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In Western Australia 249 languages and dialects are spoken (including Aboriginal and sign languages).



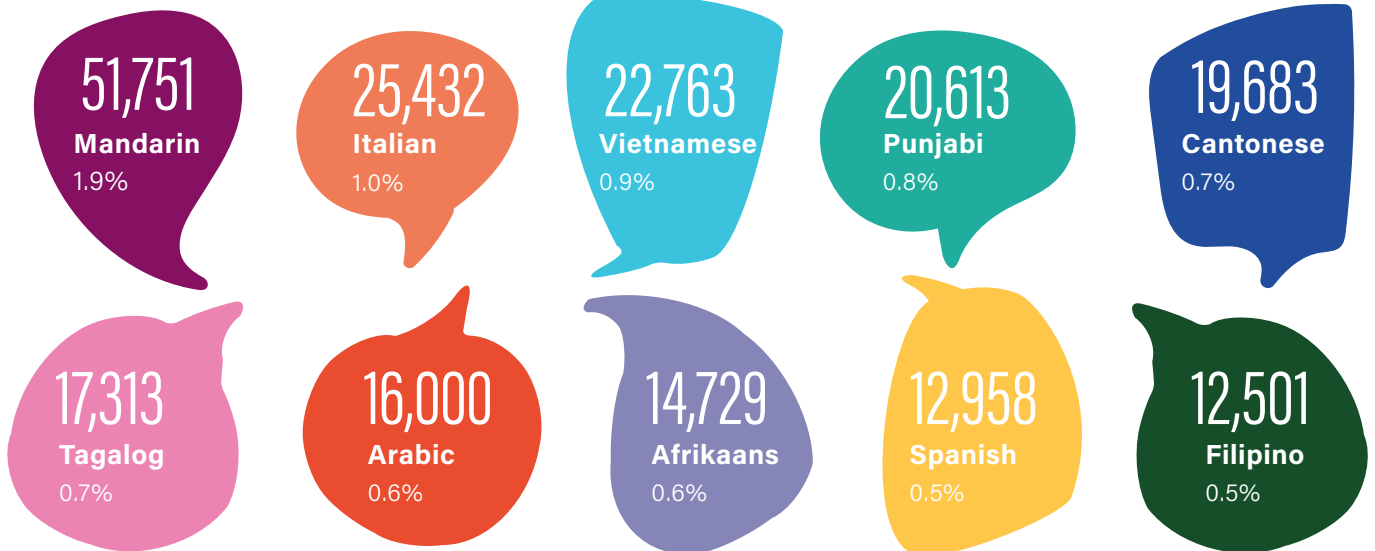
The 2021 Census shows that almost **one in every five** Western Australians (**18.7%**) speak a language other than English (LOTE) at home up from (**17.7%**) in 2016.

2X
LOTE speakers

The number of LOTE speakers **↑ by 13.6%** since 2016, almost doubled compared with the English only speakers (**↑ by 7.6%**). The proportion of English only speakers became smaller from 79.3% to 75.3%.

TOP 10 languages other than English (LOTE) spoken at home

Except for Italian and Spanish, the largest LOTE groups comprised mainly of Asian, followed by African languages. Since 2016, the largest increase was in the number of **Mandarin (+23,717)** and **Punjabi (+15,792)** speakers.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE proficiency

Of the language other than English speakers, **12.1%** reported as having low English proficiency, which was lower than 2016 (**14%**) and the national average (**15%**). As proportion of total population, Western Australians with low English proficiency became smaller in 2021, comprising of **2.2%** of the population, dropping from **2.5%** in 2016.

