Indian Community

India is a country in South Asia. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast, it shares land borders with Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north; and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east.

POPULATION

455,389
Population in Australia
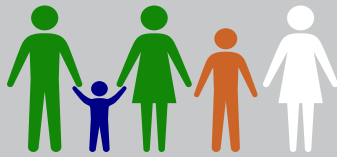
5,118
Population in Melton

Diaspora:
Victoria **37.3%**
New South Wales **31.5%**
Queensland **10.8%**
Western Australia **10.8%**

ACCORDING TO THE 2016 CENSUS

AGE PROFILE

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

11.1%
0 TO 19 YRS

15.6%
20 TO 29 YRS
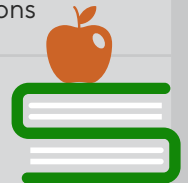
59.7%
30 TO 69 YRS

13.6%
70+ YRS

LANGUAGES

Punjabi, Hindi, English, Malayalam, Gujarati, Tamil, Marathi, Urdu, Kannada, Southern Asian Languages

EDUCATION

52.5% Bachelor or Higher degree

7.0% Vocational qualifications

23.8% No qualifications

RELIGIONS

39%
Hinduism

34%
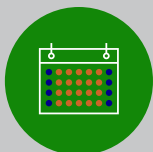Sikhism

14%
Christianity

8%
Other religions

ACCORDING TO THE 2000 CENSUS

ETHNICITIES

3,467
Indo-Aryan

739
Dravidian
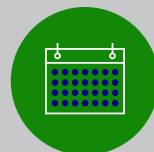
EMPLOYMENT

2,350 Full time

172 Unemployed
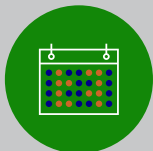
851 Part time

1,191 Not in the labour force

C I T Y   O F
M E L T O N
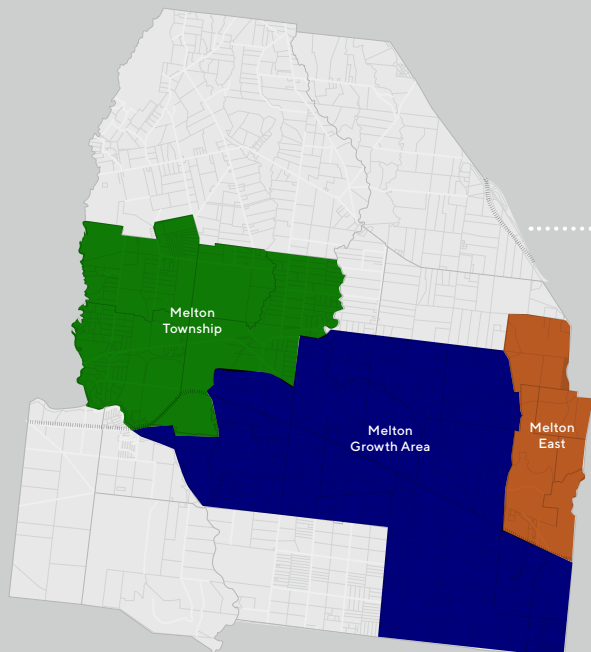
3,317
● Melton East

1,215
● Melton Township

586
● Melton Growth Area

Melton Township

Melton East

Melton Growth Area

INDIAN CULTURE

India is home to over a billion people, accommodating incredible cultural diversity between languages, geographic regions, religious traditions and social stratifications.

Key concepts

The ethnicities of India can be broken down into main groups on the basis of their linguistic backgrounds, the two largest being Indo-Aryan and Dravidian. For example, many people belonging to Indo-Aryan ethnicities live in the northern half of the country. Indo-Aryan languages commonly spoken include Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali, Marathi, Urdu, Odia and Punjabi. Meanwhile, people belonging to Dravidian ethnicities generally live in the southern half of the country. Dravidian languages commonly spoken include Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam.

India has a highly stratified traditional social structure, often referred to as the 'caste' system. The Caste system is unique to the indian subcontinent and represents to overlapping systems.

The large-scale caste system is known as the 'varna' system. This classifies society into four broad categories; *brahmin* (priestly caste), *kshatriya* (nobility caste), *vaishya* (merchant caste) and *shudra* (artisan or labourer caste).

The small-scale caste system, known as the '*jati*' system, comprises over 2,000 jati categories that determine one's occupation or vocation based on their family of birth. The jati system is particularly noticeable in the daily social organisation of Indian culture and explains why it is common for people to follow the professions of their parents and grandparents.

India is notable for its religious diversity, with Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Christianity, and Jainism among the nation's major religions. Many Indian festivals are religious in origin. Festivals are at the heart of people's lives in India. There are numerous and varied festivals that are held throughout the year including Diwali, Ganesh Chaturthi, Thai Pongal, Holi, Durga Puja, Eid ul-Fitr, Bakr-Id, Christmas, and Vaisakhi.

ETIQUETTE

It is important to be aware of the diversity of traditions and practices regarding etiquette in India. Given the different social norms among regions, linguistic groups and religions, each community has their own understanding of what constitutes respectful or normal behaviour.

- Some Indians may have dietary restrictions based on their religious faith. For example, practising Muslim Indians do not consume pork. For many Hindus, cows have sacred religious connotations, and the consumption of beef will be avoided.

- Over 93% of Indians in Australia are fluent in English, and it is common for them to have an extensive and impressive vocabulary. If you communicate in a way that doesn't acknowledge this, your Indian counterpart will likely interpret this as patronising.

- Try to dress conservatively and speak respectfully out of respect for your Indian counterpart.

- Enjoy a playful and light-hearted sense of humour. Indians tend to enjoy friendly banter and light teasing.

Source

IES (2020). The Cultural Atlas. Retrieved from: **https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/**

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions).

The State of Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Population Diversity in Victoria: 2016 Census, 2018.