

This White Paper flows from a requirement built into the previous ethnic affairs White Paper, entitled *Building on Our Cultural Diversity*, which required that in 2001 a “substantial report” should be prepared for the Minister on the “implementation of the Ethnic Affairs Action Plan 2000”, and was to “contain recommendations on the Government’s next steps in ethnic affairs.”

The required evaluation was carried out in 2001 through the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW, and the results were released by the Premier for discussion and public comment, as a Green Paper entitled *Cultural Harmony The Next Decade 2002-2012*, on 24 May 2002.

As stated in the Green Paper, the 1996 White Paper, *Building on Our Cultural Diversity*, and its component Ethnic Affairs Action Plan 2000 was “a landmark document”. It contained a range of concrete proposals which “required specific outcomes across the whole-of-government spectrum.”

In fact, so comprehensive was the document that many of the strategies and initiatives envisaged in it, particularly in respect of the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement (EAPS) program, will continue to underpin and flow into the proposed *Community Relations Plan of Action 2012* contained in this White Paper.

Multicultural New South Wales: Developments since 1996

The release of *Building on Our Cultural Diversity* preceded a major shift in thinking about how ethnic communities should be regarded within the overall community in New South Wales.

It was recognised in the latter half of the 1990s that the term “ethnic affairs” was no longer an adequate way of describing the relationship between Australian born people and those born overseas, or those having one or both parents born overseas. It was felt that the term “ethnic affairs” did not allow people born overseas to adequately express their aspirations for themselves or for their families within the Australian social context. The term was seen by some as divisive, separating those from immigrant backgrounds and their families from mainstream society.

It was also recognised that relatively recent changes such as globalisation, trans-national corporations and the interconnectivity that is a by-product of technological advancement have contributed to the need to redefine the concept of “citizenship”. The relationship between nationality and citizenship is becoming blurred, and the notion of an individual having only one homeland is becoming outdated.

On 8 April 1999, the Premier proposed that the former Ethnic Affairs Commission be changed to a Community Relations Commission, the change of name being intended to recognise that our society represents a “community of communities” and thus emphasises inclusiveness over the singling out of particular groupings of people.

In June 1999, *The Way Forward: A consultative document leading to a Community Relations Commission*, which invited discussion of the proposal, was released.

Consultations and discussions on the change of name and the proposed legislation, to support a fresh, inclusive and more community focused approach to multiculturalism, were wide-ranging and substantial, and it was not until November 2000 that the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act* received assent.

The national and international scene after 1996 was one of considerable and rapid change, which impacted upon the cultural life of New South Wales.

Nationally and internationally there was a developing (and ongoing) debate about the meaning of the term “multiculturalism” – or, perhaps more correctly, what the “-ism” in “multiculturalism” means.

At the end of the 1990s, Australia experienced a potentially divisive debate, driven by some individuals and minority political groups, which focused principally on a negative interpretation of multiculturalism, and on Australia’s non-discriminatory immigration program.

Reports of ethnic-based gang rapes also provided the potential for community tensions, stereotyping and myth-making.

The general maturity and tolerance of the broader New South Wales community, encouraged by the sensible and proactive policies and initiatives of the State government was, however, demonstrated in the failure of these issues to develop.

The success of our dynamic, multicultural, harmonious and tolerant society was magnificently highlighted in the Year 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sydney.



Impact of International Events

The potential for international events to impinge upon the New South Wales community was demonstrated by the 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States, the Bali atrocity in 2002, and the Iraq war, which followed a long build-up in 2002-2003.

That these events sparked incidents of racism, harassment or vilification is a reminder that community harmony can only be maintained by continuing vigilance, clear communication and dialogue, education of the community as a whole, and clear co-operative arrangements between government and the community.

Although the number of incidents reported is unacceptable, they were in fact relatively small. This is a testament to the general commitment of the community to our laws, institutions, values, and sense of justice and a “fair go”, and to the rapid and pro-active response of government in providing support to the community and establishing forums for communication.



New Directions for Multicultural New South Wales

The year 2001 was very exciting for community relations in New South Wales. The establishment of the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW by Parliament was a significant step towards the protection and promotion of our unique culturally diverse society.

The change of name from the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW to the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW (CRC) conveys a spirit of community harmony and inclusiveness.

The Principles of Multiculturalism

The *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*, which established the Community Relations Commission, was ground-breaking legislation.

Under it, the NSW Parliament recognised that: “the people of New South Wales are of different linguistic, religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds, who, either individually or in community with other members of their respective groups, are free to profess, practise and maintain their own linguistic, religious, racial and ethnic heritage.”

In enshrining multiculturalism in legislation for the first time in Australia, the Act established the four Principles of Multiculturalism as the policy of the State, required public authorities to observe the Principles of Multiculturalism in the conduct of their affairs, and made it the duty of the chief executive officers of each public authority to ensure that the provisions of the policy were carried out.

The Principles of Multiculturalism:

Principle 1

All individuals in New South Wales should have the greatest possible opportunity to contribute to, and participate in, all aspects of public life in which they may legally participate.

Principle 2

All individuals and institutions should respect and make provision for the culture, language and religion of others within an Australian legal and institutional framework where English is the common language.

Principle 3

All individuals should have the greatest possible opportunity to make use of and participate in relevant activities and programs provided or administered by the Government of New South Wales.

Principle 4

All institutions of New South Wales should recognise the linguistic and cultural assets in the population of New South Wales as a valuable resource and promote this resource to maximise the development of the State.

A broader definition of citizenship

Another of the key features of the *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000* is its recognition of a broader definition of the term ‘citizenship’. The definition in the Act does not limit the concept of citizenship to the naturalisation process, but rather focuses on civic participation and responsibilities of the people of NSW, stating that:

...citizenship is not limited to formal Australian citizenship, but refers to the rights and responsibilities of all people in a multicultural society in which there is a recognition of the importance of shared values within a democratic framework governed by the rule of law, and a unifying commitment to Australia, its interests and future.

This broader definition of citizenship is closely related to the concepts of multiculturalism and cultural diversity. Adherence to democratic values must encompass a respect for individual differences and a commitment to freedom and equal opportunity. These values are strongly espoused in the new legislation.



The Review Process Leading to the Green Paper

In mid-2001, in accordance with requirements built into the 1996 White Paper, the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural New South Wales began a review of the Ethnic Affairs Action Plan 2000, which was an integral part of the White Paper.

The review firstly drew on materials supplied by NSW public sector agencies, under EAPS reporting obligations, which had contributed to the annual Ethnic Affairs Reports as tabled in Parliament for the years 1997-2000 inclusive.

Analysis of this material informed the planning for a consultation process which was then developed, focusing on agencies which were viewed as providing specific services. These agencies were clustered into areas such as education, health, justice, local government and services and utilities, and consultation meetings were held with each cluster.

Consultation meetings also were held with community groups in metropolitan, regional and rural New South Wales.

The 20 key agencies, identified in the Action Plan 2000 as being responsible for certain specific outcomes, were approached for information based on a range of questions addressed to them, and also for any further comment that they wished to make.

All 180 other public sector agencies were written to and invited to provide input to the review.

Some 1,300 community organisations also were approached in a similar way with requests for comment. On 25 August 2001 an advertisement under the heading “Have Your Say”, inviting public comment on whether the intended outcomes of the White Paper had been achieved, was published in the Sydney media.

Notice of the review was also placed on the Commission website.

Sixty written submissions, from community organisations, public sector agencies and individual persons were received in response to these requests for input.

Although in the Green Paper the reviewer expressed some disappointment with the level of response, it should be noted in extenuation that the call for community input was issued only shortly before the distracting events of 11 September 2001 in the United States.

Following the drafting of the Green Paper, “exposure drafts” of the evaluation, as it related to a specific agency, were forwarded to the relevant agency for comment.

The document *Cultural Harmony The Next Decade 2002-2012* was released for consideration and comment on 24 May 2002.

Overall, there was a solid response with positive contributions from community organisations, individual persons, and government agencies.

In all, the document attracted 102 responses, of which 92 were written submissions, many of which were detailed and substantial.

There were three consultations:

- consultation with public sector agencies on 24 July 2002
- community consultation on 25 July 2002
- consultation with the Settlement Services Coalition on 21 August 2002.

The discussion at each consultation was minuted and included with the submissions, to inform the analysis of responses to the Green Paper and proposed Plan of Action, and the formulation of this White Paper.



The Demographic Background: New South Wales in 2001

The demographics and characteristics of the NSW population, briefly illustrated in the following tables, drawn from the recent (2003) edition of *The People of New South Wales* based on the 2001 Census, are critical factors which underlie the development and implementation of government policy and programs.

Table 1

Australia and New South Wales Compared 1991, 1996 and 2001 Census						
Key Facts	Australia			New South Wales		
	1991	1996	2001	1991	1996	2001
Population	16,771,700	17,752,807	18,769,249	5,714,878	6,006,209	6,326,579
Overseas born (OSB) Total	3,689,600	3,901,882	4,105,468	1,287,825	1,390,007	1,476,983
As a % of the population	22.0	22.0	21.9	22.5	23.1	23.3
Born in a non-English speaking country (NESC)	2,151,652	2,362,152	2,502,816	844,968	948,687	1,020,421
Born in a NESC as a % of the population	12.8	13.3	13.3	14.8	15.8	16.1
Australian born Total	12,717,926	13,227,997	13,629,683	4,290,898	4,402,972	4,463,649
As a % of the population	75.8	74.5	72.6	75.1	73.3	70.6
With one or both parents overseas born	3,117,109	3,341,116	3,428,036	1,031,180	1,105,518	1,135,361
With one or both parents OSB as a % of population	18.6	18.8	18.3	18.0	18.4	18.0
Speakers of Language other than English (LOTE) at home Total	2,458,445	2,657,751	2,853,829	977,330	1,092,215	1,197,063
LOTE speakers as a % of the population	14.7	15.0	15.2	17.1	18.2	18.9

New South Wales - Overview

In terms of population, New South Wales remains the largest state in the Commonwealth, with a total population of 6,326,579 compared with Victoria, the second-largest state, which has a population of 4,660,991.

New South Wales also has the largest number of overseas-born residents (1,477,069) as against Victoria's (1,088,784) and the largest number of residents who have one or both parents born overseas.

In terms of percentage or proportion of population born overseas, or having one or both parents born overseas, Victoria is now slightly ahead of New South Wales, with 23.4 per cent of its population overseas-born as against 23.3 per cent in the case of New South Wales.

These proportions have changed only minimally in NSW since 1991. In that year, 23 per cent were overseas born, eight per cent were Australian born with both parents born overseas, and another 10 per cent were Australian born, with one parent born overseas.

Of the roughly one-quarter of the NSW population who are overseas born, some 1,020,507 or 16.1 per cent of the population were born in countries classified in the Census as "non-English speaking countries" – a considerable (7.6 per cent) increase from 1996.

Table 2

Australian and Overseas Born Residents (New South Wales)					
Summary Indicators	2001 Census	% of population	1996 Census	Change 1996-2001	% change
Population	6,326,579	100.0	6,006,206	320,373	5.3
Australian born	4,463,557	70.6	4,402,862	60,695	1.4
Overseas born	1,477,069	23.3	1,390,114	86,955	6.3
Birthplace not stated	385,953	6.1	213,230	172,723	81.0
Overseas born - English speaking countries	456,562	7.2	441,320	15,242	3.5
Overseas born - non-English speaking countries	1,020,507	16.1	948,794	71,713	7.6
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders	120,047	1.9	101,636	18,411	18.1
Language other than English spoken at home	1,197,071	18.9	1,092,219	104,852	9.6
Overseas born arrived since 1996	256,923	4.1			
Overseas born arrived since 1996 from NESCS	182,972	2.9			

The number of NSW residents who speak a language other than English at home has increased by 9.6 per cent, from 1,092,219 in 1996 to 1,197,071 in 2001.

Changing patterns of migration, illustrated in Table 3 below, partly explain the proportional increase in overseas born from “non-English speaking countries”, but another factor has been the decrease in the number of people in the NSW population born in England.

Table 3

Overseas Born: Birthplace by Gender, 2001 and 1996 Census							
Birthplace	Males	Females	Persons	% of OSB	1996 Census	Change 1996-2001	% change
England	114,408	109,836	224,244	15.2	232,665	-8,421	-3.6
New Zealand	53,477	52,499	105,976	7.2	88,211	17,765	20.1
China (excl. SARs and Taiwan)	39,856	45,596	85,452	5.8	65,534	19,918	30.4
Viet Nam	30,442	32,583	63,025	4.3	61,133	1,892	3.1
Italy	32,257	28,371	60,628	4.1	66,130	-5,502	-8.3
Lebanon	27,745	25,540	53,285	3.6	52,321	964	1.8
Philippines	20,329	31,943	52,272	3.5	47,261	5,011	10.6
India	20,468	17,421	37,889	2.6	28,695	9,194	32.0
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	18,020	19,594	37,614	2.5	38,916	-1,302	-3.3
Scotland	18,608	18,539	37,147	2.5	40,555	-3,408	-8.4
Greece	18,576	18,288	36,864	2.5	41,153	-4,289	-10.4
Germany	15,282	16,398	31,680	2.1	32,493	-813	-2.5
South Africa	14,073	14,612	28,685	1.9	20,961	7,724	36.8
Korea, Republic of (South)	13,089	14,898	27,987	1.9	21,908	6,079	27.7
Fiji	12,813	14,324	27,137	1.8	22,595	4,542	20.1
Malaysia	9,720	11,343	21,063	1.4	20,447	616	3.0
Indonesia	9,923	11,115	21,038	1.4	17,571	3,467	19.7
Netherlands	10,658	9,635	20,293	1.4	21,463	-1,170	-5.5
Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of	10,203	9,506	19,709	1.3	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.
United States of America	9,703	9,604	19,307	1.3	17,546	1,761	10.0
Macedonia, FYR of	9,813	9,249	19,062	1.3	18,573	489	2.6
Croatia	9,531	8,894	18,425	1.2	17,229	1,196	6.9
Malta	9,567	8,855	18,422	1.2	20,220	-1,798	-8.9
Ireland	9,362	8,369	17,731	1.2	17,604	127	0.7
Egypt	8,881	8,495	17,376	1.2	17,700	-324	-1.8
Sri Lanka	8,499	8,402	16,901	1.1	14,281	2,620	18.3
Poland	7,976	8,914	16,890	1.1	18,988	-2,098	-11.0
Iraq	8,622	7,124	15,746	1.1	9,441	6,305	66.8
Chile	6,072	6,579	12,651	0.9	13,059	-408	-3.1
Turkey	6,237	5,912	12,149	0.8	11,758	391	3.3
Other birthplaces	148,624	151,797	300,421	20.3	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.
Total overseas born	732,834	744,235	1,477,069	100.0	1,390,114	86,955	6.3

(NB – a percentage of respondents did not complete questions on birthplace and language, and Census statistics therefore may be understated)

As noted in the 1996 White Paper *Building On Our Cultural Diversity*, it is difficult to predict migration trends because the Commonwealth policy and annual determination of intake targets in this area is subject to a complex range of factors. Many of the predictions of the 1996 paper have, however, been borne out.

Significant migration has continued from Asia, in particular from China, India, and Korea. There has also been an increase, proportionally over the five-year period, of immigrants from Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and in the number of people born in the Philippines.

While the numbers of Australian residents born in England and Scotland have declined significantly, there has been a considerable increase in people born in New Zealand and South Africa.

The number of people from Fiji has increased by 20.1 per cent (an increase of 4,542 persons).

Immigration from Middle Eastern countries has also increased, with the largest increase among residents (66.8 per cent or 6,305 persons) being from Iraq.

The decline in numbers of people immigrating from England and Scotland is replicated in the decline in the numbers of immigrants from other traditional migration source countries – in particular Italy, Greece, the Netherlands and Malta, reflecting not only a decline in migration, but also natural loss as members of these longer-established and ageing communities pass on.

Age Demographics

Table 4

Birthplace by Age: Selected Birthplace Groups, 2001 Census [Percentage in age group of each birthplace - total expressed as a number]						
Birthplace	Age 0-12	Age 13-24	Age 25-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+	Total
England	2.4	4.2	51.9	18.0	23.6	224,244
New Zealand	9.7	15.1	60.5	8.1	6.6	105,976
China (excl. SARs and Taiwan)	3.5	13.3	60.0	8.5	14.6	85,452
Viet Nam	1.7	14.3	71.1	6.3	6.6	63,025
Italy	0.4	0.9	33.9	23.8	41.1	60,628
Lebanon	2.1	9.1	67.2	12.3	9.4	53,285
Philippines	6.3	19.4	63.4	5.8	5.1	52,272
India	7.6	13.9	60.4	8.8	9.3	37,889
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	6.2	29.3	55.7	4.9	4.0	37,614
Scotland	1.1	2.9	46.5	19.9	29.5	37,147

The small selection set out above reflects an important demographic trend, especially among the long established immigrant groups.

Some 40 per cent of the people of NSW who were born in England and Scotland are aged 55 years or over.

In the Italian community, nearly 65 per cent of those who were born in Italy are aged over 55, while within the Chinese community, nearly a quarter of those who were born in China fall into that age group.

The “greying” of the NSW population is even more evident among those who were born overseas among the older-established communities originating from Europe – from Greece, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary and Poland, for example.

This demographic trend will have increasing impact upon service provision within the health care, aged and disability, housing and social welfare sectors – especially as the increased need for services will in all probability be accompanied by an increased need for appropriate cross-cultural training of staff and language assistance for clients.

Language Diversity

Table 5

Languages other than English Spoken at Home by Gender, 2001 and 1996 Census							
Language	Males	Females	Persons	% of LOTE speakers	1996 Census	Change 1996-2001	% change
Arabic	75,280	70,457	145,737	12.2	125,698	20,039	15.9
Cantonese	57,741	63,118	120,859	10.1	107,259	13,600	12.7
Italian	48,433	48,365	96,798	8.1	102,773	-5,975	-5.8
Greek	44,983	45,221	90,204	7.5	92,990	-2,786	-3.0
Vietnamese	33,457	34,445	67,902	5.7	56,378	11,524	20.4
Mandarin	31,657	34,233	65,890	5.5	40,651	25,239	62.1
Spanish	23,765	25,617	49,382	4.1	48,577	805	1.7
Tagalog (Filipino)	18,102	24,770	42,872	3.6	38,401	4,471	11.6
Macedonian	15,681	14,977	30,658	2.6	29,941	717	2.4
Korean	14,516	15,620	30,136	2.5	23,128	7,008	30.3
Hindi	14,165	14,009	28,174	2.4	19,912	8,262	41.5
Croatian	13,069	12,931	26,000	2.2	26,218	-218	-0.8
German	10,313	11,906	22,219	1.9	29,372	-7,153	-24.4
Serbian	10,284	10,206	20,490	1.7	16,433	4,057	24.7
Turkish	9,731	9,422	19,153	1.6	17,544	1,609	9.2
Indonesian	8,742	9,328	18,070	1.5	12,826	5,244	40.9

Table 5 (continuation)

Language	Males	Females	Persons	% of LOTE speakers	1996 Census	Change 1996-2001	% change
Polish	7,889	9,183	17,072	1.4	18,264	-1,192	-6.5
Maltese	8,098	8,178	16,276	1.4	17,749	-1,473	-8.3
French	6,959	7,510	14,469	1.2	14,551	-82	-0.6
Russian	6,179	7,683	13,862	1.2	12,858	1,004	7.8
Assyrian	6,706	6,535	13,241	1.1	9,587	3,654	38.1
Portuguese	6,465	6,608	13,073	1.1	13,537	-464	-3.4
Persian	6,398	5,868	12,266	1.0	9,320	2,946	31.6
Tamil	6,149	5,959	12,108	1.0	9,069	3,039	33.5
Japanese	4,863	6,283	11,146	0.9	11,046	100	0.9
Samoan	5,253	5,731	10,984	0.9	8,723	2,261	25.9
Netherlandic	4,390	5,264	9,654	0.8	9,840	-186	-1.9
Hungarian	4,000	4,721	8,721	0.7	9,702	-981	-10.1
Khmer	3,966	4,269	8,235	0.7	7,563	672	8.9
Punjabi	4,257	3,493	7,750	0.6	5,721	2,029	35.5
Other languages	77,445	76,225	153,670	12.8	146,588	7,082	4.8
Total LOTE speakers	588,936	608,135	1,197,071	100.0	1,092,219	104,852	9.6

Table 5 above illustrates the continuing linguistic diversity of the NSW population by listing languages other than English in descending order according to the total number of speakers.

The fastest growing languages include Arabic, the Chinese languages, Hindi and Korean. Significant proportional gains over the last five years were also recorded in speakers of Indonesian, Assyrian, Persian, Tamil and Samoan.

Of the major language groups listed, the greatest decline has been among speakers of German.

Religious Affiliation

The considerable changes in patterns of religious adherence noted in 1996 have continued.

However, as the response to the census question on religious affiliation was optional, the statistics set out in Table 7 below may be understated.

Between 1996 and 2001, the Roman Catholic Church had the largest increase in the number of adherents, to 1,826,973.

In contrast, the period was marked by a significant decline in the mainstream Protestant churches, both in terms of numbers, and in proportion to their situation in 1996. Anglicans, however, continue to be the second largest denominational group in NSW (with 1,507,043 adherents), with the Uniting Church third (335,217 adherents).

Table 6

Religious Affiliation by Gender, 2001 and 1996 Census							
Religion	Males	Females	Persons	% of population	1996 Census	Change 1996-2001	% change
Catholic	885,044	941,929	1,826,973	28.9	1,759,875	67,098	3.8
Anglican	721,484	785,559	1,507,043	23.8	1,526,895	-19,852	-1.3
No Religion	402,202	336,528	738,730	11.7	771,641	-32,911	-4.3
Uniting Church	154,825	180,392	335,217	5.3	361,791	-26,574	-7.3
Presbyterian & Reformed	114,781	123,018	237,799	3.8	252,154	-14,355	-5.7
Orthodox	101,615	99,449	201,064	3.2	189,141	11,923	6.3
Buddhism	70,419	77,420	147,839	2.3	81,945	65,894	80.4
Islam	74,425	66,513	140,938	2.2	102,296	38,642	37.8
Baptist	45,785	51,225	97,010	1.5	96,562	448	0.5
Christian, nfd	34,445	38,721	73,166	1.2	54,099	19,067	35.2
Religious belief, nfd	31,342	29,287	60,629	1.0	11,953	48,676	407.2
Pentecostal	26,481	30,536	57,017	0.9	46,583	10,434	22.4
Hinduism	26,883	24,580	51,463	0.8	35,606	15,857	44.5
Lutheran	17,407	18,641	36,048	0.6	37,468	-1,420	-3.8
Judaism	16,570	18,027	34,597	0.5	32,850	1,747	5.3
Oriental Christian	12,676	12,427	25,103	0.4	22,333	2,770	12.4
Jehovah's Witnesses	10,138	12,960	23,098	0.4	23,988	-890	-3.7
Salvation Army	10,073	12,626	22,699	0.4	23,494	-795	-3.4
Seventh-day Adventist	9,766	11,974	21,740	0.3	21,544	196	0.9
Latter Day Saints	7,710	8,503	16,213	0.3	14,418	1,795	12.4
Other Protestant	7,076	7,948	15,024	0.2	15,084	-60	-0.4
Churches of Christ	4,831	5,901	10,732	0.2	13,377	-2,645	-19.8
Other Christian	4,060	4,586	8,646	0.1	8,783	-137	-1.6
Sikhism	4,709	3,895	8,604	0.1	5,901	2,703	45.8
Nature Religions	2,578	4,436	7,014	0.1	3,137	3,877	123.6
Brethren	2,791	2,951	5,742	0.1	6,248	-506	-8.1
Baha'i	1,867	1,960	3,827	0.1	2,881	946	32.8
Spiritualism	698	1,650	2,348	0.0	2,046	302	14.8
Chinese Religions	779	566	1,345	0.0	1,457	-112	-7.7
Druse	448	406	854	0.0	748	106	14.2
Other religions	4,128	3,322	7,450	0.1	5,883	1,567	26.6
Inadequately described	22,573	12,619	35,192	0.6	5,899	29,293	496.6
Not stated	293,059	272,356	565,415	8.9	468,126	97,289	20.8
Total persons	3,123,668	3,202,911	6,326,579	100.0	6,006,206	320,373	5.3

After Catholicism, the next fastest growing religion in NSW between 1996 and 2001 was Buddhism. The number of Buddhists in NSW has increased to 147,839.

Islam and Hinduism have also seen a significant growth in numbers of adherents.

In the ten years from 1991 to 2001, the number of Muslims almost doubled, from 77,840 in 1991 to 140,938 in 2001.

The number of Hindus increased even more, proportionally – from 22,296 in 1991 to 51,463 in 2001.



Local Government Areas

People of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are not evenly dispersed across New South Wales.

However, the majority choose to live in the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

The Local Government Areas (LGAs) with the highest numbers of people born overseas are Fairfield, Blacktown, Canterbury, Liverpool, Bankstown and Parramatta.

These six LGAs also contain the greatest numbers of people who speak a language other than English.