

# **MATURE AGE PERSONS STATISTICAL PROFILE**

## **POPULATION AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 12 OCT 2004

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Henry Zuk on Brisbane (07) 3222 6061.

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## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

Over recent years the issues associated with the structural ageing of the population have received increased attention by governments and researchers. Broad issues affecting the ageing population include ensuring adequate retirement incomes, labour force participation, healthy ageing, and provision of community support, health services and aged care. Challenges in relation to population ageing include improving the capacity of older people for work, through better education and health; identifying better incentives for people to remain in the labour force, and improved flexibility in the workplace.

Mature age persons, i.e. persons aged 45-64 years, have been identified as a key population group in terms of policy development to address these challenges. The older members of this group are nearing the traditional retirement age of 65 years and some have already withdrawn from the labour force. Younger mature age persons are part of the baby boom cohort which has special significance due to the large number of people involved.

A series of Mature Age Persons Statistical Profiles are being developed to draw on relevant data sources to provide a comprehensive analysis of the characteristics of mature age persons. The profiles will be released as separate publications covering the following topics:

- Population and Cultural Diversity

- Labour Force

- Health

- Housing

- Living Arrangements

- Education and Training

- Community Life

This profile focuses on the demographic characteristics, geographic distribution and cultural diversity of the mature age population.

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

# POPULATION

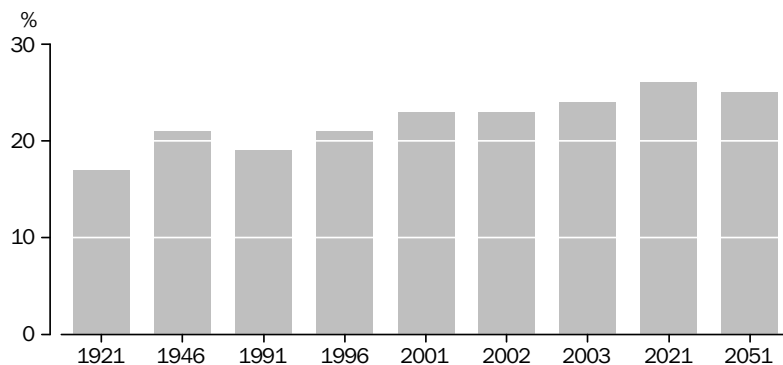
## INTRODUCTION

Australia's population is ageing and is expected to continue to age over the next several decades. This is the result of sustained low levels of fertility and, to a lesser extent, increasing life expectancy. The ageing of the population affects the entire age structure – there will be a greater proportion of people aged 65 years and over as well as a lower proportion of people aged under 15 years (ABS 2003a).

Mature age persons are those aged 45-64 years. This profile focuses on the mature age population by providing an analysis of the demographic characteristics of this group, as well as the geographic distribution and cultural diversity. The change in Australia's demographic composition has implications for a range of government and community services including health, housing, education, income support and aged care.

The graph below shows the proportion of the population aged 45-64 years at various points in time as well as projections for 2021 and 2051. The proportion of mature age persons fluctuated from 17% in 1921 to 23% in 2001 and 24% in 2003. It is projected to be 26% in 2021 and 25% in 2051. The current group of mature age persons is of key interest to policy makers and communities because it is the first large group to move into older age with significantly different characteristics to previous cohorts.

**1.1** PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION AGED 45-64 YEARS



Source: ABS data on request, 1921-1966 Historical Population Estimates; 1971-2001 Estimated Resident Population; and 2002 - 2101 Population Projections (Series B)

Current mature age persons have experienced and shaped many far-reaching social and economic changes that have occurred since the end of World War II. Some of the major impacts accompanied changing laws and attitudes regarding the role of women in society. Women currently of mature age have participated in the labour force at higher levels than their predecessors. Men and women of mature age have had greater access to post-school education and flexible working conditions. They have different expenditure and consumption patterns than their parents and their children.

Just as their life experiences thus far have differed from earlier generations, it is likely that their expectations and experience of retirement will also differ, due in particular to increased life expectancy. Early retirement, part time employment, flexible working conditions all have implications for skills transference and potential labour shortages.

## POPULATION *continued*

### AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE

At 30 June 2003, there were 19.9 million people living in Australia. Mature age persons (aged 45–64 years) numbered 4.7 million, comprising 24% of the total population. The size of the mature age population is being influenced by the number of baby boomers, i.e. those persons born during the post-World War II baby boom period between 1946 and 1965 inclusive, and aged between 38 and 57 years in 2003. Currently, around six in ten baby boomers are mature age persons.

As can be seen in Table 1.2, there were slightly more females than males in the total Australian population in 2003. While more boys than girls are born in Australia each year, males outnumber females only until around the age of 28 years, after which women generally outnumber men. This change in the sex ratio is attributable to lower female age-specific death rates across all ages and, on average, women living longer than men.

**1.2** ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, by age group and sex—30 June 1991 and 2003

Age group (years)	1991			2003		
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons
NUMBER						
0–14	1 943 031	1 842 499	3 785 530	2 041 999	1 939 539	3 981 538
15–34	2 822 409	2 763 827	5 586 236	2 832 596	2 777 349	5 609 945
35–44	1 319 366	1 303 292	2 622 658	1 490 295	1 505 239	2 995 534
45–64						
45–49	526 498	502 647	1 029 145	696 193	706 208	1 402 401
50–54	433 762	413 172	846 934	654 034	657 524	1 311 558
55–59	367 302	358 648	725 950	584 059	570 788	1 154 847
60–64	366 779	370 089	736 868	439 569	430 831	870 400
Total	1 694 341	1 644 556	3 338 897	2 373 855	2 365 351	4 739 206
65–74	548 636	633 509	1 182 145	658 315	695 485	1 353 800
75–84	243 406	370 917	614 323	386 412	519 747	906 159
85 and over	44 220	110 027	154 247	89 975	196 489	286 464
<b>All ages</b>	<b>8 615 409</b>	<b>8 668 627</b>	<b>17 284 036</b>	<b>9 873 447</b>	<b>9 999 199</b>	<b>19 872 646</b>
PER CENT (a)						
0–14	11.2	10.7	21.9	10.3	9.8	20.0
15–34	16.3	16.0	32.3	14.3	14.0	28.2
35–44	7.6	7.5	15.2	7.5	7.6	15.1
45–64						
45–49	3.0	2.9	6.0	3.5	3.6	7.1
50–54	2.5	2.4	4.9	3.3	3.3	6.6
55–59	2.1	2.1	4.2	2.9	2.9	5.8
60–64	2.1	2.1	4.3	2.2	2.2	4.4
Total	9.8	9.5	19.3	11.9	11.9	23.8
65–74	3.2	3.7	6.8	3.3	3.5	6.8
75–84	1.4	2.1	3.6	1.9	2.6	4.6
85 and over	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.5	1.0	1.4
<b>All ages</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Across age group and sex for the total population.

Source: ABS data available on request, 1991 and 2003 Estimated Resident Population.

## POPULATION *continued*

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### AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE *continued*

The 55–59 and 60–64 year age groups were the exception with the sex ratios (number of males for every 100 females) at 102.3 and 102.0 respectively. This reflects the higher numbers of males migrating to Australia in the post-World War II period. Men who were born overseas boosted the mature age male population, especially for those males aged between 55 and 64 years.

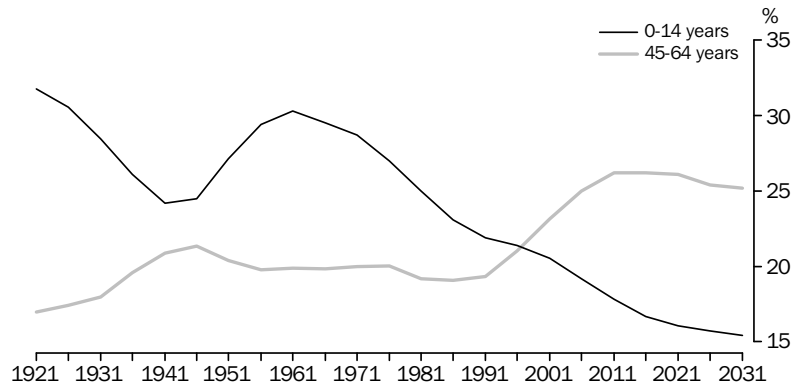
Throughout most of the 20th century, males outnumbered females in the mature age population. In 1921 there were 112 mature age males for every 100 mature age females. By 1991 the comparable figure was 103. The predominance of males in the mature age groups has been decreasing since 1991, when the first of the baby boomers turned 45 years. In 2003, mature age males and females numbered approximately 2.4 million each.

**GROWTH IN THE MATURE AGE POPULATION**

The relative size of the mature age population has been substantially affected by changes in fertility over time, as shown in Graph 1.3. The mature age population grew steadily from 1921 when it comprised 17% of the population to 1946, when it comprised 21% of the population. Much of this increase was due to a decline in the relative size of the youngest age group, as fewer babies were born during the Depression. With the post-World War II baby boom, the proportion of mature age persons declined slightly to around 20% where it remained for over 40 years.

In 1991, the first of the baby boomers began moving into the mature age persons age group resulting in growth in that age group from then on. The youngest baby boomers, aged around 38 years in 2003, will enter the mature age population cohort in 2010 and remain there until 2030.

**1.3** PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION IN SELECTED AGE GROUPS



Source: ABS data available on request, 1921–1966 Historical Population Estimates; 1971–2001 Estimated Resident Population; and 2002–2101 Population Projections (Series B).

Graph 1.3 shows the proportion of mature age persons and children aged 0–14 years over time. Of note, is the peak around the 1960s for those aged 0–14 years and a corresponding peak for those aged 45–64 years from 2011. Many of the current mature age persons were born during the post war 'baby boom'.

## POPULATION *continued*

### THE PROJECTED MATURE AGE POPULATION

Australia's total population is projected to grow to 26.4 million by 2051, based on the medium projection series, Series B (refer to the Explanatory Notes). The mature age population is projected to grow to 6.6 million over that time. As a proportion of the total population, the mature age population is projected to grow steadily until 2011 and remain at around 25% of the population for at least the next forty years after that.

### **1.4** PROJECTED POPULATIONS (a), by age group and sex—30 June

Age group (years)	2002(b)			2021			2051		
	Males psns	Females psns	Persons psns	Males psns	Females psns	Persons psns	Males psns	Females psns	Persons psns
NUMBER									
0–44									
0–14	2 041 841	1 940 154	3 981 995	1 927 890	1 824 873	3 752 763	1 904 800	1 802 711	3 707 511
15–44	4 297 675	4 286 271	8 583 946	4 576 938	4 489 491	9 066 429	4 515 798	4 399 970	8 915 768
Total 0–44	6 339 516	6 226 425	12 565 941	6 504 828	6 314 364	12 819 192	6 420 598	6 202 681	12 623 279
45–64									
45–54	1 332 544	1 342 555	2 675 099	1 551 380	1 568 534	3 119 914	1 661 028	1 635 346	3 296 374
55–64	976 769	954 971	1 931 740	1 475 164	1 510 743	2 985 907	1 678 632	1 667 056	3 345 688
Total 45–64	2 309 313	2 297 526	4 606 839	3 026 544	3 079 277	6 105 821	3 339 660	3 302 402	6 642 062
65 and over									
65–74	646 513	686 493	1 333 006	1 206 953	1 271 797	2 478 750	1 508 287	1 539 043	3 047 330
75–84	370 688	505 922	876 610	650 791	737 697	1 388 488	1 196 741	1 330 936	2 527 677
85 and over	87 788	192 597	280 385	218 380	357 799	576 179	657 318	923 875	1 581 193
Total 65 and over	1 104 989	1 385 012	2 490 001	2 076 124	2 367 293	4 443 417	3 362 346	3 793 854	7 156 200
<b>All ages</b>	<b>9 753 818</b>	<b>9 908 963</b>	<b>19 662 781</b>	<b>11 607 496</b>	<b>11 760 934</b>	<b>23 368 430</b>	<b>13 122 604</b>	<b>13 298 937</b>	<b>26 421 541</b>
PER CENT									
0–44	65.0	62.8	63.9	56.0	53.7	54.9	48.9	46.6	47.8
45–64	23.7	23.2	23.4	26.1	26.2	26.1	25.4	24.8	25.1
65 and over	11.3	14.0	12.7	17.9	20.1	19.0	25.6	28.5	27.1
<b>All ages</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Based on the medium series, Series B. For more information about assumptions underlying this series, refer to the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Estimated resident population.

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

### INTRODUCTION

Population age profiles vary across the different geographic regions of Australia as a result of past differences in fertility, mortality and migration trends. This section examines the geographic distribution of the mature age population based on statistical division and state or territory of usual residence, as well as section of state and population mobility from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

### STATES AND TERRITORIES

In 2003, the proportion of the population aged 45–64 years was lowest in the Northern Territory (21%) and highest in Tasmania (25%), compared with 24% for the total Australian population. The Northern Territory also had the lowest median age (30.3 years) compared with the Australian median age of 36.1 years. This reflects the much higher proportion of Indigenous persons in the Northern Territory (27% compared with 2% for Australia). The Indigenous population in Australia has a much younger age structure than the non Indigenous population.

### **2.1** ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, by age group and state and territories—30 June 2003

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(a)
NUMBER									
0–14	1 331 831	959 215	791 290	287 926	398 612	97 354	50 414	64 092	3 981 538
15–34	1 873 332	1 399 836	1 080 293	405 330	559 025	122 134	66 181	103 153	5 609 945
35–44	1 003 395	744 800	567 954	227 496	299 786	69 372	32 729	49 565	2 995 534
45–64									
45–49	467 539	343 712	266 187	109 623	142 892	34 843	13 732	23 648	1 402 401
50–54	434 225	319 425	251 928	104 776	132 724	33 094	12 376	22 799	1 311 558
55–59	386 642	280 493	225 128	93 597	111 414	29 784	8 940	18 730	1 154 847
60–64	294 238	214 231	167 255	70 476	82 717	23 327	5 887	12 171	870 400
Total	1 582 644	1 157 861	910 498	378 472	469 747	121 048	40 935	77 348	4 739 206
65–74	470 582	342 704	244 776	115 348	122 574	36 026	5 503	16 202	1 353 800
75–84	319 649	232 761	157 184	84 504	75 860	23 809	2 190	10 184	906 159
85 and over	100 620	74 248	49 044	27 225	24 344	7 562	592	2 819	286 464
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6 682 053</b>	<b>4 911 425</b>	<b>3 801 039</b>	<b>1 526 301</b>	<b>1 949 948</b>	<b>477 305</b>	<b>198 544</b>	<b>323 363</b>	<b>19 872 646</b>
PER CENT									
0–14	19.9	19.5	20.8	18.9	20.4	20.4	25.4	19.8	20.0
15–34	28.0	28.5	28.4	26.6	28.7	25.6	33.3	31.9	28.2
35–44	15.0	15.2	14.9	14.9	15.4	14.5	16.5	15.3	15.1
45–64									
45–49	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.3	7.3	6.9	7.3	7.1
50–54	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.2	7.1	6.6
55–59	5.8	5.7	5.9	6.1	5.7	6.2	4.5	5.8	5.8
60–64	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.2	4.9	3.0	3.8	4.4
Total	23.7	23.6	24.0	24.8	24.1	25.4	20.6	23.9	23.8
65–74	7.0	7.0	6.4	7.6	6.3	7.5	2.8	5.0	6.8
75–84	4.8	4.7	4.1	5.5	3.9	5.0	1.1	3.1	4.6
85 and over	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.2	1.6	0.3	0.9	1.4
<b>All ages</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes Other Territories.

Source: ABS data available on request, 2003 Estimated Resident Population.



## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION *continued*

### SECTION OF STATE

The Section of State geographic classification provides an urban/rural break down within each state and territory (refer to Glossary for more details). Data from the 2001 census showed that the proportions of mature age people in bounded localities and rural balance areas (24% and 28% respectively) were slightly higher than the proportions of mature age people in the total population (23%). People within the younger working age group (15 to 44 years) were proportionally under-represented in bounded localities and rural balance areas.

### **2.2** USUAL RESIDENTS (a), by age and Section of State—2001

Age group (years)	<i>Major urban</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Bounded locality</i>	<i>Rural balance</i>	<i>Australia (b)</i>
.....					
NUMBER					
0-14	2 422 870	917 752	112 726	438 285	3 912 475
15-44	5 507 389	1 645 716	179 976	737 013	8 157 822
45-64					
45-54	1 650 403	523 667	63 464	305 867	2 568 332
55-64	1 096 452	376 780	50 771	213 465	1 759 742
<i>Total 45-64</i>	2 746 855	900 447	114 235	519 332	4 328 074
65-74	799 387	309 957	38 233	116 517	1 280 168
75 and over	719 797	270 517	27 540	60 846	1 090 707
<b>All ages</b>	<b>12 196 298</b>	<b>4 044 389</b>	<b>472 710</b>	<b>1 871 993</b>	<b>18 769 246</b>
.....					
PER CENT					
0-14	20	23	24	23	21
15-44	45	41	38	39	44
45-64					
45-54	14	13	13	16	14
55-64	9	9	11	11	9
<i>Total 45-64</i>	23	22	24	28	23
65-74	7	8	8	6	7
75 and over	6	7	6	3	6
<b>All ages</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(a) Excludes overseas visitors.

(b) Includes migratory and not stated or inadequately described place of usual residence.

Source: ABS data available on request, 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

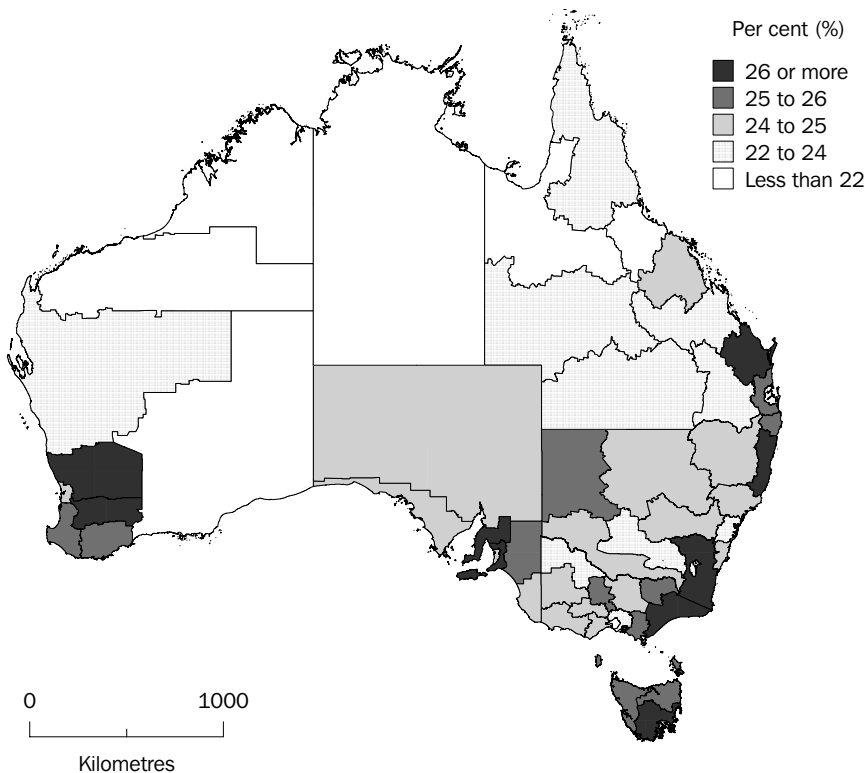
## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION *continued*

### STATISTICAL DIVISION

The proportion of the population aged 45-64 years varied markedly among Australia's 66 Statistical Divisions (SDs). In 2003, Kimberley SD in Western Australia had the lowest proportion with 18% and Yorke and Lower North SD in South Australia had the highest proportion with 28%. Kimberley SD has a relatively large Indigenous population which tends to result in a younger age distribution as mentioned above. Yorke and Lower North SD in South Australia includes the Yorke Peninsula and a rural area north of Adelaide with a high proportion of persons working in agriculture. There were nine SDs across Australia with a mature age population proportion higher than 26%.

Of the capital city SDs, Darwin, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane had proportions of mature age persons slightly below the national average of 24%. The remaining capital city SDs, Canberra, Perth, Adelaide and Greater Hobart had proportions of mature age persons slightly above the national average.

**2.3** PROPORTION OF MATURE AGE PERSONS, statistical divisions—30 June 2003



Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australia and States, 2003 (cat. no. 3235.0.55.001)

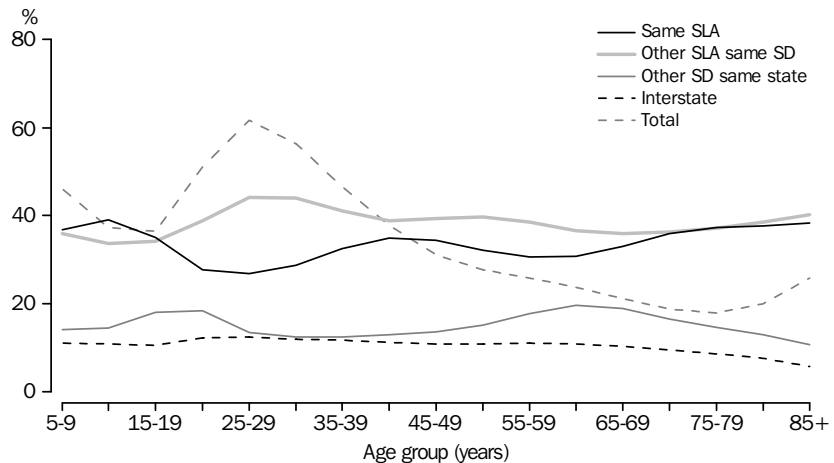
## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION *continued*

### POPULATION MOBILITY

Data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing provide a measure of the mobility of the population between 1996 and 2001. Data items include address of usual residence one year prior to the census and five years prior to the census. This information is compared with the current address to determine whether or not a person has moved. Intervening moves (e.g. dual movements which end in return to the original place of residence) are not reflected.

The mobility rate is defined as the number of movers in each category divided by the population in each category. Mobility rates for movements between 1996 and 2001 are shown in Graph 2.4. Comparing all moves by age, the most mobile groups were people aged in their twenties and early thirties with 62% of persons aged 25-29 years, 56% of those aged 30-34 years and 51% of those aged 20-24 years having moved in the previous 5 years.

**2.4** MOBILITY RATES (a), by type of move and age group (b)—1996-2001



(a) Excludes persons who were overseas in 1996 and overseas visitors in 2001. Moves reflect changes of address between census night 1996 and census night 2001 and do not take into account moves which occurred in the intervening period.

(b) Age in 2001.

Source: ABS data available on request, 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

Within the mature age population, 28% of people had moved residence between 1996 and 2001, compared with 42% of people aged five years and over. Mature age males were slightly more likely to have moved residence than mature age females. The proportion of movers varied within the mature age cohort as 30% of those aged 45-54 and 26% of those aged 55-64 indicated a change of address between censuses. Of those who had moved, 71% moved either within their own statistical local area (SLA) or within the same SD. Notably, those within the older age groups of the mature age population showed a higher propensity to move to other SDs but stay within the same state. This may suggest a lifestyle change around retirement age.

# CULTURAL DIVERSITY

## INTRODUCTION

Australian society is made up of a culturally diverse population, displaying differing demographic, social, cultural and linguistic characteristics. Due to these differences, elements of the population can face barriers to accessing appropriate services. Mature age people from culturally diverse backgrounds may have special needs which need to be considered for the delivery of programs and services; for example, in their future years, they may need specialised aged care services.

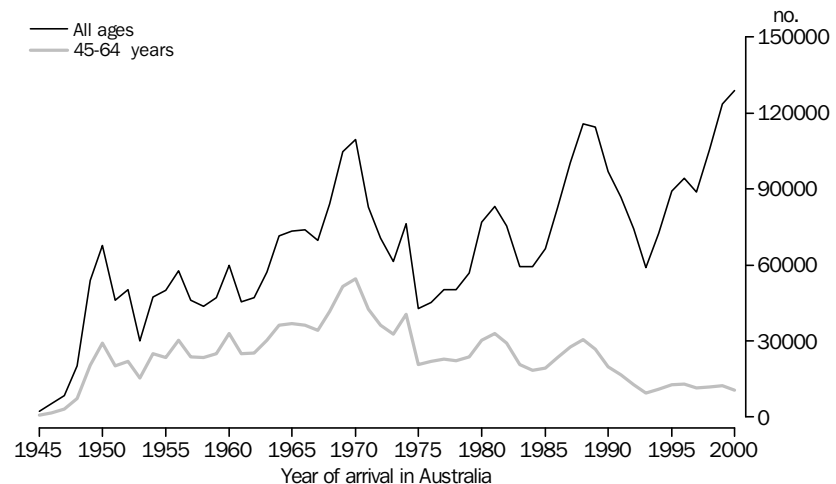
Cultural diversity is a measure of the variety of cultural backgrounds within a society and is largely determined by the range of countries of birth and their respective proportions in the total population. This section considers the cultural diversity of the mature age population by examining country of birth, proficiency in English and Indigenous status. Proficiency in spoken English impacts on a persons' ability to integrate socially and to access services. In terms of mature age persons this has had greater impact on the more recent arrivals. The Indigenous population has a younger age distribution because of higher rates of fertility and mortality.

Those born overseas comprised 34% (1.6 million people) of the mature age population; a much greater proportion than the 23% (4.6 million people) of overseas born in the total population in 2002. This higher rate among the mature age population reflects changes in immigration rates over time.

## YEAR OF ARRIVAL

The 4.6 million overseas born persons in Australia's resident population in 2002, are a result of Australia's immigration policies which have seen 5.7 million people migrate to Australia since the Second World War (ABS 2001). The 2001 Census of Population and Housing measured the year of arrival for people born overseas who intended staying in Australia for at least one year. The number of overseas born persons has been affected by deaths and emigration over the years since immigration. The census provides a snapshot of those immigrants counted in Australia in 2001.

**3.1** YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA (a), overseas born persons (b) — 2001



(a) Excludes overseas visitors

Source: ABS data available on request, 2001 Census of Population and Housing

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY** *continued*

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YEAR OF ARRIVAL *continued*

Overseas born persons aged 45 to 64 years at the time of the 2001 Census began arriving in Australia in significant numbers in the 1950s. As shown in Graph 3.1, the peak year of arrival for this group was 1970 with 28,700 males and 25,700 females arriving in that year. This year was also the median year of arrival for mature age persons with half arriving before 1970 and half arriving afterwards.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY *continued*

### COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Over the last 50 years, changing patterns of migration to Australia have resulted in some overseas-born groups having an older age profile than others. Four out of five adult immigrants arriving in recent years were aged less than 45 years (ABS 2001).

Consequently, overseas born groups from countries with high levels of recent migration to Australia (for example, North-East Asian countries) are more likely to have a younger age profile than more established immigrant groups. Birthplace groups with young age structures often include many long-term students who are in Australia temporarily (ABS 2004).

Table 3.3 lists those countries of birth which contributed at least 20,000 mature age persons to Australia's estimated resident population in 2002, ranked in descending order.

**3.2** ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Selected countries of birth by age(a)—30 June 2002

Country of birth	45-64			Total	65 and over	All ages
	0-44	45-54	55-64			
NUMBER						
Australia	10 372 772	1 797 299	1 237 078	3 034 377	1 668 016	15 075 165
Born overseas						
United Kingdom	401 000	229 321	220 604	449 925	272 976	1 123 901
New Zealand	276 160	72 216	38 413	110 629	26 945	413 734
Italy	28 724	46 347	57 506	103 853	102 591	235 168
Greece	20 098	24 897	41 797	66 694	44 444	131 236
Germany	26 836	25 986	31 466	57 452	32 763	117 051
Netherlands	14 160	22 466	24 009	46 475	29 765	90 400
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	96 462	28 300	14 755	43 055	25 422	164 939
Viet Nam	116 507	31 744	11 108	42 852	12 215	171 574
Philippines	77 108	24 837	8 044	32 881	5 803	115 792
India	66 032	17 938	12 676	30 614	13 917	110 563
Malta	7 480	15 270	15 006	30 276	13 334	51 090
Malaysia	54 258	20 229	9 742	29 971	5 397	89 626
Croatia	17 513	12 386	15 208	27 594	13 223	58 330
Lebanon	45 805	16 981	10 179	27 160	8 228	81 193
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	26 779	13 526	12 670	26 196	13 484	66 459
South Africa	61 974	16 980	8 883	25 863	7 458	95 295
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	19 763	13 267	8 277	21 544	6 754	48 061
Poland	18 056	13 924	7 378	21 302	23 902	63 260
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	51 496	16 108	4 567	20 675	3 467	75 638
Ireland	23 716	10 494	9 446	19 940	12 278	55 934
Other overseas born	715 540	208 154	134 311	342 465	148 565	1 206 570
Total overseas born	2 165 467	881 371	696 045	1 577 416	822 931	4 565 814
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 538 239</b>	<b>2 678 670</b>	<b>1 933 123</b>	<b>4 611 793</b>	<b>2 490 947</b>	<b>19 640 979</b>
SUMMARY PROPORTIONS						
Australia	69	12	8	20	11	100
Born overseas	47	19	15	35	18	100
Total	64	14	10	23	13	100

(a) Birthplaces with a mature age population of 20,000 or more Australian residents, ranked in descending order.

Source: ABS data available on request, population estimates by country of birth, age and sex, Australia 2002.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY *continued*

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### COUNTRY OF BIRTH *continued*

A higher proportion of overseas-born persons were mature age persons compared to the proportion for the Australian-born. In 2002, 35% of the overseas-born were aged 45 to 64 years compared with 20% of those born in Australia. For overseas-born mature age persons, the most common birthplace was the United Kingdom accounting for 29% of the group, followed by New Zealand and Italy (both 7%) respectively.

More than half of the Australian resident population born in Malta, the Netherlands and Greece was made up of mature age persons (59%, 51% and 51% respectively). Conversely, immigrants born in Viet Nam, China and New Zealand were relatively younger and these populations in Australia had lower proportions of mature age persons (25%, 26% and 27% respectively).

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY *continued*

### PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

The ability to speak English is a strong indicator of a persons' ability to function effectively in Australian society. Research by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) has found that there is a strong relationship between relative disadvantage and country of birth, for people from birthplaces whose recent arrivals have lower levels of English proficiency (DIMIA 2003).

Data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing provide a measure of the proficiency in spoken English of Australia's resident population. At the time of the 2001 census, there were 2.5 million people (13%) who had been born in other than predominantly English speaking countries, excluding overseas visitors. Of these, 23% spoke only English at home and a further 59% spoke a language other than English at home but also spoke English very well or well. Less than one in five (17%) didn't speak English well or at all.

### **3.3** SELECTED COUNTRIES OF BIRTH BY PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH AT HOME(a), mature age persons born in other than predominantly English speaking countries(b)—2001

Country of birth	45-54 YEARS				55-64 YEARS			
	Spoke only English at home	Spoke other languages and spoke English 'very well' or 'well'	Spoke other languages and spoke English 'not well' or 'not at all'	Total(c)	Spoke only English at home	Spoke other languages and spoke English 'very well' or 'well'	Spoke other languages and spoke English 'not well' or 'not at all'	Total(c)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Italy	12 502	30 076	2 614	45 732	6 350	35 760	9 730	52 646
Greece	2 584	16 623	4 532	24 093	1 335	22 042	12 815	36 654
Germany	19 455	8 410	120	28 122	14 189	11 036	210	25 608
Netherlands	17 565	4 830	38	22 516	14 227	6 313	70	20 706
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	1 127	11 144	10 091	22 605	1 129	4 435	6 829	12 546
Viet Nam	422	11 023	15 049	26 753	146	2 636	6 681	9 581
Malta	6 832	7 538	481	14 990	4 596	7 585	682	12 994
Philippines	5 455	15 638	260	21 591	1 612	4 451	290	6 414
India	8 921	6 365	344	15 711	7 900	2 543	347	10 844
Croatia	1 688	7 956	1 707	11 477	1 748	8 668	3 073	13 626
Malaysia	5 522	10 727	836	17 188	2 438	4 479	563	7 516
Lebanon	920	10 590	3 296	14 957	503	5 078	2 937	8 607
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	2 112	7 507	1 762	11 526	1 989	6 157	2 260	10 569
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	416	8 650	2 907	12 187	177	3 729	3 301	7 364
Poland	2 316	8 674	1 270	12 358	2 033	3 355	952	6 394
Other countries	49 022	102 177	27 508	180 569	31 743	54 855	21 222	108 941
<b>Total born in other than predominantly English speaking countries(b)</b>	<b>136 859</b>	<b>267 928</b>	<b>72 815</b>	<b>482 375</b>	<b>92 115</b>	<b>183 122</b>	<b>71 962</b>	<b>351 010</b>

(a) Excludes overseas visitors and those persons for whom country of birth was reported as 'born at sea', 'not elsewhere classified', 'inadequately described', and 'not stated'.

(b) Excludes persons born in Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States of America, Canada and South Africa.

(c) Includes persons for whom proficiency and/or language was not stated.  
Source: ABS data available on request, 2001 Census of Population and Housing



## CULTURAL DIVERSITY *continued*

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### PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH *continued*

Within the mature age population, there were 833,400 people (19%) who had been born in other than predominantly English speaking countries, excluding overseas visitors. Of these, 27% spoke only English at home and a further 54% spoke a language other than English at home but also spoke English very well or well. Less than one in five (17%) spoke English not well or not at all. The older 55 to 64 years age group had lower levels of proficiency in English compared with the younger 45 to 54 years age group.

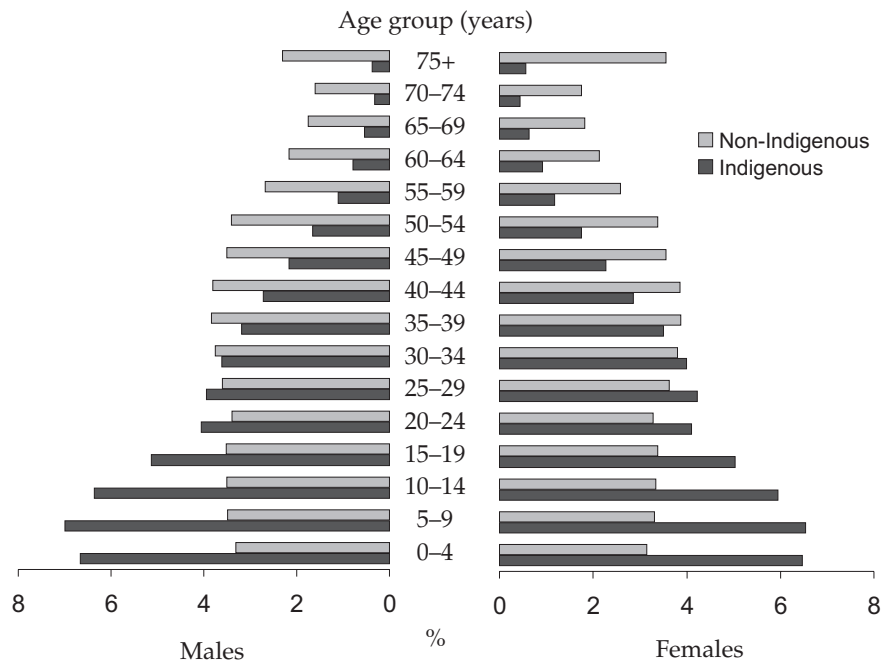
There was significant variation in proficiency in English across birthplace groups for those countries which contributed at least 20,000 mature age persons to Australia's estimated resident population in 2001. Within the 45 to 54 years age group, only two birthplaces had more than one in four persons reporting that they spoke English not well or not at all. They were Viet Nam (56%) and China (45%), both examples of countries where immigrants were more likely to have arrived in Australia in recent years. Within the 55 to 64 years age group, five birthplaces had more than one in four persons reporting that they spoke English not well or not at all. Again, people born in Viet Nam (70%) and China (54%) were most likely to report lack of proficiency in English followed by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (45%), Greece (35%) and Lebanon (34%).

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY *continued*

### INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

At 30 June 2001, the experimental estimated resident Indigenous population of Australia produced by the ABS was 458,500, or 2% of the total population. The Indigenous population has a much younger age structure than the non-Indigenous population as it experiences higher fertility and mortality rates. Consequently, Indigenous people were under represented in the mature age population. In 2001, mature age persons comprised 12% of the Indigenous population compared with 23% of the non-Indigenous population.

### 3.5 Estimated resident population, Australia - 30 June 2001



Source: Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians ABS cat. no. 3238.0

According to the 2001 census, about four out of every five Indigenous persons reported that at home, they spoke English only, similar to the level reported by non-Indigenous Australians. About one in eight Indigenous persons (12%) reported that they spoke an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island (Australian Indigenous) language at home. Among this group, about three-quarters also reported speaking English well or very well. Indigenous languages were much more likely to be reported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in geographically remote areas (ABS 2003b). Overall, about 4% of Indigenous persons reported speaking English not well or not at all. Difficulty with spoken English was more likely to be reported for older people aged 65 years and over (10%), older mature age persons aged 55 to 64 years (5%), and children aged 0–14 years (5%).

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication contains preliminary estimates of the resident populations (ERP) of Australia and the states and territories by age and sex, as at 30 June 2003. The publication also includes population projections for Australia, estimates of the resident population by country of birth, and experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. In addition, selected data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing are included in the topics of residential mobility and cultural diversity.

### ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

#### *Source of statistics*

**2** Australia's population statistics for the period from 1971 onwards are compiled according to the place of usual residence of the population. An explanation of the place of usual residence conceptual basis for population estimates is given in *Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Statistical Concepts Library*, ABS web site: <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>.

#### *Method of estimation*

**3** The estimates by age of the population of Australia and the states and territories at the date of the census are derived from the census counts by place of usual residence, by adjusting for under-enumeration and adding the number of Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the census.

**4** Post-censal population estimates are obtained by advancing the previous year's estimates to the next year by subtracting deaths and adding births and net estimated interstate and overseas migration. After each census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase at each age agrees with the difference between the estimated resident populations at the two respective census dates.

### COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

**5** The classification of countries used throughout this publication is the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC). The SACC consolidates within one document the three previous revisions to the ASCCSS (revisions 1.01, 1.02 and 1.03), which were made necessary by political developments in Europe, the former USSR and Africa. It also makes a number of changes to the main structure of the classification which improve the statistical balance of the classification and make it more useful for the analysis of data. For more detailed information refer to the ABS publication *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998* (cat. no. 1269.0).

### POPULATION PROJECTIONS

**6** Population projections presented in this publication are not predictions or forecasts. They are an assessment of what would happen to Australia's population if the assumed levels of components of population change (births, deaths and migration) were to hold for the next 50–100 years.

**7** The ERP at 30 June 2002 is the base for the projections series. Three main series of projections have been compiled (Series A, B and C), based on differing combinations of assumptions. For the purposes of this analysis, Series B (medium) projections for Australia have been used. Series B assumes:

- a total fertility rate of 1.6 from 2010-11, remaining constant at this level through to 2100-01;
- life expectancy at birth of 84.2 years for males and 87.7 years for females by 2050-51, remaining constant to 2100-01; and
- net overseas migration of 100,000 per year from 2005-06 through to 2100-01.

**8** For detailed information on the assumptions underlying the population projections, see *Population Projections Australia, 2002 to 2101* (cat. no. 3222.0).

### INDIGENOUS POPULATION COUNTS

**9** To arrive at an estimate of the size of the Indigenous population, the ABS produces ERP counts derived from census usual residence counts, allowing for net undercount, and for instances in which Indigenous status is unknown. For further information on the quality of Indigenous statistics, see *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal*

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### INDIGENOUS POPULATION COUNTS *continued*

*and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991-2009* (cat. no. 3238.0) and *Population Distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001* (cat. no. 4705.0).

### ACCURACY/RELIABILITY

**10** In this publication, population estimates have sometimes been rounded. Neither rounded figures nor unrounded figures should be assumed to be accurate to the last digit shown.

**11** Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**12** ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published in the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

### RELATED PRODUCTS

**13** Other ABS products which may be of interest to users include:

- AusStats – electronic data <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats>>
- *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0) — issued quarterly
- *Australian Historical Population Statistics*, (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001), <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. From the navigation bar select Themes; Demography; Australian Historical Population Statistics
- *Census of Population and Housing: Ageing in Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 2048.0)
- *Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Statistical Concepts Library*, ABS web site, <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>
- *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991-2009* (cat. no. 3238.0)
- *Migration, Australia* (cat. no. 3412.0) — includes data on the country of birth of the estimated resident population of Australia
- *Population Distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001* (cat. no. 4705.0)
- *Population Projections, Australia*, (cat.no. 3222.0)

### ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE

**14** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

**15** AusStats is a web based subscriber information service which provides the full standard ABS product range on line. It also includes companion data in multidimensional datasets in SuperTABLE format and time series spreadsheets.

**16** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
Aust.	Australia
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

## GLOSSARY

<b>Age-specific death rates</b>	Age-specific death rates are the number of deaths (occurred or registered) during the calendar year at a specified age per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of the same age at mid-point of the year (30 June). Pro rata adjustment is made in respect of deaths for which the age of the deceased is not given.
<b>Ageing of the population</b>	<p>Ageing of the population refers to the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over, and the way this proportion is continuing to increase, mostly due to persistent low fertility rates and increasing life expectancy.</p> <p>A population can age numerically and structurally. Numerical ageing refers to the number of people aged 65 years and over, while structural ageing refers to an increase in the proportion of people aged 65 years and over.</p>
<b>Baby boomers</b>	Australian residents who were born in Australia or overseas during the years 1946–1965 inclusive. This group includes people in the 'baby boom' age cohort who immigrated to Australia from countries which did not experience a post World War II 'baby boom'.
<b>Collection districts (CDs)</b>	Collection districts are the smallest unit for the collection, processing and output of data and are used for the aggregation of statistics to larger Census Geographic Areas.
<b>Country of birth</b>	Countries of birth as defined in the <i>Standard Australian Classification for Countries (SACC)</i> (cat. no. 1269.0).
<b>Estimated resident population (ERP)</b>	The concept of ERP links people to a place of usual residence within Australia. Usual residence is that place where each person has lived or intends to live for six months or more in a reference year. The ERP is an estimate of the Australian population obtained by adding to the estimated population at the beginning of each period the components of natural increase (on a usual residence basis) and net overseas migration. For the states and territories, account is also taken of the estimated interstate movements involving a change of usual residence. Estimates of the resident population are based on census counts by place of usual residence, to which are added the estimated net census undercount and Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the census. Overseas visitors in Australia are excluded from this calculation. After each census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase agrees with the difference between the ERPs at the two respective census dates.
<b>Fertility rate</b>	The fertility rate for a particular age group is the number of babies that group of women could expect to have given the fertility patterns prevailing in that group at the time.
<b>Indigenous status</b>	The census asks, for each person in a household or non-private dwelling, whether they are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin and the response(s) to this question determines their Indigenous status. People may identify, or be identified, as being in one of four categories: Aboriginal; Torres Strait Islander, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; or not Indigenous (non-Indigenous). Where this question is unanswered, Indigenous status is 'not stated'.
<b>Indigenous person</b>	A person who identifies or is identified as being of Aboriginal origin, Torres Strait Islander origin or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. See also Indigenous status.
<b>Language spoken at home</b>	The language spoken most often in the home. People who reported a language other than English were also asked to indicate their proficiency in spoken English. See also Proficiency in spoken English.
<b>Life expectancy</b>	Life expectancy is the average number of additional years of life remaining to a person at a specified age if current age-specific mortality experience does not change during the person's lifetime.
<b>Mature age persons</b>	Persons aged 45-64 years.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Median value</b>	For any distribution the median value (age, duration, interval) is that value which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, half falling below the value, and half exceeding it. Where the value for a particular record has not been stated, that record is excluded from the calculation.
<b>Mobility rate</b>	The proportion of people who changed address in a five-year period. A person's mobility is determined by comparing their address five years before with their current address. Therefore it does not measure the number of moves within the five-year period. People who move and return to the same address are not classified as movers.
<b>Net overseas migration</b>	Net overseas migration is net permanent and long-term overseas migration, adjusted for change in traveller duration, intention and multiple movement error.
<b>Non-response</b>	The census is largely self-enumerated and despite the efforts of question designers and census collectors, not all of the questions on the census form are answered for every person. Unanswered questions are generally referred to as non-response. The non-response rate refers to the proportion of the population without a response to any given variable. The proportion is calculated by dividing the number of person records with a not stated code for the variable by the total population of interest, and expressing the result as a percentage. The non-response rate is also referred to as the not stated rate.
<b>Overseas visitors</b>	Those people who indicated they would be usually resident in Australia for less than one year. For the purpose of this publication, these persons have been excluded from all analyses.
<b>Population projections</b>	The ABS produces several series of population projections based on different combinations of assumptions about mortality, fertility and migration. For detailed information on the assumptions underlying the population projections, see <i>Population Projections Australia, 2002 to 2101</i> (cat. no. 3222.0).
<b>Predominantly English speaking countries</b>	Refers to countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. Included are the United Kingdom, Ireland, South Africa, Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand.
<b>Proficiency in spoken English</b>	For each person who most often speaks a language other than English at home, this variable attempts to measure their proficiency in spoken English. People who reported a language other than English have been categorised as speaking English very well; well; not well; or not at all.
<b>Section of state</b>	<p>This geographical classification uses population counts from the latest Census of Population and Housing to define Collection Districts (CDs) as urban or rural. Within each state or territory, each section of state represents an aggregation of non-continuous geographical areas of a particular urban/rural type. The sections of state are defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Major Urban: urban areas with a population 100,000 or more</li><li>■ Other Urban: urban areas with a population between 1,000 to 99,999</li><li>■ Bounded Locality: rural areas with a population between 200 and 999</li><li>■ Rural Balance: the remainder of the state or territory</li><li>■ Migratory: areas composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs.</li></ul> <p>For more information, refer to <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).</p>
<b>Sex ratio</b>	The sex ratio relates to the number of males per 100 females. The sex ratio is defined for total population, at birth, at death and among age groups by appropriately selecting the numerator and denominator of the ratio.
<b>Statistical Division (SD)</b>	A statistical division is a general purpose spatial unit and is the largest and most stable unit within each state or territory. SDs are defined around each capital city, to encompass the anticipated growth of that city for a period of at least 20 years. Elsewhere, SDs are defined as relatively homogenous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants and economic units within the region, under

## GLOSSARY *continued*

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<b>Statistical Division (SD)</b> <i>continued</i>	the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. They do not cross state or territory boundaries. (Further details are included in <i>Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)</i> (cat. no. 1216.0).)
<b>Undercount</b>	Despite the efforts of census collectors, some people are missed each census and some are counted more than once. The net effect of overcount and undercount is called net undercount. A measure of the extent of net undercount is obtained from the Post Enumeration Survey (PES). The official population estimates produced by the ABS take into account the results of the PES. However, the census counts are not adjusted. For more information, refer to <i>Census Dictionary, 2001</i> (cat. no. 2901.0).
<b>Usual residence</b>	Usual residence within Australia refers to that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.
<b>Year of arrival in Australia</b>	The year a person (born outside of Australia) first arrived in Australia from another country, with the intention of staying in Australia for one year or more.



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