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**1986 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING**

**OVERSEAS BORN AND OTHER  
ETHNIC POPULATION**

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

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## OVERSEAS BORN AND OTHER ETHNIC POPULATION

### STATISTICAL OVERVIEW: 1986 CENSUS

- Overseas born persons counted (386,567) comprise 28 per cent of Western Australia's population (a proportion higher than any other Australian State).
- Age.* 7 per cent of the overseas born population were of school age (6-15 years) and for Australian born population the equivalent figure was 20 per cent.
- Ancestry.* There were 94 different ancestries identified and 78 per cent of the total population claimed the ancestry of an overseas country.
- Citizenship.* 56 per cent of persons born overseas had Australian citizenship including 66 per cent of persons from Asia and 77 per cent of persons from Europe (excluding United Kingdom and Ireland).
- Education.* 28 per cent of persons born overseas (100,399) continued their education beyond 16 years of age, compared with only 22 per cent (152,815) of persons born in Australia.
- Income.* The distribution of income levels of overseas and Australian born persons was substantially the same, and over 60 per cent of persons in each category had an annual income of less than \$15,000.
- Language.* 34 per cent of persons born in non-English speaking countries did not speak a language other than English at home. Languages other than English were spoken by 153,342 persons.
- Location.* Almost 83 per cent of persons born overseas were located in the Perth Statistical Division compared with only 66 per cent for Australian born persons.
- Occupation.* Some 43.5 per cent of overseas born persons in the labour force were employed in labourer, plant operator and tradesman occupations, compared with 35.9 per cent for Australian born population.
- Period of residence.* Almost 70 per cent of persons born overseas had been resident in Australia for 10 years or more, with those from Europe accounting for some 83 per cent of all population in the category.
- Religion.* 71 per cent of overseas born persons claimed adherence to the Christian faith compared with 70 per cent of Australian born persons.

## BACKGROUND NOTE ON PERSONS BORN OVERSEAS

The total number of overseas born persons counted in Western Australia at 30 June 1986 was 386,567 representing 28 per cent of the total population in Western Australia. Of these over 50 per cent (193,974 persons) were born in United Kingdom/Ireland, some 23 per cent (87,853) in Europe, 13 per cent (50,513) in Asia and 6.5 per cent (25,248) in New Zealand.

The large base population of United Kingdom and European migrants resulted from the extensive immigration programs operated immediately following the end of World War II in 1945. This migration base was extended in the 1950's and 1960's by a large flow of European migrants under a policy facilitating the uniting of families.

From a small base the relative significance of Asian born persons in the population began to grow in the late 1960's with relaxation of the previously restrictive entry policy towards people of non-European descent. The policy was further relaxed in the 1970's to accommodate the flow of refugees from South-East Asia. In the 1980's the flow of Asian migrants has continued under a policy of uniting families and the Business Migration Program.

The significant number of persons born in New Zealand arises mainly from the policy which permits New Zealanders to pursue employment opportunities in Australia without the need to obtain visas or entry permits.

## COMPOSITION OF OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION

A comparison of the number of overseas born persons according to birthplace at each census date since 1947 highlights the significant changes that have taken place in the composition of this population over the forty year period. The main changes for both Australia as a whole and for Western Australia are outlined below.

### Changes in the Australian Population

The overseas born population in Australia in 1947 of 744,187 had increased almost four and a half times to 3,247,281 by 1986.

The number of persons in the Australian population born in the United Kingdom and Ireland increased steadily from 541,267 in 1947 to 1,088,210 in 1971. The most rapid period of growth occurred between 1961 and 1971 when the nett addition was 332,808 persons. From 1971 to 1986 nett addition was only 38,986 giving a total of 1,127,196 in 1986.

From the 1947 base of 110,339, the number of persons in the Australian population born in other parts of Europe (i.e. excluding the United Kingdom and Ireland) had increased by 380,520 by 1954 and by a further 349,951 by 1961. (In 1961 the number of persons in 'Other Europe' (840,810) exceeded the number born in the United Kingdom and Ireland (755,410)). Following smaller but significant increases after 1961 the 1971 total reached 1,108,268. Over the next fifteen years the net change was a small reduction to 1,094,606 persons in 1986.

The largest absolute increase since 1966 in persons born overseas related to those from Asia. From 1966 when the total was 101,386 persons the intercensal increases (i.e. at five year intervals) have been 65,840 (1971), 73,396 (1976), 130,966 (1981), and 164,564 (1986) persons respectively. The 1986 total of 536,152 persons represents a doubling of the Asian born population since 1976.

The most significant increases in the number of New Zealand born persons have occurred since 1976. Between 1976 and 1981 the New Zealand born population increased from 89,791 to 176,713 or by 96.8 per cent. There was a further increase of 19.8 per cent to 211,670 in 1986.

The number of persons born in other countries (Africa, North and South America and Oceania) also began to grow at an accelerated rate in the 1960's. From 1966 to 1986 the average intercensal growth was 48,500 persons. The 1986 total of 277,657 persons represents a five fold increase since 1961.

### Changes in the Western Australian Population

The overseas born population in Western Australia of 91,445 persons in 1947 has grown more than four times to a total of 386,567 in 1986.

The United Kingdom and Ireland born population had increased from 69,401 in 1947 to 83,814 persons in 1954. Further significant expansion occurred in the 1960's particularly between 1966 and 1971 with the net addition of 52,897 persons to 157,017. Subsequent increases have been at a much lower level with a net addition of 36,957 persons after 1971 leading to a total of 193,974 in 1986. The number of persons born in the United Kingdom and Ireland is by far the largest group of overseas born persons in Western Australia exceeding the combined total for all other overseas countries at every Census.

Persons born in Europe (excluding the United Kingdom and Ireland) comprise the next largest group. In the post war period, the numbers increased significantly from 14,640 persons in 1947 to 53,854 in 1954. After steady growth up to 83,255 persons in 1971, the number of persons in this group fluctuated by relatively small amounts, increasing overall by 4,598 to 87,853 persons in 1986.

From a small base level of 11,153 persons in 1966 the number of Asian born persons had almost doubled to 21,607 by 1971. After 1971 a steady increase was maintained and the population of Asian born persons had again more than doubled to 50,513 persons by 1986.

The number of persons born in New Zealand was at a relatively low level until 1966. Since 1971, numbers have increased more than three fold to a total of 25,248 persons.

The table below summarises population totals according to birthplace for overseas born persons in Australia and Western Australia.

#### MAIN BIRTHPLACES OF OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION

Population Census	Birthplace					Total
	United Kingdom and Ireland	Other Europe	Asia	New Zealand	Other (a)	
AUSTRALIA						
1947	541,267	110,339	24,096	43,610	24,875	744,187
1954	664,205	490,859	51,581	43,350	36,471	1,286,466
1961	755,402	840,810	79,056	47,011	56,501	1,778,780
1966	908,664	984,847	101,386	52,485	83,538	2,130,920
1971	1,088,210	1,108,268	167,226	80,466	135,148	2,579,318
1976	1,117,599	1,093,218	240,622	89,791	177,602	2,718,832
1981	1,132,601	1,100,117	371,588	176,713	222,815	3,003,834
1986	1,127,196	1,094,606	536,152	211,670	277,657	3,247,281
WESTERN AUSTRALIA						
1947	69,401	14,640	3,461	2,103	1,840	91,445
1954	83,814	53,854	7,215	2,077	3,112	150,072
1961	83,365	66,418	8,753	1,913	3,998	164,447
1966	104,120	73,008	11,153	2,668	7,842	198,791
1971	157,017	83,255	21,607	7,478	13,916	283,273
1976	176,647	81,905	29,298	8,866	15,723	312,439
1981	186,143	84,727	37,587	18,481	21,456	348,394
1986	193,974	87,853	50,513	25,248	28,979	386,567

(a) Includes Africa, North and South America and Oceania countries excluding New Zealand.

## OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION

Although the theme of this publication is overseas and other ethnic population in Western Australia, it is important to view this population in the context of Australia as a whole.

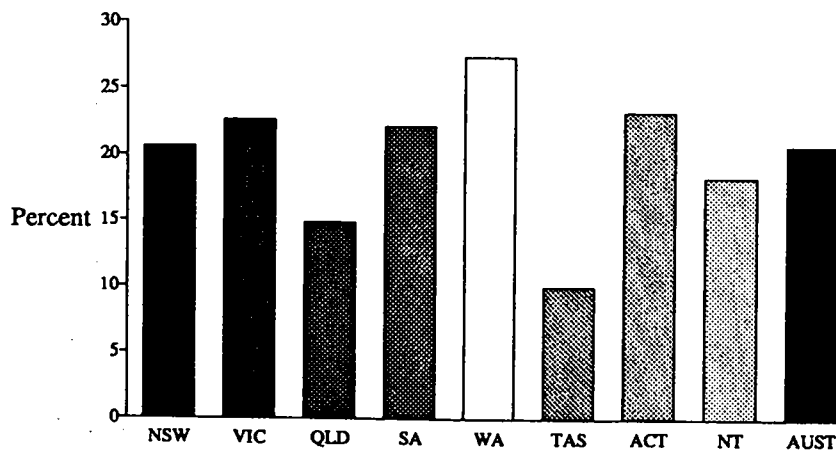
The table below provides a summary of overseas born population and total population counted in States and Territories at the June 1986 Census.

**TABLE 1 – OVERSEAS BORN PERSONS COUNTED IN EACH STATE AND TERRITORY**

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>All persons</i>	<i>Overseas born</i>	<i>Per cent of all persons</i>
New South Wales	5,401,881	1,126,282	20.8
Victoria	4,019,478	915,274	22.8
Queensland	2,587,315	388,709	15.0
South Australia	1,345,945	299,744	22.3
Western Australia	1,406,929	386,567	27.5
Tasmania	436,353	44,166	10.1
Australian Capital Territory	249,407	58,140	23.3
Northern Territory	154,848	28,499	18.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>15,602,156</b>	<b>3,247,381</b>	<b>20.8</b>

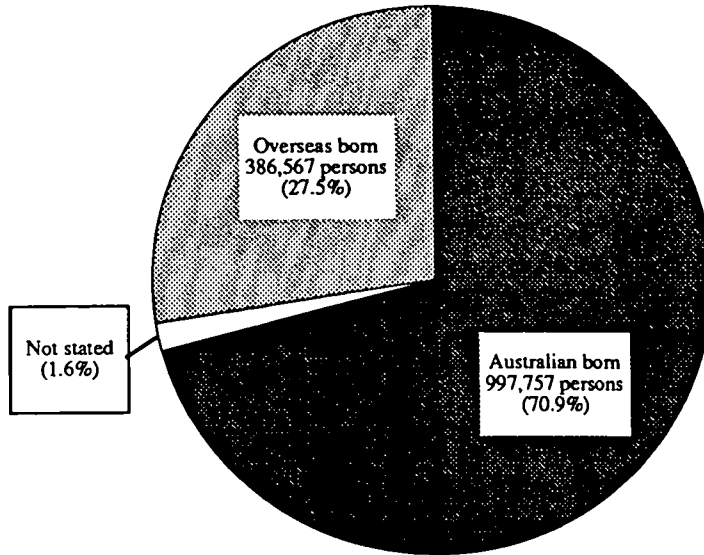
Western Australia recorded the highest proportion (27.5 per cent) of overseas born persons of all Australian States and Territories, with most States showing a proportion of overseas born population ranging from 20 per cent to 23 per cent. These data are shown in Graph 1 below.

**GRAPH 1 – PROPORTION OF OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION TO STATE/TERRITORY POPULATIONS**



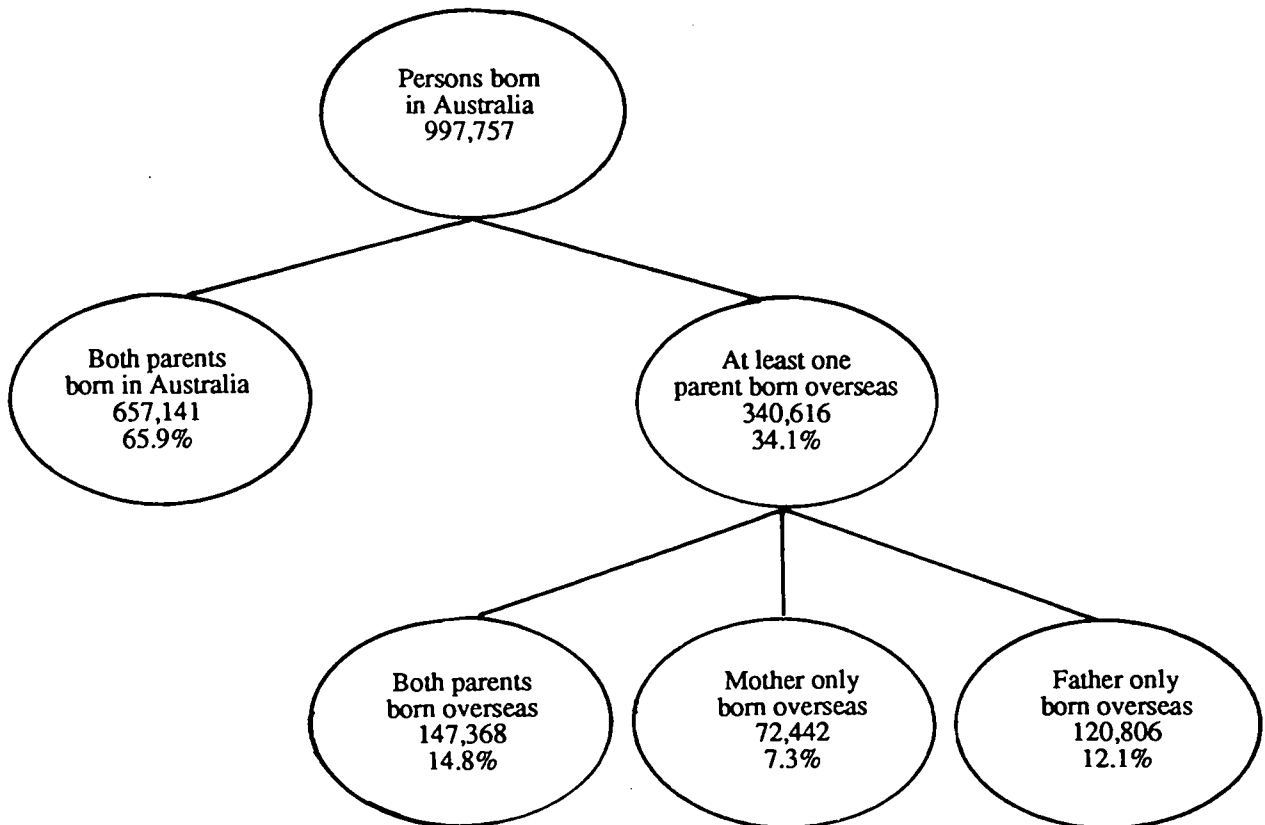
The importance of overseas born population in Western Australia is shown in Graph 2 below. The total population counted was 1,406,929 persons of whom 22,605 persons (1.6 per cent) did not state their place of birth.

**GRAPH 2 – OVERSEAS BORN AND AUSTRALIAN BORN POPULATION**



Of the 997,757 persons born in Australia, 340,616 persons had a parent (or parents) born overseas. This information is illustrated in Graph 3.

**GRAPH 3 – PARENT(S) OF PERSONS BORN IN AUSTRALIA**



The combined total of overseas born population (386,567 persons) and persons with overseas born parents (340,616 persons) accounts for 51.7 per cent of the population of Western Australia.



## ANCESTRY

Table 2 below provides a picture of the population of Western Australia based on census respondents' perceptions about their ancestry. These data are shown in relation to persons identified as being born in Australia or in other countries.

Information is listed for each ancestry involving one thousand or more persons. Where a mixed ancestry was identified persons are allocated to the first mentioned (e.g. English-German is included with English).

TABLE 2 - ANCESTRY OF OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS

<i>Ancestry name</i>	<i>Overseas born (a)</i>	<i>Australian born (a)</i>	<i>All persons</i>
Aboriginal	39	30,538	30,623
American (USA)	2,178	876	3,094
Australian	2,924	256,854	260,132
Austrian	1,395	766	2,182
British, so described	12,313	19,677	32,188
Breton, Celtic, Cornish, Manx	668	1,336	2,021
Burmese	2,073	613	2,710
Chinese	12,848	2,469	15,503
Croatian	1,165	812	1,999
Czechoslovakian	847	319	1,183
Danish	1,191	1,398	2,616
Dutch	12,936	10,463	23,645
English	172,121	442,107	617,208
Filipino	1,705	174	1,923
French	3,120	3,015	6,178
German	8,304	10,406	18,853
Greek	4,081	6,229	10,405
Hungarian	1,616	830	2,476
Indian	5,275	1,494	6,846
Irish	12,656	31,395	44,289
Italian	28,111	36,241	64,828
Jewish	816	882	1,707
Latvian	910	483	1,401
Macedonian	2,160	1,865	4,073
Malayan	1,753	429	2,210
Maltese	1,110	942	2,085
Maori	1,596	347	1,974
Mauntian	680	390	1,074
New Zealander	5,994	1,113	7,182
Norwegian	427	796	1,228
Polish	7,668	4,500	12,288
Portuguese	3,080	1,060	4,197
Russian	820	762	1,598
Scottish	20,869	27,352	48,529
Sinhalese	1,030	227	1,278
South African	1,503	264	1,797
Spanish	1,912	1,561	3,498
Swedish	559	891	1,457
Swiss	894	627	1,539
Ukrainian	1,082	689	1,785
Vietnamese	4,301	514	4,852
Welsh	4,526	4,336	8,951
Yugoslav	7,620	7,841	15,606
Other British, including Anglo Saxon	4,841	5,583	10,490
Other Ancestry (b)	18,488	18,211	37,212
Not stated	4,362	58,080	78,016
<b>Total</b>	<b>386,567</b>	<b>997,757</b>	<b>1,406,929</b>

(a) Excludes a total of 22,605 persons who did not state their birthplace. (b) Includes 50 ancestries (15,897 persons of whom 11,208 persons were born overseas) with a count of less than 1,000 persons each.

Another view of the detailed information presented in Table 2 above is summarised in Table 3. This shows the individual ancestries which comprised at least 1 per cent of the population, together with the proportion of overseas born and Australian born persons in each. In aggregate, this group accounts for 88.8 per cent of the Western Australian population.

**TABLE 3 – ANCESTRY CATEGORIES COMPRISING ONE PER CENT OR MORE OF THE POPULATION**

<i>Ancestry</i>	<i>All persons</i>	<i>Per cent of all persons (a)</i>	
		<i>Overseas born</i>	<i>Australian born</i>
Aboriginal	30,623	0.1	99.7
Australian	260,132	1.1	98.7
British, so described	32,188	38.3	61.1
Chinese	15,503	82.9	15.9
Dutch	23,645	54.7	44.3
English	617,208	27.9	71.6
German	18,853	44.0	55.2
Irish	44,289	28.6	70.9
Italian	64,828	43.4	55.9
Scottish	48,529	43.0	56.4
Yugoslav	15,606	48.8	50.2
Not stated	78,016	5.6	74.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,249,420</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>74.7</b>

(a) Components do not sum to 100 because birthplace data was not reported for 22,605 persons.

### CITIZENSHIP OF OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION

The propensity of persons born overseas to take up Australian citizenship varies widely between the major country groups. It ranges from a high of almost 77 per cent for persons from Europe (excluding the United Kingdom and Ireland) to a low of 27.1 per cent for Oceania (mainly New Zealand).

Table 4 below provides an indication of the propensity of different migrant groups to assume Australian citizenship.

**TABLE 4 – OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION WITH AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP**

<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Overseas born persons (a)</i>	<i>Overseas born persons with Australian citizenship</i>	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent of birthplace group</i>
Africa	15,444	10,946	70.9
America (North and South)	10,133	3,699	36.5
Asia	50,513	33,377	66.1
Europe –			
United Kingdom and Ireland	193,974	94,371	48.7
Other	87,853	67,328	76.6
Oceania	28,650	7,768	27.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>386,567</b>	<b>217,489</b>	<b>56.3</b>

(a) Includes 5,058 persons who did not state their citizenship.

## PERIOD OF RESIDENCE OF OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION

Almost 70 per cent (267,990) of persons in the overseas born population have resided in Western Australia for 10 years or more. Of this group 82.5 per cent (220,981 persons) identified their birthplace as being in Europe.

However, in the under ten years residence group the shift in immigration policies is reflected by the fact that the number of persons from European countries is about 1 per cent less than those from other countries. In the 0-4 years and 5-9 years residence groups, persons with a birth place other than Europe accounted for 54.4 per cent (32,960) and 46.2 per cent (22,589) of the total persons counted in each group. Persons born in Asia accounted for 25.4 per cent (15,381) in the 0-4 years group and 19.2 per cent (9,367 persons) in the 5-9 years group. The other major birthplace area identified was Oceania of which New Zealand contributed 9,506 persons (15.7 per cent) in the 0-4 years group and 7,332 persons (15.0 per cent) in the 5-9 years group.

Table 5 below provides details of overseas born persons in country groups according to period of residence in Australia.

**TABLE 5 - PERSONS BORN OVERSEAS: PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN AUSTRALIA**

Birthplace	Period of residence - years (a)					
	0-4		5-9		10 and over	
	Persons	Per cent	Persons	Per cent	Persons	Per cent
Africa	4,089	6.7	3,561	7.3	7,534	2.8
America (North and South)	3,429	5.7	1,479	3.0	5,034	1.9
Asia	15,381	25.4	9,367	19.2	24,773	9.2
Europe	27,658	45.6	26,270	53.8	220,981	82.5
Oceania	10,051	16.6	8,182	16.7	9,668	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,608</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48,859</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>267,990</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes 9,110 persons who did not state their period of residence.

## LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

Of the total Western Australian population, 10.9 per cent (153,342 persons) used a language other than English at home. The language most commonly used was Italian, accounting for 27.8 per cent (42,697 persons) of all persons in the group. The next most common language other than the English group was Chinese, spoken by 10,726 persons.

Table 6 provides a list of non-English languages used at home by at least 1,000 persons. A further 43 languages were spoken by a total of 15,205 persons. This table excludes persons under 5 years of age.

**TABLE 6 - LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME**

Language	Persons	Language	Persons
Aboriginal languages	7,788	Indonesian/Malay	3,825
Arabic including Lebanese	1,303	Italian	42,697
Burmese	1,903	Macedonian	4,598
Chinese languages	10,726	Polish	6,962
Croatian	2,759	Portuguese	3,228
Dutch	8,154	Spanish	3,053
Filipino languages	1,298	Vietnamese	4,532
French	5,243	Yugoslav N.E.I.	7,451
German	8,041	Other Asian languages	1,122
Greek	5,640	Other languages	15,205
Hungarian	1,209	Not stated and inadequately described	6,605
<b>Total 153,342</b>			

Table 7 provides information about the place of birth for persons who spoke a language other than English at home. Separate languages spoken by at least 5,000 persons are shown. The proportion of overseas born persons who spoke each language covered a wide range but four main groups were identified. Few persons who spoke an Aboriginal language were born overseas. In the 50 to 70 per cent range were persons who spoke Greek, Italian or Yugoslav. Persons who spoke French, German, Dutch or Polish were in the 70 to 90 per cent group. The highest proportion (93.9 per cent) was recorded for persons who spoke a Chinese language.

**TABLE 7 – SELECTED LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME:  
OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS**

Language	Number of persons		Per cent of persons	
	Overseas born	Australian born	Overseas born	Australian born
Aboriginal languages	17	7,771	0.2	99.8
Chinese languages	10,067	659	93.9	6.1
Dutch	7,008	1,146	85.9	14.1
French	3,885	1,358	74.1	25.9
German	6,857	1,184	85.3	14.7
Greek	3,163	2,477	56.1	43.9
Italian	25,687	17,010	60.2	39.8
Polish	6,025	937	86.5	13.5
Yugoslav	5,004	2,447	67.2	32.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,713</b>	<b>34,989</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>34.1</b>

**Persons born in non-English speaking countries – use of English language at home**

Of the 151,800 persons over the age of 4 years born in non-English speaking countries, 33.5 per cent (50,872 persons) were identified as only speaking English at home. Only 2.3 per cent (3,509 persons) did not speak English at all.

Table 8 provides an analysis of the use of English at home according to age groups.

**TABLE 8 – PERSONS BORN IN NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES:  
USE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT HOME**

Usage at home	Age group (years)			Total	Per cent of total
	5 – 14	15 – 64	65 and over		
Speak English only	3,412	42,735	4,725	50,872	33.5
Speak English and use other languages	5,854	78,706	11,360	95,920	63.2
Do not speak English	120	1,748	1,641	3,509	2.3
Question not answered	98	1,088	313	1,499	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,484</b>	<b>124,277</b>	<b>18,039</b>	<b>151,800</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## RELIGION

In the context of religion, overseas born population in Western Australia is similar to Australian born population in adherence to the major Christian faiths. Some 69.8 per cent of Australian born persons identified themselves as being of a Christian faith compared with 71.4 per cent of the overseas born population. There is also a similarity in the number of persons who stated they had no religion. This group comprised 17.4 per cent (173,612 persons) of the Australian born population and 15.7 per cent (60,678) of overseas born population. The high proportions of 'Question not answered' reflect the fact that religious denomination was the only optional question on the Census form.

Table 9 shows the count of persons according to religion.

TABLE 9 – RELIGION: OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS (a)

Religion	Overseas born		Australian born	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Christian —				
Anglican	99,782	25.8	269,392	27.0
Catholic	107,855	27.9	237,762	23.8
Uniting Church	10,431	2.7	72,161	7.2
Other	57,802	15.0	117,265	11.8
Non-Christian —				
Buddhist	6,114	1.6	982	0.1
Hindu	1,110	0.3	422	—
Jewish	2,002	0.5	1,895	0.2
Muslim	3,928	1.0	1,467	0.1
Other	1,721	0.4	3,080	0.3
No religion	60,678	15.7	173,612	17.4
Question not answered	33,376	8.6	115,237	11.5
Other	1,775	0.5	4,485	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>386,568</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>997,757</b>	<b>100.0</b>

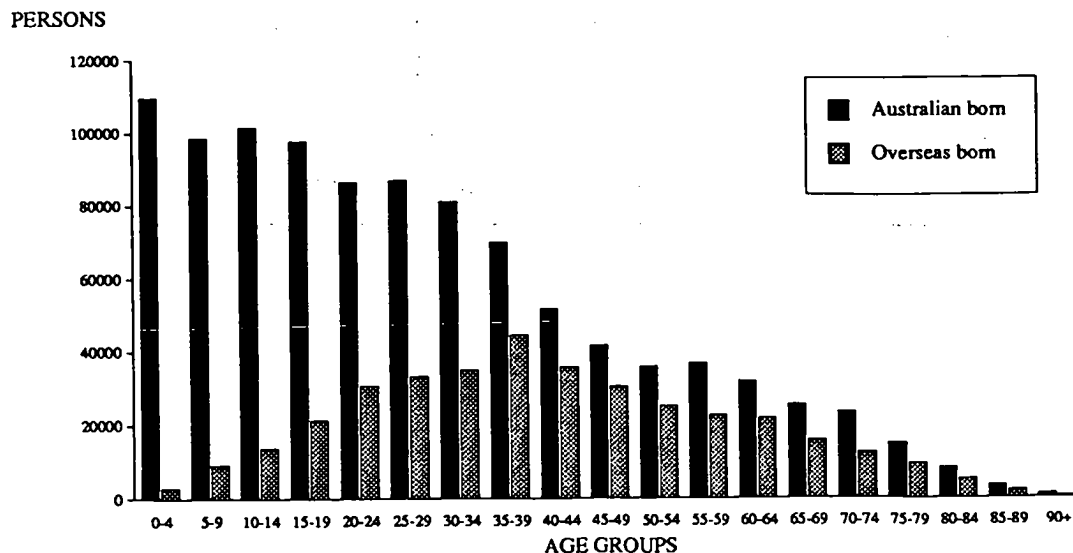
(a) Excludes 22,605 persons who did not state their birthplace.

## AGE

Compared with the Australian born population for the State, the age structure of overseas born persons differs markedly for age groups up to and including the 35–39 years age group. For the Australian born population, the number of persons declines as age increases up to this group whereas the number of overseas born persons increases with age. For age groups above 35–39 years the decline of numbers in the Australian born and overseas born categories is substantially consistent.

Graph 4 provides a striking illustration of the respective age structures.

GRAPH 4 – AGE DISTRIBUTION: OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN POPULATION



Another view of the age structure of overseas born population is shown in Table 10 below. The age groups represent, in a general sense, sectors such as the pre-school population, children of school age, minors, the economically active population and those beyond normal working age.

**TABLE 10 – AGE GROUPS: OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS**

<i>Age last birthday</i>	<i>Overseas born</i>		<i>Australian born (a)</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Under 6	5,296	1.4	130,778	12.8
6 – 12	16,301	4.2	138,452	13.6
6 – 15	26,743	6.9	203,353	19.9
Under 18	40,322	10.4	374,416	36.7
Under 21	56,058	14.5	427,388	41.9
15 – 44	205,624	53.2	478,236	46.9
15 – 64	308,564	79.8	627,454	61.5
65 and over	49,804	12.9	80,990	7.9

(a) Includes 22,605 persons distributed across all age groups, who did not state their birth place.

## INCOME

The proportion of persons in each income class for both overseas born and Australian born population is substantially the same.

Table 11 below provides a summary of the proportions of overseas born and Australian born population aged 15 years and over according to particular levels of income.

**TABLE 11 – OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS (a): ANNUAL INCOME**

<i>Annual Income \$</i>	<i>Overseas born</i>		<i>Australian born</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
No income	38,980	10.9	73,581	10.7
1 – 6,000	89,651	25.0	169,458	24.6
6,001 – 9,000	33,825	9.4	72,927	10.6
9,001 – 12,000	27,846	7.8	58,535	8.5
12,001 – 15,000	29,599	8.3	55,534	8.1
15,001 – 18,000	35,604	9.9	62,328	9.0
18,001 – 22,000	31,379	8.8	55,761	8.1
22,001 – 26,000	18,864	5.3	35,549	5.2
26,001 – 32,000	17,451	4.9	33,707	4.9
32,001 – 40,000	9,575	2.7	18,178	2.6
Over 40,000	7,993	2.2	14,493	2.1
Not stated	17,606	4.9	39,474	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>358,368</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>689,525</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes 18,919 persons who did not state their birthplace.

## OCCUPATION

In terms of the Western Australian population aged 15 years and above, overseas born persons represented 33.6 per cent (358,368) of the State total (1,066,812 persons) and 33.2 per cent (198,001) of all employed persons (595,967). The proportion of overseas born persons aged 15 years and above who were employed was 55.3 per cent and the comparable figure for Australian born persons was 57.5 per cent (394,525 persons).

Table 12 below provides a profile of occupations for overseas born and Australian born persons.

**TABLE 12 – OCCUPATION: OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS**

<i>Occupation group</i>	<i>Persons (a)</i>			
	<i>Overseas born</i>		<i>Australian born</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Managers and Administrators	18,602	9.4	53,381	13.5
Professionals	21,773	11.0	42,318	10.7
Para-professionals	14,575	7.4	26,643	6.8
Tradespersons	36,270	18.3	57,731	14.6
Clerks	29,529	14.9	68,790	17.4
Sales and personal services	22,871	11.6	52,195	13.2
Plant and machine operators	15,982	8.1	30,359	7.7
Labourers and related workers	33,914	17.1	53,757	13.6
Other and not stated	4,485	2.3	9,351	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,001</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>394,525</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes 3,441 persons who did not state their place of birth.

Although the proportions of overseas born and Australian born persons employed in the professional, para-professional and plant and machine operators groups are very similar, some differences in the distribution of the two populations between the other major occupation groups are apparent.

The greatest difference relates to managers and administrators which account for 13.5 per cent of the Australian born employed compared with 9.4 per cent of the overseas born employed.

The same trend is apparent in relation to clerks and sales and personal service workers, each accounting for a higher proportion of the Australian born employed than the overseas born employed. 17.4 per cent of the Australian born were clerks compared with 14.9 per cent of the overseas born, whilst 13.2 per cent of the former population and 11.6 per cent of the latter population were sales or personal service workers.

In the trades occupations and in labouring and related occupations, the trend is reversed with the proportion of overseas born being higher than the proportion of Australian born. Trades occupations accounted for 18.3 per cent of the overseas born employed compared with 14.6 per cent of the Australian born employed.

The same trend is apparent in the group of labourers and related workers which accounted for 17.1 per cent of the overseas born employed but only 13.6 per cent of the Australian born employed.

## EDUCATION

### Age Left School

An interesting feature of education when comparing overseas born and Australian born populations is that 4.3 per cent (15,425) of the overseas born persons left school when under the age of 13 years compared with only 0.5 per cent (3,711) for Australian born persons. However in the later years of education (17 years and over) proportionately more overseas born persons (28.0 per cent) than Australian born persons (22.2 per cent) remained at school.

Table 13 provides a count of persons aged 15 years and over according to age at which they left school.

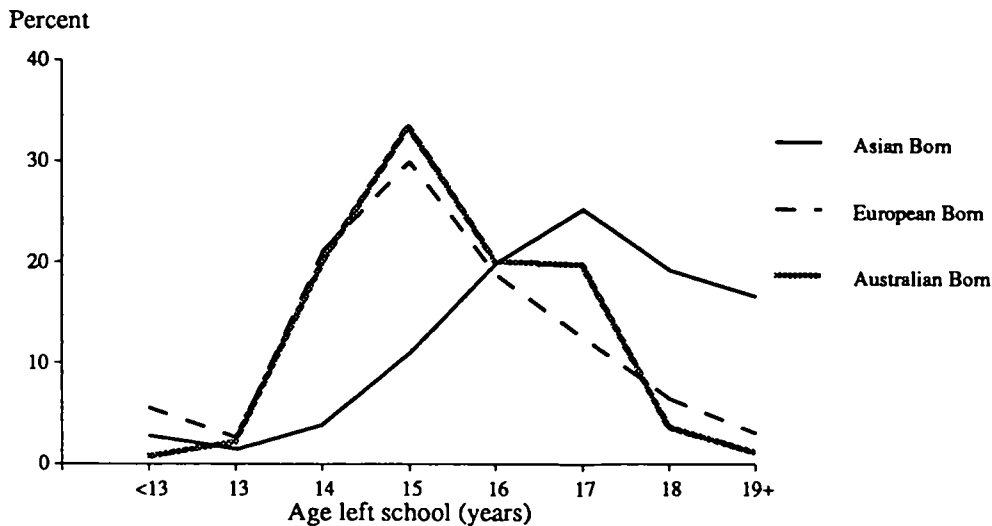
**TABLE 13 – OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS (a):  
AGE LEFT SCHOOL**

<i>Age left school</i> <i>Years</i>	<i>Overseas born</i>		<i>Australian born</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Didn't go to school	5,498	1.5	4,455	0.6
Under 13	15,425	4.3	3,711	0.5
13 to 16	217,121	60.6	472,664	68.5
17 and over	100,399	28.0	152,815	22.2
Other (b)	19,915	5.6	55,877	8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>358,367</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>689,524</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes 18,920 persons who did not state their birthplace. (b) Still at school and age not stated categories.

Graph 5 depicts the age left school experience of Australian, European and Asian born persons.

**GRAPH 5 – AGE LEFT SCHOOL: OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS**





## Qualifications

The count of overseas born persons with qualifications was 127,359 comprising 35.5 per cent of the total overseas born population. Comparable figures for Australian born population are 211,326 and 29.8 per cent respectively.

For higher degree qualifications, the number of overseas born persons (3,019) exceeded Australian born persons (2,714). The relative proportions of persons with graduate diplomas and bachelor degrees were substantially the same. Relatively fewer of overseas born persons had diplomas. However, in the field of trade and other certificates proportionately more overseas born persons were qualified.

Table 14 provides a count of persons aged 15 years and above according to type of qualification achieved.

**TABLE 14 - QUALIFICATIONS: OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS**

<i>Type of qualification</i>	<i>Overseas born</i>		<i>Australian born</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Higher degree	3,019	2.4	2,714	1.3
Graduate diploma	2,314	1.8	4,177	2.0
Bachelor degree	14,087	11.1	25,390	12.0
Diploma	12,547	9.9	26,401	12.5
Trade certificate	44,074	34.6	69,708	33.0
Other certificates	32,667	25.6	53,820	25.5
Other qualifications	18,651	14.6	29,116	13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,359</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>211,326</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF OVERSEAS BORN PERSONS

(See the reference maps inside the back cover).

Of the 386,567 overseas born persons counted in Western Australia, 82.5 per cent (318,876 persons) were counted in the Perth Statistical Division. The equivalent figure for Australian born persons is 66.2 per cent (660,871 persons). The proportional distribution of overseas born population throughout the Division is substantially the same as for Australian born persons with the exception of the South East and South West Statistical Sub-divisions. Table 15 below illustrates the distribution of these population groups.

**TABLE 15 – PERTH STATISTICAL DIVISION: DISTRIBUTION OF OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN PERSONS (a)**

<i>Statistical sub-division</i>	<i>Overseas born</i>		<i>Australian born</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Central	44,273	13.9	87,417	13.2
East	48,038	15.1	106,035	16.0
North	92,496	29.0	195,083	29.5
South East	77,184	17.8	150,024	22.7
South West	56,885	24.2	122,312	18.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,876</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>660,871</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes 14,725 persons who did not state their birthplace.

The remaining 67,691 overseas born persons are distributed widely throughout the state with specific concentrations in the statistical sub-divisions listed below.

**TABLE 16 – LOCATION OF OVERSEAS AND AUSTRALIAN BORN POPULATION OUTSIDE THE PERTH STATISTICAL DIVISION**

<i>Statistical division/ sub-division</i>	<i>Persons (a)</i>	
	<i>Overseas born</i>	<i>Australian born</i>
South West —		
Dale	5,177	22,502
Preston	9,101	43,514
Other areas	5,416	27,262
Lower Great Southern —		
Pallinup	1,475	11,550
King	5,636	24,105
South East —		
Lefroy	5,742	25,783
Johnston	1,591	11,676
Central —		
Greenough River	5,447	34,484
Other areas	3,766	18,526
Pilbara —		
De Grey	6,368	15,292
Ashburton	6,274	18,786
Other statistical divisions	11,698	83,406
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,691</b>	<b>336,886</b>

(a) Excludes 7,880 persons who did not state their birthplace.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### 1. Introduction

This publication presents statistics on overseas born and other ethnic population, compiled from information collected at the 1986 Census of Population and Housing.

Some information from previous censuses and information on total Australian population is included for comparison.

### 2. Scope and coverage

The 1986 Census of Population and Housing aimed at counting every person who spent census night, 30 June 1986 in Australia, including persons on vessels in or between Australian Ports, or on board long-distance trains, buses or aircraft.

All persons in occupied private dwellings were counted. Occupied non-private dwellings, such as hospitals, prisons, hotels etc., were also included.

People were counted where they were on Census night (which may not have been where they usually lived). Place of usual residence was asked of each person and census counts based on place of usual residence are available in other output products.

Visitors to Australia were enumerated regardless of how long ago they had arrived or how long they planned to stay. Australian residents out of the country on census night were excluded from the count.

Diplomatic personnel and their families are out of scope of the census, as are diplomatic residences.

### 3. Census Questions

Statistics about overseas born and other ethnic population are derived from six main topics. The census questions called generally for responses which included information about Australian born as well as for overseas born population. The questions related to

- country of birth for each person and the father and mother of each person
- year of arrival in Australia
- each persons ancestry
- whether each person was of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin

- Australian citizenship
- language spoken at home

### 4. Ancestry

Ancestry refers to the ethnic or national group from which a person was descended. Persons of mixed ancestry who did not identify with a single group were asked to give their multiple ancestry. Australian and Aboriginal were acceptable responses to the question.

In the case of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin where persons were of mixed origin, each was asked to indicate the one to which they considered themselves to belong.

### 5. Introduced Random Error

The ABS has made slight random adjustments to the 1986 Census data to avoid the inadvertent release of identifiable information. Because non-zero cells have been randomly adjusted, the totals shown may be slightly greater or less than the sum of their components and differences may be observed when comparing the same totals in different tables.

### 6. Census 86 Output

A wide range of publications and other output will be produced. The data covers demographic and socio-economic characteristics for each State and Territory and for Australia as a whole. Classificatory variables include age, ancestry, birthplace, citizenship, education qualifications, geographic location, housing, income, labour force status, language spoken, marital status, occupation and religion. The Information Paper *Census 86 - Date Release Plans, Edition 2* (ABS Catalogue 2173.0) outlines the list of products to be released from the 1986 Census.

### 7. Related ABS publications

Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the immediate few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office. From 1 January 1988 most ABS products and services became chargeable.

**LIST OF STATISTICAL DIVISIONS**  
with component Statistical Local Areas at 30 June 1986

(Statistical divisions are indicated thus: *SOUTH-WEST*; sub-divisions thus: *BLACKWOOD*; statistical local areas thus: Manjimup (S).  
Cities are marked (C), Towns (T) and Shires (S)).

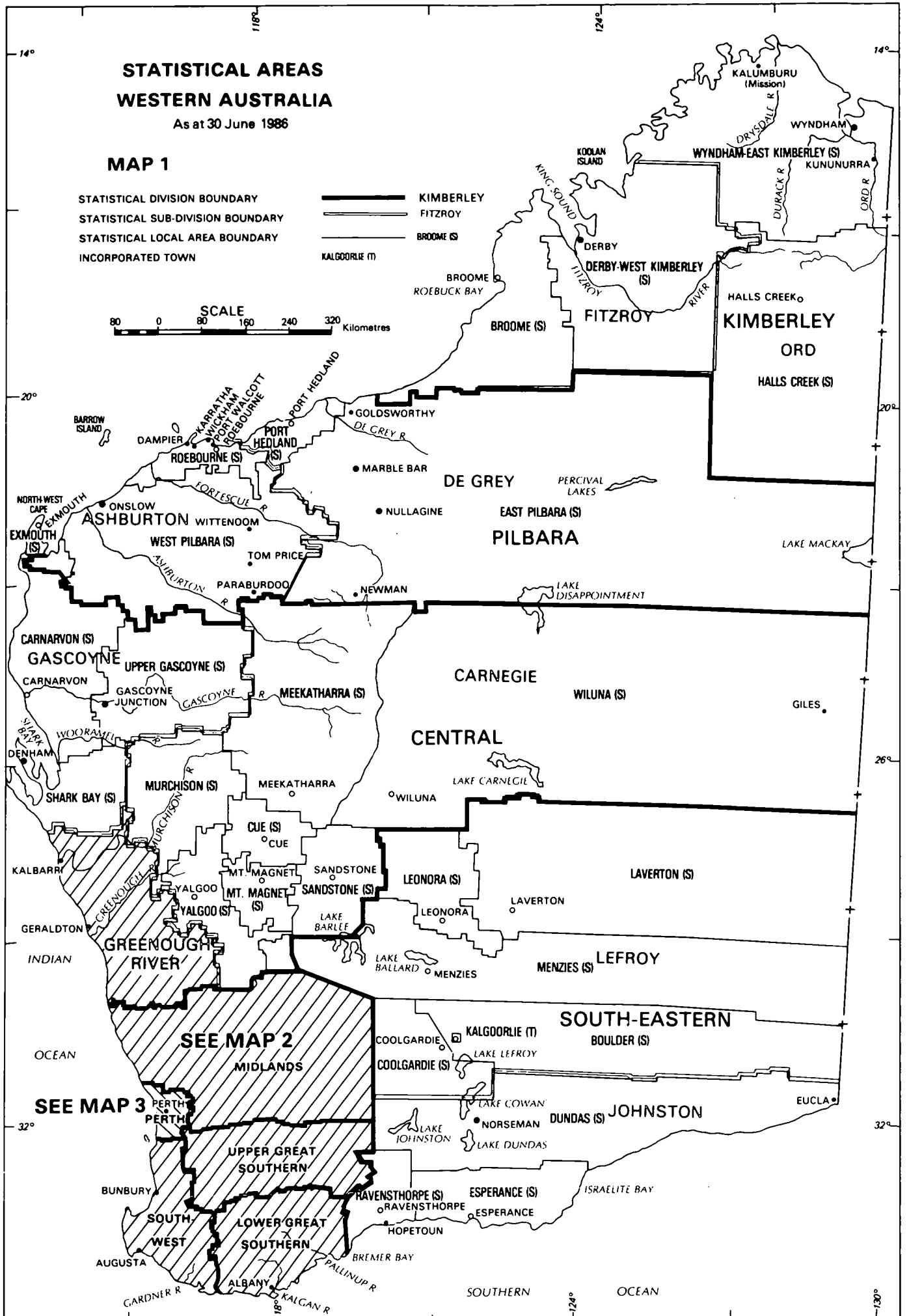
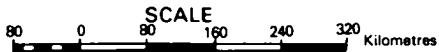
<i>PERTH</i>	<i>SOUTH-WEST (continued)</i>	<i>UPPER GREAT SOUTHERN (cont.)</i>	<i>CENTRAL</i>
<b>CENTRAL METROPOLITAN</b> Claremont (T) Cottesloe (T) Mosman Park (T) Nedlands (C) Peppermint Grove (S) Perth (C) - Inner Perth (C) - North Perth (C) - Outer Perth (C) - South Perth (C) - Wembley-Coastal <b>Subiaco (C)</b>	<b>PRESTON</b> Bunbury (C) Capel (S) Collie (S) Dardanup (S) Donnybrook-Balingup (S) Harvey (S)	<b>LAKES</b> Corrigin (S) Kondinin (S) Kulin (S) Lake Grace (S)	<b>GASCOYNE</b> Carnarvon (S) Exmouth (S) Shark Bay (S) Upper Gascoyne (S)
<b>EAST METROPOLITAN</b> Bassendean (T) Bayswater (C) Kalamunda (S) Mundaring (S) Swan (S)	<b>VASSE</b> Augusta-Margaret River (S) Busselton (S)	<b>MIDLANDS</b> <b>MOORE</b> Chittering (S) Dandaragan (S) Gingin (S) Moora (S) Victoria Plains (S)	<b>CARNEGIE</b> Cue (S) Meekatharra (S) Mount Magnet (S) Murchison (S) Sandstone (S) Wiluna (S) Yalgoo (S)
<b>NORTH METROPOLITAN</b> Stirling (C) - Central Stirling (C) - West Stirling (C) - South-Eastern Wanneroo (C)	<b>BLACKWOOD</b> Boyup Brook (S) Bridgetown-Greenbushes (S) Manjimup (S) Nannup (S)	<b>AVON</b> Beverley (S) Cunderdin (S) Dalwallinu (S) Dowerin (S) Goomalling (S) Koorda (S) Northam (T) Northam (S) Quairading (S) Tammin (S) Toodyay (S) Wongan-Ballidu (S) Wyalkatchem (S) York (S)	<b>GREENOUGH RIVER</b> Carnamah (S) Chapman Valley (S) Coorow (S) Geraldton (T) Greenough (S) Irwin (S) Mingenew (S) Morawa (S) Mullewa (S) Northampton (S) Perenjori (S) Three Springs (S)
<b>SOUTH-WEST METROPOLITAN</b> Cockburn (C) East Fremantle (T) Fremantle (C) - Inner Fremantle (C) - Remainder Kwinana (T) Melville (C) Rockingham (S)	<b>LOWER GREAT SOUTHERN</b> <b>PALLINUP</b> Broomchill (S) Gnowangerup (S) Jerramungup (S) Katanning (S) Kent (S) Kojunup (S) Tambellup (S) Woodanilling (S)	<b>CAMPION</b> Bruce Rock (S) Kellerberrin (S) Merredin (S) Mount Marshall (S) Mukinbudin (S) Narembeen (S) Nungarin (S) Trayning (S) Westonia (S) Yilgam (S)	<b>PILBARA</b> <b>DE GREY</b> East Pilbara (S) Port Hedland (S)
<b>SOUTH-EAST METROPOLITAN</b> Armadale (C) Belmont (C) Canning (C) Gosnells (C) Serpentine-Jarrahdale (S) South Perth (C)	<b>KING</b> Albany (T) Albany (S) Cranbrook (S) Denmark (S) Plantagenet (S)	<b>SOUTH-EASTERN</b> <b>LEFROY</b> Boulder (S) Coolgardie (S) Kalgoorlie (T) Laverton (S) Leonora (S) Menzies (S)	<b>ASHBURTON</b> Roebourne (S) West Pilbara (S)
<b>SOUTH-WEST</b> <b>DALE</b> Mandurah (S) Murray (S) Waroona (S)	<b>UPPER GREAT SOUTHERN</b> <b>HOTHAM</b> Boddington (S) Brookton (S) Cuballing (S) Dumbleyung (S) Narrogin (T) Narrogin (S) Pingelly (S) Wagin (S) Wandering (S) West Arthur (S) Wickepin (S) Williams (S)	<b>JOHNSTON</b> Dundas (S) Esperance (S) Ravensthorpe (S)	<b>ORD</b> Halls Creek (S) Wyndham-East Kimberley (S)
			<b>FITZROY</b> Broome (S) Derby-West Kimberley (S)

**STATISTICAL AREAS  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
As at 30 June 1986

**MAP 1**

STATISTICAL DIVISION BOUNDARY  
STATISTICAL SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY  
STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA BOUNDARY  
INCORPORATED TOWN

**KIMBERLEY**  
**FITZROY**  
**BROOME (S)**  
**KALGOORLIE (T)**

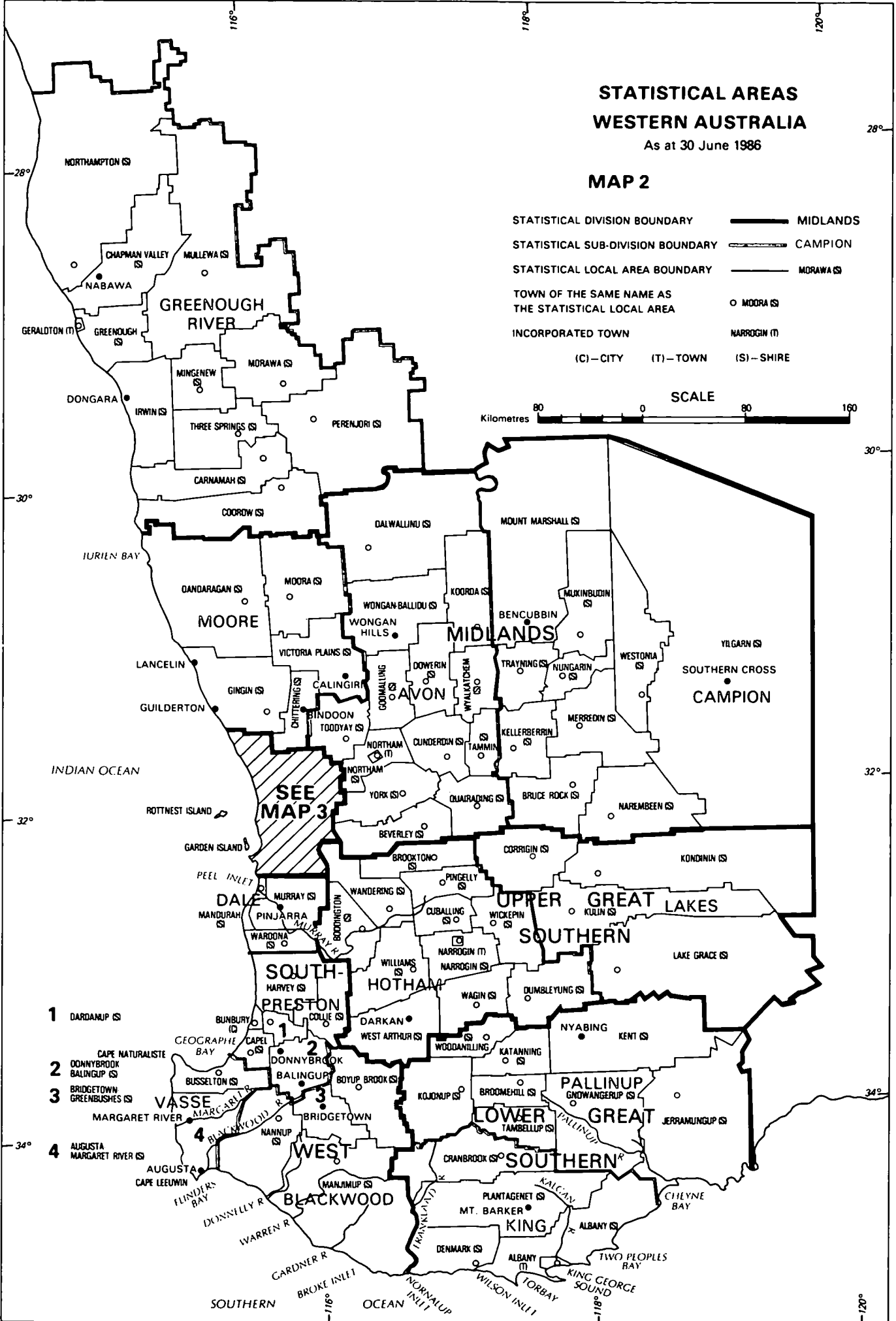
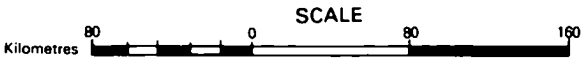


**STATISTICAL AREAS  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

As at 30 June 1986

**MAP 2**

- STATISTICAL DIVISION BOUNDARY  MIDLANDS
  - STATISTICAL SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY  CAMPION
  - STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA BOUNDARY  MORAWA (S)
  - TOWN OF THE SAME NAME AS THE STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA  MOORA (S)
  - INCORPORATED TOWN  NARROGIN (T)
- (C) - CITY (T) - TOWN (S) - SHIRE



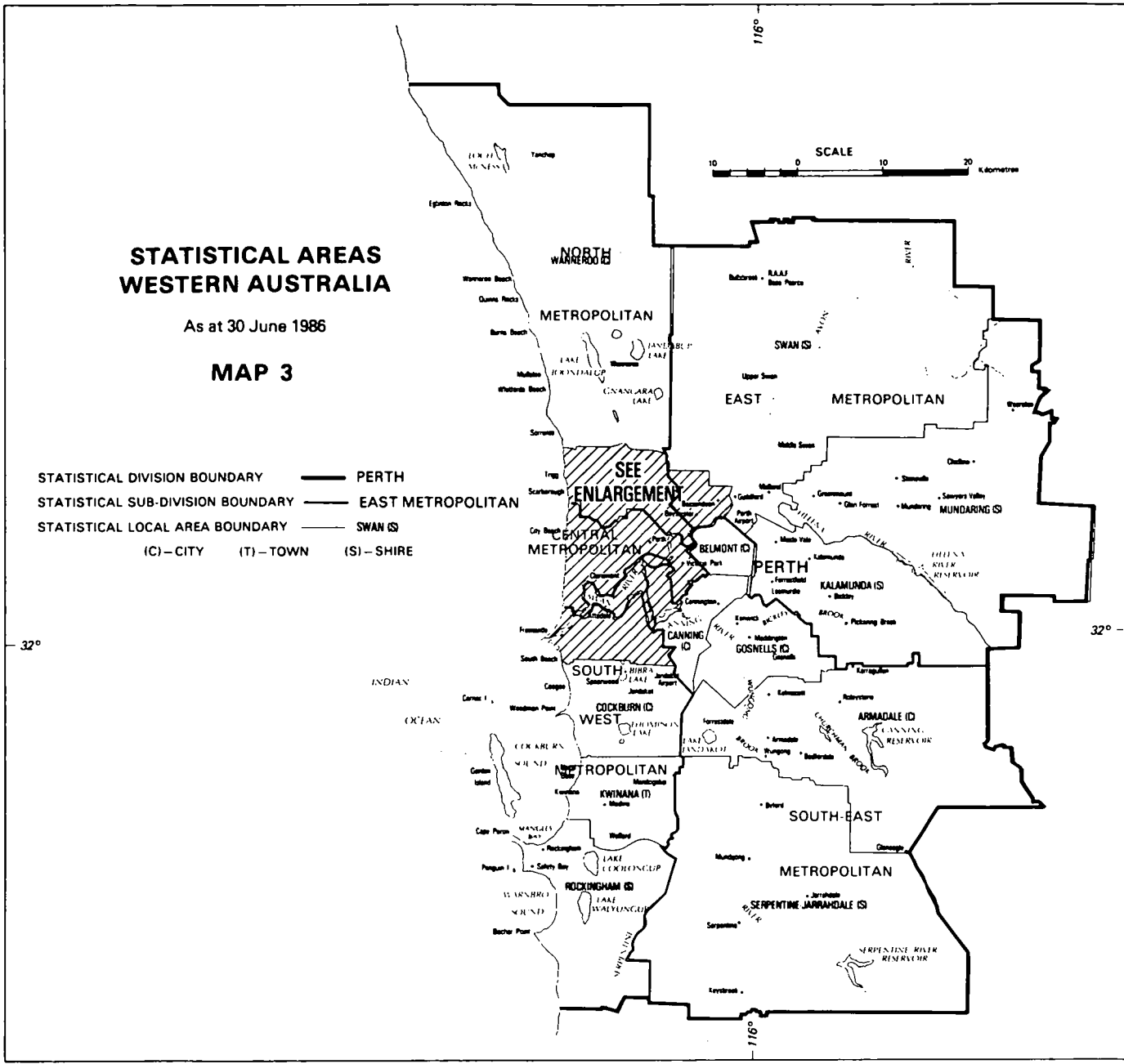
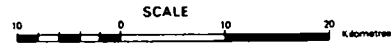
- 1 DARDANUP (S)
- 2 DONNYBROOK (S)  
BALINGUP (S)
- 3 BRIDGETOWN (S)  
GREENBUSHES (S)
- 4 AUGUSTA (S)  
MARGARET RIVER (S)

# STATISTICAL AREAS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

As at 30 June 1986

## MAP 3

STATISTICAL DIVISION BOUNDARY ——— PERTH  
 STATISTICAL SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY ——— EAST METROPOLITAN  
 STATISTICAL LOCAL AREA BOUNDARY ——— SWAN IS  
 (C) — CITY (T) — TOWN (S) — SHIRE



### ENLARGEMENT

1. BAYSWATER (C)
2. BASSENDEAN (T)
3. STIRLING (C) — WEST
4. STIRLING (C) — CENTRAL
5. STIRLING (C) — SOUTH-EASTERN
6. PERTH (C) — WEMBLEY — COASTAL
7. PERTH (C) — NORTH
8. PERTH (C) — OUTER
9. PERTH (C) — INNER
10. PERTH (C) — SOUTH
11. NEDLANDS (C)
12. SUBIACO (C)
13. COTTESLOE (T)
14. CLAREMONT (T)
15. PEPPERMINT GROVE (S)
16. MOSMAN PARK (T)
17. EAST FREMANTLE (T)
18. FREMANTLE (C) — INNER
19. FREMANTLE (C) — REMAINDER

