



Census 2021 Snapshot: Young Western Australians from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) works in partnership with culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities, community sector organisations, government agencies and the private sector to ensure that young people from CaLD backgrounds are valued, supported and empowered to reach their full potential.

This snapshot is for young Western Australians aged between 12 and 24 years (hereafter young people) who were born in non-main English-speaking countries (hereafter CaLD) based on an analysis of the 2021 Population and Housing Census data.

Major facts and trends

According to the 2021 Population and Housing Census:

Demographic and cultural

- There were 52,907 young people aged between 12 and 24 years from CaLD backgrounds, comprising 12.7 per cent of the total Western Australian population of the same age and 11.4 per cent of the overall CaLD population in Western Australia.
- Between 2016 and 2021, the number of young people from CaLD backgrounds decreased by almost four per cent mainly due to COVID-19 and subsequent border closures having a negative impact on the overseas migration trend. In contrast, the number of young Western Australians from all backgrounds (hereafter 'young Western Australians') has increased by almost the same proportion (3.8%) during the same period.
- The population of young people from CaLD backgrounds was the fourth largest after Victoria (162,772), New South Wales (162,106) and Queensland (73,464). All the States and Territories also show a declining trend in their population of young people from CaLD backgrounds, compared with 2016 Census data.
- The top 10 birthplaces of young people from CaLD backgrounds were the Philippines, India, Malaysia, China, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Vietnam and Pakistan.

- The 10 most common ancestry responses of young people from CaLD backgrounds were Chinese, Filipino, English, Australian, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Thai, African (African, so described¹) Punjabi and Pakistani.
- The 10 most common languages other than English (LOTE) spoken at home by young people from CaLD backgrounds were Mandarin, Tagalog, Filipino, Punjabi, Arabic, Vietnamese, Hindi, Indonesian, Malayalam and Urdu.
- More than three-quarters (76.5%) of young people from CaLD backgrounds spoke a language other than English at home, with most (96.7%) speaking English very well or well. Only three per cent of them did not speak English well or at all.
- The most common religious affiliations of CaLD young people were Christianity (42.9%), followed by Islam (12.3%), Hinduism (9.5%), Buddhism (7.8%), Sikhism (3.1%) and Judaism (0.1%). More than one-fifth (21.3%) of young people from CaLD backgrounds also identified with secular beliefs or no religion.
- The majority of young people from CaLD backgrounds (60.2%) arrived in Australia between 2011 and 10 August 2021, followed by more than one-third (36.2%) who arrived during 2000 and 2010.
- Most young people from CaLD backgrounds (92.9%) lived in the Perth Metropolitan Local Government Areas (LGAs) with almost 70 per cent living in the top 10 LGAs of Canning, Gosnells, Stirling, Wanneroo, Swan, Armadale, Cockburn, Melville, Perth and Bayswater.
- The top 10 regional LGAs where they resided were Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Albany, Bunbury, Greater Geraldton, Karratha, Harvey, Port Hedland, Busselton, Capel and Broome.

Socioeconomic

- More than three-quarters (76.4%) of young people from CaLD backgrounds were currently enrolled as students with most (70.5%) as full-time students. The corresponding figures for young Western Australians were lower (65.3% and 59.4%, respectively).
- Almost half of young adults from CaLD backgrounds (aged 18 and 24 years) had a technical or tertiary qualification (49.4%), with 54.2 per cent and 38.4 per cent, respectively, having an advanced or graduate diploma or certificate level and a degree level qualification. In comparison, the majority of their Western Australian counterparts had a technical qualification (60.8%), mainly at certificate level (49.6%), while less than one-quarter (23.6%) had a postgraduate or Bachelors' degree.
- Most young adults from CaLD backgrounds were employed (76.3%) with the proportion of full-time workers being double (43.6%), compared with part-time workers (21.6%), while almost one-tenth (7.3%) were unemployed. In comparison, while the rate of unemployment was similar (7%) for young Western Australian adults, the rate of employment was lower (70.9%), and the gap between those employed full-time (31.4%) and part-time (35.6%) was much smaller.
- More than half (54%) of young adults from CaLD backgrounds had a weekly income of less than \$500, with almost one-fifth (17.2%) having a negative or no income at all. The corresponding proportions for young Western Australian adults were lower (43.8% and 9.7%, respectively).
- The rate of volunteering was higher for both young adult males (15%) and females (21.1%) from CaLD backgrounds, compared with young Western Australian adults (13% and 18.3%, respectively).

¹ The Australian Population and Housing Census does not include any option for African ancestry as such. The only option available is 'African, so described' through supplementary codes as it captures either region-based ancestry responses such as South African, North African and Middle Eastern and Sub-Saharan African or specific responses such as Kenyan, Nigerian or Zimbabwean.

Health and wellbeing

- The prevalence of one or more long-term health conditions was lower for young males (6.5%) and females (8.9%) from CaLD backgrounds, compared with their Western Australian age cohort (17.5% and 22.2%, respectively).
- Of those who had one or more long-term health conditions, asthma was more common among young males from CaLD backgrounds than their female cohort (40.8% and 35.5%, respectively), while mental health conditions were more prevalent among young females from CaLD backgrounds (43.6%) than males (26.7%). Similarly, higher rates of asthma (43.8% and 35.6%, respectively) and mental health conditions (37% and 55.9%, respectively) were reported by Western Australian male and female cohorts.

Table 1: Demographic and cultural backgrounds, Census 2021

Birthplace	CaLD young people*	Language	CaLD young people*	Ancestry	CaLD young people*
Philippines	8,006	Mandarin	5,130	Chinese	8,884
India	6,472	Tagalog	3,595	Filipino	7,768
Malaysia	3,714	Filipino	2,393	Indian	6,034
China	3,430	Punjabi	1,887	English	3,225
Singapore	2,112	Arabic	1,642	Australian	2,410
Thailand	2,012	Vietnamese	1,342	Indonesian	1,431
Indonesia	1,761	Hindi	1,293	Vietnamese	1,284
Zimbabwe	1,649	Indonesian	1,190	Thai	1,227
Vietnam	1,496	Malayalam	1,109	African, so described	1,154
Pakistan	1,407	Urdu	1,100	Punjabi	1,009

* Abbreviation for Young Western Australians from CaLD backgrounds

Table 2: The top metropolitan and regional LGAs, Census 2021

Top 10 metropolitan LGAs	CaLD young people*	Top 10 regional LGAs	CaLD young people*
Canning	6,414	Kalgoorlie-Boulder	445
Gosnells	5,997	Albany	310
Stirling	5,415	Bunbury	256
Wanneroo	4,427	Greater-Geraldton	222
Swan	3,860	Karratha	210
Armadale	2,673	Harvey	209
Cockburn	2,336	Port Hedland	196
Melville	2,198	Busselton	172
Perth	2,012	Capel	156
Bayswater	1,507	Broome	130

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