



Thursday June 29, 2017

Fact, Australia is the most ethnically diverse country in the world

Many of us have always known Australia is a successful multicultural nation but now we can boast about the fact that Australia is the most ethnically diverse country in the world. With 26% of Australians being born overseas and 49% of people having at least one parent born overseas, Australia has 100 religions and 300 ethnic groups in our cultural melting pot. *“The Census shows that Australia has a higher proportion of overseas-born people (26%) than the United States (14%), Canada (22%) and New Zealand (23%). What about the United Kingdom, you say? Not even close (13%).”* Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census.

Proudly, Victoria is the most diverse state within Australia with an overall population of 5,937,481, our median age is 37.3. *“ECCV is honoured to continue its work as a representative to more than half of the state’s population who come from culturally diverse backgrounds. ECCV believes that our workforce should reflect the diversity of our society”* says Eddie Micallef, ECCV Chairperson.

More than 30% of Victorians are born overseas and 23.1% speaks a language other than English at home. Migrants’ proficiency of spoken English is at 49.5%. Asian Victorians make up 9.9% of our community, Europeans hold 10.7% and African and Middle Eastern Victorians have grown to a combined 2.8%. Over 60% of migrants are Australian citizen with 35.2% not having Australian citizenship.

“While the Census provides plenty of info on the ‘typical’ Australian, it also shows we’re a big, diverse community. There’s nothing typical about Australians.” Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census. *“Language services are an important part of our health service”* states Mr. Micallef.

For more information and/or media comment, please contact Leenie Fabri, Communications & Media Officer, lfabri@eccv.org.au / 0421 433 049

Reference:

Cultural Diversity in Australia 2016

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/2071.0~2016~Main%20Features~Cultural%20Diversity%20Article~20?OpenDocument&ref=story>