

Celebrating and sharing Hindu culture – how Census data helps to preserve cultural traditions and celebrations

The Hindu Council's Diwali and Holi festivals are highly anticipated multicultural events held in Australia each year. The well-loved festivals provide an opportunity for the Hindu community to celebrate together and share everything that is loved about Indian culture and tradition with the broader community.

National President, Prakash Mehta, said Census data helps them understand changes in the Hindu and wider Indian community. They use Census data on religion, languages and country of birth to help support and celebrate the growing Hindu communities in Australia.

"In our earlier days, the Hindu Council was only active in three major cities. Census data has helped us to identify the need to provide services in all major cities as well as rural areas to meet the needs of Hindu communities across Australia," said Mr Mehta.

"We use Census data to identify where we should hold our events, which are well attended by our community each year. They provide an opportunity for all Indians to come together and celebrate."

As a result of COVID-19, many large events have been impacted across Australia. This has placed greater importance on working with stakeholders to deliver alternative programs and smaller scale events.

The 2016 Census revealed 455,388 Indians living in Australia, a growth of 54% from the previous Census. Hinduism is also the fastest growing religion in Australia.

"Census data helps us to ensure support and services are focused in the right areas," Mr Mehta said.

"It's vitally important that everyone remembers to fill in the Census this August. We need accurate, updated data on the Indian community, which can help us design the right programs for Hindus in Australia."