



Community Information Summary

Denmark-born

Historical Background

The first Dane to visit Australia was Peter Petersen of Copenhagen who was first mate on Abel Tasman's vessel *Zeehaen*, arriving at Van Dieman's Land (now Tasmania) in 1642.

A few Danes arrived with the First Fleet in 1788 and were also transported from Great Britain in the 19th century, but these early settlers merged into the society of the new colony.

The territorial dispute with Prussia over Schleswig and Holstein and its eventual loss by Denmark and the disbandment of the Danish army, led to comparatively large emigration of young Danes to the Victorian goldfields in the mid-19th century.

Queensland's assisted immigration scheme in the latter part of the 19th century also resulted in an increase of Danish settlers there. By 1901, the number the Denmark-born in Australia had grown to 6283, from 4744 in 1881.

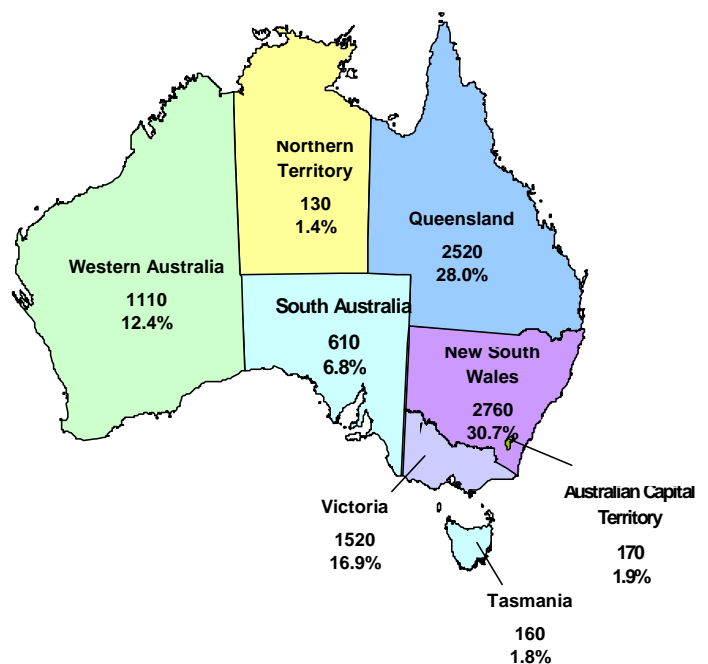
Declining numbers by mid-20th century, to around 2759 in 1954, were boosted by migration through assisted passage from the 1950s. By 1991, numbers had peaked to 9370.

The Denmark-born and their descendents are well integrated, but numbers are expected to decline as the community ages. There were 9030 Denmark-born people in Australia at the 2001 Census, making up 0.2 per cent of the overseas-born population.

Today

Geographic Distribution

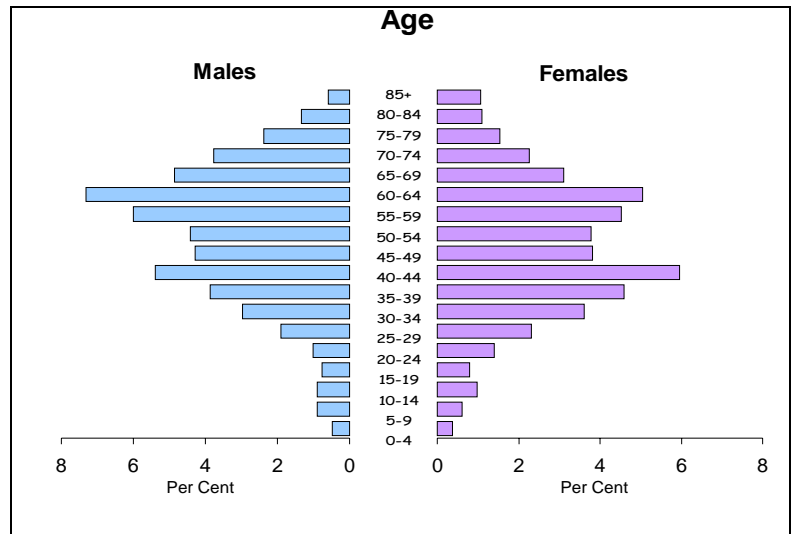
The latest Census in 2006 recorded 8970 Denmark-born people in Australia, a decrease of 0.7 per cent from the 2001 Census. The 2006 distribution by state and territory showed New South Wales had the largest number with 2760 followed by Queensland (2520), Victoria (1520) and Western Australia (1110).



Age and Sex

The median age of the Denmark-born in 2006 was 51.9 years compared with 46.8 years for all overseas-born and 37.1 years for the total Australian population. The age distribution showed 4.2 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 4.0 per cent were 15-24 years, 30.6 per cent were 25-44 years, 39.2 per cent were 45-64 years and 22.0 per cent were 65 and over.

Of the Denmark-born in Australia, there were 4770 males (53.2 per cent) and 4200 females (46.8 per cent). The sex ratio was 113.5 males per 100 females.

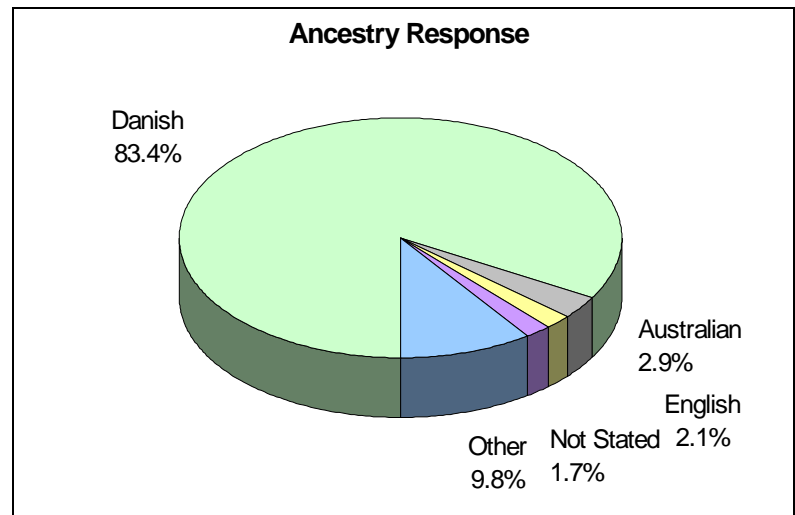


Ancestry

In the 2006 Census, the top three ancestry responses* that Denmark-born people reported were, Danish (8240), Australian (290) and English (200).

In the 2006 Census, Australians reported more than 250 different Ancestries. From the total ancestry responses*, 0.2 per cent responded as having a Danish ancestry.

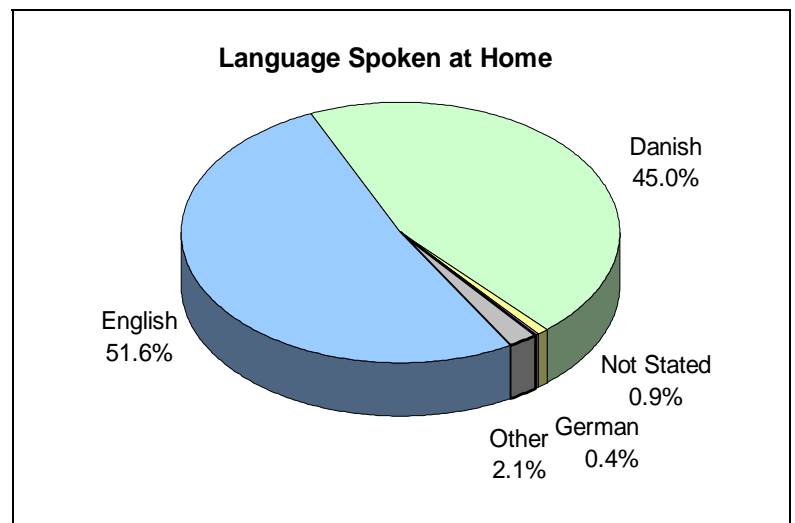
*At the 2006 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Denmark-born people in Australia were English (51.6 per cent), Danish (45.0 per cent) and Not Stated (0.9 per cent).

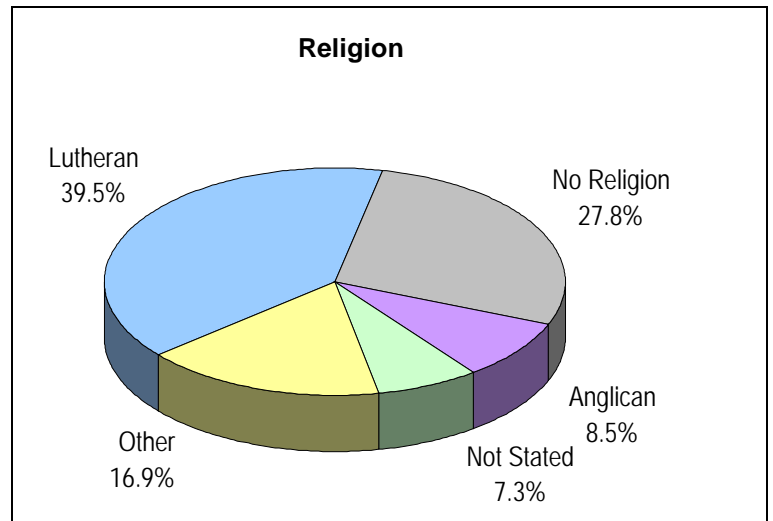
Of the 4310 Denmark-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 97.1 per cent spoke English very well or well and 1.9 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2006 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Denmark-born were Lutheran (3540 persons), No Religion (2490 persons) and Anglican (760 persons).

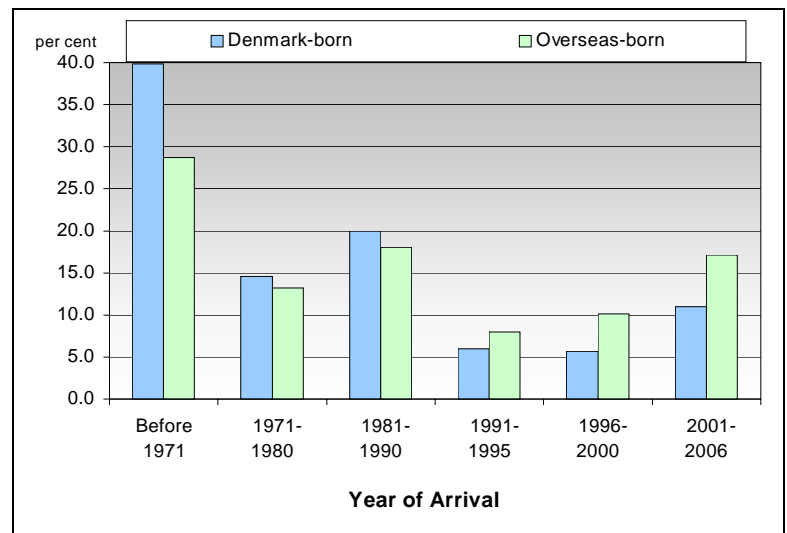
Of the Denmark-born, 27.8 per cent stated 'No Religion', this was higher than that of the total Australian population (18.7 per cent). 7.3 per cent of the Denmark-born did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 67.9 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 80.4 per cent of the Denmark-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 1996.

Among the total Denmark-born in Australia at the 2006 Census, 5.7 per cent arrived between 1996 and 2000 and 11.0 per cent arrived during 2001 and 2006.



Citizenship

At the 2006 Census, the estimated rate of Australian Citizenship for the Denmark-born in Australia was 58.5 per cent. The estimated rate for all overseas-born was 75.6 per cent. This rate includes adjustments for people not meeting the residential requirement for citizenship, temporary entrants to Australia and underenumeration at the Census.

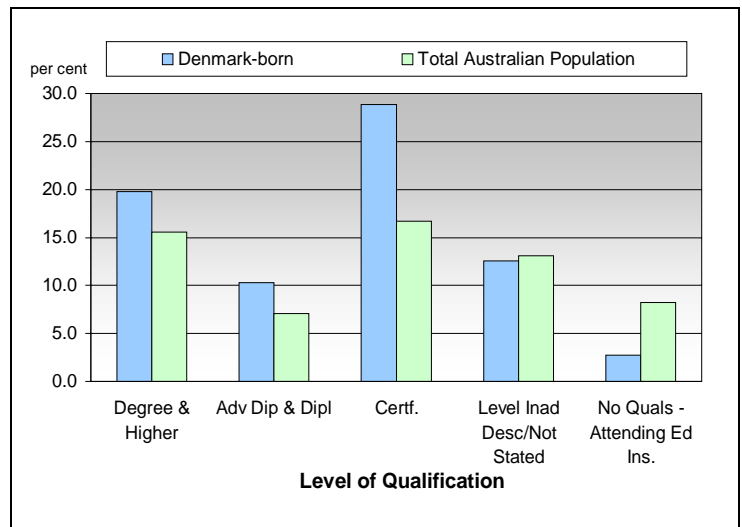
Median Income

At the time of the 2006 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Denmark-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$524, compared with \$431 for all overseas-born and \$488 for all Australia-born. The total Australian population had a median individual weekly income of \$466.

Qualifications

At the 2006 Census, 71.5 per cent of the Denmark-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non school qualifications compared to 52.5 per cent of the Australian population. Among the Denmark-born, 30.1 per cent had Diploma level or higher* qualifications and 28.9 per cent had Certificate level qualifications. From the Denmark-born, 2370 had no higher non school qualification, of which 10.0 per cent were still attending an educational institution.

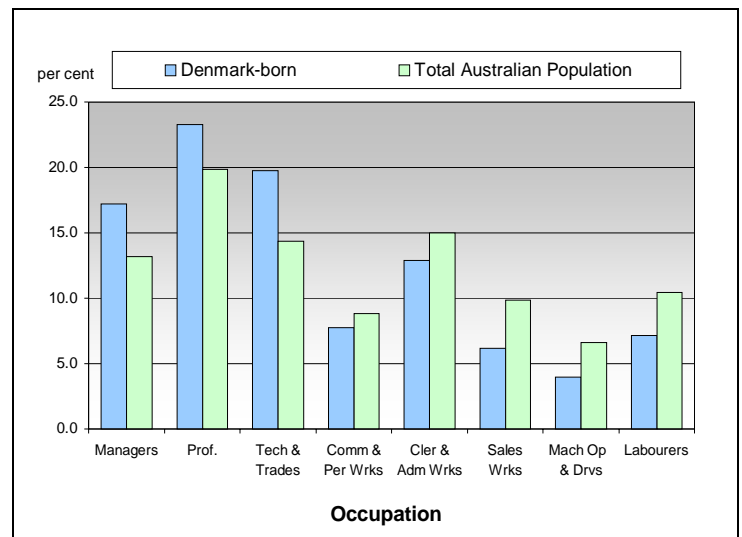
* Diploma level or higher qualification includes Degree level or higher, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level.



Employment

Among Denmark-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 62.5 per cent and the unemployment rate was 4.0 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

Of the 5070 Denmark-born who were employed, 36.9 per cent were employed in a Skill Level 1 occupation, 10.4 per cent in Skill Level 2 and 19.6 per cent in Skill Level 3. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 28.7, 10.7 and 15.1 per cent respectively.



Jointly produced by Multicultural Affairs Branch and the Program Statistics and Monitoring Section of DIAC
 All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing.
 Sources for the Historical Background available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/comm-summ/source.htm>

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