

Australia: a country rapidly changing

Name _____ Date _____

Adapted from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-61961744>

Australia: a country rapidly changing

By Tiffanie Turnbull
BBC News, Sydney

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Australia's national survey reveals a country changing rapidly

The population grew to 25.5 million in the 2021 survey – up 2.1 million from 2016 – and average incomes were slightly higher.

The census also revealed trends that will shape the country's future.

Australia is becoming less religious

For the first time, fewer than half of Australians (44%) are Christian. 50 years ago, the proportion was 90%.

Although Christianity is still the biggest religion, there are now 39% who have no religion at all. Hinduism and Islam are the fastest growing religions in Australia, but each are followed by only around 3% of the population.

It's also becoming more diverse

Modern Australia has been built on immigration. And now, more than half of people were born overseas or have a parent who was.

More than a million people have moved to Australia since 2016. Of those, almost a quarter were from India.

One in five people speak a language other than English at home - most commonly Chinese or Arabic – an increase of almost 800,000 since 2016.

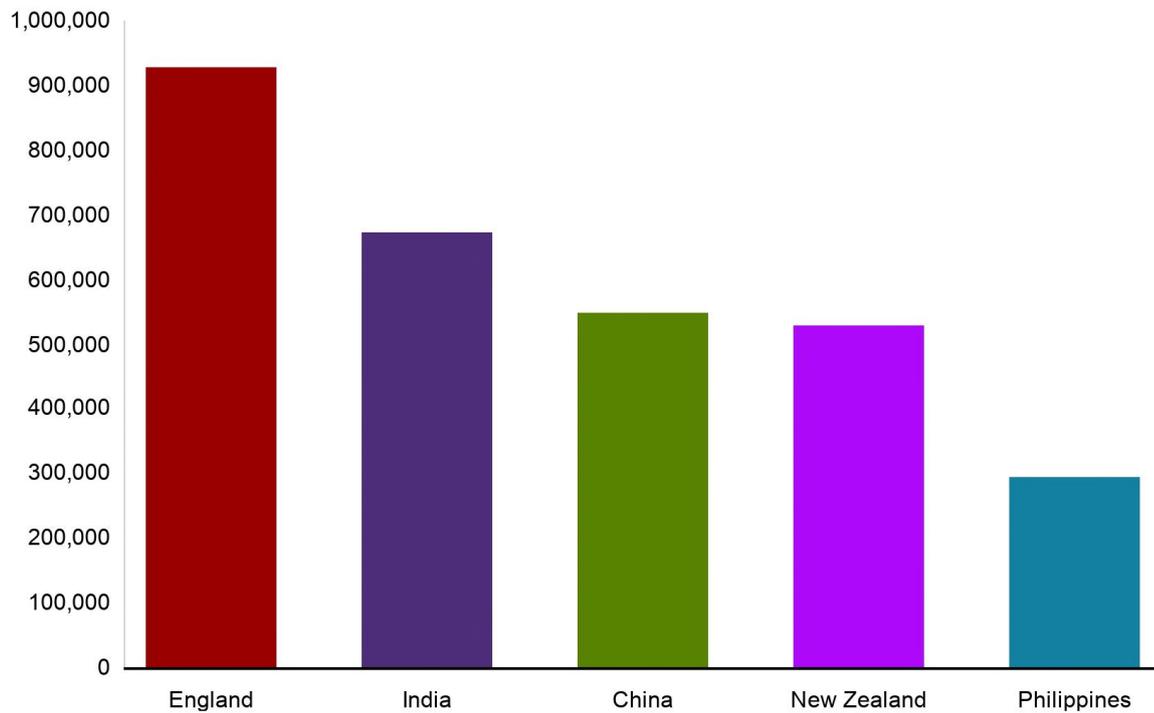
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Australian migration

Top overseas countries of birth



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Indigenous population is larger

The number of people who identified as Aboriginal rose from the last census.

Indigenous Australians now number 812,728 – about 3.2% of the population.

There are 167 active Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages, spoken by more than 78,000 people across Australia.



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L1 questions. Name _____ Date _____



1) Fill in the gaps. Do not look at the text on page 1.

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Hinduism and Islam are the fastest growing religions in Australia, but each areby only around 3% of the population.

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- followed
- grew
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- quarter
- diverse

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L1 questions. Name _____ Date _____



2) Which words in the list (on page 3) mean the same as:

- a. abroad
- b. showed
- c. got bigger
- d. very fast
- e. faith
- f. 1 in 4
- g. often or usually

3) Add the missing full stops and capital letters.

the number of people who identified as aboriginal rose from the last census
indigenous australians are now about 3.2% of the population
there are 167 active aboriginal or torres strait islander languages
more than 78,000 people across australia speak these languages

4) Look at the text on page 1 again.

Make a list of any words you already know but can't spell.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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L2 questions. Name _____ Date _____

1) Fill in the gaps. Do not look at the text on page 1.

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religion
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overseas
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L2 questions. Name _____ Date _____



2) Put the words in the correct order to make the sentence.

rose / from / of / people / The / who / as / aboriginal / identified / the / census. / number / last

.....
.....

the / 3.2% / Australians / number / now / – about / population. / 812,728 / Indigenous / of

.....
.....

by / active / There / or / people / Torres Strait islander / Aboriginal / more / spoken / than / 78,000 / Australia. / are / 167 / languages / across

.....
.....

3) Answer the questions:

- a. What was the population of Australia in 2016? **Do not use a calculator.**

- b. What are the three trends the survey revealed?

4) In pairs or threes, discuss the following:

- The next survey will be in 2026, do you think by then that more or less people will follow Islam? Why?
- What other changes do you think might be seen in 2026?