



## Western Australians from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds: A Profile

### Introduction

The Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI), a service area of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), works in partnership with culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities, community sector organisations, government agencies and the private sector to ensure that people from CaLD backgrounds are well represented, valued, treated with dignity and equality in all aspects of life, and supported to reach their full potential.

The **Western Australians from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse profile** has been developed to generate an evidence-based report and can be used to analyse trends and issues for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds. The report uses mainly 2016 Population and Housing Census data available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).<sup>1</sup>

### Definition: measure and magnitude

There are multiple definitions used across Australia which describes culturally and linguistically diverse. The definition of CaLD was introduced in 1996 to replace 'Non-English speaking background' (NESB) and was intended to be a broader, more flexible and inclusive term. It is generally applied to groups and individuals who differ according to religion, language and ethnicity and whose ancestry is other than Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Anglo Saxon or Anglo Celtic.

As can be seen from the above definition, the term CaLD has multiple dimensions, including ancestry, language and birthplace. Hence, an operational definition will depend on the indicators included when classifying a person as CaLD, these often include ABS census indicators such as country of birth by main or non-main English-speaking countries, language other than English spoken at home and ancestry.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the number of people identified as CaLD fluctuates based on the indicators included when defining them. For example, in 2016, within Western Australia (WA), there were 410,291 people born in non-main English-speaking countries (NMESC) comprising 16.5 per cent of the total population. If you consider the indicator for Western Australians who spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home, the number of people from CaLD backgrounds increases to 437,868 (or 17.7 per cent). Similarly, if one considers the indicator for CaLD background as being based on parents' country of birth, the number of people rises to 597,777 (or 24.2 per cent).

In this report, however, for the sake of consistency and comparison across Australia, country of birth is used as a denominator for many of the demographic factors highlighted. The report also provides statistics on multi-dimensional indicators such as languages spoken at home and ancestry, to better analyse trends for people from CaLD backgrounds and capture multiple dimensions discussed above. Additionally, the report also uses both number and percentage in ranking CaLD communities, particularly in relation to their settlement regions and languages spoken at home. It analyses major demographic and cultural factors, trends, socioeconomic characteristics of people from CaLD backgrounds and some wellbeing-related issues that could be captured from the census data and considered relevant for the purpose of planning, policy and program development.

## Major facts and trends

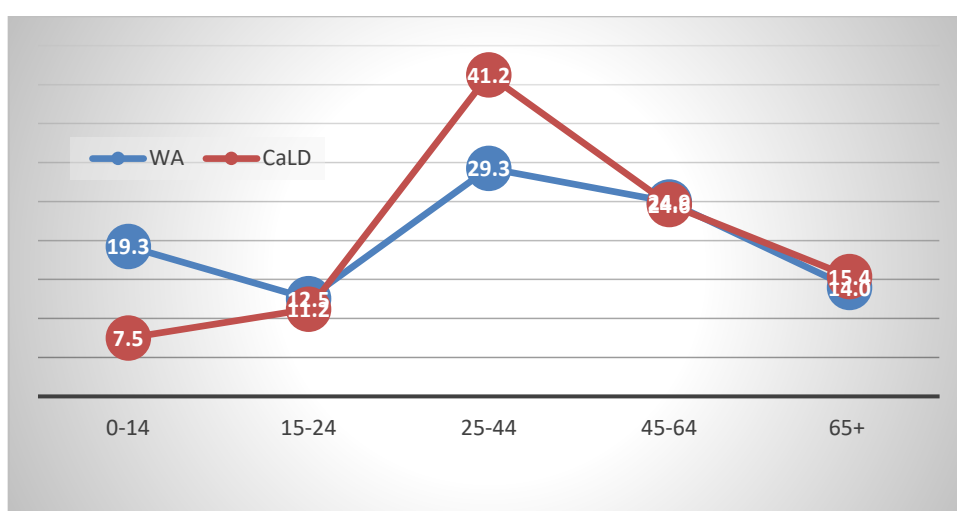
### 1. Demographic

#### Age and gender distribution

In 2016, there were more females (213,155 or 52 per cent) than males (197,140 or 48 per cent) among the NMESC-born, compared to almost equal distribution of Western Australian males and females. The age distribution pattern of NMESC-born migrants shows high peaks for 25–44 years age cohorts (41.2 per cent), followed by 45–64 years age cohorts (24.6 per cent) and older people aged 65 years and over (15.4 per cent). In comparison, the population distribution curve is more flattened for Western Australians, with larger proportions for the 25–44 years (29.3 per cent) and 45–64 years (24.9 per cent) age groups. Also, the proportion of children under 15 were almost three times larger for WA (19.3 per cent), compared with the NMESC-born (7.5 per cent).<sup>3</sup>

Note: the number of CaLD children within 0-14 age group is likely to be higher if we include the data for children born in Australia by parents born in NMESCs.

Figure 1.1: Age distribution for all Western Australians and NMESC-born migrants, 2016



#### Settlement pattern across WA

Nine in every ten people born in NMESCs lived in metropolitan Perth in 2016, compared with three-quarters of Western Australians, and this is a consistent trend over time. It should be noted that there are several dimensions to consider when examining and analysing the composition of CaLD populations in any Local Government Area (LGA).

As shown in Figure 1.2 and Table 1.1 below, Stirling, Gosnells and Canning are the leading LGAs for NMESC-born residents in WA. However, when analysing the percentage of NMESC-born people compared to the total LGA population different results come forth, placing Perth, Canning, and Gosnells as the top LGAs with highest representation of these migrants as a proportion of local population. In addition, if we were to narrow our scope to only recently arrived migrants since 2011, LGAs such as Subiaco and Victoria Park also become prominent.

Figure 1.2: Ranking of Metropolitan LGAs by the number of NMESC-born migrants, 2016

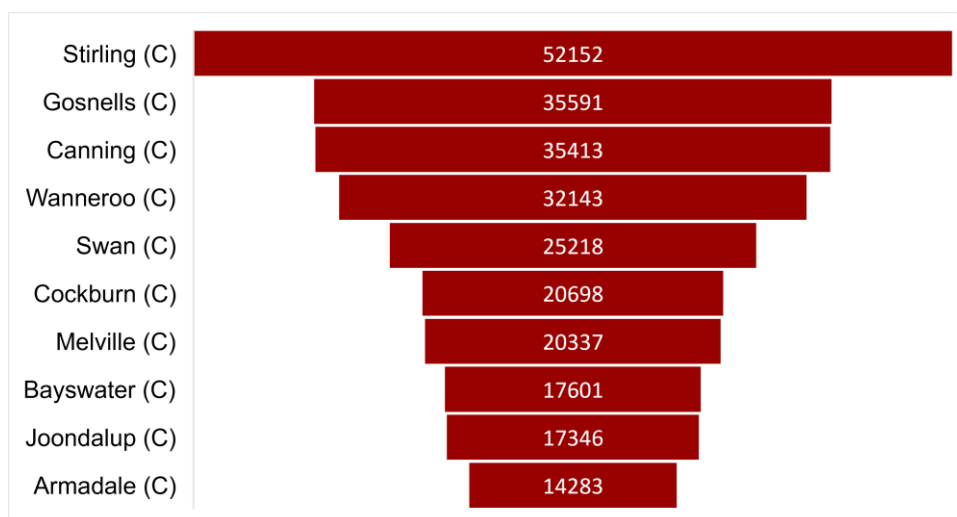


Table 1.1: Ranking of Metropolitan LGAs by NMESC-born as % of local population; and by the rate of growth for LGA since 2011

Top LGAs 2016	CaLD %	Top LGAs 2016	% Change of CaLD population 2011-2016
<i>Perth (C)</i>	41.4	<i>Armadale (C)</i>	119.8
<i>Canning (C)</i>	39.3	<i>Perth (C)</i>	83.5
<i>Gosnells (C)</i>	30.1	<i>Gosnells (C)</i>	54.6
<i>Belmont (C)</i>	28.9	<i>Swan (C)</i>	49.8
<i>Victoria Park (T)</i>	27.5	<i>Rockingham (C)</i>	45.4
<i>Bayswater (C)</i>	27.2	<i>Wanneroo (C)</i>	38.8
<i>Stirling (C)</i>	24.8	<i>Belmont (C)</i>	32.5
<i>South Perth (C)</i>	23	<i>Cockburn (C)</i>	29.8
<i>Melville (C)</i>	20.7	<i>Canning (C)</i>	25.9
<i>Vincent (C)</i>	20.7	<i>Stirling (C)</i>	19.0
<i>Cockburn (C)</i>	19.8	<i>Bayswater (C)</i>	14.1
<i>Swan (C)</i>	18.7	<i>Melville (C)</i>	10.0

As we look at the statistics for Regional Western Australian LGAs, Mandurah, Kalgoorlie/Boulder and Bunbury emerge as the top three regions with the largest number of NMESC-born migrants (Figure 1.3).

However, in terms of the percentage of NMESC-born people compared to the total LGA population, the leading regional LGAs in WA are Katanning, Carnarvon and Port Hedland (Table 1.2). It should be noted that migration contributes to population growth necessary for regional LGAs, given that the majority (46, or almost half) of the regional LGAs experienced negative growth between 2011 and 2016.

Figure 1.3: Ranking of Regional LGAs by number of NMESC-born migrants, 2016

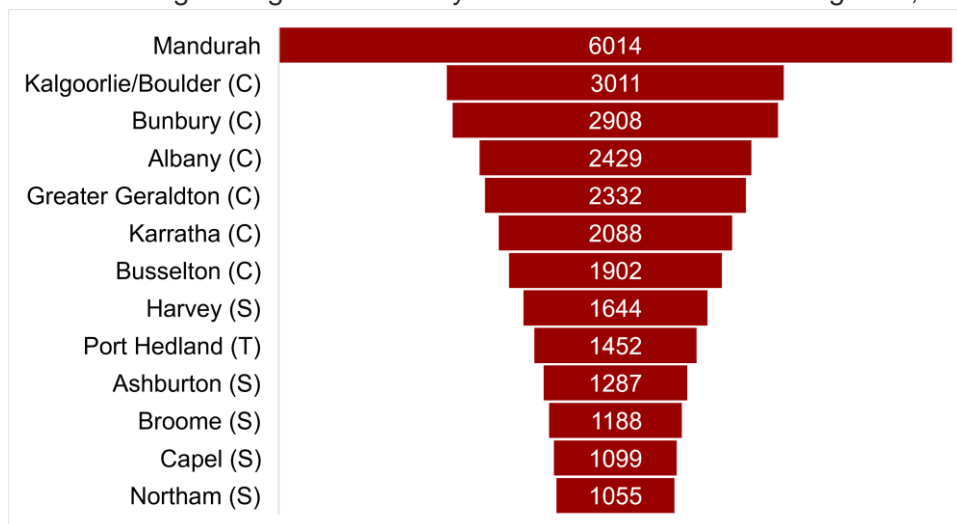


Table 1.2: Regional LGAs by NMESC born as % of local population

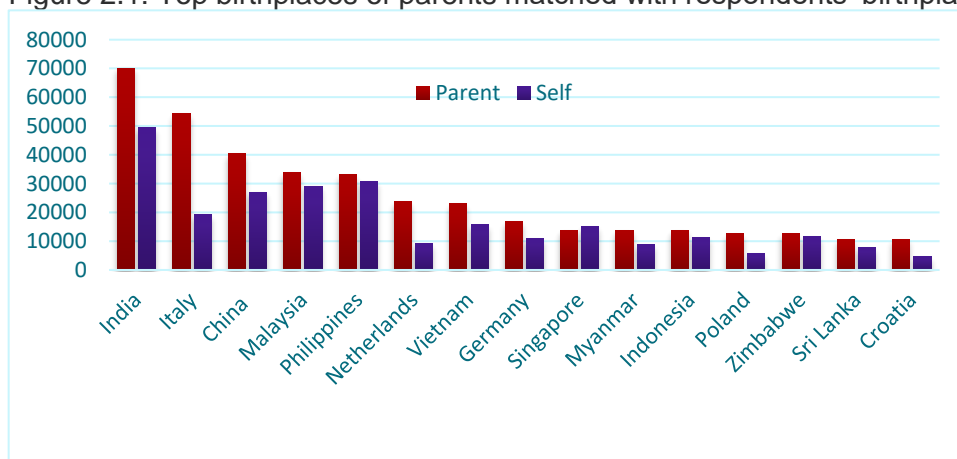
Top regional LGAs	NMESC born (%)
<i>Katanning (S)</i>	12.8
<i>Carnarvon (S)</i>	11.0
<i>Port Hedland (T)</i>	10.0
<i>Kalgoorlie/Boulder (C)</i>	10.0
<i>Ashburton (S)</i>	9.9
<i>Gingin (S)</i>	9.8
<i>Karratha (C)</i>	9.7
<i>Northam (S)</i>	9.5
<i>Dalwallinu (S)</i>	9.4
<i>Bunbury (C)</i>	9.1
<i>Sandstone (S)</i>	9.0
<i>Wiluna (S)</i>	8.7

## 2. Cultural

### Birthplaces

In 2016, people from CaLD backgrounds originated from almost 200 countries. There were 10 birthplaces where more than 10,000 WA residents were born, and this increases to 15 countries if one or both parents' birthplaces are considered (Figure 2.1). Birthplace-based cultural identity of Western Australians highlights that, over time, migration from European countries is declining, while migration from Asian countries has significantly increased, followed by migration from African countries.

Figure 2.1: Top birthplaces of parents matched with respondents' birthplaces, 2016



## Languages

In 2016, almost 18 per cent of Western Australians spoke 240 languages other than English (LOTEs) at home, which included Aboriginal, AUSLAN and other non-verbal languages. There were 12 languages that were spoken by more than 10,000 people. Like birthplaces, these are mostly Asian languages, followed by European and African languages (Figure 2.2). Accordingly, ranking of the languages spoken at home also changed over time. For example, between 2011 and 2016, Mandarin replaced Italian as the most common LOTE spoken at home, while Punjabi and Hindi featured in the top 10, replacing German and Spanish. Among these languages, Punjabi speakers are increasing fastest (86 per cent since 2011).

Table 2.1: Most common languages spoken at home by LOTE speakers in WA, 2016

<b><i>Languages spoken at home</i></b>	<b>Speakers (#)</b>	<b>% of LOTE speaker</b>
<i>Mandarin</i>	47,846	11.0
<i>Italian</i>	29,397	6.8
<i>Vietnamese</i>	20,242	4.6
<i>Cantonese</i>	19,340	4.4
<i>Tagalog</i>	15,265	3.5
<i>Afrikaans</i>	14,207	3.3
<i>Arabic</i>	14,129	3.2
<i>Punjabi</i>	12,228	2.8
<i>Indonesian</i>	10,932	2.5
<i>Hindi</i>	10,752	2.5
<i>Spanish</i>	10,418	2.4
<i>Filipino</i>	10,313	2.4

Additionally, the number of LOTE speakers has increased by 34.7 per cent since 2011, while the rate of increase was only 4.8 per cent for those who spoke English only. Also, the proportion of English only speakers declined from 79 per cent to 75 per cent between 2011 and 2016, reflecting the increasing linguistic diversity of Western Australians.

## English proficiency

In 2016, the majority of LOTE speakers (86 per cent) were proficient in English, while 14 per cent had low proficiency or did not speak English at all, the same proportions as in 2011. It is important to identify language speakers with low proficiency for planning culturally appropriate strategies as well as implementing policies and programs. Ranking languages by number and proportion of speakers yields different results (Figure 2.2A). For example, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Italian and Arabic are the languages with the largest number of speakers with low English proficiency. In contrast, languages with the largest proportion of low English proficiency speakers are Karen, Chin Haka, Hazaragi, Korean and Dari (Figure 2.2B). Therefore, it is valuable to consider both the proportion of people from a community with low English proficiency and also the total number when planning any multilingual strategies.

Figure 2.2 A: Ranking of languages by number of low proficiency speakers, 2016

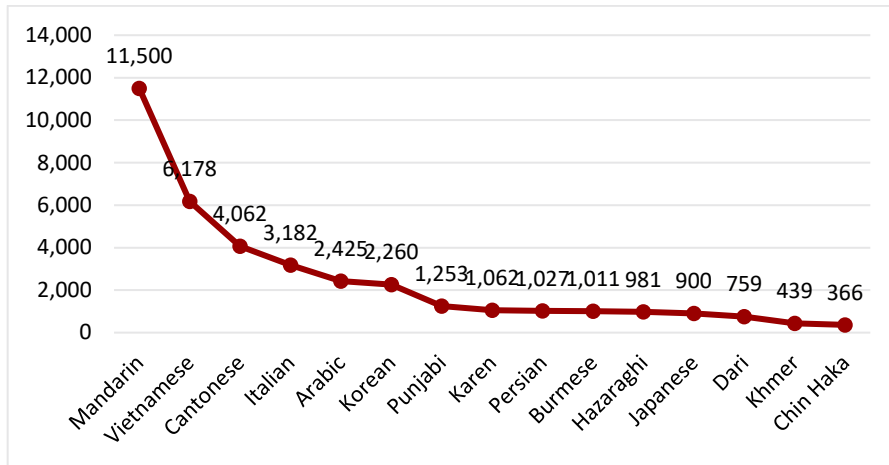
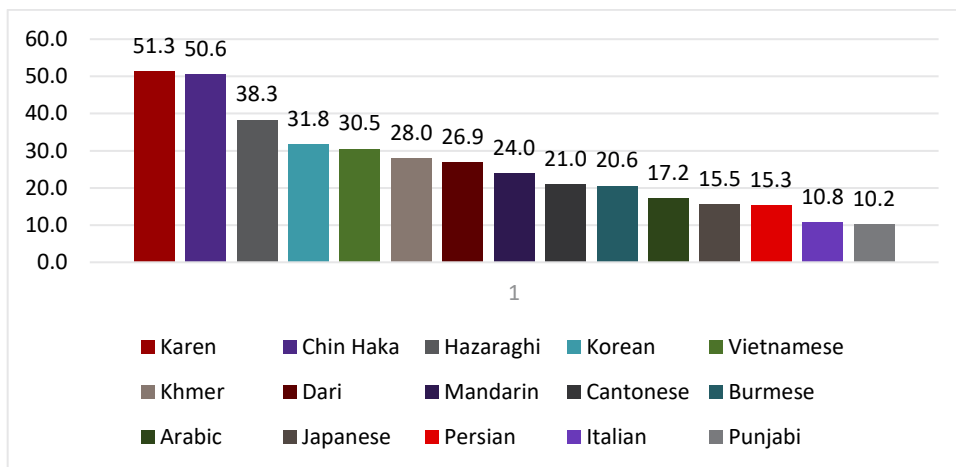


Figure 2.2 B: Ranking of languages by percentage of low proficiency speakers, 2016



Ancestry

In 2016, the proportion of Western Australians from CaLD backgrounds based on their ancestry responses is estimated at 25.5 per cent.<sup>4</sup> Most common ancestry responses include Italian, Chinese, German, Indian, Dutch and Filipino (Figure 2.3). However, the ancestry results change if the responses are measured by controlling for only NMESC-born migrants. In this process, Chinese, Indian, Filipino, English, Italian and Vietnamese emerge as the most common ancestry responses. The configuration changes further, for the second and third generation Australia-born children of NMESC-born parents.

Figure 2.3: Western Australians ranked by most common non-English or Anglo-Saxon/Celtic ancestry responses, 2016



Table 2.2: Most common ancestry responses by Western Australians and changes between 2016 and 2011

Ancestry (2016)	No. of people	%	Ancestry (2011)	No. of people	%	% change 2016-2011
English	931,147	27.9	English	848,230	29.0	9.8
Australian	760,035	22.8	Australian	724,360	24.8	4.9
Irish	224,372	6.7	Irish	187,038	6.4	20.0
Scottish	214,153	6.4	Scottish	186,475	6.4	14.8
Italian	122,944	3.7	Italian	111,894	3.8	9.9
Chinese	103,683	3.1	Chinese	75,935	2.6	36.5
German	73,062	2.2	German	63,020	2.2	15.9
Indian	68,799	2.1	Dutch	45,317	1.6	70.7
Dutch	47,039	1.4	Indian	40,305	1.4	3.8
Filipino	35,454	1.1	New Zealander	27,619	0.9	73.8
New Zealander	31,796	1.0	South African	25,683	0.9	15.1
South African	28,986	0.9	Maori	23,063	0.8	12.9
Maori	27,452	0.8	Filipino	20,403	0.7	19.0
Welsh	22,093	0.7	Australian Aboriginal	19,396	0.7	18.5
Vietnamese	21,687	0.6	Polish	18,651	0.6	35.9
Polish	20,730	0.6	Welsh	18,645	0.6	11.1
Australian Aboriginal	20,715	0.6	Croatian	17,486	0.6	6.8
Croatian	18,575	0.6	Vietnamese	15,956	0.5	6.2
French	15,601	0.5	Greek	13,822	0.5	31.7
Greek	15,107	0.5	French	11,844	0.4	9.3

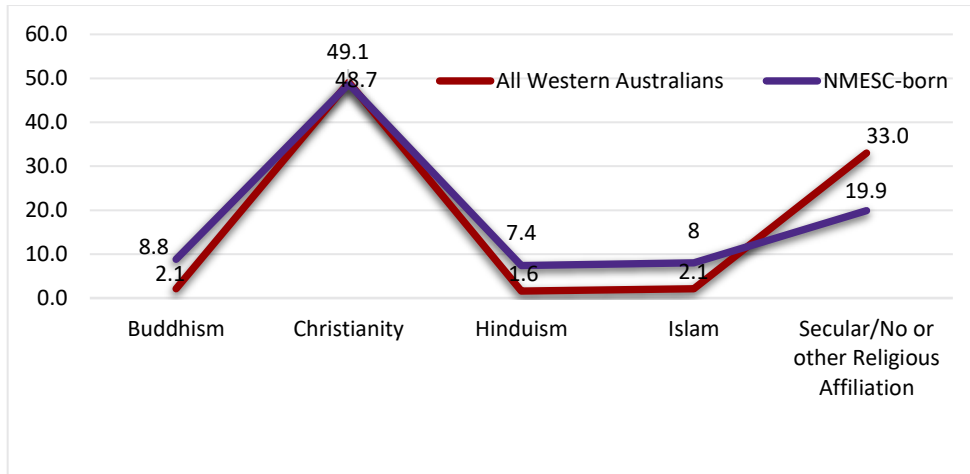
The ancestry response provides an important dimension to the definition of cultural diversity. It is important to note that even second or third-generation Australia-born children or adults tend to identify with their parents' or grandparents' ancestry and often experience racial discrimination and challenges similar to NMESC-born migrants. It should be noted that since 2011, there have been some changes in the ancestry responses consistent with changes in birthplace or languages (Table 2.2). These changes can be noted in the ranking of the most common ancestry responses and in the rate of change. For example, in 2016, those identified with Indian ancestry superseded Dutch descendants as their number increased by 70.7 per cent. Similarly, those with Filipino origin saw an increase of 73.8 per cent, pushing their ranking from 13 to 10 in WA. In general, the number of Western Australians of Asian origin grew more rapidly over time, compared with those of European descent.

### Religious affiliation

In 2016, almost half of Western Australians (49.1 per cent) were affiliated with Christianity, a decline by 5.8 per cent compared with 2011. The next largest group comprised people with secular or other spiritual beliefs and no religious affiliation (33 per cent), followed by non-Christian religions such as Buddhism (2.1 per cent), Islam (2.1 per cent) and Hinduism (1.6 per cent) (Figure 2.4). Compared with 2011, those affiliated with Hinduism experienced the fastest growth (by 84 per cent), while other religious groups also saw an increase. It should be noted that for people born in NMESCs, the ranking remained the same, but proportions affiliated with non-Christian religions were larger, compared with all Western Australians.



Figure 2.4: Religious affiliation of all Western Australians and NMESC-born migrants, 2016



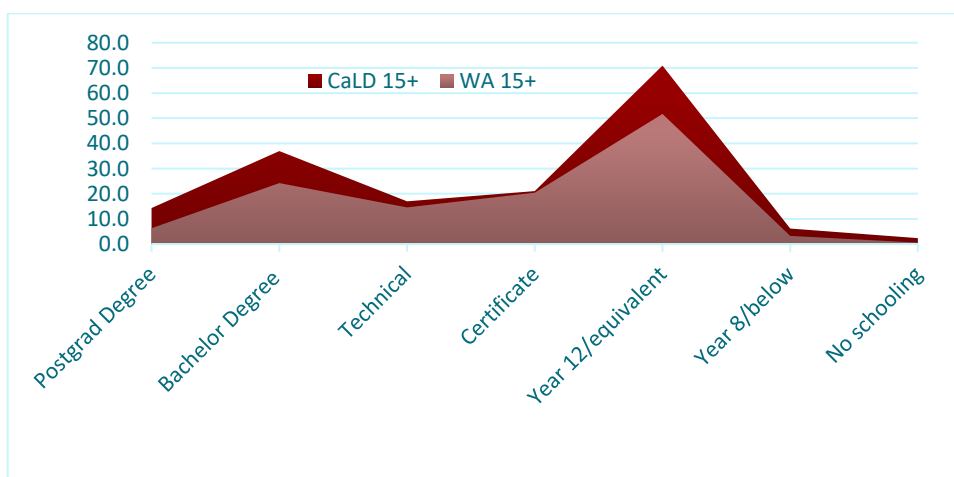
### 3. Socioeconomic characteristics

#### Level of education and qualifications

In 2016, 71 per cent of NMESC-born residents aged 15 years and over had completed a Year 12 or equivalent level of education, while almost one in 10 (8.1 per cent) had a low level of education (Year 8 or below) or no schooling at all (Figure 3.1). The corresponding statistics were lower for Western Australian cohorts (51.7 per cent and 3.8 per cent, respectively). It is also important to note that almost one-third of NMESC-born current students were attending tertiary level institutions (31.4 per cent) – more than twice as large as their Western Australian counterparts (13.9 per cent).

Subsequently, half of NMESC-born people (51.3 per cent) reported to have the highest qualification – postgraduate or bachelors’ degrees, with women outperforming men (54.4 per cent and 48.1 per cent, respectively). In contrast, more men had obtained certificate-level qualifications (26 per cent) than women (16 per cent). Proportionately, there were fewer Western Australians who had tertiary level qualifications, although they too share the similar type of gender differential at both levels as the NMESC-born cohort. For example, 16.8 per cent and 26.4 per cent of Western Australian men had tertiary and certificate-level qualifications, respectively, compared with 20.4 per cent and 10 per cent of their women counterparts.

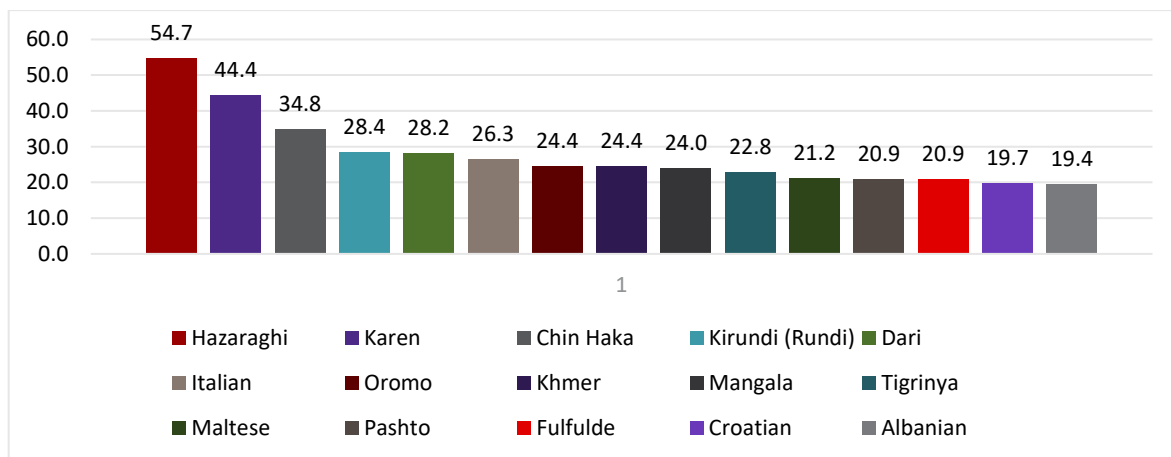
Figure 3.1: Level of schooling and tertiary qualifications for NMESC-born aged 15+ years and all Western Australian cohort 2016





From the trends in education, it should be noted that people with low or no education can experience communication barriers given the increasing digitisation of information, particularly in terms of services. Generally, communication strategies consider language barriers but not matters around people with low/no education. Figure 3.2 looks to correlate the population groups of LOTE speakers and the relevant proportion that have low or no education, to identify languages for which multiple communication strategies apart from translation are needed. In this process, some African (such as Oromo, Kirundi and Tigrinya) and a few European languages are identified (such as Albanian, Maltese and Croatian), in addition to the low proficiency languages highlighted earlier (such as Karen, Hazaragi, Khmer, Dari and Italian).

Figure 3.2: Proportion of Western Australians aged 15 years and over with low or no education by language spoken at home, 2016<sup>5</sup>

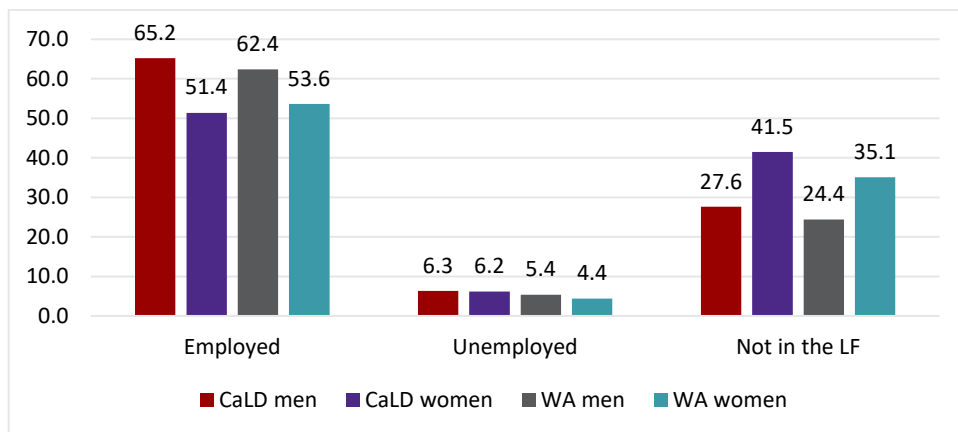


#### 4. Employment and occupations

##### Labour force status

In 2016, almost two-thirds of NMESC-born men aged 15 years and over were employed (65.2 per cent), compared with half of their female counterparts (51.3 per cent). Men participated mostly in full-time employment (46.2 per cent), while women were engaged almost equally in full-time (24.1 per cent) and part-time (24.5 per cent) employment (Figure 4.1). The rate of unemployment was almost the same for both men (6.3 per cent) and women (6.2 per cent), but the proportion of women not in the labour force was one-and-a-half times higher (41.5 per cent) compared with men (27.6 per cent).

Figure 4.1: Labour force status of NMESC-born aged 15+ years and Western Australians cohort by gender, 2016



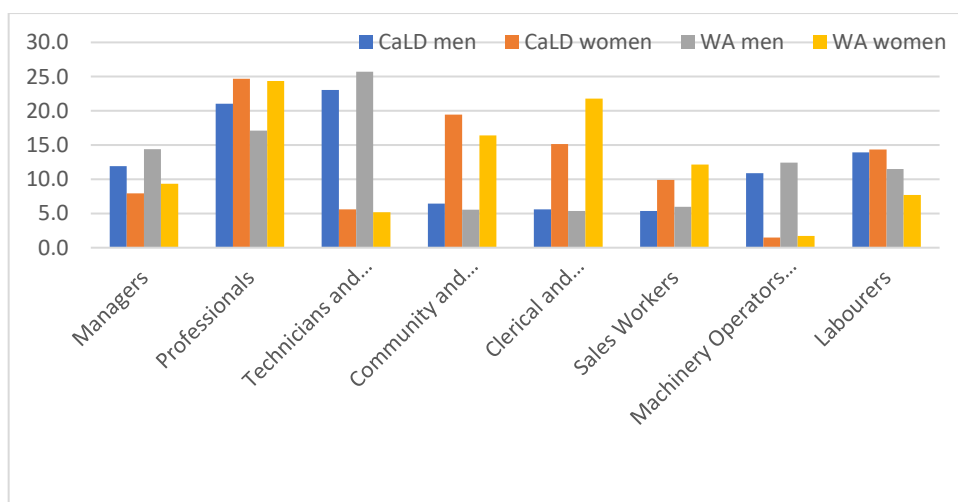
It should be noted that, compared to 2011, the unemployment rate was higher for both men (3.6 per cent) and women (3.8 per cent), while the employment rate remained the same. There is a case for unemployment and underemployment among CaLD men and women needing attention in terms of tailored employment support programs to enable this group to have more equitable access to employment opportunities.

A similar pattern of gender discrepancy can be observed from analysis of Western Australian men and women labour force status, with unemployment rates of 5.4 per cent and 4.4 per cent, respectively (Figure 4.1). The proportions not in the labour force were lower (24.4 per cent and 35.1 per cent, respectively) compared with NMESC-born men and women. Rate of employment was lower for men (62.4 per cent) but higher for women (53.6 per cent), compared with their NMESC-born counterparts. Gender differential in the labour force status indicates that women in general, and especially NMESC-born women, bear a disproportionately large burden of domestic work, including caring roles. Therefore, policies and programs that address gender inequality in the labour market, particularly those aimed at facilitating CaLD women's participation, need to be explored and promoted.

### Occupational pattern

Consistent with the labour force status, a clear gendered pattern also emerges from an analysis of the types of occupations of the employed workforce in WA. For example, more female dominated occupations include professionals, community and personal services, and administrative and clerical services (Figure 4.2). Men tend to engage more as technicians and trades workers, managers, labourers, and machinery operators and drivers. This gendered pattern is mirrored in the occupational patterns of NMESC-born men and women, except for low-skilled jobs such as labourers, with similar proportions of men and women. This trend can be related to educational qualifications – given that more NMESC-born women than men had obtained tertiary qualifications, while more men had certificate-level technical qualifications compared with women. Despite that, men generally earn more than women as can be seen later in this section.

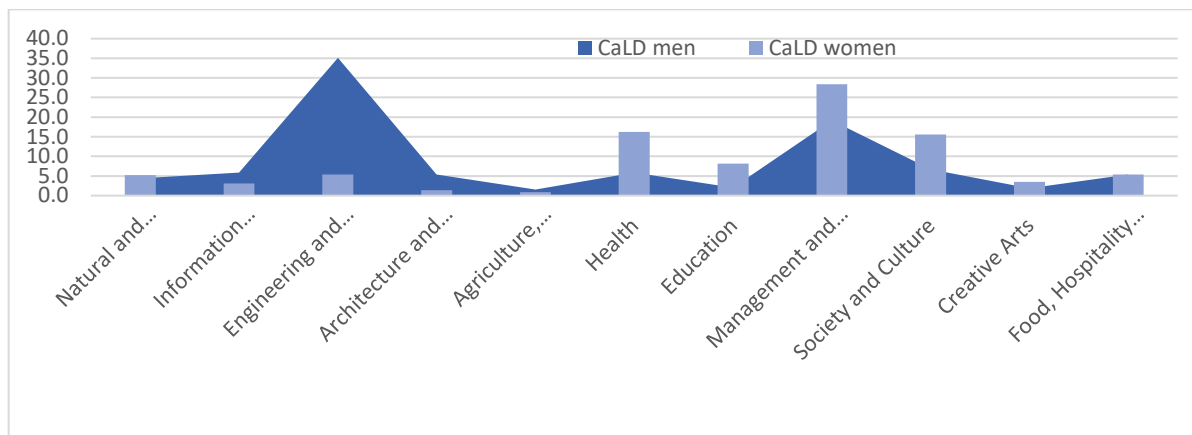
Figure 4.2: Occupational patterns by gender for currently employed NMESC-born and Western Australian counterparts, 2016



More importantly, gendered occupational patterns can be linked to the gender divide in the subjects studied for non-school qualifications (Figure 4.3). Mostly men chose STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, irrespective of CaLD backgrounds (58.3 per cent and 55.3 per cent for NMESC-born and Western Australian men, respectively) over women (32.3 per cent and 24.9 per cent, respectively). Even within STEM subjects, engineering and related technologies attracted more men than women, while the trend reversed in the case of health science. Women concentrated mainly on non-STEM subjects (63.2 per cent and 59.6 per cent for NMESC-born and Western Australian women, respectively) such as management and communication (28.4 per cent and 21.4 per cent, respectively), society and culture (15.5 per cent and 14.2 per cent, respectively) and education (8.2 per cent and 12.3 per cent,

respectively). The corresponding statistics for their male counterparts are 19.2 per cent and 12.5 per cent, 6.7 per cent and 5.6 per cent and 2 per cent and 3.1 per cent, respectively.

Figure 4.3: Field of study for tertiary qualification by gender for NMESC-born aged 15+ years and Western Australian cohorts, 2016

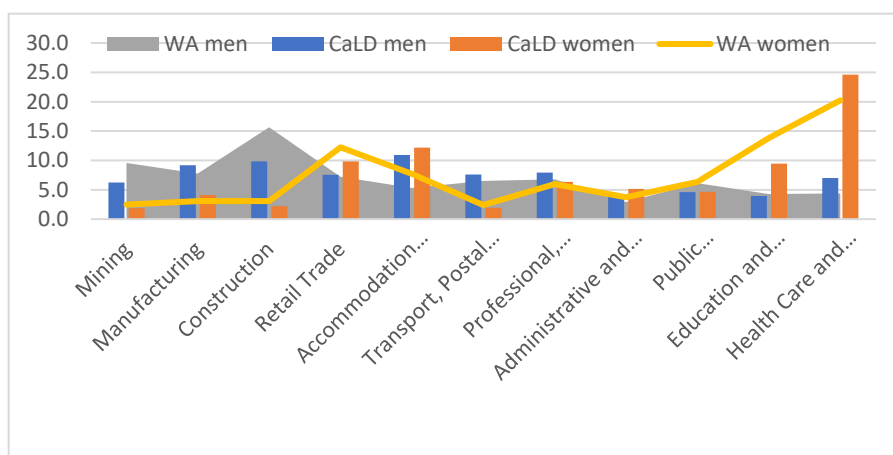


### Industries

Industries that employed more NMESC-born men than women in 2016 included construction (9.8 per cent and 2.2 per cent, respectively), manufacturing (9.2 per cent and 4.1 per cent, respectively), transport, postal and warehousing (7.6 per cent and 1.9 per cent, respectively) and mining (6.2 per cent and 1.9 per cent, respectively) (Figure 4.4). In contrast, industries that employed a notably larger proportion of NMESC-born women than men include health care and the social assistance industry (24.6 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively) and education and training (9.4 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively). As discussed before, this gender imbalance can be an outcome of the types of qualification, particularly in STEM or non-STEM subjects, chosen at the tertiary or even at the high school level of education.

For the rest of the industries, gender imbalance is not so acute. These include accommodation and food services (12.2 per cent women and 10.9 per cent men, respectively), retail trade (9.8 per cent women and 7.6 per cent men, respectively), professional, scientific and technical (7.9 per cent men and 6.3 per cent women, respectively), administrative and support services (5.2 per cent women and 3.9 per cent men, respectively) and public administration (4.6 per cent each). Similar types of gendered trends in industry-based employment can be observed for the Western Australian cohort (Figure 4.4), although the proportions varied. For example, the construction industry employed more Western Australian men (15.6 per cent), while accommodation and food services employed more NMESC-born men and women, compared with Western Australians (5.3 per cent and 7.7 per cent, respectively).

Figure 4.4: Industry-based employment by gender for NMESC-born aged 15+ years and Western Australian cohorts, 2016



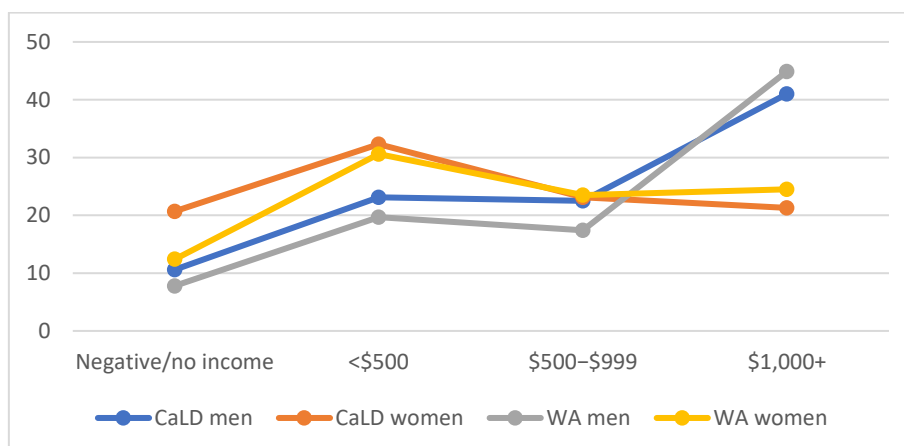
## Weekly personal income

An analysis of the weekly income data highlights that the proportion of NMESC-born women who reported negative or no income, was almost twice as large or larger than other comparator groups (Figure 4.5). A larger proportion of NMESC-born women (32.3 per cent) earned less than \$500 – barely poverty threshold income or below, compared with other groups. In contrast, they comprised the smallest group of those who earned \$1,000 or more (24.5 per cent). While a similar trend can be found for Western Australian women, the proportions vary for each income category (12.4 per cent, 30.6 per cent and 24.5 per cent, respectively).

In contrast, men had larger representation in the high and middle-income groups, irrespective of their cultural backgrounds (Figure 4.5). Clearly, this gendered trend is related to the gender imbalances found in labour market, occupational patterns and qualification trends discussed earlier.

Recent research by OMI shows a cycle of vulnerability suffered by older people from CaLD backgrounds—and most prominently women—due to low English proficiency, low/no education, employment and income, compared to their cohort either born in Australia or in main English-speaking countries ([Ageing in Multicultural Western Australia](#)). A large proportion of those who reported having negative or no income were Asian women mainly from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and China.

Figure 4.5: Weekly income by gender for NMESC-born aged 15+ years and Western Australian cohorts, 2016

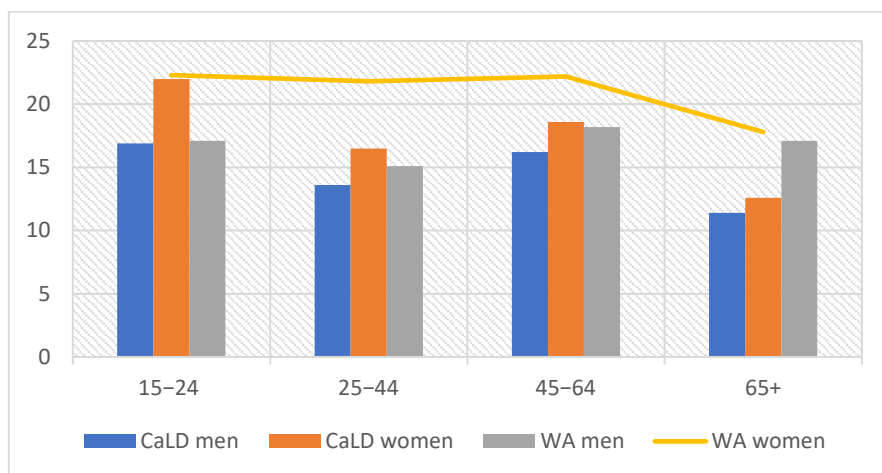


## Volunteering

Participation in volunteering activities is often considered mutually beneficial for both volunteers and recipients. Volunteers learn new skills and make new contacts, both of which are necessary pathways to securing employment. In addition, it helps in addressing social isolation issues and can be an enriching experience for some. Organisations, on the other hand, benefit from the support of volunteers who are not part of the paid workforce, but who help in promoting their activities and goodwill.

An analysis of volunteering data highlights that in 2016, more women were engaged in volunteering than men, in general and across age groups (Figure 4.7). The volunteering rates are lower for those aged between 25 and 44 years and the 65+ years age group, compared with the 15–24 year or 45–64 years age groups. This trend can be related to the general societal life cycle, especially the variation in roles and responsibilities at different stages of life. For example, the 25–44 years age group is often preoccupied with growing a family, while older people may have barriers such as lack of adequate transport and health issues.

Figure 4.7: Rates of volunteering by gender and age group for NMESC-born people and all Western Australians, 2016



NMESC-born men had lower volunteering rates compared to others across all age groups. For NMESC-born women, the rates peak for young women (15–24 years) and those aged between 45 and 64 years and are higher, compared with men. This trend indicates the need to create more opportunities for volunteering for NMESC-born men and women. However, rates of volunteering remained consistent at around 22 per cent for Western Australian women across all age groups and is higher compared to all other groups.

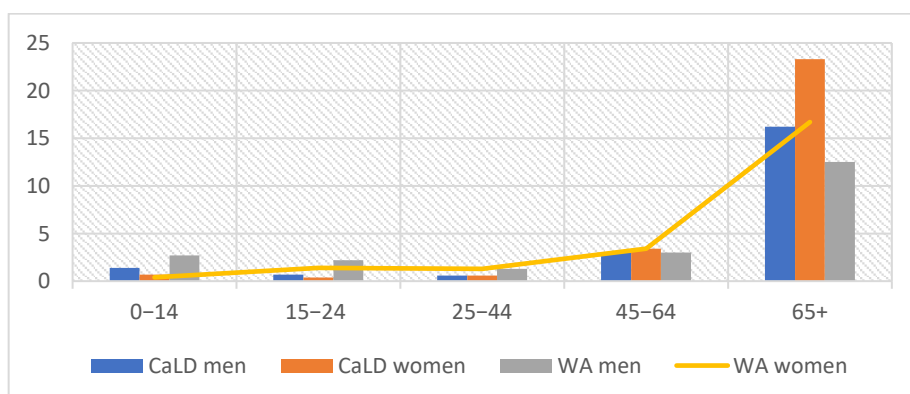
## 5. Disability and Caring

### Disability

Before 2016, Population and Housing Census data did not provide any information on health status except on disability in terms of need for assistance in core activities – mobility, communication, and self-management.<sup>6</sup> In the absence of health-related data that can be disaggregated for people from CaLD backgrounds, this data has been analysed to indicate vulnerability and identify vulnerable groups.

Figure 5.1 shows that generally, health deteriorates with age. Accordingly, people aged 65 years and over who require assistance in core activities are the largest group. However, within this older group, women are more vulnerable than men, and the risk is highest for NMESC-born women. A recently published OMI report on CaLD seniors highlights that the disability rate is even higher for those aged 85 years and over, and women (61 per cent), compared with men (49 per cent).<sup>7</sup> The comparative rates were also high for the MESC-born (37 per cent for men and 51.8 per cent for women) and Australia-born cohorts (36.6 per cent and 49.6 per cent for women), respectively, but lower than NMESC-born women. It also highlighted that over time the rate of disability has not improved since 2006, suggesting the need for more responsive and culturally appropriate aged care services.

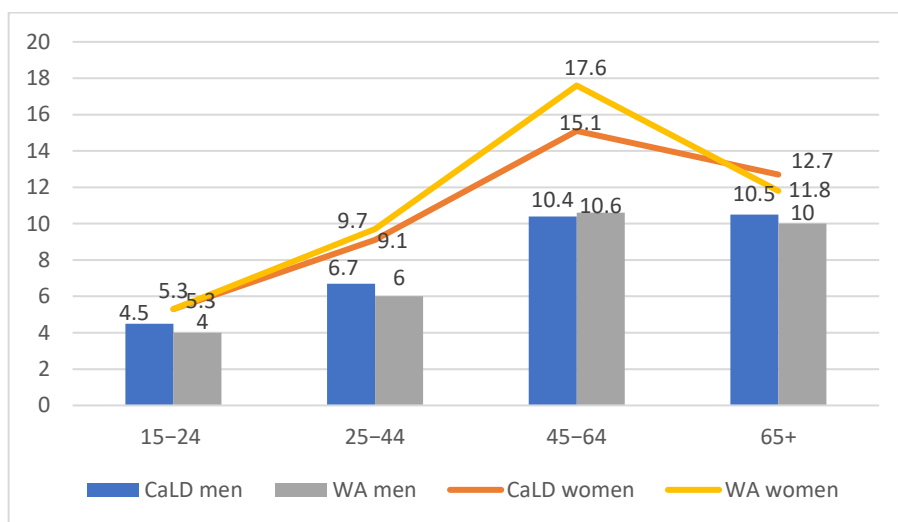
Figure 5.1: Rate of disability by age group and gender for NMESC-born people and all Western Australians, 2016



## Carers

With the high prevalence of disability at old age, the role of carers cannot be over emphasised. Generally, the rate of providing unpaid assistance to another person with disability is higher for women aged 15 years and over than men (Figure 5.1). This holds for all categories of women – young and old, NMESC-born or not, indicating women’s higher contributions in caring roles than men. It should be noted that the rate is highest for those aged between 45 and 64 years, irrespective of gender. This rate almost doubles when compared to the 24–44 age group in the case of women (15.1 per cent for NMESC-born women and 17.6 per cent for Western Australian women cohorts), compared with men (10.4 per cent and 10.6 per cent, respectively). Although not at the same rate, even older women (65+ years) continue bearing the greater burden of caring roles (12.6 per cent for NMESC-born women and 11.8 per cent for Western Australian women cohorts), compared with men (10.5 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively).

Figure 5.2: Percentage of NMESC-born people and all Western Australians who provided unpaid assistance to another person with disability by age group and gender, 2016



<sup>1</sup> Please note that unless otherwise specified, the census data mainly for education, labour force status and income is collected from people aged 15 years and over.

<sup>2</sup> These definitions are mainly based on the 1999 Australian Bureau of Statistics Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Language Diversity. However, the standards are questioned on the grounds of appropriateness, adequacy, consistency, and coverage (please see Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia (FECCA) 2020. “If we don’t count it ... it doesn’t count. Towards Consistent National Data Collection and Reporting on Cultural, Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity.” Available on <https://fecca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CALD-DATA-ISSUES-PAPER-FINAL2.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that the population distribution pattern could have been similar had the second or third generation Australia born children of migrant parents been considered.

<sup>4</sup> Following ABS definition of NMES countries, Australian, English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, American, Canadian, New Zealander, South Africans as well as any of these categories ‘not further defined’ (nfd) or ‘not elsewhere classified’ (nec) and not stated category were excluded from the equation.

<sup>5</sup> Languages with 50 or more speakers are considered for this ranking analysis.

<sup>6</sup> Note that the 2021 Census will provide information on chronic health conditions.

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.omi.wa.gov.au/docs/librariesprovider2/default-document-library/ageing-in-multicultural-western-australia.pdf?sfvrsn=71d15e7d\\_2](https://www.omi.wa.gov.au/docs/librariesprovider2/default-document-library/ageing-in-multicultural-western-australia.pdf?sfvrsn=71d15e7d_2)