

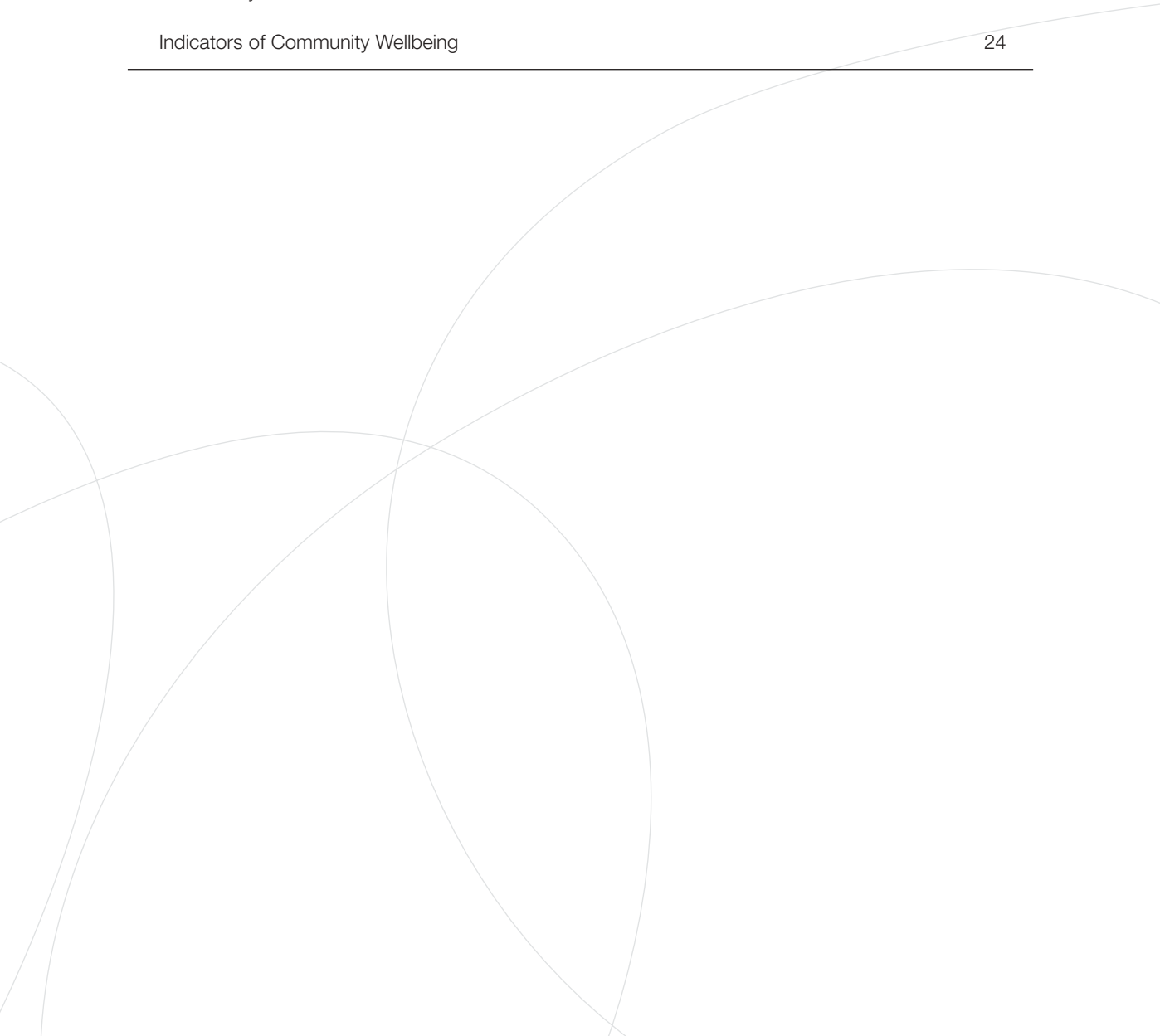
Whole of Government Report

Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs



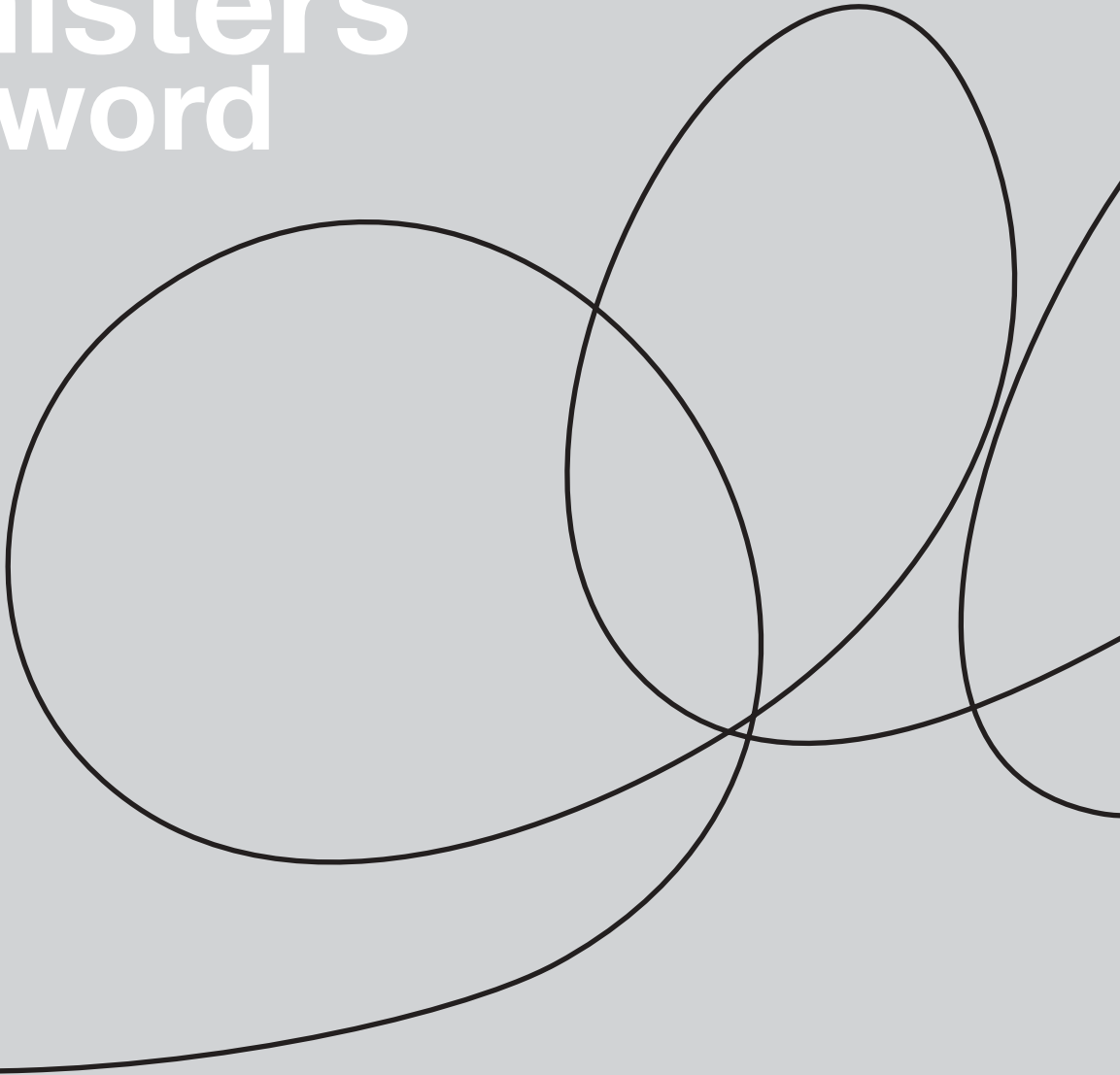
Contents

Ministers' Foreword	4
<hr/>	
Valuing Cultural Diversity	6
Valuing Diversity	8
Reducing Inequality	10
Encouraging Participation	12
Promoting the social, cultural and economic benefits of cultural diversity for all Victorians	14
<hr/>	
Understanding Victoria's Diversity	16
Community Profile	17
Indicators of Community Wellbeing	24
<hr/>	





Ministers' foreword



The *Victorian Government Achievements in Multicultural Affairs: 2002–03* report outlines recent government activities to improve opportunities and services for Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and future priorities in this area.

In the *Growing Victoria Together* statement, the Government set itself ambitious goals to improve the quality of life for all Victorians. The extent of diversity within the Victorian community is an important factor in realising these goals. It requires all sectors of government to be culturally responsive and to communicate effectively with client groups to eliminate barriers to obtaining government services.

The successive waves of migrants who came here to work, to be reunited with family, or to escape persecution have created in Victoria a rich multicultural community, an economic, social and cultural asset of great importance to our future wellbeing. The Victorian Government has already increased Victoria's share of skilled migrants to Australia from 18.7% in 1998-99 to 24.3% in 2003-04 primarily through the establishment of the Skilled Migration Unit.

We will spend an additional \$6 million over four years from 1 July 2003 to increase the number of skilled and business migrants settling in Victoria – particularly in regional areas. In partnership with local government, local businesses, education centres and others we will develop strategies to assist migrants to settle in regional areas where there are skills shortages.

The development of the *Multicultural Victoria Act* is an important priority for the Government. The Act will enshrine principles of multiculturalism in legislation and define the roles, functions and reporting requirements of government departments and agencies. It will consolidate and build on existing policy and legislative frameworks by acknowledging the social, cultural and economic contribution of multiculturalism to Victoria and to fulfil the Victorian Government's commitment to governing for, and listening to, *all* Victorians. A community consultation process will give all Victorians the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Act.

Departments have reported on their achievements in multicultural affairs within their respective Annual Reports. This report provides consolidated information on activities undertaken across government to support Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse community and to realise the benefits of our multicultural society. Future priorities are described through which the Victorian Government will continue to promote and support a multicultural Victoria.

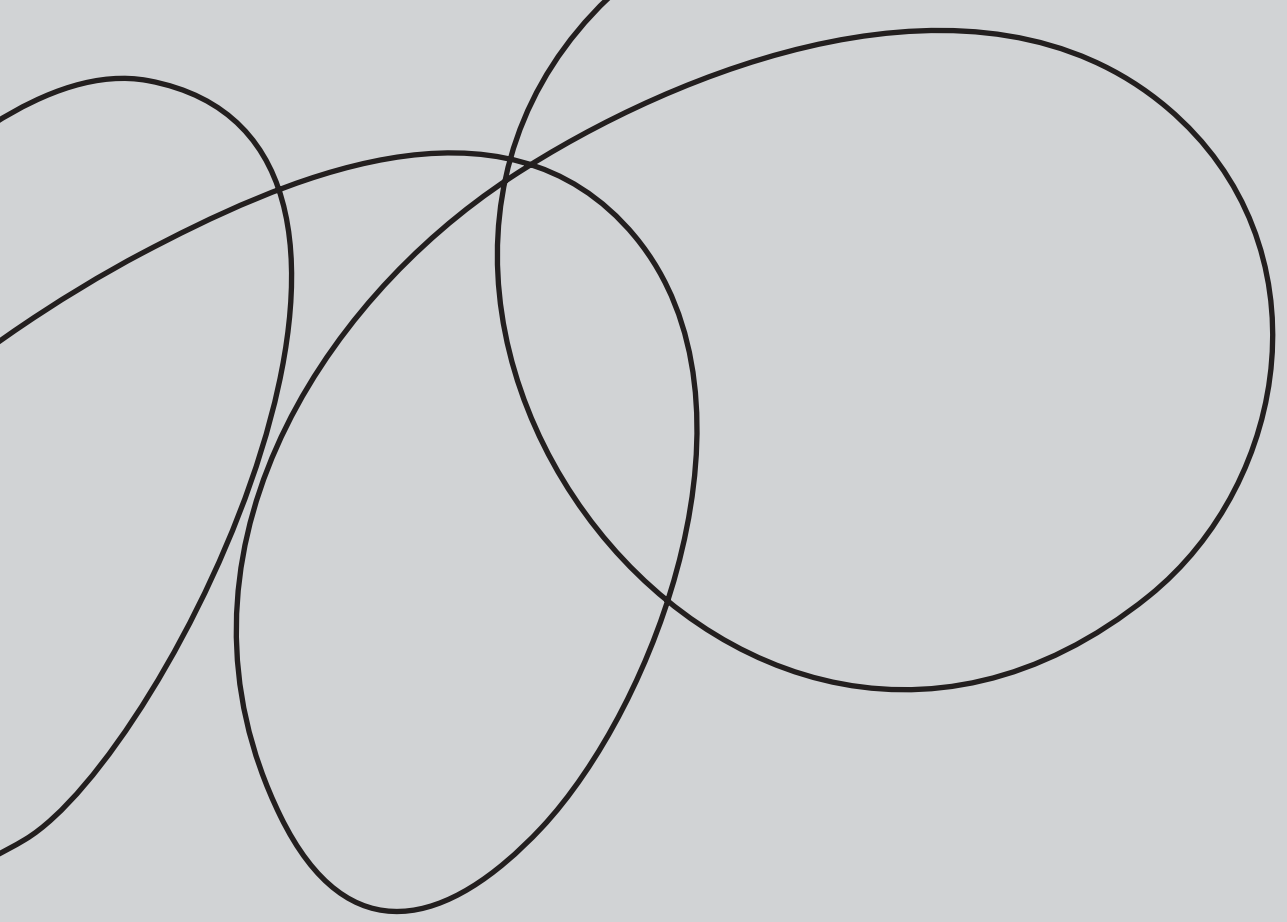


HON STEVE BRACKS MP
Premier of Victoria



HON JOHN PANDAZOPOULOS MP
Minister Assisting the Premier on
Multicultural Affairs





Valuing cultural diversity



The Government's approach to multicultural affairs is based on the belief that all Victorians have a responsibility to uphold common civic values, rights and obligations, including:

- Respect for institutional structures;
- Support of Australian democracy and its institutions;
- Respect for the law;
- Respect for, and tolerance of, others' beliefs and practices;
- Support for individual freedom of association;
- Prime loyalty to Australia's interests; and
- English as the national language.

The Government recognises that the diverse cultural backgrounds, languages and abilities of Victorians provide some of the State's greatest strengths.

To ensure all members of our community are treated with fairness and respect and can participate in the State's social and governmental institutions, the Victorian Government will promote the following principles:

Valuing diversity

- Fostering a community that recognises the values and benefits of a culturally rich and diverse society; and,
- Actively promoting respect and harmony by discouraging racism and negative stereotypes.

Reducing inequality

- Recognising the right of persons of diverse national, ethnic and religious backgrounds to practice, enjoy and share their own culture;
- Having in place systems and procedures that will enable all Victorians access to government services and programs free from undue impediment; and,
- Ensuring government policies and strategies are responsive to all Victorians.

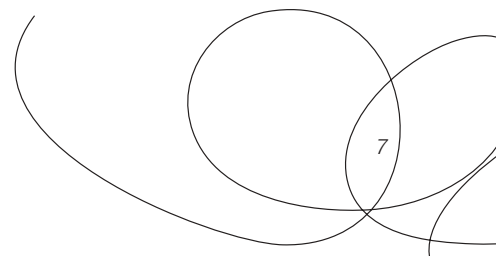
Encouraging participation

- Encouraging an inclusive society that provides opportunities for all people to fully participate in public and civic life;
- Using appropriate media and promotional channels to ensure government information reaches all Victorians; and,
- Identifying and addressing barriers to full participation.

Promoting the social, cultural and economic benefits of cultural diversity for all Victorians

- Promoting the benefits of a culturally and linguistically diverse society and the social, cultural and economic opportunities this provides to advance the well being of all Victorians; and,
- Promoting to the Victorian community the benefits gained from cultural and linguistic diversity.

This report highlights the Government's achievements during 2002-03 and outlines future priorities.



Valuing diversity

Migrants and refugees enrich and strengthen the Victorian community at every level including across business and politics, education and research, sports and the arts. They have helped to create in Victoria a harmonious and peaceful multicultural society, actively engaged with the rest of the world.

We will continue to promote respect for all members of our multicultural community.

Achievements

- ✓ Since enacting the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act* (2001) we have implemented a comprehensive community education campaign, including:
 - Incorporated information about the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act* into the on-line anti-discrimination training provided to Department of Education & Training staff;
 - Provided professional development programs on anti-racism education and multicultural perspectives for over 900 teachers;
 - Policies and training materials on racial and religious tolerance for use by sporting clubs and associations created by Football Victoria with Government funding and assistance; and,
 - The signing of a Community Accord by ethnic and religious community leaders agreeing to work together against racism.
- ✓ Completed one year of departmental reporting on multicultural achievements;
- ✓ Launched the *Valuing Cultural Diversity* policy outlining achievements for 2002 and future priorities for all nine government departments;
- ✓ Increased resources for the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) for community consultations and increased funding to ethnic community organisations, including the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria;
- ✓ Consulted with young people on the special challenges faced by culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) youth;
- ✓ Hosted community consultations in metropolitan and regional Victoria on issues of concern to CALD Victorians; and,
- ✓ Released a range of statistical publications describing Victoria's cultural and linguistic diversity.



Building on our achievements

To progress further, we need to deliver against the following priorities:

- Prepare a Bill for a *Multicultural Victoria Act*:
 - draft and disseminate a discussion paper and hold community consultations.
- Promote tolerance, respect and harmony, and discourage racism:
 - support community and religious leaders to jointly develop strategies to promote tolerance and discourage racism among ethnic communities.
- Maintain ethnic cultures and community languages:
 - strengthen the learning of languages other than English within the school curriculum; and,
 - support the teaching of more than 50 community languages through community-based, after-hours ethnic schools.
- Support ethnic communities:
 - provide community grants through government programs including the Community Support Fund's community building program and the VMC's community grants program; and,
 - increase the support and resources dedicated to CALD Victorians within community, health, legal and housing services.
- Consult with ethnic communities:
 - improve consultation between police and CALD Victorians through the Victoria Police Migrant Liaison Units in each police region; and,
 - encourage education and training institutions to work more closely with local communities.

Benefits to Victoria

The benefits to Victoria of a harmonious multicultural society can be seen in the contribution made by ethnic Victorians to the growth and prosperity of the State, and in the enriched quality of our lives and institutions.

Reducing inequality

The rights and obligations of citizenship apply equally to all, regardless of ethnic, religious or cultural background. This is fundamentally important to fairness in our community.

As the cultural origins of Victoria's migrant intake changes, our administrative and legal procedures must reflect and respond to the needs of new migrants. Most importantly, the range and delivery of government services must be relevant and accessible.

The Victorian Government will work to reduce inequality through:

- recognising the right of persons of diverse, ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds to practice and share their own culture; and,
- enabling all Victorians to access government services and programs without impediment.

Achievements

Supported through Legislation:

- ✓ Introduced the *Outworkers Improved Protection Act (2003)* to provide clothing industry outworkers, who are mostly migrant women, with the same basic rights as other employees.

Supported Interpreting and Translating Services:

- ✓ Provided interpreter training scholarships for newly emerging languages in the Victorian community;
- ✓ Funded interpreter awareness training programs in Victorian hospitals;
- ✓ Improved payments under the Victorian Public Service Language Allowance Program;
- ✓ Released whole-of-Government policies and guidelines on working with interpreters and translators;
- ✓ Established the online Health Translation Directory enabling access to over 9,000 translated health resources in 60 languages; and,

- ✓ Funded an Arabic paraprofessional interpreter training course at Goulburn Ovens TAFE.

Supported Employment Programs:

- ✓ Increased employment programs for CALD Victorians, targeting the most disadvantaged; and,
- ✓ Established an Employment Skills Centre to offer careers and employment guidance to CALD Victorians.

Supported English Language Programs:

- ✓ Maintained the proportion of primary and secondary school students receiving English as a Second Language (ESL) support and provided ESL professional development to teachers and multicultural education aides;
- ✓ Provided professional development for teachers and multicultural education aides; and
- ✓ Allocated \$24.5 million to 345 primary schools, 109 secondary schools and eight primary-secondary schools to provide ongoing support for ESL learners.

Supported Students:

- ✓ Supported students for whom English is a second language:
 - assisted newly-arrived students with intensive ESL support in English Language Schools and Centres and through an out-posting program conducted in mainstream schools; and
 - Strengthened the provision of English language programs in TAFE and ACE.
- ✓ Introduced outreach coordinators in metropolitan regions to support newly-arrived students in mainstream schools;
- ✓ Developed a video, support materials and professional development modules to support ESL learners who have experienced disrupted schooling;
- ✓ Allocated 238 Equivalent Full Time (EFT) multicultural education aides to schools;



- ✓ Funded after hours ethnic schools where 31,000 students are learning approximately 50 languages; and,
- ✓ Supported the teaching of community languages in schools (18 languages were taught in government primary schools, 16 in government secondary schools and 44 through the Victorian School of Languages).

Supported through Information:

- ✓ Improved awareness of rights and promoted equal opportunity:
 - provided translated information to landlords, property managers and recently arrived migrants and refugees on their rights and responsibilities in the private rental market;
 - established a team of bilingual information officers to deliver consumer information via ethnic media, ethnic festivals and other public forums;
 - informed newly-arrived migrants of their consumer rights and responsibilities through adult English classes; and,
 - provided information on finding a home in Victoria to new arrivals in 15 languages.
- ✓ Produced a multilingual guide in 14 languages entitled *How to call an ambulance in an emergency* and provided 'sensitivity to cultural diversity' training for ambulance paramedics and Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance paramedics;
- ✓ Supported CALD farmers and horticulturalists during the drought;
- ✓ Raised awareness of drug prevention strategies within Vietnamese and Arabic communities;
- ✓ Provided information in different languages on problem gambling services; and,
- ✓ Released the 2002-03 Victorian Multicultural Resources Directory.

Support through Direct Care:

- ✓ Funded 59 ethno-specific and multicultural agencies to provide Home and Community Care services for people from CALD communities; and,

- ✓ Appointed 16 mediators with Arabic community backgrounds within the Justice system.

Consultation and Reporting:

- ✓ Established a range of consultative and advisory processes to strengthen the advice obtained from ethnic communities including:
 - Multicultural Liaison Units within each police region; and,
 - The Ministerial Advisory Council for Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (MACCALD) to advise Human Services Ministers.
- ✓ Consulted on departments' reports and forward plans for programs, services and strategies for responding to cultural diversity; and,
- ✓ Held workshops with CALD communities on illegal shellfish collection.

Building on our achievements

We will continue to improve:

- accessibility and quality of language services;
- hospital services to CALD Victorians;
- multilingual signage throughout government;
- access to justice services for CALD Victorians; and,
- departmental planning and policy development on multicultural issues.

Benefits to Victoria

These strategies and activities provide support for migrants to better understand and utilise available health, education, housing, employment and justice services. By creating access to these services we are helping migrants to better establish themselves and to reach their potential within the community.

Encouraging participation

The Victorian Government actively encourages the full and equal participation of all Victorians in the decision-making of government.

We encourage participation by:

- Supporting all Victorians to fully participate in public and civic life;
- Using appropriate media channels to ensure government information reaches all Victorians; and,
- Identifying and addressing barriers to full participation.

Achievements

- ✓ Encouraged CALD communities and individuals to participate in community and government institutions:
 - increased the representation of people from CALD backgrounds on statutory boards and advisory councils and committees;
 - held recruitment drives to increase ethnic representation in the police, emergency services and nursing professions; and,
 - expanded community consultation programs across the metropolitan, regional and rural areas.

- ✓ Improved communication to ethnic communities:
 - provided affordable internet access and training for CALD communities through *Skills.net* and *My Connected Community*; and,
 - used the ethnic media to provide information on a wide range of government initiatives.
- ✓ Reduced language barriers:
 - enabled people to take Boat Operator Licence and Driving Licence Tests in languages other than English; and,
 - increased availability of multilingual information and advice for people interested in buying businesses, buying franchises or signing retail leases.
- ✓ Piloted three language-specific neighbourhood watch programs; and,
- ✓ Increased funding for multicultural arts activities.

Building on our achievements

To further promote participation we need to:

- Increase the diversity of representation on government advisory bodies, decision-making boards, institutions and local government:
 - actively seek and encourage nominations and applications from across the community.
- Develop a comprehensive communications strategy to ensure government information reaches all Victorians:
 - improve the delivery of translated government information; and,
 - continue the Government's *Multicultural Communications Policy* for communication through the ethnic media.
- Provide public transport customer service charters in key community languages; and,
- Provide additional support for participation by new and emerging communities and women's organisations through the Community Support Fund and the VMC.

Benefits to Victoria

A healthy democracy includes the voices of all members of society in consultation and decision making. Representation of diverse views and recognition of the range of needs within society is important to good governance and social cohesion. These strategies will help more CALD Victorians to have a say on issues that are important to them. Full participation will lead to all Victorians having a wider range of social, recreational and educational opportunities available to them.



Promoting the social, cultural and economic benefits of cultural diversity for all Victorians

Tourism, sport, business investment, arts and education all benefit economically from the richness of Victoria's cultural diversity. In the small business sector alone, approximately 50 per cent of enterprises are operated by first or second generation Australians.

Diversity brings many benefits to Victoria including:

- Overseas techniques and know-how;
- Knowledge of overseas social and business cultures to assist local importers and exporters;
- Established relationships with potential trading partners overseas;
- Bilingual skills that help the export and tourism industries;
- Inbuilt support to the Victorian tourism industry; and,
- New ideas and cultural practices.

Achievements

- ✓ Increased Victoria's share of skilled migrants to Australia from 18.7% in 1998-99 to 24.3% in 2003-04 primarily through the establishment of the Skilled Migration Unit;
- ✓ Increased skilled migration in support of local industries, with particular emphasis on regional areas;
- ✓ Increased funding for the promotion and hosting of multicultural arts, festivals and events in metropolitan and regional areas;
- ✓ Launched the multicultural component of the *Under New Management* program through the Ethnic Enterprise Advisory Council;
- ✓ Supported international cultural partnerships and exchanges;

- ✓ Celebrated and supported Cultural Diversity Week;
- ✓ Staged the Multicultural Media Expo, attracting 35 ethnic media groups and 650 Victorian Government communications and management personnel;
- ✓ Released a range of statistical publications highlighting Victoria's cultural and linguistic diversity; and,
- ✓ Supported CALD primary producers in sustainable business practices.

Building on our achievements

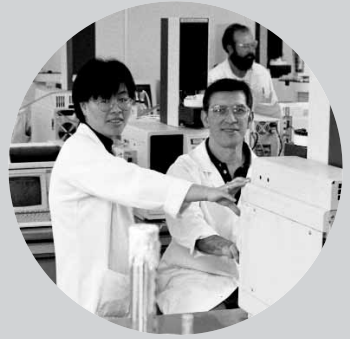
To maximise the benefits of our cultural diversity, we need to:

- Promote the benefits of diversity in the workplace:
 - continue to recruit more Victorians of CALD backgrounds within the police, emergency services and nursing professions.
- Promote Victoria's diversity at the 2006 Commonwealth Games;
- Provide additional support for small businesses to seek export opportunities through the Ethnic Enterprise Advisory Council;
- Promote Victoria as a priority destination for tourists from within Australia and overseas:
 - continue to support events with a strong multicultural focus through Tourism Victoria; and,
 - run overseas and interstate marketing campaigns highlighting Victoria's cultural diversity.

- Develop a Population Policy to ensure Victoria's economic future:
 - increase Victoria's population through a greater share of Australia's migrant intake, for example, through greater migration to rural areas to meet identified skills needs.
- Improve the effectiveness of the teaching of languages other than English (LOTE) in Victorian schools;
- Continue to promote appreciation of other cultures through the Immigration Museum; and,
- Promote multicultural arts events:
 - increase support and funding of multicultural arts events and organisations through Arts Victoria and the VMC's festivals and events grants program; and,
 - maintain recognition of cultural diversity as a key aspect of arts policy development.

Benefits to Victoria

As population growth in Victoria slows, it is essential that we maintain and encourage a welcoming environment for new migrants who bring with them their skills and knowledge, their families, and their aspirations for the future. We will continue to accept migrants on humanitarian grounds, recognising that the contribution we make to their settlement needs strengthens us as a compassionate and caring society; and in the knowledge that they will contribute to our current and future prosperity and community wellbeing.



Understanding Victoria's diversity



Community profile

Victoria is one of the most diverse places in the world, with a population that speaks over 180 languages and dialects from more than 200 different countries of origin. Changes in migration patterns over recent years are creating new challenges. Our sources of migration have expanded from the United Kingdom and a small number of southern European countries to now include countries in Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East.

In 2001, Victoria's population of 4.6 million included 1,080,201 people born in a country other than Australia.

Table 1: Changes in population of major overseas-born communities (1996 to 2001)

1996 Birthplace	2001 Persons	% Persons	change
1 England	169,274	162,851	-3.8
2 Italy	98,231	90,039	-8.3
3 Greece	61,683	57,590	-6.6
4 Viet Nam	55,141	56,540	2.5
5 New Zealand	42,489	55,227	30.0
6 China	28,101	36,813	31.0
7 Scotland	34,236	31,609	-7.7
8 India	24,170	30,629	26.7
9 Germany	29,686	28,679	-3.4
10 Sri Lanka	23,458	26,550	13.2
Australia-born	3,168,848	3,277,042	3.4
Not Stated	145,192	254,699	75.4
Victoria *	4,354,117	4,611,942	5.9

Extracted from: VOMA (2002) *2001 Census Statistics No.1--2 Victoria: Major Geographical Divisions—Birthplace, Language, Age, Religion and Ancestry*, Table 1–3, p.6. Population counted at Place of Enumeration.
*Victorian total excludes overseas visitors and includes country of birth 'not stated'.

The support requirements of our more established migrant communities, whose first generations are ageing, are different to those of newer, emerging migrant communities, who have greater need for information and assistance to education, employment and accommodation.

The following table shows some of the fastest growing groups in Victoria, with the Chinese, New Zealand and Indian communities among those with large percentage increases as well as large increases in absolute numbers.

Table 2: Fastest growing overseas-born groups in Victoria (1996 to 2001)

Birthplace	1996 Population	2001 Population	% increase
1 Yugoslavia, Fed. Rep.*	4,136	19,602	373.9
2 Bosnia & Herzegovina	4,762	8,575	80.1
3 South Africa	11,640	15,620	34.2
4 China	28,101	36,813	31.0
5 New Zealand	42,489	55,227	30.0
6 India	24,170	30,629	26.7
7 Sri Lanka	23,458	26,550	13.2
8 Philippines	20,101	22,502	11.9
9 Cambodia	8,256	8,976	8.7
10 United States of America	10,332	11,215	8.5

Extracted from: VOMA (2002) *2001 Census Statistics No.1-2 Victoria: Major Geographical Divisions – Birthplace, Language, Age, Religion and Ancestry*, Table 1-3, p.6. Population counted at Place of Enumeration. *The large increase for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is due to the removal of the 1996 birthplace category of 'Yugoslavia not further defined' from the 2001 Census. As a result, many in this former birthplace category have been re-classified in the 2001 Census under the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. **Victorian total excludes overseas visitors and includes country of birth 'not stated'.

Language

The 2001 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census indicated that 20 per cent of the Victorian population – or 920,824 persons – speaks a language other than English at home. The following table shows a 6.5 per cent increase from 1996 to 2001 in the number of Victorians speaking a language other than English at home.

Table 3: Changes in number of people speaking languages other than English at home (1996 to 2001)

Language other than English spoken at home (selected sample)	1996 Persons	2001 Persons	% change 1996 – 2001
1. Italian	159,001	149,185	-6.2
2. Greek	124,333	122,351	-1.6
3. Vietnamese	53,959	63,816	18.3
4. Cantonese	53,810	60,583	12.6
5. Arabic (incl. Lebanese)	39,436	47,182	19.6
6. Mandarin	25,602	38,880	51.9
7. Macedonian	32,949	32,632	-1.0
8. Turkish	25,796	28,441	10.3
9. Croatian	25,257	25,555	1.2
10. Spanish	22,612	22,874	1.2
Total *	853,953	909,847	6.5

Extracted from: VOMA (2002) *2001 Census Statistics No. 1–2 Victoria: Major Geographical Divisions— Birthplace, Language, Age, Religion and Ancestry*, Table 1–4, p.8. Population counted at Place of Enumeration
 *Includes 'adequately described' and 'non-verbal so described'. **Victorian total excludes overseas visitors.

Italian and Greek remain the most commonly spoken languages other than English in Victorian homes, indicating strong language retention by second and third generations. However, the total population speaking Italian and Greek has declined slightly between 1996 and 2001. There have been large increases in the number of people speaking Mandarin, Vietnamese, Arabic (including Lebanese) and Cantonese over this five year period.

The number of people who assessed themselves as having low English proficiency in 2001 was 178,084 (3.86 per cent of the total Victorian population).

Religious affiliation

At the 2001 Census, 72.8 per cent of the Victorian population indicated that they followed a religion, with 116 different religions identified. 17.3 per cent of the Victorian population had no religion; this was the second highest response.

Table 4: Increase in religious affiliation (1996 to 2001)

Religion	1996 Persons	2001 Persons	% of population
1 Western Catholic	1,262,077	1,304,543	28.3
2 Anglican	716,356	705,110	15.3
3 Uniting Church	319,901	296,773	6.4
4 Greek Orthodox	156,108	158,882	3.4
5 Presbyterian	168,718	152,152	3.3
6 Buddhism	62,784	111,498	2.4
7 Islam	67,047	92,742	2.0
8 Christian, not further defined	39,886	67,255	1.5
9 Baptist	63,285	66,421	1.4
10 Lutheran	43,099	41,531	0.9

Extracted from: VOMA (2002) *2001 Census Statistics No.1-2 Victoria: Major Geographical Divisions—Birthplace, Language, Age, Religion and Ancestry*, Table 1-5, p.10. Population counted at Place of Enumeration.*Victorian total excludes overseas visitors and includes country of birth 'not stated'.



Place of residence

Metropolitan and Rural

Most Victorian people born in a country other than Australia live in metropolitan Melbourne (88.2 per cent), as do most people who speak a language other than English at home (93.6 per cent).

Table 5: Place of residence based on birthplace

Place of usual residence	Born in Australia		Born Overseas	
	Persons	% of total Australian-born Victorians	Persons	% of total Overseas-born Victorians
Metropolitan Melbourne	2,217,186	67	955,080	88.2
Regional Victoria	1,097,544	33	128,215	11.8
Total	3,314,730	100	1,083,295	100

Extracted from: VOMA (2002) *2001 Census Statistics No. 1–2 Victoria: Major Geographical Divisions—Birthplace, Language, Age, Religion and Ancestry*, Tables 2–1, 2–2, pp. 18–19. Population counted at Place of Usual Residence.

Table 6: Place of residence based on language spoken at home

Place of usual residence	Speaks English at home		Speaks a language other than English	
	Persons	As %	Persons	As %
Metropolitan Melbourne	2,343,076	67	854,218	93.6
Regional Victoria	1,174,579	33	58,793	6.4
Total	3,517,655	100	913,011	100

Extracted from: VOMA (2002) *2001 Census Statistics No. 1–2 Victoria: Major Geographical Divisions—Birthplace, Language, Age, Religion and Ancestry*, Tables 2–1, 2–2, pp. 18–19. Population counted at Place of Usual Residence.

Metropolitan Local Government Areas

As Table 7 shows, Local Government Areas (LGAs) with the highest proportions of persons born in countries other than Australia were Greater Dandenong, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melbourne and Monash.

Table 7: Overseas-born Victorians as percentage of metropolitan LGAs (1996 to 2001)

Local Government Area	1996	2001	% change
1 Greater Dandenong	50.0	51.1	1.1
2 Brimbank	44.0	43.1	-0.9
3 Maribyrnong	43.9	39.8	-4.1
4 Melbourne	35.8	38.0	2.2
5 Monash	34.5	36.1	1.6
6 Whittlesea	35.2	33.6	-1.6
7 Moreland	35.6	33.5	-2.1
8 Manningham	32.4	33.4	1.0
9 Darebin	34.6	33.3	-1.3
10 Glen Eira	32.1	31.5	-0.6

Source of data: *The People of Victoria—Statistics from the 2001 Census*

Table 8: Victorians who speak a language other than English at home as percentage of metropolitan LGAs (1996 to 2001)

Local Government Area	1996	2001	% change
1 Brimbank (C)	54.1	53.7	-0.4
2 Greater Dandenong (C)	47.9	52.0	4.1
3 Whittlesea (C)	48.6	45.7	-2.9
4 Maribyrnong (C)	47.6	44.1	-3.5
5 Moreland (C)	44.7	41.7	-3.0
6 Darebin (C)	43.2	41.1	-2.1
7 Manningham (C)	32.7	34.9	2.2
8 Hume (C)	33.1	34.5	1.3
9 Monash (C)	31.2	33.6	2.4
10 Moonee Valley (C)	33.1	30.8	-2.3

Extracted from: VOMA (2002) *2001 Census Statistics*

Those LGA's with a high proportion of persons speaking a language other than English at home were Brimbank, Greater Dandenong, Whittlesea, Maribyrnong and Darebin.

Regional Local Government Areas

Table 9: Regional areas with high proportions of overseas-born include the Local Government Areas of:

• Greater Geelong	16.3%
• La Trobe	14.2%
• Alpine	14.1%
• Greater Shepparton	10.2%
• Mildura	9.1%

Table 10: Regional areas with high proportions of people speaking a language other than English at home are:

• Greater Geelong	9.7%
• Greater Shepparton	9.5%
• Alpine	8.9%
• Mildura	8.4%
• La Trobe	6.8%



Indicators of community wellbeing

Statistical and survey information can provide indications of community wellbeing. The following indicators on health, education, employment and justice show that overall, there appears to be little significant difference in wellbeing between Victoria's culturally and linguistically diverse population and the Victorian population as a whole. However, in some cases significant differences may exist when figures are disaggregated for specific subgroups.

There are also significant differences in income and employment between English-speaking people and people who speak languages other than English.

Health

The Victorian Population Health Survey collects a wide range of information on the health of the adult population and the determinants of health. It includes questions on smoking and nutrition, and medical conditions, such as diabetes and asthma.

Self-reported Health

Self-rated health assessments are a powerful predictor of future health care use and mortality. Almost half of the Australian-born Victorian population reported their overall health as excellent or very good (47.5 per cent), while 2.8 per cent rated their health as poor.

In comparison, 46 per cent of those born overseas rated their health as excellent or very good and 4 per cent rated their health as poor. These differences are not statistically significant.

Mental Health

The Kessler 10 psychological distress measure is a set of ten questions designed to categorise a person's level of psychological distress over a four-week period. It determines anxiety, depression and worry, rather than major mental illnesses.

Those born overseas seem to have similar rates of psychological distress as those born in Australia: 2.7 per cent of Australian-born Victorians were considered to have high levels of psychological distress in comparison to 2.9 per cent of those born overseas.

Networks and Volunteering

In 2001, the Victorian Population Health Survey included questions on social networks and their benefits. In general, those with stronger social networks had higher levels of self-assessed health and lower levels of psychological distress. In an emergency, strong social networks mean people have somewhere to seek help and support.

The survey asked two important questions:

- Do you feel there are opportunities to have a real say on issues that are important to you?
- Could one of your relatives or friends care for you or your child in an emergency?

For the first question, 42.7 per cent of those born overseas felt they definitely have opportunities to have a real say on important issues, compared with 38.2 per cent of those born in Australia. 24.3 per cent of those born overseas felt they have no opportunity or limited opportunity, compared with 27 per cent of the Australia-born population.

When asked whether a relative or friend could care for them or their child in an emergency, 7.1 per cent of those born overseas felt they would *not* be able to find someone to help compared with 4.6 per cent of those born in Australia.

This is supportive of the research undertaken on migration and settlement which has shown that dislocation of networks can occur with migration.

Volunteering

ABS surveys of volunteering indicate that those born overseas have lower rates of volunteering than the Australian-born population, with 23.6 per cent of those born overseas volunteering in the last 12 months compared with 36.9 per cent of the Australian-born population.



Education

The table below shows that persons from homes where the main language spoken at home is not English have a slightly higher education completion rate (75.1% compared to 73.3%). Persons from a home where the main language spoken at home was English were slightly more likely to have completed a Level II certificate or greater (7.4% compared 4.9%).

Persons aged 18-24 who have completed Year 12 or equivalent

Main Language spoken at home	Completed Year 12 (n)	Completed AQF2 or greater (n)	Completed Total (n)	Completed Year 12 (%)	Completed AQF2 or greater (%)	Completed Total (%)
English	212178	23791	321962	65.9%	7.4%	73.3%
Other than English	66890	4644	95193	70.3%	4.9%	75.1%

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing 2001, customised table

Further analysis of this information by country of birth shows that the pattern above is not uniform across different groups born outside of Australia. Those individuals where English is not the main language spoken at home and who are born in Southern and Central Asia had the highest year 12 completion rate (88.2%), while persons born in North Africa and the Middle East had the lowest year 12 completion rate (61.1%)

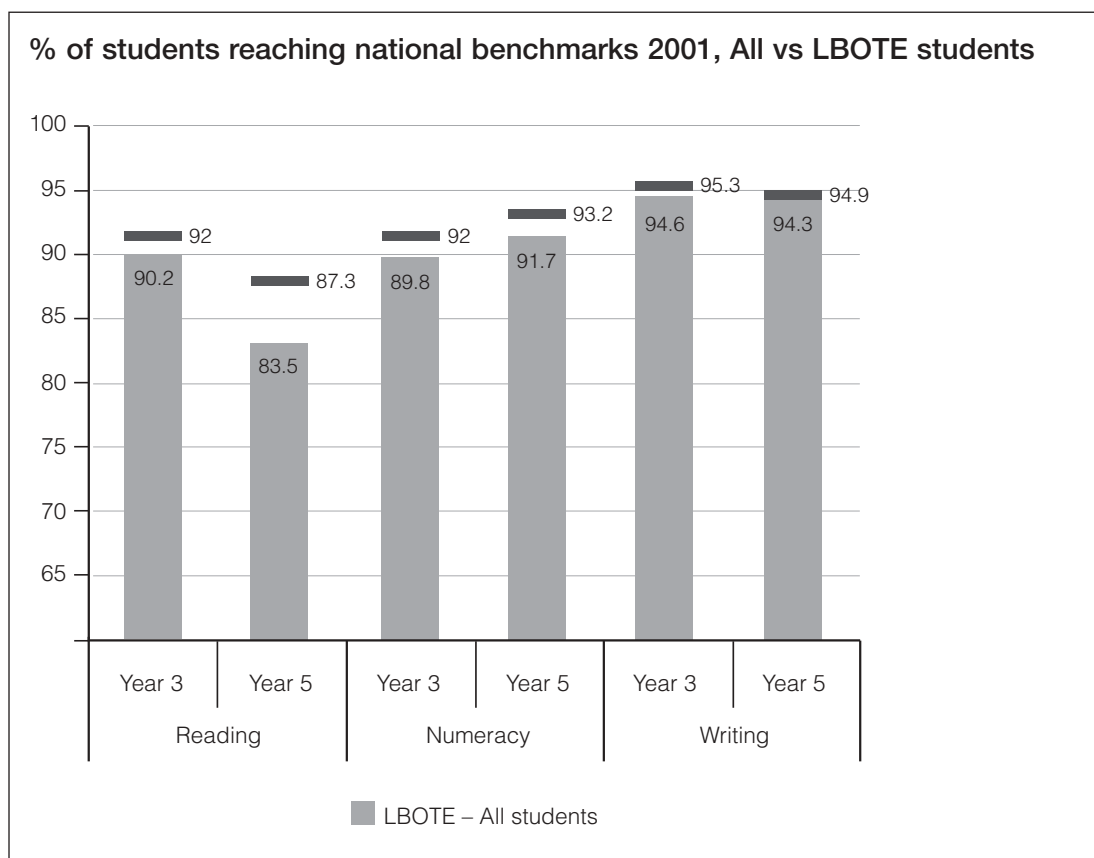
Persons aged 18-24 who completed Year 12 or equivalent (AQF2>) whose main language spoken at home is not English by Country of Birth

Birthplace	Completed Year 12 (n)	Completed AQF2 or greater (n)	Completed Total (n)	Completed Year 12 (%)	Completed AQF2 or greater (%)	Completed Total (%)
Americas	1450	72	1936	74.9%	3.7%	78.6%
Australia	26551	2350	38411	69.1%	6.1%	75.2%
North Africa and the Middle East	2250	126	3890	57.8%	3.2%	61.1%
North West Europe	1179	69	1458	80.9%	4.7%	85.6%
North-East Asia	6694	369	10001	66.9%	3.7%	70.6%
Not Stated	1608	118	2450	65.6%	4.8%	70.4%
Other Oceania & Antarctica	1059	54	1624	65.2%	3.3%	68.5%
South-East Asia	15847	851	21637	73.2%	3.9%	77.2%
Southern and Central Asia	4420	203	5243	84.3%	3.9%	88.2%
Southern and Eastern Europe	4661	342	6799	68.6%	5.0%	73.6%
Sub-Saharan Africa	1171	90	1744	67.1%	5.2%	72.3%
Total	66890	4644	95193	70.3%	4.9%	75.1%

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing 2001, customised table



By 2005, the percentage of Victorian students above national benchmarks will be at or above the national average for reading, writing and numeracy. 2001 results recently released by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) show that (allowing for measurement error) Victoria was at or above the national average for each of the strands. These results are also available for students who have a language background other than English. The graph below shows those results for Year 3 and 5 LBOTE students for reading and numeracy were slightly below that recorded for all students. However, this could be accounted for by measurement error.



Source: Data from 2001 National Report on Schooling in Australia, Preliminary Paper – Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs 2003

Employment and income

In the areas of income and employment there are large differences between the total Victorian population and those from CALD backgrounds. In general, people from CALD backgrounds, particularly those with low English proficiency, appear to have lower rates of income, employment and labour force participation.

Income

The 2001 ABS Census showed that, in general, Victorians who speak a language other than English at home have lower weekly earnings:

- 52 per cent of those who speak a language other than English at home earned \$300 per week or less;
- 39.9 per cent of those who speak English at home earned \$300 per week or less;
- 7.1 per cent of those who speak a language other than English at home reported earning \$1,000 per week or more;
- 12.9 per cent of those who speak English at home reported earning \$1,000 per week or more.

Labour Force Participation and Employment

Those who speak a language other than English at home have higher rates of unemployment than those who speak English at home, with unemployment rates rising as proficiency in English falls.

Industry of Employment

The industries with the largest proportions of people who speak a language other than English at home are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manufacturing• Communications• Transport and storage• Wholesale and retail	<p>20.9*</p> <p>17.5</p> <p>16.0</p> <p>15.3</p>
<p>As percentage of total industry workforce</p>	

The industry with the lowest proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home is the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Mining industry (6.8 per cent).

The 2001 Victorian Public Sector (VPS) Survey found that 20.2 per cent of VPS staff was born in a country other than Australia and 15 per cent speaks a language other than English at home.

Justice

Imprisonment

Overall, people born in a country other than Australia have a slightly higher rate of imprisonment than those born in Australia, according to ABS Statistics on Prisoners in Australia. However, such comparative rates vary when broken down by country of birth.

At 30 June 2002, 24.3 per cent of Victoria's prison population was born in a country other than Australia, compared with 23.4 per cent of the general Victorian population.

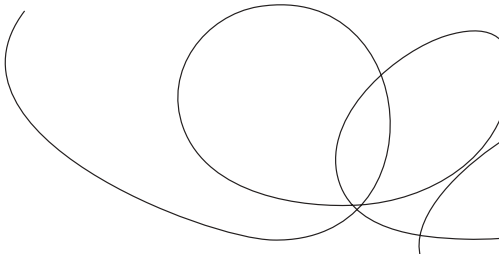
Perceived Safety

Those born overseas are likely to feel slightly less safe than Australian-born members of the population, based on the ABS Crime and Safety Survey.

For those born in a country other than Australia, 76.1 per cent felt safe or very safe when home alone during the day, compared with 81 per cent of those born in Australia. At night 70.5 per cent of Australian-born people felt safe or very safe at home compared with 65.3 per cent for those born in a country other than Australia.



Notes



Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs



*Department for
Victorian Communities*