MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

IAN CASTLES

Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CATALOGUE NO. 2505.0

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

The following symbols, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables mean

..   not applicable

n.a.   not available

*   cell contains less than 200 people

—   nil or rounded to zero

n.e.i. not elsewhere included

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTRIES

The classification of countries into continental groupings in the 1986 Census and in this publication was based strictly on geography. Thus, the continental grouping *Asia* and the sub-continental grouping *Western Asia* include those countries, other than Egypt and Iran, commonly referred to as the Middle East. Egypt was included in *Africa* while Iran was included in *Other Asia*. The *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics* (Cat. No. 1269.0) was released in October 1990 and classifies the Middle East and North Africa into a major group separate from the remainder of Asia and Africa.

PHONE INQUIRIES

•   about *these statistics* — contact Ms Dot Russell on (06) 252 6214.

•   about *other statistics* and other ABS services — contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6007, 252 6627, 252 5402 or any ABS State Office (see Appendix D).

MAIL INQUIRIES

•   *write to Information Services*, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616 or any ABS State Office.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES

•   on Discovery — key *656#.

•   on PC-Ausstats — phone (06) 252 6017.

•   on Telestats — phone
    (06) 252 5404 Foreign Trade Statistics
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UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

•   as well as the statistics included in this and related publications the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to Information Services, as above.

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FOREWORD

Since the 1970s, Australian Governments have actively pursued a multicultural policy and today's Australian society is made up of people from many different cultural backgrounds. At the 1986 Census, it was found that one Australian resident in every five had been born in a country other than Australia and two in every five had at least one overseas-born parent.

All migrants bring to Australia a little of the culture of their original homeland and the merging of diverse and varied cultures has been an integral part of Australia's development as a nation. In recognition of this, the 1986 Census of Population and Housing sought to obtain additional information about our multicultural society by including a question on ancestry as well as the, by now standard, items of birthplace, parents' birthplace, year of arrival in Australia (for the overseas-born), and use of a language other than English in the home. By using combinations of these variables as well as the full range of social and demographic information collected in the census, it has been possible to build up the comprehensive picture of our multicultural society presented in this report.

Among the many identifiable cultural groups, Australian Aboriginal people form a particular facet of our society and, although included in this report, they are also the subject of another report in the series *Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People* (Cat. No. 2503.0).

This report was prepared, in the main, by Lynda Sharpe and edited by Dot Russell.

Ian Castles

Australian Statistician

December 1991

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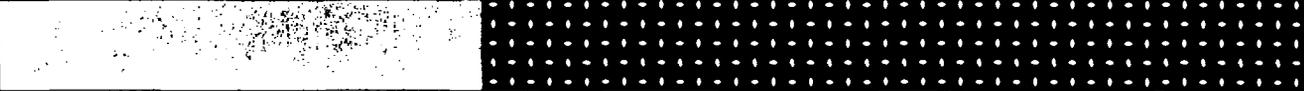
CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The first cultural group

Australian Aborigines were the first known cultural group to take up residence in Australia, arriving from South-East Asia at least 40,000 years ago. These people spread throughout the continent and developed very rich cultural traditions. Aboriginal culture showed considerable variation between different tribal clans, of which 600 were estimated to exist. For example, more than 200 distinct and mutually unintelligible Aboriginal languages were spoken in Australia. With the arrival of European settlers in 1788, the Aboriginal population began a serious decline attributed both to the displacement and killings inflicted by the settlers and to the introduction of many diseases hitherto unknown to the native population.

... Aboriginal people today

The 1971 Census was the first to include an official count of Aboriginal people, and at that time nearly 116,000 people identified themselves as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (TSI) origin. Ten years later, at the 1981 Census, this figure had risen to nearly 160,000. At the 1986 Census, more than 227,000 people (or 1.5 per cent of the total population) identified themselves as being of Aboriginal or TSI origin. This large increase was not due solely to the natural increase of the population, but was at least partially due to the more accurate count being taken in the 1986 Census as a result of special awareness campaigns and field counting procedures adopted in Aboriginal communities. Another contributing factor may have been that people felt more inclined to identify themselves as being of Aboriginal or TSI origin in 1986 than they had in previous censuses.

At the 1986 Census almost 200,000 people reported having Aboriginal or TSI ancestry (either solely or in combination with other ancestries), but only 36,900 people reported that they spoke an Aboriginal language at home.

Immigration during the 19th century

The first Europeans to settle in Australia arrived in 1788. Convicts formed the majority of immigrants during the first 40 years of settlement but in 1830, the Colonial Governments, eager to attract free settlers, offered people from the British Isles assisted passage to Australia, or free land grants. By 1850, free settlers made up more than 50 per cent of the 333,000 Europeans living in Australia. The discovery of gold in Victoria during the 1850s brought a large influx of migrants to Australia; between 1851 and 1860, 600,000 people arrived. A second peak in immigration occurred during the boom years of the 1880s when many assisted passages were offered. However, the recession of the 1890s resulted in a discontinuation of these schemes and as a consequence immigration was severely reduced.

... where did they come from?

At least 75 per cent of all overseas-born people in Australia during the nineteenth century were from the British Isles. The proportion who had been born in England or Wales remained quite stable (at about 47 per cent) from 1861 to 1911, as did the proportion born in Scotland (about 12 per cent). However, the relative immigration of Irish-born people, although very strong early in the period, was not maintained. The proportion of overseas-born people who had been born in Ireland fell from 25 per cent in 1861, to 19 per cent in 1911.

FIGURE 1.1 OVERSEAS-BORN PEOPLE: PROPORTION BORN IN ENGLAND, IRELAND AND SCOTLAND, CENSUSES 1861-1911

Per cent   Per cent
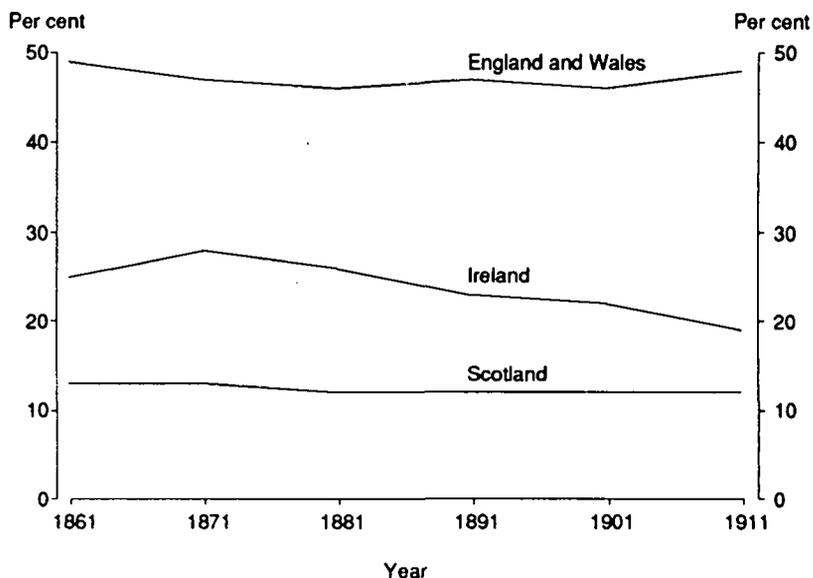
Source: *Australian Historical Statistics (1987) Fairfax, Syme and Weldon Associates*

The most numerous non-English speaking group resident in Australia during the nineteenth century were people from Germany, whose migration from Prussia to South Australia began in 1838 and continued steadily throughout the century. Queensland also contributed to German immigration when, in an attempt to build up its population after achieving independence in 1859, it offered assisted passage to people from Scandinavia and Germany (a privilege previously restricted to migrants from the British Isles). Although the gold rushes of the 1850s and 1860s brought to Australia large numbers of people from a range of cultural backgrounds (including approximately 400,000 Chinese) many of these people emigrated from Australia at the end of the gold rush era.

Immigration before World War II

The revival of assisted passage schemes, from 1906 onwards, led to a large influx of migrants to Australia until World War I, when all migration ceased. After the war, the Federal government took over the recruitment of settlers and, during the boom years of the 1920s, more than 300,000 British migrants took up residence in Australia. Migrants from Southern European countries also came to Australia during the 1920s, not on assisted passage, but as a result of the United States restricting its migrant intake and thus deflecting many potential settlers to Australia. Migrants from Italy were the most significantly affected, and between 1921 and 1933 the number of Italian-born people who lived in Australia increased more than three-fold, rising from 8,000 to almost 27,000.

With the depression of the 1930s the assisted passage schemes ceased and the number of British migrants coming to Australia was much smaller. The proportion of the Australian population who had been born in the UK or Ireland fell considerably during this time, from 12 per cent at the 1921 Census to 7 per cent at the 1947 Census. Migration from Southern Europe was not as severely affected, however, with many of those who arrived during the 1920s bringing their families to Australia. Immigration from Eastern and Central European countries was also reasonably strong in the period leading up to World War II. For example, between the 1933 and 1947 Censuses, the numbers of people in Australia who had been born in Poland or Czechoslovakia doubled, while the numbers born in Austria and Hungary quadrupled.

TABLE 1.1 BIRTHPLACE OF POPULATION(a), SELECTED CENSUSES,
1921 - 1986
('000)

| Birthplace	Year						
	1921	1933	1947	1954	1966	1976	1986
Australia	4,581.7	5,726.6	6,835.2	7,700.1	9,419.5	10,829.6	12,110.5
Overseas	835.9	901.2	743.2	1,285.8	2,130.5	2,718.5	3,247.4
New Zealand	38.6	46.0	43.6	43.4	52.5	89.8	211.7
UK & Ireland	673.4	712.5	541.3	664.2	908.7	1,117.6	1,127.2
England & Wales	459.6	501.3	393.5	492.9	701.2	898.4	908.1
Ireland	105.0	78.7	44.8	47.7	55.2	67.4	70.0
Scotland	108.8	132.5	103.0	123.6	152.3	151.9	149.1
Other main English-speaking countries	15.7	16.3	16.2	18.8	35.6	61.6	99.9
Southern Europe(b)	15.0	43.8	57.5	191.7	548.2	659.6	638.2
Greece	3.7	8.3	12.3	25.9	140.1	152.9	137.6
Italy	8.1	26.8	33.6	119.9	267.3	280.2	261.9
Malta	1.3	2.8	3.2	20.0	55.1	55.9	56.2
Spain	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.4	10.9	15.4	16.3
Yugoslavia	0.8	4.0	5.9	22.9	71.3	143.6	150.0
Other Europe	55.9	51.1	52.8	299.2	436.6	433.6	456.4
France	3.3	2.6	2.2	4.7	6.6	12.1	14.9
Germany	22.4	16.8	14.6	65.4	108.7	107.6	114.8
Netherlands	1.4	1.3	2.2	52.0	99.5	92.1	95.1
Poland	1.8	3.2	6.6	56.6	61.6	56.1	67.7
Scandinavia	15.4	12.9	8.4	9.7	17.1	23.4	25.7
Asia(c)	30.5	24.8	24.1	51.6	101.4	240.6	536.2
Lebanon(d)	n.a.	2.0	1.9	3.9	10.7	33.4	56.3
China & Hong Kong	15.6	8.8	7.2	11.8	21.6	28.4	65.8
India & Sri Lanka(e)	7.6	7.4	8.2	13.9	21.3	52.5	70.3
Malaysia(f)	0.6	0.9	1.8	2.3	9.2	19.9	47.8
Vietnam	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2.4	83.0
South America(g)	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	2.6	31.9	46.7
Other countries	5.4	5.5	6.5	15.8	44.9	88.0	131.2
Total(h)	5,435.7	6,629.8	7,579.4	8,986.5	11,550.5	13,548.4	15,602.2

(a) Figures for 1921 to 1966 exclude full-blood Aboriginal people. (b) 1921 figure excludes Albania (included in Other Europe). (c) See the note on classification of countries on page ii. (d) 1933 and 1947 include Syria. (e) 1921, 1933 and 1947 include Burma and Pakistan, and 1954 includes Burma. (f) 1921, 1933 and 1947 include Singapore. (g) 1921, 1933 and 1947 include Central America. (h) Includes born at sea. Birthplace not stated pro-rated for all years except 1921 and 1986 where it is included in total only.

Source: Census of Population and Housing 1966, Volume 1, Part 3, Table 1 (1921 to 1966), Census of Population and Housing 1976, Summary Tables (2417.0), Table 8 (1976), Table CX0003 (1986)

A big change in migration

Migration to Australia peaked soon after World War II. The desire of many people to leave post-war Europe, combined with a vigorous recruiting campaign conducted by the Australian government during the 1950s, resulted in a decade of strong migration. Between 1947 and 1954 the number of people in Australia who had been born overseas rose by more than half a million people (73 per cent), and by 1961 this number had risen again by another half a million. For the first time in Australia's history very large numbers of migrants born in non-English speaking countries took up residence in Australia. These people came from many different countries and between 1947 and 1961 there were increases in all of the 58 birthplace groups identified by the censuses of the times. Many of these increases were very substantial, especially among people born in European countries. The number of migrants born in Southern Europe, for example, rose from approximately 58,000 to more than 400,000 during this 14-year period.

FIGURE 1.2 AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS BORN IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, 1921-86
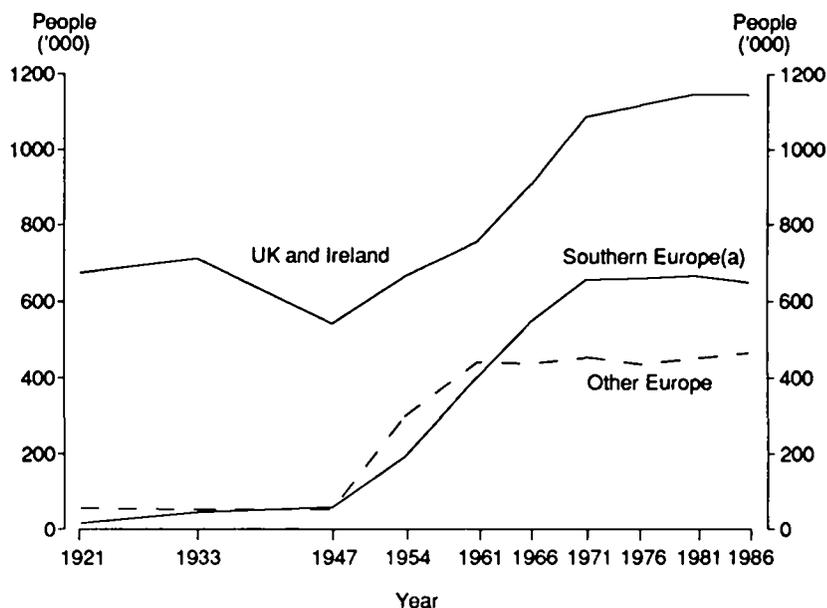
(a) 1921 excludes Albania (included in Other Europe).

Source: *Census of Population and Housing 1966, Volume 1, Part 3, Table 1 (1921 to 1966), Census of Population and Housing 1971, Table 4 (1971), Census of Population and Housing 1976, Summary Tables (2417.0), Table 8 (1976), Census of Population and Housing 1981, Table 107 (1981), Table CX0003 (1986)*

During the 1960s the number of Southern European-born migrants continued to increase (particularly those born in Greece). This was in contrast to those born in other European countries, whose numbers tended to stabilise. The second half of the 1960s saw the emphasis shift slightly, with an increase in migration to Australia of people from Western Asia (Middle East - see the note on classification of countries on page ii) and from Yugoslavia.

Migration in the 1970s

By the 1970s the number of Australians born in Europe, the UK or Ireland had stabilised. The 1986 Census showed that at least 80 per cent of Australians born in Southern Europe, Germany and the Netherlands had settled prior to 1971. Immigration from Asian countries (such as India, Sri Lanka and Malaysia) increased considerably during the early 1970s, as a result of changes which made Australia's entrance requirements non-discriminatory. There was also a large proportional increase in immigration from South America (mainly from Argentina, Chile and Uruguay) with almost 40 per cent of today's South American-born residents arriving in Australia between 1972 and 1976. Similarly, immigration from Middle Eastern countries, primarily from Lebanon and Turkey, was strong throughout the 1970s.

In the second half of the 1970s the Australian government formulated a policy on the intake of refugees. In response to these changes Indo-Chinese immigration increased considerably. Between 1976 and 1986 the number of Australian residents who had been born in South-East Asia rose by more than 300 per cent (or 183,000). Forty-four per cent of these people were Vietnamese-born, but many refugees also came from Laos and Kampuchea. Immigration from Malaysia and the Philippines was also strong during the late 1970s. Women made up 70 per cent of new Filipino migrants.

TABLE 1.2 PEOPLE BORN OVERSEAS: BIRTHPLACE BY PERIOD OF RESIDENCE

Birthplace	Period of residence (years)					
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15 or more	Total	Total(a)
	— per cent —					'000
New Zealand	32.3	31.3	11.4	25.1	100.0	211.7
UK & Ireland	8.0	8.4	11.7	71.8	100.0	1,127.2
England & Wales	8.0	8.5	12.2	71.3	100.0	908.1
Ireland	11.1	8.5	13.9	66.4	100.0	70.0
Scotland	6.8	7.8	7.9	77.5	100.0	149.2
Other main English-speaking countries	31.7	21.1	15.6	31.6	100.0	100.0
Southern Europe	3.4	3.5	7.1	86.0	100.0	638.2
Greece	2.5	2.5	6.5	88.5	100.0	137.7
Italy	1.4	2.0	3.2	93.4	100.0	261.9
Malta	3.0	4.6	7.8	84.6	100.0	56.3
Spain	12.3	8.8	16.6	62.3	100.0	16.3
Yugoslavia	4.7	5.0	11.8	78.4	100.0	150.0
Other Europe	9.8	7.5	4.5	78.2	100.0	456.3
France	16.8	10.5	15.2	57.5	100.0	14.9
Germany	8.4	5.1	4.5	82.0	100.0	114.8
Netherlands	4.9	5.0	2.6	87.6	100.0	95.1
Poland	18.9	11.5	3.0	66.6	100.0	67.7
Scandinavia	13.6	8.7	9.8	67.9	100.0	25.6
Western Asia (Middle East)(b)	13.0	16.6	25.9	44.4	100.0	123.0
Lebanon	13.8	19.2	24.7	42.3	100.0	56.4
Other Asia(b)	38.3	27.5	12.2	22.0	100.0	413.2
China & Hong Kong	36.1	21.1	12.9	29.8	100.0	65.8
India & Sri Lanka	22.2	10.1	20.3	47.4	100.0	70.3
Malaysia	39.7	22.8	13.3	24.1	100.0	47.8
Vietnam	44.0	52.2	2.5	1.2	100.0	83.0
South America	20.7	20.3	38.3	20.7	100.0	46.8
Other countries	21.5	15.2	16.8	46.6	100.0	131.3
Total(c)	14.5	12.4	11.1	62.0	100.0	3,247.6

(a) Includes period of residence not stated. (b) See the note on classification of countries on page ii. (c) Includes country of birth not stated.

Source: Table CX0040

... more New Zealanders

The largest single immigrant group arriving in Australia during the late 1970s was people born in New Zealand. With a sustained recession in their homeland, many New Zealanders moved to Australia, almost doubling the number of New Zealand-born living in Australia in just 5 years; an increase of 87,000 between 1976 and 1981. Other non-Asian birthplace groups whose numbers rose during the late 1970s and early 1980s were from South Africa, Poland and the USA.

TABLE 1.3 OVERSEAS BIRTHPLACE GROUPS WHICH RECORDED THE GREATEST INCREASES BETWEEN 1976 AND 1986

Birthplace groups with largest increase in number			Birthplace groups with largest percentage increase		
	Increase between 1976 and 1986			Increase between 1976 and 1986	
Birthplace	'000	Per cent	Birthplace	'000	Per cent
New Zealand	121.9	136	Vietnam	80.6	3,322
Vietnam	80.6	3,322	Kampuchea	12.7	2,570
Malaysia	27.9	140	Laos	7.0	1,535
Philippines	27.8	466	Cook Islands	1.3	1,055
Lebanon	22.9	69	Western Samoa	2.7	1,051
South Africa	21.5	138	Korea	7.8	536
Hong Kong	19.5	221	Philippines	27.8	466
China	17.9	92	Tonga	3.6	401
Kampuchea	12.7	2,570	Taiwan	1.6	377
Poland	11.6	21	Thailand	5.3	320
USA	10.9	34	Timor	4.7	258
India	10.2	27	Iran	5.3	234

Source: Census of Population and Housing 1976, Summary Tables (2417.0), Table 8 (1976) and Table CX0003 (1986)

Australia today

Today, Australia's population enjoys a greater diversity of origin than ever before. The 1986 Census revealed that 21 per cent of Australians had been born overseas, a higher proportion than that recorded by any census since the turn of the century. Not only were migrants more prevalent, but the range of countries from which they came was considerably greater, and many of Australia's more traditional migrant groups (i.e. Europeans) became less predominant. For example, migrants born in the UK or Ireland, although comprising one-third of all overseas-born people, formed only 7 per cent of the total population, the lowest proportion recorded by a census for 25 years. Migrants born in mainland Europe also comprised 7 per cent of the total population, the smallest proportion recorded since the 1954 Census.

... fewer born in Southern Europe

For people born in Southern Europe, this decrease was both proportional and numerical. Over the 5 year period 1981 to 1986, the number of Southern Europeans living in Australia fell by 19,000. Most affected were those born in Italy and Greece, whose numbers decreased steadily over the 15-year period 1971 to 1986, falling by 28,000 (10 per cent) and 23,000 (14 per cent) respectively. However, despite these losses Italian-born remained the second largest (after English-born) single birthplace group residing in Australia, and Greek-born was the sixth largest.

... and more born in Asia

The decrease in number which occurred among Australia's European migrants was offset by an increase in the number of migrants who had been born in Asia (including the Middle East countries of Western Asia - see note on page ii), Oceania, the Americas and Africa. Between 1981 and 1986, the number of Australians who had been born overseas rose by 244,000, and it was an increase among people born in Asia which accounted for more than two-thirds of this rise. However, the actual number of Asian-born people living in Australia in 1986 remained relatively small, at approximately 500,000 (3 per cent of the total population), representing 1 overseas-born Australian out of every 6. Migrants from the Middle East made up approximately one-quarter of all Australia's Asian-born. The largest single birthplace group was Vietnamese-born, followed by Lebanese-born, Indian-born and then Malaysian-born.

FIGURE 1.3 AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS BORN IN ASIAN COUNTRIES(a), 1947-86
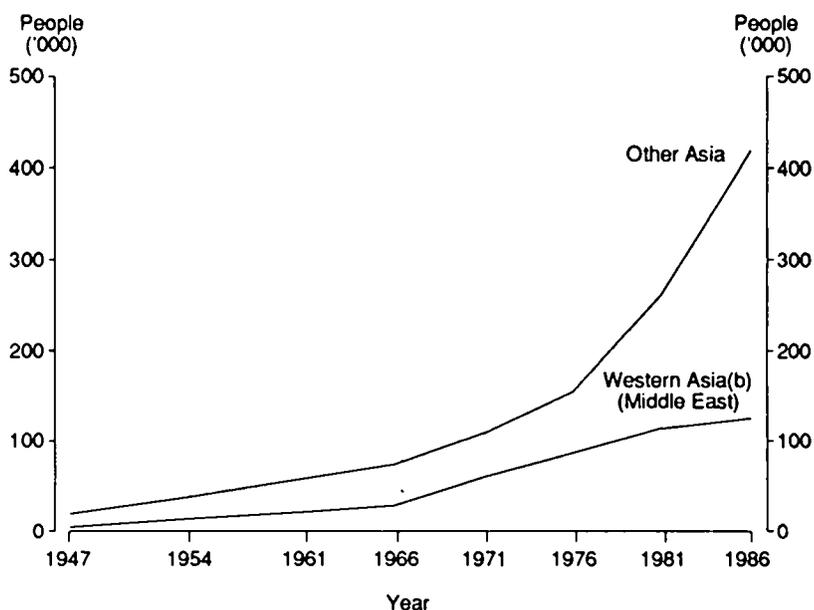
(a) See the note on classification of countries on page ii. Not stated responses pro-rated all years.
(b) Western Asia: 1947-66 excludes Iraq and United Arab Emirates (Jordan, Kuwait, Muscat, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen); 1971 includes Iran.

Source: Census of Population and Housing 1966, Volume 1, Part 3, Table 1 (1921 to 1966), Census of Population and Housing 1971, Table 4 (1971), Census of Population and Housing 1976, Summary Tables (2417.0), Table 8 (1976), Census of Population and Housing 1981, Table 107 (1981), Table CX0003 (1986)

Other non-European birthplace groups whose representation in Australia was on the increase, were African and American. Both these groups increased by approximately 20 per cent during the 5 years leading up to 1986, by which time each accounted for more than 100,000 people. One-third of African-born migrants were from South Africa, with the next largest birthplace group being from Egypt (28 per cent), followed by Mauritius (12 per cent). Of migrants born in the Americas, 40 per cent came from South America and 36 per cent from the USA. Similarly, the number of migrants born in Oceania rose 24 per cent in the 5 years to 1986, to reach 264,000. Those born in New Zealand made up 80 per cent of this group, with other prominent birthplace groups being New Guinea and Fiji.

Australian citizenship

The 1986 Census revealed that 60 per cent of overseas-born people in Australia were Australian citizens. Although duration of residence had a strong influence on the likelihood of a migrant being naturalised (only 21 per cent of migrants resident less than 5 years were Australian citizens), country of origin was also an important factor. People from English-speaking countries did not tend to take up Australian citizenship as readily as people from other countries, with less than half having done so. Similarly, migrants born in Commonwealth countries were less likely to have taken up citizenship than other migrants.

TABLE 1.4 PEOPLE BORN OVERSEAS: PROPORTION WHO WERE AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS BY BIRTHPLACE BY PERIOD OF RESIDENCE
(per cent)

Birthplace	Period of residence (years)			Total(a)
	0-4	5-9	10 or more	
New Zealand	7.5	21.0	41.6	24.4
UK & Ireland	19.9	39.7	49.6	46.5
England & Wales	20.8	40.9	50.3	47.2
Ireland	15.3	36.4	48.1	43.7
Scotland	16.9	32.9	46.3	43.6
Other main English- speaking countries	20.1	59.6	56.8	45.8
Southern Europe	21.1	48.3	81.1	78.0
Greece	31.9	66.4	93.5	91.2
Italy	17.8	37.1	77.1	75.6
Malta	11.4	18.7	53.8	51.1
Spain	21.7	38.8	65.8	58.0
Yugoslavia	23.2	62.2	90.0	85.4
Other Europe	31.0	65.0	87.6	80.9
France	24.8	63.9	79.2	68.4
Germany	20.3	39.9	81.4	74.3
Netherlands	21.9	34.3	81.0	75.9
Poland	46.5	81.6	95.4	84.7
Scandinavia	11.4	26.7	63.6	53.4
Western Asia (Middle East)(b)	25.4	75.9	84.0	75.2
Lebanon	26.6	86.9	95.1	84.3
Other Asia(b)	23.9	75.7	87.0	59.8
China & Hong Kong	27.2	81.7	92.6	67.0
India & Sri Lanka	20.3	65.4	88.5	71.3
Malaysia	11.2	47.7	80.7	45.8
Vietnam	26.9	83.6	88.0	58.7
South America	12.1	49.3	72.7	55.6
Other countries	27.0	69.6	88.8	72.9
Total(c)	**21.1**	**54.1**	**68.4**	**59.9**

(a) Includes period of residence not stated. (b) See the note on classification of countries on page ii. (c) Includes country of birth not stated.

Source: *Table CX0040*

... highest among Eastern European-born

Generally, migrants from non-English-speaking countries had a much higher naturalisation rate, averaging approximately 75 per cent. Some of the highest rates were found among those people who, due to political circumstances, may have been forced to sever links with their countries of origin. These include those born in the USSR, Hungary, Albania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Israel. For example, more than 96 per cent of migrants born in the Ukraine, Estonia and Latvia, and almost half of Polish migrants resident less than 5 years, possessed Australian citizenship (the highest rates recorded by any of the birthplace groups). People born in Southern European countries also showed a strong tendency to become naturalised Australians; the most notable were migrants from Greece, of whom 91 per cent held Australian citizenship, and those from Yugoslavia (85 per cent).

The next generation

The cultural diversity brought to Australia by migrants is not limited to the overseas-born population but extends into, and often beyond, the next generation. The 1986 Census revealed that almost one-quarter of all Australian-born people (almost 3 million) had at least one parent born overseas. Among these, the largest single group were those with one parent born in the UK or Ireland and one parent born in Australia (930,000). There were 410,000 Australian-born people with both parents born in Southern Europe and 330,000 with both parents born in the UK or Ireland.

TABLE 1.5 PEOPLE BORN IN AUSTRALIA WITH ONE OR BOTH PARENTS BORN OVERSEAS: BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS

Birthplace of parents	Per cent	Number ('000)
One parent born in Australia and one parent born overseas in —	55.9	1,549.6
Oceania	4.4	120.7
Europe		
UK & Ireland	33.6	931.4
Southern Europe	5.4	148.6
Other Europe	7.7	212.9
Asia(a)		
Western Asia (Middle East)	0.5	13.3
Other Asia	2.1	59.4
America	1.3	34.9
Africa	1.0	28.4
Both parents born overseas in —	44.1	1,221.5
Oceania	0.7	18.7
Europe		
UK & Ireland	11.9	330.0
Southern Europe	14.8	411.3
Other Europe	5.3	147.8
Asia(a)		
Western Asia (Middle East)	2.3	64.3
Other Asia	1.9	53.8
America	0.3	9.4
Africa	0.6	16.1
Both parents born overseas but in different regions	6.1	170.0
Total	**100.0**	**2,771.0**

(a) See the note on classification of countries on page ii.

Source: Table CSD014

... more had Australian mothers

Among the 1.5 million Australian-born people who had one overseas-born parent and one Australian-born parent, almost two-thirds had an Australian-born mother and an overseas-born father. This tendency for the female parent to be Australian-born was even stronger among people whose overseas-born parent came from Southern Europe (four-fifths of whom had an Australian-born mother), or the Middle East (for which the proportion was three-quarters). Australian-born mothers, however, were less common among Australians who had one parent born in Australia and one parent born in an Asian country (other than the Middle East); 55 per cent of these people had an Australian-born mother.

FIGURE 1.4 AUSTRALIAN POPULATION: WHETHER OVERSEAS-BORN AND
BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS

```
                    ┌─────────────────────────────────┐
                    │   Total Australian Population    │
                    ├─────────────────────────────────┤
                    │           15,602,156             │
                    │  (including birthplace not stated)│
                    └─────────────────────────────────┘
              ┌──────────────────────────┴──────────────────────────┐
   ┌────────────────────────────┐              ┌────────────────────────────┐
   │      Australian-born        │              │       Overseas-born         │
   │          people             │              │          people             │
   ├────────────────────────────┤              ├────────────────────────────┤
   │        12,110,456           │              │         3,247,381           │
   │(including parents' birthplace│             │(including country of birth   │
   │        not stated)          │              │         not stated)         │
   └────────────────────────────┘              └────────────────────────────┘
```

People with both parents born in Australia	People with one Australian-born parent and one overseas-born parent	People with both parents born overseas
9,070,739	1,549,560	1,221,477

Father born in Australia, mother born overseas	Mother born in Australia, father born overseas
562,629	986,931

Source: Tables CSD007 and CSD014

ANCESTRY

Although censuses prior to 1986 collected information on birthplace, birthplace of parents and language spoken at home, these indicators did not adequately identify the cultural origins of those born in Australia of Australian-born parents, who made up 60 per cent of Australia's total population. Culturally, these people were not a homogeneous group, but enjoyed a diverse array of ancestries, backgrounds and cultures. The 1986 Census addressed the question of ancestry for the first time in an attempt to identify the cultural origins of Australia's people (see Appendix C).

Anglo-Celtic origins ... English ancestry most common

The data derived from the ancestry question showed clearly the strong Anglo-Celtic origins of the Australian population. Half of the people who answered the question gave a single or mixed (e.g. English-Irish) Anglo-Celtic response. English was most frequently reported, with 5.6 million people (more than one-third of the population) reporting sole ancestry to England. Only 13 per cent of these people had been born in England, and it was among second, (or later) generation Australians that this ancestry response proved most common; 41 per cent of them gave English as their ancestry.

TABLE 2.1 ANCESTRY RESPONSES MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED

Ancestry response	Number ('000)	Per cent
' English	5,561.6	35.6
₁ Australian	2,905.8	18.6
' Italian	507.2	3.3
• Irish	377.6	2.4
• Scottish	339.8	2.2
• Greek	293.0	1.9
British, so described	285.1	1.8
English-Irish	258.8	1.7
° German	233.3	1.5
Australian-English	194.3	1.2
English-Scottish	183.0	1.2
ᵇ Chinese	172.5	1.1
• Aboriginal	153.0	1.0
₁ Dutch	149.7	1.0
English-German	115.9	0.7
° Yugoslavian(a)	109.5	0.7
• Polish	97.1	0.6
• Maltese	96.8	0.6
Irish-Scottish	88.6	0.6
° Lebanese	82.4	0.5
• Vietnamese	62.2	0.4
₍ Indian(b)	46.7	0.3
₀ Welsh	45.5	0.3
Other British incl. Anglo-saxon	45.2	0.3
• New Zealander	44.5	0.3
▴ Spanish	43.1	0.3
Other & not classifiable	2,043.2	13.1
Not stated	1,066.5	6.8
Total	**15,602.2**	**100.0**

(a) Comprises only those who stated Yugoslavian. (b) Comprises only those who stated Indian.

Source: *Table CX0104*

... Irish and Scottish ancestries

Almost one million people described their ancestry as Irish, either solely or in combination with other responses, while another three-quarters of a million people included Scottish in their reply. When considered in conjunction with the numbers of Scottish and Irish-born people living in Australia (149,000 and 70,000 respectively in 1986), the higher frequency of Irish ancestry invites further investigation. The high level of immigration from Ireland which took place during the first half of the nineteenth century is clearly an important factor. This is supported by the fact that second (or later) generation Australians made up a much larger proportion of people reporting ancestry to Ireland than of those reporting ancestry to Scotland (69 per cent compared to 44 per cent). It is also possible that there is a greater tendency for people of Irish descent to maintain their cultural identity over longer periods. Whereas 31 per cent of the people stating Scottish as their sole ancestry had been born in Scotland, the equivalent figure for the Irish was 14 per cent.

Overall, more than 7 million people reported ancestry to purely Anglo-Celtic origins, and another one million mentioned Anglo-Celtic origins in combination with another.

Australian ancestry

The second most common response to the ancestry question, accounting for almost 3 million people, was Australian. Predictably, 99 per cent of people who made this response were Australian-born and 88 per cent were Australian-born of Australian-born parents. However, although Australian was a valid response to the ancestry question, it provides little information about a person's ancestral origins.

... more common among the young

Age appears to have had some bearing on the frequency with which Australian ancestry was reported. Although, overall, 20 per cent of the population nominated Australian as their first or only response to the ancestry question, this response was ascribed to more than 30 per cent of children under 5 years old (presumably by their parents), but to less than 15 per cent of people over the age of 64 years.

FIGURE 2.1 AUSTRALIAN AS FIRST OR SINGLE ANCESTRY RESPONSE: AGE AND SEX
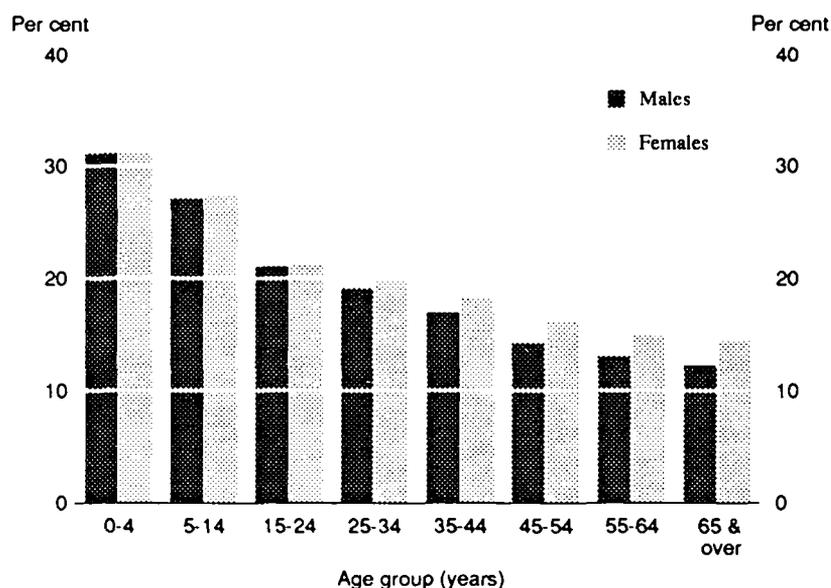
Source: Table CX4137

Southern European ancestries

The third most common response to the ancestry question was Italian, accounting for more than half a million people, nearly 50 per cent of whom had been born in Italy. A further 48 per cent of this ancestry group had been born in Australia. Similarly, over 40 per cent of those who reported Greek or Maltese ancestry had been born in Australia, while those of Yugoslavian ancestries, whose migrants have resided in Australia for a similar length of time, recorded a much lower proportion of Australian-born at 31 per cent.

TABLE 2.2 MAJOR BIRTHPLACES OF PEOPLE WHO REPORTED SELECTED ANCESTRIES

Ancestry/Birthplace	'000	Per cent	Ancestry/Birthplace	'000	Per cent
Aboriginal			*French*		
Australia	152.6	99.7	Australia	16.3	44.6
Australian			France	9.1	25.0
Australia	2,880.9	99.1	Mauritius	4.2	11.5
UK and Ireland	4.2	0.1	Other Africa	2.7	7.5
New Zealander			New Caledonia	0.7	1.9
New Zealand	38.1	85.7	*German*		
Australia	5.2	11.6	Australia	137.6	59.0
British or Irish(a)			Germany	82.1	35.2
Australia	5,938.0	81.9	USA and Canada	1.6	0.7
UK and Ireland	1,063.7	14.7	*Polish*		
New Zealand	118.0	1.6	Poland	55.9	57.5
Greek			Australia	27.6	28.4
Australia	133.0	45.4	Germany	7.5	7.7
Greece	130.1	44.4	UK and Ireland	1.2	1.2
Cyprus	13.3	4.5	*Lebanese*		
Egypt	7.5	2.6	Lebanon	43.7	53.0
Italian			Australia	35.6	43.2
Italy	250.5	49.4	Egypt	0.4	0.5
Australia	241.1	47.5	*Chinese*		
Egypt	2.5	0.5	Australia	30.9	17.9
Maltese			Malaysia	28.5	16.5
Malta	50.9	52.6	China	28.2	16.4
Australia	40.3	41.6	Vietnam	26.8	15.5
Egypt	2.6	2.7	Hong Kong	23.8	13.8
Spanish			Singapore	6.8	4.0
Spain	14.7	34.2	*Indian*		
South America	12.3	28.6	India	21.6	46.2
Australia	11.1	25.7	Australia	8.6	18.5
Philippines	1.1	2.6	Fiji	6.1	13.1
Yugoslavian(b)			Malaysia	2.4	5.1
Yugoslavia	102.2	64.6	*Vietnamese*		
Australia	49.4	31.2	Vietnam	52.4	84.3
Italy	0.8	0.5	Australia	6.9	11.1
Dutch			Malaysia	0.4	0.6
Netherlands	87.1	58.2			
Australia	49.5	33.0			
Indonesia	4.4	2.9			
Sri Lanka	2.0	1.3			

(a) Includes combinations of English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh. (b) Excludes Slovenian.

Source: *Table CX0104*

... Yugoslavian origins

One of the advantages of the ancestry question is that it provides information about those ethnic groups which cannot be identified from country of birth alone. One such group are people of Yugoslavian origin. Of the 164,000 people who reported single Yugoslavian ancestries, 67 per cent stated Yugoslav, 26 per cent stated Croatian, 4 per cent Serbian and 3 per cent Slovenian. Of people who mentioned Croatian in their ancestry response 12 per cent (6,000 people) gave a multiple answer, compared to more than 25 per cent (39,000 people) of those who mentioned Yugoslav. The most frequently reported combination was Macedonian-Yugoslav which comprised 18 per cent of all multiple Yugoslav responses.

Non-European ancestries

The most frequently reported non-European ancestry response was Chinese, nominated by 172,000 people. More than 80 per cent of people who reported Chinese as their sole ancestry had been born overseas. Similarly, migrants made up a high proportion of those reporting New Zealander, American, South African, South American and Asian (except Middle Eastern) ancestries. However, Chinese was unique in that people reporting this ancestry were almost equally as likely to have been born in any one of five different countries (Australia, Malaysia, China, Vietnam or Hong Kong).

Multiple ancestries

Almost 13 per cent of the population (2 million people) gave a multiple response to the ancestry question. English-Irish was the most frequently reported combination, being nominated by 259,000 people. In all, pure Anglo-Celtic combinations accounted for almost one-third of all multiple responses.

Half a million people reported Australian as part of a multiple ancestry response, with Anglo-Celtic ancestries the most frequent combination, accounting for 60 per cent of all Australian combinations. The next most common Australian combinations were Australian-Italian and Australian-Dutch, both representing 5 per cent.

TABLE 2.3 PEOPLE WHO REPORTED MULTIPLE ANCESTRIES: MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED COMBINATIONS

Ancestry combinations	Number ('000)	Per cent
Australian and —		
English	194.3	9.9
Scottish	40.8	2.1
Irish	39.5	2.0
Italian	26.5	1.4
Dutch	23.8	1.2
British, so described	16.7	0.9
New Zealander	10.3	0.5
English and —		
Irish	258.8	13.2
Scottish	183.0	9.3
German	115.9	5.9
Italian	32.6	1.7
French	29.0	1.5
Dutch	25.1	1.3
Danish	13.6	0.7
Aboriginal	12.6	0.6
Greek	10.8	0.6
Polish	10.5	0.5
Irish and —		
Scottish	88.6	4.5
German	38.8	2.0
Welsh	13.9	0.7
Other British incl. Anglo-Saxon	11.6	0.6
Italian	10.4	0.5
French	10.1	0.5
Scottish and —		
German	25.1	1.3
Welsh	11.1	0.6
Other combinations	702.9	35.9
Total	1,956.5	100.0

Source: Table CX0104 and CCP001

... birthplace groups

The proportion of people who reported a multiple ancestry varied considerably between individual birthplace groups, ranging from 1 per cent of people born in Italy to 32 per cent of people born in the USA. In general, birthplace groups with high levels of multiple ancestry were those with a history of immigration or colonial settlement.

At 14 per cent, the level of multiple ancestry reported by Australian-born people ranked 11th of the individual birthplace groups. However, while those whose parents had either both been born in Australia or both been born overseas reported slightly lower levels of multiple ancestry, those with one overseas-born and one Australian-born parent reported more than twice this level.

TABLE 2.4 PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO REPORTED MULTIPLE ANCESTRIES BY BIRTHPLACE

Birthplace groups with the highest proportion reporting multiple ancestry		Birthplace groups with the lowest proportion reporting multiple ancestry	
Birthplace	Per cent reporting multiple ancestries	Birthplace	Per cent reporting multiple ancestries
USA	31.6	Italy	1.2
Burma	24.8	Korea	1.5
Papua New Guinea	24.4	Portugal	1.8
Canada	24.2	Greece	1.9
Argentina	21.3	Finland	2.3
India	21.0	Turkey	2.4
Brazil	18.3	Poland	2.5
New Zealand	17.2	Vietnam	2.5
South Africa	16.8	Spain	2.7
Cyprus	14.3	Laos	2.7
Australia	14.2	Lebanon	3.1

Source: *Table VF0036*

FIGURE 2.2 PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO MADE A MULTIPLE RESPONSE TO ANCESTRY QUESTION
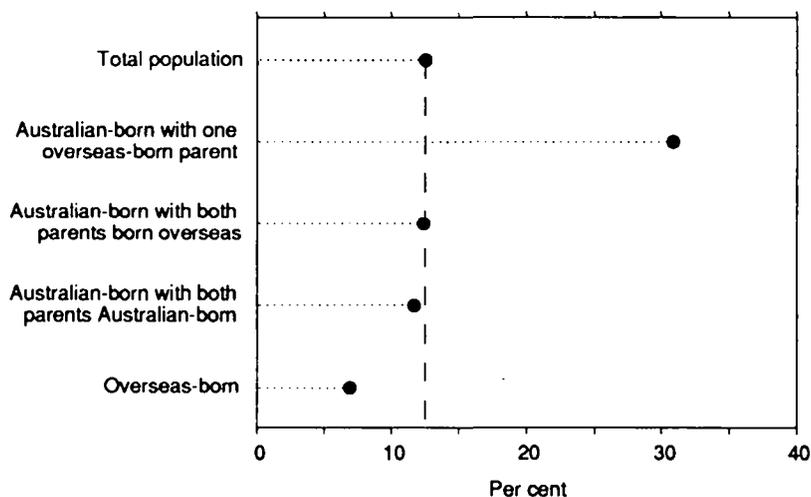
Source: *Table CCP001*

... people of mixed parentage

Among Australians of mixed parentage (one Australian-born parent and one overseas-born parent), 1 person in every 6 reported a multiple Australian ancestry compared to 1 in 60 for the remainder of the population. This group was responsible for half of all multiple Australian responses even though they comprised only 10 per cent of the total population. Those with an Australian-born father and an overseas-born mother were more likely to have listed Australian first, while those whose mother was Australian-born tended to list Australian as their second ancestry. This group made up more than 40 per cent of all those who gave Australian as their second response.

People of Italian or Greek ancestry recorded exceptionally high levels of correlation between birthplace of father and ancestry response (exceeded only by those of Korean ancestry). Ninety-three per cent of people whose fathers had been born in Greece reported Greek as their first ancestry response. The equivalent figure for people with an Italian-born father was 90 per cent. The average for all ancestry groups was 46 per cent.

... ancestry groups

Certain ancestry groups, primarily Anglo-Celtic and North-western European were more likely to give multiple responses than were others. People of Byelorussian ancestry had the highest multiple response rate at 61 per cent, but this was a small group of less than 2,000 people. Other larger ancestry groups with an unusually strong tendency to nominate more than one ancestry were Other British including Anglo-Saxon, French, Norwegian and Swedish. By contrast, Asian ancestry groups generally recorded only low levels of multiple response.

TABLE 2.5 PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO REPORTED MULTIPLE ANCESTRIES BY FIRST ANCESTRY REPORTED

First ancestry responses with the highest proportion reporting a second response		First ancestry responses with the lowest proportion reporting a second response	
First ancestry response	Per cent followed by a second response	First ancestry response	Per cent followed by a second response
Byelorussian	60.8	Vietnamese	1.7
Other British, incl. Anglo-Saxon	49.1	Korean	1.7
French	45.3	Lao	2.6
Norwegian	45.0	Khmer	4.2
Swedish	44.9	Turkish	4.6
Danish	42.4	Bengali	5.7
Romany	39.7	Lebanese	5.8
Brazilian	38.1	Croatian	5.9
Welsh	37.9	Iranian	6.3
Irish	36.2	Chilean	6.4
Swiss	35.6	Chinese	7.0
Canadian	35.4	Armenian	7.6

Source: *Table VF0039*

Second (or later) generation Australians

More than half of second (or later) generation Australians reported pure Anglo-Celtic ancestry, either singly or in an Anglo-Celtic combination, and they accounted for three-quarters of the combined Anglo-Celtic responses. In addition, since 28 per cent of second (or later) generation Australians gave their ancestry as Australian and 7 per cent gave no response, only a little over 10 per cent of this group could be identified at the 1986 Census as having some non-Anglo-Celtic origin.

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TABLE 2.6 ANCESTRY REPORTED BY BIRTHPLACE AND BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS

Ancestry	Overseas-born people(a)	Australian-born people			Total(b)	
		Both parents overseas-born	One parent overseas-born	Both parents Australian-born		
		— per cent —				'000
Aboriginal & TSI	—	—	0.2	1.7	1.0	161.6
Australian	0.7	4.5	15.2	28.2	18.6	2,905.8
New Zealander	1.1	0.2	0.1	—	0.3	44.5
British or Irish	36.1	26.9	40.9	48.1	42.7	6,663.9
English, Welsh	28.1	21.0	34.8	41.6	36.0	5,616.1
Irish	2.1	1.5	1.5	2.9	2.4	377.6
Scottish	3.6	2.4	1.9	1.7	2.2	339.8
Anglo-Celtic combinations	1.6	2.0	4.8	5.1	4.0	625.7
British or Irish and —						
Australian	0.3	0.2	9.2	1.6	2.0	306.7
Italian	0.1	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.3	53.3
Dutch	0.1	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.2	36.0
French	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	49.0
German	0.2	0.5	1.6	1.7	1.2	194.2
Other main English-speaking ancestries	0.8	0.2	0.1	—	0.2	34.2
Southern European	19.1	31.4	3.7	0.4	7.4	1,160.5
Greek	4.6	8.8	0.8	0.1	1.9	293.0
Italian	7.6	14.7	2.2	0.2	3.3	507.2
Maltese	1.6	2.6	0.3	—	0.6	96.8
Spanish	0.9	0.5	—	—	0.3	43.1
Yugoslavian	3.2	3.6	0.2	—	1.0	163.5
Other European	12.8	10.0	1.8	1.6	4.8	745.9
Dutch	2.9	3.0	0.4	—	1.0	149.7
French	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	36.5
German	2.7	2.0	0.6	1.1	1.5	233.3
Polish	2.0	1.6	0.2	—	0.6	97.1
Scandinavian	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	46.6
Western Asian(c)	3.0	4.1	0.2	—	1.1	166.0
Lebanese	1.3	2.4	0.2	—	0.5	82.4
Other Asian(c)	9.6	3.5	0.3	0.1	2.5	393.5
Chinese	4.1	1.8	0.2	0.1	1.1	172.5
Indian	1.5	0.7	0.1	—	0.4	63.7
Vietnamese	1.6	0.5	—	—	0.4	62.2
South American	0.4	0.1	—	—	0.1	15.6
Other & not classifiable	7.7	10.9	14.4	3.9	6.3	979.1
Not stated	6.2	4.2	5.1	6.9	6.8	1,066.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**15,602.2**
		— '000 —				
Total	**3,491.7**	**1,221.5**	**1,549.6**	**9,070.7**	—	**15,602.2**

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) Includes birthplace of parents not stated. (c) See note on classification of countries on page ii.

Source: *Table CCP001*

LOCATION

How the States differed

The 1986 Census revealed that the composition of Australia's population varied considerably between the States and Territories.[1] Western Australia had the greatest proportion of migrants, with more than 1 person in 4 born overseas, 60 per cent of them in English-speaking countries. People born overseas made up 23 per cent of the population of Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory, and 22 per cent of that of South Australia. In contrast, migrants made up a much smaller percentage of the populations of Queensland and Tasmania (15 and 10 per cent respectively).

FIGURE 3.1 PROPORTION OF POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS
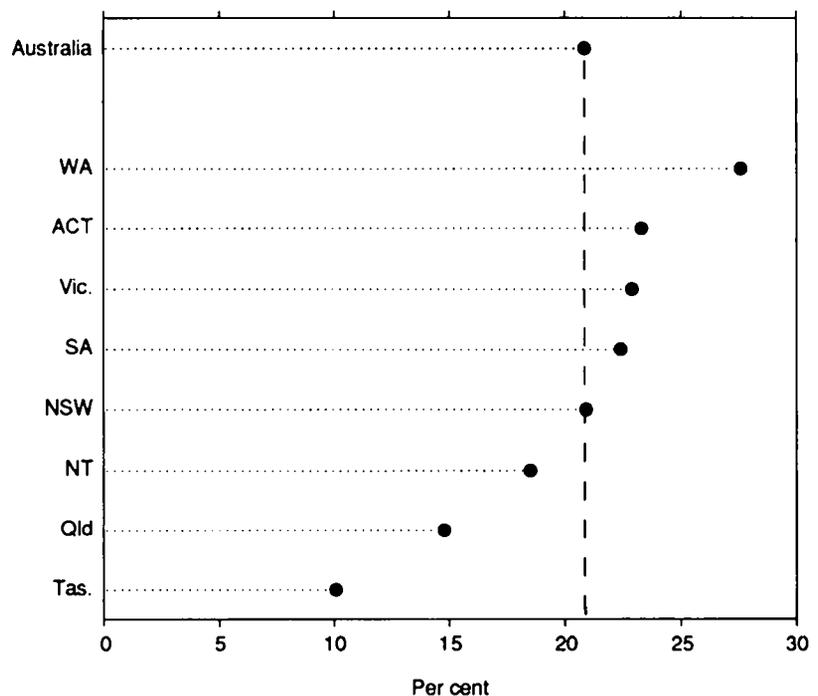
Per cent

Source: *Table USG007*

Victoria and New South Wales were unusual among Australia's States and Territories in that only one-third of migrants living in these States had been born in English-speaking countries. As a consequence, the percentage of people aged 5 years or over who spoke a non-English language at home was higher than the national average of 13 per cent (17 per cent for Victoria and 14 per cent for New South Wales). Over 90 per cent of migrants born in Middle Eastern countries lived in New South Wales and Victoria (compared to 60 per cent of the total Australian population), and Victoria alone had more than 40 per cent of all migrants born in Southern European countries (compared to 26 per cent of the total population). In Queensland and Tasmania, more than 60 per cent of the overseas-born had been born in English-speaking countries and, as a consequence, less than 6 per cent spoke a non-English language at home. The percentage of people who spoke a non-English language at home in the Northern Territory was almost twice the national average but this was due primarily to a large number of people who spoke an Aboriginal language at home.

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1. Where possible, the census counts in this section are based on the usual residence of people rather than where they were counted.

FIGURE 3.2 PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS OR OVER WHO SPOKE A NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME

Per cent
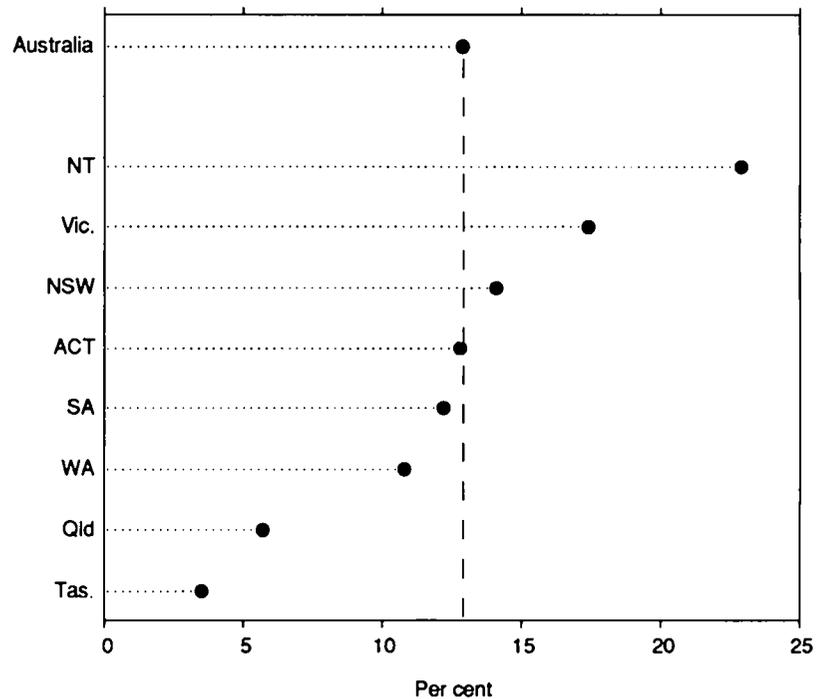
Source: *Table USG009*

City dwellers

Almost two-thirds of Australia's people lived in cities (defined as major urban centres of more than 100,000 people). An even higher proportion of migrants and first generation Australians lived in cities (almost 80 per cent for both groups). However, only 55 per cent of second (or later) generation Australians resided in major urban centres.

... people of Southern European origin

People who reported ancestry to Southern European countries showed a very strong tendency to live in cities with 86 per cent of them living in major urban centres compared to 63 per cent of the total population. It was not only Southern European migrants who showed this trend but also first generation and second (or later) generation Australians who reported ancestry to Southern Europe. People of Greek ancestry were more likely to live in cities than almost any other ancestry group, with 92 per cent living in major urban centres. This was reflected in the high concentrations of people of Greek ancestry in the inner regions of Australia's capital cities. Among people who reported Yugoslavian ancestries, the percentage who lived in major urban centres showed little variation through the generations, ranging from 88 per cent for the overseas-born to 79 per cent for second (or later) generation Australians.

TABLE 3.1 PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN MAJOR URBAN CENTRES(a): SELECTED REPORTED ANCESTRIES BY BIRTHPLACE AND BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS

| Ancestry | Overseas-born people | Australian-born people(b) | | | Total |
		Both parents overseas-born	One parent overseas-born	Both parents Australian-born(c)	
	— per cent who lived in major urban centres —					'000
Aboriginal or TSI	61.2	*	39.9	19.6	20.1	32.4
Australian	70.0	77.6	64.7	55.9	57.1	1,658.2
New Zealander	71.9	69.6	67.4	61.5	71.2	29.9
British or Irish	*71.9*	*69.3*	*64.0*	*54.2*	*59.2*	*3,929.6*
English or Welsh	71.2	68.4	63.4	53.4	58.1	3,250.7
Irish	77.2	75.0	68.8	60.0	64.5	242.4
Scottish	73.3	71.8	65.0	56.7	64.8	219.1
Other main English-speaking ancestries	75.9	73.9	67.7	38.1	74.2	24.1
Southern European	*88.4*	*86.4*	*75.1*	*71.0*	*86.2*	*1,007.6*
Greek	93.5	92.9	86.4	83.0	92.4	274.9
Italian	84.6	82.0	71.0	65.7	81.6	413.0
Maltese	86.4	82.6	71.8	68.9	83.6	80.8
Spanish	90.6	86.9	64.6	60.8	86.5	37.1
Yugoslavian	88.2	87.9	76.7	79.3	87.6	142.7
Dutch	64.2	62.5	58.9	59.1	63.3	94.2
French	81.5	82.4	70.3	59.6	73.8	26.5
German	70.2	68.4	54.5	39.7	55.5	128.6
Polish	85.3	80.9	76.2	61.9	82.8	79.8
Scandinavian	70.3	65.8	60.2	54.5	63.9	29.0
Lebanese	97.2	96.2	84.1	85.0	95.9	78.9
Chinese	92.5	89.7	77.8	67.7	90.9	153.7
Indian	89.5	86.4	58.9	62.7	87.7	54.7
Vietnamese	96.5	96.3	*	92.4	96.4	59.8
South American	96.0	95.2	*	85.7	95.6	14.8
Other ancestries	83.1	80.0	67.4	59.1	68.5	1,692.9
Total(d)	**79.5**	**78.8**	**65.6**	**54.8**	**62.9**	**9,776.3**

(a) Major urban centres are those with a population greater than 100,000. (b) Includes birthplace not stated. (c) Includes birthplace of parents not stated. (d) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP212*

Although all Southern European ancestry groups tended to congregate together in specific localities, the extent varied between the different ancestry groups. People who reported Maltese ancestry were the most likely to congregate and, although they made up less than 1 per cent of the total Australian population, a concentration of more than 18 times this level was found in the City of Sunshine in Melbourne. Similarly, more than one-fifth of the population of the Municipality of Thebarton in Adelaide reported Greek ancestry, even though people of Greek ancestry made up less than 2 per cent of the Australian population. Queensland, which recorded an even lower proportion of people of Greek ancestry, reported Australia's second and third highest densities of people of Greek descent (more than 17 per cent) in the SLAs of Highgate Hill and West End in Brisbane.

Among people of Southern European ancestry, those who reported Yugoslavian ancestry were the least likely to congregate together in specific localities. Coober Pedy District Council in South Australia reported Australia's highest proportion of people of Yugoslavian ancestry; 6 per cent of the SLA's population compared to the national figure of 1 per cent.

TABLE 3.2 STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS(a) WITH THE HIGHEST PROPORTIONS OF PEOPLE REPORTING SELECTED SINGLE ANCESTRIES

Ancestry/SLA	State	Per cent of SLA's pop-ulation	Ancestry/SLA	State	Per cent of SLA's pop-ulation
Aboriginal			*Maltese*		
Bathurst-Melville	NT	90.6	Sunshine (C)	Vic	11.3
East Arnhem - Bal.	NT	90.4	Altona (C)	Vic	8.9
Tanami	NT	84.1	Keilor (C)	Vic	7.8
Mornington (S)	Qld	77.5	Holroyd (M)	NSW	7.0
Aurukun (S)	Qld	75.3	Pioneer (S) Pt B	Qld	5.7
Australian			*Yugoslavian(b)*		
Spalding (DC)	SA	32.5	Coober Pedy (DC)	SA	5.6
Vincent	Qld	31.0	Cockburn (C)	WA	4.4
Gooburrum (S) Pt A	Qld	30.4	Footscray (C)	Vic	4.3
Lucindale (D C)	SA	29.3	Altona (C)	Vic	3.8
Huntly (S) Pt.B	Vic	29.2	Rockdale (M)	NSW	3.5
English			*Dutch*		
Bothwell (M)	Tas	62.7	Healesville (S) Pt B	Vic	5.1
Latrobe (M) Pt B	Tas	61.0	Richlands	Qld	4.7
Campbell Town (M)	Tas	60.0	Pallara	Qld	4.6
Longford (M) Pt B	Tas	59.6	King(B) (M) Pt A	Tas	4.1
Westbury (M) Pt B	Tas	58.5	Armadale (C)	WA	4.0
Irish			*German*		
Bungaree (S) Pt B	Vic	19.4	Tanunda (DC)	SA	33.0
Belfast (S)	Vic	18.6	Eudunda (DC)	SA	28.1
Koroit (B)	Vic	12.9	Robertsown (DC)	SA	24.4
Charlton (S)	Vic	9.9	Angaston (DC)	SA	24.4
Warrnambool (S)	Vic	8.4	Blyth (DC)	SA	17.6
Scottish			*Polish*		
Whyalla (C)	SA	5.6	Darra	Qld	6.1
Fremantle (C) - Inner	WA	5.1	Enfield (C) Pt B	SA	4.1
Tanah Merah	Qld	5.1	St Kilda (C)	Vic	3.5
Seventeen Mile Rocks	Qld	5.0	Northam (T)	WA	3.3
Perenjori (S)	WA	4.5	Sunshine (C)	Vic	3.0
Greek			*Lebanese*		
Thebarton (M)	SA	21.6	Canterbury (M)	NSW	9.7
Highgate Hill	Qld	18.2	Auburn (M)	NSW	8.2
West End	Qld	17.4	Burwood (M)	NSW	5.6
Northcote (C)	Vic	16.2	Parramatta (C)	NSW	5.4
Port Melbourne (C)	Vic	14.5	Bankstown (C)	NSW	4.9
Italian			*Chinese*		
Hinchinbrook (S)	Qld	24.8	Acton	ACT	13.1
Griffith (S)	NSW	24.6	Richmond (C)	Vic	7.9
Campbelltown (C)	SA	23.0	Strathfield (M)	NSW	7.5
Payneham (C)	SA	22.0	Fairfield (C)	NSW	7.1
Coburg (C)	Vic	20.7	Burwood (M)	NSW	6.7

(a) Excludes Statistical Local Areas containing less than 500 people. (b) Comprises only those who stated Yugoslavian ancestry.
(B) - Borough; (C) - City; (DC) - District Council; (M) - Municipality.

Source: *Table CSI001*

... Dutch migrants lived outside cities

Migrants, and first generation Australians of Dutch ancestry showed a strong tendency to live outside major urban centres. Only 64 per cent of overseas-born people of Dutch ancestry lived in cities, a lower proportion than that of almost any other ancestry group (see Table 3.1). Those SLAs which recorded Australia's highest concentrations of people of Dutch ancestry were all located on the outer fringes of various capital cities, also suggesting a preference among Dutch people for non-urban dwelling places. Western Australia and South Australia had an unusually high proportion of migrants born in the Netherlands, nearly 1 per cent of their populations. By contrast, very few people born in the Netherlands lived in New South Wales. The distribution of Australian-born people of Dutch ancestry differed slightly from that of Dutch migrants, with the highest concentrations occurring in Western Australia and Victoria (see Table 3.4).

People of British origin

People born in the UK or Ireland had a high representation in Western Australia and South Australia, where they made up 14 per cent and 11 per cent of those States' populations respectively. This compared with 7 per cent for Australia as a whole. Almost one-third of all migrants born in the British Isles chose to live in these two States, even though these States represented only one-sixth of the total Australian population. There were proportionally fewer migrants from the British Isles living in Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where they comprised only about 5 per cent of the population.

Seventy-two per cent of migrants reporting British or Irish ancestry lived in major urban centres, compared to 80 per cent of all overseas-born people. This pattern was also apparent among first generation Australians who reported ancestries from the British Isles. However, people reporting Irish ancestry were more likely to live in cities than those reporting English ancestry. This was a trend found consistently across the generations (see Table 3.1).

The distribution of Australian-born people who reported British or Irish ancestry was different from that of migrants born in the British Isles. Western Australia and South Australia, with 30 per cent of Australia's British and Irish migrants, had only 16 per cent of Australian-born people reporting these ancestries. The Northern Territory remained consistent, recording the lowest proportion of Australian-born people of British or Irish ancestry (33 per cent). Tasmania recorded the highest proportion, with 60 per cent of its Australian-born population claiming ancestry to the British Isles (see Table 3.4).

TABLE 3.3 PROPORTION OF POPULATION BORN IN SELECTED COUNTRIES BY STATE AND TERRITORY

Birthplace	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
				— per cent —					
Australia	79.1	77.1	85.2	77.6	72.4	89.9	81.5	76.7	79.1
New Zealand	1.3	0.8	2.2	0.6	1.7	0.6	2.3	1.2	1.3
UK & Ireland	6.1	6.3	6.1	11.0	14.0	5.4	5.7	7.9	7.3
England & Wales	4.8	4.9	5.0	9.2	11.7	4.5	4.6	6.3	5.9
Ireland	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Scotland	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.6	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.0
Other main English-speaking countries	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.4	1.0	1.1	0.6
Southern Europe	4.1	6.8	1.3	4.1	3.4	0.7	1.9	3.8	4.2
Greece	0.8	1.7	0.2	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.9
Italy	1.4	2.8	0.7	2.2	2.0	0.3	0.5	1.1	1.7
Malta	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	—	0.2	0.4
Spain	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	0.3	0.1
Yugoslavia	1.1	1.5	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.0
Other Europe	2.8	3.5	2.2	3.7	2.9	2.0	2.3	4.2	2.9
France	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	0.2	0.2	0.1
Germany	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.7
Netherlands	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6
Poland	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.4
Western Asia (Middle East)(a)	1.4	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.8
Lebanon	0.8	0.3	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	0.4
Other Asia(a)	3.2	2.9	1.3	1.7	3.4	0.7	3.9	3.7	2.6
China & Hong Kong	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.4
India & Sri Lanka	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.5
Malaysia	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3
Vietnam	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.5
South America	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	0.4	0.3
Other countries	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
				— '000 —					
Total(b)	5,380.4	4,038.0	2,540.3	1,348.0	1,402.8	438.8	143.4	250.8	15,542.6

(a) See the note on classification of countries on page ii. (b) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: Tables USH012 and USG007

... the English in Tasmania

The high incidence of people reporting British or Irish ancestry in Tasmania was due solely to those reporting English ancestry. Tasmania recorded the lowest concentration of any State of Australian-born people reporting Welsh, Irish or Scottish ancestry. People who reported English ancestry made up 51 per cent of the Australian-born population in Tasmania, compared to 38 per cent of all Australian-born people. Many SLAs in Tasmania, especially those located in rural areas toward the centre of the State, recorded even higher proportions of people reporting English ancestry. The highest proportion was recorded in the SLA of Bothwell, with 63 per cent of people living in the Municipality reporting sole ancestry to England (see Table 3.2).

... the Irish in Victoria

Australian-born people who reported Irish or Scottish ancestry were most densely concentrated in Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. The eight SLAs which reported Australia's highest proportions of people of Irish ancestry were all located in Victoria. People of Irish ancestry showed a much greater tendency to congregate in particular localities than did those of Scottish or English ancestry. For instance, Bungaree Shire, with one fifth of its population claiming Irish descent, had a concentration of Irish people which was 8 times the national average. By comparison, Australia's highest concentration of people of Scottish ancestry was in Whyalla City in South Australia, where 6 per cent of the population reported Scottish ancestry, a concentration nearly 3 times the national figure (see Table 3.2).

TABLE 3.4 PROPORTION OF AUSTRALIAN-BORN POPULATION WHO REPORTED SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY STATE AND TERRITORY

Ancestry	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
				— per cent —					
Aboriginal or TSI	1.0	0.2	1.9	1.0	2.9	0.8	25.3	0.4	1.3
Australian	24.1	23.1	24.4	24.7	23.2	22.3	18.6	25.8	23.8
New Zealander	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	—	0.1	—	—
British or Irish	*46.0*	*42.9*	*44.6*	*42.2*	*44.8*	*56.0*	*29.4*	*40.7*	*44.6*
English or Welsh	39.6	35.6	38.3	37.4	39.4	51.1	24.5	32.6	38.3
Irish	2.5	3.1	2.5	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.9	3.3	2.5
Scottish	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.9	1.8
Anglo-celtic combinations(a)	4.6	4.6	4.8	3.3	3.8	3.5	3.5	6.6	4.4
Greek	1.1	1.9	0.3	1.4	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.8	1.1
Italian	1.5	3.1	1.0	2.7	2.9	0.3	0.5	1.3	2.0
Maltese	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.1	0.3
Spanish	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.2	0.1
Yugoslavian(b)	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.4
Dutch	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4
French	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
German	0.6	0.8	2.0	3.2	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.9	1.1
Polish	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2
Swedish, Danish, or Finnish	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Lebanese	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	0.3
Chinese	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.3
Indian(c)	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	0.1
Vietnamese	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	0.1
Other ancestries	10.7	11.1	11.9	12.7	12.5	7.4	12.3	15.0	11.4
Not stated(d)	7.5	9.3	7.5	7.1	6.5	7.9	6.6	5.7	7.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
				— '000 —					
Total	**4,192.0**	**3,032.5**	**2,163.0**	**1,029.5**	**997.8**	**386.9**	**120.7**	**188.1**	**12,110.5**

(a) Includes combinations of English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish only. (b) Excludes Slovenian. (c) Excludes Tamil and Sikh. (d) Includes ancestry not known, inadequately described and 'mixed' so described.

Source: *Table CX0104*

Southern Europeans In the south-eastern States

People born in Southern European countries were highly represented in the south-eastern States of Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. Victoria recorded the highest representation with 7 per cent of its population born in Southern Europe (compared to 4 per cent for Australia as a whole). Migrants born in Greece, Italy, Malta, or Yugoslavia all made up a greater percentage of the population of Victoria than of any other State. Approximately half of all migrants born in Malta or Greece were found in Victoria.

Very few Southern European migrants were found in Queensland or Tasmania, where they comprised approximately 1 per cent of both States' populations. Except for people born in Greece, Southern Europeans were also poorly represented in the Northern Territory. The Australian Capital Territory had an above average share of people born in Yugoslavia or Spain, and South Australia and Western Australia had an above average share of people born in Italy (see Table 3.3).

Australian-born people who reported Southern European ancestries showed the same patterns of distribution as migrants born in Southern Europe. This trend was especially marked among Australian-born people of Greek, Italian or Maltese descent. However, Australian-born people who reported Yugoslavian ancestries were much more likely to have lived in the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia, and less likely to have lived in Victoria, than were migrants born in Yugoslavia.

People of German origin

People born in Germany were concentrated most densely in the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia, where they made up over 1 per cent of both populations, compared to less than 1 per cent for Australia as a whole. However, Australian-born people who reported German ancestry were most likely to have lived in South Australia. This State held almost one-quarter of all Australian-born people of German ancestry, compared to 13 per cent of all German migrants. Furthermore, the SLAs which recorded the highest proportion of people of German ancestry were all located in South Australia, in the wine-growing region north-east of Adelaide. The District Council of Tanunda recorded Australia's highest concentration of people of German origin, with one-third of the population reporting sole ancestry to Germany. The percentage of people of German ancestry who lived in cities was well below average for all generations, ranging between 70 per cent for overseas-born people and 40 per cent for second (or later) generation Australians.

People of Middle Eastern origins

Ninety-two per cent of migrants born in the Middle East lived in New South Wales or Victoria, compared to 61 per cent of the total population. This figure was even higher (95 per cent) for people born in Lebanon, three-quarters of whom resided in New South Wales. Australian-born people who reported Lebanese ancestry showed a similar pattern of distribution, with 76 per cent living in New South Wales. Predictably, the six SLAs which recorded the highest proportion of people of Lebanese ancestry were all located in New South Wales, in the inner south-western area of Sydney. The Municipality of Canterbury recorded Australia's highest concentration of Lebanese people (18 times the national average), with 1 person in 10 reporting ancestry to Lebanon. With such heavy concentrations in Sydney it is not surprising that 96 per cent of people who reported Lebanese ancestry lived in major urban centres (compared to 63 per cent of the total population).

... and those of other Asian origins

People born in Asian countries (other than the Middle East) made up 4 per cent of the populations of the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, but less than 1 per cent of Tasmania's population. The Northern Territory's unusually high proportion of Asian migrants consisted mainly of people born in South-East Asian countries, primarily Timor and the Philippines. However, the Australian Capital Territory held an above average share of migrants from most Asian countries.

People born in China or Hong Kong were most densely concentrated in New South Wales with 56 per cent of them found there compared to 35 per cent of the total population. New South Wales also accounted for 50 per cent of all Australian-born people who reported Chinese ancestry. People born in Vietnam were most concentrated in Victoria, with that State accounting for one-third of all Vietnamese migrants.

LANGUAGE

Speakers of non-English languages

Two million people aged 5 years and over (14 per cent of Australians) spoke a language other than English at home. Italian was the most widely spoken non-English language (used by 3 per cent of people aged 5 years and over), followed by Greek (2 per cent), and Yugoslav languages, Chinese, German and Arabic (including Lebanese) (all 1 per cent). About three-quarters of people who spoke a non-English language at home spoke one of the twelve most commonly used languages in Australia, while the remainder spoke one of over 40 other languages in use in Australia today.

FIGURE 4.1 PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS OR OVER WHO SPOKE A NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME

Number ('000)
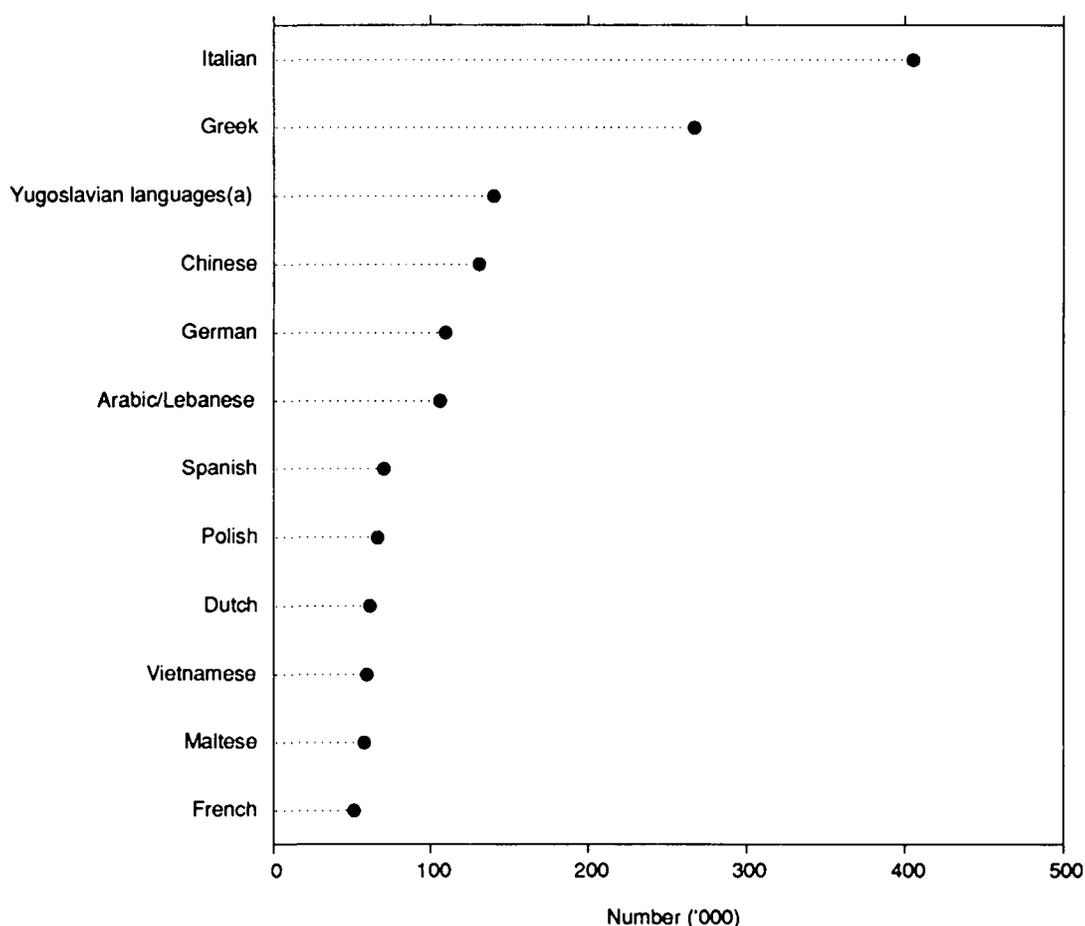
(a) Comprises Croatian, Serbo-Croatian, Serbian, Slovenian and Yugoslavian not included elsewhere.

Source: *Table CX0010*

The pattern of non-English language usage in the States and Territories largely reflected the location patterns of birthplace and ancestry groups described in Section 3. Of particular note, however, is the high proportion of non-English language speakers found in the Northern Territory, 25 per cent of people aged 5 years and over. Over 60 per cent of these people spoke an Aboriginal language at home.

TABLE 4.1 PROPORTION OF PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER WHO SPOKE A NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME: LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY STATE AND TERRITORY

Language	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
					— per cent —				
Arabic incl. Lebanese	1.6	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	0.1	0.2	0.7
Chinese	1.3	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.4	0.8	0.9
Dutch	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4
French	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4
German	0.7	0.9	0.6	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.2	0.8
Greek	1.9	3.4	0.4	2.2	0.4	0.4	1.9	1.3	1.9
Italian	2.2	4.7	1.1	3.8	3.4	0.4	0.8	1.7	2.9
Maltese	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	0.4
Polish	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.5
Spanish	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.5
Vietnamese	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	—	0.3	0.5	0.4
Yugoslavian languages	1.2	1.4	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.2	2.0	1.0
Other	3.5	3.5	1.7	2.1	3.1	0.8	18.4	3.7	3.1
Total(a)	15.6	19.4	6.4	13.4	12.1	3.9	25.4	14.2	14.3
					— '000 —				
Total(a)	766.4	707.8	149.2	164.6	153.3	15.6	33.8	32.1	2,022.8

(a) Includes non-English language not stated.

Source: Table CX0010

TABLE 4.2 PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER WHO SPOKE A SELECTED NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME: MAJOR BIRTHPLACES

Language/ Birthplace	'000	Per cent	Language/ Birthplace	'000	Per cent
Aboriginal languages			Greek		
Australia	36.7	99.4	Greece	122.9	46.0
Arabic incl. Lebanese			Australia	111.7	41.8
Lebanon	50.1	47.3	Cyprus	17.1	6.4
Australia	31.1	29.3	Egypt	6.6	2.5
Egypt	8.8	8.3	Italian		
Iraq	3.5	3.3	Italy	227.7	56.2
Chinese			Australia	158.7	39.2
China	27.0	20.6	Egypt	3.9	1.0
Vietnam	22.9	17.5	Maltese		
Malaysia	22.8	17.5	Malta	39.7	68.7
Hong Kong	22.4	17.1	Australia	15.5	26.8
Australia	11.0	8.4	Egypt	0.7	1.2
Singapore	4.9	3.7	Polish		
Dutch			Poland	48.6	73.4
Netherlands	46.6	75.9	Australia	9.6	14.5
Australia	7.6	12.4	Germany	3.6	5.4
Indonesia	3.2	5.1	USSR	1.5	2.3
Germany	0.6	1.0	Spanish		
French			Chile	16.7	23.8
Australia	15.5	30.2	Spain	13.0	18.6
Mauritius	9.1	17.8	Australia	10.2	14.6
France	8.6	16.7	Uruguay	8.7	12.4
UK and Ireland	3.5	6.8	Argentina	7.3	10.3
Egypt	2.8	5.5	Peru	1.8	2.6
Remainder of Africa	2.7	5.3	Vietnamese		
Belgium	1.3	2.6	Vietnam	55.5	93.4
German			Australia	1.6	2.8
Germany	57.0	52.1	Kampuchea	0.3	0.6
Australia	21.4	19.5	Yugoslavian languages		
Austria	10.8	9.8	Yugoslavia	91.5	68.0
Switzerland	3.1	2.8	Australia	36.8	27.3
			Austria	0.9	0.7

Source: Table CX0010

... mainly migrants

Not surprisingly, the majority of people who spoke a non-English language at home had been born overseas and 77 per cent of people born in non-English speaking countries spoke a language other than English at home. A number of birthplace groups showed a higher percentage of non-English language speakers. More than 95 per cent of people born in Vietnam, Kampuchea, Laos, Timor, El Salvador, Greece or Turkey spoke a language other than English at home.

In general, the majority of people speaking a particular non-English language had been born in the country where that language originated. The most notable example of this was among Vietnamese speakers, of whom 93 per cent had been born in Vietnam. However, the wide usage of certain languages also had an influence. Sixty-six per cent of people who spoke Chinese had been born in Asian countries other than China, and 53 per cent of Spanish speakers had been born in South America. Similarly, people who spoke French at home were more likely to have been born in Australia or Mauritius than in France.

... and their descendants

More than half a million Australian-born people spoke a non-English language at home and they made up 28 per cent of Australia's non-English language speakers. People born in Australia formed a much higher proportion of those who spoke Greek (42 per cent) or Italian (39 per cent), but made up less than 15 per cent of those who spoke Spanish, Polish, Dutch or Chinese, and less than 3 per cent of people who spoke Vietnamese, Sinhalese or Tamil.

TABLE 4.3 AUSTRALIAN-BORN PEOPLE(a) AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER WHO SPOKE A SELECTED NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME: MAJOR ANCESTRIES

Language/ Ancestry(b)	'000	Per cent	Language/ Ancestry(b)	'000	Per cent
Arabic incl. Lebanese			*Italian*		
Lebanese	20.0	61.1	Italian	135.5	83.6
Arab(c)	4.8	14.7	Australian	7.3	4.5
Australian	2.2	6.6	British or Irish	3.1	1.9
Egyptian	1.3	4.0	*Maltese*		
British or Irish	0.5	1.5	Maltese	12.8	78.5
Chinese			Australian	1.4	8.8
Chinese	10.4	84.8	British or Irish	0.3	1.9
British or Irish	0.4	3.1	*Polish*		
Australian	0.3	2.1	Polish	8.2	78.6
Vietnamese	—	0.2	Australian	0.4	3.6
Dutch			British or Irish	0.1	0.9
Dutch	6.1	71.5	*Spanish*		
Australian	0.6	7.0	Spanish	4.5	40.1
British or Irish	0.3	3.8	South American	1.0	9.3
German	—	0.4	Australian	0.9	8.0
French			British or Irish	0.6	5.6
British or Irish	4.9	30.8	Italian	0.2	1.4
Australian	2.5	15.4	*Vietnamese*		
French	1.4	8.9	Vietnamese	1.8	77.1
Mauritian	0.2	1.5	Chinese	0.1	5.7
German			Australian	0.1	3.6
German	8.2	36.0	British or Irish	0.1	2.5
British or Irish	2.7	12.1	*Yugoslavian languages(d)*		
Australian	2.3	10.4	Yugoslavian	17.7	32.5
Austrian	0.9	4.2	Croatian	12.0	22.1
Swiss	0.2	1.0	Macedonian	9.5	17.5
Greek			Australian	2.6	4.8
Greek	102.0	89.2	Greek	1.7	3.1
Australian	2.4	2.1	Serbian	1.3	2.4
British or Irish	0.9	0.8			

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) Comprises single ancestry responses only. (c) Includes Assyrian. (d) Includes Macedonian.

Source: *Table VCP214*

Most Australian-born people who spoke a particular non-English language at home also claimed ancestry to the country where that language originated. For example, 89 per cent of Australian-born people who spoke Greek at home also reported Greek ancestry. The most notable exception to this was found among Australian-born people who spoke French at home, with only 10 per cent reporting French or Mauritian ancestry.

Language retention

The tendency of people from a non-English speaking background to retain their language of origin varied greatly between the different groups. Naturally, recently arrived migrant groups showed a very high level of language retention; for example, 94 per cent of overseas-born people of Vietnamese ancestry spoke Vietnamese at home. Among the longer resident groups, those of Southern European ancestry, especially Greek and Italian, showed a much greater tendency to retain language usage in the home than did those of Northern European ancestry.

TABLE 4.4 PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER WHO SPOKE THE LANGUAGE OF THEIR REPORTED ANCESTRY: ANCESTRY BY BIRTHPLACE BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS
(per cent)

Reported ancestry	Overseas-born people	Australian-born people(a)		
		Both parents overseas-born	One parent overseas-born	Both parents Australian-born(b)
Chinese	81.3	65.8	22.7	16.2
Dutch	48.4	14.6	2.5	9.9
French	65.4	39.0	6.5	2.0
German	60.5	27.2	3.7	1.3
Greek	91.1	87.5	56.0	45.0
Italian	86.9	69.5	31.5	26.3
Lebanese(c)	91.6	81.1	27.6	34.2
Maltese	70.3	38.3	12.5	23.5
Polish	72.3	38.9	12.4	13.1
Spanish	83.3	75.6	6.4	7.9
Vietnamese	94.4	88.7	*	70.6
Yugoslavian(d)	81.8	74.2	29.8	37.5

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) Includes birthplace of parents not stated. (c) The language corresponding to Lebanese is Arabic. (d) Includes Macedonian.

Source: Table VCP214

... among first generation Australians

Many of the differences in language retention observed in the migrant population were also found among first generation Australians. Generally, Australian-born people whose parents had both been born overseas showed a strong tendency to use the language of their ancestors at home. The strongest retention of language was shown by first generation Australians of Greek or Vietnamese ancestry, whose tendency to use their ancestors' language (approximately 88 per cent) was very nearly as strong as that shown by their parents. The retention of ancestral language was weakest among people reporting ancestry to Northern European countries. Only 15 per cent of first generation Australians reporting Dutch ancestry and 27 per cent reporting German ancestry, spoke the corresponding language at home.

... more spoke mother's language

People born in Australia who had one overseas-born parent were far less likely to use the non-English language of their ancestors than those with both parents born overseas. Those ancestries which showed the highest levels of language retention among Australians with one parent born overseas were Greek (56 per cent), Italian (32 per cent) and Yugoslavian (30 per cent). The sex of the migrant parent also appeared to influence language usage. Generally, people whose parents had been born in two different countries were more likely to speak the language of their mother's birthplace than that of their father's. This was most notable among those with one Greek or Italian parent; 60 per cent of people with a Greek-born mother spoke Greek, compared to 43 per cent of those with a Greek-born father. This trend, however, was reversed for the Asian birthplaces of China and Vietnam. For example, 54 per cent of people with a Chinese-born father spoke Chinese at home, compared to 46 per cent of those with a Chinese-born mother.

FIGURE 4.2 PEOPLE WITH PARENTS BORN IN TWO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES: PROPORTION WHO SPOKE THE LANGUAGE OF THEIR PARENT'S BIRTHPLACE BY SEX AND SELECTED BIRTHPLACE OF PARENT

O Mother born in country and father born elsewhere

● Father born in country and mother born elsewhere
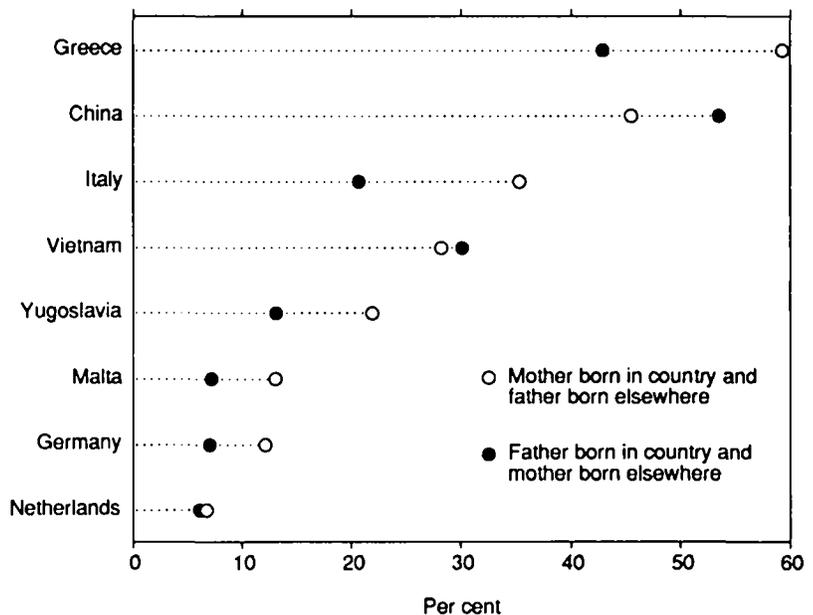
Per cent

Source: *Table CX0012*

... second (or later) generation Australians

Among Australian-born people with Australian-born parents, the use of non-English ancestral languages was most prevalent among people reporting Vietnamese ancestry (71 per cent of whom spoke Vietnamese) or Greek ancestry (45 per cent spoke Greek). More than one-third of second (or later) generation Australians reporting Lebanese or Yugoslavian ancestry spoke these languages at home. However, only 1 in 50 people reporting German or French ancestry spoke those languages at home, possibly reflecting these two groups' long residence in Australia.

Ability to speak English

Approximately 60,000 Australians aged 5 years and over were reported as unable to speak English at all, and more than 320,000 others reported that they could not speak the language well. Although 92 per cent of these people were migrants born in non-English speaking countries, more than 30,000 Australian-born people aged 5 years and over were reported as unable to speak English well, or at all.

Women born in non-English speaking countries were more likely than men born in non-English speaking countries to have had a low proficiency in English. Twenty-three per cent of them could not speak English well, or at all, compared to 16 per cent of men. Age also had a considerable influence on the English proficiency of migrants. Only 12 per cent of children (aged 5 to 14 years) born in non-English speaking countries were unable to speak English well, or at all, compared to 37 per cent of people aged 65 years and over.

TABLE 4.5 PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER: PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH BY BIRTHPLACE, SEX AND AGE

		Speaks other language at home and speaks English				
	Speaks only English at home	Very well or well	Not well	Not at all	Total(a)	Total(b)
		— per cent —				'000
English-speaking countries	95.1	4.5	0.2	—	4.9	12,390.8
Non-English speaking countries	22.1	58.0	16.5	3.1	77.9	1,791.3
Men	23.7	59.2	14.8	1.8	76.3	928.1
Women	20.4	56.6	18.3	4.4	79.6	863.1
Aged 5-14 years	25.7	61.8	10.3	1.8	74.3	105.4
Aged 15-64 years	22.5	59.2	15.9	2.0	77.5	1,498.9
Aged 65 years and over	17.2	45.4	24.4	12.5	82.8	186.9
Total(c)	85.7	11.3	2.3	0.4	14.3	..
		— '000 —				
Total(c)	12,138.5	1,605.3	327.5	60.6	2,022.8	14,414.1

(a) Includes proficiency in English not stated. (b) Includes language spoken at home not stated. (c) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: Table CSD016

... differences between language groups

The ability to speak English varied considerably according to which non-English language was spoken at home. Although all language groups possessed a reasonable level of proficiency in English, the lowest levels were reported by speakers of Khmer and Vietnamese. For example, only 45 per cent of people who spoke Khmer at home could speak English well or very well, and 1 Khmer speaker in every 9 was unable to speak English at all. Similarly, 8 per cent of Chinese speakers could not speak English at all. People who spoke Portuguese or Turkish at home also reported a comparatively low level of proficiency in English, with less than 70 per cent speaking English well or very well, and 5 per cent unable to speak English at all. By contrast, people who spoke a Western or Northern European language tended to report high levels of English proficiency. This was also the case with speakers of many Southern Asian languages.

TABLE 4.6 PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH OF PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER WHO SPOKE A NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME(a)

The 15 languages for which speakers reported the lowest levels of proficiency in English			The 15 languages for which speakers reported the highest levels of proficiency in English		
Per cent who spoke English			Per cent who spoke English		
Language	Well or very well	Not at all	Language	Well or very well	Not at all
Khmer	45.1	11.2	Afrikaans	98.8	0.2
Vietnamese	52.7	6.1	Dutch	96.6	0.3
Tetum	59.5	10.0	Danish	96.6	0.6
Korean	60.5	6.7	Sinhalese	96.3	0.5
Lao	60.8	5.8	Welsh	95.9	0.5
Japanese	68.1	4.5	Swedish	95.8	0.5
Portuguese	68.7	5.5	Norwegian	95.7	0.4
Turkish	68.8	4.8	Tamil	95.4	0.8
Chinese	70.1	8.0	German	95.0	0.6
Aboriginal languages	70.7	5.6	Fijian	94.7	0.8
Romanian	71.5	5.3	Hindi	94.5	1.1
Macedonian	75.0	4.0	Maori	94.3	0.5
Spanish	75.1	4.4	Filipino	94.0	0.5
Russian	75.6	4.7	Burmese	92.9	0.7
Romany	76.4	3.3	French	92.5	0.9

(a) Excludes those who did not state proficiency in English.

Source: *Table CX0011*

... recent immigrants

Among those speakers of non-English languages who took up residence in Australia between July 1981 and June 1986, more than one-third reported that they did not speak English well, or at all. More than half of those who spoke Vietnamese, Spanish, Greek or Yugoslavian languages were unable to speak English well. In contrast, less than 20 per cent of newly arrived migrants speaking Dutch, German, French or Maltese could not speak English well. People unable to speak English at all made up 3 per cent or less of these language groups, compared to 9 per cent for all newly arrived migrants who used a non-English language at home. Among the larger groups, speakers of Greek or Italian showed the highest proportion of people unable to speak English at all with one-quarter of all recently arrived migrants falling into this category. Of newly arrived Vietnamese speakers, 8 per cent could not speak English at all.

... established immigrants

All of the larger language groups recorded higher levels of English proficiency among migrants who had lived in Australia for 5 years or more, but the extent of this difference varied. Speakers of Spanish or Yugoslavian languages showed the most significant improvement, with the proportion of people speaking English well or very well rising from approximately 45 per cent for migrants resident less than 5 years to 78 per cent for those resident for 5 years or more. The proportion of non-English language speakers unable to speak English at all was lower among longer term residents (3 per cent) than among recent arrivals (9 per cent). Among the longer-term migrants, speakers of Greek or Vietnamese recorded the lowest proportions of people able to speak English well or very well (around two-thirds). Chinese speakers showed the highest proportion of longer-term migrants unable to speak English at all (7 per cent).

... the Australian-born

Most Australian-born people aged 5 years or over who spoke a non-English language at home also spoke English very proficiently (82 per cent were able to speak English very well). However, Australian-born Vietnamese speakers and speakers of Aboriginal languages were exceptional in that less than 40 per cent reported an ability to speak English very well, and about 5 per cent could not speak English at all. This latter figure was very much above the average (of less than 1 per cent) recorded for all Australian-born speakers of non-English languages.

TABLE 4.7 OVERSEAS-BORN PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER WHO SPOKE A NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME: PERIOD OF RESIDENCE BY PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH

Language spoken at home/ Period of residence	Speaks English			Total	
	Very well or well	Not well	Not at all		
	— per cent —				'000(a)
Arabic incl. Lebanese					
Resident less than 5 years	55.0	30.3	14.7	100.0	10.9
Resident 5 years or more	78.6	17.9	3.5	100.0	60.2
Chinese					
Resident less than 5 years	61.8	26.6	11.7	100.0	46.7
Resident 5 years or more	72.4	21.0	6.5	100.0	69.7
Dutch					
Resident less than 5 years	92.5	6.1	1.3	100.0	4.2
Resident 5 years or more	97.2	2.6	0.2	100.0	47.7
French					
Resident less than 5 years	85.5	11.9	2.5	100.0	6.4
Resident 5 years or more	93.5	5.9	0.6	100.0	28.0
German					
Resident less than 5 years	87.4	9.6	3.1	100.0	10.0
Resident 5 years or more	96.2	3.5	0.3	100.0	75.0
Greek					
Resident less than 5 years	46.9	27.7	25.4	100.0	4.2
Resident 5 years or more	66.4	30.0	3.5	100.0	143.1
Italian					
Resident less than 5 years	50.5	24.5	24.9	100.0	3.5
Resident 5 years or more	70.2	25.7	4.1	100.0	231.4
Maltese					
Resident less than 5 years	83.8	13.1	3.0	100.0	1.2
Resident 5 years or more	87.2	11.6	1.2	100.0	39.2
Polish					
Resident less than 5 years	60.7	29.5	9.9	100.0	12.0
Resident 5 years or more	82.0	17.1	0.9	100.0	42.6
Spanish					
Resident less than 5 years	46.0	39.6	14.4	100.0	12.4
Resident 5 years or more	78.3	19.1	2.5	100.0	45.6
Vietnamese					
Resident less than 5 years	41.2	50.4	8.4	100.0	28.8
Resident 5 years or more	64.0	32.3	3.7	100.0	27.3
Yugoslavian languages					
Resident less than 5 years	45.6	34.6	20.0	100.0	4.6
Resident 5 years or more	78.4	19.9	1.7	100.0	92.9
All non-English languages					
Resident less than 5 years	63.3	27.6	9.2	100.0	234.2
Resident 5 years or more	77.8	19.4	2.8	100.0	1,154.4
Total(b)	**75.3**	**20.8**	**3.9**	**100.0**	**1,424.2**

(a) Includes proficiency in English not stated. (b) Includes period of residence not stated.

Source: *Table CX0011*

TABLE 4.8 AUSTRALIAN-BORN PEOPLE AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER WHO SPOKE A NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME: LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH

Language spoken at home	Very well or well	Not well	Not at all	Total	
	— per cent —				'000(a)
Aboriginal	70.7	23.7	5.6	100.0	36.7
Arabic incl. Lebanese	93.4	5.8	0.8	100.0	32.8
Chinese	89.4	9.0	1.5	100.0	12.3
Dutch	95.5	4.3	0.3	100.0	8.6
French	93.9	5.5	0.6	100.0	16.2
German	94.7	4.9	0.4	100.0	22.8
Greek	97.1	2.6	0.3	100.0	114.5
Italian	96.2	3.4	0.4	100.0	162.8
Maltese	95.1	4.8	0.2	100.0	16.3
Polish	94.4	5.1	0.4	100.0	10.5
Spanish	94.2	5.1	0.7	100.0	11.2
Vietnamese	63.7	31.6	4.8	100.0	2.3
Yugoslavian languages	96.9	2.8	0.3	100.0	39.9
All non-English languages(b)	**93.3**	**5.6**	**1.0**	**100.0**	**598.6**

(a) Includes proficiency in English not stated. (b) Includes non-English language not stated.

Source: Table CX0011

RELIGION

Diverse religions

Religious affiliations in Australia are many and diverse. They range from mainstream and smaller Christian denominations through Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and Hinduism to non-theistic observances such as humanism, materialism, rationalism and secularism. Religious affiliation is a major aspect of culture, influencing many fundamental aspects of life such as people's values, judgement and lifestyle.

... but still mainly Christian

As for previous censuses, the 1986 Census question on religion was optional and, as in 1976, about 12 per cent of people did not answer. A further 13 per cent stated that they had no religion and 73 per cent claimed affiliation to Christianity. Catholics were the largest single group, accounting for just over one-quarter of Australia's population while Protestant groups accounted for slightly less than half. A total of 2 per cent of Australians claimed affiliation to Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim or other non-Christian religions.

TABLE 5.1 RELIGION

	1976		1986	
Religion	'000	Per cent	'000	Per cent
Christian				
Catholic(a)	3,482.8	25.7	4,064.4	26.1
Anglican	3,752.2	27.7	3,723.4	23.9
Uniting(b)	—	—	1,182.3	7.6
Methodist - incl. Wesleyan(c)	983.2	7.3	n.a.	n.a.
Presbyterian and Reformed	900.0	6.6	560.0	3.6
Orthodox	372.2	2.7	427.4	2.7
Lutheran	191.5	1.4	208.3	1.3
Baptist	174.2	1.3	196.8	1.3
Pentecostal	38.4	0.3	107.0	0.7
Churches of Christ	86.9	0.6	88.5	0.6
Salvation Army	63.3	0.5	77.8	0.5
Jehovah's Witness	41.4	0.3	66.5	0.4
Seventh Day Adventist	41.5	0.3	48.0	0.3
Latter Day Saints/Mormons	n.a.	n.a.	35.5	0.2
Brethren	20.7	0.2	23.2	0.1
Congregational	53.4	0.4	16.6	0.1
Oriental Christian	n.a.	n.a.	10.4	0.1
Other Protestant n.e.i.	206.2	1.5	199.4	1.3
Christian n.e.i.	236.9	1.7	346.4	2.2
Total	*10,644.9*	*78.6*	*11,381.9*	*73.0*
Non-Christian				
Muslim	45.2	0.3	109.5	0.7
Buddhist	n.a.	n.a.	80.4	0.5
Jewish	53.4	0.4	69.1	0.4
Hindu	n.a.	n.a.	21.5	0.1
Other non-Christian n.e.i.	30.4	0.2	35.7	0.2
Total	*129.1*	*1.0*	*316.2*	*2.0*
Other				
Non-theistic	n.a.	n.a.	4.9	—
Inadequately described	51.3	0.4	58.0	0.4
No religion (so described)	1,130.3	8.3	1,977.5	12.7
Not stated	1,593.0	11.8	1,863.6	11.9
Total	**13,548.4**	**100.0**	**15,602.2**	**100.0**

(a) Roman Catholic and Catholic (non-Roman). (b) The Uniting Church was formed in 1977 from the Methodist, Congregational and part of the Presbyterian churches. (c) People who responded Methodist in 1986 were coded to Uniting.

Source: *Population and Dwellings: Summary Tables, Table 11 (1976), Table CSD006 (1986)*

Changes in religious affiliation

Over the 10 year period 1976 to 1986, a number of changes occurred in the patterns of religious affiliation in Australia. Although the number of people following Christian denominations rose by more than 700,000 over the decade, this increase did not keep pace with Australia's overall population growth (15 per cent). The Anglican Church suffered one of the largest declines, losing 30,000 (or 1 per cent) of its followers, and as a consequence it relinquished its position as the largest religious group in Australia to the Catholic Church. Catholicism was one of the few Christian denominations to increase its share of the Australian population, acquiring 580,000 additional adherents over the 10 year period. More than one-third of this increase was attributable to immigration. The Pentecostal Churches, although a relatively small group (with 107,000 followers in 1986), almost trebled its numbers between 1976 and 1986.

In contrast to most Christian groups, the number of people affiliated to non-Christian religions rose by almost 150 per cent between 1976 and 1986 (increasing from 129,000 to 316,000), with immigration accounting for approximately two-thirds of this increase. The number of people who stated that they did not have a religion also increased dramatically over the 10 year period, rising from 1.1 million to almost 2 million.

Birthplace and parents' birthplace

Religious affiliation varied markedly according to birthplace and parents' birthplace. Catholic, Orthodox and non-Christian religions were much more prevalent among migrants and first generation Australians than among Australian-born people with one or both parents born in Australia. This was particularly pronounced among people who followed a non-Christian religion, nearly two-thirds of whom had been born overseas. Migrants made up a very high proportion of followers of Buddhism and Hinduism while first

TABLE 5.2 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION BY BIRTHPLACE BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS
(per cent)

Religious affiliation	Overseas-born people	Australian-born people(a)			Total
		Both parents overseas-born	One parent overseas-born	Both parents Australian-born(b)	
Christian	70.6	75.6	72.5	73.5	73.0
Catholic	30.2	37.7	24.3	23.5	26.1
Orthodox(c)	7.7	11.9	1.3	0.2	2.8
Protestant	27.8	21.9	42.5	46.5	40.3
Anglican	17.5	12.8	25.7	27.2	23.9
Lutheran	1.8	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.3
Uniting	2.5	2.8	7.6	9.9	7.6
Other(d)	6.0	4.9	8.3	8.1	7.4
Other Christian(e)	5.0	4.0	4.4	3.4	3.9
Non-Christian	6.3	4.5	1.0	0.4	2.0
Buddhist	2.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.5
Hindu	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
Jewish	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.4
Muslim	2.2	2.5	0.2	0.0	0.7
Other	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
No religion(f)	13.8	10.7	14.9	12.2	12.7
Not stated(g)	9.3	9.2	11.5	13.8	12.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) Includes birthplace of parents not stated. (c) Includes Oriental Christian. (d) Includes Baptist, Brethren, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Presbyterian and Salvation Army. (e) Includes Jehovah's Witness, Latter Day Saints, Pentecostal and Seventh Day Adventists. (f) Includes non-theistic affiliation. (g) Includes inadequately described.

Source: Table VCP215

generation Australians comprised an unusually high proportion of those adhering to Orthodox or Oriental Christianity and Islam. In contrast, Anglican and Uniting Church denominations were less prevalent among overseas-born people and first generation Australians than among Australian-born people with one or both parents born in Australia.

... Australian-born mainly Christian

First generation Australians displayed the highest level of Christian affiliation across the generations (76 per cent compared to 71 per cent of migrants and 73 and 74 per cent respectively of Australian-born people with one or both parents born in Australia). First generation Australians also showed the highest levels of affiliation to Catholic and Orthodox denominations (38 per cent and 12 per cent respectively) but the lowest level of Anglican affiliation (13 per cent).

Australian-born people with both parents born in Australia reported the highest level of Anglican and Uniting Church affiliation (27 per cent and 10 per cent respectively) and the lowest level of affiliation to non-Christian religions (0.4 per cent).

... European-born

Over three-quarters of people born in Europe were Christians and a further one-eighth stated that they had no religion. However, there was considerable variation between individual birthplace groups with some showing a very strong affinity to one particular denomination. For example, over 90 per cent of people born in Italy or Malta were Catholics and over 90 per cent of the Greek-born were Orthodox. For some birthplace groups e.g. Albania, Germany, USSR and Yugoslavia, there were two or more dominant religions reflecting the plurality of cultures existing in these countries. Also of note were the relatively high proportions of people born in Central and Eastern European countries who were of Jewish religion.

Among people born in the UK and Ireland, the dominant religion was Anglican, but each separate country had its own variation. The Scottish-born were predominantly Presbyterian or Catholic, the Irish-born Catholic and the English and Welsh-born, Anglican.

TABLE 5.3 EUROPEAN-BORN PEOPLE: COUNTRY OF BIRTH BY SELECTED RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION(a)
(per cent)

Country	Anglican	Catholic	Luth-eran	Ortho-dox	Presby-terian	Total Uniting Christian		Jewish	No religion
UK & Ireland	40.3	13.1	0.1	0.1	4.9	4.1	71.5	0.5	15.6
England & Wales	47.8	10.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	4.0	70.8	0.5	16.2
Ireland	10.8	51.0	0.1	0.1	6.4	3.9	80.9	0.2	8.5
Scotland	8.0	13.7	0.1	—	28.4	5.3	71.6	0.3	15.3
Southern Europe	0.4	60.2	0.2	28.1	0.1	0.1	91.6	0.1	2.7
Greece	0.2	0.6	—	90.4	—	—	93.5	—	1.7
Italy	0.3	90.9	—	0.1	—	0.1	93.7	—	1.8
Malta	1.1	90.3	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	93.4	—	1.9
Spain	0.9	76.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.2	83.9	0.1	8.1
Yugoslavia	0.4	46.2	0.6	36.0	0.1	0.1	86.9	0.1	4.7
Other Europe	2.8	38.4	11.2	3.7	2.6	1.3	68.5	4.3	15.5
Austria	2.5	55.0	4.0	1.4	0.3	0.6	69.2	5.9	12.7
Czechoslovakia	1.6	51.9	2.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	63.3	6.8	17.5
France	2.6	52.9	0.6	1.4	0.3	0.4	64.9	2.5	18.9
Germany	4.2	27.9	23.4	1.4	0.6	0.9	68.4	2.1	16.1
Hungary	1.3	53.6	2.9	0.5	5.1	0.5	70.3	9.0	8.7
Netherlands	3.2	33.4	0.7	0.1	9.3	3.8	60.6	0.2	26.2
Poland	0.5	70.8	0.9	2.1	0.1	0.1	78.9	9.8	4.4
Scandinavia	5.0	3.2	37.1	0.5	0.6	1.0	61.8	0.3	22.7
USSR	1.7	25.5	23.3	19.2	0.2	0.4	75.2	8.5	8.9
Total Europe	21.1	31.9	2.4	8.9	3.0	2.4	76.7	1.1	11.9

(a) Religion not stated has been included in the calculations.

Source: Table CX0003

... Asian-born

Compared to people born in other continents, the Asian-born reported a lower proportion of Christians (48 per cent) and higher proportions of non-Christians (27 per cent) and people with no religion (18 per cent). However, there was a great deal of variation between the individual birthplaces. Birthplace groups whose members were predominantly Christian came from the Philippines (93 per cent), Iraq (85 per cent), Burma (80 per cent), Cyprus (77 per cent), Sri Lanka (76 per cent) and India (70 per cent). Within these groups the dominant Christian denomination was Catholic for the Philippines, Burma, Sri Lanka and India, and Orthodox or Oriental Christian for Iraq and Cyprus. Birthplace groups who reported high proportions (over 50 per cent) of non-Christians were from Kampuchea, Laos and Thailand (predominantly Buddhist), and Bangladesh and Turkey (predominantly Muslim). Among people born in China, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Timor or Vietnam, over 30 per cent stated that they had no religion.

TABLE 5.4 ASIAN-BORN PEOPLE: COUNTRY OF BIRTH BY SELECTED RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION(a)
(per cent)

Country	Anglican	Catholic	Orthodox	Total Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Muslim	No religion
East Asia	3.8	11.8	5.7	35.6	8.3	0.1	0.4	44.7
China	2.9	6.8	13.2	33.3	9.0	—	0.6	44.9
Hong Kong	5.2	18.9	0.2	37.0	3.1	0.1	0.2	51.3
South East Asia	3.3	29.0	0.1	43.8	23.3	0.7	2.7	20.3
Indonesia	3.4	24.5	0.2	56.1	4.4	1.6	14.9	13.8
Malaysia	7.5	17.7	0.1	45.2	13.0	2.3	6.1	21.5
Philippines	1.2	82.9	0.1	92.9	0.3	—	0.1	2.1
Singapore	12.0	26.4	0.2	56.8	5.3	1.8	3.9	20.7
Vietnam	0.3	19.6	—	23.5	36.7	—	0.1	30.5
Southern Asia	13.8	37.7	0.6	66.5	2.3	8.6	6.4	4.5
India	15.6	43.2	0.1	70.2	0.2	11.3	1.8	4.5
Sri Lanka	16.2	40.4	0.1	76.1	7.9	7.4	1.0	3.5
Western Asia(b)	0.8	20.8	21.9	53.1	—	—	36.4	2.5
Cyprus	1.2	1.0	72.8	77.4	—	—	16.1	2.1
Lebanon	0.3	38.0	10.1	56.8	—	—	35.7	1.6
Turkey	0.2	2.2	8.5	16.4	—	0.1	76.3	3.0
Total Asia	4.5	25.7	6.1	48.1	12.2	1.7	10.6	17.8

(a) Religion not stated has been included in the calculations. (b) See the note on classification of countries on page ii.

Source: Table CX0003

Ancestry groups

Generally, within a single ancestry group migrants tended to display lower levels of Christian affiliation than Australian-born people. The main exceptions to this trend were people who reported Polish, French or South American ancestries and, to a lesser extent, the Southern European ancestries of Greek, Italian, Maltese and Spanish. Within the same ancestry group affiliation to non-Christian religions was generally lower among Australian-born people than among overseas-born people. The main exception here was people who reported Polish ancestry, who displayed a slightly higher level of non-Christian affiliation (mainly Jewish) among Australian-born people.

Australian-born people were generally less likely to have reported no religious affiliation than overseas-born people of the same ancestry. The main exceptions were for people of most Southern European ancestries and for people of French, Polish, Indian or Vietnamese ancestries.

TABLE 5.5 SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION(a) BY
BIRTHPLACE
(per cent)

	Overseas-born people			Australian-born people(b)		
Ancestry	Christian	Non-Christian	No religion(c)	Christian	Non-Christian	No religion(c)
Aboriginal or TSI	69.0	11.6	14.4	66.1	5.8	10.7
Australian	69.8	1.8	16.4	73.2	0.4	13.7
New Zealander	54.4	0.8	31.0	59.4	0.8	26.7
British or Irish	*71.5*	*0.6*	*16.2*	*77.1*	*0.2*	*11.8*
English or Welsh	71.4	0.6	16.6	77.1	0.2	11.7
Irish	81.4	0.4	9.4	84.9	0.2	8.2
Scottish	70.5	0.4	16.8	73.7	0.3	15.7
Other main English-speaking ancestries	63.4	5.9	18.3	68.0	3.0	17.0
Southern European	*92.1*	*0.9*	*2.7*	*91.4*	*0.7*	*3.1*
Greek	94.0	0.4	1.7	91.9	0.3	2.9
Italian	94.1	0.1	1.7	92.9	0.1	2.5
Maltese	94.3	0.1	1.5	93.8	0.1	2.0
Spanish	84.5	0.5	9.0	79.3	0.5	12.4
Yugoslavian	86.8	2.6	5.4	87.2	2.0	5.3
Dutch	61.9	0.5	25.8	65.1	0.4	23.6
French	75.1	1.5	13.8	73.6	0.7	16.1
German	69.2	1.5	16.7	78.3	0.5	12.6
Polish	84.4	3.9	4.8	78.2	5.2	7.7
Scandinavian	63.1	0.6	22.8	72.9	0.4	16.0
Lebanese	62.3	31.9	1.6	68.1	26.1	1.4
Chinese	27.7	18.8	44.2	38.9	7.2	40.2
Indian	50.4	40.5	4.2	52.3	34.5	6.4
Vietnamese	33.2	40.4	20.0	36.8	31.8	22.1
South American	84.3	0.4	9.4	82.4	0.5	8.3
All ancestries(d)	**70.6**	**6.3**	**13.8**	**73.6**	**0.9**	**12.4**

(a) Calculations include people who did not state their religion. (b) Includes birthplace not stated. (c) Includes non-theistic affiliation. (d) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP215*

Just over three-quarters of the 8.4 million Australians who reported European ancestry followed a Christian religion. Among migrants of European ancestry the principal denominations were Catholic (31 per cent), Anglican (22 per cent) and Orthodox or Oriental Christian (9 per cent), while among those born in Australia the main denominations differed slightly, with Anglican claiming 29 per cent, Catholic 24 per cent and the Uniting Church 10 per cent. Among people of European ancestry only 40,000 (less than 1 per cent) reported following a non-Christian religion. People of Jewish faith made up 42 per cent of these non-Christians while Muslims comprised another 25 per cent. The main denominations followed by members of specific ancestry groups did not tend to differ between those born in Australia and those born overseas, although the actual proportions varied in most cases.

... Anglo-Celtic people

Among people claiming English or Welsh ancestry, Anglican was the most common Christian denomination accounting for 37 per cent, although fewer Australian-born people reported Anglican affiliation (35 per cent) than overseas-born people (47 per cent). Australian-born people of English descent were more likely to have been Catholics or followers of the Uniting Church (17 per cent and 12 per cent respectively) than were migrants of this ancestry (10 per cent and 4 per cent respectively). Catholicism predominated among people of Irish ancestry (68 per cent), with the proportion of Catholics higher among Australian-born people (70 per cent) than among migrants (61 per cent).

TABLE 5.6 PROPORTION OF SELECTED ANCESTRY GROUPS AFFILIATED TO CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS(a)
(per cent)

Ancestry	Anglican	Catholic	Lutheran	Ortho-dox(b)	Uniting	Other Prot-estant	Other Christian	Total Christian
Aboriginal or TSI	23.9	19.2	3.5	—	3.8	7.5	8.1	66.1
Australian	25.8	26.1	1.2	0.3	9.1	7.5	3.3	73.2
New Zealander	18.5	15.8	0.1	0.1	4.0	9.8	6.7	55.1
British or Irish	*33.6*	*18.8*	*0.3*	—	*10.1*	*9.7*	*3.5*	*76.1*
English or Welsh	36.7	16.1	0.4	—	10.6	8.7	3.6	76.1
Irish	8.4	68.0	0.1	—	2.4	3.5	1.8	84.3
Scottish	16.1	12.1	0.2	0.1	10.2	30.3	3.5	72.5
Other main English-speaking countries	14.6	21.0	1.7	0.4	6.1	11.1	9.4	64.2
Southern European	*0.8*	*58.8*	*0.1*	*29.2*	*0.2*	*0.4*	*2.3*	*91.8*
Greek	0.8	0.9	—	88.8	0.1	0.4	2.1	93.0
Italian	0.6	90.2	—	0.1	0.2	0.3	2.2	93.5
Maltese	0.6	91.7	—	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.4	94.1
Spanish	3.0	70.9	0.1	0.1	0.7	2.1	6.1	83.0
Yugoslavian	0.8	55.4	0.4	26.8	0.2	0.6	2.8	86.9
Dutch	4.3	33.6	0.6	0.1	4.0	14.8	5.5	63.0
French	12.1	50.5	0.4	0.2	3.2	3.6	4.4	74.4
German	10.4	18.0	29.3	0.2	5.1	6.2	5.5	74.7
Polish	1.3	74.7	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.8	3.5	82.5
Scandinavian	15.7	8.4	24.2	0.2	5.2	8.2	6.2	68.0
Lebanese	0.7	48.2	—	9.9	0.1	0.3	5.6	64.9
Chinese	3.4	12.3	0.1	0.4	1.6	2.6	9.4	29.9
Indian	6.3	33.2	0.1	0.1	1.7	1.8	7.6	50.8
Vietnamese	0.3	29.6	0.1	—	0.1	1.8	1.8	33.6
South American	0.6	72.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	2.4	8.3	84.1
Other ancestries	17.0	28.0	1.6	2.0	5.8	6.0	4.6	65.1
Total(c)	23.9	26.1	1.3	2.8	7.6	7.4	3.9	73.0

(a) Calculations include people who did not state their religion. (b) Includes Oriental Christian. (c) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP215*

... Southern Europeans

People who reported Southern European ancestry were notable in that they recorded one of the highest levels of affiliation to Christianity (92 per cent) and one of the lowest levels of no religious affiliation (3 per cent). They also showed a high level of religious conformity, with most members of an individual ancestry group affiliated to just one denomination. People of Greek ancestry principally claimed Orthodox or Oriental Christian affiliation, with the percentage being only slightly lower among Australian-born people (87 per cent) than among overseas-born people (91 per cent). This was also the principal denomination among those of Macedonian ancestry (91 per cent). People who reported Yugoslavian ancestries were a mixture of Catholic and Orthodox or Oriental Christian affiliation depending on the specific ancestry reported. For example, 89 per cent of those who reported Serbian ancestry were Orthodox or Oriental Christians but 95 per cent of those who reported Croatian ancestry and 72 per cent of those of Slovenian ancestry were Catholic.

Catholicism was dominant for all other Southern European ancestry groups (except Albanian). More than 90 per cent of people who reported Italian or Maltese ancestry were Catholics and birthplace did not greatly affect the level of Catholic affiliation (around 90 per cent). In contrast, migrants of Spanish ancestry were more likely to have been Catholic than their Australian-born counterparts (75 per cent compared to 59 per cent). People of Albanian ancestry were unique among those of Southern European descent in that only 14 per cent reported affiliation to a Christian religion, while two-thirds reported affiliation to Islam.

... one-third of Germans were Lutheran

People who reported German ancestry displayed higher affiliation to Christianity among Australian-born people (78 per cent) than among migrants (69 per cent). While the extent of Lutheran affiliation remained much the same between migrants and Australian-born people of German ancestry (approximately 30 per cent), Catholic affiliation was higher among those born overseas (24 per cent compared to 14 per cent). In contrast, Anglican and Uniting Church affiliation were much higher among Australian-born people of German ancestry (15 per cent and 8 per cent respectively) than among migrants of German ancestry (4 per cent and 1 per cent respectively).

... Other Europeans

Catholicism predominated among those of Polish ancestry, although migrants were more likely than Australian-born people to report affiliation to the Catholic church (78 per cent compared to 67 per cent). This was also the case among people of French ancestry, although the difference between birthplaces was more marked. Sixty-four per cent of migrants of French ancestry were Catholic, whereas those born in Australia showed a mixture of Catholic (35 per cent) and Anglican (22 per cent) affiliation.

People of Dutch ancestry reported a relatively low level of affiliation to Christian religions (63 per cent) and an unusually high proportion with no religious affiliation (25 per cent). The most common religious denomination was Catholicism, accounting for one-third of those of Dutch descent. Among those of Scandinavian ancestry, Christian affiliation was higher among Australian-born people than among migrants (73 per cent and 63 per cent respectively), with a high proportion of migrants (23 per cent) reporting no religious affiliation. The main denomination followed by migrants of Scandinavian ancestry was Lutheran (39 per cent) whereas those born in Australia were more likely to have reported Anglican (26 per cent) or Catholic affiliation (14 per cent) than Lutheran (9 per cent).

... few from the Middle East had no religion

People who reported Middle Eastern ancestries were affiliated to a diverse range of religions. Catholicism accounted for almost half of those who reported Lebanese ancestry, with Islam accounting for about another quarter. By contrast, people of Turkish ancestry showed a very high level of affiliation to Islam (90 per cent), while those of Cypriot, Egyptian, Armenian and Assyrian ancestry were most likely to be Orthodox or Oriental Christians. All Middle Eastern ancestry groups reported a very low proportion of people with no religion (less than 4 per cent).

... Indian ancestry

People of Indian ancestry (including Tamil and Sikh) reported a mixture of Christian and non-Christian affiliations. The main Christian denomination was Catholic, accounting for 30 per cent of both migrants and people born in Australia. Forty-six per cent of people of Indian ancestry reported affiliation to non-Christian religions, principally Hinduism and Islam. A higher proportion of migrants of Indian ancestry reported Hindu affiliation than did those born in Australia (29 per cent and 20 per cent respectively), while the level of Muslim affiliation did not vary with birthplace (8 per cent). Ten per cent of people of Indian ancestry reported following non-Christian religions other than Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism or Islam.

... Vietnamese ancestry

Religious affiliations of people of Vietnamese ancestry were spread fairly evenly across the Christian, non-Christian and no religion categories, regardless of birthplace. Non-Christian affiliation was stronger among migrants of Vietnamese ancestry than among those born in Australia (40 per cent and 32 per cent respectively), with Buddhism being the principal non-Christian religion. Catholicism was the main Christian denomination reported, accounting for 30 per cent of those of Vietnamese ancestry, while no religious affiliation accounted for another 20 per cent.

... high proportion of Chinese ancestry had no religion

People of Chinese ancestry primarily reported either no religious affiliation or Christian affiliation. Forty-three per cent stated that they did not have a religion, one of the highest levels recorded by any ancestry group. Migrants of Chinese descent were less likely to have reported Christian affiliation than their Australian-born counterparts (28 per cent compared to 39 per cent) and more likely to have reported non-Christian affiliation (19 per cent compared to 7 per cent), primarily Buddhism. The main Christian denomination reported was Catholic (12 per cent of migrants of Chinese ancestry and 15 per cent of those born in Australia).

FAMILY LIFE

Cultural factors play an important role in determining the pattern of people's lives. For example, the age at which people choose to marry, their choice of partner, their preference for de facto or traditional marriage and the number of children that they choose to have can often be strongly influenced by their cultural background.

Marital status

At the 1986 Census, 58 per cent of all people aged 15 years and over reported that they were married (including 3 per cent who reported de facto marriages). People who had never been married comprised 28 per cent of all those aged 15 years and over, while the remaining 14 per cent were either separated, divorced or widowed. People born overseas were more likely to be married than Australian-born people (67 per cent compared to 55 per cent) and less likely to have never been married (19 per cent compared to 32 per cent). This disparity was largely due to differences in the age distribution of these two groups. For example, among people aged 15 years and over, 13 per cent of those born overseas were less than 25 years old compared to 25 per cent of those born in Australia. Difference in age distribution was also the major factor contributing to the different patterns of marital status observed between individual birthplace groups.

FIGURE 6.1 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: PROPORTION NEVER MARRIED BY PROPORTION AGED 15-24 YEARS

Per cent never married

Malaysia •
• Vietnam
• New Zealand
• Australia
• France
• Scandinavia
Spain • • China & HK   • Lebanon
• India & Sri Lanka
• UK & Ireland
• Yugoslavia
• Germany
Poland • • Malta
Nether- •
lands • • Greece
Italy

Per cent aged 15-24 years
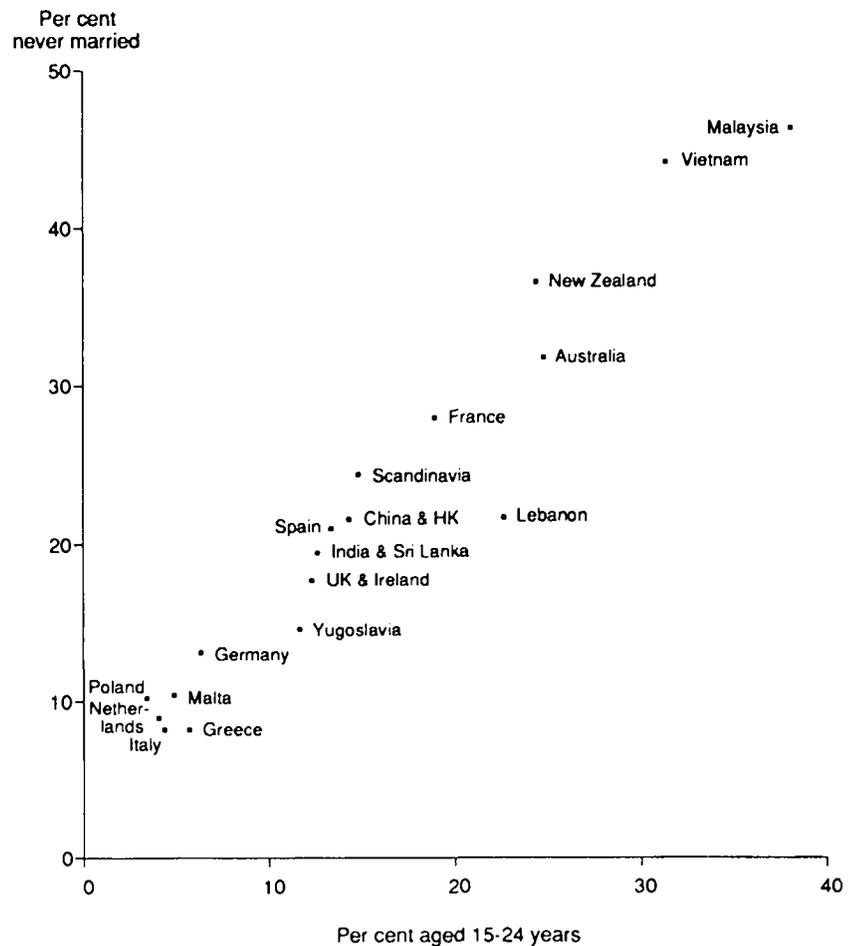
... among migrants

Among people born overseas those of Southern European origin recorded the highest proportions of married people, with more than 80 per cent of people born in Greece or Italy being married. This contrasted with migrants born in Malaysia, New Zealand or Vietnam, of whom half or less were married. Although these groups consisted of a high proportion of young people (a quarter or more over the age of 15 years had not yet turned 25 years of age), several other recently arrived groups (such as migrants from Lebanon or South America) also had young age distributions, but recorded higher than expected proportions of married people.

TABLE 6.1 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER: BIRTHPLACE BY MARITAL STATUS

Birthplace	Never married	Married(a)	Separated or divorced	Widowed	Total
			— per cent —		'000
Australia	31.8	54.5	7.2	6.5	8,727.4
Overseas	19.0	67.0	7.5	6.5	3,030.2
New Zealand	36.5	49.5	10.5	3.4	181.2
UK and Ireland	17.7	65.2	8.7	8.4	1,080.6
Other main English-speaking countries	28.6	59.1	8.3	4.0	82.7
Greece	8.2	83.3	3.6	4.9	135.6
Italy	8.2	81.7	3.6	6.5	259.9
Malta	10.4	78.6	6.1	4.9	55.2
Spain	21.0	69.9	5.8	3.3	15.0
Yugoslavia	14.6	74.4	6.6	4.4	146.4
France	27.9	57.6	10.4	4.1	13.7
Germany	13.1	68.9	11.6	6.3	111.0
Netherlands	8.9	76.4	9.0	5.6	92.7
Poland	10.2	68.5	10.0	11.3	63.9
Scandinavia	24.4	60.5	10.8	4.3	24.2
Lebanon	21.7	71.2	3.8	3.3	51.6
China & Hong Kong	21.6	66.2	4.5	7.7	58.7
India & Sri Lanka	19.5	67.2	6.3	6.9	65.4
Malaysia	46.3	48.1	3.8	1.8	41.2
Vietnam	44.2	50.2	3.1	2.5	65.4
South America	27.4	61.9	7.9	2.8	40.0
Other countries	21.5	64.7	7.4	6.4	445.8
Total(b)	**28.4**	**57.8**	**7.3**	**6.5**	**11,965.3**

(a) Includes de facto. (b) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: Table CX0001

... and people born in Australia

The age distribution of individual ancestry groups had a very strong effect on patterns of marital status among Australian-born people with one or both parents born overseas. Among the major ancestry groups, those of British or Irish ancestry recorded the highest proportion of married people (57 per cent) and the lowest proportion of people aged 15 to 25 years (20 per cent). Conversely, those who reported Greek or Yugoslavian ancestries recorded the lowest proportions of married people (less than 30 per cent) and the highest proportions of people aged 15 to 25 years (more than 60 per cent). Among second (or later) generation Australians, people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestry recorded the lowest proportion of married people (34 per cent), while people of German ancestry recorded one of the highest proportions (64 per cent).

TABLE 6.2 AUSTRALIAN-BORN PEOPLE(a) AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS(b) BY MARITAL STATUS

Ancestry/ Birthplace of parents	Never married	Married(c)	Separated or divorced	Widowed	Total
	— per cent —				'000
Aboriginal and TSI	52.4	33.9	8.3	5.5	100.2
Australian					
Overseas born parent/s	41.3	45.2	6.4	7.1	152.0
Australian born parents	30.5	56.6	7.3	5.6	1,809.2
British or Irish					
Overseas born parent/s	26.1	57.0	7.0	9.9	737.2
Australian born parents	26.8	59.3	7.1	6.8	3,560.5
Greek					
Overseas born parent/s	70.4	26.6	2.4	0.6	76.5
Australian born parents	43.1	49.7	5.1	2.0	8.5
Italian					
Overseas born parent/s	57.5	39.1	2.5	0.8	150.2
Australian born parents	38.3	54.6	5.2	1.9	19.1
Maltese					
Overseas born parent/s	55.1	41.3	3.2	0.4	23.7
Australian born parents	35.2	57.1	5.7	2.0	2.5
Yugoslavian					
Overseas born parent/s	66.4	29.1	3.6	0.8	22.8
Australian born parents	38.9	52.5	6.0	2.5	3.4
Dutch					
Overseas born parent/s	50.7	44.5	4.3	0.5	35.8
Australian born parents	33.3	56.1	8.3	2.3	4.6
German					
Overseas born parent/s	46.7	41.3	5.3	6.7	28.5
Australian born parents	24.5	63.6	6.8	5.1	92.7
Polish					
Overseas born parent/s	41.9	50.2	6.7	1.1	17.9
Australian born parents	27.4	59.3	9.2	4.0	3.9
Lebanese					
Overseas born parent/s	63.3	31.7	2.4	2.7	10.1
Australian born parents	36.7	55.4	5.5	2.4	2.3
Chinese					
Overseas born parent/s	56.5	35.3	3.5	4.8	7.8
Australian born parents	34.2	53.8	8.1	3.8	5.0
Indian					
Overseas born parent/s	55.6	35.0	5.7	3.6	2.1
Australian born parents	32.0	53.7	10.3	4.1	1.6
All ancestries(d)					
Overseas born parent/s	**40.0**	**47.3**	**6.0**	**6.7**	**1,754.6**
Australian born parents	**29.6**	**56.5**	**7.5**	**6.5**	**7,173.8**

(a) Australian-born includes birthplace not stated. (b) Australian-born parents includes birthplace of parents not stated. (c) Includes defacto couples. (d) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP212*

Age at marriage

The age at which people choose to marry is strongly influenced by cultural factors. Early marriage, the popularity of which increased steadily between the mid 1940s and the early 1970s, has become much less common over the last 15 years. In 1971 almost two-thirds of women aged between 20 and 24 years had already married while in 1986 only slightly over one-third of women in this age group had been married. Men tend to marry later than women and in 1986 the median age of men marrying for the first time was 26 years (compared to 23 in 1971), while for women the median age was 24 years (compared to 21 in 1971) (see *Marriages, Australia*, Cat. No. 3306.0).

FIGURE 6.2 PEOPLE AGED 20-24 YEARS: PROPORTION EVER MARRIED BY SEX, SELECTED CENSUS YEARS, 1921-86

Per cent ever married

Per cent ever married

Women

Men

1921   1933   1947 1954   1961 1966 1971 1976 1981 1986

Year
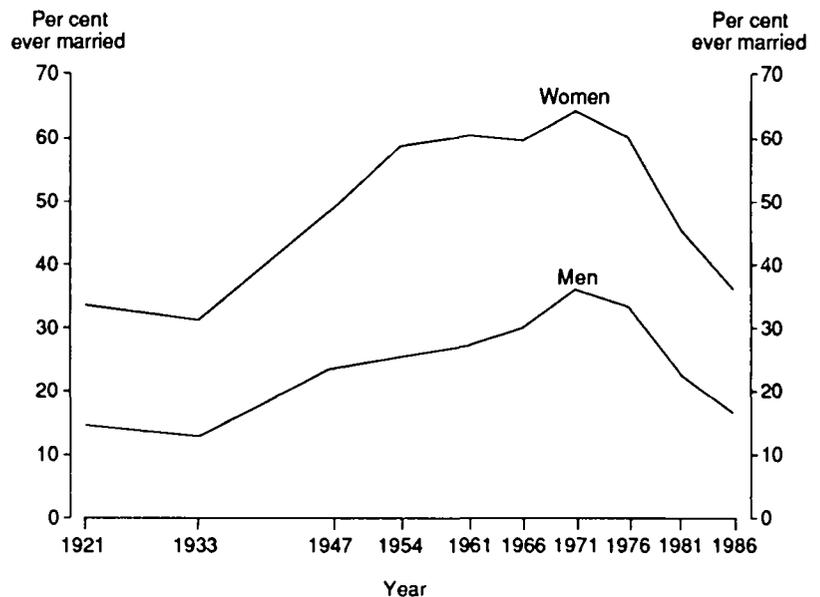
Source: *Census of the Commonwealth of Australia, 30 June 1961, Statisticians Report VIII (1921-1961), Census 1966 Bulletin No. 9.3, Census 1971 Bulletin No.3, Part 9, Population and Dwellings, Cross-classified Tables, Table 1, (2426.0) (1976), Cross-classified Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Australia, (2452.0) (1981), CSD008 (1986)*

... Middle Eastern migrants marry early

The age at which people married varied considerably between the different migrant groups. People born in the Middle East were the most likely to marry young; almost one-quarter of 15 to 19 year old girls born in Lebanon, Turkey or Syria had already been married, and among 20 to 24 year old women born in these countries, more than 70 per cent had ever been married. Men born in the Middle East (particularly Turkey and Cyprus) also married at a much earlier age than other birthplace groups; 43 per cent of 20 to 24 year old Turkish-born men had ever been married compared to only 17 per cent of all men of this age. Other birthplace groups who reported a high proportion of young people who had ever been married, were people born in Southern European countries (particularly Portugal) and those born in Romania, Hungary and Tonga.

... differences between men and women

The only groups which showed a strong tendency for early marriage among women, but not among men, were migrants from the Philippines, Fiji and, to a lesser extent, Syria. Filipino-born women aged 20 to 24 years were more than twice as likely to have been married as other women in their early 20s, and, among 15 to 19 year olds, Filipino-born women were more than three times as likely to have been married. By contrast, the proportion of young Filipino-born men who had been married varied little from the national average.

... few early marriages for East or South-East Asians

The migrant groups who reported the lowest incidence of early marriage were mainly Eastern or South-East Asian in origin. Among 20 to 24 year olds, those born in Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia or Singapore recorded the lowest proportions of ever married people for both men and women. Many of these young Asians may have been students undertaking tertiary studies in Australia. Other groups who did not tend to marry at an early age were migrants from Sweden, Switzerland and New Zealand. Swedes recorded the lowest proportion of married people among 25 to 29 year old men (34 per cent). There were virtually no teenage marriages among girls born in Sweden, Belgium, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Singapore or Japan.

TABLE 6.3 PEOPLE EVER MARRIED: BIRTHPLACE BY AGE AND SEX
(per cent)

Birthplace	Men Age (years)			Women Age (years)		
	15-19	20-24	25-29	15-19	20-24	25-29
Australia	0.5	16.0	54.9	2.0	34.8	71.7
New Zealand	0.7	13.3	44.5	2.5	26.8	60.6
UK & Ireland	0.6	19.2	59.0	3.1	39.7	75.1
England & Wales	0.6	19.2	59.0	3.1	39.7	75.2
Ireland	0.7	15.6	56.6	3.0	32.6	68.2
Scotland	0.5	20.7	59.7	3.5	42.8	77.1
Other main English-speaking countries	0.3	15.6	53.3	1.6	32.5	72.1
Southern Europe	1.5	25.2	66.8.	7.6	51.5	84.6
Greece	2.2	24.1	65.7	8.3	48.9	85.0
Italy	1.5	25.2	67.5	4.3	44.0	79.2
Malta	2.8	33.1	68.6	8.3	60.7	86.7
Spain	1.0	20.1	62.3	1.2	44.9	81.3
Yugoslavia	1.3	23.6	65.4	9.8	56.1	88.6
Other Europe	1.0	17.8	56.6	3.7	38.8	76.7
France	0.9	16.2	49.4	3.0	36.4	71.3
Germany	1.0	18.3	57.9	3.6	37.7	74.8
Netherlands	1.0	18.5	63.9	2.1	38.6	77.5
Poland	1.1	23.1	62.4	4.3	52.8	83.5
Scandinavia	0.4	15.6	45.4	2.1	32.0	68.0
Western Asia (Middle East)(b)	2.0	29.8	68.9	20.8	67.9	89.9
Lebanon	1.5	25.3	67.3	24.1	70.7	91.4
Other Asia(b)	0.6	10.6	47.7	2.7	33.0	75.3
China & Hong Kong	0.9	10.3	47.7	2.0	27.8	73.9
India & Sri Lanka	0.6	10.5	50.4	1.9	35.9	76.8
Malaysia	0.3	6.5	46.8	1.2	16.0	69.9
Vietnam	0.7	11.0	44.9	3.0	36.0	71.6
South America	0.8	19.4	61.8	3.2	40.7	81.8
Other countries	0.7	16.7	54.6	3.5	39.1	73.8
Total(a)	0.6	16.6	55.3	2.4	36.1	72.7

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) See the note on classification of countries on page ii.

Source: Table CX0001

De facto marriage

De facto marriages appear to be increasing in popularity in Australia. In 1986, 400,000 people, or 6 per cent of all couples, were living in de facto marriages. Young people were much more likely to have been involved in de facto marriages than their elders. People under the age of 35 years made up 65 per cent of all those living in de facto relationships, but only 25 per cent of all those living in conventional marriages. Among couples where the female partner was less than 20 years old, 60 per cent of all marriages were de facto. This difference in age distribution between couples living in traditional and de facto marriages contributes to the explanation of why more than 50 per cent of couples in conventional marriages reported having dependent children compared to 37 per cent of de facto couples.

... most common among New Zealand-born

Australian-born people were more likely to have lived in de facto relationships than were migrants. Exceptions were found among people born in New Zealand (16 per cent of all New Zealand migrants who lived with a partner were in de facto relationships), those born in Canada (9 per cent were in de facto relationships) and those from the United States of America (7 per cent). The unusually high incidence of de facto marriage reported by New Zealand-born migrants is noteworthy considering that age did not appear to be a factor (the proportions of 15 to 24 year olds among New Zealand-born migrants and Australian-born people were very similar), and that the 1986 New Zealand Census showed that de facto marriages were only slightly more common in New Zealand than in Australia (8 per cent of all couples compared to 6 per cent in Australia).

Migrants from the Middle East, Southern Europe and China were the least likely to have lived in de facto marriages. Among those born in Greece, Lebanon, Turkey and Cyprus less than one per cent of people living with a partner were in de facto relationships.

**TABLE 6.4 PEOPLE IN MARRIED (INCLUDING DE FACTO) COUPLES(a):
BIRTHPLACE BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARTNER**

Birthplace	Partner born in same country	Partner born in another country			Total	Proportion de facto
		Wife	Husband	Total		
		— per cent —			'000	per cent
Australia	88.6	9.7	13.1	11.4	4,805.6	6.3
New Zealand	42.4	57.8	57.4	57.6	96.8	16.1
UK & Ireland	52.7	50.0	44.2	47.3	704.3	5.4
Greece	84.9	18.9	11.0	15.1	110.6	0.7
Italy	77.9	30.0	12.3	22.1	209.0	1.0
Spain	65.0	38.3	31.4	35.0	10.4	2.7
Malta	66.1	38.2	29.0	33.9	43.2	1.8
Yugoslavia	80.7	25.2	12.4	19.3	107.8	2.2
Germany	36.3	64.4	62.9	63.7	77.0	5.2
Netherlands	44.8	59.5	49.8	55.2	70.4	3.6
Poland	67.4	39.1	24.5	32.6	42.7	3.0
Lebanon	85.6	17.2	11.5	14.4	35.6	0.7
China	60.9	43.2	34.4	39.1	23.7	1.2
India & Sri Lanka	61.9	39.6	36.5	38.1	42.6	2.5
Malaysia	48.2	47.4	55.6	51.8	19.3	4.6
Vietnam	91.4	5.7	11.4	8.6	30.4	2.9
South & Central America	71.8	25.3	30.8	28.2	28.1	4.2
Total	**79.8**	**20.2**	**20.2**	**20.2**	**6,829.8**	**5.8**

(a) Comprises only couples with both partners present on census night.

Source: *Table CX0076*

Birthplace of partners in married couples

In 80 per cent of couples, both partners had been born in the same country, but this varied considerably between the sexes and between birthplace groups.

... differences between the sexes

Generally, among most of the major migrant groups, women were less likely than men to have been in mixed marriages i.e. marriages where the partners were born in different countries. This was particularly pronounced for those born in most European countries, Lebanon and China. Among migrants born in Italy or Yugoslavia, for example, men were more than twice as likely as women to have been in mixed marriages. Similarly, among Greek migrants who were partnered by non-Greek born spouses, 66 per cent of men reported Australian-born partners, compared to 36 per cent of women. However, it is important to note that the sex ratio within these birthplace groups was not even, and men out-numbered women. As a consequence of this general trend, Australian-born women were more likely to have had overseas-born spouses (13 per cent of married women) than were Australian-born men (10 per cent).

Several birthplace groups, such as people born in Malaysia, Vietnam and Central or South America, reported a higher rate of out marriage among women than among men. In these cases, the sex ratio within the groups was not an important factor. Married Vietnamese-born women, for example, were more than twice as likely as married Vietnamese-born men to have been partnered by a person born in a different country, even though there were 24 per cent fewer Vietnamese-born women than men living in Australia.

Vietnamese married Vietnamese

Despite this, among the major migrant groups, people born in Vietnam were the least likely to have married outside their own birthplace group. Only 9 per cent of married Vietnamese migrants were married to non-Vietnamese-born people. Among those Vietnamese migrants whose spouses had been born elsewhere, over 70 per cent were married to people born in other Asian countries (principally China), and less than 17 per cent partnered by an Australian-born spouse (the lowest proportion reported by any of the major birthplace groups). Although these low levels of intermarriage are to be expected in a group recently arrived in Australia, period of residence was not the only factor involved in a group's tendency to out-marry. People born in Greece, who, as a group, have resided in Australia since the 1950s, also recorded a very low rate of intermarriage. Only 15 per cent of married Greek-born people were partnered by a spouse who had been born outside Greece. Other groups with a lesser tendency to have been in mixed marriages were migrants born in Turkey (12 per cent) and Lebanon (14 per cent).

... two-thirds of German born married others

People born in Germany were most likely to out-marry. Two-thirds of all German-born people who were married had spouses who had been born in another country. Similarly, more than half of all married migrants born in New Zealand, the Netherlands or Malaysia were married to people from a different country. However, despite a high rate of mixed marriage, New Zealand-born migrants tended to marry people from cultural backgrounds that were similar to their own. Eighty-eight per cent of those New Zealanders who were involved in mixed marriages were married to people born in either Australia or the British Isles (compared to 64 per cent of all people involved in mixed marriages), and less than 6 per cent were married to people from mainland Europe, the lowest proportion reported by any of the major birthplace groups, except the Vietnamese. Migrants from Britain and Ireland were also culturally conservative in their choice of marriage partners. Although 47 per cent of married people from Britain and Ireland had spouses who had been born outside of the British Isles, 83 per cent of these non-British-born spouses had been born in Australia (the highest proportion of Australian-born spouses recorded by any of the major birthplace groups).

TABLE 6.5 MARRIED PEOPLE(a) WHOSE PARTNERS WERE BORN IN
ANOTHER COUNTRY: SELECTED BIRTHPLACE BY SELECTED BIRTHPLACE
OF PARTNER
(per cent)

Birthplace	Birthplace of partner						
	Australia	New Zealand	UK & Ireland	Europe (b)	Asia	Africa	America
Australia	..	7.4	50.6	27.1	7.4	2.6	3.3
New Zealand	72.9	..	14.9	5.7	2.7	1.1	1.4
UK & Ireland	83.4	2.5	..	7.5	3.4	1.7	1.2
Greece	55.9	0.8	4.2	16.9	12.6	8.6	0.8
Italy	70.4	0.8	6.5	14.3	2.6	2.9	2.1
Malta	46.2	0.8	13.2	13.1	2.1	3.2	0.7
Spain	38.4	1.1	10.2	26.9	6.2	2.6	14.1
Yugoslavia	46.7	1.2	6.7	38.5	4.1	1.3	1.2
Germany	55.7	1.3	11.8	24.9	3.7	1.1	1.1
Netherlands	70.1	1.8	11.0	9.8	5.1	1.0	0.9
Poland	33.8	0.8	10.1	48.1	4.4	1.2	1.1
Lebanon	43.9	1.4	4.0	9.7	27.7	8.9	4.0
China	27.0	0.9	5.6	12.6	49.9	0.6	0.9
India & Sri Lanka	53.3	1.6	22.5	7.7	10.0	3.0	1.0
Malaysia	48.7	1.9	12.9	6.0	27.6	0.9	0.8
Vietnam	16.5	0.8	3.0	5.4	71.4	0.6	1.5
South & Central America	41.0	2.2	14.3	30.2	7.2	2.7	1.9
Total	**39.8**	**4.0**	**24.2**	**19.1**	**6.7**	**2.2**	**2.1**

(a) Comprises only people in couples (married or defacto) where both partners were present on census night. (b) Excludes UK & Ireland.

Source: Table CX0076

Divorce and separation

Marital breakdown is an issue of growing concern. Between 1976 and 1986 the number of divorced people in Australia rose from 221,000 to 560,000, an increase of more than 150 per cent. The 1986 Census revealed that among people who had ever been married, 10 per cent were, at that time, divorced or separated from their spouses. This was slightly lower among people born overseas and first generation Australians (each 9 per cent), but showed considerable variation between different cultural groups.

... most common among New Zealanders

Among the larger ancestry groups, 18 per cent of ever married people who reported New Zealander ancestry were either separated or divorced. This was apparent across all generations, with the highest level (21 per cent) recorded among first generation Australians. Similarly high levels of separated or divorced status were recorded by people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestry and by those of French ancestry (particularly Australian-born people with overseas-born parent(s)). Second (or later) generation Australians of Spanish ancestry had a level of 18 per cent despite the fact that migrants and first generation Australians of Spanish ancestry reported levels that were close to average.

... least common among those of Italian descent

People of Southern European or Asian ancestry generally recorded levels of separated or divorced status that were well below the average. The lowest levels were reported by those of Italian, Greek, Chinese or Lebanese ancestry, and within these groups only 5 per cent of people who had ever been married were separated or divorced. People of Italian ancestry not only recorded the lowest overall level of separated or divorced status, but maintained this position across all generations, ranging from 4 per cent for migrants to 8 per cent for second (or later) generation Australians. People of Lebanese ancestry also maintained their high level of marital stability across each of the generations.

Children

In 1986 more than half of all married couples living in Australia had dependent children (i.e. children aged less than 15 years or children aged 15 to 20 years who were full-time students). Of the 2.2 million families who had dependent children, more than three-quarters reported having only one or two dependent offspring. The average number of children in couple families was 2, while one parent families averaged 1.5. Generally, family size appears to have decreased over the last few decades. For example, among women who married before 1940, 17 per cent had borne five or more children, compared to 7 per cent of women who married during the 1960s.

TABLE 6.6 EVER MARRIED PEOPLE(a) OVER 15 YEARS OF AGE: PROPORTION SEPARATED OR DIVORCED BY SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY BIRTHPLACE BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS
(per cent)

| | | Australian-born(b) | | | |
Ancestry	Overseas-born	Both parents overseas-born	One parent overseas-born	Both parents Australian-born(c)	Total
Aboriginal or TSI	*	*	20.5	17.4	17.4
Australian	10.6	11.1	10.8	10.5	10.5
New Zealander	18.1	20.9	16.7	19.0	18.1
British or Irish	*10.7*	*9.3*	*9.7*	*9.7*	*9.9*
English or Welsh	10.8	9.0	9.5	9.5	9.8
Irish	10.4	8.1	9.8	11.0	10.7
Scottish	10.1	10.1	10.4	11.2	10.6
Other main English-speaking ancestries	11.5	14.1	12.7	14.0	11.7
Southern European	*5.0*	*6.6*	*9.5*	*9.7*	*5.5*
Greek	4.1	7.6	11.8	9.0	4.8
Italian	3.8	5.7	8.1	8.4	4.5
Maltese	6.4	6.7	10.4	8.7	6.6
Spanish	9.1	11.4	18.4	18.1	10.2
Yugoslavian	8.5	10.6	12.1	9.8	8.8
Dutch	9.8	8.5	11.8	12.4	9.7
French	13.3	16.8	17.3	14.7	14.0
German	12.6	10.4	9.1	9.0	10.8
Polish	11.9	11.6	11.7	12.7	11.8
Scandinavian	13.7	11.3	9.8	12.3	12.8
Lebanese	4.8	6.0	8.7	8.7	5.1
Chinese	4.4	6.8	9.3	12.3	4.8
Indian	6.5	10.7	17.0	15.1	6.9
Vietnamese	6.8	*	*	*	6.8
South American	10.0	*	*	*	10.1
All ancestries(d)	**9.3**	**9.2**	**10.6**	**10.6**	**10.2**

(a) Includes people in de facto relationships. (b) Includes birthplace not stated. (c) Includes birthplace of parents not stated. (d) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described, and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP212*

... Southern European mothers

Migrant women from Southern Europe were very unlikely to have never borne children, with members of this group recording the lowest incidence of childlessness among the major birthplace groups. For example, among migrant women from Italy, 6 per cent of those aged 55 years or over had never had children. This compared to 14 per cent for all women in this age group. This tendency for a high proportion of women to have had children was also apparent among the next generation of Southern Europeans (those who had been born in Australia with overseas-born parent(s)).

Two or three children were most commonly reported by women aged 55 years or over born in Southern Europe, with approximately 50 per cent of women born in Greece, Italy or Yugoslavia having borne this many children. However women in this age group born in Malta tended to have had a much larger number of children, with more than 60 per cent having borne four or more children. The tendency to have large families was also very strong among Australian-born women of Maltese ancestry, of whom 46 per cent had borne at least four children.

... Polish and German migrants had fewer children

Women born in Poland and Germany appeared to prefer smaller families. More than 60 per cent of those aged 55 years or over reported that they had borne less than three offspring, and two children was the most frequently reported number. Large families were not common, with less than one woman in five having borne four or more children. The average number of children ever born was 2.3 per woman.

TABLE 6.7 WOMEN AGED 55 YEARS AND OVER: BIRTHPLACE BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORNE

Birthplace	Number of children ever borne					Total(a)
	None	1	2	3	4 or more	
	— per cent —					'000
Australia	14.7	12.3	24.7	20.5	27.9	1,218.0
Overseas	11.1	15.1	26.5	19.7	27.6	418.6
New Zealand	16.5	12.5	24.1	20.6	26.3	13.2
UK & Ireland	11.8	16.1	28.1	20.4	23.6	183.7
Other main English-speaking countries	13.0	13.3	26.2	20.2	27.3	7.1
Greece	6.7	10.4	28.4	23.9	30.6	14.3
Italy	5.6	10.9	26.9	22.4	34.3	43.0
Malta	5.7	4.2	12.1	13.5	64.5	5.8
Yugoslavia	10.4	15.6	28.2	20.4	25.5	13.3
Germany	14.0	20.9	28.3	17.9	18.9	18.9
Netherlands	5.8	8.2	20.7	21.2	44.1	14.2
Poland	12.1	19.6	31.8	19.6	16.9	16.2
Lebanon	8.6	3.8	7.3	9.5	70.7	3.1
China & Hong Kong	11.4	13.4	16.4	15.1	43.7	8.4
India & Sri Lanka	10.4	10.4	21.1	19.3	38.7	8.9
Malaysia	11.1	8.7	19.3	17.7	43.2	1.5
Vietnam	13.1	8.2	9.1	9.8	59.7	2.0
Other countries	13.6	17.9	25.9	16.8	25.8	65.1
Total(b)	**13.8**	**13.0**	**25.1**	**20.2**	**27.8**	**1,674.2**

(a) Includes number of children ever born not stated. (b) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: Table CCP002

FIGURE 6.3 WOMEN AGED 55 YEARS AND OVER: ESTIMATED AVERAGE ISSUE(a) BY SELECTED BIRTHPLACE

All women

Lebanon

Malta

Vietnam

Netherlands

Italy

Greece

Australia

Yugoslavia

New Zealand

UK & Ireland

Germany

Poland

0 1 2 3 4 5

Estimated average issue
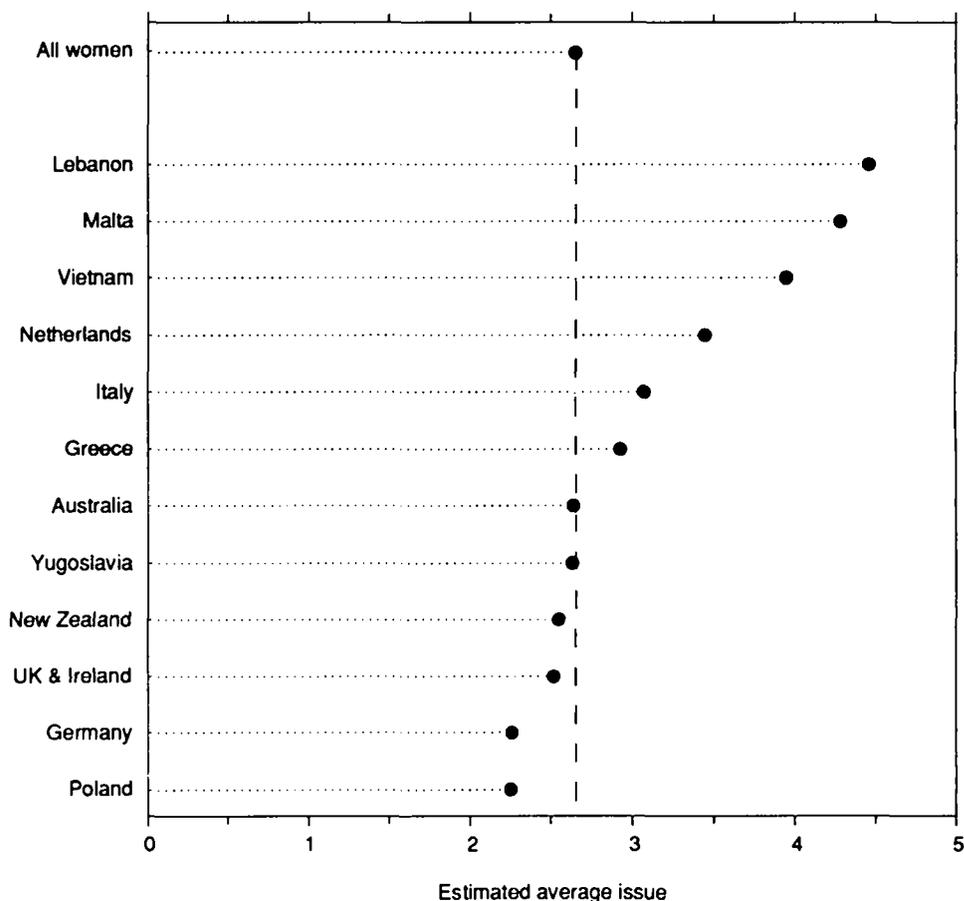
(a) Women who had had 5 or more children were assumed to have had 6 children for the purpose of calculating estimated average issue.

Source: Table CCP002

A similar pattern of child bearing was reported by women of Polish ancestry who were Australian-born of overseas-born parent(s). However, Australian-born women of German ancestry tended to have had a greater number of offspring than their migrant counterparts. Women of Dutch ancestry differed from the other Northern European groups in that large families were fairly common. Forty-four per cent of migrants of Dutch ancestry and 36 per cent of those born in Australia with overseas-born parent(s) reported having borne four or more offspring.

... Lebanese had many

Women born in Asia (including the Middle East countries of Western Asia) were the most likely to have had large families with almost half of those aged 55 years or over having borne at least four children. Among Lebanese-born women in this age group, over 70 per cent had borne at least four children while among Vietnamese-born women, 60 per cent had. The tendency to bear a large number of children was, however, not found among Australian-born women of Asian ancestry. Among those born in Australia of overseas-born parent(s), women of Chinese or Lebanese ancestry were much more likely to have had smaller families, and these groups recorded the highest proportion of childless women, with approximately one-quarter of those aged 55 years or over never having borne children.

... and Aboriginal women

Women of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestry also tended to have borne large families. Sixty-one per cent of women aged 55 years or over reported having had at least four children, compared to 28 per cent of all women in this age group.

TABLE 6.8 AUSTRALIAN-BORN WOMEN(a) AGED 55 YEARS AND OVER: SELECTED ANCESTRY BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS(b) BY NUMBER OF CHILDREN EVER BORNE

Ancestry/ Birthplace of parents	Number of children ever borne					Total
	None	1	2	3	4 or more	
	— per cent —					'000
Aboriginal or TSI	*10.8*	*8.8*	*9.7*	*9.7*	*60.9*	*4.7*
Australian						
Overseas-born parent(s)	14.7	12.9	25.0	19.8	27.5	20.0
Australian-born parent(s)	13.6	12.6	24.0	20.0	29.7	192.8
British or Irish						
Overseas-born parent(s)	16.0	12.5	25.9	20.9	24.7	151.4
Australian-born parents	14.0	12.2	25.4	21.0	27.4	520.2
Greek						
Overseas-born parent(s)	12.4	9.8	28.8	26.2	22.7	1.2
Australian-born parents	11.5	10.4	25.0	23.6	29.2	0.3
Italian						
Overseas-born parent(s)	13.2	12.1	25.1	21.0	28.5	2.8
Australian-born parents	9.9	10.4	22.5	21.9	35.3	0.7
Maltese						
Overseas-born parent(s)	8.8	6.4	20.4	17.6	46.0	0.3
Yugoslavian						
Overseas-born parent(s)	9.5	8.4	32.3	24.2	26.5	0.3
Dutch						
Overseas-born parent(s)	11.5	9.5	22.7	20.1	35.9	0.3
Australian-born parents	14.3	7.4	23.5	21.2	32.7	0.2
German						
Overseas-born parent(s)	14.0	12.9	23.3	18.7	31.2	2.8
Australian-born parents	13.3	10.5	21.9	20.7	33.6	9.4
Polish						
Overseas-born parent(s)	17.1	17.5	29.2	19.7	16.5	0.3
Australian-born parents	16.3	14.6	22.4	20.7	25.5	0.3
Scandinavian						
Overseas-born parent(s)	17.5	11.7	23.9	19.0	27.2	0.9
Australian-born parents	12.8	9.5	24.2	22.7	31.1	1.1
Lebanese						
Overseas-born parent(s)	27.2	10.5	14.3	16.1	31.5	0.6
Chinese						
Overseas-born parent(s)	23.2	13.2	21.0	15.7	26.4	0.6
Australian-born parents	16.4	12.4	18.3	24.8	28.0	0.4
All ancestries(c)						
Overseas-born parent(s)	**16.2**	**12.5**	**25.3**	**20.5**	**25.5**	**230.1**
Australian-born parents	**14.4**	**12.3**	**24.5**	**20.4**	**28.4**	**888.9**

(a) Australian-born includes birthplace not stated. (b) Australian-born parents includes birthplace of parents not stated. (c) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP212*

People in families

Overall, 86 per cent of people lived in families. As may be expected from the patterns of marital status and child bearing described above, high proportions (over 90 per cent) of people born in Lebanon, Greece, Italy or Malta were family members while lower proportions (less than 80 per cent) of people born in New Zealand or Malaysia (and Brunei) lived in families.

... few dependent children born overseas

One-fifth of people in families, as in the whole population, had been born overseas. However, reflecting both the nature and history of migration, less than 10 per cent of dependent children and over 40 per cent of people classified as ancestors had been born overseas.

FIGURE 6.4 PROPORTION OF FAMILY MEMBERS BORN OVERSEAS: RELATIONSHIP IN FAMILY
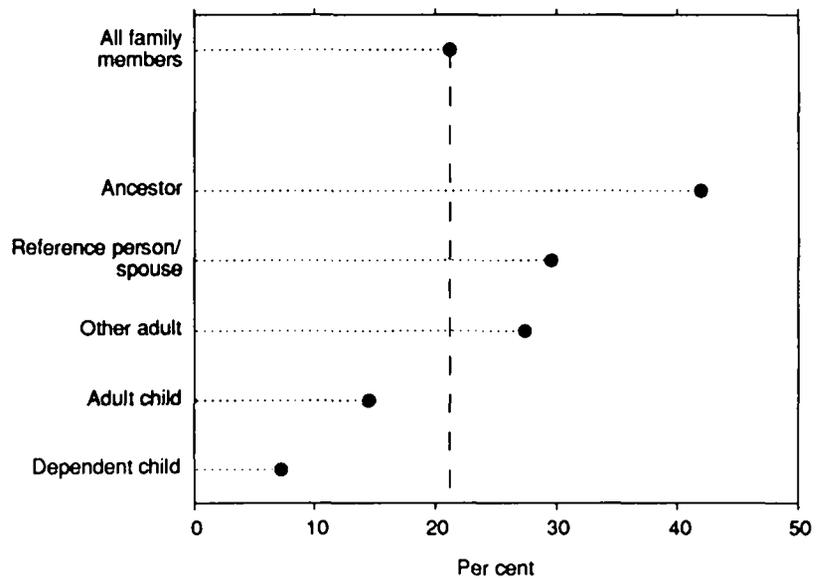
Per cent

Source: *Table AH001*

TABLE 6.9 FAMILY MEMBERS: BIRTHPLACE BY RELATIONSHIP IN FAMILY

Birthplace	Reference person/ spouse	Depend- ent child	Adult child	Ancestor	Other adult	Total
	— per cent —					'000
Australia	50.8	37.0	10.1	0.7	1.5	10,445.1
Overseas	79.2	10.6	6.3	1.8	2.1	2,818.0
New Zealand	68.1	21.7	5.9	1.1	3.1	149.7
England & Scotland(a)	82.7	7.2	7.2	1.8	1.2	880.8
Greece	90.4	2.2	4.4	2.3	0.8	128.0
Italy	90.3	1.7	4.8	2.2	1.0	255.5
Malta	89.4	2.8	5.9	0.6	1.3	53.8
Yugoslavia	84.9	5.1	7.1	2.0	1.0	136.1
Germany	87.4	5.4	4.6	1.5	1.0	99.4
Netherlands	91.6	3.3	3.3	0.9	0.8	84.5
Poland	86.4	6.9	3.2	2.6	0.9	56.7
Lebanon	73.8	11.8	9.3	1.0	4.2	52.6
India	80.7	8.1	6.7	1.9	2.6	43.0
Malaysia & Brunei	61.4	21.9	6.9	1.0	8.7	38.9
Vietnam	46.1	28.9	9.7	0.3	15.1	76.4
Other	71.4	17.8	6.4	2.2	2.2	762.6
Total(b)	57.0	31.2	9.2	0.9	1.6	13,441.2

(a) Includes UK undefined. (b) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: *Table AH001*

... mainly the reference person or their spouse

Among family members, the majority were the reference person or their spouse, although there were proportional differences between birthplace groups. In groups with a longer period of residence (e.g. those of European birthplace) over 80 per cent of family members were the reference person or their spouse, while among groups more recently arrived less than 70 per cent were. These latter groups, however, had high proportions of dependent children (over 20 per cent) and, particularly among the Malaysian and Vietnamese-born, higher than expected proportions of other adult family members. Only a small proportion of family members were classified as ancestors.

People not living in families

Some 2 million people were not classified as living in families, although 9 per cent of them lived with families as non-family members e.g. boarders. Of the people not classified as living in families, the proportion who lived with families as non-family members differed greatly between birthplace groups. This proportion was higher among the more recently arrived groups, for example 43 per cent among the Vietnamese-born. Similarly, the younger, recently arrived groups had high proportions of people living in group households and low proportions of people living alone, while for the older, more established groups the reverse was true.

TABLE 6.10 PEOPLE NOT IN FAMILIES: BIRTHPLACE BY RELATIONSHIP IN HOUSEHOLD

Birthplace	Non-family member in family household	Member of group household	Person living alone	Person living in non-private dwelling	Total
	— per cent —				'000
Australia	9.1	22.7	45.2	23.1	1,618.5
Overseas	9.3	21.9	46.1	22.7	494.7
New Zealand	15.6	34.4	28.2	21.8	48.6
England & Scotland(a)	6.9	18.9	51.2	23.0	189.1
Greece	11.4	11.4	57.1	20.0	7.0
Italy	7.9	13.1	55.5	23.6	19.1
Malta	9.8	22.0	56.1	12.2	4.1
Yugoslavia	7.6	16.5	57.0	19.0	15.8
Germany	8.2	15.5	55.6	20.8	20.7
Netherlands	6.1	14.9	62.3	16.7	11.4
Poland	6.9	15.4	63.1	14.6	13.0
Lebanon	13.0	30.4	39.1	17.4	2.3
India	6.7	18.3	50.0	25.0	6.0
Malaysia & Brunei	10.3	46.2	16.2	27.4	11.7
Vietnam	42.9	41.8	7.1	8.2	9.8
Other	9.0	22.6	42.8	25.6	136.1
Total(b)	**9.0**	**22.1**	**44.9**	**23.9**	**2,189.0**

(a) Includes UK undefined. (b) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: Table AH001

EDUCATION

Levels of educational attainment and participation are affected by various factors such as attitudes towards education, financial status of the family and the educational qualifications of parents. With the ready accessibility of formal education in Australia, parents can encourage their children to remain in the education system beyond the minimum leaving age, thus increasing their chance of obtaining post-school qualifications and improving their career opportunities.

In Australia, children generally begin their schooling at 5 years of age. A preparatory or kindergarten year is followed by twelve grades to complete a full course of study, with schooling being compulsory between the ages of 6 years and 15 years (16 years in Tasmania). Throughout the discussion of school attendance the population, birthplace or ancestry groups only include people who were aged 15 years or more and exclude people aged 15 years or more who were still at school. Unless discussed separately people who did not attend school have been included among people who left school before they were 13 years old.

Age left school

Generally, migrants had stayed at school longer than people born in Australia. Of the 2.8 million people aged 15 years or over who had been born overseas and had left school, one-third had not left school until they were 17 years or more, compared to just over one-quarter of people born in Australia. Migrants born in the UK and Ireland or in Southern Europe recorded lower proportions than most other groups, with slightly over 20 per cent. Only 13 per cent of people born in Malta had remained at school until their seventeenth birthday, while in contrast, over 80 per cent of the Malaysian-born had.

TABLE 7.1 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER WHO HAD LEFT SCHOOL OR DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL: BIRTHPLACE BY SEX BY AGE LEFT SCHOOL

	Men				Women			
	Age left school (years)				Age left school (years)			
Birthplace	12 or under(a)	13 to 16	17 or over	Total	12 or under(a)	13 to 16	17 or over	Total
	— per cent —			'000	— per cent —			'000
Australia	1.4	70.2	28.4	3,829.3	1.2	73.8	25.0	4,053.8
Overseas	8.5	56.0	35.5	1,432.8	10.8	57.6	31.6	1,364.8
New Zealand	0.7	60.8	38.5	85.8	0.6	63.9	35.5	83.6
UK & Ireland	0.7	75.8	23.5	520.6	0.7	77.3	22.0	507.5
Greece	36.9	39.7	23.4	64.5	50.2	34.4	15.4	60.8
Italy	34.2	48.6	17.2	130.9	43.5	45.1	11.4	111.6
Malta	12.2	71.7	16.1	27.7	15.6	74.0	10.4	24.3
Spain	13.0	58.0	29.0	7.4	16.3	59.0	24.6	6.2
Yugoslavia	16.0	47.1	36.9	72.3	23.3	5C.4	26.3	61.1
Germany	0.8	65.0	34.1	52.4	0.9	67.9	31.1	53.0
Netherlands	2.4	60.8	36.9	47.6	3.6	69.5	26.9	41.2
Poland	7.4	45.8	46.8	31.0	9.9	42.6	47.5	27.6
Lebanon	19.3	43.3	37.4	24.1	26.0	45.4	28.6	21.4
China	13.2	27.0	59.8	15.6	24.9	28.3	46.7	16.3
India & Sri Lanka	0.9	34.4	64.6	29.9	2.0	44.9	53.1	30.3
Malaysia	1.6	13.6	84.7	16.6	4.4	19.3	76.3	17.7
Vietnam	11.0	20.6	68.5	28.3	15.8	24.9	59.3	22.9
Other countries	6.7	35.1	58.2	278.4	9.2	37.2	53.5	279.2
Total(b)	3.4	66.3	30.3	5,294.5	3.7	69.7	26.6	5,451.6

(a) Includes never attended school. (b) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: Table CX0024

... men stayed at school longer

Overall, men tended to have left school at a later age than women. Among the Australian-born, 28 per cent of men and 25 per cent of women had stayed at school until they were at least 17 years old, while among migrants the corresponding percentages were 36 per cent and 32 per cent. The discrepancies between men and women were particularly marked among migrants from Southern Europe and Asia with differences of over 10 percentage points recorded for people born in Yugoslavia, India and Sri Lanka or China.

Early school leavers

Only 3 per cent of the population had left school prior to their thirteenth birthday and, among Australian-born people, this proportion was only 1 per cent. Migrants from English speaking countries and most Northern European countries recorded equally low proportions of early school leavers. However, a much larger proportion of migrants from Southern Europe and the Middle East had left school before they reached 13 years of age. This was especially marked among people born in Greece, Italy or Lebanon.

Overall, only slightly more women than men had left school before reaching 13 years of age, however this discrepancy was much more pronounced for certain birthplace groups. For instance, 50 per cent of Greek-born women had left school before reaching the age of 13 years while the corresponding proportion for men was 37 per cent. The largest group was from Italy, where 43 per cent of women (49,000) had left school prior to reaching the age of 13 years compared to 34 per cent of men (45,000 men).

FIGURE 7.1 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER(a): PROPORTION WHO HAD NOT ATTENDED SCHOOL BY BIRTHPLACE
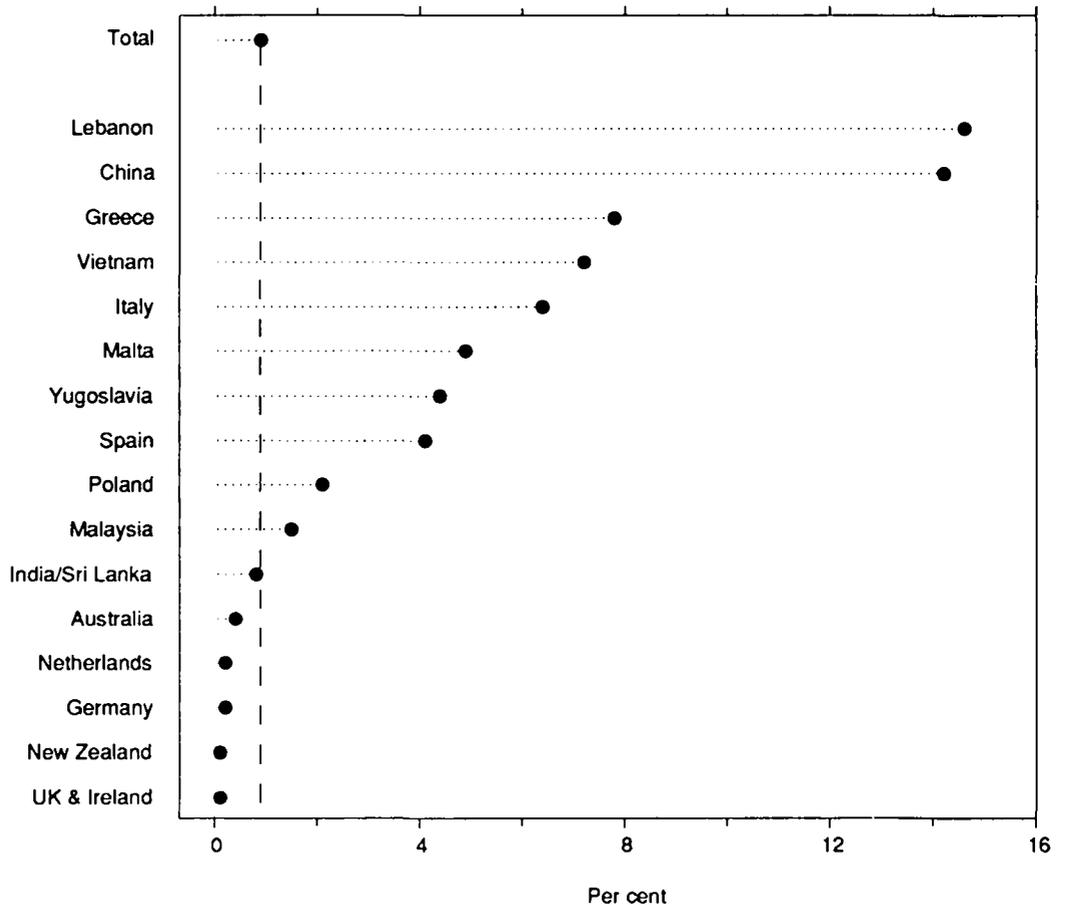
Per cent

(a) Population excludes people aged over 15 years and still at school.

Source: Table CX0024

Some people never attended school

Ninety-seven thousand Australians stated that they had never attended school, less than 1 per cent of the population. Over one-third were migrants born in Southern Europe. The proportion of Asian-born who had not attended school was 6 per cent, while for those born in the UK and Ireland the proportion was less than 1 per cent. Among people born in China, more than twice the proportion of women than men had not attended school (20 per cent compared to 9 per cent).

European descendants stayed at school longer

In general, the pattern of leaving school for Australian-born people with one or both parents born overseas was different from that of overseas-born people. This trend was most notable for those of Southern European ancestry. While only one-fifth of Southern European migrants had remained at school until they were at least 17 years of age, the proportion for their Australian-born offspring was almost 50 per cent. This difference was even more striking among those of Greek ancestry, with over 60 per cent of first-generation Australians having remained at school until they were 17 years or older, compared to 20 per cent of Greek migrants. In contrast, first-generation Australians of British or Irish ancestry maintained the trend found among British and Irish migrants, with a lower than average proportion of people (less than one-quarter) who had remained at school until 17 years of age or more.

TABLE 7.2 AUSTRALIAN-BORN(a) PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER WHO HAVE LEFT SCHOOL AND WHO HAD OVERSEAS-BORN PARENT(S) : AGE LEFT SCHOOL BY SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY SEX

	Men				Women			
	Age left school (years)				Age left school (years)			
Ancestry	12 or under(b)	13 to 16	17 or over	Total	12 or under(b)	13 to 16	17 or over	Total
	— per cent —			'000	— per cent —			'000
Aboriginal & TSI	7.1	75.8	16.9	0.7	6.4	74.7	19.2	0.7
Australian	1.3	70.6	28.1	63.8	1.4	75.3	23.3	66.4
New Zealander	3.6	66.8	29.6	0.6	2.1	75.4	22.4	0.7
British or Irish	*1.2*	*74.0*	*24.8*	*327.1*	*1.2*	*77.7*	*21.1*	*352.8*
English or Welsh	1.2	75.3	23.5	269.8	1.3	78.9	19.8	289.8
Irish	1.5	66.6	31.9	14.7	1.6	70.4	28.0	16.6
Scottish	0.9	72.4	26.6	23.0	1.0	77.4	21.6	23.6
Other main English-speaking ancestries	2.3	63.4	33.8	0.7	0.8	67.4	31.4	0.6
Southern European	*1.4*	*47.8*	*50.8*	*113.0*	*1.6*	*51.9*	*46.6*	*107.8*
Greek	1.7	35.2	63.1	27.7	2.1	38.5	59.4	26.1
Italian	1.3	49.9	48.9	63.6	1.4	55.0	43.6	61.1
Maltese	1.3	68.3	30.4	10.4	1.0	68.9	30.1	9.7
Spanish	3.1	52.6	44.5	1.2	2.4	54.0	43.6	1.2
Yugoslavian	1.5	47.7	50.7	8.4	1.3	48.8	49.9	7.9
Dutch	0.4	53.8	45.8	16.2	0.4	53.5	46.1	16.0
French	2.0	58.6	39.4	1.2	1.2	60.3	38.4	1.1
German	2.0	59.3	38.7	12.7	2.5	61.4	36.1	13.0
Polish	0.7	44.8	54.5	8.4	0.8	50.1	49.1	7.9
Scandinavian	2.2	68.2	29.6	2.6	1.9	72.2	25.8	2.4
Lebanese	1.9	47.8	50.3	3.8	2.5	57.1	40.4	3.8
Chinese	2.9	31.3	65.7	3.1	4.3	37.3	58.5	2.9
Indian	3.7	46.7	49.5	0.7	2.3	51.5	45.6	0.7
All ancestries(c)	**1.3**	**64.7**	**34.1**	**739.6**	**1.3**	**68.8**	**29.9**	**790.7**

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) Includes people who never went to school. (c) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described, and not stated.

Source: Table VCP212

Among Australian-born people, those with one or both parents born overseas tended to have stayed at school longer than those with both parents born in Australia. Thirty-two per cent of Australians with one or both parents born overseas had stayed at school until their seventeenth birthday compared to 26 per cent of second (or later)

generation Australians. This trend occurred for almost all ancestry groups, except the British and Irish, and was most striking among people of Greek, Polish, Indian or Chinese ancestries. Among Australian-born people of these ancestries, those with one or both parents born overseas were almost twice as likely as second-generation (or later) Australians to have remained at school until they were at least 17 years of age.

Aboriginal people left school earlier

The majority of Australian-born people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestry had not remained at school long. Of those with Australian-born parents, 13 per cent had stayed at school until they were at least 17 years old, the lowest proportion for all ancestry groups. This ancestry group was also notable in that the proportion of women who had remained at school until their seventeenth birthday was higher than the proportion of men, reversing the general trend found among Australian-born people. Of the 83,000 people aged 15 years or more (not including those still at school) reporting Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestry, 13 per cent either had not attended school or had left before reaching 13 years of age, by far the highest proportion among all ancestry groups. In contrast, first-generation Australians of Chinese ancestry recorded the highest proportion of people who had stayed at school until they were aged 17 years or more (69 per cent).

TABLE 7.3   AUSTRALIAN-BORN(a) PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER WHO HAVE LEFT SCHOOL AND WHO HAD AUSTRALIAN-BORN(b) PARENTS : AGE LEFT SCHOOL BY SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY SEX

	Men				Women			
	Age left school (years)				Age left school (years)			
Ancestry	12 or under(c)	13 to 16	17 or over	Total	12 or under(c)	13 to 16	17 or over	Total
	— per cent —			'000	— per cent —			'000
Aboriginal & TSI	13.8	73.7	12.5	39.6	13.0	73.9	13.1	41.7
Australian	1.4	72.6	26.0	788.5	1.1	76.2	22.7	858.7
New Zealander	1.4	75.7	22.6	0.6	1.1	79.0	19.6	0.6
British or Irish	1.2	72.3	26.5	1,637.4	1.0	76.3	22.7	1,660.8
English or Welsh	1.3	74.0	24.8	1,390.6	1.1	77.9	21.1	1,424.0
Irish	1.2	64.1	34.7	112.1	0.9	68.9	30.2	107.2
Scottish	0.9	64.4	34.6	72.4	0.7	68.6	30.7	59.7
Other main English-speaking ancestries	1.5	68.4	29.7	1.1	1.7	71.2	27.1	1.0
Southern European	5.3	60.9	33.8	17.6	6.2	63.9	29.9	16.0
Greek	7.8	50.6	41.7	3.7	10.3	53.2	36.5	3.4
Italian	4.9	62.1	33.0	9.0	5.2	64.6	30.2	8.1
Maltese	2.7	76.7	20.3	1.1	2.3	80.4	17.2	1.0
Spanish	2.9	72.0	25.2	1.8	2.4	75.4	22.2	1.7
Yugoslavian	4.4	54.7	40.8	1.6	6.8	60.3	32.8	1.4
Dutch	1.8	66.9	31.2	2.4	1.2	69.3	29.5	1.9
French	1.2	69.9	28.8	5.9	1.0	72.6	26.3	4.5
German	2.0	76.8	21.3	46.6	2.1	78.5	19.4	41.8
Polish	2.4	67.8	29.9	2.1	3.7	66.0	30.4	1.6
Scandinavian	1.5	71.4	27.1	7.8	1.1	76.3	22.6	5.7
Lebanese	3.9	48.6	47.5	1.0	6.1	57.0	36.8	1.0
Chinese	3.0	52.7	44.4	2.4	4.2	59.1	36.7	2.1
Indian	2.6	69.2	27.9	0.8	3.6	73.7	23.5	0.7
All ancestries(d)	1.6	71.5	27.0	3,119.9	1.3	75.0	23.8	3,293.4

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) Includes birthplace of parents not stated. (c) Includes never attended school. (d) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described, and not stated.

Source: Table VCP212

Post-school qualifications

Over 3.6 million people aged 15 years or more had post-school qualifications in 1986. Overseas-born people were generally better qualified than people born in Australia, with 36 per cent of migrants holding post-school qualifications compared to 33 per cent of the Australian-born. Within the Australian-born population, a slightly higher proportion of people with one or both parents born overseas had post-school qualifications than those with both parents born in Australia.

... among migrants

Among overseas-born people, those most likely to have held post-school qualifications were people reporting Swiss ancestry (74 per cent), German or Filipino ancestries (each 55 per cent). Other migrant groups with a relatively high proportion of qualified people were those reporting North American, Indian or Danish ancestries. Overseas-born men of Scottish ancestry tended to have been considerably better qualified than male migrants who reported other Anglo-Celtic ancestries (53 per cent of Scots held post-school qualifications compared to 49 per cent of others). This trend was also apparent among first and second (or later) generation Australians.

Only 15 per cent of Greek migrants had post-school qualifications, the lowest proportion recorded by any birthplace group. People born in other Southern European countries, as well as those from Lebanon or Vietnam, also reported low proportions of qualified people. The lowest proportion of all was recorded for Maltese women, of whom only 9 per cent held post-school qualifications.

FIGURE 7.2 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER: PROPORTION WITH POST-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS BY BIRTHPLACE

Per cent
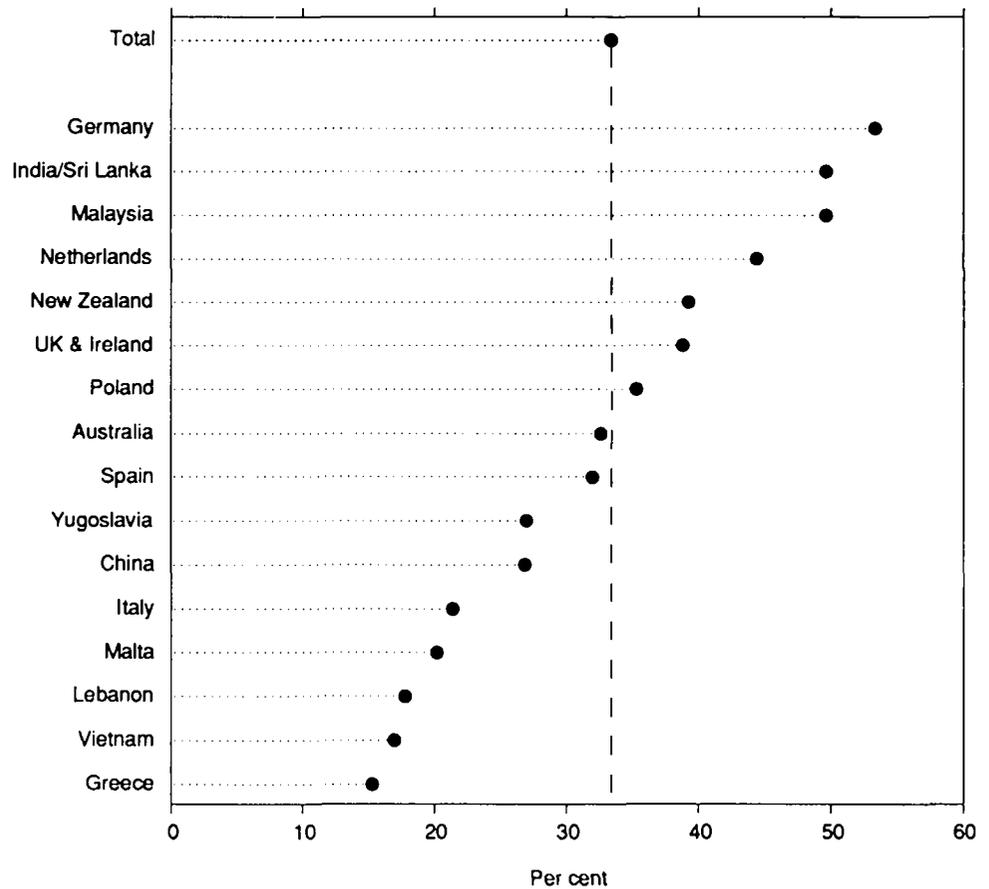
Source: Table CX0024

... the next generation

The trend in the possession of post-school qualifications observed among Australia's migrant population did not carry through into later generations. Generally speaking, those ancestry groups who reported a lower than average proportion of qualified people among their migrants, recorded a higher proportion of qualified first-generation Australians. For example, first-generation Australians of Southern European ancestry were much more likely to have held post-school than Southern European migrants (33 per cent compared to 22 per cent). This was especially pronounced among women, particularly those of Italian or Greek ancestry; first-generation Australian women

reporting these ancestries were almost three times more likely to have held post-school qualifications than migrant women from these countries.

Those ancestry groups which reported a higher than average proportion of migrants with post-school qualifications recorded a considerably lower proportion among first-generation Australians. For example, people with post-school qualifications accounted for over half of migrants reporting Indian ancestry, but only just over one-quarter of those born in Australia. The most pronounced difference occurred among women reporting Indian ancestry, where the proportion of overseas-born with post-school qualifications was three times that of Australian-born with one parent born overseas.

TABLE 7.4 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER: PROPORTION WITH
POST-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS BY SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY SEX BY
BIRTHPLACE BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS
(per cent)

| | | | Australian born(a) | | | | | |
| | Overseas born | | Both parents overseas-born | | One parent overseas-born | | Both parents Aust.-born(b) | |
Ancestry	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Aboriginal & TSI	*	*	*	*	18.8	12.4	9.2	6.8
Australian	39.0	31.2	32.4	19.5	38.5	22.2	38.5	23.0
New Zealander	45.7	29.2	40.6	27.7	33.2	22.5	37.4	23.0
British or Irish	49.3	28.1	41.3	23.6	44.6	26.4	40.1	24.5
English or Welsh	48.7	27.1	40.6	22.5	43.9	25.2	39.1	22.9
Irish	46.5	32.4	41.9	26.6	44.9	30.4	43.2	31.6
Scottish	53.1	27.4	45.1	25.5	49.1	29.7	46.9	31.3
Other main English-speaking ancestries	57.8	47.4	38.2	28.6	36.3	19.8	43.8	25.4
Southern European	29.5	12.9	36.0	28.6	40.8	29.5	37.5	24.7
Greek	23.2	11.9	31.2	31.1	41.8	35.0	35.6	26.4
Italian	30.0	11.6	38.9	29.0	41.2	28.9	38.9	25.5
Maltese	29.4	9.3	38.8	21.9	35.0	22.7	33.3	18.8
Spanish	40.9	24.3	30.4	21.9	n.a.	25.7	36.8	21.7
Yugoslavian	37.9	17.6	33.2	27.2	42.8	27.3	40.0	25.9
Dutch	57.8	29.8	49.6	33.6	39.3	25.1	44.5	25.8
French	47.5	31.2	39.9	28.2	41.3	31.4	44.6	26.5
German	70.6	39.9	47.2	30.5	35.8	19.1	37.2	21.2
Polish	42.6	28.4	48.2	36.8	42.0	30.8	40.1	25.4
Scandinavian	54.8	37.7	38.7	26.8	42.4	23.3	45.9	26.1
Lebanese	23.1	11.5	29.9	28.8	39.8	36.3	39.6	31.2
Chinese	34.2	29.3	35.4	30.8	44.1	34.5	42.6	29.0
Indian	57.2	45.4	30.7	24.2	28.2	14.7	30.5	20.1
Vietnamese	22.4	16.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
South American	40.7	29.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other ancestries(c)	47.2	34.0	41.6	32.2	41.8	30.3	41.7	30.4
Total	44.1	26.7	39.7	27.8	42.6	27.2	39.5	25.0

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) Includes birthplace of parents not stated. (c) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described, and not stated.

Source: Table VCP214

... and second (or later) generation Australians

Among Australian-born people with Australian-born parents, those who reported Scottish ancestry were the most likely to have possessed post-school qualifications (40 per cent were qualified compared to 32 per cent of all ancestry groups of second (or later) generation Australians). Only 8 per cent of Australian-born people who reported Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestry possessed post-school qualifications. Other ancestry groups who reported relatively low proportions of qualified second (or later) generation Australians were Maltese (26 per cent) and Indian (24 per cent).

Fewer women with qualifications

Over one and a half times as many men possessed post-school qualifications as women (2.2 million men compared to 1.4 million women). This difference between the sexes was apparent for almost all migrant and ancestry groups (across each of the generations) and its extent varied little between these groups. The only exceptions were for first-generation Australians of Greek or Lebanese ancestry, where the proportion of men and women holding post-school qualifications was virtually equal (approximately 30 per cent). Similarly, the disparity between the sexes found among migrants who reported Asian ancestries (except the Middle Eastern) was low.

Migrants of Southern European ancestry recorded the highest levels of disparity between the sexes. The most striking example was among migrants of Maltese descent where 29 per cent of men had post-school qualifications compared to 9 per cent of women. Similarly, among the Australian-born population, large differences between the sexes were recorded for those of Scottish, Dutch or Scandinavian ancestry (at least among those with one or both parents born in Australia). Men in these groups were much more likely to have possessed qualifications than women.

Type of qualification

Approximately 3.6 million people aged 15 years or more possessed a post-school qualification. About 605,000 people (5.6 per cent of all people aged 15 years or more) held a degree or post-graduate qualification. The highest proportion of people who held a degree or higher qualification occurred for migrants born in the USA, of whom 30 per cent of men and 29 per cent of women held a degree or higher qualification. Other high proportions occurred for people born in Malaysia (21 per cent) or India and Sri Lanka (16 per cent). The proportion of Asian-born people who had a degree or post-graduate qualification was three times greater than the proportion recorded by those born in Europe, and almost twice that of Australian-born people. People born in Southern European countries in particular recorded the lowest proportions with a degree or higher qualification (generally less than 2 per cent).

Four per cent of Australians held a diploma and of these, there was a slightly higher proportion of women than men. Birthplace groups which had high proportions of people with a degree or post-graduate qualification also had high proportions of people with a diploma. Similarly, lower proportions again occurred for people born in Southern European countries as well as Lebanon or Vietnam, of whom only 1 per cent, on average, possessed a diploma.

Almost 60 per cent of people who had post-school qualifications possessed a trade or other certificate. Of migrants who held post-school qualifications, those reporting Maltese ancestry recorded the highest proportion with a trade or other certificate (71 per cent), followed by those reporting Italian ancestry (70 per cent). The proportion of Vietnamese-born people similarly qualified was 26 per cent, the lowest of any birthplace group. The proportion of men who had a trade or other certificate was almost twice that of women. One exception was among the Malaysian-born where, of almost 6,000 people who had a trade or other certificate, over two-thirds were women. In contrast, among people born in the Netherlands who had a trade or other certificate, over three-quarters were men.

TABLE 7.5 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER: BIRTHPLACE BY
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

| Birthplace | Without post-school qualifications | With post-school qualifications | | | | Total |
		Degree or higher	Diploma	Trade or other certificate	Total with post-school qualifications(a)	
		— per cent —				'000
Australia	67.4	5.4	4.0	19.0	32.6	7,975.9
New Zealand	60.8	6.6	4.3	23.5	39.2	168.2
UK and Ireland	61.2	5.8	4.2	24.0	38.8	994.7
Other main English-speaking countries	47.8	22.7	6.4	17.8	52.2	76.1
Europe	68.3	3.4	2.3	20.3	31.7	972.2
Greece	84.7	1.7	0.9	9.6	15.3	124.2
Italy	78.6	1.6	1.1	14.9	21.4	238.4
Malta	79.8	1.2	1.1	14.1	20.2	51.0
Spain	68.0	2.6	1.6	22.2	32.0	13.7
Yugoslavia	73.0	1.4	1.0	19.2	27.0	132.3
Germany	46.7	5.7	4.1	34.0	53.3	102.1
Netherlands	55.6	4.1	4.1	29.4	44.4	85.5
Poland	64.7	6.9	3.2	18.6	35.3	56.8
Asia(b)	66.7	10.3	3.6	12.7	33.3	420.3
Lebanon	82.2	1.3	1.0	10.6	17.8	46.4
China & Hong Kong	68.7	11.5	3.9	11.3	31.3	53.8
India & Sri Lanka	50.4	16.5	6.2	19.5	49.6	59.5
Malaysia	50.4	20.7	6.1	15.7	49.6	37.5
Vietnam	83.0	3.6	1.6	4.4	17.0	58.4
South America	64.4	4.1	3.3	21.0	35.6	35.9
Other countries	61.6	8.8	4.8	18.4	38.4	104.6
Total(c)	66.6	5.6	3.9	19.4	33.4	10,811.0

(a) Includes qualification not classifiable, not recognised or inadequately described. (b) See the note on classification of countries on page ii. (c) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: Table CX0024 and VCP214

Australian-born with qualifications

Over 5 per cent of Australian-born people possessed a degree or post-graduate qualification. People reporting Jewish ancestry recorded by far the highest proportion (28 per cent) and people of Chinese ancestry reported the next highest proportion (13 per cent). While a high proportion of people born in other main English-speaking countries held a degree or higher qualification (23 per cent), the equivalent proportion for Australian-born people reporting ancestry to these countries was only 5 per cent. By contrast, a greater proportion of Australian-born people reporting Southern European ancestries had a degree or post-graduate qualification than people born in Southern European countries. This was especially marked among Greeks, with 7 per cent of Australian-born people of Greek ancestry possessing a degree or higher qualification compared to 2 per cent of Greek migrants. This contrast also existed for those of Lebanese or Vietnamese ancestry. Australian-born people of Vietnamese ancestry were also notable in that although only one person in five held post-school qualifications, a higher proportion had a degree or post-graduate qualifications (almost one-third of those with post-school qualifications) than a trade or other certificate (less than one-fifth). This was the only ancestry group in which this occurred.

Australian-born people reporting Dutch ancestry had a very high proportion of people with a trade or other certificate (26 per cent), with French or Scandinavian ancestries recording the next highest proportions. As with Vietnamese-born people, those born in Australia who reported Vietnamese ancestry had the lowest proportion in this category (4 per cent). While 34 per cent of German-born people held a trade or other certificate, this fell to less than 20 per cent for Australian-born people reporting German ancestry. The highest proportion having a diploma occurred among Australian-born people reporting Jewish ancestry, of whom just under two-thirds were women.

TABLE 7.6 AUSTRALIAN-BORN PEOPLE(a) AGED 15 YEARS OR OVER: SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

| Ancestry | Without post-school qualifications(b) | With post-school qualifications | | | | Total |
		Degree or higher	Diploma	Trade or other certificate	Total with post-school qualifications(c)	
		— per cent —				'000
Aboriginal or TSI	91.8	0.2	0.6	4.7	8.2	83.7
Australian	69.6	4.6	3.5	18.5	30.4	1,808.3
New Zealander	69.2	3.4	2.2	19.4	30.8	2.5
British or Irish	*67.4*	*5.0*	*4.2*	*19.5*	*32.6*	*3,965.3*
English or Welsh	68.6	4.3	3.9	19.3	31.4	3,365.0
Irish	62.6	7.7	5.7	19.9	37.4	247.5
Scottish	60.7	6.6	4.8	23.5	39.3	176.5
Other main English-speaking ancestries	66.4	5.3	3.0	18.9	33.5	3.5
Southern European	*67.4*	*5.7*	*2.7*	*18.2*	*32.6*	*292.3*
Greek	68.3	7.5	2.9	14.7	31.7	76.7
Italian	66.0	5.6	2.9	19.8	34.0	155.9
Maltese	69.9	2.1	1.5	20.5	30.1	24.2
Spanish	71.5	3.3	2.3	18.0	28.5	6.2
Yugoslavian	68.9	5.6	2.4	17.4	31.0	23.8
Dutch	59.9	5.6	3.7	25.5	40.1	37.9
French	63.4	4.5	3.0	23.8	36.6	12.7
German	68.9	4.0	3.3	19.7	31.1	113.6
Polish	59.3	9.8	4.6	21.7	40.7	20.3
Scandinavian	63.6	4.3	3.8	23.7	36.5	18.4
Lebanese	68.6	6.6	3.0	16.1	31.4	11.3
Chinese	64.3	13.4	3.9	13.6	35.7	11.7
Indian	74.0	5.1	2.3	13.3	25.9	3.4
Vietnamese	80.4	5.9	2.5	3.7	19.7	0.4
South American	75.7	*	*	15.7	24.2	0.3
Other ancestries(d)	63.0	7.3	4.6	19.0	36.8	1,648.1
Total	**67.4**	**5.3**	**4.0**	**19.0**	**32.6**	**8,034.2**

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) Includes persons still at school. (c) Includes qualification not classifiable, not recognised or inadequately described. (d) Includes ancestries unknown, inadequately described, and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP214*

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People still attending school

In 1986 there were 2.8 million people attending school, 91 per cent of whom had been born in Australia. This was about the same proportion that Australian-born 0-19 year olds were of all 0-19 year olds. Almost 1.6 million children attended primary schools and 1.2 million attended secondary schools. A further 280,000 children attended pre-schools.

TABLE 7.7 PEOPLE ATTENDING SCHOOL: BIRTHPLACE BY TYPE OF SCHOOL

Birthplace	Infant/Primary			Secondary			Total
	Govt	Non-govt	Total	Govt	Non-govt	Total	
			— per cent —				'000
Australia	43.8	13.7	57.5	29.6	12.9	42.5	2,518.8
New Zealand	48.6	8.2	56.8	34.7	8.5	43.2	29.1
UK & Ireland	34.6	9.2	43.8	41.5	14.7	56.2	55.5
Greece	31.4	5.9	37.3	53.0	9.7	62.7	2.4
Italy	20.0	14.0	34.0	42.2	23.8	66.0	2.6
Malta	21.8	26.0	47.8	31.7	20.5	52.2	1.1
Spain	30.4	12.5	42.9	41.1	16.0	57.1	1.5
Yugoslavia	28.2	3.3	31.5	60.8	7.7	68.5	5.1
Germany	36.9	9.9	46.8	41.1	12.1	53.2	4.4
Netherlands	39.2	12.7	51.9	37.3	10.8	48.1	2.8
Poland	33.8	31.4	65.2	21.4	13.4	34.8	4.0
Lebanon	30.2	8.9	39.1	46.3	14.6	60.9	5.5
China	39.7	3.8	43.5	49.0	7.6	56.5	1.9
India & Sri Lanka	26.7	15.7	42.4	30.9	26.7	57.6	5.3
Malaysia	29.2	10.4	39.6	29.2	31.2	60.4	8.4
Vietnam	37.7	11.4	49.1	43.8	7.2	50.9	21.6
Other countries	31.9	13.3	45.2	36.4	18.5	54.8	93.3
Total overseas	34.8	11.4	46.1	38.5	15.3	53.9	244.5
Total(a)	43.0	13.5	56.4	30.4	13.1	43.6	2,770.8
			— '000 —				
Total(a)	1,191.2	372.9	1,564.1	842.7	364.0	1,206.7	2,770.8

(a) Includes birthplace not stated.

Overall, 27 per cent of school students attended non-government schools (24 per cent of primary school students and 30 per cent of secondary school students). Over 40 per cent of students born in Malta, Poland, India and Sri Lanka or Malaysia attended a non-government schools while less than 15 per cent of those born in China or Yugoslavia did so. For some birthplace groups there were indicators of transfers between the government and non-government sectors on or after the transition from primary to secondary school. For example, proportionally more secondary students than primary students born in Malaysia, India and Sri Lanka, UK and Ireland or New Zealand attended non-government schools. The reverse was true for students born in Malta, Poland, Italy or Vietnam.

FIGURE 7.3 SCHOOL STUDENTS: PROPORTION ATTENDING NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS BY SELECTED BIRTHPLACE

Malta

Poland

India & Sri Lanka

Malaysia

Italy

Spain

Australia

UK & Ireland

Netherlands

Lebanon

Germany

Vietnam

New Zealand

Greece

China

Yugoslavia

0   10   20   30   40   50

Per cent
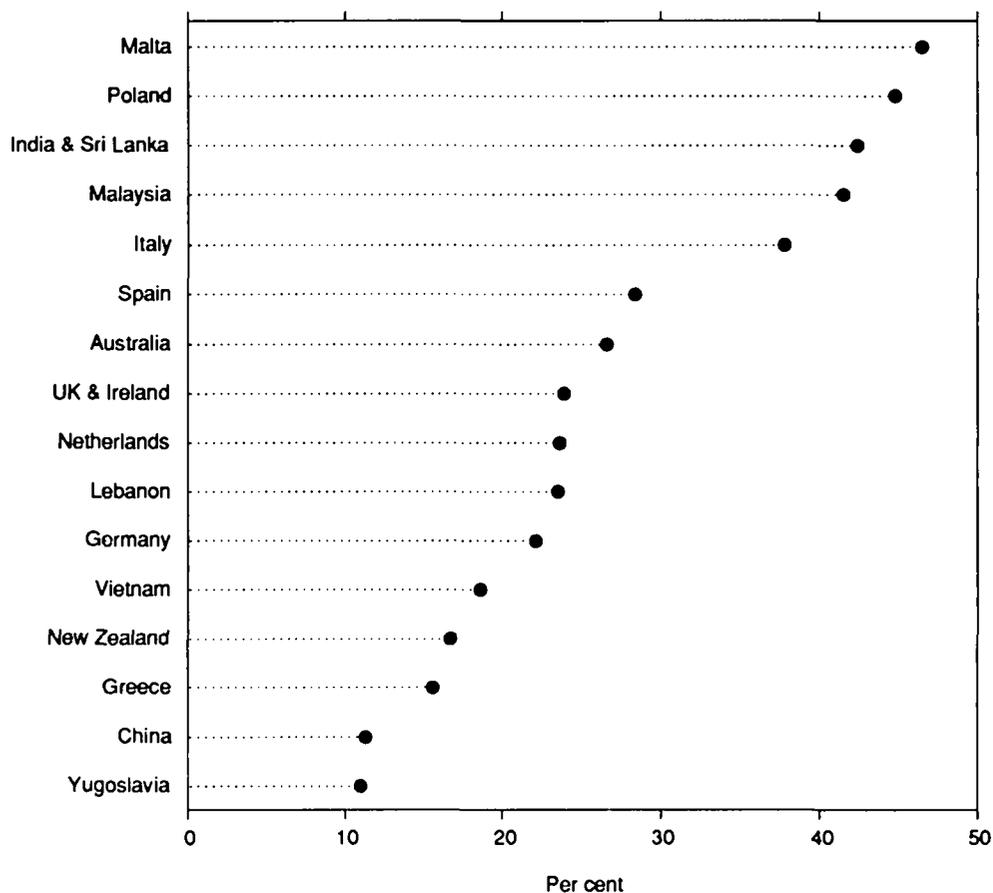
Source: *Table CX0109*

People in tertiary education

Of the 653,000 people attending tertiary education institutions in 1986, half were attending TAFE institutions, the majority of them part-time. Overall, proportionally fewer overseas-born students attended TAFE institutions than did Australian-born students and this was most marked for students born in Malaysia, India and Sri Lanka or China. Over 60 per cent of tertiary students born in Malta, Lebanon, Spain, Italy or Yugoslavia attended TAFE institutions. Attendance at Colleges of Advanced Education (CAEs) was more or less evenly split between full-time and part-time students. There was considerable variation between birthplace groups however with, for example, almost three-quarters of Malaysian-born students attending full-time at CAEs. Among overseas-born students, 35 per cent attended universities, 66 per cent of them full-time. Again, Malaysian-born students stood out with 71 per cent attending universities, 91 per cent of them full-time. Many of these students however may have been in Australia for the duration of their tertiary courses and would then be expected to return to Malaysia.

**TABLE 7.8 PEOPLE ATTENDING TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS:
BIRTHPLACE BY TYPE**

Birthplace	TAFE			CAE			UNIVERSITY			
	F/T	P/T	Total(a)	F/T	P/T	Total(a)	F/T	P/T	Total(a)	Total
	— per cent —									'000
Australia	8.0	38.7	51.0	10.6	10.8	22.0	15.5	10.7	26.9	499.5
New Zealand	6.7	43.2	53.0	7.8	10.1	18.6	14.2	13.5	28.4	8.8
UK & Ireland	5.4	43.0	52.0	6.6	11.8	19.1	14.4	13.8	28.9	48.6
Greece	8.8	34.4	48.0	9.1	8.3	18.8	20.8	10.9	33.1	2.6
Italy	7.4	48.2	61.1	5.3	11.6	17.6	9.4	10.6	21.2	4.1
Malta	9.6	54.5	70.2	4.9	11.8	17.1	5.7	6.6	12.7	0.9
Spain	9.1	48.0	61.4	7.6	4.5	13.3	13.9	11.0	25.3	0.7
Yugoslavia	13.5	40.3	60.6	8.3	6.4	15.9	14.5	7.8	23.5	4.4
Germany	5.9	40.9	52.2	5.4	12.3	18.7	14.5	13.3	29.1	4.7
Netherlands	4.9	50.2	59.7	5.6	12.6	19.1	8.4	12.3	21.2	3.5
Poland	9.2	39.3	54.3	4.9	10.1	16.7	13.5	13.7	29.0	2.1
Lebanon	19.1	39.6	63.8	6.6	5.5	13.5	14.2	7.3	22.8	2.0
China	8.6	30.5	42.5	5.2	7.0	13.8	29.6	10.3	43.7	1.8
India & Sri Lanka	5.6	31.2	39.3	6.9	11.8	19.8	24.8	14.7	41.0	4.8
Malaysia	4.6	7.1	12.4	12.0	4.4	16.6	63.7	6.0	71.0	10.4
Vietnam	18.5	35.5	57.3	8.6	6.2	15.5	20.2	5.4	27.2	5.8
Other	10.1	29.2	42.5	8.4	7.6	16.9	28.1	10.9	40.7	46.4
Total overseas	*8.0*	*35.5*	*47.0*	*7.6*	*9.3*	*17.7*	*22.5*	*11.5*	*35.2*	*151.5*
Total(b)	**8.0**	**38.0**	**50.1**	**9.9**	**10.4**	**21.0**	**17.2**	**10.9**	**28.9**	**653.3**
	— '000 —									
Total(b)	**52.3**	**248.0**	**327.4**	**64.5**	**68.1**	**137.4**	**112.1**	**71.3**	**188.6**	**653.3**

(a) Includes status not stated. (b) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: *Table CX0109*

WORKING LIFE AND INCOME

Participation in the labour force

At the 1986 Census almost 70 per cent of people aged between 15 and 64 years were classified as being in the labour force. Men were more likely to have been in the labour force than women, with a participation rate of 82 per cent compared to 55 per cent for women. This difference between the sexes was most marked among those who were married, with 88 per cent of married men taking part in the labour force compared to 52 per cent of married women. Among those who were not married (which included those who were separated, divorced or widowed at the time of the census), 60 per cent of women and 75 per cent of men took part in the labour force.

... among migrants

Although, overall, there was little variation in labour force participation rates between people born overseas and those born in Australia, levels of involvement in the labour force varied considerably between different birthplace groups. Among migrants aged 15 to 64 years, those from New Zealand recorded the highest labour force participation rate at 78 per cent, for those of either New Zealand or Maori ancestry. Migrants reporting British or Irish ancestry also recorded participation rates well above average. The lowest participation rate found among migrants was 40 per cent recorded by people of Malaysian ancestry. This may be explained, at least partially, by the high proportions of students found in this group. Migrants from the Middle East also recorded low rates of labour force participation, less than 58 per cent for those reporting Arab, Lebanese or Turkish ancestry.

TABLE 8.1 OVERSEAS BORN PEOPLE AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY SEX BY MARITAL STATUS
(per cent)

| | | Labour force participation rate | | |
| | | Women | | |
Ancestry	Men	Married	Not married(a)	Total
British or Irish	87.0	55.0	66.0	73.4
New Zealander	89.2	59.4	75.0	78.1
Greek	80.3	51.0	45.5	65.8
Italian	83.9	42.2	49.4	65.4
Maltese	85.2	39.4	46.6	64.6
Spanish	83.4	50.6	52.4	68.0
Yugoslavian	80.0	53.6	51.3	67.8
Dutch	87.2	48.1	55.0	70.0
French	85.6	55.4	61.0	71.9
German	86.3	46.7	50.4	67.6
Polish	79.6	50.4	43.1	64.0
Scandinavian	83.8	55.2	57.6	71.2
Lebanese	77.0	30.8	46.6	57.3
Chinese	73.0	60.8	49.5	64.6
Indian	82.1	65.5	54.2	72.3
Vietnamese	78.1	70.0	54.5	72.1
All ancestries(b)	**83.3**	**52.3**	**58.8**	**69.4**

(a) Comprises those who were never married, widowed, divorced or separated. (b) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: Table VCP213

... migrant women

Although most of the ancestry groups which recorded a high rate of labour force participation reported high rates for both men and women, this was generally not the case among migrants of Asian (except Middle Eastern) ancestry. The high overall participation rates recorded for those of Sinhalese, Indian or Vietnamese ancestry were due largely to a very high proportion of married women participating in the labour force. For example, over two-thirds of married women of Vietnamese ancestry were in the labour force, compared to half of all married migrant women. Migrants of Asian origin (except those from the Middle East) were also notable in that married women were considerably more likely to have been in the labour force than women who were not married. Migrants of Middle Eastern ancestry also recorded low levels of labour force participation among married women, as did the Southern European ancestry groups of Maltese and Italian.

... and the next generation

Generally, the patterns of labour force participation apparent among Australia's migrant groups did not carry through to the next generation. Among Australian-born people with one or both parents born overseas the highest labour force participation rates were recorded by those of Northern European ancestry. For example, rates of 75 per cent or more were recorded for people aged between 15 and 64 years who reported Polish, Dutch or German ancestry. The high level of labour force participation shown by first generation Australians of Polish ancestry contrasted sharply with the low level recorded by migrants of this ancestry. The reverse was true for those of Indian ancestry, with 72 per cent of migrants participating in the labour force compared to 58 per cent of those born in Australia of overseas-born parent(s). One group, however, did maintain a similar pattern of labour force participation across the generations. The low participation rate recorded by migrants of Middle Eastern ancestry also occurred for people born in Australia, with those of Turkish, Arab, Egyptian or Lebanese ancestry recording the lowest participation rates (60 per cent or less) found among Australian-born people whose parent(s) had been born overseas.

... differences between generations

For almost all major ancestry groups, labour force participation rates among men were higher for migrants than for Australian-born people of the same ancestry. However, this was at least partially influenced by differences in the age distribution of the two groups; 12 per cent of migrants were aged between 15 and 24 years (an age group with a high proportion of students) while the equivalent figure for Australian-born people with overseas-born parent(s) was 21 per cent.

Among women, however, the difference in labour force participation rates between migrants and Australian-born of the same ancestry was more striking and quite dissimilar. With the exception of those who reported British or Irish ancestry, all major European and Middle Eastern ancestry groups reported far lower labour force participation rates among migrant women than among Australian-born women with overseas-born parent(s). This was apparent for both married and unmarried women. For example, among those of Lebanese ancestry less than one-third of married women who had been born overseas were in the labour force compared to half of married women who were Australian-born with overseas-born parent(s). Similarly, among unmarried women of Maltese ancestry, only 47 per cent of migrants worked compared to 69 per cent of their Australian-born counterparts.

TABLE 8.2 AUSTRALIAN BORN PEOPLE(a) AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS(b) BY SEX BY MARITAL STATUS
(per cent)

| Ancestry/ | | Labour force participation rate | | |
| Birthplace of parents | Men | Women | | Total |
		Married	Not married(c)	
Aboriginal & TSI	63.0	32.5	33.4	47.7
Australian				
Overseas-born parent	77.3	49.1	56.8	65.5
Australian-born parents	84.1	50.5	59.2	68.8
British or Irish				
Overseas-born parent	81.4	48.8	59.9	67.4
Australian-born parents	84.6	51.9	62.1	70.4
Greek				
Overseas-born parent	67.9	62.0	54.3	62.4
Australian-born parents	78.8	55.1	59.8	68.6
Italian				
Overseas-born parent	81.3	58.6	68.2	72.9
Australian-born parents	85.5	55.4	67.7	73.8
Maltese				
Overseas-born parent	83.3	53.4	68.6	72.7
Australian-born parents	82.9	47.8	62.7	69.1
Scandinavian				
Overseas-born parent	80.3	53.0	63.4	70.3
Australian-born parents	90.0	55.2	69.1	77.5
Yugoslavian				
Overseas-born parent	69.4	60.0	54.9	63.2
Australian-born parents	80.4	54.8	63.0	70.3
Dutch				
Overseas-born parent	88.4	54.4	72.9	76.2
Australian-born parents	87.2	54.2	66.2	74.7
French				
Overseas-born parent	78.3	54.2	56.9	67.8
Australian-born parents	90.1	58.4	70.7	78.8
German				
Overseas-born parent	84.7	57.2	69.5	74.6
Australian-born parents	89.8	56.3	68.5	76.1
Polish				
Overseas-born parent	87.9	61.1	69.8	76.8
Australian-born parents	86.8	58.9	64.3	75.4
Spanish				
Overseas-born parent	72.1	58.3	60.3	66.2
Australian-born parents	85.8	54.3	65.0	72.9
Lebanese				
Overseas-born parent	68.1	49.5	52.9	60.0
Australian-born parents	79.5	49.4	63.3	67.3
Chinese				
Overseas-born parent	66.6	60.1	51.5	60.8
Australian-born parents	82.9	60.9	58.7	72.2
Indian				
Overseas-born parent	64.8	61.8	46.6	58.3
Australian-born parents	82.3	51.0	52.4	67.8
All ancestries (d)	**81.7**	**51.1**	**60.4**	**68.4**

(a) Includes birthplace not stated. (b) Australian-born parents includes birthplace of parents not stated. (c) Comprises those who were never married, widowed, separated or divorced. (d) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP213*

Participation by second (or later) generation Australians

Among Australian-born people with Australian-born parents those of Northern European ancestry again recorded the highest labour force participation rates. More than 75 per cent of those aged between 15 and 64 years who reported ancestry to France, Scandinavia, Germany or Poland, took part in the labour force. The lowest level of labour force participation recorded among second (or later) generation Australians was reported by those of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestry (48 per cent).

Unemployment among the overseas-born

At the 1986 Census more than 660,000 Australians aged 15 years and over were seeking work, an unemployment rate of 9.2 per cent. People who had been born overseas were slightly more likely to have been unemployed than those born in Australia (10 per cent compared to 9 per cent), however, considerable variation in unemployment rates occurred between the various migrant groups. Among migrants, particularly high unemployment rates were recorded for those of Vietnamese ancestry (41 per cent) or Lebanese ancestry (31 per cent). Most of the groups who reported high levels of unemployment were groups who had arrived in Australia relatively recently. Period of residence was clearly related to a migrant's chances of obtaining employment; the unemployment rate among migrants who had been resident less than 5 years (21 per cent) was more than twice that of established migrants.

FIGURE 8.1 OVERSEAS-BORN PEOPLE: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY PERIOD OF RESIDENCE
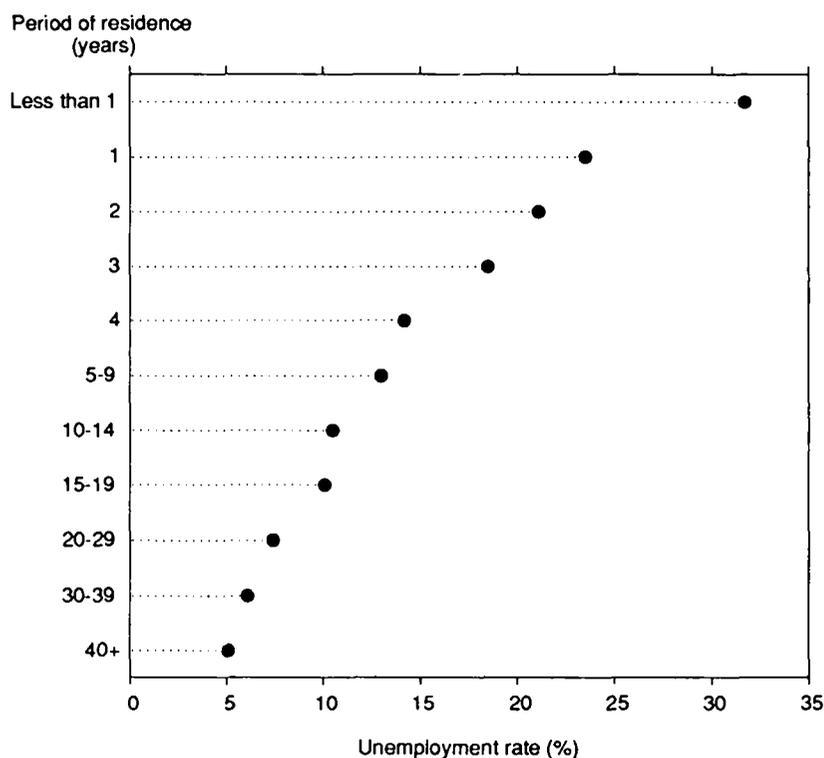
Source: *Table CX0043*

Proficiency in English was also an important factor (see section 4). Almost one-quarter of those in the labour force who reported that they could not speak English proficiently were unemployed. For example, almost half of speakers of Vietnamese were unable to speak English well. However, the ability to speak English was not the only factor influencing unemployment. People who spoke Japanese at home reported one of the lowest levels of proficiency in English, and yet people of Japanese ancestry who had been born overseas reported a lower level of unemployment (5 per cent) than almost any group. Migrants of Italian ancestry enjoyed a similarly low unemployment rate (6 per cent), while rates for those of Maltese, Dutch, Indian or German ancestry were also below the national average.

TABLE 8.3 OVERSEAS BORN PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY SEX BY MARITAL STATUS
(per cent)

| | | Unemployment rate | | |
| | | Women | | |
Ancestry	Men	Married	Not married(a)	Total
British or Irish	8.1	5.7	13.3	8.2
New Zealander	12.3	8.9	17.2	12.8
Greek	9.3	7.3	16.1	9.0
Italian	5.4	4.3	12.0	5.5
Maltese	6.4	5.8	13.7	6.7
Spanish	13.1	14.5	24.3	14.7
Yugoslavian	9.6	9.0	17.6	10.1
Dutch	6.9	5.1	13.2	7.0
French	10.0	8.8	18.7	11.0
German	8.6	7.2	14.2	8.8
Polish	10.3	11.0	18.8	11.3
Scandinavian	9.9	7.1	15.7	10.0
Lebanese	30.7	29.8	32.7	30.7
Chinese	13.4	14.7	16.5	14.2
Indian	7.1	10.1	13.1	8.7
Vietnamese	36.1	50.3	52.2	41.5
All ancestries(b)	**9.9**	**8.8**	**16.1**	**10.4**

(a) Comprises those who were never married, widowed, divorced or separated. (b) Includes unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP213*

... high for single migrant women

Among migrants, women recorded slightly higher levels of unemployment than men (11 per cent compared to 10 per cent). This discrepancy between the sexes was more pronounced among the overseas-born than the Australian-born, and was apparent for most of the major ancestry groups. A notable example was provided by migrants of Vietnamese ancestry; more than half of the women who were in the labour force were seeking employment compared to approximately one-third of the men. Unmarried migrant women who were in the labour force were almost twice as likely to have been unemployed as their married counterparts (16 per cent compared to 9 per cent). Among overseas-born women of Italian ancestry, for example, 4 per cent of those who were married and wished to work could not find employment compared to 12 per cent of those who were not married. Migrants who reported Asian ancestries, however, did not tend to show this variation by marital status, with married women suffering unemployment rates almost as high as those of unmarried women.

Unemployment among the Australian-born

Overall, first generation Australians experienced lower levels of unemployment than migrants. This was particularly pronounced among married women, with those who were Australian-born of overseas-born parent(s) only half as likely to have been unemployed as those who had been born overseas. However, many of the major ancestry groups showed the reverse relationship, with migrants reporting lower unemployment rates than Australian-born counterparts. This may have been a product of the older age distribution of the overseas-born population, since unemployment levels decrease with age. For example, among those of Greek ancestry, who recorded a relatively large difference between the unemployment rate of migrants (9 per cent) and Australian-born (13 per cent), only 6 per cent of migrants were aged between 15 and 24 years, compared to 41 per cent of Australian-born.

... high for those of Middle Eastern descent

Generally, those ancestry groups who recorded unusually high or low levels of unemployment among migrants reported similar rates among Australian-born people with overseas-born parent(s). A number of the groups who reported the highest levels of unemployment among the overseas-born population were however not represented in the labour force of the next generation due to their limited period of residence in Australia. People of Middle Eastern ancestry maintained very high unemployment rates across the generations. Among Australian-born people with overseas-born parent(s) those of Turkish ancestry suffered the highest unemployment rate at 25 per cent, and 14 per cent of those of Lebanese ancestry were unemployed.

TABLE 8.4 AUSTRALIAN BORN PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a): UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS(b) BY SEX BY MARITAL STATUS
(per cent)

Ancestry/ Birthplace of parents	Men	Women Married	Not married(c)	Total
Aboriginal & TSI	39.3	23.9	45.4	38.8
Australian				
Overseas-born parent	10.3	5.3	15.9	10.7
Australian-born parents	9.0	5.4	14.8	9.2
British or Irish				
Overseas-born parent	7.7	4.2	13.2	8.0
Australian-born parents	7.3	4.1	12.3	7.4
Greek				
Overseas-born parent	13.8	5.6	15.2	13.0
Australian-born parents	10.7	5.9	15.8	10.7
Italian				
Overseas-born parent	7.6	4.5	10.4	7.8
Australian-born parents	7.3	5.1	13.9	8.1
Maltese				
Overseas-born parent	7.7	5.8	10.4	8.0
Australian-born parents	9.0	8.7	17 4	10.3
Scandinavian				
Overseas-born parent	9.5	2.7	17.4	10.1
Australian-born parents	8.0	5.3	16.0	8.6
Yugoslavian				
Overseas-born parent	11.6	5.6	15.0	11.7
Australian-born parents	9.0	5.5	15.6	9.6
Dutch				
Overseas-born parent	8.5	6.0	12.5	9.0
Australian-born parents	10.1	6.6	15.2	10.3
French				
Overseas-born parent	11.8	6.5	21.5	13.3
Australian-born parents	8.8	5.9	17.8	9.8
German				
Overseas-born parent	9.8	6.2	14.2	10.3
Australian-born parents	6.2	4.4	13.3	6.8
Polish				
Overseas-born parent	7.9	5.2	11.4	8.0
Australian-born parents	8.3	5.2	17.7	9.0
Spanish				
Overseas-born parent	13.6	8.8	17.0	14.1
Australian-born parents	12.0	7.8	18.5	12.5
Lebanese				
Overseas-born parent	14.2	9.1	15.9	14.0
Australian-born parents	13.9	11.7	11.0	12.8
Chinese				
Overseas-born parent	6.0	4.9	9.4	6.7
Australian-born parents	9.3	5.0	15.4	9.3
Indian				
Overseas-born parent	9.0	8.9	18.3	11.5
Australian-born parents	16.4	7.5	25.6	15.9
All ancestries(d)				
Overseas-born parent	**9.1**	**4.9**	**13.9**	**9.4**
Australian-born parents	**8.6**	**4.9**	**13.9**	**8.7**

(a) Australian-born includes birthplace not stated. (b) Australian-born parents includes birthplace of parents not stated. (c) Comprises those who were never married, widowed, separated or divorced. (d) Includes unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP213*

People who reported Jewish ancestry experienced the lowest unemployment rate (4 per cent) among Australian-born people with overseas-born parent(s). This was consistent with levels reported by migrants of Jewish ancestry, who reported the third lowest unemployment rate (after Italian and Japanese) recorded by the overseas-born population. Low rates of unemployment among Australian-born people with overseas-born parent(s) were reported by those of Chinese ancestry (7 per cent), while those of Italian or Maltese ancestry maintained a lower than average unemployment rate, consistent with the trend observed for migrants of these ancestries.

... low for those with qualifications

Possession of post-school qualifications clearly had a bearing on a person's employment prospects, and it is of note that two of the ancestry groups who reported the lowest unemployment rates (Chinese and Jewish) also reported the highest proportion of people possessing a degree or higher qualification. Overall, 6 per cent of Australian-born people with overseas-born parent(s) possessed such qualifications, but this proportion rose to 16 per cent for those who reported Chinese ancestry, and 32 per cent for those who reported Jewish ancestry. Perhaps qualifications also contributed to the discrepancy in unemployment rates observed among people of Indian and Sinhalese ancestry. This group recorded a lower than average unemployment rate among overseas-born people (of whom 12 per cent possessed a degree or higher qualification), but one of the highest unemployment rates (14 per cent) among Australian-born people (of whom only 5 per cent possessed such qualifications) (see Section 7).

... second (or later) generation Australians

Among Australian-born people, those with both parents born in Australia reported a slightly lower unemployment rate than those with one or both parents born overseas. Overall, unemployment rates for married women did not differ between these two groups, but within many ancestry groups unemployment among single women was higher for second (or later) generation Australians. For example, among Australian-born unmarried women of Maltese descent, 17 per cent of those with Australian-born parents were unemployed compared to 10 per cent of those with an overseas-born parent.

The highest unemployment rate among second (or later) generation Australians was reported by people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestry (39 per cent). Similarly, those who reported Middle Eastern ancestries suffered high levels of unemployment, as did those of Maori, New Zealander or Indian and Sinhalese ancestries. Members of this last ancestry group were notable in that second (or later) generation Australians were almost twice as likely to have been unemployed as migrants. Low unemployment levels were reported by people of British or Irish, or German ancestries.

Occupation

Approximately half of the 6.5 million employed people in Australia at 30 June 1986 were in relatively unskilled occupations, earning their living as clerks (18 per cent), personal service or sales people (13 per cent), labourers (15 per cent), or plant and machine operators (8 per cent). Among those pursuing more skilled occupations were tradespeople (16 per cent), managers and administrators (12 per cent), professionals (12 per cent) and para-professionals (7 per cent). The types of occupations undertaken by people born overseas varied with birthplace but, overall, migrants tended to be under-represented among clerks, service and sales personnel, and managers and administrators. They were much more strongly represented among tradespeople, plant and machine operators and labourers.

... English-speaking groups

The pattern of occupations pursued by people born in the UK or Ireland was similar to that shown by the total population, although migrants from the British Isles were slightly under-represented in administrative and managerial occupations, and over-represented in professional and para-professional occupations. However, among Australian-born people with overseas-born parent(s) those of British or Irish ancestry were more likely to have been employed as managers and administrators than almost any other ancestry group. Australian-born people of Irish ancestry were notable in that almost one-quarter worked as professionals and para-professionals, while an unusually low proportion were employed as tradespeople. Migrants from New Zealand were similarly under-represented in managerial and administrative occupations, but over-represented among plant and machine operators and labourers. Migrants from the other main English-speaking countries (USA, Canada and South Africa) were almost twice as likely as other members of the labour force to have been employed in professional and para-professional occupations, and less than half as likely to have worked as plant and machine operators and labourers.

TABLE 8.5 EMPLOYED PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: BIRTHPLACE BY OCCUPATION.

Birthplace	Occupation					
	Managers and admin-istrators	Profess-ionals and para-profess-ionals	Trades-people	Clerks, personal service and sales people	Plant oper-ators, labourers, and related workers	Total(a)
	— per cent —					'000
Australia	12.7	19.1	15.0	31.9	21.3	4,832.8
Overseas	10.0	18.0	17.7	25.7	28.5	1,647.4
New Zealand	10.1	18.4	16.2	30.9	24.4	115.0
UK & Ireland	10.4	21.4	16.6	30.4	21.2	595.0
Other main English-speaking countries	13.6	36.9	10.2	28.3	11.0	48.5
Greece	9.8	5.2	17.0	16.7	51.3	75.1
Italy	12.6	6.5	24.0	16.9	40.1	138.8
Malta	7.9	6.6	17.4	17.7	50.4	30.5
Spain	5.4	9.4	30.6	16.8	37.7	8.4
Yugoslavia	5.0	5.9	24.3	12.8	52.0	83.3
France	10.3	20.2	22.8	27.1	19.6	7.9
Germany	12.3	19.2	23.3	25.1	20.2	64.2
Netherlands	15.5	18.7	21.0	23.3	21.4	51.7
Poland	7.9	19.4	18.9	16.3	37.5	26.0
Scandinavia	10.6	18.3	26.7	21.5	23.0	14.1
Lebanon	11.9	5.9	17.4	24.4	40.4	19.3
China & Hong Kong	10.8	23.9	20.0	25.2	20.0	30.5
India & Sri Lanka	8.3	28.0	8.3	38.1	17.3	40.3
Malaysia	8.0	44.1	6.9	28.7	12.2	21.7
Vietnam	2.8	7.4	14.8	15.0	60.0	29.9
South America	3.8	12.1	22.2	22.0	39.9	22.0
Other countries	9.0	19.6	15.9	25.8	29.6	225.1
Total(b)	**12.0**	**18.8**	**15.7**	**30.3**	**23.2**	**6,513.6**

(a) Includes people whose occupations were inadequately described or not stated. (b) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: *Table CX0049*

... Southern European migrants

Almost half of all employed Southern European migrants worked as labourers or plant and machine operators, double the overall rate. A higher than average proportion of Southern European migrants worked as tradespeople, especially among those born in Spain, Yugoslavia or Italy, with almost one-third of employed Spanish migrants pursuing a trade. Also notable was the fact that more than 25 per cent of Greek and Italian workers were either self-employed or employed others (compared to 16 per cent among all employed people). However, migrants from Southern Europe were poorly represented in professional and para-professional occupations, with only 6 per cent undertaking such work (compared to 19 per cent for all employed people). Similarly, migrants from Southern Europe were only half as likely as other employed people to have been employed as clerks or personal service and sales people. The group was also poorly represented among managers and administrators, only 5 per cent of those born in Spain or Yugoslavia engaged in such occupations (compared to a national average of 12 per cent).

FIGURE 8.2 EMPLOYED PEOPLE: PROPORTION SELF-EMPLOYED OR EMPLOYERS BY SELECTED BIRTHPLACE
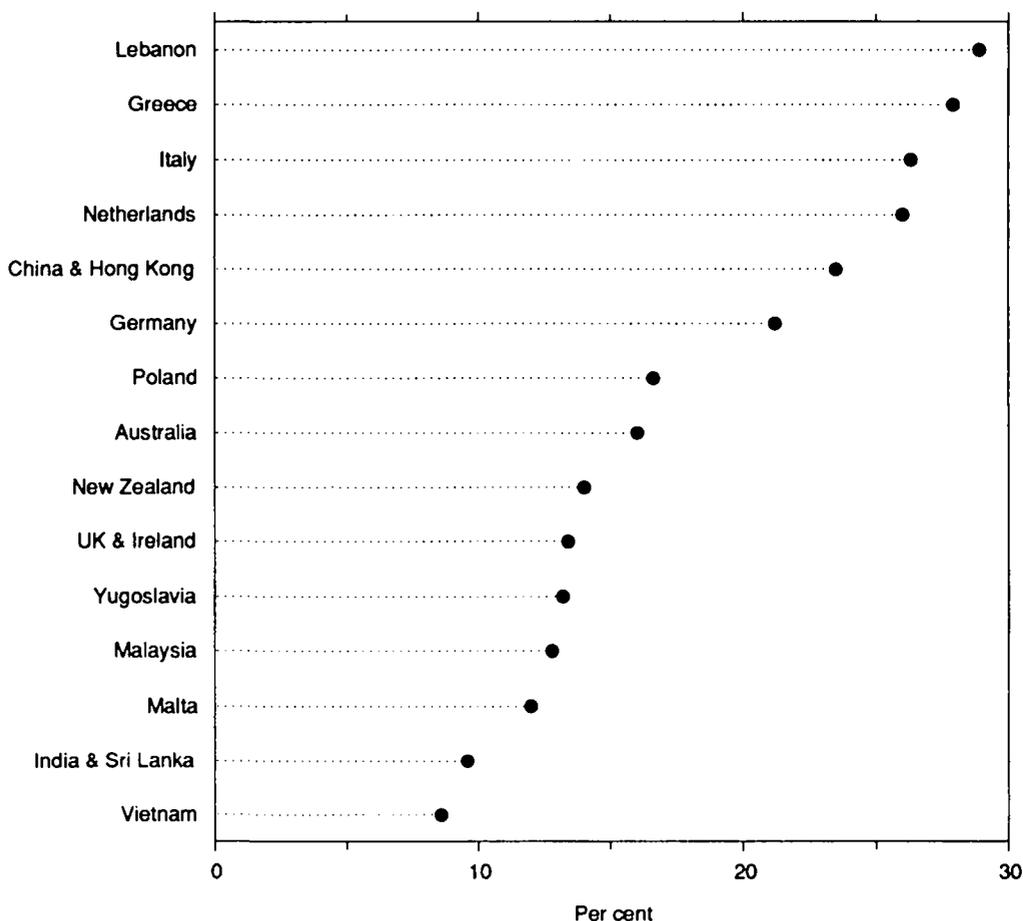
Per cent

Source: Table CX0017

... Other Europeans

Tradespeople made up a higher than average proportion of employed migrants born in other European countries, particularly among people born in Scandinavia, of whom 27 per cent followed a trade. However, there was under-representation of other European migrants among those working as clerks or personal service and sales people.

Dutch migrants reported a higher proportion of people working as managers and administrators (16 per cent) than any of the other major birthplace groups, and over one-quarter of all employed Dutch migrants were either self-employed or employed others. The pattern of occupations pursued by Polish migrants differed from the other major European birthplace groups in that a very high proportion of Poles worked as labourers or plant and machine operators (38 per cent compared to 23 per cent of all employed people).

... Asian migrants

Forty per cent of all employed migrants from the Middle East worked as labourers or plant and machine operators. Middle Eastern migrants were only half as likely as other employed people to have been employed as professionals and para-professionals with, for example, 6 per cent of those born in Lebanon employed in these occupations, compared to 19 per cent of all employed people.

Migrants from India or Sri Lanka were much more likely than most other employed people to have been employed in professional and para-professional occupations (28 per cent) or in clerical or sales work (38 per cent). Members of this birthplace group did not tend to work as tradespeople or labourers and plant and machine operators.

Migrants born in China or Hong Kong were more likely than average to follow professional and para-professional occupations. In contrast, migrants from Vietnam were very poorly represented in professional and para-professional occupations (only 7 per cent of this birthplace group held such positions), and were even less likely to have worked as administrators and managers (3 per cent). Sixty per cent of Vietnamese workers were employed as labourers or plant and machine operators.

Income
... low for Vietnamese migrants

The 1986 Census revealed that 38 per cent of people aged 15 years and over had an annual income of $6,000 or less. A further 28 per cent received between $6,000 and $15,000 annually, while 34 per cent received more. Five per cent of people aged 15 years and over received in excess of $32,000 annually. Among the larger birthplace groups, migrants from Vietnam or Lebanon reported low proportions of people with an annual income greater than $22,000 (3 and 5 per cent respectively), and a very high proportion of people (45 per cent) who received $6,000 or less a year. An even greater proportion of Polish or Malaysian migrants received $6,000 or less annually (46 per cent), but this was due in part to low levels of labour force participation in these groups, the result of an unusually high proportion of older people among the Polish-born (more than half were aged 55 years or more, compared to one-fifth of the total population), and a high proportion of students among the Malaysian-born. However, the proportion of Malaysian migrants receiving more than $22,000 a year (21 per cent) was well above the average.

... high for people from
English-speaking countries

High proportions of people with an annual income of more than $22,000 were recorded by migrants born in the USA (32 per cent), and South Africa or Canada (both 25 per cent). Migrants from New Zealand recorded the lowest proportion of low income recipients, with only 30 per cent of this birthplace group receiving $6,000 or less annually.

TABLE 8.6 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: BIRTHPLACE BY INCOME

	Annual individual income ($)						
Birthplace	0	1-6,000	6,001-15,000	15,001-22,000	22,001-32,000	more than 32,000	Total(a)
	— per cent —						'000
Australia	11.7	26.3	28.1	18.8	10.4	4.6	8,727.4
New Zealand	11.1	18.5	27.2	23.6	12.6	7.1	181.2
UK & Ireland	9.1	26.7	26.2	20.3	11.8	5.8	1,080.6
Other MES countries	15.5	18.8	20.2	17.6	14.7	13.1	82.6
Greece	13.3	22.9	37.4	19.0	5.6	1.8	135.6
Italy	12.2	26.8	29.9	21.5	7.2	2.4	259.9
Malta	14.1	22.3	29.0	24.3	8.1	2.1	55.2
Spain	16.7	19.7	27.6	23.6	10.0	2.3	15.0
Yugoslavia	13.9	21.2	34.9	22.0	6.4	1.6	146.4
France	15.2	20.6	27.0	20.5	10.8	5.9	13.7
Germany	11.3	24.1	24.6	20.8	13.3	6.0	111.0
Netherlands	10.6	26.7	25.3	19.4	12.5	5.5	92.7
Poland	10.7	35.8	25.9	17.1	7.3	3.3	63.9
Lebanon	21.9	23.4	35.5	14.5	3.7	1.0	51.6
China & Hong Kong	20.5	22.3	26.4	15.9	9.3	5.5	58.7
India & Sri Lanka	13.1	18.6	21.8	24.9	13.8	7.7	65.4
Malaysia	22.0	24.1	17.3	15.8	13.2	7.6	41.2
Vietnam	17.6	27.3	35.5	16.7	2.3	0.6	65.4
Other countries	16.5	23.3	27.2	19.5	9.1	4.4	510.0
Total(b)	11.9	25.9	28.0	19.2	10.3	4.7	11,965.3

(a) Includes income not stated. (b) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: Table CX0014

FIGURE 8.3 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: PROPORTION WITH SELECTED ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL INCOME BY BIRTHPLACE
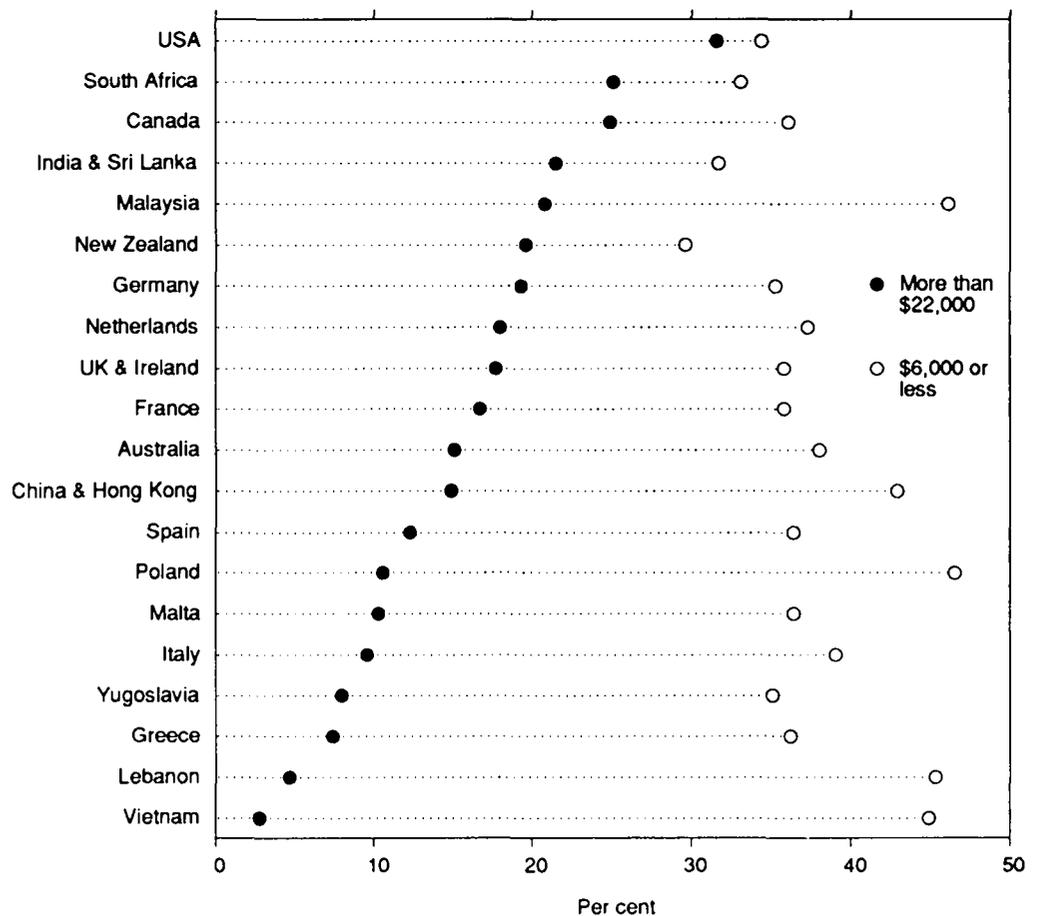
Source: Table CX0014

... Australian-born people

Among Australian-born people, income levels were slightly lower for those with overseas-born parents than for those with Australian-born parents. Approximately three-quarters of first generation Australians aged 15 years or more who reported Australian, Indian, Greek or Spanish ancestry had an annual income of $15,000 or less (compared to two-thirds of all first generation Australians aged 15 years or more). Similarly, members of these groups (as well as first generation Australians of Maltese ancestry) were considerably less likely than other members of the population to have received more than $32,000 a year. In contrast, however, first generation Australians of Polish ancestry reported relatively high incomes, with only half receiving $15,000 or less annually.

TABLE 8.7 PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: SELECTED ANCESTRIES BY BIRTHPLACE BY BIRTHPLACE OF PARENTS BY SELECTED INCOMES
(per cent)

Ancestry/ Individual income($ p.a.)	Overseas- born people	Australian-born people(a)			Total
		Both parents overseas- born	One parent overseas- born	Both parents Australian- born(b)	
Australian					
$15,000 or less	68.4	79.0	70.4	66.6	67.1
More than $32,000	5.1	1.9	4.2	4.3	4.2
British or Irish					
$15,000 or less	60.9	71.5	65.3	64.1	63.9
More than $32,000	6.2	3.8	5.7	5.2	5.4
Greek					
$15,000 or less	72.6	74.5	63.0	65.6	72.4
More than $32,000	2.0	2.2	5.3	4.3	2.3
Italian					
$15,000 or less	68.7	66.1	65.4	62.8	67.4
More than $32,000	2.5	2.4	3.4	3.9	2.6
Maltese					
$15,000 or less	65.3	67.5	68.4	67.1	66.1
More than $32,000	2.3	1.6	2.3	2.5	2.1
Spanish					
$15,000 or less	65.7	74.0	64.7	63.9	66.0
More than $32,000	2.1	2.0	4.4	3.6	2.4
Dutch					
$15,000 or less	61.8	60.4	68.2	62.7	62.1
More than $32,000	5.7	2.7	2.7	4.4	4.7
French					
$15,000 or less	60.7	68.6	65.4	58.7	60.4
More than $32,000	4.7	3.9	4.2	5.0	4.8
German					
$15,000 or less	61.9	63.6	71.3	62.7	63.0
More than $32,000	5.5	2.8	3.1	4.4	4.5
Polish					
$15,000 or less	68.4	52.2	63.1	61.3	64.3
More than $32,000	3.9	5.5	4.2	4.7	4.3
Scandinavian					
$15,000 or less	58.1	71.7	68.2	57.6	59.8
More than $32,000	6.5	3.3	4.8	6.0	5.9
Chinese					
$15,000 or less	69.7	68.4	61.4	60.5	68.9
More than $32,000	4.7	4.9	6.0	5.1	4.8
Indian(c)					
$15,000 or less	54.1	75.7	71.9	70.9	56.3
More than $32,000	8.4	2.3	2.8	3.0	7.7
All ancestries(d)					
$15,000 or less	**64.7**	**68.8**	**66.8**	**65.8**	**65.8**
More than $32,000	**4.8**	**3.3**	**4.0**	**4.7**	**4.6**

(a) Includes birthplace not stated.   (b) Includes birthplace of parents not stated.   (c) Excludes Sinhalese   (d) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described and not stated.

Source: *Table VCP216*

The income levels of Australian-born people with Australian-born parents did not show as much variation between ancestry groups as did those of first generation Australians. Among second (or later) generation Australians, those of French or Scandinavian ancestry reported the highest income levels, with fewer than 60 per cent of people in these groups receiving $15,000 or less a year. This compared to more than 70 per cent of those of Indian ancestry. Second (or later) generation Australians of Maltese ancestry maintained the exceptionally low proportion of high income recipients recorded by their first generation counterparts.

ADDITIONAL TABLES

TABLE A1 AGE DISTRIBUTION BY BIRTHPLACE

Birthplace	Age (years)					Total
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-54	55 and over	
	— per cent —					'000
Australia	9.5	18.5	17.9	36.2	18.0	12,110.5
New Zealand	2.2	12.2	20.9	53.2	11.5	211.7
UK & Ireland	*0.4*	*3.7*	*11.9*	*52.5*	*31.4*	*1,127.2*
England & Wales	0.4	3.9	12.7	52.6	30.4	908.1
Ireland	0.6	3.8	9.2	54.6	31.9	70.0
Scotland	0.3	2.8	8.2	51.0	37.7	149.1
Other main English-speaking countries	3.0	14.3	17.2	51.1	14.4	99.9
Southern Europe	*0.3*	*1.6*	*6.8*	*64.0*	*27.3*	*638.2*
Greece	0.3	1.2	5.6	69.9	23.0	137.6
Italy	0.1	0.7	4.4	58.1	36.7	261.9
Malta	0.2	1.7	4.8	71.8	21.5	56.2
Spain	0.7	7.2	12.4	61.6	18.2	16.3
Yugoslavia	0.3	2.0	11.5	66.5	19.6	150.0
Other Europe	*0.4*	*3.4*	*5.6*	*52.1*	*38.5*	*456.4*
France	1.3	6.4	17.5	56.6	18.2	14.9
Germany	0.4	2.9	6.2	62.1	28.4	114.8
Netherlands	0.2	2.3	4.0	61.5	32.0	95.1
Poland	0.3	5.3	3.2	37.0	54.3	67.7
Scandinavia	0.7	4.8	14.1	59.7	20.6	25.7
Western Asia (Middle East)	*1.2*	*6.6*	*19.5*	*58.5*	*14.2*	*123.0*
Lebanon	1.4	7.0	20.8	59.3	11.5	56.3
Other Asia	*2.3*	*12.6*	*19.0*	*53.4*	*12.7*	*413.2*
China & Hong Kong	1.7	9.1	12.9	53.2	23.1	65.8
India & Sri Lanka	1.6	5.4	11.8	58.2	23.0	70.3
Malaysia	2.4	11.4	32.9	47.9	5.5	47.8
Vietnam	1.1	20.2	24.7	49.4	4.7	83.0
South America	2.0	12.3	20.4	57.2	8.0	46.7
Other countries	1.6	10.7	18.4	54.3	15.0	131.2
Total(a)	**7.6**	**15.7**	**16.7**	**40.3**	**19.8**	**15,602.2**

(a) Includes birthplace not stated.

Source: *Table CX0003*

TABLE A2 AGE DISTRIBUTION BY ANCESTRY

Ancestry	Age (years)					Total
	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-54	55 and over	
	OVERSEAS BORN PEOPLE					
	— per cent —					'000
Aboriginal or TSI	0.8	21.5	19.8	48.8	9.1	0.2
Australian	5.3	26.7	25.2	30.4	12.4	20.5
New Zealander	2.2	12.3	22.2	59.3	3.9	36.3
British or Irish	*0.5*	*4.4*	*12.2*	*52.6*	*30.3*	*1,215.8*
English or Welsh	0.5	4.6	12.7	52.1	30.1	944.4
Irish	0.6	3.7	11.2	57.1	27.4	69.2
Scottish	0.3	3.1	9.6	52.9	34.0	123.0
Other main English-speaking countries	2.0	12.2	15.2	60.3	10.3	26.3
Southern European	*0.3*	*1.9*	*7.5*	*63.4*	*27.0*	*658.2*
Greek	0.2	1.5	6.4	67.9	23.9	158.8
Italian	0.1	0.6	4.7	58.0	36.6	260.0
Maltese	0.2	1.6	4.6	70.5	23.1	55.2
Spanish	1.0	8.7	16.3	60.7	13.3	31.1
Yugoslavian	0.3	2.0	11.6	66.8	19.2	109.6
Dutch	0.1	2.0	4.1	60.8	33.0	97.6
French	0.5	3.9	14.1	60.4	21.2	19.2
German	0.2	2.2	5.5	57.4	34.6	92.4
Polish	0.5	5.3	3.4	46.3	44.5	67.5
Scandinavian	0.3	3.5	11.8	62.8	21.6	22.9
Lebanese	1.3	6.5	19.9	59.6	12.8	45.5
Chinese	1.2	12.4	21.7	53.0	11.7	136.6
Indian	2.7	10.8	16.6	59.1	10.8	50.8
Vietnamese	2.9	20.8	23.7	48.5	4.0	54.4
South American	2.8	16.0	22.2	53.7	5.3	13.4
Other ancestries	1.8	9.0	14.9	53.3	21.1	587.3
Total(b)	*0.9*	*5.8*	*12.1*	*55.4*	*25.8*	*3,195.8*
	AUSTRALIAN BORN PEOPLE(b) WITH BOTH PARENTS BORN OVERSEAS					
Aboriginal or TSI	•	•	•	•	•	•
Australian	17.0	37.0	22.8	13.3	9.9	55.2
New Zealander	42.4	30.7	10.3	13.4	3.2	3.1
British or Irish	*8.1*	*18.3*	*17.8*	*23.5*	*32.2*	*338.9*
English or Welsh	8.3	18.3	17.4	23.0	33.0	263.9
Irish	7.1	19.0	17.9	23.7	32.2	19.4
cottish	5.4	13.6	20.4	28.5	32.0	30.5
Other main English-speaking countries	33.3	34.1	14.9	11.7	6.0	2.2
Southern European	*6.8*	*28.5*	*38.4*	*23.9*	*2.3*	*393.4*
Greek	6.4	30.3	43.7	17.6	2.0	111.4
Italian	4.4	22.4	39.8	30.6	2.9	181.7
Maltese	6.8	26.4	37.0	28.2	1.6	32.2
Spanish	18.7	41.5	27.1	8.9	3.8	6.7
Yugoslavian	12.2	41.0	29.4	15.7	1.7	44.9
Dutch	3.0	13.6	38.5	43.4	1.6	38.2
French	12.1	37.4	22.6	18.4	9.6	3.2
German	3.3	11.4	37.6	37.3	10.4	24.8
Polish	9.2	11.0	21.1	55.6	3.2	20.6
Scandinavian	7.6	25.2	27.9	22.2	17.1	4.4
Lebanese	25.3	45.6	17.9	8.1	3.2	30.4
Chinese	41.1	35.3	12.3	8.4	2.9	22.4
Indian	34.6	46.8	10.3	7.3	1.0	8.5
Vietnamese	75.2	20.0	1.7	2.8	0.3	6.9
South American	34.4	56.8	4.9	2.8	1.1	1.7
Other ancestries	17.0	29.9	22.9	24.1	6.0	238.6
Total(b)	*11.9*	*26.4*	*26.5*	*23.2*	*12.1*	*1,250.1*

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE A2 AGE DISTRIBUTION BY ANCESTRY - *continued*

Ancestry	Age (years)					Total
	0-4	*5-14*	*15-24*	*25-54*	*55 and over*	*Total*
AUSTRALIAN BORN PEOPLE (b) WITH ONE PARENT BORN OVERSEAS						
	— per cent —					'000
Aboriginal or TSI	14.3	31.1	25.4	21.8	7.4	2.7
Australian	16.4	29.8	17.3	23.0	13.6	235.2
New Zealander	14.8	19.6	16.3	32.9	15.9	1.0
British or Irish	*7.7*	*15.5*	*13.2*	*34.7*	*28.9*	*635.4*
English or Welsh	8.0	15.7	13.0	34.2	29.1	540.1
Irish	4.7	10.0	14.3	36.8	34.2	23.0
Scottish	4.4	9.5	14.2	46.4	25.5	29.5
Other main English-speaking countries	10.3	17.1	14.6	40.9	17.0	1.2
Southern European	*21.8*	*30.4*	*22.5*	*23.3*	*2.0*	*58.1*
Greek	25.7	29.7	18.8	24.1	1.8	13.3
Italian	20.1	30.5	23.9	23.5	2.0	34.4
Maltese	22.8	33.9	23.2	19.0	1.0	5.0
Spanish	15.2	18.5	18.2	33.7	14.1	0.6
Yugoslavian	21.5	28.5	23.6	24.2	2.0	3.5
Dutch	13.4	26.6	37.9	20.6	1.6	6.6
French	9.0	12.3	19.1	38.2	21.4	1.4
German	6.2	15.2	23.4	26.0	29.2	9.4
Polish	14.6	34.5	23.2	24.4	3.2	2.9
Scandinavian	4.2	6.6	13.3	37.0	39.1	2.9
Lebanese	28.6	23.8	14.9	25.5	7.2	2.6
·Chinese	11.7	20.2	18.7	29.1	20.2	3.7
Indian	19.8	25.1	18.9	21.7	14.0	0.9
Vietnamese	•	•	•	•	•	•
South American	•	•	•	•	•	•
Other ancestries	17.1	28.9	20.1	24.1	9.8	499.0
Total(b)	*13.3*	*23.4*	*16.8*	*28.0*	*18.6*	*1,552.1*
AUSTRALIAN BORN PEOPLE(b) WITH BOTH PARENTS BORN IN AUSTRALIA(c)						
Aboriginal or TSI	13.0	24.8	23.5	32.3	6.4	158.5
Australian	10.8	19.5	17.3	38.3	14.1	2,593.8
New Zealander	8.8	11.0	23.5	46.5	10.1	1.6
British or Irish	*6.0*	*14.0*	*15.8*	*40.7*	*23.5*	*4,451.5*
English or Welsh	6.2	14.7	15.7	39.6	23.7	3,850.4
Irish	3.5	8.5	16.4	49.0	22.6	264.3
Scottish	3.3	7.0	17.8	51.8	20.0	155.1
Other main English-speaking countries	5.9	11.1	21.0	47.6	14.2	2.8
Southern European	*16.2*	*19.5*	*21.7*	*35.9*	*6.7*	*59.9*
Greek	16.7	21.9	22.7	32.8	5.8	13.9
Italian	17.9	18.5	21.7	35.3	6.6	30.0
Maltese	20.4	22.4	20.2	32.4	4.6	4.3
Spanish	6.2	10.7	19.9	52.3	10.8	4.5
Yugoslavian	9.2	21.3	23.5	38.3	7.6	5.0
Dutch	14.6	14.5	20.7	40.8	9.5	6.5
French	2.9	6.7	22.0	56.1	12.3	12.1
German	3.7	8.1	17.4	51.2	19.6	105.1
Polish	9.7	16.8	15.0	43.0	15.4	5.3
Scandinavian	2.1	4.7	17.2	57.4	18.6	15.2
Lebanese	16.2	21.8	17.6	37.4	7.1	3.8
Chinese	8.4	12.9	18.0	47.4	13.2	6.4
Indian	8.5	15.4	19.7	46.9	9.5	2.1
Vietnamese	46.7	19.0	13.9	18.3	2.0	0.6
South American	8.4	23.7	17.1	44.9	5.6	0.3
Other ancestries	10.0	16.2	18.5	42.4	12.9	1,146.9
Total(b)	*8.4*	*16.4*	*16.8*	*39.4*	*18.9*	*9,544.5*

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE A2 AGE DISTRIBUTION BY ANCESTRY *continued*

Ancestry	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-54	55 and over	Total
			TOTAL PEOPLE			
			— per cent —			'000
Aboriginal or TSI	13.0	24.9	23.6	32.2	6.4	161.6
Australian	11.3	20.7	17.5	36.5	14.0	2,904.8
New Zealander	5.7	13.8	21.2	54.9	4.4	42.0
British or Irish	*5.3*	*12.6*	*15.0*	*41.4*	*25.7*	*6,641.6*
English or Welsh	5.5	13.3	15.0	40.4	25.8	5,598.8
Irish	3.2	8.2	15.4	48.5	24.7	376.0
Scottish	2.5	6.4	14.8	49.6	26.7	338.0
Other main English-speaking countries	4.7	13.7	15.6	55.3	10.6	32.4
Southern European	*4.3*	*13.2*	*19.4*	*46.7*	*16.4*	*1,169.6*
Greek	4.4	14.5	21.7	45.5	13.9	297.4
Italian	4.0	11.5	19.6	44.5	20.3	506.2
Maltese	4.5	12.5	17.0	52.0	14.0	96.7
Spanish	4.5	14.2	18.4	51.3	11.5	42.9
Yugoslavian	4.3	13.9	17.1	51.0	13.7	162.9
Dutch	2.1	6.6	15.1	53.7	22.5	148.9
French	2.7	8.1	17.7	54.3	17.2	36.0
German	2.4	6.4	15.1	51.1	25.0	231.7
Polish	3.3	8.0	8.4	47.4	32.8	96.3
Scandinavian	1.9	6.2	15.3	55.4	21.3	45.4
Lebanese	11.7	22.2	18.9	38.5	8.8	82.3
Chinese	7.0	15.6	20.3	46.4	10.7	169.1
Indian	7.5	16.1	15.9	51.1	9.4	62.3
Vietnamese	11.5	20.7	21.2	43.1	3.6	62.0
South American	6.5	20.7	20.1	47.8	4.9	15.4
Other ancestries	10.1	18.4	18.4	39.5	13.6	2,471.2
Total(b)	**7.6**	**15.7**	**16.6**	**40.3**	**19.7**	**15,542.6**

(a) Includes ancestry unknown, inadequately described and not stated. (b) Australian born people includes birthplace not stated. (c) Australian born parents includes birthplace of parents not stated.

Source: *Table VCP212*

APPENDIX A

Publications in the series

Cat.No.	Title
2501.0	*Census 86 — Australia in Brief (Dec. 1987)*
2502.0	*Census 86 — Australia in Profile (Aug. 1988)*
2503.0	*Census 86 — Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (Feb. 1991)*
2504.0	*Census 86 — Population Growth and Distribution in Australia* (including internal migration) *(Sept. 1990)*
2505.0	*Census 86 — Multicultural Australia (Dec. 1991)*
2506.0	*Census 86 — Australian Families and Households (Sept. 1989)*
2507.0	*Census 86 — Rural Australia*
2510.0	*Census 86 — Religion in Australia (Jan. 1991)*
2511.0	*Census 86 — Australia's One Parent Families (Dec. 1991)*
2514.0	*Census 86 — Fertility in Australia (Dec. 1991)*

APPENDIX B

Guide to data sources	A number of sources given for tables and figures in this publication are abbreviated for ease of reference. A full list of abbreviated titles follows.
AH	Tables produced from a 1 per cent sample file of the Census.
CCP	Special tables produced in the Canberra office of the ABS.
CDATA86	Small area data from the 1981 and 1986 Population Censuses on CD ROM (Cat. No. 2522.0).
CDMF	*Census 86 Collection District Master File* (Cat. No. 2187.0).
CSD*	Twenty-one page format consisting of 70 tables based on census count at place of enumeration.
CX	Cross-classified table on microfiche.
USG*	Five page format consisting of 28 tables based on census count at place of usual residence (i.e. where people usually lived).
USH*	Twelve page format consisting of 37 tables based on census count at place of usual residence (i.e. where people usually lived).
VCP	Special tables produced in the Victorian office of the ABS.

If you require further information about the data sources used in this publication, refer to the *Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables* (Cat. No. 2175.0) available from the nearest ABS office (see Appendix D for addresses and telephone numbers), or contact an Information Officer.

* Available for a range of geographic areas. Refer to the *Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables* (Cat. No. 2175.0) for further information.

APPENDIX C

Data Quality and Definitions

Reporting errors

Responses to census questions are influenced by the perceptions, attitudes and understanding of the respondent. Although data are edited for inconsistencies, errors in interpretation and reporting that cannot be corrected will still occur.

Under-enumeration

While every effort is made to minimise under-enumeration it inevitably occurs. Some reasons for this are the inadvertent omission of very young children, treatment by the collector of an occupied dwelling as unoccupied, and failure of the census collector to find a dwelling. Refusal to complete a census schedule is not a significant cause of under-enumeration.

The ancestry question

The 1986 Census question *"What is each person's ancestry?"* was open to a number of interpretations. For example, while some people may have had extensive knowledge of their ancestral origins, others may not have had the information necessary to go back beyond the ethnicity of their grandparents. In addition, a large number of Australian-born people whose forebears had lived in Australia for a number of generations, reported that their ancestry was Australian, while others in the same situation reported earlier Anglo-Celtic origins. Further, people with more than one ancestral origin had to choose whether to list their multiple ancestries or to record only the one they identified with most closely.

Because of these aspects, ancestry data are best viewed as an indication of people's perceptions of their ancestry. They do not measure current identification with any ethnic group. Bearing these factors in mind, the ancestry data derived from the 1986 Census are both valid and reliable. Evaluation of the data quality showed that, in most cases, ancestry response was highly consistent with responses for birthplace, parental birthplace and language spoken at home. The level of non-response (less than 7 per cent) was moderate and did not affect the information's accuracy. For further information see Census 86: Data Quality - Ancestry (Cat. No. 2603.0).

... how the data were processed

Eighty per cent of people reported a single ancestry and less than 13 per cent reported multiple ancestry (two or more ancestries). The ancestry responses (only the first two listed for those who reported multiple ancestries) were classified into 94 specific ancestry categories. Those ancestries not included in the list (less than 1 per cent of all responses) were allocated to a residual category. Similarly, people who did not answer the question or gave a non-specific response (8 per cent of the population) were also classified into separate categories.

Ancestry and birthplace groups examined

The ancestry groups examined in this publication were selected because they were the responses most frequently reported. The information presented for these groups is based primarily on single ancestry data (i.e. those in which the respondent reported only one ancestry). However, occasional reference is made to other forms of ancestry data (see Definitions).

The birthplaces groups examined in this publication were selected on the basis of frequency of reporting, and include the 16 largest birthplace groups recorded in the 1986 Census. To allow direct comparison with ancestry data, several smaller birthplace groups (e.g. Spain, France and Scandinavia) have also been included, as they rank within the 15 most frequently reported ancestries for one or more sub-groups of the population (i.e. migrants, first generation Australians, second (or later) generation Australians etc.). It should be noted, however, that the range of data available for individual birthplace and ancestry groups varies, and as a consequence some groups may be excluded from certain tables.

Definitions	Unless otherwise stated, the following definitions apply throughout the publication:
... ancestry combination	Two ancestries reported together, regardless of which response was listed first.
... England & Wales	Includes people who simply described their birthplace as the United Kingdom. The equivalent ancestry group is composed of those who reported English, Welsh, Breton, Celtic, Cornish or Manx ancestries.
... first generation Australians	People born in Australia with both parents born overseas.
... first or single ancestry response	The first response listed on the census form, regardless of whether or not a second response followed.
... Indian	The birthplace group also includes those born in Sri Lanka, while the equivalent ancestry group consists of those who reported Indian, Sinhalese, Tamil or Sikh ancestries.
... Middle East	Included as part of Asia, and called *Western Asia*. It excludes Egypt and Iran. See the note on classification of countries on page ii.
... migrants	All overseas born people residing in Australia.
... not stated	If no mention is made in a table, this group has been totally excluded from the data of that table.
... other Main English-speaking (MES) countries	People born in the United States, Canada and South Africa. The equivalent ancestry group is composed of people who reported American, Canadian or South African (but not Afrikaaner) ancestries.
... Scandinavia(n)	This birthplace (and ancestry) group consists of those who were born in (or reported ancestry to) Denmark, Finland, Norway or Sweden.
... second ancestry response	The second part of a multiple response.
... second (or later) generation Australians	People born in Australia with both parents born in Australia.
... South American	This ancestry group includes only those people who reported Argentinian, Brazilian or Chilean ancestries.
... Southern Europe	This birthplace (and ancestry) group consists of those people who were born in (or reported ancestry to) Albania, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Macedonia or Yugoslavia.
... Yugoslavian	This ancestry group includes those of Croatian, Serbian and Slovenian ancestries as well as Yugoslavian. The language group includes those people who spoke Croatian, Serbian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian and Yugoslavian (not elsewhere included).

Other sources of data

The ABS conducts an on-going series of household surveys on both labour force and social topics. Results are published regularly and are also available in unpublished form. These surveys provide scope for more detailed analyses of particular topics than can be obtained from census data. Examples are:

Labour Force Survey
Household Expenditure Survey
Income Distribution Survey
Child Care Survey

The ABS also publishes data obtained as administrative by-product from other government bodies. Examples of these are school statistics and birth, death and marriage statistics and annual estimates of population by country of birth by age and sex.

APPENDIX D

Inquiries

NEW SOUTH WALES

Information Services
3rd Floor, St Andrew's House
Sydney Square
Sydney NSW 2000
(Box 796, GPO Sydney 2001)
Phone (02) 268 4611
FAX (02) 268 4668

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Information Services
Commonwealth Centre
55 Currie Street
Adelaide SA 5000
(Box 2272, GPO Adelaide 5001)
Phone (08) 237 7100
FAX (08) 237 7566

VICTORIA

Information Services
Level 5, Rialto North Tower
525 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC. 3000
(Box 2796Y, GPO Melbourne 3001)
Phone (03) 615 7000
FAX (03) 615 7798

TASMANIA

Information Services
1st Floor, 175 Collins Street
Hobart TAS. 7000
(Box 66A, GPO Hobart 7001)
Phone (002) 20 5800
FAX (002) 20 5995

QUEENSLAND

Information Services
13th Floor, 313 Adelaide Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
(Box 9817, GPO Brisbane 4001)
Phone (07) 222 6351
FAX (07) 229 6042

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Information Services
6th Floor, MLC Building
81 Smith Street
Darwin NT 0800
(Box 3796, GPO Darwin 0801)
Phone (089) 81 3456
FAX (089) 81 1218

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Information Services
Level 1, Hyatt Centre
30 Terrace Road
East Perth WA 6004
(Box K881, GPO Perth 6001)
Phone (09) 323 5140
FAX (09) 221 2374

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Information Services
Unit 5, Cameron Offices
Chandler St
Belconnen ACT 2617
(Box 10, PO Belconnen, ACT 2616)
Phone (06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404