



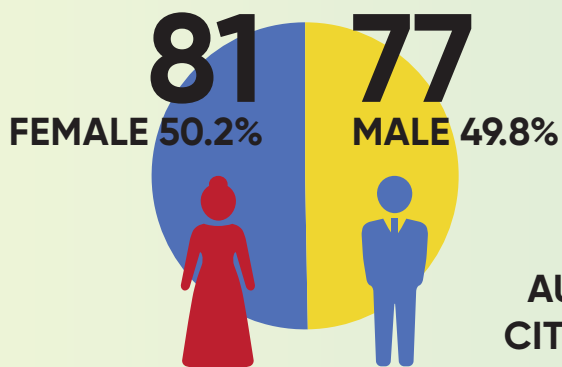
Congolese Community

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), situated in Central Africa, is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa and one of the most culturally and geographically diverse nations on the continent. It's known for its lush rainforests, the Congo River, and a complex history marked by political strife, mineral wealth, and rich cultural heritage.

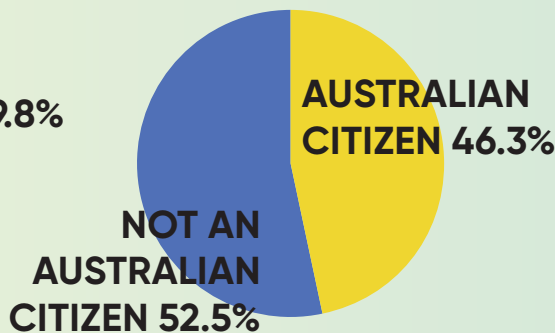


POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

FIGURES FOR MELTON



FIGURES FOR THE WHOLE OF AUSTRALIA



108.4 million

Population in DRC

6148*

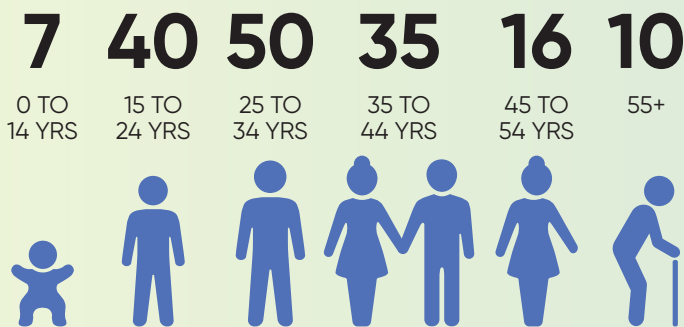
Population in Australia

158*

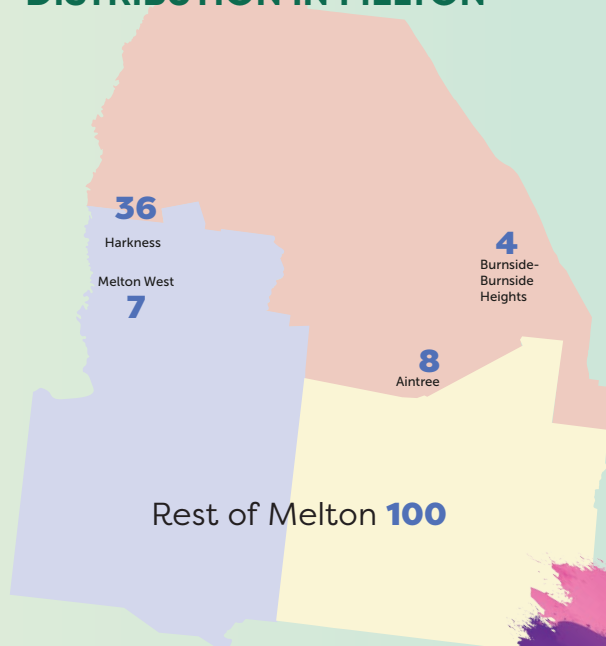
Population in Melton

AGE PROFILE (MELTON)

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



CONGOLESE RESIDENTS DISTRIBUTION IN MELTON



FAMILY PROFILE (AUSTRALIA)

2359

FAMILIES

1391

COUPLES WITH CHILDREN

274

COUPLES WITHOUT CHILDREN



588

1 PARENT FAMILIES



98

OTHER FAMILIES

CONGOLESE ARRIVALS IN AUSTRALIA

3	14	44	43	57	93	2053	1354	2372
Before 1951	1951-1960	1961-1970	1971-1980	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2016	2016-2021

CONGOLESE CULTURE

- Religion is very important in Congolese life, providing comfort and peace to those who worship.
- Religious leaders are highly respected.
- Family roles are well-defined. Men protect and provide for the family, serving as head of household and decisionmaker.
- Women take care of children and the home.
- Recently, it has become more common for women to earn income for the family.
- Marriage is seen as a union between two families and is important for developing kinship ties and community strength.
- Girls often marry at a young age.
- Families are usually large. Children are considered a symbol of prosperity for the family and the community.

SETTLEMENT JOURNEY AND CHALLENGES

- Finding affordable housing
- Finding employment
- Language and communication barriers
- Racism and discrimination
- Community attitudes
- Impact of disrupted education and schooling
- Learning English
- Lack of social network
- Social issues such as violence against women within the community

CUSTOMS AND ETIQUETTE

- Common sense, courtesy, and European traditions of social etiquette apply.
- Hands are shaken with men and women on encounter and departure.
- A proper greeting is to shake hands with the right hand.
- Holding hands between people of the same sex is a sign of friendship.
- Do not use first names until invited to do so.
- “Monsieur,” “Madame,” and “Mademoiselle” are the usual forms of address.
- To show respect for social status people hold their right forearm with their left hand while shaking hands.
- Men often share a touching of the sides of their foreheads, first right then left.
- Pointing at someone is impolite.
- Objects are to be passed with either both hands or the right hand, never with the left hand.
- Hand gestures often take the place of speaking to one another.
- You should not shake another person’s left hand.
- Sharing a drink is a sign of respect.

**All the stats are based on 2021 census, so may not reflect the current data.*

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.



For more information
visit melton.vic.gov.au/curiousaboutculture
or call 9747 7200

All the stats are based on current census data.