

About this Publication

The People of Western Australia is a major compilation of statistics on birthplace, language, religion and ancestry from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. This publication has gone to considerable lengths to create a data source which is unique, accurate, detailed and comprehensive. Some of the features of this publication include:

- Customised local area tables. *The People of Western Australia* presents ranked lists of birthplace and religion for each Local Government Area (LGA) in Western Australia, along with age profiles of selected birthplace and language groups and details on ancestry and birthplace of parents for all LGAs. This gives a very complete picture of the diversity of each area.
- Age-gender profiles for the most common birthplace, language and ancestry groups in Western Australia showing the diverse structure of our population.
- Detailed ancestry data by birthplace of parents, giving a clearer picture of the extent of our migrant communities.
- English language competency by age, presenting the differing levels of English language competency amongst different language and age groups.

How to use this Publication

This publication is presented in two volumes. Volume 1 is in three sections, covering the three broad geographical areas around which the data is arranged:

- Section 1 – Australian overview
- Section 2 – Western Australia overview
- Section 3 – Metropolitan Perth by Local Government Areas

Volume 2 contains a series of 4 page profiles the LGAs in Regional Western Australia as well as a 4 page profile of the State for comparison:

- Section 1 – Western Australia 4 Page Profile
- Section 2 – Regional Western Australia by Local Government Areas

The first two sections of the publication contain the most detailed data. They present a series of tables and graphics including:

- A full listing of birthplace, language, religion and ancestry data from the 2006 Census with comparisons to 2001 where appropriate.
- Graphics on the residential patterns of the major birthplace groups.
- Special cross-tabulations of language with birthplace, religion with birthplace and ancestry with birthplace of parents which reveal richer information on the make-up of the ethnic and religious communities in the State.
- Data on English language proficiency by age.
- Age-sex histograms on major birthplace, language and ancestry groups.

Volume 1: Section 3 and Volume 2 comprises a series of 4 page profiles containing statistics on birthplace, language, religion and ancestry for each LGA in Western Australia. These profiles can be used to compare different areas in Western Australia – for example identifying the LGA with the highest overseas born population. They can also be compared against the 4 page profile for Western Australia at the end of section 2 to determine for example, whether the proportion of Italian speakers in a given area is above or below the Western Australia average.

Notes on the Data

The figures in this publication are based on data from the 2006, 2001 and 1996 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and are based on usual resident counts, ie counts of where people usually lived at the time of the Census.

Geography

In the summary tables, charts and four-page profiles presented for Western Australia, the geographic level used is 2006 Local Government Area (LGA). For 2006, these areas are mostly comparable to 2001 data. When boundaries have substantially changed due to new LGAs forming or existing LGAs redefining their boundary, data from 2001 and 1996 has not been presented.

Introduced Random Error

Data released by the ABS is subject to randomisation of small cells to maintain confidentiality of respondents. The following selected text is taken from the ABS 2006 Census Dictionary (further details as to how and when the introduced random error is used can be found in the glossary of ABS 2006 Census Dictionary Cat 2901.0):

Individual Census records are confidential. Before Census data are released, small random adjustments are made to allow the maximum amount of detailed Census data possible to be released without breaching confidentiality. Consequently, care should be taken when interpreting cells with small numbers, since randomisation, as well as possible respondent and processing errors, have a greater impact on small cells than on larger cells.

(Source: ABS 2006 Census Dictionary Cat 2901.0, pp17)

The effect of this randomisation is that there are small discrepancies in totals throughout the publication. For example, the total number of Australian born people in Western Australia in table 2.3 is 14 persons less than the figure shown in table 2.5. This is because table 2.5 is derived from a different ABS source which cross-tabulates birthplace by birthplace of parents, each cell of which is subject to different levels of introduced random error.

Due to this randomisation of small numbers, it would be misleading to present numbers with a value of less than 10 in these publications. Therefore such values are suppressed and presented in the tables as “..”. It should be noted however, that even though these small values are not presented in the table, their values do contribute to the totals presented for each table.

Birthplace data

In the 2006 Census the ABS coded the response to the birthplace question into 285 categories; these are based on the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) 2nd edition. In the 2001 Census there were 284 categories.

The one major difference between the 2006 and 2001 categories is that the 2001 category of *Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* is not used in 2006. Two new categories of *Serbia* and *Montenegro* have been used for the 2006 Census instead.

In this case 2006 data has been reported for *Serbia* and *Montenegro* with no comparable data for 2001. The 2001 category of *Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* has been included in the *not elsewhere classified* category for 2001. For this reason the 2006 *not elsewhere classified* category is not comparable to 2001.

Where tables only present a selected set of Birthplaces (e.g. chart 2.2) the following Birthplaces have always been included:

- Ethiopia
- Eritrea
- Sudan
- Somalia
- Iraq
- Afghanistan
- Burma

Language data

In the 2006 Census, the ABS coded the response to the language question into 430 language categories based on the Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) 2nd edition. In both the 2001 and 1996 Census there are 240 language categories based on the ASCL 1st edition.

The major difference between the 1st edition and 2nd edition ASCL is the disaggregation of languages. Where this has occurred it has been footnoted with reference to the relevant 2001 language classification that it was previously included in. A selection of classification changes where this has occurred is listed below:

- The 2001 category of *Tagalog (Filipino)* has been disaggregated into 2006 categories *Tagalog* and *Filipino*.
- The 2001 category of *Tigrinya* has been disaggregated into 2006 categories *Tigre* and *Tigrinya*.
- The 2001 category *Western Austronesian Languages, nec* has been disaggregated into 2006 categories *Acehnese, Balinese, Bikol, Iban, Ilonggo (Hiligaynon), Javanese, and Pampangan*.

Where it is not possible to present the comparable 2001 data “..” along with a footnote is used and the respective 2001 category is included in the *Other Languages n.f.d* (not further defined) category. It is for this reason that the 2006 *Other Languages n.f.d.* category is not comparable to 2001.

Religion data

In the 2006 Census there are 137 religion categories based on the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) 2nd Edition. In 2001 Census there were 125 religion categories.

The major differences between the 2001 and 2006 is a disaggregation of religion categories:

- The 2001 category *Religious Belief, nfd* included 2006 categories *Church of God, so described* and *Australian Christian Churches, so described*.
- The 2001 category *Anglican* is not used in 2006. Two new categories have been used in the 2006 Census; *Anglican Church of Australia* and *Anglican Catholic Church*.
- The 2001 category *Catholic, nec* included 2006 category *Chaldean Catholic*.
- The 2001 category *Oriental Orthodox, nec* included 2006 category *Ethiopian Orthodox Church*.
- The 2001 category *Religious groups, nec* included 2006 category *Jainism*.

Where 2006 data has been presented alongside 2001 data that has been disaggregated, the abbreviation n.c. (not comparable) is used.

Ancestry

In the 2006 Census there are 275 categories based on Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) 2nd Edition. For the 2001 Census there were 191 categories.

As with the language classifications the major difference between the 1st edition and 2nd edition ASCCEG is the disaggregation of ancestries. Where this has occurred it has been footnoted with reference to the relevant 2001 language classification that it was previously included in. A selection of classification changes where this has occurred is listed below:

- The 2001 category *Polynesian, nec* included 2006 categories *Hawaiian, Tahitian, Tokelauan* and *Tuvaluan*.
- The 2001 category *British, nec* included 2006 categories *Channel Islander* and *Manx*.
- The 2001 category *Martime South-East Asian, nec* included 2006 categories *Acehnese, Balinese, Bruneian, Kadazan, Singaporean* and *Temoq*.

Additionally, there were several 2001 ancestry categories that have been aggregated up into 2006 categories:

- The 2001 categories *Wallon, Breton* and *Western European, nec (incl. Alsatian, Frisian, Luxembourgish)* are not used in 2006. The 2006 category of *Eastern European, nec (incl. Alsatian, Breton, Walloon)* was used for the 2006 Census.
- The 2001 categories *Gurkha, Marathi* and *Southern Asian, nec (incl. Bhote, Kashmiri, Sherpa)* are not used in 2006. The 2006 category of *Southern Asian, nec (incl. Gurkha, Kashmiri, Marathi)* is used for the 2006 Census.
- The 2001 categories *Fulani* and *Central and West African, nec (incl. Fang, Kongo, Liberian)* are not used in 2006. The 2006 category of *Central and West African, nec (incl. Fang, Fulani, Kongo)* is used for the 2006 Census.
- The 2001 categories *Namibian* and *Southern and East African, nec (incl. Afar, Tutsi, Zulu)* are not used in 2006. The 2006 category of *Southern and East African, nec (incl. Afar, Namibian, Tutsi)* is used for the 2006 Census.

Where a category name has not changed between 2001 and 2006, but changes have occurred in the underlying Census classifications, n.c. (not comparable) is used along with a footnote outlining the change.

For both the 2001 and 2006 Census respondents were asked to mark the ancestries they most closely identified with and to consider their ancestry back as far as three generations. Respondents had the option of reporting more than one ancestry but only the first two ancestries reported were coded for the Census. Respondents did not have the option of ranking their answers to the ancestry question, so where a respondent reports two ancestries, those two ancestries have equal standing.

All ancestry data presented in this publication is based on a count of all responses, therefore double counting can occur. Where appropriate the proportion of responses as well as the proportion of all persons in an area is presented along with the counts.