



Community Information Summary

Tonga-born

Historical Background

Since the 1970s, Tongan migrants have come to Australia to study, work or join family members, maintaining strong kinship ties.

From the mid-1970s, following the end of the New Zealand contract-worker scheme, many Tongans employed in the scheme left New Zealand and came to Australia looking for work. Other Tongans also migrated to Australia directly from Tonga. Their family members later joined them as family migrants. This strong pattern of family migration continues to be a feature of Tongan settlement in Australia.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 9208 Tonga-born people in Australia, an increase of 21.4 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 5550 followed by Queensland (1596), Victoria (1446) and Western Australia (215).

Refer to Figure 1.

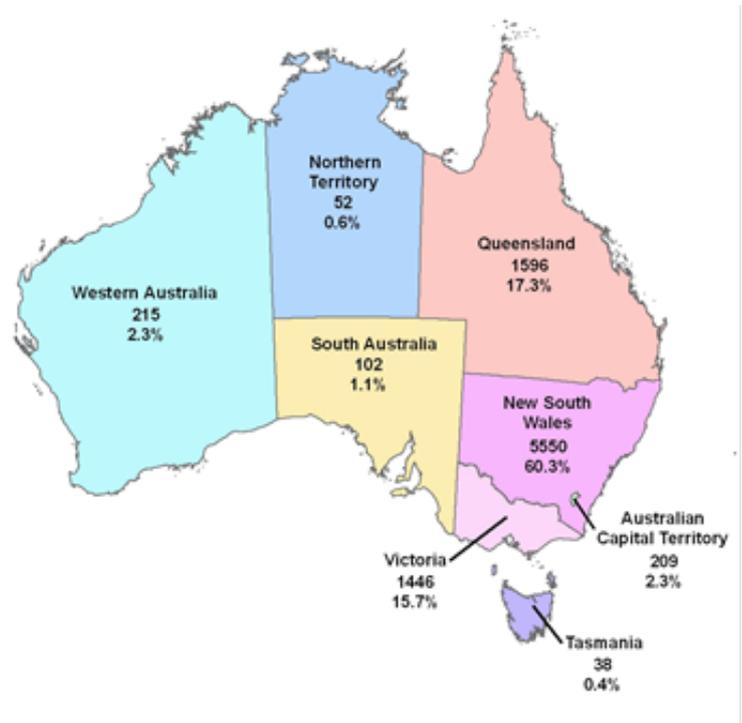


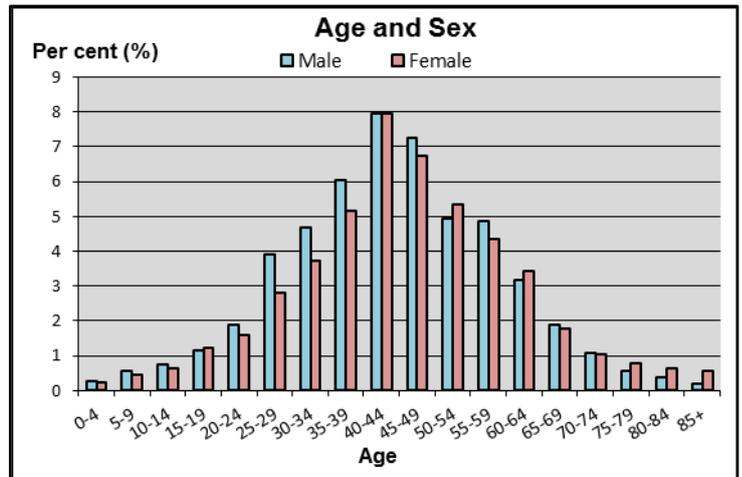
Figure 1

Age and Sex

The median age of the Tonga-born in 2011 was 44 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 2.9 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 5.8 per cent were 15-24 years, 42.3 per cent were 25-44 years, 40.1 per cent were 45-64 years and 8.9 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Tonga-born in Australia, there were 4749 males (51.6 per cent) and 4462 females (48.4 per cent). The sex ratio was 106.4 males per 100 females.

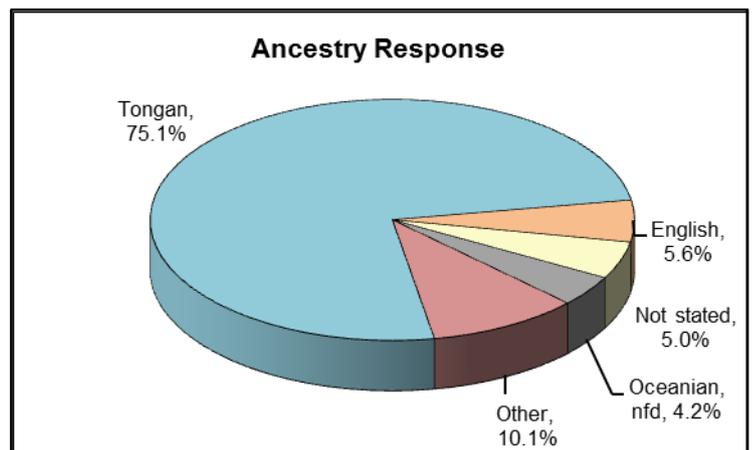


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Tonga-born people reported were Tongan (7718), English (576) and Oceanian, nfd (427).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 25 096 responses were towards Tongan ancestry.

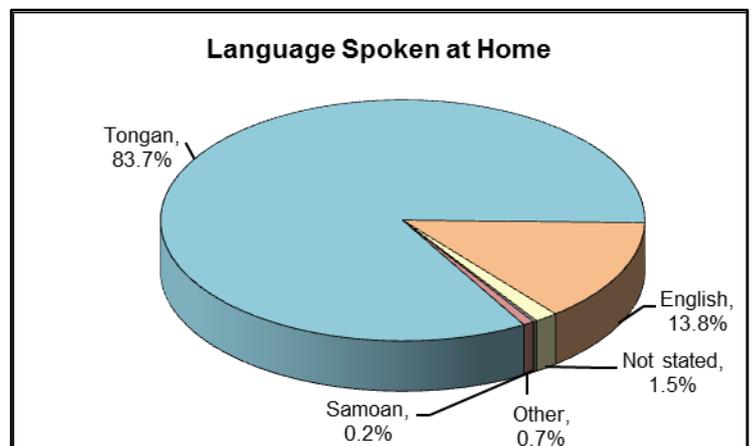
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Tonga-born people in Australia were Tongan (7706) and English (1273).

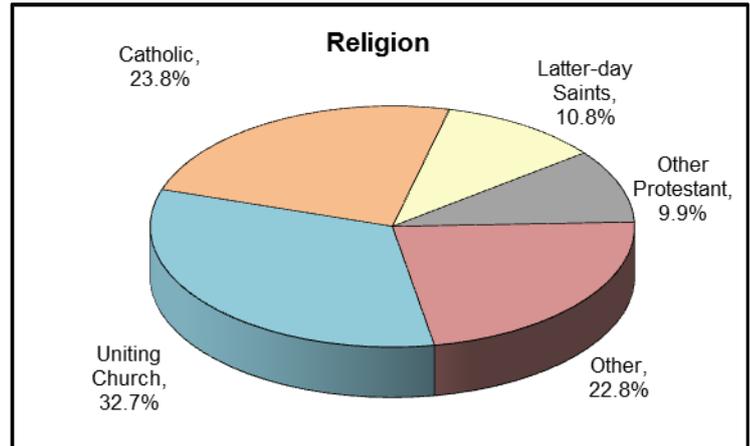
Of the 7940 Tonga-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 84.8 per cent spoke English very well or well, and 12.8 per cent spoke English or well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Tonga-born were Uniting Church (3015), Catholic (2195) and Latter-day Saints (991).

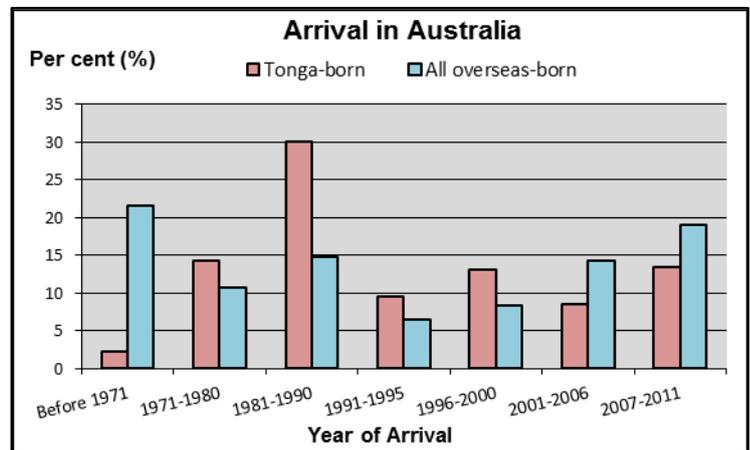
Of the Tonga-born, 2.1 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 2.8 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 69.4 per cent of the Tonga-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Tonga-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 8.6 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 13.4 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



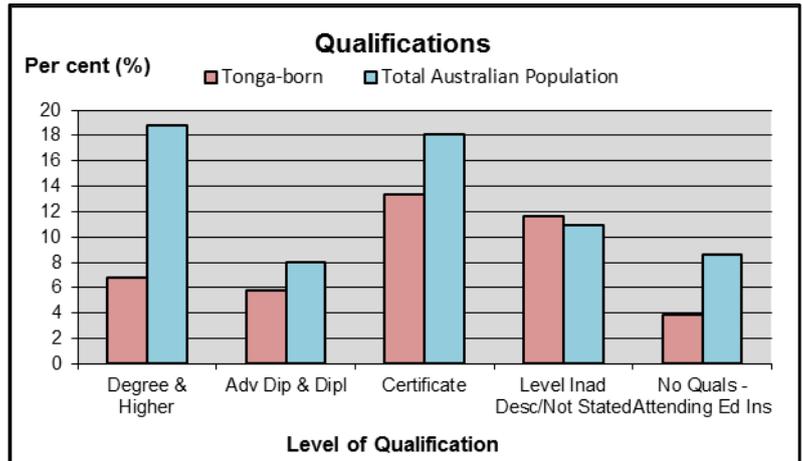
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Tonga-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$560, 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, 37.5 per cent of the Tonga-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 Tonga-born aged 15 years and over, 3.9 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

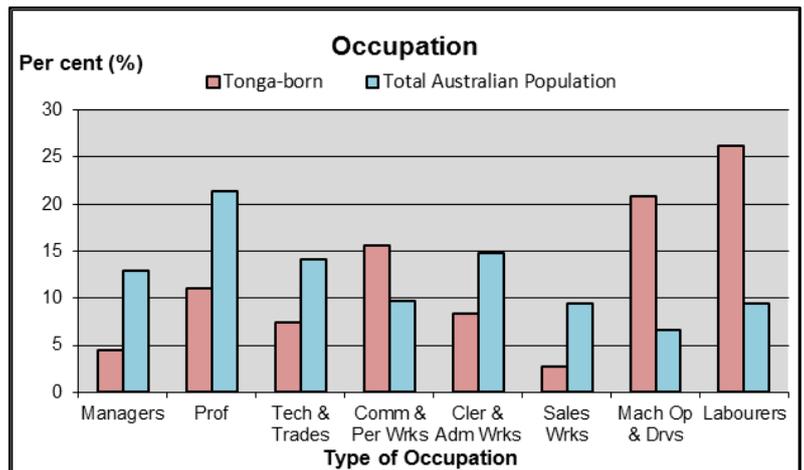


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Tonga-born people, the participation rate in the labour force was 63.4 per cent and the unemployment rate was 9.2 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 4990 Tonga-born who were employed, 22.9 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 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>