

FACT SHEET

MIDDLE EAST



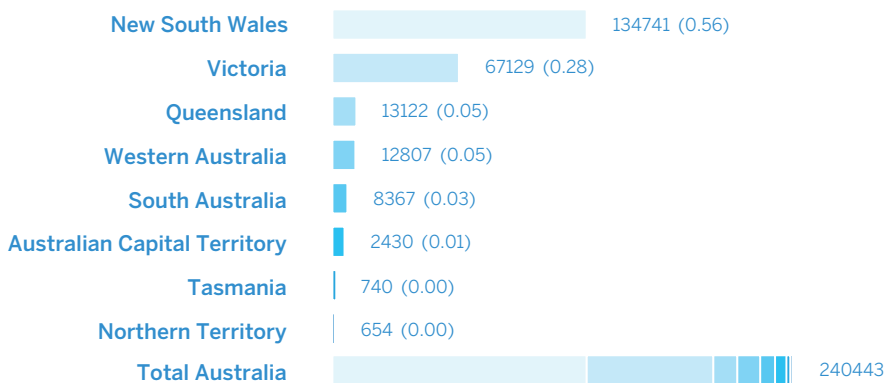
SNAPSHOT POPULATION FIGURES:

Against Australia's total population of 24,176,691 people (2011 Census), approximately 240,443 people (0.99%) of Australia's population identified as being born in the Middle East.

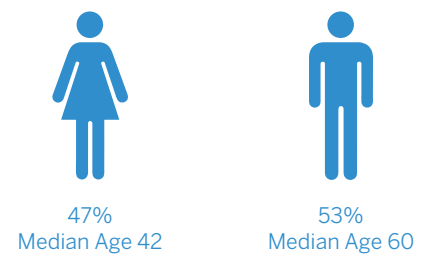
VITAL STATISTICS

- Estimated Population born in Middle East (By State and Total Australia)
240,443

- 56%** identified as living in NSW



POPULATION BORN IN THE MIDDLE EAST (BY STATE AND TOTAL AUSTRALIA)



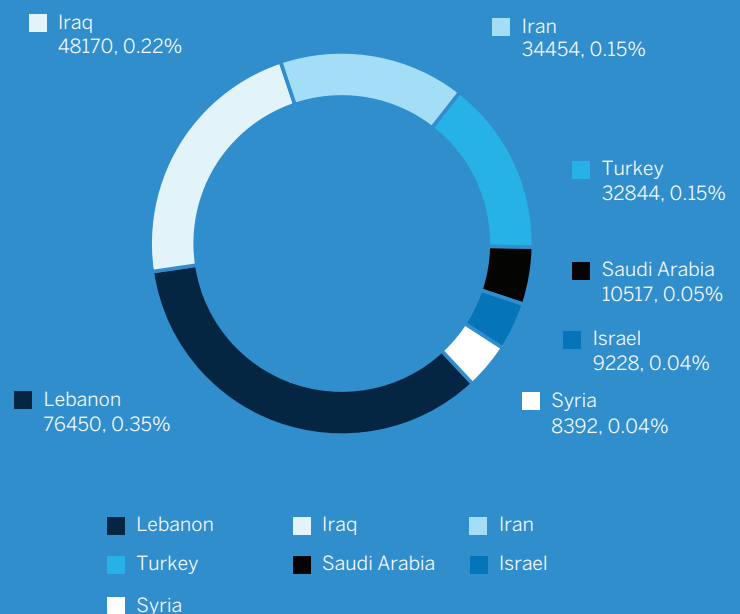
LANGUAGE ISSUES BY REGION

The top 5 languages are Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Assyrian/Chaldean and Hebrew.

Arabic is widely used in the following countries including Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, and Kuwait; while Turkish is widely spoken in Turkey and Hebrew is spoken in Israel.

KEY TAKEOUT – WRITTEN VS. SPOKEN LANGUAGE

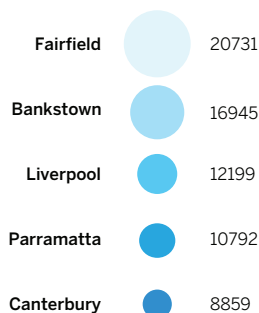
According to 2011 Australian Census data there are 120,361 people born Middle East who speak Arabic. Against the total identified figure of 240,443, this figure accounts for 50% of the total population identified as being born in the Middle East.



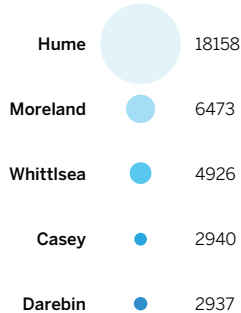
TOP 5 MAJOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA BY STATE/TERRITORY*

*Australian Capital Territory: Top 5 major residential suburbs in the ACT include Bruce, Belconnen, Gungahlin, Franklin and City.

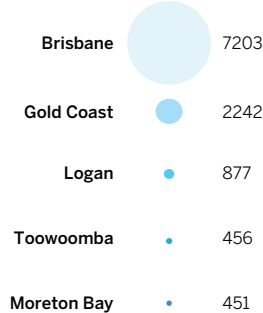
New South Wales



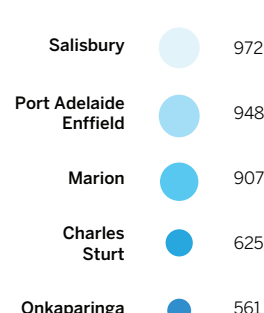
Victoria



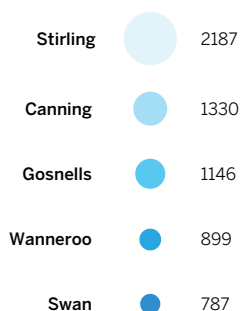
Queensland



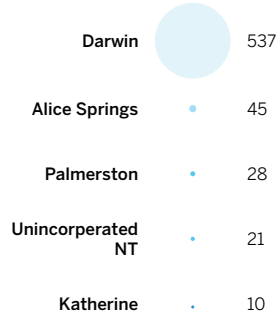
South Australia



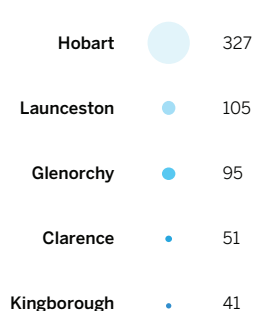
Western Australia



Northern Territory



Tasmania



VALUES AND PASSION POINTS

Cultural Opportunities (Festivals/National Days)

Muslim Festivals

- ☞ Ramadan: the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Muslims fast for 29-30 days to recognise this event.
- ☞ Eid-ul-Fitr: the end of Ramadan
- ☞ Eid-ul-Adha: the twelfth month of the Islamic lunar calendar signifying completion of the Haj and Abraham's sacrifice of a sheep.

Christian Festivals

- ☞ Good Friday (Varies each year)
- ☞ Easter (Varies each year)
- ☞ Christmas (25th of December)

Community Events

- ☞ Multicultural Eid-Adha Carnival – September (WA)
- ☞ Multicultural Eid Festival and Fair – October (NSW)

Clothing

Some Muslim women may wear one or more of the following clothing:

- ☞ Hijab: headscarf
- ☞ Niqab: face veil
- ☞ Burqa: garment that covers the whole body
- ☞ Chador: full-length semicircle of fabric, which is thrown over the head. It has no hand openings or closures but is held shut by the hands or by wrapping the ends around the waist.

Cultural Protocols

- ☞ Handshakes are the typical form of physical greeting. It is recommended that you wait for the other person to withdraw his/her hand before you do.
- ☞ Muslim men or women may prefer not to make physical contact with members of the opposite gender. If unsure, greet the other person verbally and wait for them to initiate a handshake.
- ☞ Hospitality is a key aspect of culture in the Middle East.
- ☞ Act respectfully and politely around community elders and leaders (age status)

Key Community Structures

- ☞ Arab Council Australia
- ☞ Australian Federation of Islamic Councils
- ☞ Lebanese Community Council
- ☞ Muslim Women's Association
- ☞ NSW Council of Turkish Associations

Passion Points

- ☞ Movies and TV
- ☞ Sport
- ☞ Family

Participation in Sports and Physical Activity

- ☞ According to the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics General Social Survey (GSS) overall participation rate of people born in North East Asia region trend towards non-organised sport or physical activity (87.8%) compared to organised sport or physical activity (17.2%).

Key Media Presence & Media Consumption

- ☞ Print (Arabic): Future, El Telegraph, An Nahar, Al Anwar, The Middle East Times and Middle East Herald.
- ☞ Radio (Arabic): SBS Arabic 24, SBS PopArabi, 2MORO, 2ME, 3ZZZ

REFERENCES

ABS 2002, General Social Survey Summary Results, cat no 4159.0, ABS, Canberra
Centre for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Pp. 1-6
Data Source: 2011 Census of Population and Housing