




Culturally and linguistically diverse youth

in Western Australia





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Introduction

This publication outlines the demographics and cultural backgrounds of culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) young people in Western Australia (WA), their settlement patterns, English proficiency and languages spoken at home, socioeconomic conditions, religious affiliation, marital status and living arrangements, and civic participation. Consistent with the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia’s (MYANA’s) CaLD Youth Census Report 2014 and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), CaLD youth are defined as people aged between 12 and 24 years who were born in the non-main English speaking (NMES) countries.¹ Data used in this publication is drawn from the ABS 2011 Population and Housing Census.

Demographics

Age and gender distribution

In 2011, there were 44,729 young people aged between 12 and 24 years from CaLD backgrounds in WA. CaLD youth comprised one-tenth (11.3 per cent) of the Western Australian population of the same age and 14 per cent of the overall CaLD population in WA. They were the fourth largest group in Australia after New South Wales (141,573), Victoria (128,260) and Queensland (58,206).

One-third (14,479 or 32.3 per cent) of CaLD youth were adolescents (aged 12–17 years) and two-thirds (30,313 or 67.7 per cent) were young adults (aged 18–24 years). Overall, the CaLD youth population increased by 36.1 per cent between 2006 and 2011 and at a faster rate (4.4 per cent annually) compared with the total youth population of WA (1.9 per cent/year) and Australia-born cohort (0.9 per cent/year).²

Table 1: Distribution of CaLD youth population by age group and gender, 2006 and 2011

CaLD youth	2011			2006			% Change		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
12–17 years	7416	7063	14,479	5089	4949	10,038	45.7	42.7	44.2
18–24 years	15,513	14,800	30,313	11,590	11,292	22,882	33.8	31.1	32.5
12–24 years	22,929	21,863	44,792	16,679	16,241	32,920	37.5	34.6	36.1
Sex ratio			104.8			102.7			

There were more males (22,929) than females (21,863) with a sex-ratio of 104.8 males for every 100 females aged between 12 and 24 years. This has increased slightly since 2006 when the sex-ratio was estimated at 102.7.

¹ Following the ABS, except 10 countries—Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, South Africa, the United States of America and Wales—all the other countries are classified as NMES countries.

² Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (Australia) 2014, *The CaLD Youth Census Report 2014*, Centre for Multicultural Youth.

Arrival and settlement patterns

Almost two-thirds (61.3 per cent) of CaLD young people migrated to Australia between 2005 and 2011. Most (41,803 or 93.3 per cent) lived in the Perth metropolitan area mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Canning (15.4 per cent), Stirling (13.4 per cent), Gosnells (8.5 per cent), Wanneroo (7.8 per cent), Melville (7.4 per cent), Joondalup (4.9 per cent), Swan (4.7 per cent), Victoria Park (4.5 per cent), Cockburn (4.5 per cent) and South Perth (4.4 per cent).

Table 2: Top ranking LGAs with more than 1000 CaLD youth population, 2011

Metropolitan LGAs	12–17 years		18–24 years		Total CaLD youth 12–24 years	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Canning	1812	13.6	4637	13.6	6449	15.4
Stirling	1864	13.2	3752	14.0	5616	13.4
Gosnells	1398	10.5	2157	7.6	3555	8.5
Wanneroo	1411	10.6	1860	6.5	3271	7.8
Melville	963	7.3	2141	7.5	3104	7.4
Joondalup	724	5.5	1310	4.6	2034	4.9
Swan	839	6.3	1111	3.9	1950	4.7
Victoria Park	232	1.7	1660	5.8	1890	4.5
Cockburn	660	5.0	1207	4.2	1867	4.5
South Perth	363	2.7	1469	5.2	1832	4.4
Bayswater	467	3.5	1244	4.4	1711	4.1
Belmont	344	2.6	886	3.1	1230	2.9
Perth	90	0.7	1008	3.5	1098	2.6

Only seven per cent (or 2989) of CaLD young people lived in regional areas. Regional LGAs with more than 100 CaLD young people were Kalgoorlie-Boulder (359), Derby/West Kimberley (242), Albany (208), Bunbury (187), Geraldton-Greenough (167), Roebourne (159), Broome (115), Capel (113), Busselton (111) and Harvey (107).



Cultural and linguistic background

Country of birth

CaLD youth were born in more than 170 countries. Malaysia (4622), China (4440), India (3539), Singapore (2961) and the Philippines (2685) were the top five birthplaces (Table 3). Birthplaces with more than 500 CaLD youth were Iraq (643), Sri Lanka (550), Pakistan (525) and Iran (507) in 2011.

Table 3: Top 15 countries of birth (COB) of CaLD youth by age group and countries, 2006 and 2011

COB (2011 census)	Number/per cent			COB (2006 census)	Number/per cent		
	12–17 yrs	18–24 yrs	12–24 yrs		12–17 yrs	18–24 yrs	12–24 yrs
Malaysia	1155/8.0	3467/11.4	4622/10.3	Malaysia	907/8.9	3555/15.5	4462/13.5
China	748/5.2	3692/12.2	4440/9.9	Singapore	1034/10.2	1684/7.3	2713/8.2
India	962/6.6	2577/8.5	3539/7.9	Indonesia	696/6.9	1646/7.2	2342/7.1
Singapore	1023/7.1	1938/6.4	2961/6.6	China	397/3.9	1823/7.9	2220/6.7
Philippines	1473/10.2	1212/4.0	2685/6.0	Hong Kong	270/2.7	1073/4.7	1343/4.1
Indonesia	664/4.6	1509/5.0	2173/4.9	India	431/4.2	879/3.8	1310/4.0
Zimbabwe	770/5.3	1015/3.3	1785/4.0	Zimbabwe	439/4.3	825/3.6	1264/3.8
Afghanistan	461/3.2	776/2.6	1237/2.8	Vietnam	223/2.2	785/3.4	1008/3.0
Hong Kong	231/1.6	942/3.1	1173/2.6	Philippines	365/3.6	578/2.5	943/2.8
Vietnam	290/2.0	847/2.8	1137/2.5	Thailand	285/2.8	535/2.3	820/2.5
Thailand	570/3.9	502/1.7	1072/2.4	Sudan	366/3.6	367/1.6	733/2.2
Kenya	350/2.4	636/2.1	986/2.2	Kenya	188/1.9	493/2.1	681/2.1
Sudan	439/3.0	537/1.8	976/2.2	Korea, Republic of (South)	211/2.1	467/2.0	678/2.0
Korea, Republic of (South)	293/2.0	542/1.8	835/1.9	Bosnia and Herzegovina	265/2.6	383/1.7	648/2.0
Burma	254/1.8	578/1.9	832/1.9	Japan	141/1.4	373/1.6	678/1.6

In 2006, Malaysia (4462) was also the top ranking birthplace for CaLD youth. However, the Singapore-born (2713) was the second-largest birthplace group, followed by the Indonesia-born (2342), China-born (2220) and Hong Kong-born (1343).

Birthplaces that experienced negative growth between 2006 and 2011 were Indonesia and Hong Kong, while the India-born and China-born experienced high growth (170.1 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively), followed by the Zimbabwe-born (41.2 per cent).

Ancestry

The top 10 ancestry responses of CaLD youth were Chinese (27.8 per cent), Indian (10.1 per cent), English (6 per cent), Filipino (5.6 per cent), Australian (2.7 per cent), Indonesian (2.7 per cent), Vietnamese (2.5 per cent), Malay (2.2 per cent), Afghan (2.1 per cent) and Korean (1.8 per cent).

In 2011, 123,962 or almost one-third (31.4 per cent) of Western Australian young people reported

CaLD ancestries. The common ancestry responses were Italian (16.5 per cent), Chinese (15.1 per cent), German (7.5 per cent), Dutch (6.1 per cent), Indian (6 per cent), Filipino (3.2 per cent) and Vietnamese (2.8 per cent) (Table 4).

Table 4: Common ancestry responses of CaLD youth and Western Australian youth who identified with CaLD ancestries, 2011

Ancestry responses	CaLD youth				Western Australian youth				
	12–17 yrs	18–24 yrs	12–24 yrs		CaLD ancestry	12–17 yrs	18–24 yrs	12–24 yrs	
	No.	No.	No.	%		No.	No.	No.	%
Chinese	2632	9804	12,436	27.8	Italian	9298	11,112	20,410	16.5
Indian	1320	3226	4546	10.1	Chinese	5674	13,022	18,696	15.1
English	1098	1603	2701	6.0	German	3712	5524	9236	7.5
Filipino	1381	1123	2504	5.6	Dutch	3047	4563	7610	6.1
Australian	622	597	1219	2.7	Indian	2776	4677	7453	6.0
Indonesian	405	794	1199	2.7	Filipino	2063	1954	4017	3.2
Vietnamese	283	850	1133	2.5	Vietnamese	1594	1910	3504	2.8
Malay	301	671	972	2.2	Croatian	1103	1371	2474	2.0
Afghan	404	547	951	2.1	Polish	816	1536	2352	1.9
Korean	293	814	814	1.8	Greek	1025	1268	2293	1.8
Zimbabwean	341	402	743	1.7	Malay	772	1293	2065	1.7
Thai	367	366	733	1.6	Indonesian	776	1124	1900	1.5
German	233	436	669	1.5	French	675	1204	1879	1.5
Sudanese	330	324	654	1.5	Macedonian	665	884	1549	1.2

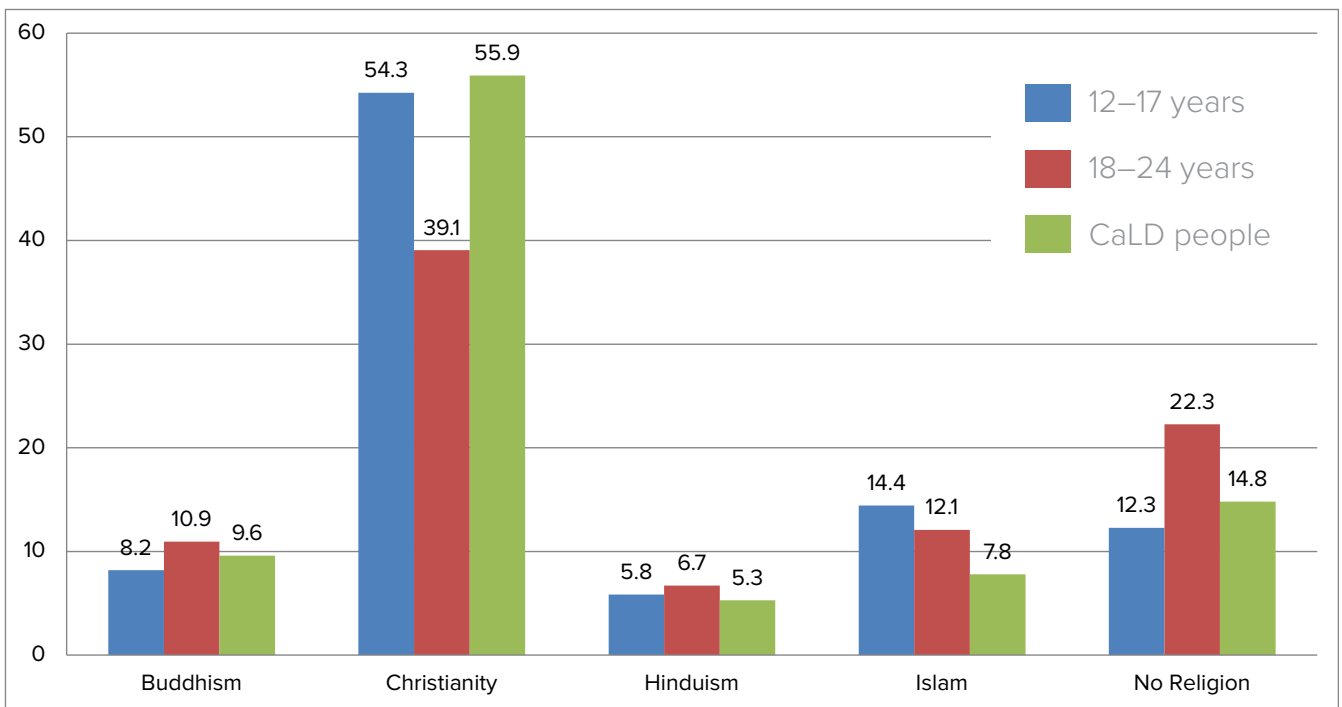
Religious affiliation

In 2011, CaLD youth were mainly affiliated with Christianity (19,696 or 44 per cent), Islam (5752 or 12.8 per cent), Buddhism (4504 or 10.1 per cent) and Hinduism (2879 or 6.4 per cent). One-fifth (8532 or 19 per cent) did not identify with a religion. Compared with 2006, those affiliated with Hinduism more than doubled (105.9 per cent), while the rates of increase were 58.8 per cent, 26.8 per cent and 6.6 per cent for followers of Islam, Christianity and Buddhism, respectively.

Affiliation with Christianity was higher for adolescents (54.3 per cent), compared with young adults (39.1 per cent) (Figure 1). The proportion that did not identify with a religion was lower for adolescents (12.3 per cent) and the overall CaLD population (14.8 per cent), compared with young adults (22.3 per cent).



Figure 1: Distribution of people from CaLD backgrounds and CaLD youth by age group and religious affiliation, 2011 (percentage)



English proficiency and languages spoken at home

One-fifth (20.9 per cent) of CaLD young people spoke only English in 2011, higher for adolescents (25.6 per cent), compared with young adults (18.6 per cent). Almost three-quarters (71.0 per cent) of CaLD youth spoke English very well or well and less than one-tenth (6.2 per cent) did not speak English well or at all. The level of English proficiency of CaLD youth was similar in 2006 (Table 5).

The top 10 languages other than English (LOTE) spoken at home by CaLD youth were Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic, Indonesian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Punjabi, French, Filipino and Gujarati. Thirteen per cent (or 54,174 people) of the Western Australian youth population spoke a LOTE at home (Table 6). Languages spoken by Western Australian young people were similar to CaLD youth.

Table 5: Distribution of CaLD youth by English proficiency and age group, 2011 and 2006

English proficiency	2011						2006					
	12–17 yrs		18–24 yrs		12–24 yrs		12–17 yrs		18–24 yrs		12–24 yrs	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Speaks only English	3709	25.6	5632	18.6	9341	20.9	2819	23.2	5313	28.1	8132	24.7
Speaks other language and English very well or well	9879	68.2	21,903	71.2	31,782	71.0	6577	65.5	15,921	69.7	22,498	68.3
Speaks other language and English not well/not at all	704	4.8	2082	6.9	2786	6.2	515	5.1	1377	6.0	1892	5.7
Not stated	187	1.3	696	2.3	883	2.0	127	1.3	271	1.1	398	1.2
All	14,469	100	30,313	100	44,792	100	10,038	100	22,882	100	32,920	100

Table 6: Top 15 LOTE spoken at home by CaLD and Western Australian youth by age group, 2011

LOTE	CaLD youth						LOTE	WA youth					
	12–17 yrs		18–24 yrs		12–24 yrs			12–17 yrs		18–24 yrs		12–24 yrs	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mandarin	1297	9.0	5259	17.3	6556	14.6	Mandarin	1883	9.2	5781	17.1	7664	14.1
Cantonese	355	2.5	1860	6.1	2215	4.9	Cantonese	973	4.8	2626	7.8	3599	6.6
Arabic	651	4.5	1184	3.9	1835	4.1	Vietnamese	1579	7.7	1833	5.4	3412	6.3
Indonesian	471	3.3	1204	4.0	1675	3.7	Arabic	1105	5.4	1565	4.6	2670	4.9
Tagalog	775	5.4	551	1.8	1326	3.0	Indonesian	715	3.5	1343	4.0	2058	3.8
Vietnamese	294	2.0	908	3.0	1202	2.7	Afrikaans	1040	5.1	916	2.7	1956	3.6
Punjabi	105	0.7	881	2.9	986	2.2	Italian	848	4.2	1070	3.2	1918	3.5
French	205	1.4	700	2.3	905	2.0	Tagalog	821	4.0	579	1.7	1400	2.6
Filipino	457	3.2	316	1.0	773	1.7	French	447	2.2	900	2.7	1347	2.5
Gujarati	170	1.2	606	2.0	776	1.7	Malay	447	2.2	856	2.5	1303	2.4
Malay	223	1.5	533	1.8	756	1.7	Punjabi	144	0.7	931	2.8	1075	2.0
Korean	254	1.8	463	1.5	717	1.6	Spanish	381	1.9	683	2.0	1064	2.0
Hindi	205	1.4	509	1.7	714	1.6	Gujarati	262	1.3	689	2.0	951	1.8
Dari	261	1.8	379	1.3	640	1.4	German	356	1.7	511	1.5	867	1.6



Socioeconomic conditions

Education

Almost three-quarters (73.7 per cent) of CaLD youth were enrolled mostly as full-time students mainly in universities or tertiary institutions (30.9 per cent), and secondary schools (25.6 per cent), followed by technical or further educational institutions (TAFE) (8.5 per cent) in 2011. Those who were enrolled were mostly adolescents (95.2 per cent), followed by young adults (63.4 per cent).

Most (89.1 per cent) of CaLD young adults had completed Year 12 or Year 11 or an equivalent level of schooling. A small proportion of adolescents (0.1 per cent) and young adults (0.8 per cent) did not attend school (Table 7).

Table 7: Educational profile of CaLD youth by age group, gender and level of education, 2011

CaLD youth	Student status				Year of schooling completed				Highest level of non-school qualification			
	Full/part time students		Not attending		Year 11–12/ equivalent		Did not go to school		Tertiary		Technical	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
12–24 yrs												
Male	16,826	73.4	5303	23.1	15519	67.7	144	0.6	2302	10.0	3342	14.8
Female	16,165	73.9	5255	24.0	15237	69.7	128	0.6	3149	14.4	2843	13.0
All	32,991	73.7	10,558	23.6	15,756	68.7	272	0.6	5451	12.2	6185	13.8
18–24 yrs												
Male	9816	63.3	5103	32.9	13,652	88.0	130	0.8	2298	14.8	3238	20.9
Female	9391	63.5	5164	34.9	13,343	90.2	123	0.8	3146	21.3	2778	18.8
All	19,207	63.4	10,267	33.9	26,995	89.1	253	0.8	5444	18.0	6016	19.8
12–17 yrs												
Male	7010	94.5	200	2.7	1867	25.2	14	0.2	4	0.1	104	1.4
Female	6774	95.9	91	1.3	1894	26.8	5	0.1	3	0	65	0.9
All	13,784	95.2	291	2.0	3761	26.0	19	0.1	7	0	169	1.2

One-quarter (26 per cent) of CaLD youth had either a technical (13.8 per cent) or tertiary (12.2 per cent) qualification. The proportion of females (14.4 per cent) with tertiary qualifications was slightly larger, compared with males (10 per cent), although similar proportions of males (14.6 per cent) and females (13 per cent) had technical qualifications.

Among young adults, almost two-fifths (37.8 per cent) had either tertiary (18 per cent) or technical (19.8 per cent) qualifications. A larger proportion of females (21.3 per cent) had a tertiary level education than males (14.8 per cent).

Employment and occupations

The same proportion of CaLD youth were employed (38.4 per cent) and not in the labour force (38.4 per cent). Less than one-tenth (6.8 per cent) were unemployed in 2011 (Table 8). The proportion having part-time employment (24.9 per cent) was twice that of those with full-time employment (13.5 per cent).

The proportions of CaLD youth who were not in the labour force and were unemployed were higher compared with the total Western Australian young population (22.7 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively) and the Australia-born youth (22.1 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively). The rate of employment was higher for the Australia-born (45 per cent) and Western Australian young people (41.9 per cent).

Table 8: Distribution of CaLD youth by gender, age group and labour force status, 2011

CaLD youth	Employed full time		Employed part time/ other		Total employed		Unemployed		Not in the labour force		Not applicable/ not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
12–24 yrs												
Male	3401	14.8	5479	23.9	8880	38.7	1612	7.0	8663	37.8	3776	16.5
Female	2656	12.1	5686	26.0	8342	38.2	1449	6.6	8560	39.2	1449	16.1
All	6057	13.5	11,165	24.9	17,222	38.4	3061	6.8	17,223	38.4	3061	16.3
18–24 yrs												
Male	3339	21.5	4851	31.3	8190	52.8	1436	9.3	5713	36.8	174	1.1
Female	2633	17.8	4997	33.8	7630	51.6	1258	8.5	5783	39.1	129	0.9
All	5972	19.7	9848	32.5	15,820	52.2	2694	8.9	11,496	37.9	303	1.0
12–17 yrs												
Male	62	0.8	628	8.5	690	9.3	176	2.3	2950	39.8	3602	48.6
Female	23	0.3	689	9.8	712	10.1	191	2.7	2770	39.3	3381	47.8
All	85	0.6	1317	9.1	1402	9.7	367	2.5	5727	39.6	6983	48.3

CaLD young adults were mainly employed as clerical and administrative or sales workers (26.8 per cent), machine operators and drivers or labourers (22.4 per cent), community and personal services workers (20.2 per cent) and as professionals (17.3 per cent). However, there are gender-based variations (Table 9a).

Young women were employed mainly as clerical and administrative or sales workers (35.3 per cent), community and personal services workers (26.7 per cent) and as professionals (19.5 per cent). One-third (32 per cent) of young men were employed as machine operators and drivers or labourers, and the remainder were mainly involved as clerical and administrative or sales workers (18.9 per cent), technical and trade workers (16.8), professionals (15.2 per cent) and community and personal services workers (14.1 per cent).



Table 9a: Occupational patterns of employed CaLD young adults by gender, 2011

Types of occupation	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Manager/professional	1245	15.2	1492	19.5	2737	17.3
Technical and trades	1374	16.8	356	4.7	1730	10.9
Community and personal services	1154	14.1	2035	26.7	3189	20.2
Clerical/ administrative/sales	1552	18.9	2696	35.3	4248	26.8
Machine operators/ drivers/labourers	2622	32.0	919	12.0	3541	22.4
Inadequately described/not stated	243	3.0	132	1.7	375	2.4
All employed	8190	100	7630	100	15,820	100

Table 9b: Level of personal income of all young adults, 2011

Personal income	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
\$/week						
None	4298	27.7	4674	31.6	8972	29.6
\$1–299	3931	25.3	4186	28.3	8117	26.8
\$300–599	2791	18.0	2660	17.9	5451	18.0
\$600–999	2379	15.3	1929	13.0	4301	14.2
\$1000+	1273	8.2	881	6.0	2154	7.1
Not stated	841	5.4	470	3.2	1311	4.3
All	15,513	100	14,800	100	30,313	100

In comparison, the proportions of Western Australian young adults employed as clerical and administrative or sales workers (20.2 per cent), community and personal services (9.9 per cent), machine operators, drivers and labourers (12.5 per cent) and managers and professionals (9.9 per cent) were smaller for all categories except for technical and trade workers (14.6 per cent).

More than half (56.4 per cent) of CaLD young adults were either low-income earners (26.8 per cent) earning less than \$300 per week, or had no income (29.6 per cent) at all (Table 9b). Another one-third (32.2 per cent) had a weekly income between \$300 and \$999, while a small proportion (7.1 per cent) earned \$1000 or more. Personal weekly income was similar for young men and women.

Compared with 2006, the proportion having a weekly income of \$1000 or more had doubled (from 3.2 per cent), while those in other income brackets were similar.

The proportion of Western Australian young adults who had no (10.9 per cent) or low (22.5 per cent) incomes were smaller (33.3 per cent), while those with weekly incomes between \$300 and \$999 (49.7 per cent) and over \$1000 (17 per cent) were larger, compared with CaLD cohorts.

Family

Marital status

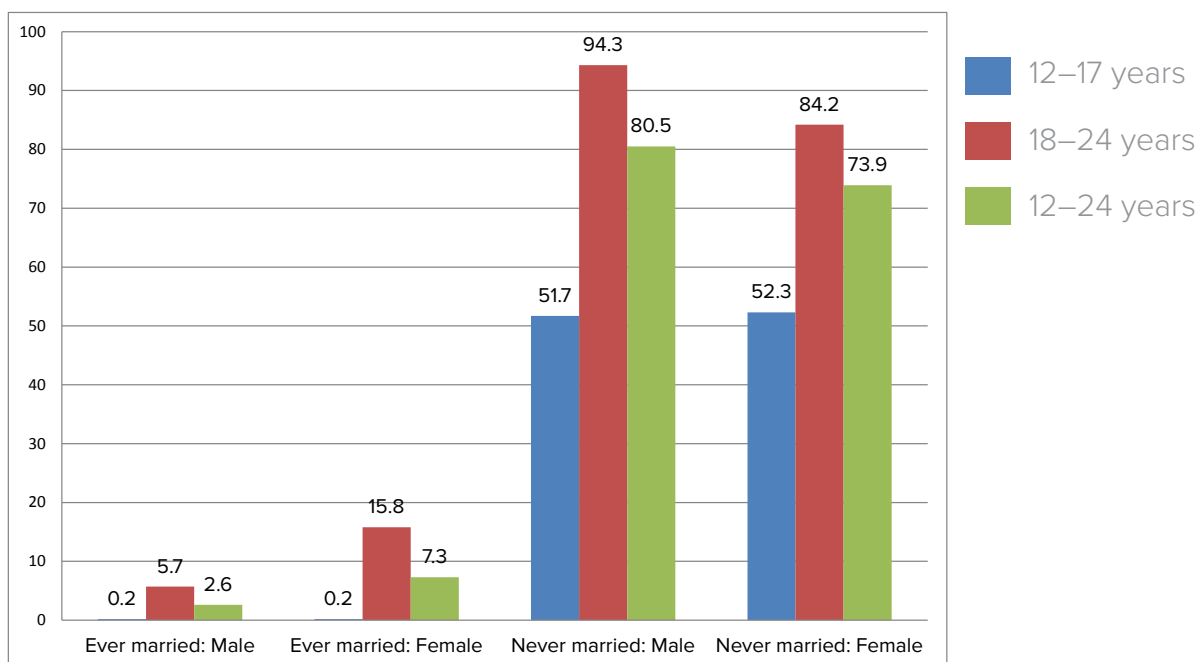
The marriageable age is 18 years for both men and women in Australia. As a result, very few adolescent girls (15) and boys (8) from CaLD backgrounds were married.

A majority (27,100 or 89.4 per cent) of young adults was never married while one-tenth (or 3018) was married and less than one (0.6) per cent (or 195) was widowed, divorced or separated. The rate of marriage was three times higher for females (2203 or 14.9 per cent), compared with males (815 or 5.3 per cent) (Figure 2).³ The trend is similar to 2006 with 11.1 per cent (or 1248) and 4.4 per cent (or 486) of married females and males, respectively.

The rate of marriage is higher for CaLD young adults, particularly female, compared with the total Western Australian or Australia-born population of the same age (4.8 per cent and 3.8 per cent, respectively) and female cohorts (6.7 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively).

Of the young married women, less than one-fifth (350 or 15.8 per cent) had children. Of those who had children, the majority (282 or 80.6 per cent) had one child, while the remainder had two (52 or 14.8 per cent) or more (16 or 4.6 per cent) children. A total of 207 women were single parents, compared with 24 men of the same age.

Figure 2: Percentage distribution of CaLD youth by age group, gender and marital status, 2011



³ Ever married males and females are persons who have been married at least once in their lives although may not be married currently. The ever married category in the figure represents number of young adults who are married and those who are either widowed or divorced or separated.



Living arrangements

Living arrangements of CaLD youth highlights two distinct trends for adolescents and young adults. Adolescents were living mainly as dependent children (46.8 per cent) or dependent students (41.5 per cent). In comparison, a smaller proportion of young adults were living as dependent students (18.9 per cent) and none lived as dependent children. (Table 10) The majority (67.2 per cent) lived independently in shared accommodation (27.5 per cent), with other family members (12.3 per cent) or non-dependent members (14.1 per cent) and *de facto* or *de jure* partners (13.3 per cent). Less than five per cent (4.5 per cent) was living alone (0.8 per cent) or as lone parents (3.7 per cent).

Table 10: Distribution of CaLD youth by living arrangements and age group, 2011

Living arrangements	CaLD 12–17 yrs		CaLD 18–24 yrs		CaLD 12–24 yrs	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Living with <i>de facto/de jure</i> partner	15	0.1	4044	13.3	4059	9.0
Lone parent	18	0.1	234	0.8	252	0.6
Natural/adopted/step/foster/unrelated children under 15	6771	46.8	0	0	6771	15.1
Dependent student	6005	41.5	5719	18.9	11,724	26.2
Non-dependent member	430	3.0	4267	14.1	4697	10.5
Siblings/family members/relatives	465	3.3	3720	12.3	4261	9.3
Group household members/unrelated member	350	2.4	8326	27.5	8676	19.4
Lone person	36	0.2	1129	3.7	1165	2.6
Other*	389	2.7	2874	9.5	3263	7.3
All	14,473	100**	30,313	100	44,792	100**

* 'Other' includes visitors from within Australia and the 'not applicable' category.

** Total does not add up to 100 as the 'not eligible' category for the adolescent group is not included in the table.

Need for assistance

Less than one per cent (0.5 or 211) of CaLD youth required assistance in performing core activities such as walking around the house, bathing and toileting. The number and proportion of those who needed assistance were slightly larger for males (131 or 0.6 per cent) than females (80 or 0.4 per cent). The rates for assistance were similar for adolescents (94 or 0.6 per cent) and young adults (117 or 0.4 per cent).

The proportion of Western Australian young people requiring assistance was comparable (1.4 per cent).

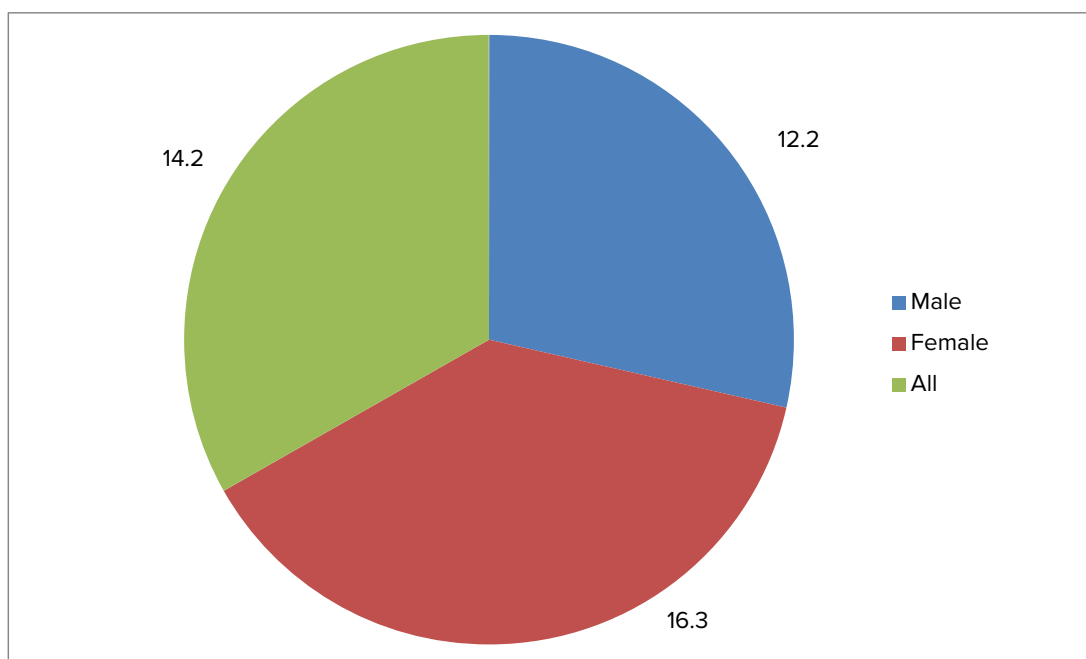
Citizenship and civic participation

Nearly two-fifths (37.1 per cent) of CaLD youth were Australian citizens—45.9 per cent of adolescents and 33 per cent of young adults, smaller in proportion (52.5 per cent and 42.1 per cent, respectively) compared with 2006 for these. The proportion of Australian citizens was much higher (80.5 per cent) for the total Western Australian youth population.



In 2011, 14.2 per cent of CaLD young adults were involved in volunteering activities, with females (16.3 per cent) having a higher rate than males (12.2 per cent) (Figure 3). The rate of volunteering (14 per cent) and gender trend (16.7 per cent and 11.6 per cent for males and females, respectively) were similar for Western Australian young people in general.

Figure 3: The rate of volunteering for young CaLD males and females aged 18–24 years, 2011





Key findings

In 2011, there were 44,720 CaLD young people in WA. One-third were adolescents and two-thirds were young adults. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of CaLD young people grew at a faster rate (4.4 per cent annually), compared with the total population (1.9 per cent per year) and the Australia-born cohort (0.9 per cent per year).

CaLD youth were drawn from over 170 countries, mostly from Asia. Malaysia, China, India, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Vietnam were the top 10 birthplaces. The top 10 ancestry responses were Chinese, Indian, English, Filipino, Australian, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Malay, Afghan and Korean ancestries. Compared with the overall CaLD population, the proportion of CaLD young people affiliated with Christianity was lower, while those identified with Islam or not identified with any religion were higher.

Most (93.3 per cent) lived in the Perth metropolitan area, mainly in the LGAs of Canning (15.4 per cent), Stirling (13.4 per cent), Gosnells (8.5 per cent), Wanneroo (7.8 per cent), Melville (7.4 per cent), Joondalup (4.9 per cent), Swan (4.7 per cent), Victoria Park (4.5 per cent), Cockburn (4.5 per cent) and South Perth (4.4 per cent).

Seventy-one per cent of CaLD youth spoke English very well or well and only six per cent did not speak English well or at all. The top 10 LOTE spoken by CaLD youth at home were Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic, Indonesian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Punjabi, French, Filipino and Gujarati.

Almost three-quarters (73.7 per cent) of CaLD youth were currently enrolled as full-time students mainly in universities, secondary schools and TAFE, and one-quarter (26 per cent) had technical (13.8 per cent) or tertiary qualifications (12.2 per cent). The proportion who had part-time jobs (24.9 per cent) was almost double than those with full-time job (13.5 per cent).

The rate of unemployment was higher for CaLD young adults (8.9 per cent), compared with the State's average (5 per cent) for the same age group. Fifty-six per cent of young adults were either earning less than \$300 per week, or had no income at all, compared with one-third (33.4 per cent) of their Western Australian cohorts.

One-tenth of CaLD young adults were married. The rate of marriage was three times higher for females (14.9 per cent), compared with males (5.3 per cent), and double compared with the Western Australian female cohort (6.7 per cent). Two-thirds of young adults lived independently in shared accommodation, with other family members and as *de facto* or *de jure* partners.

CaLD youth were mainly recent migrants to WA and almost two-fifths were Australian citizens. The rate of volunteering was higher among CaLD young adult females (16.3 per cent), compared with males of the same age (12.2 per cent) but almost the same as the Western Australian female cohort (16.7 per cent).

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