



Australian Government

Australian Institute of  
Health and Welfare

# Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

## Main points

- The population of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is growing faster than for other older Australians. In 1996, 18% of Australians aged 65 and over were from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. By 2011, this population is projected to increase to 23% of older Australians (or 653,800 people).
- According to projections, the proportion of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living in capital cities will remain at 80% in 2011 as it was in 1996. In comparison, this proportion for Australian-born older people is expected to decrease from 56% to 53%.
- The proportions of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds vary from city to city, with projections for 2011 ranging from 9% for Hobart to 38% for Melbourne.
- The fastest growth rates for older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are projected for the smaller cities of Darwin and Canberra. Hobart and Adelaide have the slowest-growing populations.
- Although many birthplace groups are common across the capital cities, the mix varies. In all capital cities except Hobart and Darwin, people born in Italy made up the largest proportion of this older population in 1996 and, according to projections, will continue to do so in 2011. Greece, Germany and the Netherlands also have substantial numbers of older immigrants in many cities.
- Past migration patterns have a significant impact on the mix of backgrounds found among the older culturally and linguistically diverse population. For example, the numbers of Polish-born older people are declining in all capital cities due to a lack of continued migration following an initial wave after World War II.

# 18bulletin

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# Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

## Introduction

The proportion of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in Australia's older population (65 and older) is growing. Identifying the changing geographic distribution of this older population is of particular importance because location plays a significant role in understanding and planning health and aged care services. As most of the culturally and linguistically diverse population aged 65 and over in Australia live in metropolitan areas, this bulletin focuses on the change over time to the older populations in capital cities.

The timing of migration cohorts has helped shape the present structure and resources of Australia's older population. Differences in group size among migrant communities, and to some extent location, are the result of differences in the timing of migration waves to Australia. Changes in Australian immigration policy after 1973 led to an increase in migrants from China and other non-European countries. This relatively recent migration pattern accounts for the younger age structure of these populations in comparison with those who came to Australia in the large migration waves from Europe after World War II. Older members of the post-war immigrant groups often have established community networks, but more recently arrived older migrants, or those who have a lesser concentration in their city of residence, may lack such community resources. Australia's migrant population continues to evolve, and looking at where they reside helps create a picture which can assist government policy advisers, planners and service providers in understanding the needs of specific cultural groups within cities.

## Defining 'diversity'

The focus of this bulletin is the Australian migrant population. Although the geographic distribution of Indigenous communities is important for planning health and aged care services for this population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations have not been included in the discussion. For information concerning the distribution of the Indigenous population see *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* (ABS & AIHW 2003:13–21).

For this bulletin, people are considered to come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds if they were born overseas in countries excluding the mainly English-speaking countries of the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Ireland, the United States and Canada. The exclusion of these countries is based on the general English language ability of residents in these countries. It may not, however, reflect broader considerations of ethnic identity. Often South Africa is included in this list of English-speaking countries; however, it is recognised that many Australian migrants born in South Africa may be speakers of Afrikaans or other African languages and have a distinct cultural identity. Therefore they have been included among those coming from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Although identification by country of birth has been the primary method used here to identify culturally and linguistically diverse communities, the use of country-of-birth information on its own may conceal diversity within some birthplace groups (Rowland 1991). To cover this possibility, language use is also examined, noting that language is a marker of 'active ethnicity' (AIHW 1998).

## Methodology

The analysis in this paper is based on detailed projections by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2001 (see AIHW: Gibson et al. 2001). The cohort component method was used to project the number of older overseas-born Australians from a base population at 30 June 1996 to the year 2026. The projections were by country of birth, religion and main language spoken at home at the national, state and Statistical Local Area (SLA) level. The projections are based on a zero migration hypothesis, and thus are likely to be a conservative estimate of the future size of population groups. For more detail on the methodology used, refer to Appendix B of *Projections of Older Immigrants: People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds, 1996–2026, Australia* (AIHW: Gibson et al. 2001).

For this bulletin, data on SLAs have been aggregated to construct capital city regions. Selected data on overseas-born Australians and main language spoken in the home are presented for 1996 and 2011.

## Social context

Research clearly establishes that group size and geographic concentration play significant roles in the welfare and wellbeing of culturally and linguistically diverse peoples at all ages. As the majority of Australia's migrants live in capital cities, establishing the characteristics, location and concentration of these groups and assessing their change over time helps in understanding and, consequently, meeting the needs of their older members.

A total of 50 countries of birth, 34 languages and 30 religions are represented in the population of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in Australia. In addition, English language proficiency among these people varies greatly. Planners and service providers need to be aware of this diversity before they can consider the specific needs of older people in this population.

At the aggregate level, older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have lower average income and home ownership rates than the older Australian-born population, although there is substantial variation across countries of origin (AIHW: Benham & Gibson 2000). At younger ages, they also have higher unemployment rates, which can potentially contribute to older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds having fewer resources accumulated for old age and consequently a greater need for support.

The higher marriage rates and lower proportions of people living alone among these older persons have traditionally been considered a form of protection against the need for aged care services. However, although the proportions of culturally and linguistically diverse peoples who are married or living alone have changed only slightly in the recent past (falling marginally between 1986 and 1996; DHHCS 1991), as life expectancies rise, more older persons in general will be living alone. This is particularly true at the oldest ages (85+) and will be more common among women than men due to longer life expectancies.

English proficiency is also an important determinant of the need for ethno-specific services. In 1996, 19% of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds spoke English not very well or not at all (AIHW: Benham & Gibson 2000). However, levels of English proficiency differ among birthplace groups and are related to age at migration and the length of time resident in Australia.

# Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

## Changes in diversity

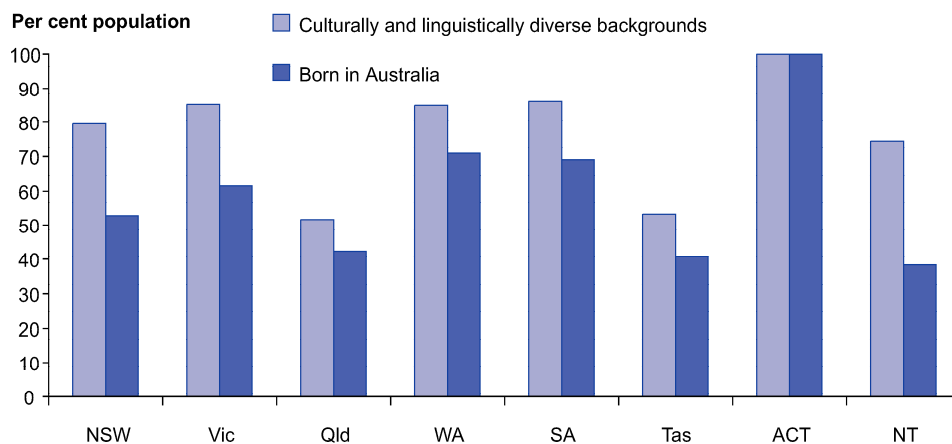
### The national picture

In 1996, 18% of Australians aged 65 and over (392,800 people) were from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. By 2011, this population is projected to increase to 653,800 people, or 23% of older Australians. This is a 66% increase over the 15-year period, compared with an increase of 23% for the older Australian-born population (AIHW: Gibson et al. 2001).

The older culturally and linguistically diverse population is not only projected to increase more quickly than the older Australian-born population, but is also expected to age more rapidly. In 1996, 16% of the older culturally and linguistically diverse population were aged 80 and over compared with 23% of their Australian-born counterparts. By 2011, this proportion is projected to increase to 26% compared with 28% for the Australian-born. In terms of the total population over 80, this means a projected increase in the proportion of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds from 13% to 22% (or around one in five) over the 15-year period.

Like all Australians, the majority of older migrants live in capital cities (Figure 1). However, this proportion is higher for older migrants than for the older Australian-born population: in 1996, 80% of the culturally and linguistically diverse older population lived in capital cities compared with 56% of those born in Australia. Over the 15 years to 2011, the proportion of the older culturally and linguistically diverse population living in capital cities is projected to remain stable, whereas that of the older Australian-born population is projected to decline to 53%. The split between capital city and other regions varies between states. For example, in 1996, 79% of the older culturally and linguistically diverse population in New South Wales lived in Sydney, compared with 53% of older Australian-born people. In contrast, in Tasmania 53% of the culturally and linguistically diverse population and 41% of the Australian-born population lived in Hobart.

**Figure 1: Proportion of the older population living in the capital city, 1996**



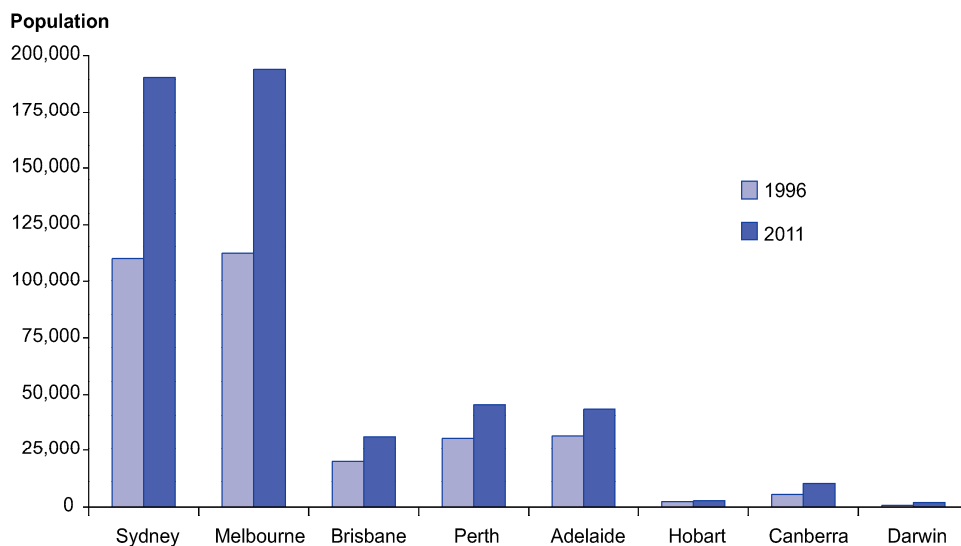
## In capital cities

The number of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is projected to increase in all capital cities between 1996 and 2011 (Figure 2).

Numerically, the most substantial increases are projected to occur in Melbourne (up 81,900), Sydney (up 80,700) and Perth (up 15,200). In percentage terms, however, the fastest growing populations are projected to be in Darwin (increasing by 129% over the 15-year period) and Canberra (up by 82%), with populations in Sydney and Melbourne also growing significantly (both up by 73%).

Across capital cities there is great variation in the size and composition of the culturally and linguistically diverse older population. In 1996, Sydney and Melbourne together accounted for 71% of this population living in capital cities. Adelaide (10%), Perth (10%) and Brisbane (6%) made up smaller but significant proportions. Reflecting their smaller size, Canberra, Hobart and Darwin together made up only 3% of older capital-city dwellers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

**Figure 2: Projections of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds**



Although the distribution in Figure 2 shows the spread of the culturally and linguistically diverse population across capital cities, it does not provide any information on the diversity within a particular city, or the variation between cities. The composition of older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in each capital city is discussed in the remainder of this bulletin. This discussion mainly looks at the population in terms of country of birth, concentrating on those countries contributing the largest populations (top 10) in either 1996 or 2011. State-level information on main language spoken at home is presented alongside this information to add another dimension to the analysis (sourced from AIHW: Gibson et al. 2001). As the vast majority of older culturally and linguistically diverse people live in capital cities, these data reflect predominant trends in the main languages spoken at home among this population.

# Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

## Sydney

In 1996 there were 110,000 older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living in Sydney, which is about one-quarter of the city's total older population (65 and older) (Table 1). By 2011, this number is projected to increase to 190,700, or to around one-third (34%) of older people, representing a 73% increase in this population.

Italy, Greece and China were the most common countries of birth in both 1996 and 2011. By 2011, there are projected to be 24,500 older people who were born in Italy and 20,400 who were born in Greece living in Sydney. Both of these groups arrived in the post-war migration waves of the 1950s and 1960s and will have aged into the 65-and-over age group in large numbers by 2011. Chinese-born people are projected to be the next largest group, with 14,900 older people living in Sydney by 2011.

In 2011, there are projected to be 12,500 more older people who were born in Greece living in Sydney than in 1996; this is the largest absolute increase among the different groups. The older Lebanese, Croatian and Vietnamese populations in Sydney are also

**Table 1: Main countries of birth for the older culturally and linguistically diverse population, Sydney, 1996 and 2011 (projected)**

Birthplace	1996			2011			Change	
	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent
Italy	16,990	15.4	3.7	24,520	12.9	4.3	7,530	44.3
Greece	7,937	7.2	1.7	20,395	10.7	3.6	12,458	157.0
China	9,660	8.8	2.1	14,891	7.8	2.6	5,231	54.2
Lebanon	3,986	3.6	0.9	9,686	5.1	1.7	5,700	143.0
Malta	3,601	3.3	0.8	7,058	3.7	1.2	3,457	96.0
Germany	4,700	4.3	1.0	6,966	3.7	1.2	2,266	48.2
Vietnam	3,164	2.9	0.7	6,958	3.6	1.2	3,794	119.9
Croatia	1,854	1.7	0.4	5,877	3.1	1.0	4,023	217.0
Egypt	3,803	3.5	0.8	5,567	2.9	1.0	1,764	46.4
Former Yugoslavia not further defined <sup>(a)</sup>	2,423	2.2	0.5	4,890	2.6	0.9	2,467	101.8
Netherlands	3,714	3.4	0.8	4,615	2.4	0.8	901	24.3
Poland	5,740	5.2	1.3	3,500	1.8	0.6	-2,240	-39.0
Hungary	3,547	3.2	0.8	3,267	1.7	0.6	-280	-7.9
Other	38,895	35.4	8.5	72,521	38.0	12.8	33,626	86.5
<i>Top 10 countries</i>	<i>63,678</i>	<i>57.5</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>106,808</i>	<i>56.0</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>43,130</i>	<i>67.7</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,014</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>190,711</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>80,697</b>	<b>73.4</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>456,292</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>567,543</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>111,251</b>	<b>24.4</b>

(a) Unable to be allocated to specific countries in census data.

Source: AIHW analysis of unpublished ABS projections.

expected to increase substantially in this 15-year period. In contrast, the Polish-born population is projected to decline by nearly 40%. This is not surprising, as people from Poland were among the earliest post-war migrants and the number of people coming from this country has decreased since that time. A small decline in the number of older people born in Hungary is also expected.

Sydney has one of the most mixed culturally and linguistically diverse older populations among the capital cities. The proportion of this population in the top 10 birthplaces is projected to decline slightly by 2011, indicating that this diversity is gradually increasing. In 1996, the top 10 countries of birth accounted for 58% of the culturally and linguistically diverse population, falling slightly to 56% by 2011; in both years the top three countries of birth accounted for 31%.

In 1996, English (19%), Italian (16%) and Greek (8%) were the principal languages spoken in the home among culturally and linguistically diverse older peoples in New South Wales. German (6%) and Cantonese (6%) were also common languages. These are projected to remain the common languages spoken to 2011; however, the proportions are expected to rise for those speaking English and Greek and to fall for those speaking Italian and German. Cantonese is expected to remain a relatively common language spoken (6% in both years), and the use of Arabic is projected to increase (from 4% to 6%). Vietnamese and South-eastern European languages (including Macedonian and Croatian), which were not among the 12 most common languages spoken in the home in 1996, are also projected to become more common among older people by 2011.

### Melbourne

By 2011, the culturally and linguistically diverse older population living in Melbourne is projected to reach 194,200—a 73% increase from 1996 (112,300) (Table 2). Among all the capital cities, Melbourne is projected to have the largest proportion of its older population from diverse backgrounds. By 2011, 38% of this population will be from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, up from 29% in 1996.

For both years examined, Italy and Greece are the two most common countries of birth. In 1996, the Polish-born were the next most common group; however, by 2011 Germany will have replaced Poland as the third most common country of birth. Although relatively few older people were born in Croatia, they represent the fastest-growing birthplace group of Melbourne's older population, projected to more than triple in the 15 years following 1996. There will also be substantial increases in the older populations among those born in Malta and Vietnam (both up almost 125%) and the Former Yugoslavia (not further defined) (up 116%). However, in absolute terms, the greatest increase in Melbourne will be among those born in Greece (rising by 21,400). As in Sydney, the number of older people born in Poland is projected to decrease over the period (by 37%).

The overseas-born population in Melbourne is less diverse than in Sydney, with the top 10 countries of birth contributing two-thirds of the culturally and linguistically diverse population in both 1996 and 2011. Furthermore, more than 40% of the population were born in the top three countries (compared with just over 30% for Sydney). In particular, people born in Italy accounted for between one-quarter and one-fifth of the culturally and linguistically diverse population in Melbourne between 1996 and 2011.

# Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

**Table 2: Main countries of birth for the older culturally and linguistically diverse population, Melbourne, 1996 and 2011 (projected)**

Birthplace	1996			2011			Change	
	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent
Italy	28,512	25.4	7.3	42,504	21.9	8.3	13,992	49.1
Greece	11,033	9.8	2.8	32,422	16.7	6.3	21,389	193.9
Germany	5,763	5.1	1.5	8,828	4.5	1.7	3,065	53.2
Malta	3,845	3.4	1.0	8,649	4.5	1.7	4,804	124.9
Netherlands	4,709	4.2	1.2	6,823	3.5	1.3	2,114	44.9
China	4,180	3.7	1.1	6,093	3.1	1.2	1,913	45.8
Vietnam	2,732	2.4	0.7	6,088	3.1	1.2	3,356	122.8
Croatia	1,768	1.6	0.5	5,836	3.0	1.1	4,068	230.1
Poland	8,807	7.8	2.3	5,573	2.9	1.1	-3,234	-36.7
Former Yugoslavia not further defined <sup>(a)</sup>	2,457	2.2	0.6	5,309	2.7	1.0	2,852	116.1
Sri Lanka	2,711	2.4	0.7	4,725	2.4	0.9	2,014	74.3
Egypt	2,849	2.5	0.7	4,309	2.2	0.8	1,460	51.2
Other	32,942	29.3	8.4	57,009	29.4	11.2	24,067	73.1
<i>Top 10</i>	<i>75,141</i>	<i>66.9</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>128,125</i>	<i>66.0</i>	<i>25.1</i>	<i>52,984</i>	<i>70.5</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,308</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>194,168</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>81,860</b>	<b>72.9</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>390,139</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>510,699</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>120,560</b>	<b>30.9</b>

(a) Unable to be allocated to specific countries in census data.

Source: AIHW analysis of unpublished ABS projections.

Italian (25%), English (17%) and Greek (10%) were the main languages spoken in the home among culturally and linguistically diverse older peoples in Victoria in 1996. German (7%) and Polish (5%) were also common languages. This pattern is projected to change over the coming years, with use of English and Greek projected to rise considerably (to 19% and 16% respectively), and use of Italian and German falling (to 21% and 5%). Polish is projected to become less common among older people and is not expected to be among the 12 most common languages spoken at home by 2011. As in New South Wales, Vietnamese and South-eastern European languages (including Macedonian and Croatian) are expected to become more common languages spoken in the home by 2011.

## Brisbane

In 1996, of all the states and territories, Queensland had the smallest proportion of its older culturally and linguistically diverse population living in the capital city (52%, compared with 80% or more for all other jurisdictions except Tasmania) (Figure 1). However, this proportion was still well above that for older Australian-born Queenslanders (42%). In 1996, 20,100 older people living in Brisbane (12%) were from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (Table 3). Hobart was the only capital



city with a lower proportion. By 2011, the culturally and linguistically diverse population living in Brisbane is projected to increase by 57% to 31,500, with nearly 14% of the older population being from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

For Brisbane, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany are the most common countries of birth in both 1996 and 2011. The greatest absolute rise in numbers is projected for the older German-born community, with an increase of 1,200 (or 73%). However, in percentage terms the South African-born older population is projected to increase the most rapidly, more than doubling in 15 years. Brisbane communities born in Vietnam and the Former Yugoslavia (not further defined) will also see large percentage increases in their older populations (by 111% and 91% respectively) while the older Indian-born population will grow by 61%. Again, the number of older people born in Poland is projected to decline (by 44%).

The culturally and linguistically diverse population in Brisbane is spread across a wider range of birthplaces than in Melbourne, and this diversity appears to be increasing. In 1996, the top 10 countries of birth accounted for 62% of the culturally and linguistically diverse population; by 2011 this is projected to decrease to 56%. In both years, the top three countries accounted for around one-third of the population, although the proportion is expected to fall slightly (from 33% to 30%).

**Table 3: Main countries of birth for the older culturally and linguistically diverse population, Brisbane, 1996 and 2011 (projected)**

Birthplace	1996			2011			Change	
	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent
Italy	2,954	14.7	1.8	3,877	12.3	1.7	923	31.2
Netherlands	2,010	10.0	1.2	2,878	9.1	1.3	868	43.2
Germany	1,609	8.0	1.0	2,776	8.8	1.2	1,167	72.5
China	1,112	5.5	0.7	1,607	5.1	0.7	495	44.5
Greece	948	4.7	0.6	1,453	4.6	0.6	505	53.3
Vietnam	535	2.7	0.3	1,130	3.6	0.5	595	111.2
India	648	3.2	0.4	1,046	3.3	0.5	398	61.4
Former Yugoslavia not further defined <sup>(a)</sup>	531	2.6	0.3	1,014	3.2	0.4	483	91.0
South Africa	395	2.0	0.2	910	2.9	0.4	515	130.4
Poland	1,560	7.8	1.0	878	2.8	0.4	-682	-43.7
Indonesia	458	2.3	0.3	555	1.8	0.2	97	21.2
Other	7,315	36.4	4.5	13,398	42.5	5.9	6,083	83.2
Top 10	12,365	61.6	7.6	17,569	55.7	7.7	5,204	42.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,075</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>31,522</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>11,447</b>	<b>57.0</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>162,969</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>228,187</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>65,218</b>	<b>40.0</b>

(a) Unable to be allocated to specific countries in census data.

Source: AIHW analysis of unpublished ABS projections.

# Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

English was the predominant language spoken in the home by culturally and linguistically diverse older peoples in Queensland in 1996 (32%), and this is projected to remain so in 2011 (37%). There were also considerable numbers of Italian-speaking people in 1996 (15%); however, this is projected to fall to 12% by 2011. German and Dutch were, and are projected to remain, relatively common languages in Queensland (9% and 5%, respectively, in 2011).

## Perth

The older culturally and linguistically diverse population in Perth is projected to increase by 50% from 30,600 to 45,700 between 1996 and 2011 (Table 4). In 1996, 22% of older people living in Perth were from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This is expected to rise slightly to 23% by 2011.

Perth's proximity to Asia has influenced the diversity seen in its overseas-born older population: Perth is the only capital city in Australia where India is among the top five most common countries of birth for older culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, and the only city in which Burma is among the top 10. In both 1996 and 2011, Italy, India and the Netherlands are the most common countries of birth. In 1996, the population of older people born in Malaysia was quite small, with only 850 people. This is projected to nearly triple by 2011, making it the fastest growing group over the period.

**Table 4: Main countries of birth for the older culturally and linguistically diverse population, Perth, 1996 and 2011 (projected)**

Birthplace	1996			2011			Change	
	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent
Italy	8,027	26.2	5.8	10,702	23.4	5.4	2,675	33.3
India	2,542	8.3	1.8	3,903	8.5	2.0	1,361	53.5
Netherlands	2,545	8.3	1.8	3,398	7.4	1.7	853	33.5
Germany	1,480	4.8	1.1	2,493	5.4	1.3	1,013	68.4
Malaysia	848	2.8	0.6	2,413	5.3	1.2	1,565	184.6
South Africa	882	2.9	0.6	1,552	3.4	0.8	670	76.0
Greece	1,040	3.4	0.7	1,511	3.3	0.8	471	45.3
Croatia	755	2.5	0.5	1,431	3.1	0.7	676	89.5
Burma (Myanmar)	1,048	3.4	0.8	1,394	3.0	0.7	346	33.0
Former Yugoslavia not further defined <sup>(a)</sup>	966	3.2	0.7	1,342	2.9	0.7	376	38.9
Poland	1,818	5.9	1.3	1,279	2.8	0.6	-539	-29.6
Other	8,634	28.2	6.2	14,330	31.3	7.2	5,696	66.0
<i>Top 10</i>	21,196	69.3	15.2	30,139	65.9	15.1	8,943	42.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,585</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>45,748</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>15,163</b>	<b>49.6</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>139,416</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>199,222</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59,806</b>	<b>42.9</b>

(a) Unable to be allocated to specific countries in census data.

Source: AIHW analysis of unpublished ABS projections.

Similarly, the older Croatian-born population is projected to increase rapidly, by 90%, reaching 1,400 people by 2011. The older German-born population is also expected to increase (by 68%), as is the older Burmese community, albeit to a lesser extent (33%). As in most other capital cities, the older Polish-born population in Perth is the only main birthplace group projected to decline over the 15 year period—by 30%.

Overall, in 1996 people from the top 10 countries of birth accounted for 69% of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in Perth, with the top three countries contributing 43%. By 2011, these proportions are projected to fall slightly, to 66% and 39% respectively, suggesting increasing diversity within the city's overseas-born population. As in Melbourne, Italian-born people in Perth account for a significant proportion of this population (around 25% in both years).

As for Queensland, English was the predominant language spoken at home by culturally and linguistically diverse older peoples in Western Australia in 1996 (32%) and is expected to remain so in 2011 (36%). Italian (24%) was also very common in 1996, with Dutch (6%) and German (5%) being the next most common languages. These last three proportions are projected to fall slightly by 2011.

## Adelaide

The culturally and linguistically diverse older population in Adelaide is projected to increase by 38% over the period being examined, from 31,700 to 43,600 (Table 5). In Adelaide, 21% of older people were from diverse backgrounds in 1996, increasing to 23% in 2011.

Italy is projected to remain the most common country of birth at least until 2011, with more than twice as many people in the older Italian-born community than in any other birthplace group in both 1996 and 2011. Greece and Germany are the next most common countries of birth. Although the Italian community is projected to experience the largest absolute increase in numbers (growing by 4,200), in relative terms it will not be the fastest growing group. The number of older people born in Greece is projected to almost double over the 15-year period, compared with more moderate proportional increases in the Italian- and German-born populations (increasing by 49% and 26% respectively).

The numbers of older people born in Croatia and Vietnam, while numbering under 500 in 1996, are projected to be among the fastest-growing groups over the period and both are projected to have more than 1,000 members by 2011. Both the Ukrainian-born and Polish-born older populations are projected to decline by 2011 (by 49% and 38% respectively) as there has been very little migration from these countries to Australia since the post-World War II migration period.

The overseas-born older population in Adelaide has less diversity than in other capital cities, with the top 10 countries of birth contributing three-quarters of the population. Furthermore, the top three countries of birth accounted for more than half (54%) of the projected population in 2011, up from 47% in 1996. In both years, people born in Italy dominated, with 29% of the older culturally and linguistically diverse population projected to be Italian-born in 2011.

# Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

**Table 5: Main countries of birth for the older culturally and linguistically diverse population, Adelaide, 1996 and 2011 (projected)**

Birthplace	1996			2011			Change	
	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent
Italy	8,555	27.0	5.6	12,760	29.2	6.8	4,205	49.2
Greece	3,013	9.5	2.0	6,364	14.6	3.4	3,351	111.2
Germany	3,398	10.7	2.2	4,267	9.8	2.3	869	25.6
Netherlands	1,916	6.0	1.2	2,523	5.8	1.4	607	31.7
Poland	2,939	9.3	1.9	1,818	4.2	1.0	-1,121	-38.1
Former Yugoslavia not further defined <sup>(a)</sup>	847	2.7	0.6	1,259	2.9	0.7	412	48.6
Croatia	477	1.5	0.3	1,017	2.3	0.5	540	113.2
Vietnam	467	1.5	0.3	1,006	2.3	0.5	539	115.4
Hungary	772	2.4	0.5	842	1.9	0.5	70	9.1
India	584	1.8	0.4	819	1.9	0.4	235	40.2
Austria	498	1.6	0.3	694	1.6	0.4	196	39.4
Ukraine	1,160	3.7	0.8	590	1.4	0.3	-570	-49.1
Other	7,097	22.4	4.6	9,673	22.2	5.2	2,576	36.3
<i>Top 10</i>	23,682	74.7	15.4	32,675	74.9	17.5	8,993	38.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,723</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>43,632</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>11,909</b>	<b>37.5</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>153,681</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186,723</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33,042</b>	<b>21.5</b>

(a) Unable to be allocated to specific countries in census data.

Source: AIHW analysis of unpublished ABS projections.

In South Australia, as in Victoria, English is not the most common main language spoken at home by older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; Italian is more common, with 25% of people speaking it at home in both 1996 and 2011. However, at 19% English is the second most common language, and this proportion is projected to rise slightly to 22% by 2011. German and Greek were also common languages spoken in the home in 1996 (12% and 10%) and remain so for 2011, although Greek-speaking levels are expected rise (up to 15%) and German-speaking levels are projected to fall (to 8%) during the 15-year period.

## Hobart

Tasmania is similar to Queensland in that a relatively small proportion of the older population lives in the capital city (41% of older Australian-born Tasmanians and 53% of those born overseas in predominantly non-English-speaking countries live in Hobart) (Figure 1). In addition, numerically Hobart has the second smallest culturally and linguistically diverse population among the capital cities, after Darwin, and in 1996, it had the least diverse population of any capital city, with just over 9% (2,300) from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (Table 6). This is expected to rise to 2,700 by 2011, an increase of 18%. Unlike other cities, over the period 1996 to 2011

**Table 6: Main countries of birth for the older culturally and linguistically diverse population, Hobart, 1996 and 2011 (projected)**

Birthplace	1996			2011			Change	
	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent
Germany	354	15.2	1.4	398	14.5	1.3	44	12.4
Netherlands	268	11.5	1.1	376	13.7	1.2	108	40.3
Italy	271	11.6	1.1	357	13.0	1.2	86	31.7
Poland	451	19.3	1.8	224	8.2	0.7	-227	-50.3
Greece	66	2.8	0.3	218	7.9	0.7	152	230.3
Croatia	26	1.1	0.1	88	3.2	0.3	62	238.5
South Africa	54	2.3	0.2	79	2.9	0.3	25	46.3
Austria	57	2.4	0.2	72	2.6	0.2	15	26.3
India	44	1.9	0.2	67	2.4	0.2	23	52.3
Hungary	78	3.3	0.3	66	2.4	0.2	-12	-15.4
Former Czechoslovakia	80	3.4	0.3	62	2.3	0.2	-18	-22.5
Ukraine	74	3.2	0.3	24	0.9	0.1	-50	-67.6
China	55	2.4	0.2	62	2.3	0.2	7	12.7
Other	457	19.6	1.8	653	23.8	2.2	196	42.9
<i>Top 10</i>	<i>1,754</i>	<i>75.1</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>1,945</i>	<i>70.8</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>10.9</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>2,746</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>17.6</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>25,325</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30,296</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,971</b>	<b>19.6</b>

Source: AIHW analysis of unpublished ABS projections.

growth in the culturally and linguistically diverse population in Hobart is projected to be slightly less than the growth in the city's older population as a whole (up 20% over the same period). Consequently, the proportion of the older Hobart population who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is projected to decline marginally, but will remain slightly above 9% in 2011.

By 2011, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy are projected to be the most common countries of birth for older Hobart residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This is a change from 1996 when Poland was the most common country of birth. The main cause of this change is a projected halving in the number of older Polish-born people over the period, down to 220 people. This fall in the older Polish-born population in Hobart reflects similar trends in other capital cities and is again due to low migration from Poland to Australia following the initial boom after World War II. Declines in the numbers of people born in Hungary, the Former Czechoslovakia and the Ukraine are projected for similar reasons. In contrast, the older populations born in Greece and Croatia are projected to more than triple, with the Greek community experiencing the largest absolute increase of all groups (up 150). In 2011, only the top five countries are projected to have communities with more than 200 older people in Hobart, with the next most populous group (the Croatian community) having only 90 people.



## Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

The diversity within the culturally and linguistically diverse population in Hobart is gradually increasing. In 2011, the top 10 countries will contribute 71% of the population, down from 75% in 1996. In addition, in 1996 the top four birthplaces dominated, with the Polish community accounting for 19% of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; other communities each accounted for 3% or less of the population. By 2011, it is projected that no one group will contribute more than 15% (Germany), and the population will be spread more evenly across birthplaces.

English is projected to be increasingly the main language spoken at home by culturally and linguistically diverse older peoples in Tasmania: by 2011, 44% are projected to speak English as their main language at home, up from 36% in 1996. German is the second most common language in both 1996 (14%) and 2011 (10%). Italian and Dutch were also relatively common in 1996, although the proportions of people reporting these as their main languages are projected to fall by 2011. Reflecting the contraction of the older Polish community, the use of Polish at home is projected to halve over the period, to 5% of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in 2011.

### Canberra

The older culturally and linguistically diverse population in Canberra is the second fastest growing of any capital city in Australia, with only Darwin outstripping it. The population is projected to nearly double over the 15-year period being examined—from 5,600 in 1996 to 10,100 in 2011 (Table 7). By 2011, more than one-quarter (27%) of older people living in Canberra are projected to be from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, the third-highest level after Melbourne and Sydney.

By 2011, the top three birthplaces are projected to be Italy, Germany and Greece, as they were in 1996. However, the greatest growth in Canberra's older culturally and linguistically diverse population, both in absolute and relative terms, is among the Croatian-born; in 2011 their population is projected to reach 760, more than four times larger than in 1996. As in other capitals, the population born in Poland is projected to decline (by 21%). Other groups who can expect to experience high growth rates in the older age groups are those from Greece (up 183%), Vietnam (up 126%) and India (up 119%).

Canberra has a very diverse older population. This is reflected in the relatively low proportion of the culturally and linguistically diverse population contributed by the top 10 birthplaces. In both 1996 and 2011, the top 10 countries accounted for 58% of the population (similar to the proportions in Sydney and Brisbane in 2011). In addition, less than 30% of the culturally and linguistically diverse population came from the top three countries of birth.

The Australian Capital Territory's diverse older population most commonly reported English as the main language spoken in the home in 1996 (23%); this is projected to rise to 27% by 2011. In 1996, there were almost equal numbers of Italian and German speakers (both about 11%); however, the proportions using these languages are expected to drop slightly by 2011 (to 10% and 8% respectively). Reflecting increases in Greece and Croatia as countries of birth, the use of both Greek and Croatian by older people in the home is projected to rise over the 15-year period, both to between 7% and 8% (up from 5% and 3% respectively).

**Table 7: Main countries of birth for the older culturally and linguistically diverse population, Canberra, 1996 and 2011 (projected)**

Birthplace	1996			2011			Change	
	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent
Italy	657	11.8	2.9	1,089	10.8	2.9	432	65.8
Germany	545	9.8	2.4	939	9.3	2.5	394	72.3
Greece	275	5.0	1.2	777	7.7	2.0	502	182.5
Croatia	174	3.1	0.8	756	7.5	2.0	582	334.5
Netherlands	380	6.8	1.7	592	5.9	1.6	212	55.8
China	256	4.6	1.1	397	3.9	1.0	141	55.1
Former Yugoslavia not further defined <sup>(a)</sup>	157	2.8	0.7	348	3.4	0.9	191	121.7
Poland	430	7.7	1.9	340	3.4	0.9	-90	-20.9
India	144	2.6	0.6	315	3.1	0.8	171	118.8
Vietnam	128	2.3	0.6	289	2.9	0.8	161	125.8
Hungary	144	2.6	0.6	265	2.6	0.7	121	84.0
Austria	191	3.4	0.9	242	2.4	0.6	51	26.7
Other	2,073	37.3	9.3	3,740	37.1	9.9	1,667	80.4
<i>Top 10</i>	<i>3,209</i>	<i>57.8</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>5,842</i>	<i>57.9</i>	<i>15.4</i>	<i>2,633</i>	<i>82.1</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,554</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>10,089</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>4,535</b>	<b>81.7</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>22,378</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>37,906</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15,528</b>	<b>69.4</b>

(a) Unable to be allocated to specific countries in census data.

Source: AIHW analysis of unpublished ABS projections.

## Darwin

After Hobart, numerically Darwin has the smallest population from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. By 2011, this population is projected to be just over 2,000, more than twice the number in 1996 when Darwin had 900 such residents (Table 8). This is the fastest growth rate projected for any capital city in Australia, although it is important to remember that it is from a small base. By 2011, one-third of Darwin's older residents are expected to be from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Darwin's proximity to Asia accounts for differences in its migration pattern and the resulting mix of birthplace groups, when compared with other cities. In 2011, Greece, Indonesia and Germany are projected to be the three most common countries of birth among the older culturally and linguistically diverse population, as they were in 1996. In 1996, only the Indonesian community in Darwin had more than 100 older members; by 2011, six birthplace groups are projected to be at least that large (Greece, Indonesia, Germany, Italy, the Philippines and the Netherlands). Darwin and Hobart are the only capital cities in Australia where older people born in Italy are not projected to be the largest group in 2011.

## Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

Diversity in Darwin's older population is increasing. In 2011, 67% of Darwin's culturally and linguistically diverse population is projected to come from the top 10 countries of birth, compared with 72% in 1996. Around one-third will be from the top three birthplaces.

In 1996, as in most other states, the main languages spoken at home in the Northern Territory by older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds were English (28%) and Italian (9%); Greek was also commonly spoken (8%). Although English (32% in 2011) is projected to remain the most common language in use at home in this population in 2011, the proportion of Greek speakers is expected to rise to 13% and Italian speakers to fall to 8%. German, Tagalog, Cantonese and Portuguese were also commonly spoken in 1996 in the Northern Territory, and will remain so in 2011.

**Table 8: Main countries of birth for the older culturally and linguistically diverse population, Darwin, 1996 and 2011 (projected)**

Birthplace	1996			2011			Change	
	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent of city CALD pop.	Per cent of total city pop.	No.	Per cent
Greece	83	9.4	2.9	281	13.9	4.7	198	238.6
Indonesia	131	14.9	4.6	188	9.3	3.1	57	43.5
Germany	68	7.7	2.4	185	9.1	3.1	117	172.1
Italy	77	8.7	2.7	166	8.2	2.8	89	115.6
Philippines	72	8.2	2.5	142	7.0	2.4	70	97.2
Netherlands	45	5.1	1.6	112	5.5	1.9	67	148.9
Malaysia	22	2.5	0.8	91	4.5	1.5	69	313.6
India	45	5.1	1.6	79	3.9	1.3	34	75.6
China	65	7.4	2.3	68	3.4	1.1	3	4.6
Sri Lanka	23	2.6	0.8	49	2.4	0.8	26	113.0
Former Czechoslovakia	26	2.9	0.9	31	1.5	0.5	5	19.2
Other	225	25.5	7.9	632	31.2	10.5	407	180.9
<i>Top 10</i>	635	72.0	22.2	1,361	67.2	22.6	726	114.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>1,142</b>	<b>129.5</b>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>. .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>110.6</b>

Source: AIHW analysis of unpublished ABS projections.



## Conclusion

Establishing the location and concentration of cultural groups can help ensure services are accessible and appropriate by identifying potential familial, religious and community resources that can supplement existing services. The relative size of the culturally and linguistically diverse population within the wider population changes from city to city, with projections for 2011 ranging from 9% for Hobart to 38% for Melbourne.

Analysis of the older culturally and linguistically diverse population within Australian capital cities shows that not only does the size of particular communities vary from place to place, but so too does the mix, with different communities being prominent in different cities. However, Italy is projected to be among the top three countries of birth in 2011 for seven of the eight capital cities, and Germany is expected to be among the top three for six of the cities. Greece and the Netherlands will also be common birthplaces in several of the capital cities. Three Asian countries are projected to be the birthplace of significant numbers of older people in particular cities: in Sydney, in the coming years China will be among the top three birthplaces for older people with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; India and Indonesia will be similarly placed for Perth and Darwin respectively.

Growth rates within the communities vary significantly within and between cities, with some birthplace groups currently experiencing rapid growth, whereas others are contracting. The Greek-born and Croatian-born older communities are among the top three fastest growing communities in a majority of the capital cities, but Polish-born communities are shrinking in most capital cities. Other countries of birth with rapidly growing older communities in a number of cities include Vietnam (among the top three in three cities) and Malaysia, South Africa, Germany and the Netherlands (each among the top three in two cities).

The above results reflect the migration patterns experienced since World War II. Some countries, such as Poland, provided large numbers of migrants in the 1950s and early 1960s, with these numbers then declining. Other countries were an increasing source of migrants in the late 1960s and 1970s, especially Asian countries following the official end of the White Australia Policy in 1973. The findings presented in this bulletin illustrate that the cultural mix of older Australians will be continually changing as a consequence of developments in Australian migration policy, and as changes in the living conditions in different countries lead people to leave their country of birth.



# Diversity among older Australians in capital cities 1996–2011

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