



# Community Information Summary

## Samoa-born

### Historical Background

Polynesians settled in the Samoan archipelago in about 1000 BC. Germany, Britain and the United States of America competed for control of the archipelago until 1899, when the western part of Samoa passed to Germany and the eastern islands became American Samoa. Western Samoa gained full independence in 1962 and changed its name to Samoa in 1997. Samoa has two official languages, Samoan and English.

During the early part of the 20th century, Australia established trading companies in Samoa that led to a small intake of Samoan migrants to Australia. The migrants came to Australia for commerce, education and missionary purposes. The 1921 Census recorded 110 Samoa-born people in Australia.

During the 1970s the number of Samoans coming to Australia increased as a result of educational programmes sponsored by Australia. By 1981 there were 780 Samoans in Australia and this number rose to 2990 people in 1986.

Most Samoans settled in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. They are generally bound by a strong sense of identity with their family life governed by Samoan traditions and Christian beliefs.

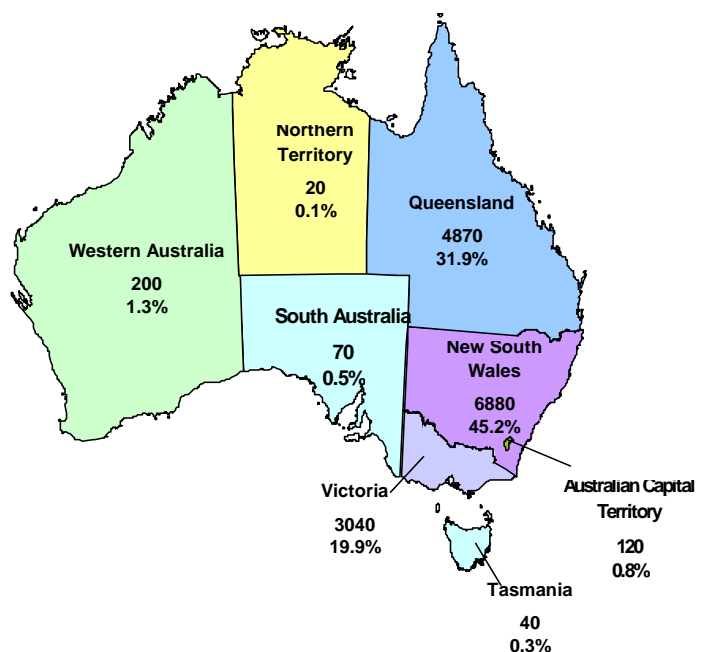
The majority of Samoans belong to the Roman Catholic, Uniting, Mormon, Pentecostal and Congregational churches. A small number of Samoans are Baha'is.

There were 13 380 Samoa-born people in Australia at the 2001 Census, making up 0.3 per cent of the overseas-born population.

## Today

### Geographic Distribution

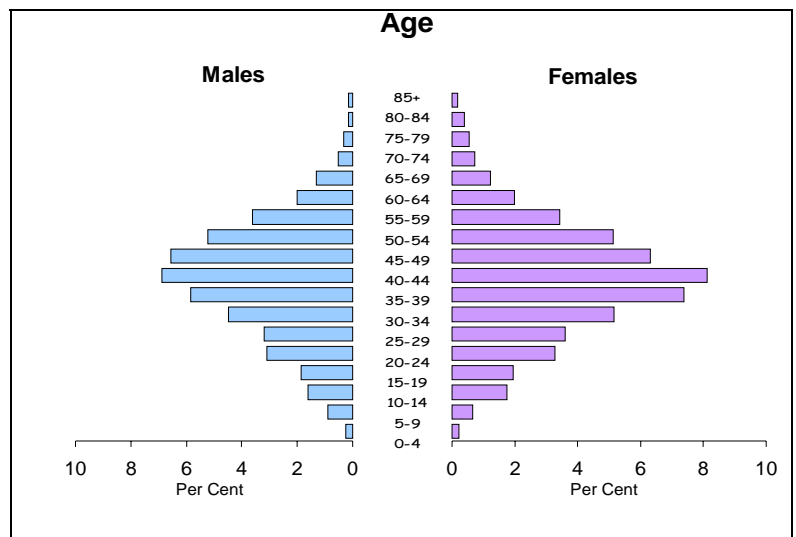
The latest Census in 2006 recorded 15 240 Samoa-born people in Australia, an increase of 13.9 per cent from the 2001 Census. The 2006 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 6880 followed by Queensland (4870), Victoria (3040) and Western Australia (200).



## Age and Sex

The median age of the Samoa-born in 2006 was 41.6 years compared with 46.8 years for all overseas-born and 37.1 years for the total Australian population. The age distribution showed 5.4 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 10.2 per cent were 15-24 years, 44.7 per cent were 25-44 years, 34.3 per cent were 45-64 years and 5.5 per cent were 65 and over.

Of the Samoa-born in Australia, there were 7310 males (48.0 per cent) and 7930 females (52.0 per cent). The sex ratio was 92.3 males per 100 females.

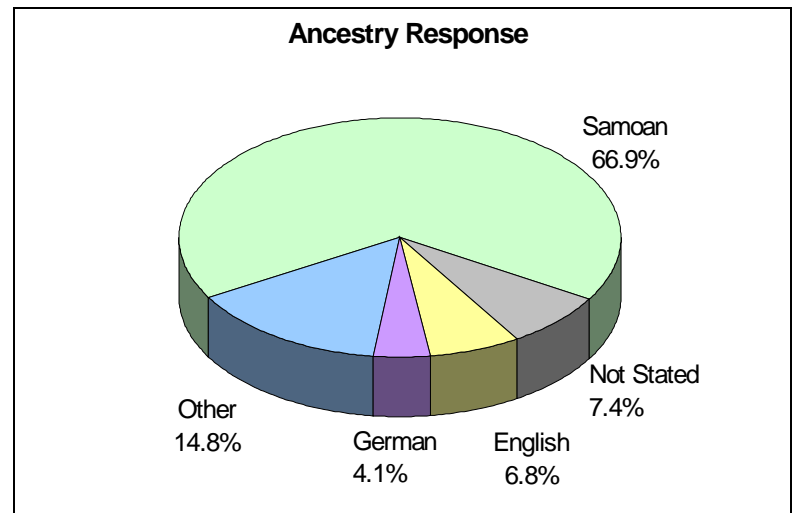


## Ancestry

In the 2006 Census, the top three ancestry responses\* that Samoa-born people reported were, Samoan (12 000), Not Stated (1330) and English (1230).

In the 2006 Census, Australians reported more than 250 different Ancestries. From the total ancestry responses\*, 0.2 per cent responded as having a Samoan ancestry.

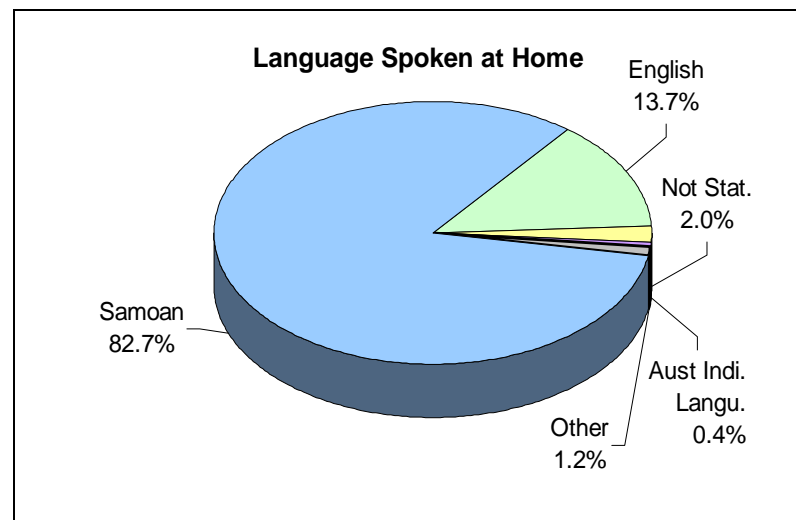
\*At the 2006 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



## Language

The main languages spoken at home by Samoa-born people in Australia were Samoan (82.7 per cent), English (13.7 per cent) and Not Stated (2.0 per cent).

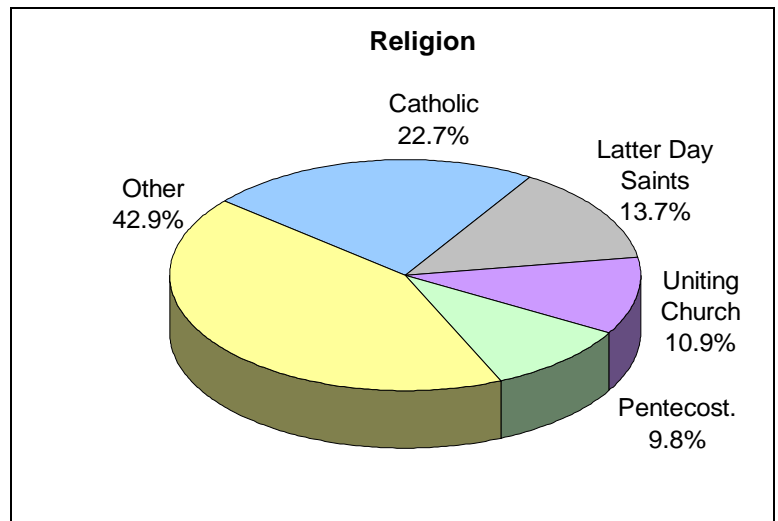
Of the 13 000 Samoa-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 85.6 per cent spoke English very well or well and 12.8 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



## Religion

At the 2006 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Samoa-born were Catholic (3460 persons), Latter Day Saints (2090 persons) and Uniting Church (1660 persons).

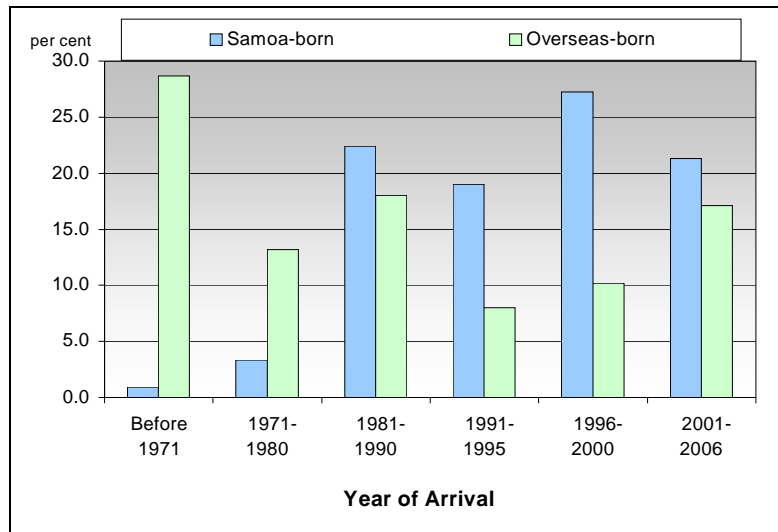
Of the Samoa-born, 2.0 per cent stated 'No Religion', this was lower than that of the total Australian population (18.7 per cent). 4.6 per cent of the Samoa-born did not state a religion.



## Arrival

Compared to 67.9 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 45.7 per cent of the Samoa-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 1996.

Among the total Samoa-born in Australia at the 2006 Census, 27.2 per cent arrived between 1996 and 2000 and 21.3 per cent arrived during 2001 and 2006.



## Citizenship

At the 2006 Census, the estimated rate of Australian Citizenship for the Samoa-born in Australia was 65.2 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.

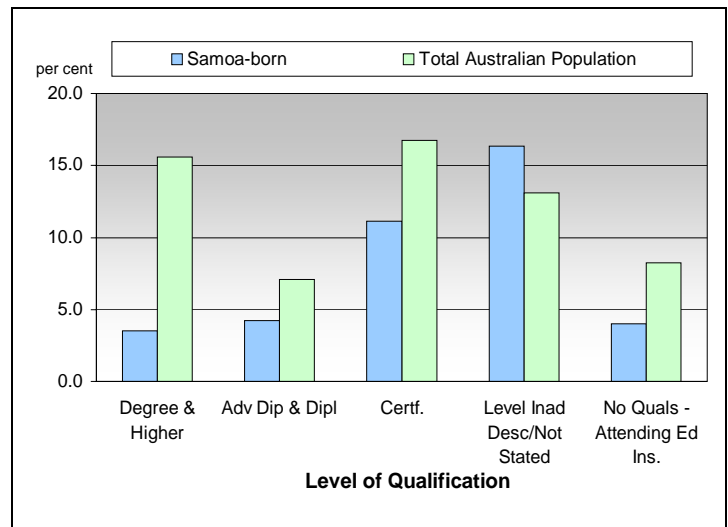
## Median Income

At the time of the 2006 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Samoa-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$450, 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, 35.2 per cent of the Samoa-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 Samoa-born, 7.7 per cent had Diploma level or higher\* qualifications and 11.1 per cent had Certificate level qualifications. From the Samoa-born, 9020 had no higher non school qualification, of which 6.4 per cent were still attending an educational institution.

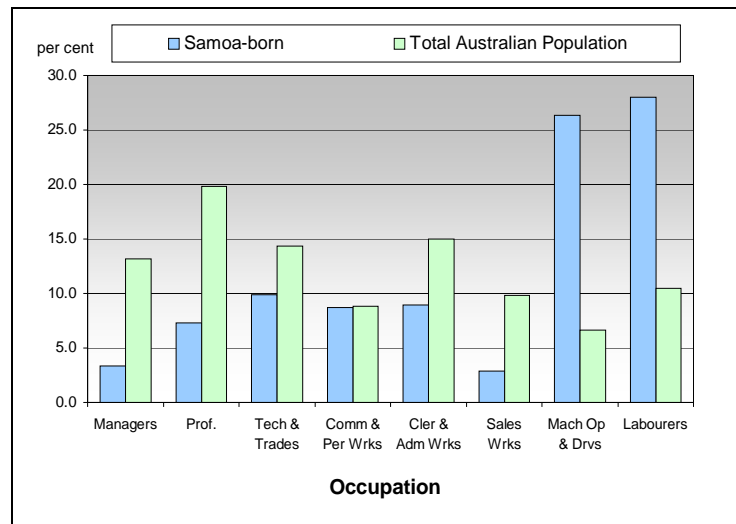
\* Diploma level or higher qualification includes Degree level or higher, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level.



## Employment

Among Samoa-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 63.6 per cent and the unemployment rate was 9.4 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

Of the 7820 Samoa-born who were employed, 9.2 per cent were employed in a Skill Level 1 occupation, 4.0 per cent in Skill Level 2 and 9.5 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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