

- More than 80 per cent of Muslims in Australia speak English or have good proficiency in English.
- 86 per cent of Muslim Australians speak a language other than English at home.
- Just over a third of Muslims in Australia speak Arabic.
- Other than Arabic the next most commonly spoken languages are Turkish (13.8 per cent), English (12.7 per cent) and Urdu (5.3 per cent).

Main language identified	Number
Arabic	114 034
Turkish	46 914
English	43 139
Urdu	18 142
Bengali	15 304
Dari	13 766

The Muslim population in Australia is a relatively young group with 58.6 per cent aged 29 years and under (compared to 39.9 per cent of the total Australian population aged 29 years and under).

This is largely due to the Australian-born Muslims, mostly second generation Australians, where 81.8 per cent are under 25 years.

Overseas-born Muslims tend to be in the 25–44 year age group (45.6 per cent) which is consistent with their recent arrival in Australia.

Age group	Males	Females
0–14 years	52 346	49 552
15–24 years	32 943	31 007
25–44 years	59 488	54 580
45–64 years	27 437	22 826
65+ years	5 536	4 669

Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing
(Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Relevant websites and further sources of information

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

www.immi.gov.au
www.citizenship.gov.au
www.harmony.gov.au
www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia

Australian Bureau of Statistics

www.abs.gov.au

Australian, state, territory and local governments

www.gov.au

Australian Government Information

www.australia.gov.au



Australian Government

**Department of Immigration
and Citizenship**

**Muslims in Australia
– a snap shot**

The Arabic word 'Islam' means peace. Allah is the Arabic name for God, which is also used by both Christian and Muslim Arabs.

Events and Festivals

Muslim events and festivals are based on the Islamic lunar calendar and specific dates can therefore change from year to year. Main events are:

Dhu Al-Hijja

The month of pilgrimage (the Hajj) to Mecca (December/January).

Eid-ul-Adha

The Festival of Sacrifice that occurs at the end of the Hajj and commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son for God (December/January).

Muharram/Al-Hijra

The Islamic New Year (December/January).

Eid Milad al-Nabi

The birthday of the Prophet (April).

Ramadan

Muslims must begin fasting between sunrise and sunset (September).

Eid-ul-Fitr

The end of Ramadan (October).

Muslims in Australia are ethnically, linguistically and culturally diverse. Nearly 38 per cent of the 340 393 Muslims in Australia were born in Australia.

Birthplace	%	Birthplace	%
Australia	37.9	Bangladesh	3.9
Lebanon	8.9	Iraq	2.9
Turkey	6.8	Indonesia	2.5
Afghanistan	4.7	Bosnia & Herzegovina	2.2
Pakistan	4.1	Iran	2.1

At the 2006 Census, the Muslim population in Australia was made up of 199 070 people born overseas, 111 560 second generation Australians and 11 373 third or more generation Australians.

Country	No	%
Born overseas (first generation)	199 070	58.5
Born in Australia and:		
one or both parents born overseas (second generation)	111 560	32.8
both parents born in Australia	11 373	3.3
Australian born/not stated or both not stated	5 971	1.8
Total born in Australia	128 904	37.9

The 2006 Census shows New South Wales (49.6 per cent of Muslim Australians) has the largest Muslim population, followed by Victoria (32.1 per cent). Western Australia has the third highest population of Muslim Australians, at 7.1 per cent.

State/territory of residence	Muslim population	% of total Muslim population
New South Wales	168 788	49.6
Victoria	109 369	32.1
Western Australia	24 187	7.1
Queensland	20 318	6.0
South Australia	10 521	3.1
Australian Capital Territory	4 373	1.3
Northern Territory	1 083	0.3
Tasmania	1 049	0.3