



Afghan Community

Afghanistan is a landlocked country located in Southern Asia that borders China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The geography of Afghanistan is arid and mountainous; the Hindu Kush Mountains run northeast to southwest and divide the northern provinces from the rest of the country.

POPULATION

59,798 **329**

Population in
Australia

Population in
Melton

DIASPORA

- New South Wales (24.5%)
- Victoria (42.5%)
- Queensland (7.9%)
- Western Australia (9.6%)
- Northern Territory (.06%)
- Tasmania (0.5%)



AGE PROFILE (VICTORIA)

In the City of Melton,
Afghan born residents are in
the following age cohorts:

24 **41** **256** **12**

0 TO 14 YRS

15 TO 24 YRS

25 TO 64 YRS

65+



AFGHAN POPULATION IN MELTON CITY COUNCIL

177
MALE



153
FEMALE



AFGHAN RESIDENTS DISTRIBUTION IN MELTON

Aintree	13
Burnside-Burnside Heights	40
Fraser Rise	50
Harkness	16
Melton West	30
Rural Balance	18
Taylor's Hill	40
Rest of Melton	120

AFGHANISTAN BORN POPULATION AND MIGRATION STREAM VISA IN CITY OF MELTON

20

HUMANITARIAN

119

FAMILY

190

OTHER

Note: Please note that there are small random adjustments made to all cell values to protect the confidentiality of data. These adjustments may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from table totals.

AFGHAN CULTURE*

- Most expressions of Afghan culture are shaped by Islam and Afghan culture.
- Ramadan is an important, month-long event - Afghans who want will fast from dawn to dusk.
- Men's and women's roles are mainly defined along traditional lines.
- Women are mainly responsible for household duties, whereas men mainly take the role of the bread winners. However, these roles are changing for Afghans living in Australia.
- Families commonly arrange marriages for their children.
- Families traditionally live together in the same walled compound/house.
- As with much of the Muslim world, the family is sacred and as such, is highly protected. As a result, probing about the family is not advised.
- Honour in Afghan culture defines the reputation and worth of an individual, as well as those they are associated with.
- The head male of a family is responsible for protecting the honour of the family.
- The issue of honour drives much of the behaviour surrounding the protection of women, modes of dress, social interaction, education and economic activity.
- The role of honour and tribalism has fuelled much of the disharmony in the country's recent history.
- Hospitality is an essential aspect of Afghan culture. If you visit a home, you will be given the best the family has irrespective of who you are - they say 'Mehman dost Khuda ast' meaning a guest is a beloved friend of God.
- It is likely that you will eat in a gender-segregated environment.
- You will be constantly offered food and drinks around a meal table.

** These practices are changing for Afghans living in Australia.*

CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE

- When meeting someone, the handshake is the most common form of greetings. You will also see people place their hands over their hearts and nod slightly if they don't shake hands.
- People who know one another well may hug or give each other kisses on both cheeks.
- Women and men normally don't shake hands unless they know each other well.
- Eye contact be avoided between men and women between men eye contact is acceptable as long as it is not prolonged.
- Elders' hands are kissed by younger people out of respect and younger people's heads are kissed out of compassion in return.
- Always remove your shoes at the door if visiting an Afghan home.
- Ethnicity matters could be sensitive for many people - better to avoid any conversation about it.
- People may preface/ give you a context before discussing the main point so be patient.
- Offering water/ tea where possible could be a good welcoming sign.

SETTLEMENT JOURNEY AND CHALLENGES

INTERGENERATIONAL GAPS/CONFLICT

- Younger people may find it challenging to recognise with the customs/culture of their parents.

HIGHER EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS FROM THEIR CHILDREN

- Parents have a very high expectation of their children to do well in school and become a doctor, engineer or lawyer.

REMITTANCE AND CONNECTION WITH FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES

- Many community members have families and loved ones back in Afghanistan - sending money overseas could put pressure on families' budget or may cause issues.
- Often security incidences inside Afghanistan will cause distress and anxiety for community.

LANGUAGE

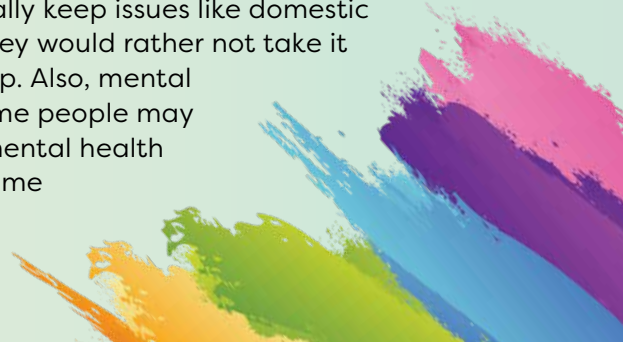
- Lack of English language skills is one of the biggest challenges for some members of the Afghan community upon arrival.

EMPLOYMENT

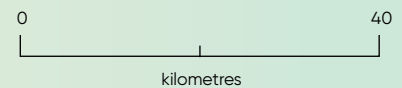
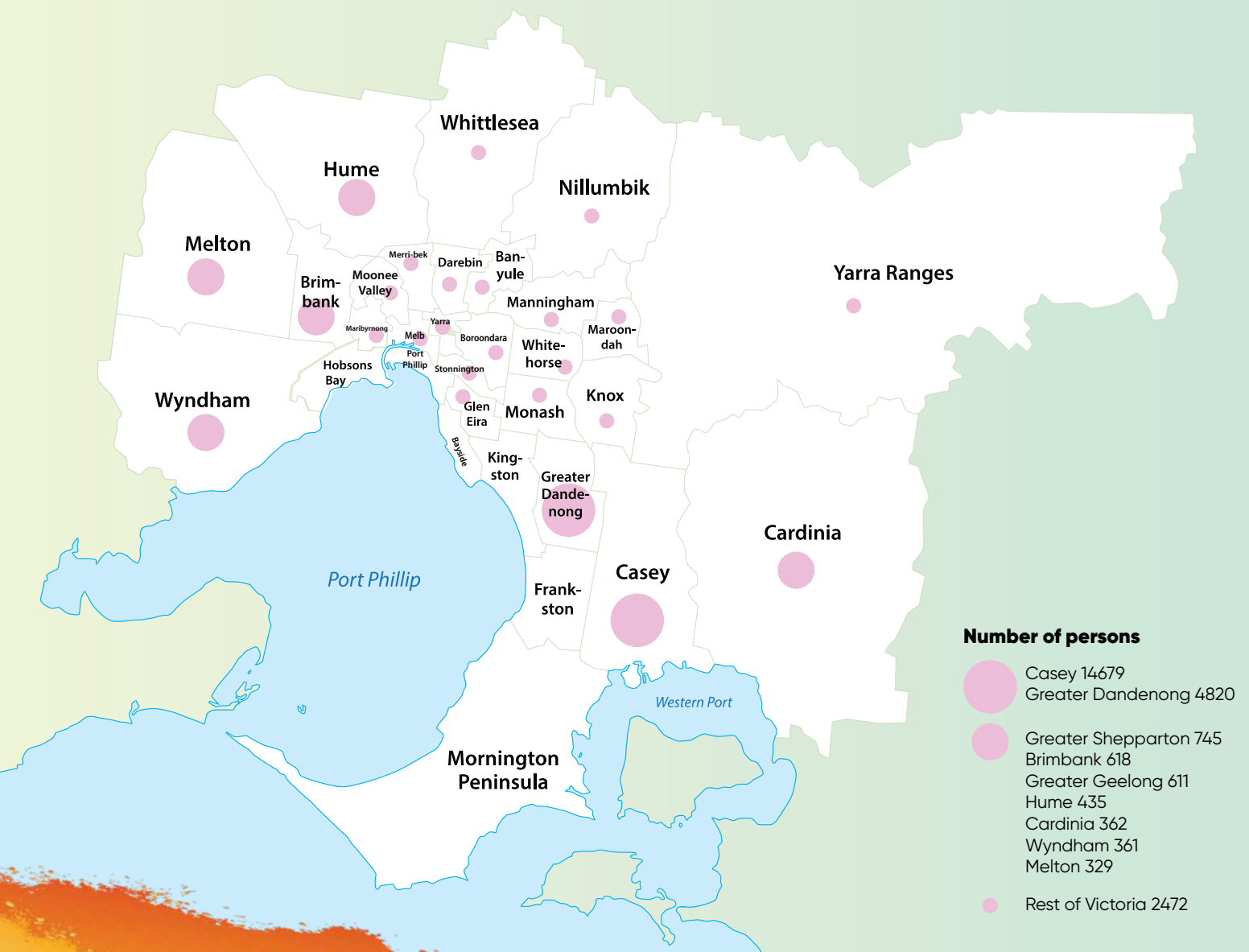
- Many members of the community find it difficult to find employment due to various reasons such as lack of English language skills, lack of knowledge of the Australian work experience and work culture or high expectations.
- Recognition of overseas qualifications could be another challenge.

FAMILY AND MENTAL HEALTH

- Afghan people usually keep issues like domestic violence private. They would rather not take it outside and get help. Also, mental health is taboo. Some people may find disclosing a mental health issue may bring shame to the family.



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF AFGHAN BORN IN METROPOLITAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF VICTORIA



For more information
visit [melton.vic.gov.au/curiousaboutculture](https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/curiousaboutculture)
or call 9747 7200



All the stats are based on current census data.