



Community Information Summary

Netherlands-born

Historical Background

In early 1606, William Jansz of Amsterdam, captain of the *Duyfken* (Little Dove) landed on Cape York Peninsula. A number of Dutch ships sank off the Western Australian coast in the 1600s and survivors reportedly established relationships with local Aborigines.

By 1644, Abel Tasman had completed a partial circumnavigation of Australia which revealed, for the first time, the size of the continent. The resulting incomplete map of New Holland was not superseded until the arrival of Captain Cook in 1770.

During the 1850s gold rushes, Dutch merchant ships continued to visit Australia but immigration from the Netherlands remained negligible. Until 1947, when the Census recorded 2174 Netherlands-born, the number of people arriving from the Netherlands was largely balanced by the number of departures. This trend has continued to the present day, apart from a period of high migration during the 1950s and 1960s.

After the Second World War, the Netherlands suffered economically and socially. With an already high population density, a relatively small land area and the highest birth rate in Europe, the Netherlands faced a severe housing crisis and rising unemployment, due mainly to the mechanisation of agriculture. Authorities actively supported emigration as a partial solution to the problem of overcrowding.

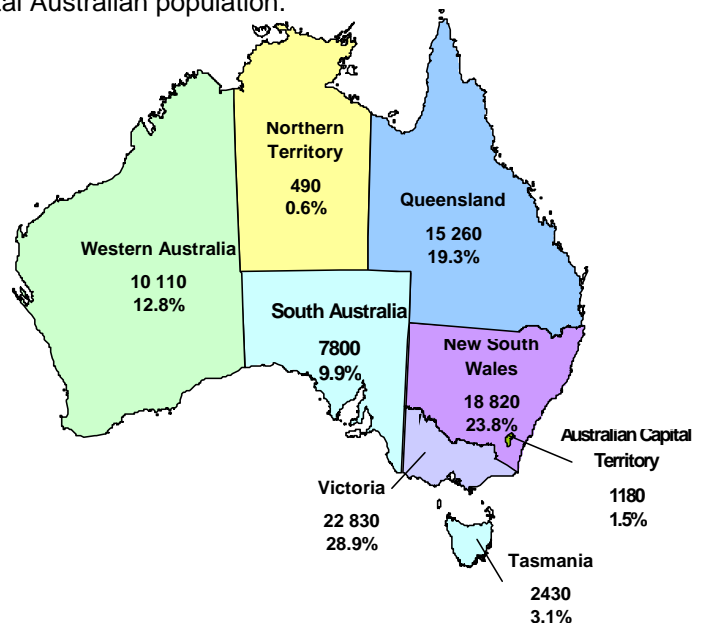
Meanwhile, Australia was looking for acceptable migrants from non-British sources. The hard-working rural Dutch, with their linguistic and cultural affinities with the Australian population, were seen to be ideal immigrants. Both the Australian and Netherlands governments contributed to the cost of passage, and the Australian Government accepted the responsibility for assisting settlement.

As a result, during the 1950s Australia was the destination of 30 per cent of Dutch emigrants and the Netherlands-born became numerically the second largest non-British group. Their numbers peaked in 1961 at 102 130. At the 2001 Census there were 83 250 Netherlands-born people in Australia, making up 2.0 per cent of the overseas-born population and 0.4 per cent of the total Australian population.

Today

Geographic Distribution

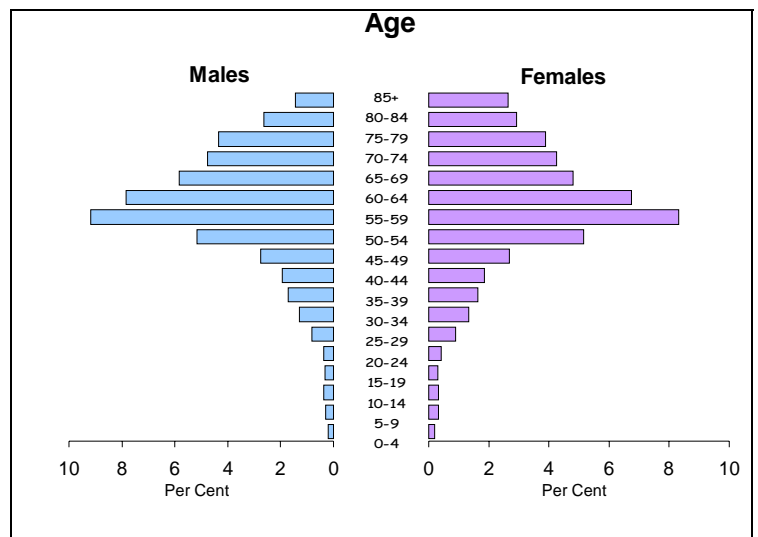
The latest Census in 2006 recorded 78 920 Netherlands-born people in Australia, a decrease of 5.2 per cent from the 2001 Census. The 2006 distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 22 830 followed by New South Wales (18 820), Queensland (15 260) and Western Australia (10 110).



Age and Sex

The median age of the Netherlands-born in 2006 was 60.7 years compared with 46.8 years for all overseas-born and 37.1 years for the total Australian population. The age distribution showed 1.7 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 1.4 per cent were 15-24 years, 11.5 per cent were 25-44 years, 47.8 per cent were 45-64 years and 37.5 per cent were 65 and over.

Of the Netherlands-born in Australia, there were 40 460 males (51.3 per cent) and 38 460 females (48.7 per cent). The sex ratio was 105.2 males per 100 females.

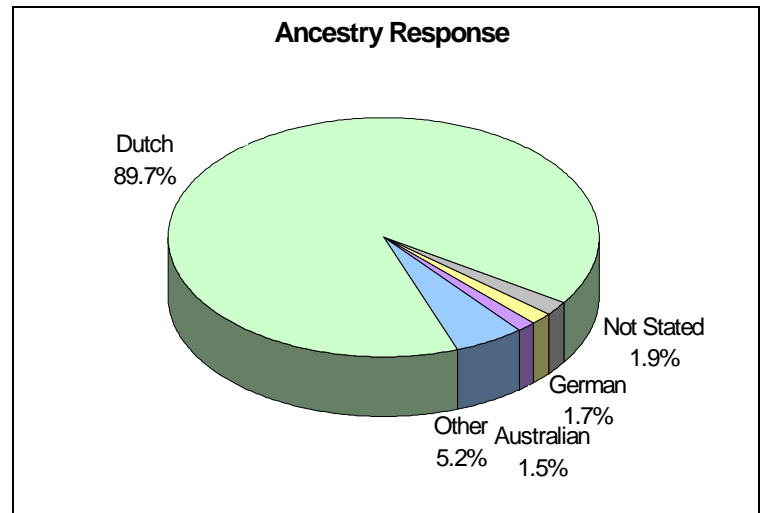


Ancestry

In the 2006 Census, the top three ancestry responses* that Netherlands-born people reported were, Dutch (75 270), Not Stated (1580) and German (1440).

In the 2006 Census, Australians reported more than 250 different Ancestries. From the total ancestry responses*, 1.2 per cent responded as having a Dutch ancestry.

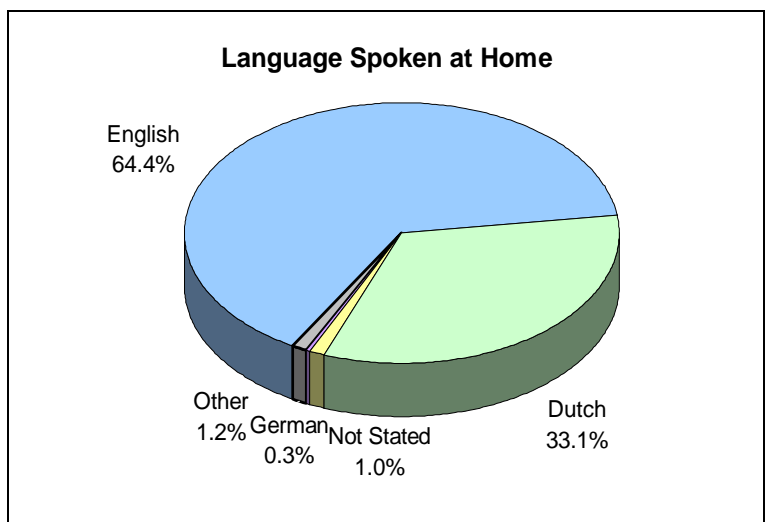
*At the 2006 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question, therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Netherlands-born people in Australia were English (64.4 per cent), Dutch (33.1 per cent) and Not Stated (1.0 per cent).

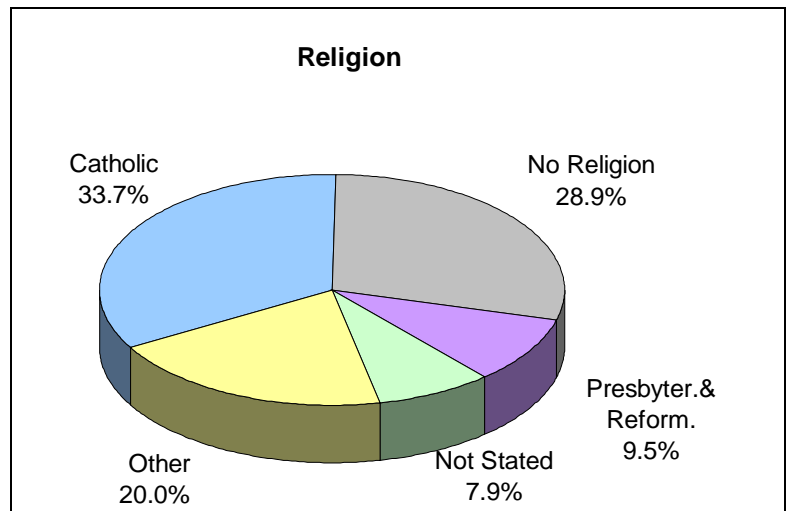
Of the 27 730 Netherlands-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 96.2 per cent spoke English very well or well and 2.8 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2006 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Netherlands-born were Catholic (26 620 persons), No Religion (22 790 persons) and Presbyterian and Reformed (7470 persons).

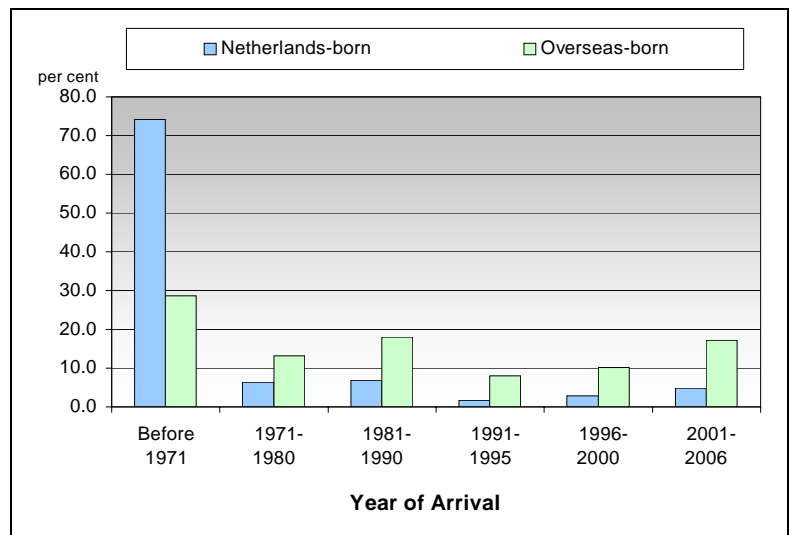
Of the Netherlands-born, 28.9 per cent stated 'No Religion', this was higher than that of the total Australian population (18.7 per cent). 7.9 per cent of the Netherlands-born did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 67.9 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 88.8 per cent of the Netherlands-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 1996.

Among the total Netherlands-born in Australia at the 2006 Census, 2.9 per cent arrived between 1996 and 2000 and 4.8 per cent arrived during 2001 and 2006.



Citizenship

At the 2006 Census, the estimated rate of Australian Citizenship for the Netherlands-born in Australia was 79.5 per cent. The estimated rate for all overseas-born was 75.6 per cent. This rate includes adjustments for people not meeting the residential requirement for citizenship, temporary entrants to Australia and underenumeration at the Census.

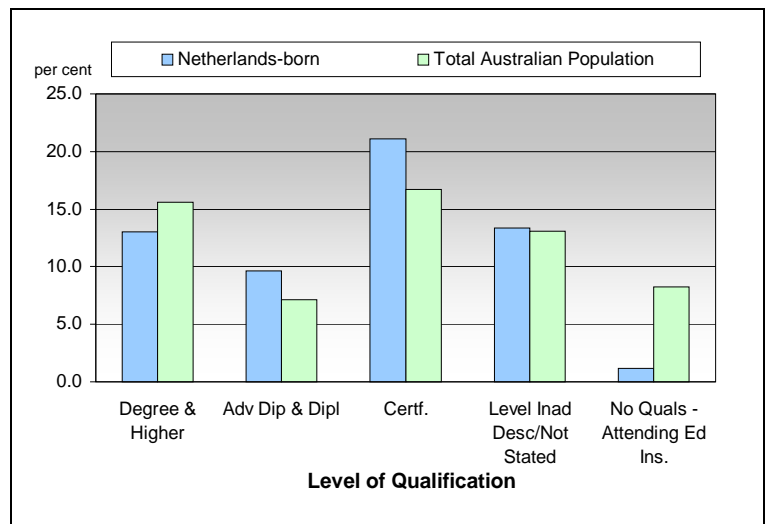
Median Income

At the time of the 2006 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Netherlands-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$381, compared with \$431 for all overseas-born and \$488 for all Australia-born. The total Australian population had a median individual weekly income of \$466.

Qualifications

At the 2006 Census, 57.1 per cent of the Netherlands-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non school qualifications compared to 52.5 per cent of the Australian population. Among the Netherlands-born, 22.6 per cent had Diploma level or higher* qualifications and 21.1 per cent had Certificate level qualifications. From the Netherlands-born, 32 360 had no higher non school qualification, of which 2.7 per cent were still attending an educational institution.

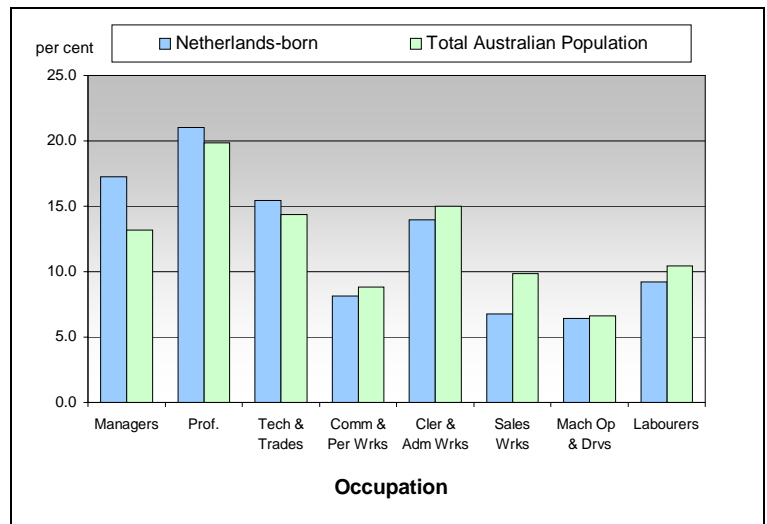
* Diploma level or higher qualification includes Degree level or higher, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level.



Employment

Among Netherlands-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 46.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 3.7 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

Of the 33 770 Netherlands-born who were employed, 33.6 per cent were employed in a Skill Level 1 occupation, 11.6 per cent in Skill Level 2 and 15.7 per cent in Skill Level 3. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 28.7, 10.7 and 15.1 per cent respectively.



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All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. Sources for the Historical Background available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/comm-summ/source.htm>

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