



Western Australian Community Profiles 2006 Census

Malaysia-born

Population

The community of Malaysia-born Western Australia (WA) mainly arrived in the 1980s. At the time of the 2006 Census, there were 19,702 Malaysia-born people in Western Australia, 13% more than in 2001. In 2006, Malaysia-born people represented approximately 1% of the total WA population.*

The population structure was concentrated in the middle years with 21% aged 15–24, higher than for the total WA population (14.2%); 30.4% aged 25–44, similar to the total WA population (28.5%), and 34.5% aged 45–64, slightly higher than for the total WA population (25.2%).

The cohort of Malaysia-born Western Australians aged below 15 was considerably lower (5%) than for the total WA population (20%), and slightly lower for the cohort aged 65 and over (9.3%) than for the total WA population (12%).

Women outnumbered men in all age-cohorts except for aged below 15 and 15–24. The sex-ratio (number of males per 100 females) was estimated at 83, compared with 99.5 for the total WA population.

Family pattern

More than one-third (38.6%) of Malaysia-born Western Australians lived in couple families with children,

significantly less than in 2001 (53.7%), but comparable to the total WA population (38.5%). The proportion of couple families without children was also comparable to the total WA population (19.7% and 19.4%, respectively), slightly more than in 2001 (15.8%). The proportion of one-parent families remained consistent between 2001 and 2006 (8.5%), slightly less than for the total WA population (10%).

Geographical distribution

Between 2001 and 2006, the settlement pattern for Malaysia-born Western Australians remained consistent, with the majority (96%) living within the Perth Statistical Division (SD). Local Government Areas (LGAs) recording relatively higher concentrations of Malaysia-born people were Canning (19.1%), Melville (13.9%) and Stirling (9.4%). A small proportion had settled outside of Perth, mainly in the South West SD (1.5%).

Religious affiliation

Almost half (44.9%) of Malaysia-born Western Australians identified Christianity as their religion, lower than for the total WA population (58.7%). More than one-quarter (26.2%) identified Buddhism as their religion, a significantly higher proportion compared with the total WA population (1.7%). Smaller, but significant, proportions of Malaysia-born people identified with Islam (5.7%) and Hinduism (3.6%), higher than for the total WA population (1.2% and 0.4%, respectively).

Languages

One-third (33.7%) of Malaysia-born Western Australians spoke only English at home, and almost two-thirds (65.7%) spoke a language other than English at home. The main languages spoken were Cantonese, Mandarin and Bahasa Melayu. Of the people speaking a language other than English at home, more than half (58.8%), reported speaking English very well or well, with only 6.7% reporting that they spoke English not well or not at all.

Education

The proportion of Malaysia-born Western Australians obtaining a degree level qualification increased between 2001 and 2006 (28.3% to 36.6%), and was significantly higher than for the total WA population (14.3%). Malaysia-born men were more likely than women (40.2% compared with 33.7%) to be degree qualified.

The proportion of Malaysia-born people with a qualification at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level was lower (18%) than for the total WA population (24.7%). There was no difference in the proportion of Malaysia-born men and women achieving a qualification at these levels, compared with the total WA population in which men were more likely than women (30.3% and 19.2%, respectively) to have qualified at these levels.

More Malaysia-born adults (71.7%) had completed Year 12 or equivalent compared with the total WA adult population (41%). The proportion of those who did not go to school was slightly higher than for the total WA adult population (1.6% compared with 0.6%), with Malaysia-born women more likely than men (2.2% compared with 1%) not to have gone to school.

Employment

Almost two-thirds (60.6%) of Malaysia-born Western Australians were employed and only 2.9% unemployed,

comparable to the total WA adult population (59.1% and 2.3%, respectively). These figures represented an improvement in employment and unemployment since 2001 (54.2% and 4.6%, respectively). Malaysia-born men were more likely than women to be employed (67.2% compared with 55.1%). More than one-third (35.7%) of Malaysia-born people were not in the labour force, with women more likely than men to be in this category (41% compared with 29.1%). These trends were also present in the total WA population in which almost one-third (30.3%) were not in the labour force, and these were more likely to be women (37.4%) than men (23.2%).

Malaysia-born men were mainly employed as professionals and managers (47.9%), technicians and trade workers (13.7%), and labourers (11.2%). Malaysia-born women were mainly employed as professionals and managers (44.2%), clerical and administrative workers (20%), community and personal workers (11.2%), and labourers (11.2%).

Income

Between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of Malaysia-born Western Australians earning more than \$1000 per week almost doubled (11.6% to 21.4%), and was comparable to the total WA population (20%). Malaysia-born men were almost twice as likely as women (28.9% compared with 15.3%) to fall into this category, a trend also found in the total WA population (29.9% and 10.4%, respectively). The proportion of Malaysia-born people earning no weekly income increased slightly (from 13.6% to 15.2%), and was more than double the rate for the total WA population (6.4%). Malaysia-born women were more likely than men (17.2% compared with 12.7%) to fall into this category, reflecting a similar trend in the total WA population (8.1% and 4.6%, respectively). The proportion of Malaysia-born Western people earning less than \$250 per week decreased during this period (from 32.8% to 20.7%), comparable to the total WA population (19.2%), while the proportion of those earning between \$250 and \$999 remained consistent (39.7%).

Summary table

Variables	Malaysia-born 2006			Malaysia-born 2001	Total Western Australian population 2006		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
AGE GROUP /GENDER							
0–14	5.7	4.3	5.0	4.8	20.6	19.5	20.0
15–24	22.9	19.3	21.0	24.4	14.6	13.8	14.2
25–44	29.2	31.3	30.4	30.6	28.4	28.5	28.5
45–64	32.5	36.1	34.5	33.3	25.4	25.1	25.2
65+	9.6	9.0	9.3	6.9	11.0	13.1	12.0
All (#)	8938	10,764	19,702	17,377	990,642	995,607	1,986,249
Sex-ratio			83	83.9			99.5
FAMILY TYPE							
Couple family without children	19.2	20.1	19.7	15.8	19.2	19.6	19.4
Couple family with children	39.6	37.8	38.6	53.7	38.7	38.3	38.5
One-parent family	6.1	10.4	8.5	8.7	7.9	12.1	10.0
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY							
Speaks English only	33.9	33.6	33.7	34.6	80.6	81.3	80.9
Speaks other language and English; very well or well	59.6	58.1	58.8	57.5	9.6	9.9	9.8
Speaks other language and English; not well or not at all	5.7	7.6	6.8	7.4	1.5	2.0	1.7
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
Degree level	40.2	33.7	36.6	28.3	13.4	15.1	14.3
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	18.0	18.1	18.0	18.0	30.3	19.2	24.7
Completed Year 12 schooling	75.3	68.7	71.7	64.1	40.8	42.9	41.8
Did not attend school	1.0	2.2	1.6	2.25	0.5	0.7	0.6
LABOUR FORCE (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
Employed	67.2	55.1	60.6	54.2	65.5	52.7	59.1
Unemployed	2.9	2.9	2.9	4.6	2.4	2.2	2.3
Not in LF	29.1	41.0	35.7	40.7	23.2	37.4	30.3
WEEKLY INCOME (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
None	12.7	17.2	15.2	13.6	4.6	8.1	6.4
<\$250	16.4	24.2	20.7	32.8	13.8	24.4	19.2
<\$1000	39.2	40.1	39.7	38.3	39.7	46.7	43.2
\$1000 and more	28.9	15.3	21.4	11.6	29.9	10.4	20.0

Note: Totals do not always add up to 100% because of the use of selected indicators.

* The 2006 Census recorded a total WA population of 1,959,095 people.

** For 2001, the cut-off point was \$299.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

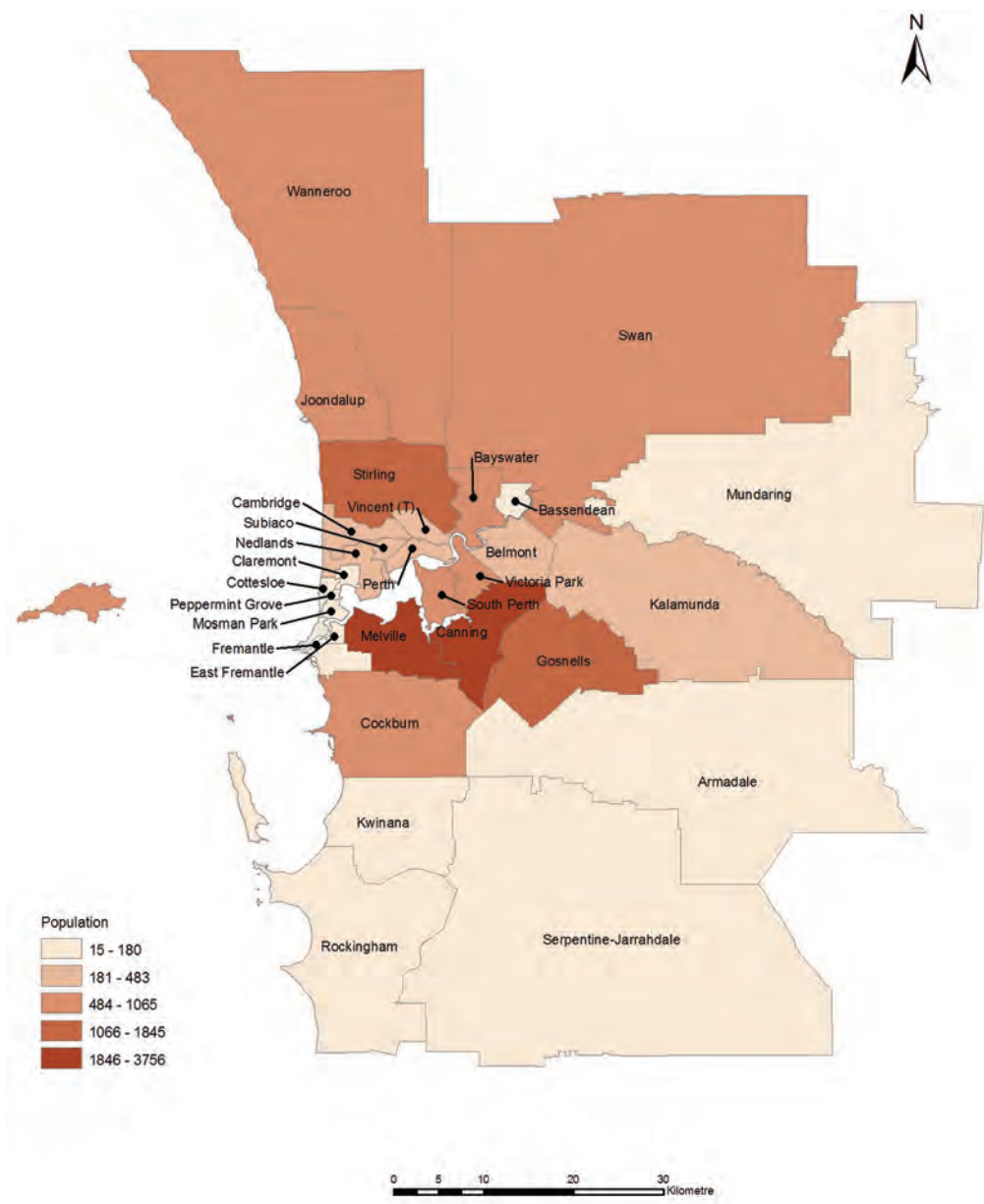


Figure 1: Distribution of Malaysia-born people by settlement pattern in LGAs of the Perth Metropolitan Area (Data Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing).