Community Information Summary

Ethiopia-born

Historical Background

Ethiopia has been devastated by decades of natural disasters, political unrest, war, drought and famine.


While Ethiopia-born people in Australia share a common country of birth, they are a diverse group of people. There are many differences including ethnicity, language and religion within the Ethiopia-born community. These include the Amhara, Oromo, Tigray and Harari (also known as Adaree), each with a distinct sense of community and tradition.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 8452 Ethiopia-born people in Australia, an increase of 50 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 4489 followed by Western Australia (1152), New South Wales (1107) and Queensland (749).

Refer to Figure 1.
**Age and Sex**

The median age of the Ethiopia-born in 2011 was 35 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 12.6 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 15.6 per cent were 15-24 years, 50.4 per cent were 25-44 years, 19.4 per cent were 45-64 years and 2 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Ethiopia-born in Australia, there were 4099 males (48.5 per cent) and 4354 females (51.5 per cent). The sex ratio was 94.1 males per 100 females.

**Ancestry**

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Ethiopia-born people reported were Ethiopian (5297), Oromo (821) and African, so described, (459).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 8609 responses were towards Ethiopian ancestry.

*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.

**Language**

The main languages spoken at home by Ethiopia-born people in Australia were Amharic (3414), Oromo (1290) and English (1134).

Of the 7320 Ethiopia-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 82.5 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 15.2 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.
**Religion**

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Ethiopia-born were Islam (2016), Oriental Orthodox (1977) and Eastern Orthodox (1584).

Of the Ethiopia-born, 3.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 2.6 per cent did not state a religion.

**Arrival**

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 36.7 per cent of the Ethiopia-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Ethiopia-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 30.5 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 27.7 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.

**Median Income**

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Ethiopia-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was $389, compared with $538 for all overseas-born and $597 for all Australia-born. The total Australian population had a median individual weekly income of $577.
Qualifications

At the 2011 Census, 51.3 per cent of the Ethiopia-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non-school qualifications compared to 55.9 per cent of the Australian population.

Of the Ethiopia-born aged 15 years and over, 19.7 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

Employment

Among Ethiopia-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 62.3 per cent and the unemployment rate was 15 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 3775 Ethiopia-born who were employed, 26.2 per cent were employed in either a skilled managerial, professional or trade occupation. The corresponding rate in the total Australian population was 48.4 per cent.