



# Community Information Summary

## India-born

### Historical Background

Between 1800 and 1860, Indians were brought to Australia to work as labourers and domestic workers.

Between 1860 and 1901 many arrived to work as agricultural labourers and hawkers, particularly in country towns. A number also worked in the goldfields.

They were mainly Sikhs and Muslims from the Punjab region in northwest India with many settling in Woolgoolga on the New South Wales north central coast. Today, the Sikh settlement in Woolgoolga is one of the largest rurally based Indian communities in Australia.

Migration from India was curtailed after immigration restrictions were introduced in 1901. Following India's independence from Britain in 1947, the number of Anglo-Indians and India-born British citizens immigrating to Australia increased.

The easing of immigration restrictions in the late 1960s saw an increase in non-European Indians migrating to Australia. By 1981, the India-born population reached 41 657 and the new arrivals included professionals such as doctors, teachers, computer programmers and engineers.

Unlike the early settlers, those arriving after the 1960s came from many parts of India belonging to various religious, linguistic and cultural groups. Today, India is one of the top three source countries of migrants to Australia.

### Today

#### **Geographic Distribution**

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 295 362 India-born people in Australia, an increase of 100.8 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 111 787 followed by New South Wales (95 387), Queensland (30 259) and Western Australia (29 915).

Refer to Figure 1.

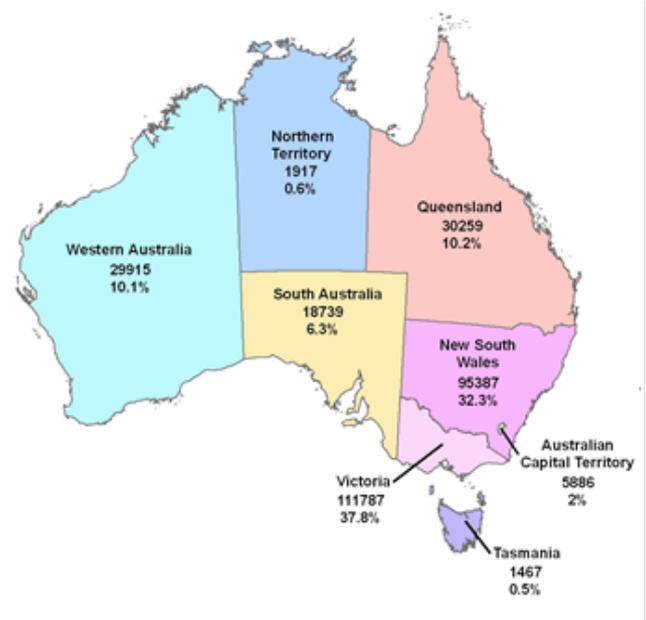


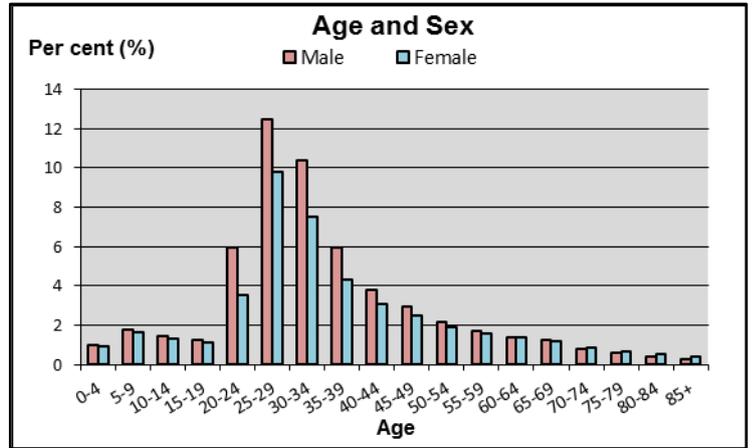
Figure 1

### Age and Sex

The median age of the India-born in 2011 was 31 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 8.2 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 11.9 per cent were 15-24 years, 57.2 per cent were 25-44 years, 15.7 per cent were 45-64 years and 7 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the India-born in Australia, there were 164 208 males (55.6 per cent) and 131 155 females (44.4 per cent). The sex ratio was 125.2 males per 100 females.

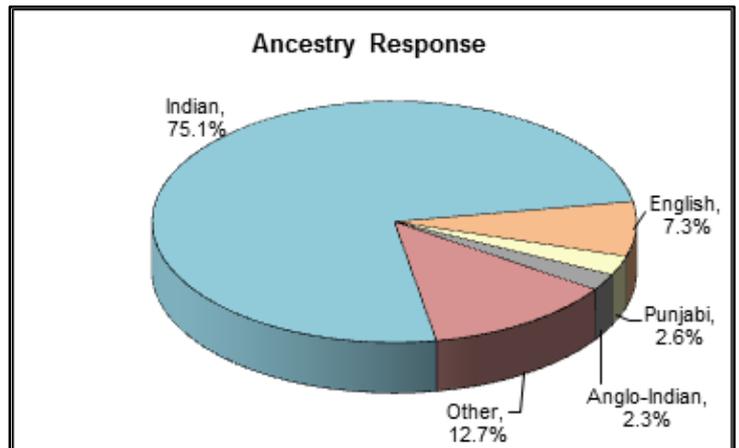


### Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses\* that India-born people reported were Indian (236 343), English (23 043) and Punjabi (8246).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses\*, 390 894 responses were towards Indian ancestry.

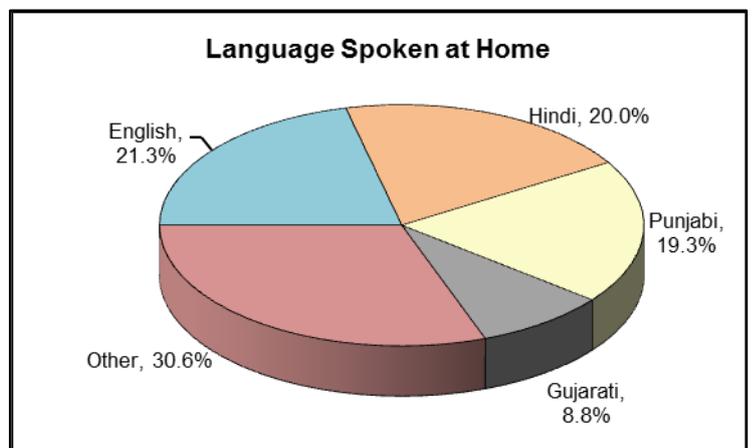
\*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



### Language

The main languages spoken at home by India-born people in Australia were English (62 862), Hindi (59 055) and Punjabi (57 144).

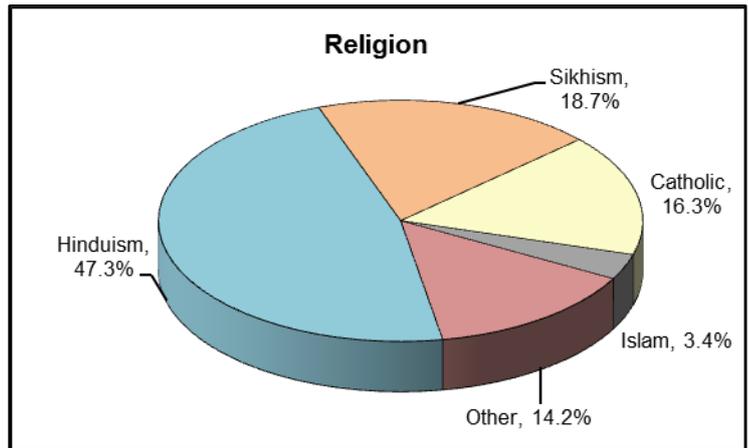
Of the 232 502 India-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 93.3 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 5.3 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



### Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst India-born were Hinduism (139 631), Sikhism (55 312) and Catholic (48 207).

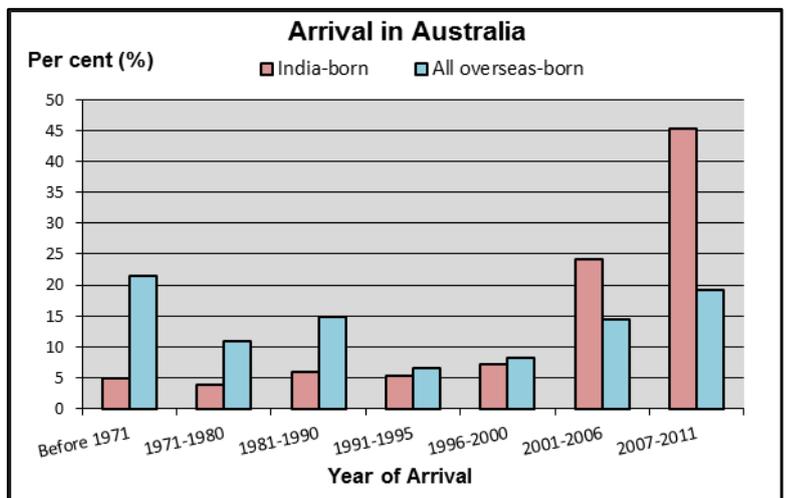
Of the India-born, 2.7 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 1.8 per cent did not state a religion.



### Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 27.2 per cent of the India-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total India-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 24.2 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 45.2 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



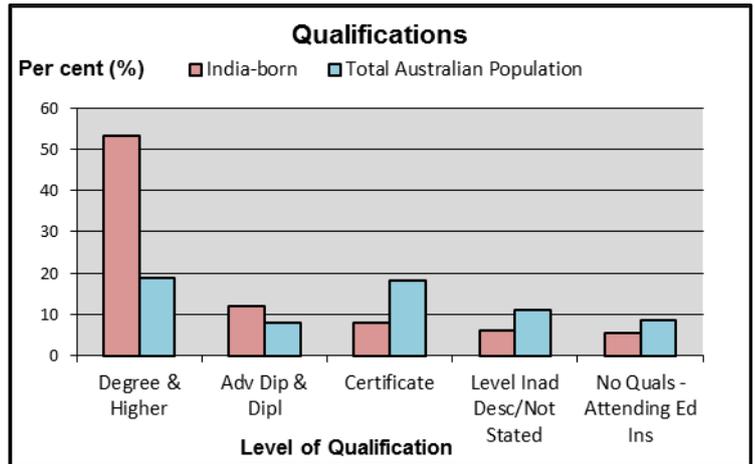
### Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the India-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$663, 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, 79.8 per cent of the India-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 India-born aged 15 years and over, 5.6 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

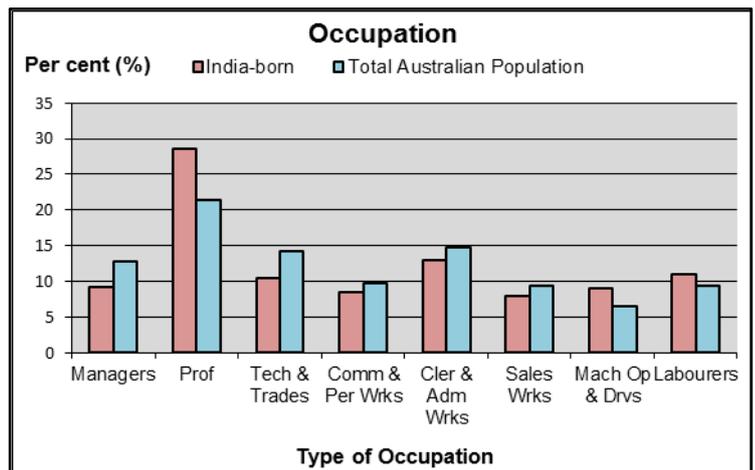


*Level Inad Desc/Not Stated* = Education level inadequately described or not stated  
*No Quals - Attending Ed Ins* = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

## Employment

Among India-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 77 per cent and the unemployment rate was 6.3 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 192 663 India-born who were employed, 48.3 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.



*Comm & Per Wrks* = Community & Personal Service Workers

Produced by the Community Relations Section of DIAC

All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. Sources for the Historical Background available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/comm-summ/source.htm>