FACT SHEET NUMBER A–8

THE SRI LANKA-BORN COMMUNITY IN VICTORIA: 2011 CENSUS

At the 2011 Census, there were 43,993 Sri Lanka-born persons in Victoria (50.9% of Australia's total), increasing by 39.7% (12,509) from 31,484 persons in 2006. The Sri Lanka-born were distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, with concentrations in the local government areas of Casey (17.2%); Greater Dandenong (13.1%); Monash (13.0%); Knox (6.0%); and Hume (5.3%). Almost one-third 31.8% of the Sri Lanka-born in Victoria had arrived in Australian prior to 1991; 20.2% had arrived between 1991 and 2000; and 45.2% had arrived between 2001 and 2011.

The Sri Lanka-born community reflected a balanced age profile:18.3% were aged 25 years and below; 39.9% were aged 26-44 years; 30.5% were aged 45-64 years; and 11.3% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 40 years, compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population. The gender ratio was 105 males to 100 females, compared to 98 males to 100 females for total Victoria.

Two-fifths (41.6%) of the Sri Lanka-born followed Buddhism; 26.9% were Western Catholic; 11.4% were Hindu; 5.9% were Anglican; 3.0% followed Islam; 2.1% had no religion. Almost three-quarters (71.0%) spoke a language other than English. Three-fifths (61.7%) held Australian Citizenship, compared to 63.1% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria. Almost one-quarter (23.6%) of the Sri Lanka-born aged 15 years and over received a weekly personal income of less than $400; 12.0% received no income.

Demographic Background

Persons born in Sri Lanka in Victoria and Australia: 2011, 2006 and 2001 Census

	2011 Census		2006 Census		2001 Census		Change 2006-2011		Change 2001-2006	
Location	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	% change
Metropolitan Melbourne[a]	42,601	49.3	30,608	49.2	25,978	48.6	11,993	39.2	4,630	17.8
Rest of Victoria[b]	1,392	1.6	876	1.4	676	1.3	516	58.9	200	29.6
Total Victoria	43,993	50.9	31,484	50.6	26,654	49.9	12,509	39.7	4,830	18.1
Total Australia	86,414	100.0	62,258	100.0	53,461	100.0	24,156	38.8	8,797	16.5

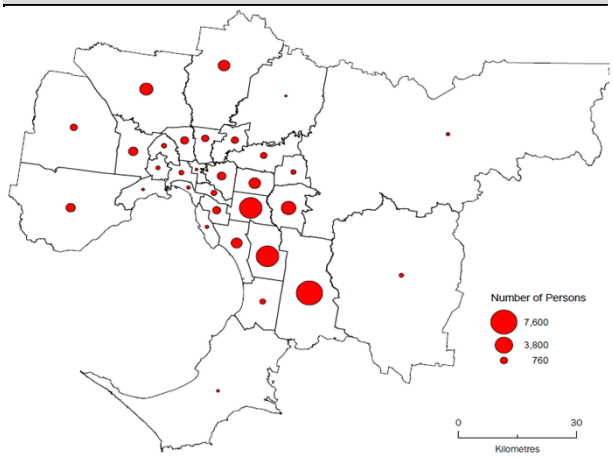
[a] Included "Undefined Melbourne" in 2001.

[b] Includes 'No Usual Address, Victoria'.

Distribution of Sri Lanka-born, Top 5 Local Government Areas: 2011, 2006

	2011 Census		2006 Census		Rank in 2006
Local Government Area	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Casey	7,552	17.2	4,849	15.4	1
Greater Dandenong	5,781	13.1	3,831	12.2	3
Monash	5,712	13.0	4,337	13.8	2
Knox	2,642	6.0	1,989	6.3	4
Hume	2,323	5.3	1,500	4.8	6
Rest of LGAs, Metro Melb	18,590	42.3	14,104	44.8	
Rest of LGAs, Reg. Vic	1,392	3.2	869	2.8	
Total Victoria	43,992	100.0	31,479	100.0	

Distribution of Sri Lanka-Born in Melbourne, 2011



Year of Arrival of Sri Lanka-born: 2011

	Sri Lanka-born		Total OSB, Vic[a]	
Year of Arrival[b]	Persons	%	Persons	%
Before 1991	14,004	31.8	682,720	48.6
1991 - 1995	4,620	10.5	89,119	6.3
1996 - 2000	4,246	9.7	104,896	7.5
2001 - 2005	5,882	13.4	151,488	10.8
2006 - 2011	13,985	31.8	316,244	22.5
Not stated	1,253	2.8	60,867	4.3
Total	43,990	100.0	1,405,334	100.0

[a] OSB stands for Overseas-born.

[b] Records the year of arrival in Australia for people born overseas who intend staying in Australia for at least one year.

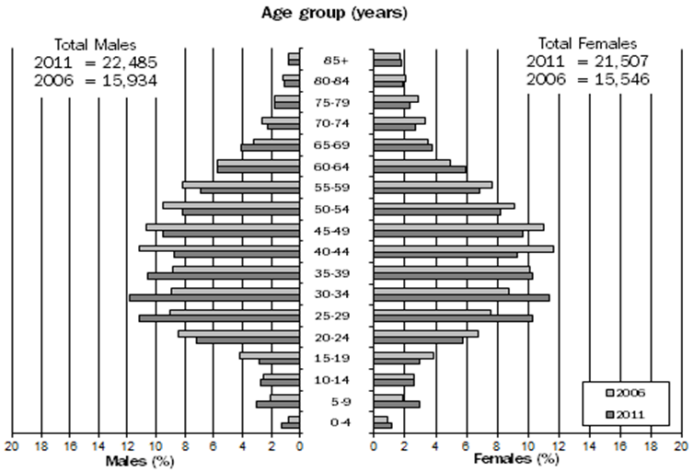
Compiled by Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship
Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria, www.multicultural.vic.gov.au

First Edition - May 2013

Age Distribution of Sri Lanka-born: 2011, 2006

Age group (years)	2011 Census Persons	2011 Census %	2006 Census Persons	2006 Census %	2006-2011 % change
0-4	536	1.2	260	0.8	106.2
5-11	1,803	4.1	918	2.9	96.4
12-18	1,651	3.8	1,427	4.5	15.7
19-25	4,064	9.2	3,235	10.3	25.6
26-44	17,553	39.9	11,505	36.5	52.6
45-54	7,818	17.8	6,341	20.1	23.3
55-64	5,603	12.7	4,170	13.2	34.4
65-74	2,852	6.5	1,990	6.3	43.3
75+	2,113	4.8	1,634	5.2	29.3
Total	43,993	100.0	31,480	100.0	39.7
Sex Ratio	*105*		*males per 100 females*		
Median Age	*40*		*42*		

Age and Gender Distribution of Sri Lanka-Born, 2011



Top 5 Religions of Sri Lanka-born: 2011, 2006

Religion	2011 Census Persons	2011 Census %	2006 Census Persons	2006 Census %	2006-2011 % change
Buddhism	18,296	41.6	10,603	33.7	72.6
Western Catholic	11,851	26.9	9,755	31.0	21.5
Hinduism	4,997	11.4	3,747	11.9	33.4
Anglican Church	2,600	5.9	2,569	8.2	1.2
Islam	1,323	3.0	696	2.2	90.1
Other religions	3,550	8.1	3,079	9.8	15.3
No religion	924	2.1	563	1.8	64.1
Not stated[(a)]	451	1.0	468	1.5	-3.6
Total	43,992	100.0	31,480	100.0	39.7

[(a)] Includes 'Religious Belief, not further defined' and 'Not Defined'.

Proficiency in English of Sri Lanka-born: 2011, 2006

Proficiency in English	2011 Census Persons	2011 Census %	2006 Census Persons	2006 Census %	2006-2011 % change
Speaks English only	12,318	28.0	11,661	37.0	5.6
Speaks other language and speaks English					
Very well	19,338	44.0	12,534	39.8	54.3
Well	10,159	23.1	5,865	18.6	73.2
Not well	1,547	3.5	996	3.2	55.3
Not at all	214	0.5	127	0.4	68.5
Not stated[(a)]	416	0.9	297	0.9	40.1
Total	43,992	100.0	31,480	100.0	39.7

[(a)]Includes those who did not state a language and/or proficiency in English.

Sri Lanka-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2011, 2006

Age group (years)	2011 Census Persons	2011 Census %	2006 Census Persons	2006 Census %	2006-2011 % change
0-4	45	0.2	24	0.1	87.5
5-11	559	2.1	291	1.4	92.1
12-18	955	3.5	889	4.3	7.4
19-25	1,661	6.1	1,630	7.8	1.9
26-44	8,636	31.8	5,989	28.8	44.2
45-64	11,140	41.0	8,881	42.6	25.4
65-74	2,385	8.8	1,728	8.3	38.0
75+	1,788	6.6	1,398	6.7	27.9
Total	27,169	100.0	20,830	100.0	30.4

nfd = not further defined

Total Personal Income (Weekly), Sri Lanka-born: 2011

Total personal income (weekly)[(a)]	Sri Lanka-born Persons	Sri Lanka-born %	Tot Vic pop Persons	Tot Vic pop %
Negative/Nil	4,902	12.0	377,766	8.7
$1-199	2,785	6.8	341,700	7.8
$200-$399	6,772	16.5	882,992	20.3
$400-$599	4,461	10.9	504,498	11.6
$600-$799	5,038	12.3	459,629	10.6
$800-$999	4,499	11.0	367,453	8.4
$1,000-$1,499	6,513	15.9	584,245	13.4
$1,500-$1,999	2,590	6.3	255,935	5.9
$2,000 or more	2,261	5.5	246,378	5.7
Not stated	1,141	2.8	334,647	7.7
Total	40,962	100.0	4,355,243	100.0

[(a)]Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

For more detailed tables on a wider range of demographic and socio-economic data for this community from the 2011 Census, refer to the Community Profiles series available for free download from www.multicultural.vic.gov.au.

Source of data : Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, 2011.