

# Culturally and Linguistically Diverse People Living in NSW: Selected characteristics



**Mental Health Commission**  
of New South Wales

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# Introduction

It is important to understand the diversity of our community, the characteristics of people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds and variations between these communities.

This data report presents information on a selection of demographic and social characteristics associated with people from CALD populations living in NSW. It aims to build a picture of the most common cultural groups in NSW using information from the 2011 and 2016 census and other sources, drawing upon the following:

- Country of birth
- Ancestry
- Year of arrival
- Language proficiency
- Labour force status
- Age-group
- History of torture and trauma
- Death rates
- Access to mental health services

# Countries people were born in

Table 1: Country of birth - Summary

Birthplace	2016			2011			Change 2011- 2016
	Population	% NSW	% Australia	Population	% NSW	% Australia	
<b>Total overseas born:</b>	2,068,140	27.6	26.3	1,775,543	25.7	24.6	+292,597
- <b>Non-English-speaking backgrounds</b>	1,569,660	21.0	17.9	1,286,396	18.6	15.7	+283,264
- <b>Main English speaking countries</b>	498,480	6.7	8.4	489,147	7.1	8.9	+9,333
<b>Australian born</b>	4,899,091	65.5	66.7	4,747,383	68.6	69.8	+151,707
<b>Not stated</b>	512,949	6.9	7.0	394,676	5.7	5.6	+118,318
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>7,480,230</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,917,602</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+562,622</b>

Source: ABS Census 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id, the population experts

# Countries people were born in

Table 2: Top fifteen non-English-speaking countries of birth

Country of Birth	2016			2011			Change 2011- 2016
	Population	% NSW	% Australia	Population	% NSW	% Australia	
<b>China*</b>	234,506	3.1	2.2	156,034	2.3	1.5	+78,472
<b>India</b>	143,459	1.9	1.9	95,387	1.4	1.4	+48,072
<b>Philippines</b>	86,752	1.2	1	70,388	1	0.8	+16,364
<b>Vietnam</b>	84,129	1.1	0.9	71,838	1	0.9	+12,291
<b>Lebanon</b>	57,375	0.8	0.3	56,295	0.8	0.4	+1,080
<b>South Korea</b>	51,817	0.7	0.4	41,819	0.6	0.3	+9,998
<b>Italy</b>	49,474	0.7	0.7	51,626	0.7	0.9	-2,152
<b>South Africa</b>	43,059	0.6	0.7	40,247	0.6	0.7	+2,812
<b>Hong Kong</b>	42,347	0.6	0.4	38,568	0.6	0.3	+3,779
<b>Iraq</b>	40,276	0.5	0.3	29,342	0.4	0.2	+10,934
<b>Fiji</b>	33,879	0.5	0.3	32,304	0.5	0.3	+1,575
<b>Nepal</b>	32,122	0.4	0.2	15,296	0.2	0.1	+16,826
<b>Indonesia</b>	31,774	0.4	0.3	26,834	0.4	0.3	+4,940
<b>Malaysia</b>	31,652	0.4	0.6	27,257	0.4	0.5	+4,395
<b>Germany</b>	29538	0.4%	0.4%	31084	0.4%	0.5%	-1546

Source: ABS Census 2016 and 2011

\* China - excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs) and Taiwan

## Most common ethnical group that CALD people identify with

Table 3: Top ten non-English speaking ancestries in NSW

Ethnicity	2016			2011			Change 2011- 2016
	Population	% NSW	% Australia	Population	% NSW	% Australia	
<b>Chinese</b>	514,739	6.88	5.19	378,496	5.47	4.03	+136,243
<b>Italian</b>	272,124	3.64	4.27	246,144	3.56	4.26	+25,980
<b>German</b>	236,146	3.16	4.20	215,458	3.11	4.18	+20,688
<b>Indian</b>	211,927	2.83	2.65	138,650	2.00	1.82	+73,277
<b>Lebanese</b>	166,591	2.23	0.99	146,927	2.12	0.95	+19,664
<b>Greek</b>	132,829	1.78	1.70	126,903	1.83	1.76	+5,926
<b>Filipino</b>	117,356	1.57	1.30	93,935	1.36	1.05	+23,421
<b>Vietnamese</b>	109,588	1.47	1.26	81,946	1.18	1.03	+27,642
<b>Dutch</b>	78,231	1.05	1.45	77,416	1.12	1.56	+815
<b>Maltese</b>	69,490	0.93	0.75	64,887	0.94	0.76	+4,603

Source: ABS Census 2016 and 2011

# Trends in the number of arrivals to NSW and Australia

Table 4: Year of arrival in Australia

Year of arrival in Australia	Population	% NSW	% Aus
<b>2011 to 9 Aug 2016</b>	424,730	20.5	21.5
<b>2006 to 2010</b>	288,843	13.9	16.0
<b>2001 to 2005</b>	195,223	9.4	9.1
<b>1991 to 2000 (10-year period)</b>	310,006	15.0	12.4
<b>1981 to 1990 (10-year period)</b>	287,760	13.9	12.5
<b>1971 to 1980 (10-year period)</b>	191,163	9.2	8.8
<b>1961 to 1970 (10-year period)</b>	179,297	8.7	9.6
<b>Arrived in 1960 or earlier</b>	121,745	5.9	6.7
<b>Not stated</b>	73,697	3.6	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,072,464</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ABS Census 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id, the population experts

# Most common ethnic group arrivals

Table 5: Top ten countries by year of arrival to Australia in NSW

Arrived 1900-1945	Arrived 1946-1975	Arrived 1975-2005	Arrived 2006- August 2016
Italy	Italy	China*	China*
China*	Greece	Vietnam	India
Germany	Lebanon	Philippines	Philippines
Papua New Guinea	Germany	India	Nepal
Austria	Scotland	Lebanon	South Korea
Greece	Malta	Hong Kong	Iraq
Hong Kong	Croatia	South Korea	Vietnam
Fiji	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	South Africa	Pakistan
Malaysia	Egypt	Fiji	Thailand
Lebanon	India	Iraq	Bangladesh

Source: ABS Census 2016

\* China - excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs) and Taiwan



## CALD people aged over 60 years

Table 6: Top ten non- English-speaking countries of birth by older population (60+ years)

Country of Birth	Population	2016		2011		Change 2011- 2016	
		% NSW	% Australia	Population	% NSW		% Australia
<b>Italy</b>	30,905	2.5	3.1	29,454	2.9	3.6	+1,451
<b>China*</b>	27,393	2.2	1.3	18,808	1.8	1.1	+8,585
<b>Greece</b>	20,150	1.7	1.7	18,989	1.9	2.0	+1,161
<b>Germany</b>	14,757	1.2	1.4	11,939	1.2	1.4	+2,818
<b>Lebanon</b>	12,345	1.0	0.4	9,152	0.9	0.4	+3,193
<b>Vietnam</b>	9,753	0.8	0.6	6,475	0.6	0.5	+3,278
<b>Malta</b>	9,719	0.8	0.7	7,732	0.8	0.6	+1,987
<b>India</b>	8,915	0.7	0.8	6,345	0.6	0.7	+2,570
<b>Philippines</b>	8,332	0.7	0.5	4,535	0.4	0.3	+3,797
<b>Croatia</b>	7,934	0.7	0.6	7,164	0.7	0.7	+770

Source: ABS Census 2016 and 2011

\* China - excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs) and Taiwan

# Younger CALD people

Table 7: Top ten non- English-speaking countries of birth by younger population ( age10-29 years)

Country of Birth	2016			2011			Change 2011- 2016
	Population	% NSW	% Australia	Population	% NSW	% Australia	
<b>China*</b>	78,711	4.1	3.3	51,565	2.9	2.2	+27,146
<b>India</b>	36,450	1.9	2.1	31,719	1.8	1.9	+4,731
<b>Philippines</b>	17,562	0.9	0.9	15,892	0.9	0.7	+1,670
<b>Nepal</b>	17,339	0.9	0.5	9,537	0.5	0.3	+7,802
<b>Korea</b>	14,066	0.7	0.5	12,692	0.7	0.5	+1,374
<b>Vietnam</b>	12,781	0.7	0.6	10,061	0.6	0.5	+2,720
<b>Iraq</b>	11,191	0.6	0.3	8,910	0.5	0.3	+2,281
<b>Hong</b>	9,267	0.5	0.4	10,666	0.6	0.4	-1,399
<b>Indonesia</b>	9,155	0.5	0.4	8,400	0.5	0.4	+755
<b>Pakistan</b>	8,698	0.5	0.4	4,468	0.2	0.2	+4,230

Source: ABS Census 2016 and 2011

\*China - excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs) and Taiwan

This table presents the proportion of younger population across different communities, as of the total NSW population (denominator).

# Workforce participation

Table 9: Top ten non-English speaking countries of birth with the highest number of working age population and unemployment rate within communities

	2016			2011			Change 2011-2016
	Total population in the labour force	% NSW	% Unemployed from the total in labour force	Total population in the labour force	% NSW	% Unemployed from the total in labour force	
<b>China*</b>	121,592	3.4	10.3	86,097	2.6	10.3%	0.0%
<b>India</b>	100,969	2.8	7.5	66,812	2.0	6.7%	+0.8%
<b>Philippines</b>	60,058	1.7	5.5	49,276	1.5	5.2%	+0.2%
<b>Vietnam</b>	48,315	1.3	9.9	41,386	1.2	9.9%	0.0%
<b>South Korea</b>	30,554	0.8	7.8	22,042	0.7	9.0%	-1.2%
<b>South Africa</b>	30,481	0.8	4.5	27,608	0.8	4.6%	-0.1%
<b>Nepal</b>	26,706	0.7	7.4	12,651	0.4	5.6%	+1.7%
<b>Hong Kong</b>	26,549	0.7	6.2	25,032	0.8	6.0%	+0.2%
<b>Lebanon</b>	24,151	0.7	8.0	23,179	0.7	8.9%	-1.0%
<b>Fiji</b>	23,134	0.6	7.0	22,144	0.7	6.8%	+0.3%

Source: ABS Census 2016 and 2011

\* China - excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs) and Taiwan

This table compares the proportion of unemployed population between different communities, as of the total labour force of the respective community (denominator).

# Language spoken at home

Table 10: Language spoken at home other than English - Summary

Language summary	2016			2011			Change 2011 to 2016
	Population	% NSW	% Australia	Population	% NSW	% Australia	
Speaks English only	5,126,633	68.5	72.7	5,013,350	72.5	76.8	+113,283
Non-English total	1,881,998	25.1	20.8	1,551,987	22.4	18.2	+330,011
Not stated	471,576	6.3	6.4	349,960	5.1	5.1	+121,616
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>7,480,207</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,915,297</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>564,910</b>

Source: ABS Census 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id, the population experts

## Different languages spoken at home

Table 11: Top fifteen languages spoken at home other than English

Language spoken at home	2016			2011			Change 2011-2016
	Population	% NSW	% Australia	Population	% NSW	% Australia	
<b>Chinese:</b>	383,285	5.1	3.8	276,195	4.0	2.8	+107,090
<b>Mandarin</b>	239,947	3.2	2.5	139,822	2.0	1.6	+100,125
<b>Cantonese</b>	143,338	1.9	1.2	136,373	2.0	1.2	+6,965
<b>Arabic</b>	200,828	2.7	1.4	184,253	2.7	1.3	+16,575
<b>Vietnamese</b>	102,896	1.4	1.2	87,499	1.3	1.1	+15,397
<b>Greek</b>	81,685	1.1	1.0	86,602	1.3	1.2	- 4,917
<b>Italian</b>	75,697	1.0	1.2	83,175	1.2	1.4	- 7,478
<b>Hindi</b>	67,037	0.9	0.7	52,780	0.8	0.5	+14,257
<b>Spanish</b>	63,523	0.8	0.6	55,623	0.8	0.5	+7,900
<b>Korean</b>	59,914	0.8	0.5	47,423	0.7	0.4	+12,491
<b>Tagalog</b>	45,133	0.6	0.5	37,119	0.5	0.4	+8,014
<b>Nepali</b>	34,608	0.5	0.3	16,143	0.2	0.1	+18,465
<b>Punjabi</b>	33,429	0.4	0.6	21,540	0.3	0.3	+11,889
<b>Bengali</b>	31,687	0.4	0.2	21,485	0.3	0.2	+10,202
<b>Indonesian</b>	30,032	0.4	0.3	24,783	0.4	0.3	+5,249
<b>Urdu</b>	29,723	0.4	0.3	17,742	0.3	0.2	+11,981

Source: ABS Census 2016 and 2011

# Communities with low English proficiency\*

Table 12: Top ten communities speaking languages other English at home by Low English proficiency

Languages spoken at home	Population	2016		Population	2011		Change 2011- 2016
		% NSW	% Australia		% NSW	% Australia	
<b>Mandarin</b>	239,947	32.0	2.5	139,822	2.0	1.6	+100,125
<b>Nepali</b>	34,608	0.5	0.3	16,143	0.2	0.1	+18,465
<b>Arabic</b>	200,828	2.7	1.4	184,253	2.7	1.3	+16,575
<b>Vietnamese</b>	102,896	1.4	1.2	87,499	1.3	1.1	+15,397
<b>Hindi</b>	67,037	0.9	0.7	52,780	0.8	0.5	+14,257
<b>Korean</b>	59,914	0.8	0.5	47,423	0.7	0.4	+12,491
<b>Urdu</b>	29,723	0.4	0.3	17,742	0.3	0.2	+11,981
<b>Punjabi</b>	33,429	0.4	0.6	21,540	0.3	0.3	+11,889
<b>Bengali</b>	31,687	0.4	0.2	21,485	0.3	0.2	+10,202
<b>Thai</b>	24,841	0.3	0.2	15,715	0.2	0.2	+9,126

Source: ABS Census 2016 and 2011

\*Low English Proficiency = Speaks another language, and English not well or not at all.

This table presents the proportion of people with low English proficiency across different communities, as of the total NSW population (denominator).

# Communities with low English proficiency

Table 13: Top ten communities speaking languages other English at home by English proficiency

Languages spoken at home	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
	Speaks other language and speaks English: Very well or Well	Speaks other language and speaks English: Not Well or Not at all	Speaks other language and speaks English: Very well or Well	Speaks other language and speaks English: Not Well or Not at all	Speaks other language and speaks English: Very well or Well	Speaks other language and speaks English: Not Well or Not at all
<b>Rohingiya</b>	44.2%	55.8%	42.4%	57.6%	1.8%	-1.8%
<b>Chin Haka</b>	50.6%	49.4%	42.3%	57.7%	8.3%	-8.3%
<b>Karen</b>	55.2%	44.8%	34.0%	66.0%	21.2%	-21.2%
<b>Acehnese</b>	58.3%	41.7%	63.4%	36.6%	-5.1%	5.1%
<b>Mon</b>	60.0%	40.0%	65.5%	34.5%	-5.5%	5.5%
<b>Mongolian</b>	60.1%	39.9%	78.2%	21.8%	-18.1%	18.1%
<b>Hazaraghi</b>	62.5%	37.5%	59.9%	40.1%	2.6%	-2.6%
<b>Hmong</b>	64.2%	35.8%	64.4%	35.6%	-0.2%	0.2%
<b>Khmer</b>	66.0%	34.0%	65.7%	34.3%	0.3%	-0.3%
<b>Korean</b>	66.4%	33.6%	67.1%	32.9%	-0.7%	0.7%

Source: ABS Census 2016 and 2011

\*Low English Proficiency = Speaks another language, and English not well or not at all.

This table compares the percentage of people with low English proficiency between different communities, as of the total population in the respective community (denominator).

# Enrolments of students from diverse language backgrounds

Table 14: Enrolments of students of language background other than English by language - 2015 and 2016 (by largest language groups in 2016).

Language spoken at home other than English	2016		2015		Change 2015-2016
	Number	%	Number	%	
<b>Chinese:</b>	42,259	16.2%	41,379	16.5%	+880
<b>Mandarin</b>	23,862	9.2%	22,696	9.0%	+1,166
<b>Cantonese</b>	15,775	6.1%	16,339	6.5%	-564
<b>Other Chinese</b>	27	1.4%	57	3.1%	-30
<b>Arabic</b>	35,732	13.7%	34,302	13.6%	+1,430
<b>Vietnamese</b>	15,709	6.0%	15,593	6.2%	+116
<b>Hindi</b>	10,793	4.1%	10,240	4.1%	+553
<b>Filipino/Tagalog</b>	9,241	3.5%	8,991	3.6%	+250
<b>Greek</b>	8,920	3.4%	9111	3.6%	-191
<b>Samoan</b>	8,336	3.2%	8,034	3.2%	+302
<b>Korean</b>	8,005	3.1%	7,878	3.1%	+127
<b>Spanish</b>	7,480	2.9%	7,166	2.9%	+314
<b>Italian</b>	5,408	2.1%	5,530	2.2%	-122

Source: NSW Department of Education & Commonwealth department of Education and Training, 2015-2016



# Enrolments of students from diverse language backgrounds

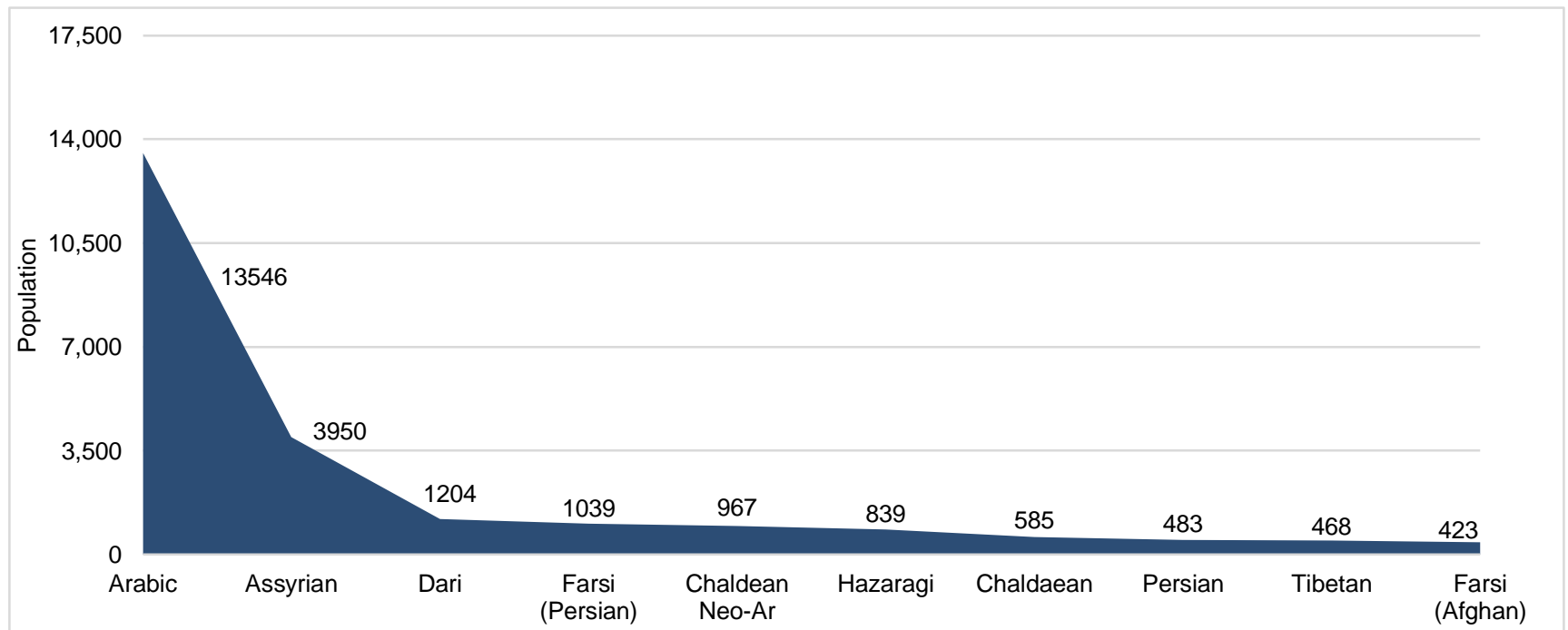
Table 15: Enrolments of government preschool students of language background other than English – largest language groups

Language spoken at home other than English	2016		2015		Change 2015-2016
	Number	%	Number	%	
<b>Vietnamese</b>	295	15	228	12.2	67
<b>Chinese:</b>	176	9	177	9.5	-1
<b>Mandarin</b>	69	3.5	66	3.5	3
<b>Cantonese</b>	80	4.1	54	2.9	26
<b>Other Chinese</b>	27	1.4	57	3.1	-30
<b>Bengali</b>	86	4.4	68	3.6	18
<b>Hindi</b>	76	3.9	67	3.6	9
<b>Urdu</b>	86	4.4	79	4.2	7
<b>Spanish</b>	42	2.1	36	1.9	6
<b>Assyrian &amp; Chaldean</b>	30	1.5	24	1.3	6
<b>Greek</b>	27	1.4	21	1.1	6

Source: NSW Department of Education & Commonwealth department of Education and Training, 2015-2016

# Largest language group from a torture/trauma refugee background

Figure 2: Largest language group from a torture/trauma refugee background, NSW, 2012-16



Source: Settlement Reporting Facility (SRF) database, Australian Department of Social Services, 2012-2016

# Countries from where people have a torture/trauma or refugee background

Figure 3: 1991-2011

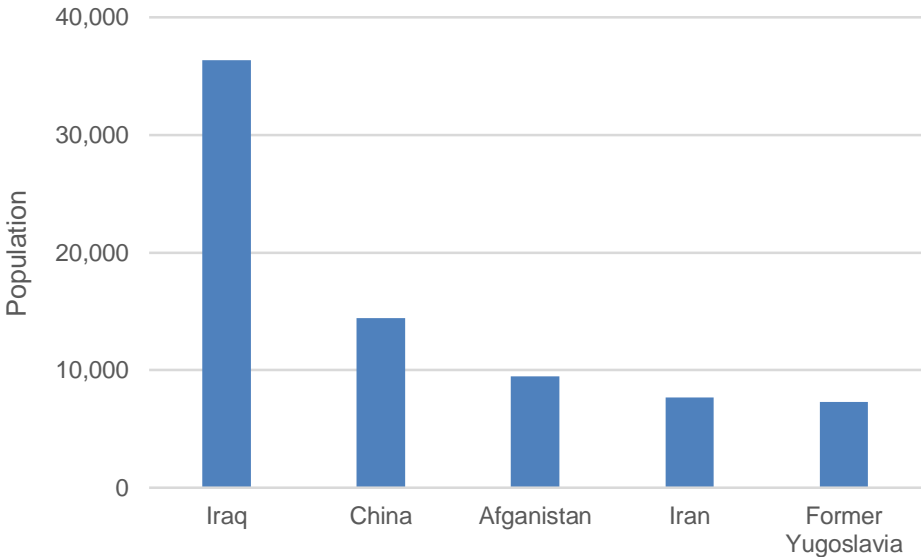
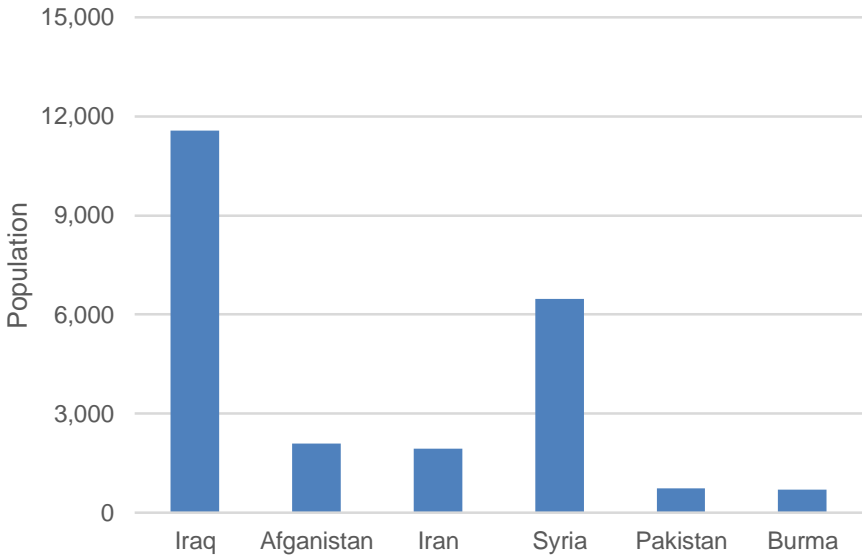


Figure 4: 2012-2016



Source: Settlement Reporting Facility (SRF) database, Australian Department of Social Services, 1991-2011 & 2012-2016

# Death rates across different CALD communities

Table 17: Top twenty countries of birth with highest Standardised Death Rate (SDR)

Male		Female	
Country of Birth	SDR*	Country of Birth	SDR
Samoa	9.4	Samoa	6.7
Ukraine	8.7	Ukraine	5.9
Poland	8.1	Canada	5.4
Hungary	8.1	Russian Federation	5.4
Czech Republic	7.9	Finland	5.2
Fiji	6.9	Austria	5.2
Australia (incl. E T)	6.8	Papua New Guinea	5.2
Romania	6.7	Australia (incl. E T)	5
Finland	6.6	Poland	4.9
Burma (Myanmar)	6.6	Fiji	4.9
Serbia	6.4	United Kingdom	4.9
Austria	6.3	The United States of America	4.8
United Kingdom	6.3	Egypt	4.8
New Zealand	6.3	Syria	4.8
Canada	6.2	Hungary	4.7
Papua New Guinea	6.2	Romania	4.7
Pakistan	6.2	Czech Republic	4.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6.1	New Zealand	4.6
Croatia	6	Germany	4.6
United States of America	5.9	Serbia	4.4
Germany	5.9	Pakistan	4.4

Source: ABS Deaths Data, 2016

\*SDR - Deaths per 1,000 standard population.

Standardised death rates use total persons in the 2001 Australian population as the standard population

# Access to mental health services (Australia)

Table 19: Percentage of people accessed MBS/PBS subsidised mental health related services by country of birth & language spoken at home

	Top five countries of birth	Top five languages spoken at home
<b>MBS subsidised mental health-related services</b>	Turkey (14.2%) Bosnia (13.4%) Iraq (12.1%) Chile (11.8%) Argentina (11.6%) Israel (11.2%)	Bosnian (12.3%) Hebrew (12.2%) Turkish (12.1%) Serbian (10.3%) Spanish (9.6%) Persian (9.4%)
<b>PBS subsidised mental health-related services</b>	Hungary (25.5%) Italy (24.4%) Malta (23.8%) Netherlands (22.4%) Greece (20.9%) Austria (20.8%)	Hungarian (22.6%) Maltese (21.8%) Dutch (20.3%) Italian (18.5%) Polish (17.3%) Bosnian (17.2%)
<b>MBS and /or PBS subsidised mental health-related services</b>	Hungary (28.7%) Italy (27.1%) Malta (27.1%) Ukraine (25.9%) Netherlands (25.2%) Poland (24.9%)	Hungarian (27.0%) Maltese (25.8%) Dutch (23.5%) Italian (22.7%) Bosnian (22.1%) Polish (22%)

Source: ABS, Access to MBS/PBS subsidised mental health-related services, 2011

# Mortality of people accessing mental health related services (NSW)

Table 20: Age Standardised Death Rate (ASDR) for people accessed Medical Benefits Schedule and/or Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule subsidised mental health related services by country of birth & language spoken at home

	Top five countries of birth	Top five languages spoken at home
<b>MBS subsidised mental health-related services</b>	India (12.6) Lebanon (11.5) United Kingdom (9.2) New Zealand (8.4) Germany (8.4)	Serbian (16.7) Vietnamese (9.0) English (8.5) German (6.7) Spanish(6.7)
<b>PBS subsidised mental health-related services</b>	New Zealand (19.2) Fiji (18.4) Indonesia (15.7) Polynesia* (14.1) Lebanon (13.2)	Tamil (13.3) English (13.1) Hindi (12.9) Serbian (12.2) Arabic (12.0)
<b>MBS and /or PBS subsidised mental health-related services</b>	Fiji (15.1) Indonesia (15.0) New Zealand (14.5) Polynesia* (14.3) Lebanon (12.9)	English (12.0) Tamil (11.6) Hindi (11.5) Arabic (11.3) Serbian (10.7)

Source: ABS, Access to MBS/PBS subsidised mental health-related services NSW, 2011

\*(excludes Fiji and Samoa), Melanesia and Micronesia

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