

Chapter 2: Melbourne's People

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Fast Facts

1. Melbourne's median age in 2001 was 35.2 years, having increased from 32.4 years in 1954. It is expected to increase to 42.2 years by 2031.
2. Couples with children are still Melbourne's most common family type (50%), followed by couples without children (33%) and one parent families (15%).
3. Melbourne's average fertility rate was 1.6 births per female in 2003. Numbers were generally higher in outer areas, with average fertility rates of 2 or more births per female in parts of Hume, Cardinia and Yarra Ranges, and less than 1 in parts of the City of Melbourne, Stonnington and Port Phillip.
4. Most Melbourne women who gave birth in 2001 were aged 30-39 (55.5%), followed by the 20-29 year olds (38.6%).
5. Almost half of Victoria's Indigenous population, 12,015 people, live in Melbourne and make up 0.35% of the city's population.
6. The top five countries of origin for migrants to Melbourne were United Kingdom, Italy, Vietnam, Greece and New Zealand (2001).
7. Seventy per cent of Melbourne's population is Australian born and 27% speak a language other English at home (2001), up from 22% in 1996.
8. Christianity is the dominant religion in Melbourne, at 70% in 2001, followed by Buddhism (4%), Islam (3%) and Judaism (1%), 19% stated no religion.