's most culturally diverse societies. As a nation, we now speak over 300 languages, practice more than 100 religions and originate from over 230 different countries. This increased diversity has brought with it many new recreational and cultural experiences, and has undoubtedly made Australia a more vibrant and interesting place to live.

The effect of migration on other aspects of Australian society has been equally dramatic, with the hard work and initiative shown by migrants contributing enormously to our national prosperity, social well-being and business achievements.

The fact that all these changes have occurred in a peaceful, democratic manner and over a relatively short time is a testament to our inclusive and cohesive society.

A diverse society founded on migration does bring with it a range of ever-changing issues and challenges however. These include identifying the emerging migrant groups that are most in need of English language services and measuring the extent of ageing among established migrant groups. Responding to these challenges requires a thorough understanding of our cultural diversity, which is what makes a publication like *The People of Queensland* so important.

For example, *The People of Queensland* and its companion State and Territory publications contain informative summaries on the following relevant issues –

- the settlement locations for different migrant groups;
- emerging birthplaces, languages and religions for each State and Territory;
- the demographic characteristics of Australia's poor English speakers; and
- Internet access, citizenship rates, and employment outcomes for different migrant groups.

They also give very detailed statistical information on the birthplace, religions, language and ancestries for every Local Government Area in Australia.

It is this depth and breadth of information that makes these publications such a useful resource for policymakers, local councils, planners, or anyone with an interest in our increasingly diverse society.

Chris Evans

Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

Laurie Ferguson

Parliamentary Secretary for
Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services

A message from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs

One of Queensland's strengths is its rich cultural diversity.

The Queensland Government maintains a clear commitment to multiculturalism through its *Multicultural Queensland, making a world of difference* policy – which underpins the desire to live in an inclusive, harmonious and socially cohesive society.

The People of Queensland publication is a valuable tool to better understand and measure this diversity.

It provides an in-depth statistical profile illustrating the structure of Queensland's population, language and ancestry groups.

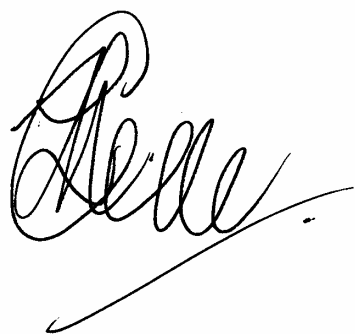
We know Queensland is the fastest growing state in Australia, with an estimated resident population of over 4 million people.

In fact, results from the 2006 census show Queensland's total population increased by over 10 per cent in the five years from the 2001 census.

Around 700,000 people in Queensland were born overseas and have chosen to call the Smart State home, since the last census in 2001.

In recognition of the many benefits multiculturalism brings, I commend this publication as a useful reference document.

I trust it will be of particular interest to all those who work, live and play in Queensland.



Lindy Nelson-Carr MP

Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Youth

