

An overview of South Australia's Multicultural Population

As expected, South Australia's population grew in the five years between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses. Migrants have had a major role in this growth.

There are 1,514,337 South Australians, 79% of whom were born in Australia and 21% of whom were born overseas, (10% in English speaking countries and 11% in non-English speaking countries).

Arrival of skilled and business migrants from India, Malaysia, China, the Republic of Korea (South) and the Philippines has risen sharply. There has also been a steady flow of skilled and business migrants from South Africa. African communities are growing due to humanitarian (refugee) entries.

The potentially big communities of the future are the Chinese, Indian, Filipino, Malaysian and South African communities. It should be remembered that English is widely spoken in the Philippines, India, Malaysia and South Africa.

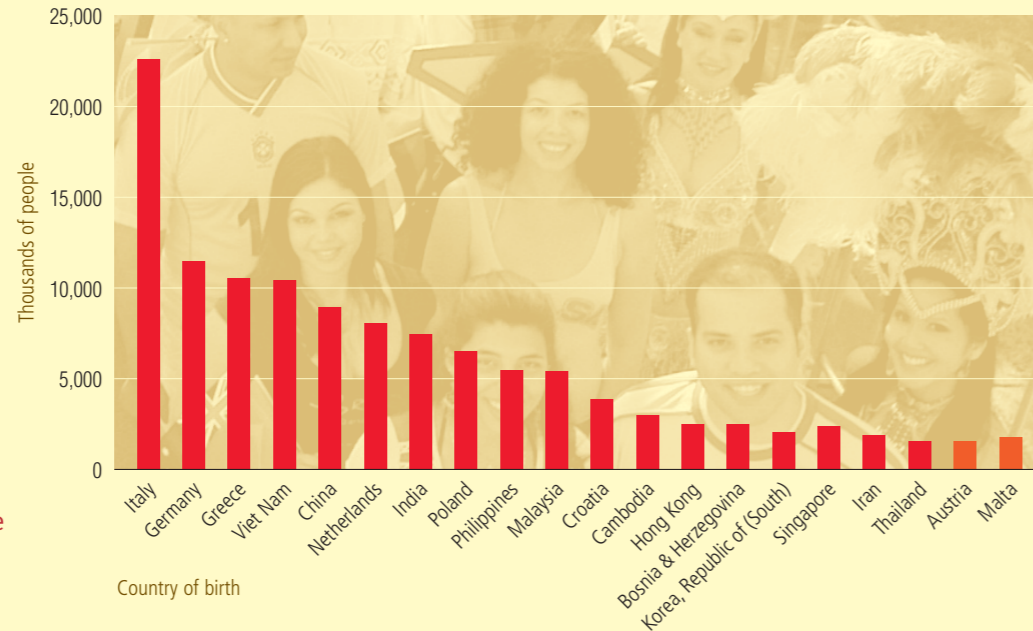
The number of households where Malaysian, Filipino, Korean and the Chinese and Indian languages are spoken has increased accordingly.

There has also been an increase in the number of households where African languages are spoken, though this increase is not large in terms of absolute numbers. In contrast, some of the established communities – those migrants born in what were once considered the "traditional" source countries, such as Greece, Italy and the former Yugoslavia – are getting smaller, and increasingly aged. The proportion of people over the age of 65 in these communities is growing rapidly.

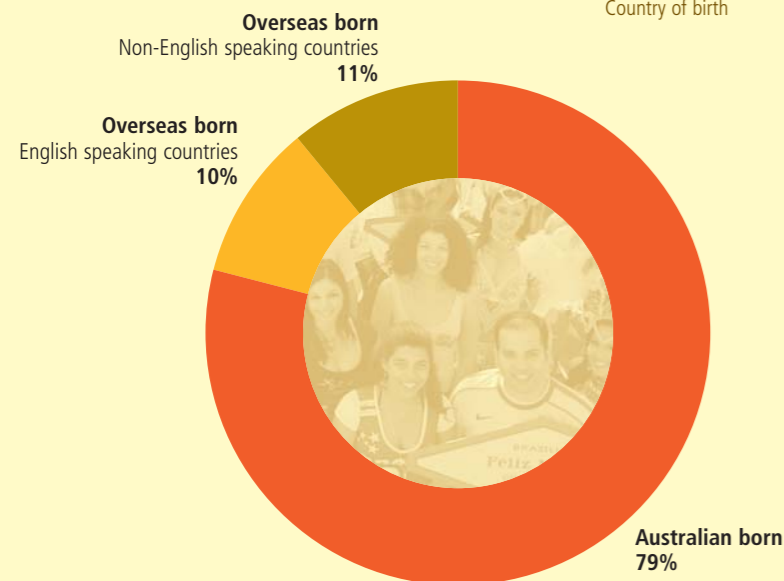
Consequently, the number of people who speak a language other than English at home in these communities is also diminishing. Varying numbers of the Australian-born descendants of original migrants are learning these languages, with varying degrees of proficiency, but not always fluently enough to speak them at home all the time.

Overall, the number of South Australians who speak a language other than English at home has increased by 3% since the 2001 Census. There has been a steep rise in the number of households where certain languages are spoken: Hindi (India) has risen by 105%, Mandarin Chinese by 127% and Korean by 210%.

Overseas-born South Australians by major countries of birth

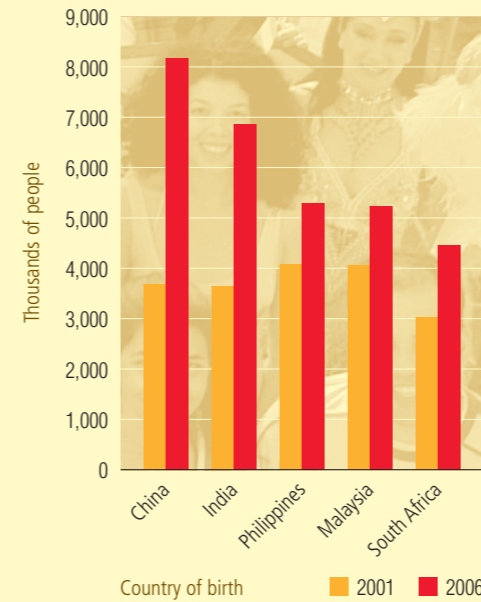


South Australia's population by birthplace 2006 Census

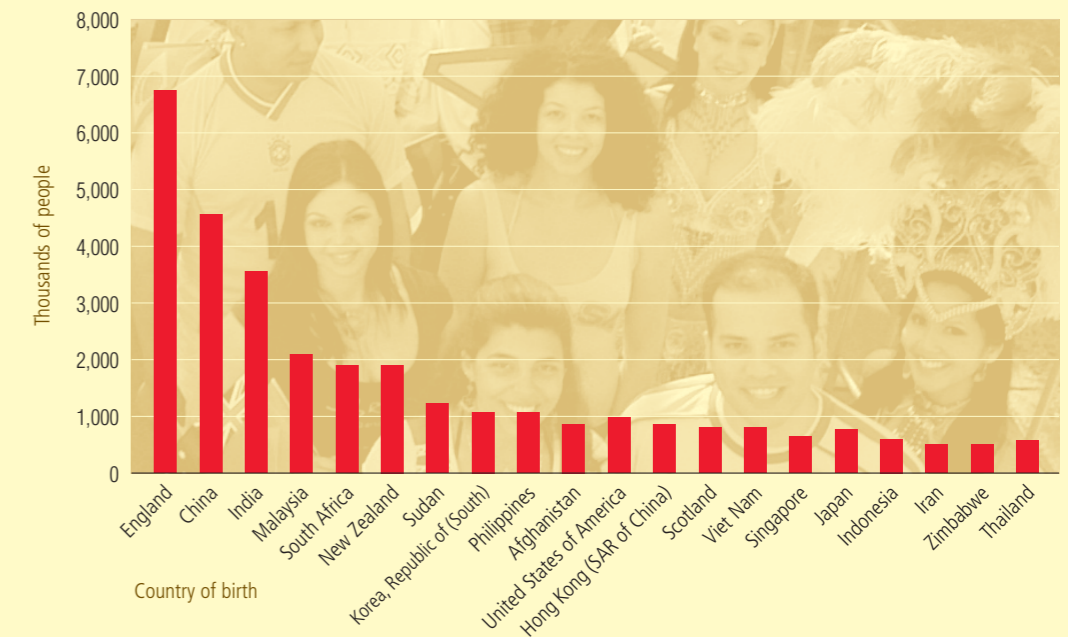


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Predicted big groups of the future



Top 20 source countries of new migrants



South Australia's growing African communities

