

Bangladeshi Community

Bangladesh is a South Asian country located to the east of India on the Bay of Bengal, marked by lush greenery and many waterways. Its Padma (Ganges), Meghna and Jamuna rivers create fertile plains, and travel by boat is common. On the southern coast, the Sundarbans, an enormous mangrove forest shared with Eastern India, is home to the royal Bengal tiger.

POPULATION

41,237 **209**

Population in
Australia

Population in
Melton

DIASPORA

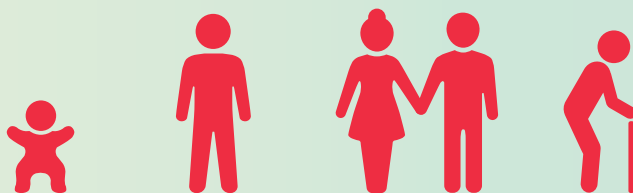
New South Wales (58.7%)
Victoria (19%)
Queensland (6.7%)
Western Australia (6.3%)
Northern Territory (1%)
Tasmania (0.3%)



AGE PROFILE (VICTORIA)

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

10% **45%** **43%** **2%**
0 TO 18 YRS 19 TO 34 YRS 35 TO 64 YRS 65+



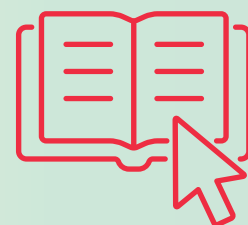
LANGUAGES (AUSTRALIA)

91% Bengali
7% English



EDUCATION (MELTON)

Most of the
Bangladeshi born
people living in
Melton have a
Bachelor degree or above.



RELIGIONS (MELTON)

 **72%**  **9%**  **6%**
Islam Catholic Hinduism

ETHNICITIES (ANCESTRIES)

Bengali • Bihari • Chakma • Meitei • Khasi
Santhal • Garo • Oraon • Munda • Rohingya

EMPLOYMENT (VICTORIA)

Labour force participation, Bangladeshi-born in Victoria

60% **8.5%** **23%**
EMPLOYED **UNEMPLOYED** **NOT IN THE
LABOUR FORCE**

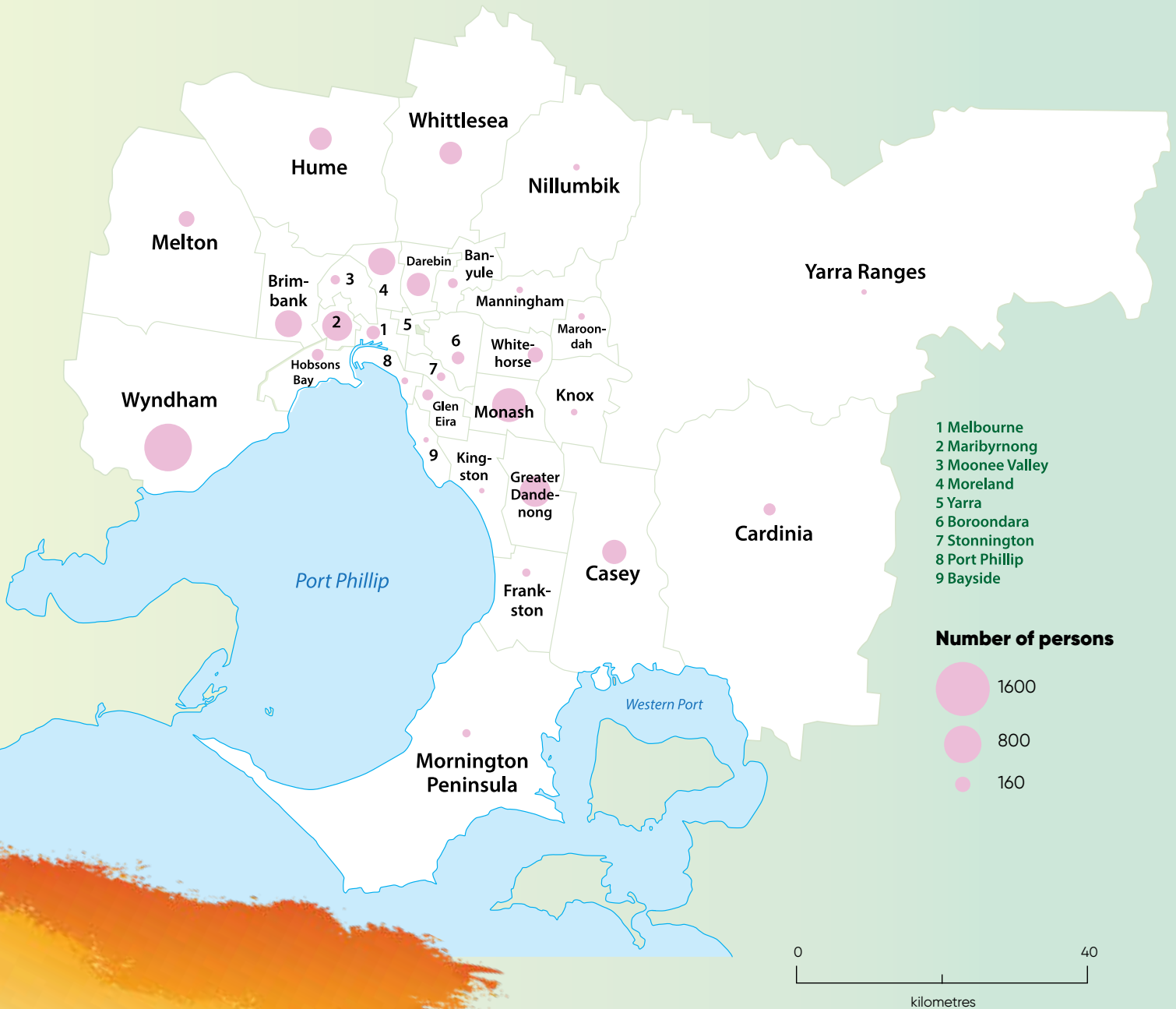
BANGLADESHI CULTURE

- The family is central to one's social life in Bangladesh.
- A family (Barhi) consists of a husband and wife, their unmarried children, and their adult sons with their wives and children.
- Women tend to be in charge of household affairs and men continue to have greater access to education and paid labour as well as acting as the primary source of authority.
- Many marriages are arranged. It's changing, with more Bangladeshis having more autonomy over whom they marry.
- Bangladeshis are quite conservative about what to wear.
- Many men and women follow Islamic traditions in terms of clothing. Women usually wear a sari or salwar kameez, while men wear cotton lungi with a shirt, T-shirt or a kurta on top at home.
- Among the many handicrafts products of Bangladesh, the most important ones are:
pottery, woodwork, cotton, silk, gold, silver, jute, reed, brassware, traditional dolls, pink pearls, and copperware trays, well decorative bamboo made items, vases, mostly handmade with fine engravings and filigree work.
- The art, music, and literature of Bengal is rich in the Indian subcontinent.
- Western outfits are common amongst men but not as much amongst women.

ETIQUETTE

- The traditional greeting for Muslims is Asalamu alaikum to which the response is Wa alaikum salam.
 - People of the same sex can shake hands, but not members of the opposite sex.
 - In general, age dictates how people are addressed.
 - Jokes or sarcasm can be considered offensive especially while talking to someone at a higher rank.
 - Bangladeshis are very sensitive about their country and their own political belief and political discussions sometimes get serious.
 - Most Bangladeshis are religiously sensitive and avoiding religious discussion is a better strategy while speaking to a Bangladeshi.
 - Bangladeshis are quite implicit/indirect communicators.
 - Direct communication style may be seen as rude.
 - Bengalis stand close when speaking to someone of the same gender and touch is common.
 - Men greet each other with a handshake upon arriving and leaving.
 - While speaking to the opposite sex, it's important to increase the personal space and to avoid prolonged eye contact.
 - Consumption of alcohol is not allowed in public places.
 - During Ramadan, one should not eat food in public places.
 - Restricted/prohibited food may not be offered where people of different religions are present.
 - Use of hand is preferred to fork and knife.
 - Seated dining is preferred to standing dining.
 - Business etiquette in Bangladesh is reasonably formal. Professional behaviour is expected such as addressing by Sir/Madam or Mr/Ms and Surname.
 - Foreign men should nod to a Bangladeshi woman unless she extends her hand.
 - Wait until your counterpart moves to a first name basis before you do so.
 - It's important that you soften your message and that you elaborate where possible.
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GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF BANGLADESH BORN IN METROPOLITAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF VICTORIA (2016)



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



All the stats are based on 2016 census, so may not reflect the current data.