Wyndham’s Indian Community

November 2017 Update

The number of Wyndham residents born in India has grown steadily over the past 40 years. In 2011 a total of 8,094 residents had relocated from India to Wyndham. Almost 25% of this population arrived during 2007 and 2008. In 2016, 10% of the total population of Wyndham was born in India; approximately 22,395 people. Furthermore, a total of 27,435 Wyndham residents claim Indian ancestry. For the purpose of this profile, the Indian community refers only to those born in India unless otherwise stated.

The majority of Wyndham’s Indian community were under 35 years of age in 2011, and less than 5% were aged 60 years and over. A similar trend continues in 2016 with 61% of people aged under 35 years, and only 2.5% aged over 65. According to the 2016 Census of Population and Housing, the majority of the Indian community reside in Point Cook, Truganina and Tarneit.

Wyndham’s Indian community is highly diverse. Punjabi is the most commonly spoken language in the homes of the Indian community (28%), followed by Hindi (25%), Gujarati (11%) and Telugu (10%). English is the fifth most commonly spoken language (8%). Despite few residents speaking English at home, English speaking proficiency amongst the Indian community is high; over 85% of people can speak English well or very well.

Similarly to languages, there are a diversity of religions amongst Wyndham’s Indian community. Hindu (55%) is the most popular religion, followed by Sikh (25%), and Western Catholic (6%). Despite being the second most popular religion in India, only 6% of Indian born Wyndham residents reported practising Islam in 2016.

In Wyndham, 59.1% of the Indian community aged 15+ years had a Bachelor degree or higher. Of these individuals, 47% had obtained a postgraduate qualification (Masters or PhD). Level of education is reflected in employment type, where a larger proportion of residents work in professional positions (18.2%), similar to 2011 when it was 21%. A further 7.5% work in managerial positions, machinery trades (8.5%) and as labourers (5.5%). Compared with 2011 a lower proportion of residents is in professional, managerial and labour positions, and a higher proportion of residents in machinery trades. 67.9% of the Indian community are employed in full time or part time work (down from 70% in 2011) and approximately 20.5% are not in the labour force – up from 19.4% in 2011.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2011 and 2016). *Census of Population and Housing*. Retrieved from <https://auth.censusdata.abs.gov.au/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>

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