

1 Introduction

This report was prepared at the request of the Aged and Community Care Division of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. It describes the results of a set of projections of the numbers of overseas-born older Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds for the period from 1996 to 2026. The projections were calculated at the national, State and Territory and SLA level for each of 50 countries of birth, 34 languages and 30 religions. The projections were undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. An account of the projection methodology is presented in Appendix B.

This report contains broad summary findings of the projects. Detailed results are presented in the CD-ROM enclosed.

Older persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds¹ are an important component of the older Australian population, and one that is projected to increase substantially over the 30-years from 1996 to 2026. In 1996 overseas-born people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds constituted 17.8% of the older population of Australia, or 392,800 people. Overseas-born people from the main English-speaking countries constituted 13.1% of the older population, or 288,700 people. Australian-born people made up 69.1% of the older population, or 1,521,400 people. Over the next two decades the proportion of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is projected to steadily increase, reaching 22.8% in 2016, before dropping to 21.2% in 2026. The numbers of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are also projected to increase, from 392,800 in 1996 to 939,800 in 2026. This is a 139% increase over the 30-year period. Annual rates of increase are projected to be highest between 1996 and 2001 (4.1%), 2001 and 2006 (3.4%) and 2011 and 2016 (3.6%). The comparable annual rates of increase for the Australian-born population during these periods are 0.9%, 1.1% and 3.2% respectively.

The growth of the population from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is even more marked in the age group 80 and over. In this age group, the proportion of

¹ Older persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are defined for the purpose of this report as persons aged 65 or over, born overseas in countries where English is not the main language spoken. As currently used by federal government departments the term may include differences that arise from a person's country of birth, culture, language, race and religion but is not restricted to them. These are the five things which are explicitly mentioned in the Charter of Public Service in Culturally Diverse Society (Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) 1998). The Charter gives further examples of how this term might be applied in relation to access and equity and the provision of government services but no definitive term has been developed. DIMA is currently working on a new set of indicators of cultural and linguistic diversity to replace non-English-speaking Background (NESB).

The term 'culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds' (CLDB) was developed as a response to the limitations of NESB in that there are many migrants who may speak English well (Malaysians, Indians, Singaporeans) yet have cultural backgrounds which are very different from those of Anglo-Celtic Australians.

people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is projected to go from 13.2% of the Australian population in 1996 to 25.2% in 2026. By 2026, then, it is projected that one in four people aged 80 and over will be from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. There were 64,000 people aged 80 and over from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in 1996; this is projected to reach 269,600 by 2026. This represents a 321% growth rate over the period. The comparable projected growth rate for the Australian-born population is 90%.

The older population from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds begins the projection period with a markedly younger age profile than that of the Australian-born. In 1996, 16.3% of the older population from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds were aged 80 and over, compared with 22.9% among the Australian-born. By 2026, 28.7% of the older population from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is projected to be aged 80 and over, compared with 22.4% for the Australian-born. The older overseas-born population from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds thus not only increases more rapidly than the Australian-born for most of the projection period, but it also ages more rapidly.

At more advanced ages (particularly 80 and over), older people have a higher level of need for informal and formal care services. There is now a substantial recognition of the need for aged care service delivery to take account of the special needs of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Detailed data on the changing size of particular ethnic populations over future years have substantial implications for policy development and planning in the field of aged care services. Yet there have been no recent detailed projections available for these purposes. This report sets out to remedy that lack.

The report consists of two parts. In this, the first part of the report, summary statistics are presented at the national, State and Territory levels for country of birth, language and religious affiliation. The second part is a CD-ROM containing a series of detailed projections concerning country of birth, main language spoken at home and religious affiliation for all Commonwealth residential aged care planning regions in Australia. Also included in the CD-ROM are projections for each country of birth and for all age groups (from 65 onwards) at the national, State and Territory levels, projections by metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, and a set of projections describing the aged care planning regions which have the highest concentrations of older Australians with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Table 1.1: Persons aged 65 years and over, birthplace by age and sex, Australia, 1996

Birthplace	Number			Per cent of total population			80+ as a % of 65+
	65-79	80+	65+	65-79	80+	65+	
Females							
CLDB	165,283	37,511	202,794	9.6	7.7	9.2	18.5
Main English-speaking countries	109,265	45,784	155,049	6.4	9.5	7.0	29.5
Australia	650,986	234,898	885,884	37.9	48.5	40.2	26.5
<i>Total females</i>	<i>925,534</i>	<i>318,193</i>	<i>1,243,727</i>	<i>53.9</i>	<i>65.7</i>	<i>56.5</i>	<i>25.6</i>
Males							
CLDB	163,509	26,497	190,006	9.5	5.5	8.6	13.9
Main English-speaking countries	107,840	25,860	133,700	6.3	5.3	6.1	19.3
Australia	521,767	113,794	635,561	30.4	23.5	28.8	17.9
<i>Total males</i>	<i>793,116</i>	<i>166,151</i>	<i>959,267</i>	<i>46.1</i>	<i>34.3</i>	<i>43.5</i>	<i>17.3</i>
Persons							
CLDB	328,792	64,008	392,800	19.1	13.2	17.8	16.3
Main English-speaking countries	217,105	71,644	288,749	12.6	14.8	13.1	24.8
Australia	1,172,753	348,692	1,521,445	68.2	72.0	69.1	22.9
Total	1,718,650	484,344	2,202,994	100.0	100.0	100.0	22.0

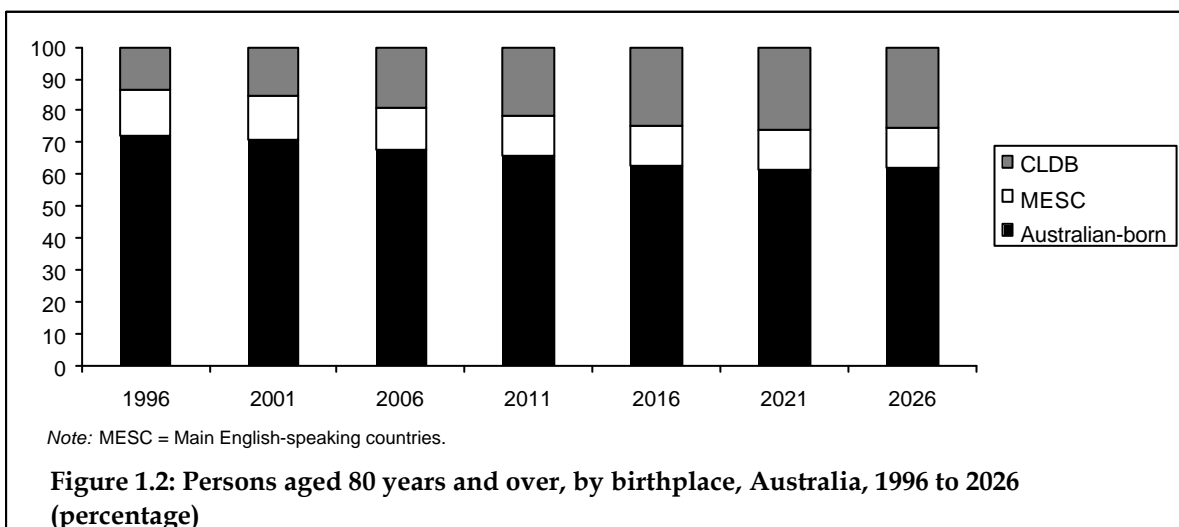
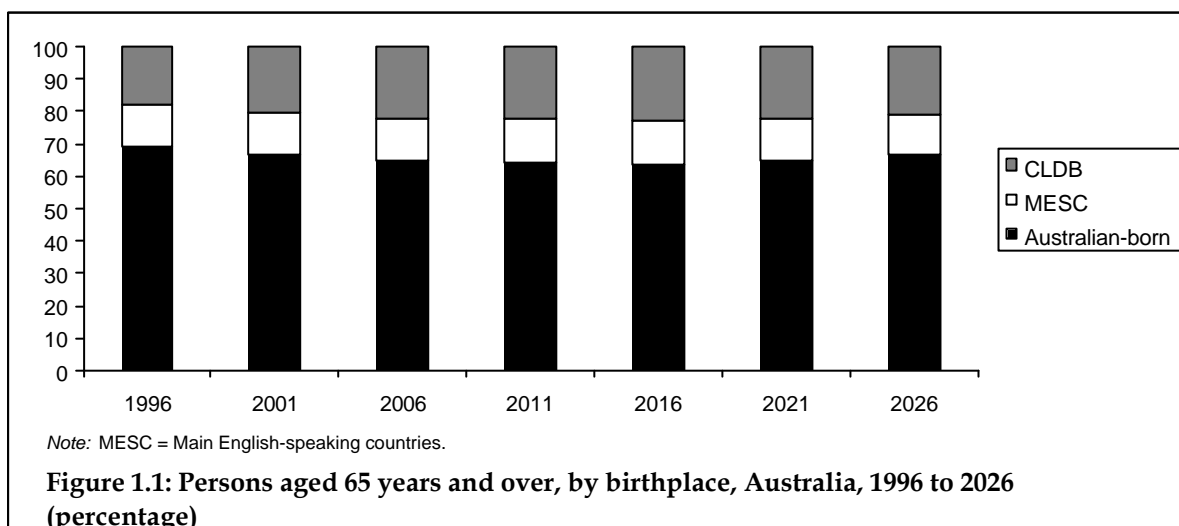


Table 1.2: Persons aged 65 and over, birthplace by age and sex, Australia, 1996 to 2026

Birthplace	Number			Per cent of total population			80+ as a % of 65+	Annual growth rate ^(a)		
	65-79	80+	65+	65-79	80+	65+		65-79	80+	65+
CLDB										
<i>Females</i>										
1996	165,283	37,511	202,794	9.6	7.7	9.2	18.5			
2001	195,992	50,779	246,771	10.9	8.8	10.4	20.6	3.5	6.2	4.0
2006	215,005	76,757	291,762	11.3	11.1	11.3	26.3	1.9	8.6	3.4
2011	238,860	97,447	336,307	11.2	12.5	11.6	29.0	2.1	4.9	2.9
2016	291,227	115,630	406,857	11.2	14.1	11.9	28.4	4.0	3.5	3.9
2021	330,068	133,502	463,570	11.0	14.8	11.8	28.8	2.5	2.9	2.6
2026	355,867	153,064	508,931	10.6	14.3	11.5	30.1	1.5	2.8	1.9
<i>Males</i>										
1996	163,509	26,497	190,006	9.5	5.5	8.6	13.9			
2001	196,700	35,924	232,624	10.9	6.3	9.8	15.4	3.8	6.3	4.1
2006	222,558	53,624	276,182	11.7	7.8	10.7	19.4	2.5	8.3	3.5
2011	245,427	72,067	317,494	11.5	9.3	10.9	22.7	2.0	6.1	2.8
2016	286,716	87,170	373,886	11.0	10.6	10.9	23.3	3.2	3.9	3.3
2021	305,631	101,806	407,437	10.1	11.3	10.4	25.0	1.3	3.2	1.7
2026	314,400	116,491	430,891	9.3	10.9	9.7	27.0	0.6	2.7	1.1
<i>Persons</i>										
1996	328,792	64,008	392,800	19.1	13.2	17.8	16.3			
2001	392,692	86,703	479,395	21.8	15.1	20.2	18.1	3.6	6.3	4.1
2006	437,563	130,381	567,944	23.1	18.9	22.0	23.0	2.2	8.5	3.4
2011	484,287	169,514	653,801	22.7	21.8	22.5	25.9	2.0	5.4	2.9
2016	577,943	202,800	780,743	22.2	24.7	22.8	26.0	3.6	3.7	3.6
2021	635,699	235,308	871,007	21.1	26.0	22.2	27.0	1.9	3.0	2.2
2026	670,267	269,555	939,822	19.9	25.2	21.2	28.7	1.1	2.8	1.5
Overseas-born from main English-speaking countries										
<i>Females</i>										
1996	109,265	45,784	155,049	6.4	9.5	7.0	29.5			
2001	112,407	50,442	162,849	6.2	8.8	6.9	31.0	0.6	2.0	1.0
2006	122,974	54,580	177,554	6.5	7.9	6.9	30.7	1.8	1.6	1.7
2011	146,458	55,946	202,404	6.9	7.2	7.0	27.6	3.6	0.5	2.7
2016	178,018	59,994	238,012	6.9	7.3	7.0	25.2	4.0	1.4	3.3
2021	192,906	67,264	260,170	6.4	7.4	6.6	25.9	1.6	2.3	1.8
2026	202,883	79,878	282,761	6.0	7.5	6.4	28.2	1.0	3.5	1.7
<i>Males</i>										
1996	107,840	25,860	133,700	6.3	5.3	6.1	19.3			
2001	112,630	29,702	142,332	6.3	5.2	6.0	20.9	0.9	2.8	1.3
2006	123,661	35,404	159,065	6.5	5.1	6.2	22.3	1.9	3.6	2.2
2011	147,873	37,814	185,687	6.9	4.9	6.4	20.4	3.6	1.3	3.1
2016	180,207	40,467	220,674	6.9	4.9	6.5	18.3	4.0	1.4	3.5
2021	190,317	47,193	237,510	6.3	5.2	6.1	19.9	1.1	3.1	1.5
2026	194,161	58,433	252,594	5.8	5.5	5.7	23.1	0.4	4.4	1.2
<i>Persons</i>										
1996	217,105	71,644	288,749	12.6	14.8	13.1	24.8			
2001	225,037	80,144	305,181	12.5	14.0	12.8	26.3	0.7	2.3	1.1
2006	246,635	89,984	336,619	13.0	13.1	13.0	26.7	1.8	2.3	2.0
2011	294,331	93,760	388,091	13.8	12.1	13.4	24.2	3.6	0.8	2.9
2016	358,225	100,461	458,686	13.8	12.3	13.4	21.9	4.0	1.4	3.4
2021	383,223	114,457	497,680	12.7	12.7	12.7	23.0	1.4	2.6	1.6
2026	397,044	138,311	535,355	11.8	12.9	12.1	25.8	0.7	3.9	1.5

(a) Average annual growth rate = $100 * ((p2/p1)^{(1/5)} - 1)$.

(continued)

Table 1.2 (continued): Persons aged 65 and over, birthplace by age and sex, Australia, 1996 to 2026

Birthplace	Number			Per cent of total population				Annual growth rate ^(a)		
	65-79	80+	65+	65-79	80+	65+	80+ as a % of 65+	65-79	80+	65+
Australian-born										
<i>Females</i>										
1996	650,986	234,898	885,884	37.9	48.5	40.2	26.5			
2001	651,336	269,909	921,245	36.1	47.0	38.8	29.3	0.0	2.8	0.8
2006	656,935	305,475	962,410	34.6	44.3	37.2	31.7	0.2	2.5	0.9
2011	719,992	329,463	1,049,455	33.8	42.4	36.1	31.4	1.9	1.5	1.7
2016	875,019	329,606	1,204,625	33.7	40.2	35.2	27.4	4.0	0.0	2.8
2021	1,046,542	348,553	1,395,095	34.7	38.5	35.6	25.0	3.6	1.1	3.0
2026	1,203,031	407,331	1,610,362	35.8	38.1	36.3	25.3	2.8	3.2	2.9
<i>Males</i>										
1996	521,767	113,794	635,561	30.4	23.5	28.8	17.9			
2001	532,909	137,070	669,979	29.6	23.9	28.2	20.5	0.4	3.8	1.1
2006	555,795	163,348	719,143	29.3	23.7	27.8	22.7	0.8	3.6	1.4
2011	631,405	183,993	815,398	29.6	23.7	28.1	22.6	2.6	2.4	2.5
2016	787,208	186,946	974,154	30.3	22.8	28.5	19.2	4.5	0.3	3.6
2021	948,347	206,114	1,154,461	31.5	22.8	29.5	17.9	3.8	2.0	3.5
2026	1,093,222	254,261	1,347,483	32.5	23.8	30.4	18.9	2.9	4.3	3.1
<i>Persons</i>										
1996	1,172,753	348,692	1,521,445	68.2	72.0	69.1	22.9			
2001	1,184,245	406,979	1,591,224	65.7	70.9	67.0	25.6	0.2	3.1	0.9
2006	1,212,730	468,823	1,681,553	63.9	68.0	65.0	27.9	0.5	2.9	1.1
2011	1,351,397	513,456	1,864,853	63.4	66.1	64.2	27.5	2.2	1.8	2.1
2016	1,662,227	516,552	2,178,779	64.0	63.0	63.7	23.7	4.2	0.1	3.2
2021	1,994,889	554,667	2,549,556	66.2	61.3	65.1	21.8	3.7	1.4	3.2
2026	2,296,253	661,592	2,957,845	68.3	61.9	66.7	22.4	2.9	3.6	3.0
Total										
<i>Females</i>										
1996	925,534	318,193	1,243,727	53.9	65.7	56.5	25.6			
2001	959,735	371,130	1,330,865	53.3	64.7	56.0	27.9	0.7	3.1	1.4
2006	994,914	436,812	1,431,726	52.4	63.4	55.4	30.5	0.7	3.3	1.5
2011	1,105,310	482,856	1,588,166	51.9	62.2	54.6	30.4	2.1	2.0	2.1
2016	1,344,264	505,230	1,849,494	51.7	61.6	54.1	27.3	4.0	0.9	3.1
2021	1,569,516	549,319	2,118,835	52.1	60.7	54.1	25.9	3.1	1.7	2.8
2026	1,761,781	640,273	2,402,054	52.4	59.9	54.2	26.7	2.3	3.1	2.5
<i>Males</i>										
1996	793,116	166,151	959,267	46.1	34.3	43.5	17.3			
2001	842,239	202,696	1,044,935	46.7	35.3	44.0	19.4	1.2	4.1	1.7
2006	902,014	252,376	1,154,390	47.6	36.6	44.6	21.9	1.4	4.5	2.0
2011	1,024,705	293,874	1,318,579	48.1	37.8	45.4	22.3	2.6	3.1	2.7
2016	1,254,131	314,583	1,568,714	48.3	38.4	45.9	20.1	4.1	1.4	3.5
2021	1,444,295	355,113	1,799,408	47.9	39.3	45.9	19.7	2.9	2.5	2.8
2026	1,601,783	429,185	2,030,968	47.6	40.1	45.8	21.1	2.1	3.9	2.5
<i>Persons</i>										
1996	1,718,650	484,344	2,202,994	100.0	100.0	100.0	22.0			
2001	1,801,974	573,826	2,375,800	100.0	100.0	100.0	24.2	1.0	3.4	1.5
2006	1,896,928	689,188	2,586,116	100.0	100.0	100.0	26.6	1.0	3.7	1.7
2011	2,130,015	776,730	2,906,745	100.0	100.0	100.0	26.7	2.3	2.4	2.4
2016	2,598,395	819,813	3,418,208	100.0	100.0	100.0	24.0	4.1	1.1	3.3
2021	3,013,811	904,432	3,918,243	100.0	100.0	100.0	23.1	3.0	2.0	2.8
2026	3,363,564	1,069,458	4,433,022	100.0	100.0	100.0	24.1	2.2	3.4	2.5

(a) Average annual growth rate = $100 * ((p2/p1)^{(1/5)} - 1)$.