## Fact Sheet No. 25

## The Eritrea-Born Community in Victoria — 2016 Census (ranked 78)



## **Demographic characteristics**

At the 2016 Census, there were 2,002 Eritrea-born persons in Victoria (46.5% of Australia's total), ranked 78<sup>th</sup> among the overseas-born communities in Victoria. The Eritrea-born increased by 31.0% (484) from 1,518 persons in 2011. They are distributed throughout Metropolitan Melbourne, with significant concentrations in the LGAs of Brimbank (17.7%), Wyndham (12.4%), Melbourne (11.3%), Hume (10.1%) and Moonee Valley (9.6%).

The Eritrea-born reflected a young to mature age profile: 15.2% were aged 25 years and below; 40.2% were aged 26-44 years; 37.1% were aged 45-64 years; and 7.6% were aged 65 years and over. The median age was 43 years, compared to 37 years for total Victoria. The gender ratio was 88 males to 100 females, compared to 96 males to 100 females for Victoria.

There were 3,526 persons identified with Eritrean ancestry. They were born in a variety of countries, including Australia (33.3%), Eritrea (8.7%), Sudan (10.0%), Ethiopia (4.7%), Saudi Arabia (2.2%) and Egypt (0.8%). Almost a third (30.7%) of the Eritrea-born in Victoria had arrived in Australia prior to 1996; 16.4% arrived in 1996-2000; 14.3% arrived in 2001-2005; 14.5% arrived in 2006-2010; and 20.9% arrived in 2011-2016.

The Eritrea-born speak Tigrinya (43.8%) and Arabic (40.2%). Of those who speak a language other than English, 20.1% speak English not well/not at all. Over half (56.6%) of the Eritrea-born follow Islam, 8.8% are Eastern Orthodox, 7.9% are Christianity not further defined, 7.1% are Oriental Orthodox and 5.7% are Catholic. Three-quarters (74.4%) of the Eritrea-born have Australian citizenship, compared to 53.8% for the total overseas-born population in Victoria. (See p.3 on economic characteristics).

Eritrea-born in Victo	oria and Aus	stralia: 20	16, 2011 an	d 2006 Ce	ensus					
	2016 Ce	ensus	2011 Ce	ensus	2006 Ce	nsus	Change 2	Change 2011-2016		2006-2011
Location	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	% change
Metro Melbourne <sup>(a)</sup>	1,978	46.0	1,503	52.9	1,210	60.0	475	31.6	293	24.2
Rest of Victoria <sup>(b)</sup>	23	0.5	19	0.7	8	0.4	4	21.1	11	137.5
Total Victoria	2,002	46.5	1,518	53.4	1,218	60.4	484	31.9	300	24.6
Total Australia	4,303	100.0	2,841	100.0	2,015	100.0	1,462	51.5	826	41.0

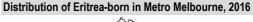
<sup>(</sup>a) Metro Melbourne is equivalent to ABS's Greater Capital Statistical Area

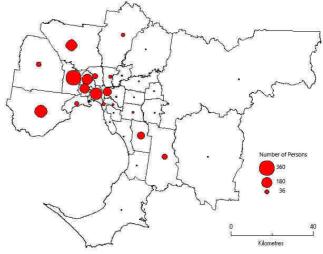
<sup>(</sup>b) Includes "No Usual Address, Victoria" and "Offshore Areas and Migratory, Victoria".

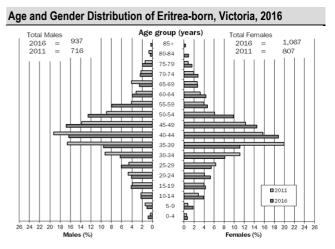
Distribution of Eritre	ea-born, Top 5 LGAs: 2016 Census						
Local Government	2016 Ce	nsus	2011 Ce	ensus	Rank in		
Area (LGA)	Persons	%	Persons	%	2011		
Brimbank (C)	355	17.7	180	11.9	3		
Wyndham (C)	249	12.4	144	9.5	4		
Melbourne (C)	226	11.3	200	13.2	1		
Hume (C)	203	10.1	127	8.4	5		
Moonee Valley (C)	193	9.6	193	12.7	2		
Rest of Melbourne	766	38.3	671	44.2	-		
Rest of Reg Vic <sup>(a)</sup>	17	0.8	8	0.5	-		
Total Victoria	2,002	100.0	1,518	100.0			

<sup>(</sup>a) Includes "Unincorporated Vic" and "No Usual Address Vic".

Age Distribution of Eritrea-born: 2016, 2011 Census										
Age group	2016 Ce	ensus	2011 C	ensus	2011-16					
(years)	Persons	%	Persons	%	% change					
0-4	14	0.7	7	0.5	100.0					
5-11	56	2.8	29	1.9	93.1					
12-18	105	5.2	69	4.5	52.2					
19-25	130	6.5	96	6.3	35.4					
26-44	804	40.2	773	50.9	4.0					
45-54	530	26.5	319	21.0	66.1					
55-64	212	10.6	118	7.8	79.7					
65-74	103	5.1	86	5.7	19.8					
75+	50	2.5	23	1.5	117.4					
Total Victoria	2,002	100.0	1,518	100.0	31.9					
Median Age	43		40							
Sex Ratio	88		89	males per	r 100 female:					







Top 5 Countries of Birth of Persons with Eritrean Ancestry: 2016, 2011											
	2016		2011		2011-16						
Country of birth	Persons	%	Persons	%	% change						
Eritrea	1,508	42.8	1,092	47.9	38.1						
Sudan	352	10.0	224	9.8	57.1						
Ethiopia	165	4.7	94	4.1	75.5						
Saudi Arabia	78	2.2	65	2.9	20.0						
Egypt	27	8.0	27	1.2	-						
Australia	1,174	33.3	631	27.7	86.1						
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	222	6.3	146	6.4	52.1						
Total responses(b)	3,526	100.0	2,279	100.0	54.7						

(a) Includes all other countries	, and birthplace not stated
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 $<sup>\</sup>ensuremath{^{\text{(b)}}}$  Respondents have option of nominating several ancestries; only the 1st

two responses were coded. This is the total of both 1st & 2nd responses.

This table is based on the ancestry with the most responses for Eritrea-born persons.

Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home, Eritrea-born: 2016, 2011										
Language other	2016		2011		2011-16					
than English	Persons %		Persons	%	% change					
Tigrinya	877	43.8	509	33.5	72.3					
Arabic	805	40.2	771	50.8	4.4					
Tigre	62	3.1	51	3.4	21.6					
Amharic	40	2.0	24	1.6	66.7					
African, nfd	33	1.6	31	2.0	6.5					
Other languages <sup>(a)</sup>	84	4.2	61	4.0	37.7					
English only	73	3.6	49	3.2	49.0					
Not stated	16	0.8	22	1.4	-27.3					
Total Victoria	2,002	100.0	1,518	100.0	31.9					

<sup>(</sup>a) Includes "Inadequately described" and "Non-verbal, so described".

Top 5 Religious affiliation, Eritrea-born: 2016, 2011											
	2016		2011		2011-16						
Religious affiliation <sup>(a)</sup>	Persons	%	Persons	%	% change						
Islam	1,134	56.6	994	65.5	14.1						
Eastern Orthodox	177	8.8	217	14.3	-18.4						
Christian, nfd	158	7.9	20	1.3	690.0						
Oriental Orthodox	143	7.1	83	5.5	72.3						
Catholic	115	5.7	95	6.3	21.1						
Other religions	173	8.6	72	4.7	140.3						
No religion <sup>(b)</sup>	25	1.2	14	0.9	78.6						
Not stated	63	3.1	23	1.5	173.9						
Total Victoria	2,002	100.0	1,518	100.0	31.9						

<sup>(</sup>a) Religion based on 3 digit level of classification.

Year of Arrival of E	ritrea-born: 2	016			
	Eritrea-b	orn	Total OSB, Vic <sup>(c)</sup>		
Year of arrival <sup>(a)</sup>	Persons	%	Persons	%	
Before 1996	614	30.7	716,865	42.7	
1996 - 2000	328	16.4	104,975	6.2	
2001 - 2005	286	14.3	149,043	8.9	
2006 - 2010	291	14.5	269,729	16.1	
2011 - 2016 <sup>(b)</sup>	418	20.9	381,130	22.7	
Not stated	65	3.2	58,517	3.5	
Total Victoria	2,002	100.0	1,680,256	100.0	
(a)	•		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

<sup>(</sup>a) Records the year of arrival in Australia for people born overseas

who intend staying in Australia for at least one year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(c)</sup>OSB stands for Overseas-born.

Proficiency in English of Eritrea-born: 2016, 2011											
	2016	;	2011		2011-16						
Proficiency in English	Persons	%	Persons	%	% change						
Speaks English only	73	3.6	49	3.2	49.0						
Speaks other language	S										
and speaks English											
Very well	764	38.2	620	40.8	23.2						
Well	728	36.4	535	35.2	36.1						
Not well	329	16.4	241	15.9	36.5						
Not at all	74	3.7	52	3.4	42.3						
Not stated <sup>(a)</sup>	37	1.8	27	1.8	37.0						
Total Victoria	2,002	100.0	1,518	100.0	31.9						

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(a)</sup>Includes those who did not state a language and/or proficiency in English.

Eritrea-born with Australian Citizenship by Age: 2016, 2011											
Age group	201	6	201	1	2011-16						
(years)	Persons	%	Persons	%	% change						
0-4	3	0.2	-	-	-						
5-11	20	1.3	8	0.7	150.0						
12-18	46	3.1	46	3.8	-						
19-25	73	4.9	70	5.8	4.3						
26-44	581	39.0	620	51.1	-6.3						
45-64	629	42.2	394	32.5	59.6						
65-74	85	5.7	70	5.8	21.4						
75+	50	3.4	16	1.3	212.5						
Total	1,490	100.0	1,214	100.0	22.7						
	% of Eritrea-born	with Aust	ralian citizen:	ship, 2016	6: 74.4%						

% of Overseas-born with Australian citizenship, 2016: 58.3%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(b)</sup> No Religion, so described.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(b)</sup>Arrivals up to 9 Aug 2016.

## **Economic characteristics**

The education levels of the Eritrea-born are lower than for total Victoria: 15.8% have a bachelor degree or higher and 11.9% have a certificate, compared to 24.3% and 14.4% for Victoria. More of the Eritrea-born have school education only (43.3%) and no educational attainment (6.4%), compared to 38.7% and 1.0% for Victoria.

The labour force participation rate of the Eritrea-born at 59.2% is similar to total Victoria at 60.5%. Their unemployment rate at 20.4% is much higher than total Victoria at 6.6%.

The occupational patterns of the Eritrea-born are different from those for total Victoria. Less of them work as managers (4.1%), professionals (14.0%) and technicians and trades workers (6.1%), compared to total Victoria (13.5%, 23.3% and 13.1%). More of the Eritrea-born work as community and personal service workers (22.8%), machinery operators and drivers (18.8%) and labourers (21.0%), compared to Victoria (10.6%, 5.8% and 9.0%).

The industry of employment patterns for the Eritrea-born are fairly different from those for total Victoria. Less of them are employed in construction (1.3%), wholesale and retail trade (5.8%) and accommodation and food services (1.9%), compared to Victoria (8.3%, 13.4% and 6.6%). More of them are employed in transport, postal and warehousing (14.8%) and healthcare and social assistance (25.2%), than Victoria (4.8% and 12.5%).

The weekly personal income distribution pattern for the Eritrea-born is different from total Victoria. More of them receive \$1-\$399 (38.0%), \$400-\$799 (25.6%) and \$800-\$1,249 (13.8%), compared to Victoria (20.1%, 23.1% and 16.7%). Less of them receive \$2,000 or more (8.4%) than Victoria (21.1%).

			Eritrea-b	oorn					Total Vic	toria					
•	2016	ĵ	2011		Change 20	11-2016	2016	3	2011		Change 20	11-2016			
Highest level of						%						%			
educational attainment(a)	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	change			
Postgraduate Degree	57	3.0	33	2.3	24	72.7	260,039	5.4	170,382	3.9	89,657	52.6			
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	19	1.0	13	0.9	6	46.2	119,226	2.5	95,352	2.2	23,874	25.0			
Bachelor Degree	225	11.8	193	13.3	32	16.6	798,270	16.5	641,219	14.7	157,051	24.5			
Advanced Dip & Diploma	232	12.2	130	8.9	102	78.5	447,023	9.2	364,758	8.4	82,265	22.6			
Certificate	226	11.9	149	10.2	77	51.7	698,036	14.4	614,689	14.1	83,347	13.6			
School Education only(b)	823	43.3	652	44.8	171	26.2	1,877,183	38.7	1,876,620	43.1	563	0.0			
No Educ Attainment <sup>(c)</sup>	121	6.4	109	7.5	12	11.0	48,920	1.0	41,809	1.0	7,111	17.0			
Not stated etc <sup>(d)</sup>	191	10.0	184	12.6	7	3.8	597,010	12.3	550,419	12.6	46,591	8.5			
Victoria	1,901	100.0	1,456	100.0	445	30.6	4,845,710	100.0	4,355,243	100.0	490,467	11.3			

<sup>(</sup>a) This variable is applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

<sup>(</sup>d) Includes "Inadequately described".

			Eritrea-b	orn			Total Victoria					
	2016	i	2011		Change 20	11-2016	2016	i	2011		Change 20	11-2016
Labour force participation <sup>(a)</sup>	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	% change
In the labour force	1,125	56.2	810	53.4	315	38.9	2,929,590	49.4	2,675,478	50.0	254,112	9.5
Employed	896	44.8	674	44.4	222	32.9	2,736,125	46.2	2,530,635	47.3	205,490	8.1
Unemployed	229	11.4	136	9.0	93	68.4	193,465	3.3	144,843	2.7	48,622	33.6
Not in the labour force	750	37.5	606	39.9	144	23.8	1,610,130	27.2	1,451,593	27.1	158,537	10.9
Not stated	29	1.4	39	2.6	-10	-25.6	305,978	5.2	228,176	4.3	77,802	34.1
Not applicable (b)	103	5.1	61	4.0	42	68.9	1,080,919	18.2	998,793	18.7	82,126	8.2
Victoria	2,002	100.0	1,518	100.0	484	31.9	5,926,624	100.0	5,354,039	100.0	572,585	10.7
Participation rate (c)	59.2%	6	55.6%	6			60.5%	6	61.4%	6		
Unemployment rate (d)	20.4%	6	16.8%	6			6.6%	)	5.4%	)		

<sup>(</sup>a) This variable is applicable to persons 15 years and over.

<sup>(</sup>b)Includes persons who completed school to between Year 8 or below, and Year 12 level.

<sup>(</sup>c) Includes persons whose qualification is out of scope of this variable.

<sup>(</sup>b)Persons aged under 15 years.

<sup>(</sup>c) The participation rate represents the labour force (total employed and unemployed who are actively looking for work) expressed as a % of the

civilian population aged 15 years and over, in the same age group.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(d)</sup>The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a % of the labour force.

1	Occupation	Fritrea-horn	and Tatal	Victoria	2016	2011

			Eritrea	-born			Total Victoria					
	201	6	201	1	Change 20	11-2016	2016	2011		Change 2011-2016		
Occupation <sup>(a)</sup>	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Managers	37	4.1	21	3.1	16	76.2	369,921	13.5	332,931	13.2	36,990	11.1
Professionals	125	14.0	99	14.7	26	26.3	636,220	23.3	564,779	22.3	71,441	12.6
Technicians and trades workers	55	6.1	46	6.8	9	19.6	358,749	13.1	350,757	13.9	7,992	2.3
Community&personal serv. wkrs	204	22.8	120	17.8	84	70.0	289,348	10.6	234,380	9.3	54,968	23.5
Clerical & administrative workers	66	7.4	56	8.3	10	17.9	363,216	13.3	364,497	14.4	-1,281	-0.4
Sales workers	26	2.9	25	3.7	1	4.0	265,142	9.7	245,335	9.7	19,807	8.1
Machinery operators & drivers	168	18.8	137	20.3	31	22.6	159,193	5.8	154,542	6.1	4,651	3.0
Labourers	188	21.0	139	20.6	49	35.3	247,428	9.0	227,184	9.0	20,244	8.9
Not stated <sup>(b)</sup>	31	3.5	21	3.1	10	47.6	46,924	1.7	56,224	2.2	-9,300	-16.5
Victoria	896	100.0	674	100.0	222	32.9	2,736,125	100.0	2,530,635	100.0	205,490	8.1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(a)</sup>This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 years and over.

<sup>(</sup>b) Includes "Inadequately described".

Industry of Employment, Eritrea	a-born and	Total Vi	ctoria: 201	6, 2011								
			Eritrea	-born					Total Victor	oria		
20		6	201	1	Change 20	11-2016	2016		2011		Change 2011-2016	
Industry of employment <sup>(a)</sup>	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Agri, forestry, fishing & mining	3	0.3	3	0.4	-	-	70,052	2.6	66,176	2.6	3,876	5.9
Manufacturing	107	11.9	110	16.3	-3	-2.7	212,723	7.8	271,051	10.7	-58,328	-21.5
Electr, gas, water & waste	8	0.9	3	0.4	5	166.7	30,808	1.1	27,630	1.1	3,178	11.5
Construction	12	1.3	7	1.0	5	71.4	228,149	8.3	210,972	8.3	17,177	8.1
Wholesale & retail trade	52	5.8	50	7.4	2	4.0	367,953	13.4	387,813	15.3	-19,860	-5.1
Accommod & Food services	17	1.9	28	4.2	-11	-39.3	180,825	6.6	153,898	6.1	26,927	17.5
Transp, postal & warehousing	133	14.8	104	15.4	29	27.9	130,069	4.8	118,214	4.7	11,855	10.0
Information, Media & Telecomm	6	0.7	6	0.9	-	-	52,200	1.9	50,091	2.0	2,109	4.2
Finance & Insurance	7	8.0	9	1.3	-2	-22.2	106,669	3.9	104,701	4.1	1,968	1.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	6	0.7	3	0.4	3	100.0	43,013	1.6	35,046	1.4	7,967	22.7
Prof, Scientific, Tech & Admin	90	10.0	78	11.6	12	15.4	310,711	11.4	279,422	11.0	31,289	11.2
Public Admin & Safety	34	3.8	25	3.7	9	36.0	144,321	5.3	134,949	5.3	9,372	6.9
Education & Training	71	7.9	34	5.0	37	108.8	236,276	8.6	202,317	8.0	33,959	16.8
Health Care & Soc Assistance	226	25.2	140	20.8	86	61.4	341,999	12.5	292,417	11.6	49,582	17.0
Arts, Recreation & Other serv	46	5.1	23	3.4	23	100.0	151,019	5.5	134,750	5.3	16,269	12.1
Inadeq Described/Not Stated	68	7.6	42	6.2	26	61.9	129,326	4.7	61,173	2.4	68,153	111.4
Victoria	896	100.0	674	100.0	222	32.9	2,736,125	100.0	2,530,635	100.0	205,490	8.1

<sup>(</sup>a) This variable is applicable to employed persons aged 15 and over.

			Eritrea	-born			Total Victoria							
Total personal	201	2016 2011		Change 20	11-2016 2016		2011		Change 2011-2016					
income, weekly <sup>(a)</sup>	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%		
Negative income	25	1.3	8	0.5	17	212.5	27,122	0.6	26,342	0.6	780	3.0		
Nil income	166	8.7	104	7.1	62	59.6	467,934	9.7	351,430	8.1	116,504	33.2		
\$1-399	723	38.0	639	43.9	84	13.1	975,345	20.1	1,224,693	28.1	-249,348	-20.4		
\$400-\$799	487	25.6	344	23.6	143	41.6	1,118,244	23.1	964,124	22.1	154,120	16.0		
\$800-\$1,249	262	13.8	166	11.4	96	57.8	811,256	16.7	715,662	16.4	95,594	13.4		
\$1,250-\$1,999	130	6.8	75	5.2	55	73.3	658,020	13.6	491,972	11.3	166,048	33.8		
\$2,000 or more	30	1.6	16	1.1	14	87.5	364,675	7.5	246,379	5.7	118,296	48.0		
Not stated	75	3.9	108	7.4	-33	-30.6	423,108	8.7	334,649	7.7	88,459	26.4		
Victoria	1,901	100.0	1,456	100.0	445	30.6	4,845,710	100.0	4,355,243	100.0	490,467	11.3		

<sup>(</sup>a) Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

This fact sheet is available for free download at www.multicultural.vic.gov.au, which also contains the Community Profiles series for birthplace groups, with more detailed tables on a wider range of demographic and socioeconomic data.

Source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016, 2011, 2006.

