



CAIRNS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

STATISTICAL PROFILE OF PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

JUNE 2004

INTRODUCTION

This profile has been compiled by **Sandra Kostner** for the LAMP officer at Cairns City Council (CCC) by analysing data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census of Population and Housing. In addition, time series information has been used to draw conclusions from the changes in the composition of our community, which occurred over the 5 to 10 year period preceding the 2001 Census.

As some time has elapsed since the last census it is not possible to determine if the 2001 Census data still accurately reflects the current Cairns population. However, consultation with community groups and service providers indicates that the depicted trends in this profile have continued over the last 3 years regarding the overseas-born population. The European-born communities have continued decreasing, while South Pacific Islanders and persons born in Asia in particular have experienced a further increase.

The target of this publication is to highlight the ethnic and cultural diversity of the CCC area and to help identify different needs related to different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The focus has been laid on:

how many persons born overseas live in Cairns,

- what countries they come from,
- what languages they speak at home,
- the number of religions practised and the proportion of the Indigenous population in the overall population.

Please direct inquiries regarding this and the fuller version of the cultural profile please contact the LAMP officer at CCC on 4044 3012 or d.melendez@cairns.qld.gov.au;

SUMMARY of FINDINGS

OVERSEAS-BORN POPULATION PROFILE

- 114,848 residents were counted on Census night in Cairns, with 20,462 of whom stating to have an overseas birthplace. This equated to 17.8% of the total population.
- The 5 most common overseas birthplaces were: the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Japan and the Philippines.
- The European and Australian-born proportions in the population continued declining, while major gains could be established for Asian-born people and people born in the South Pacific.
- In 2001, Cairns had the seventh-highest proportion of overseas-born persons in Queensland.
- Between 1986 and 1996, Cairns had, after Brisbane and the Gold Coast, the highest intake of migrants.
- The suburbs with the highest proportion of overseas-born persons were: Parramatta Park, Clifton Beach, Kewarra Beach and Cairns North.
- The suburbs depicting the lowest proportion of overseas-born persons were: Barron (the only suburb without any overseas-born population in 2001), Eubenangee, Miriwinni and Aloomba and Fishery Falls.
- In 1996, the number of overseas-born persons who had become Australian citizens was distinctly lower in Cairns (60.9%) than in the surrounding shires (between 74.1% and 77.7%).

Table of Persons Born Overseas 2001

Country of Birth	Total Persons
United Kingdom	5155
New Zealand	3769
Papua New Guinea	1405
Japan	944
Philippines	866
Germany	808
Italy	707
Netherlands	489
USA	406
Canada	302
Ireland	243
South Africa	242
Thailand	233
India	227
Switzerland	213
Malaysia	212
Indonesia	205
Cook Islands	200
China	180
Austria	166
Poland	159
France	157
Fiji	137
Yugoslavia	133
Laos	126
Sri Lanka	114
Hungary	113
Hong Kong	105
Croatia	101
Korea, Republic of (South)	94
Singapore	92
Greece	88
Malta	77
Viet Nam	75
Egypt	39
Turkey	24
Lebanon	23
Other overseas birthplaces	1833
Total overseas born	20,462
Birthplace not stated:	8,456

Source: The People of Queensland, Statistics from the 2001 Census, 2003.

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME PROFILE

- 8.6% (9,906 persons) of all persons living in Cairns spoke a language other than English at home.
- In 2001, between 100 and 110 different languages were spoken in Cairns.
- Most common languages other than English (LOTE) spoken at home were: Italian (13.0% of all LOTE speakers), Japanese (11.0%), German (7.7%) and Indigenous Languages (6.9%).
- Mainly European languages decreased in Cairns, while Japanese, Maori, Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, Hmong and Papuan Languages experienced the strongest increase.
- The suburbs with the highest proportion of LOTE speakers were Parramatta Park (18.1% of suburb population), Portsmouth (17.5%), Mooroolool (12.8%) and Manoora (11.8%).
- 12.7% of all LOTE speakers were detected as speaking English not well or not at all.
- The highest number of persons not being proficient in English encompassed those speaking Japanese as their first language (27% of all Japanese speakers could not speak English well or not at all). This was followed by Italian (10.9%) and Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles (10.4%).

RELIGION PROFILE

- A wide variety of religions was practised in Cairns at the time of the 2001 Census, with the majority of people (75,516 persons, 65.7%) identifying themselves as Christian.
- Non-Christian believers accounted for 3.2% of all persons reporting to hold a religious belief. This was a 1.1% increase to 1996.
- The 3 most common responses to the religious affiliation question were: Catholic (26.5%), Anglican (20.9%) and No Religion (17.8%).
- The 3 most common non-Christian beliefs were: Buddhism (48.9% of all non-Christian believers), Islam (11.4% of all non-Christian believers) and Sikhism (7.1% of all non-Christian believers).

