Wyndham’s Culturally and

Linguistically Diverse Community

# Key Statistics

In 2016, around one in five residents indicated to have English ancestry (21.3%). Another one in five have Australian ancestry (20.3%).

People with Indian, Chinese, Pakistani, Samoan, South Sudanese, Sikh and Punjabi ancestry are likely to experience increased growth between 2016 and 2021 compared to the growth between 2011 and 2016 or 2006 and 2011.

Just over half of all Wyndham residents were born in Australia (52.8%) and 143,633 or 66.2% of residents have at least one parent that was born overseas.

The proportion of Wyndham residents that were born in Australia has been declining since 2006, indicating a substantial shift in Wyndham’s demographics over time.

The number of Wyndham residents that were born in Australia increased by 16.1% or 15,888 people between 2011 and 2016, and the number of Wyndham residents born in India increased by 14,301 or 176.7%. While the number of Wyndham residents that were born in China increased by only 3,038 people between 2011 and 2016, this was an increase of 122.2%.

It is assumed that increased growth will be observed in the number of people born in Myanmar, Iran, Macedonia and South Korea between 2016 and 2021 compared to the growth between 2011 and 2016 or 2006 and 2011.

Wyndham is the fourth largest recipient of people on humanitarian visas behind Hume (1,657), Casey (437) and Greater Dandenong (391).

In 2016, most (53.1%) Wyndham residents spoke English only. The most common languages other than English spoken at home in Wyndham were Punjabi and Hindi. Of those that speak English not well or not at all, most speak Mandarin (17.1%) or Karen (10.1%) at home.

Almost half of Wyndham residents affiliated with Christianity (46.1%). This was followed by almost one quarter of residents (23.0%) who affiliated with secular beliefs, other spiritual beliefs or no religious affiliation; resembling trends for Greater Melbourne and Victoria.

For demographic information about our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, please see the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Profile which is located on the following Council webpage: <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/about-council/wyndham-community/research-and-statistics/community-profiles> .

# Ethnicity[[1]](#footnote-2)

The Australian Bureau of Statistics collects data on respondents’ ancestry through the Census of Population and Housing. Ancestry is one of several indicators of ethnicity which refers to “the shared identity or similarity of a group of people on the basis of one or more factors.” Respondents can report up to two responses to the Census question on ancestry.

Wyndham residents have a diverse cultural background. In 2016, around one in five residents indicated English ancestry (21.3%). Another one in five have Australian ancestry (20.3%). Wyndham is more diverse than Greater Melbourne, where more than half of all residents (50.6%) have either English or Australian ancestry.

Wyndham has significantly more residents with an Indian ancestry (12.6%) than Greater Melbourne (4.4%). Wyndham residents are also more likely to identify as Filipino (3.5%) than Greater Melbourne residents (1.3%).

Wyndham residents’ ethnicity is also reflected in country of birth; just over half of all residents were born in Australia (52.8%). In Greater Melbourne, just under six in ten residents were born in Australia (59.8%). Table 1 below shows the top twenty ancestry and countries of birth for Wyndham. Figure 1 shows the proportion of residents who were born overseas at the smallest geography possible. Diversity is high in Tarneit, Truganina and Point Cook compared with the established areas of Werribee and Hoppers Crossing.

Table 1. Top Twenty Ancestry and Countries of Birth, Wyndham 2016

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ancestry** | **2016 population** | **% of total** | **Country of birth** | **2016 population** | **% of total** |
| English | 46,272 | 21.3% | Australia | 114,543 | 52.8% |
| Australian | 44,133 | 20.3% | India | 22,395 | 10.3% |
| Indian | 27,435 | 12.6% | New Zealand | 7,711 | 3.6% |
| Chinese | 13,630 | 6.3% | Philippines | 5,727 | 2.6% |
| Irish | 13,356 | 6.2% | China | 5,525 | 2.5% |
| Scottish | 11,746 | 5.4% | England | 4,978 | 2.3% |
| Italian | 11,025 | 5.1% | Pakistan | 2,067 | 1.0% |
| Filipino | 7,631 | 3.5% | Malaysia | 2,058 | 0.9% |
| Maltese | 5,783 | 2.7% | Sri Lanka | 2,040 | 0.9% |
| German | 5,084 | 2.3% | Myanmar | 2,018 | 0.9% |
| Greek | 3,308 | 1.5% | Italy | 1,736 | 0.8% |
| Maori | 3,270 | 1.5% | Vietnam | 1,627 | 0.7% |
| Lebanese | 2,510 | 1.2% | Bangladesh | 1,582 | 0.7% |
| Pakistani | 2,473 | 1.1% | Thailand | 1,466 | 0.7% |
| Vietnamese | 2,403 | 1.1% | Indonesia | 1,373 | 0.6% |
| Karen | 2,309 | 1.1% | Ethiopia | 1,279 | 0.6% |
| Sri Lankan | 2,231 | 1.0% | South Africa | 1,171 | 0.5% |
| Punjabi | 2,177 | 1.0% | Malta | 1,114 | 0.5% |
| Samoan | 2,106 | 1.0% | Singapore | 1,075 | 0.5% |
| New Zealander | 2,011 | 0.9% | Scotland | 1,000 | 0.5% |

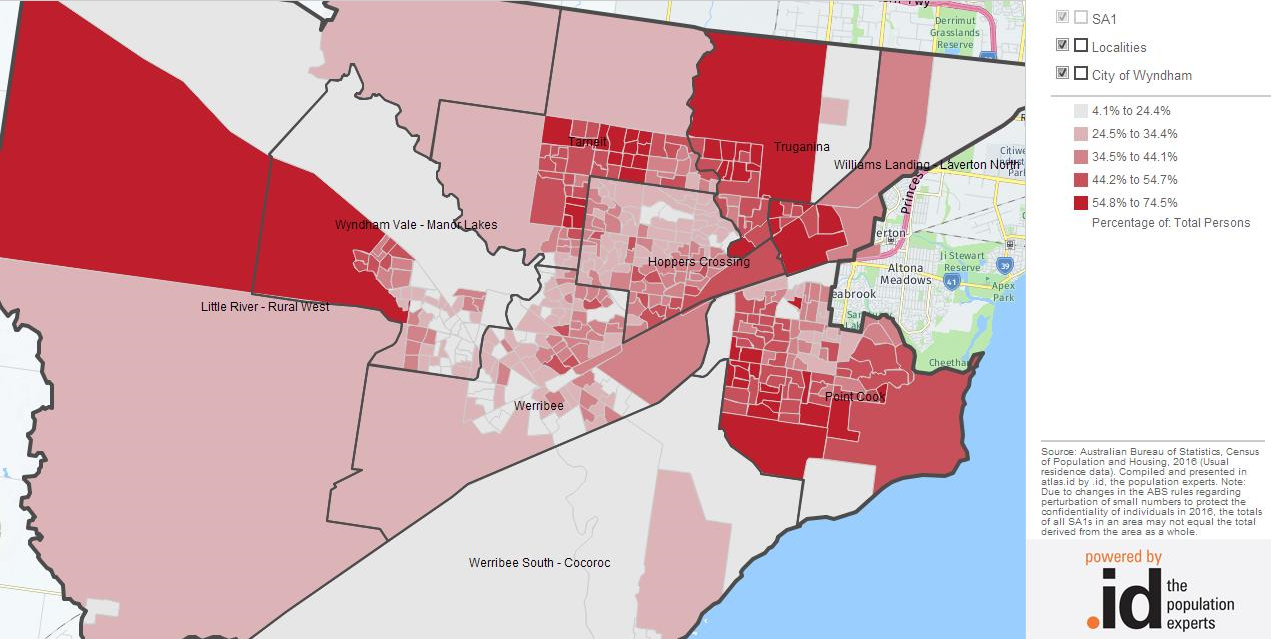


Figure 1. Percentage of the Population that is Born Overseas, Wyndham, 2016

In 2016, 143,633 or 66.2% of Wyndham residents have at least one parent that was born overseas, which is higher than that proportion or Greater Melbourne (57.2%).

Table 2. 2016 Wyndham and Greater Melbourne Country of Birth Status of Parents

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Wyndham (C) | | Greater Melbourne | |
| **Country of Birth Status of Parents** | **#** | **%** | **#** | **%** |
| Both parents born overseas | 123,445 | 56.9% | 2,072,067 | 46.2% |
| Father only born overseas | 11,599 | 5.3% | 288,565 | 6.4% |
| Mother only born overseas | 8,589 | 4.0% | 206,202 | 4.6% |
| Both parents born in Australia | 59,874 | 27.6% | 1,634,120 | 36.4% |
| Not stated | 13,615 | 6.3% | 284,251 | 6.3% |
| **Total** | **217,118** | **100.0%** | **4,485,210** | **100.0%** |

# The Demographic Shift[[2]](#footnote-3)

While the number of Wyndham residents born in Australia increased by 77,327 people between 2006 and 2016, the proportion of the total population has declined. In 2006 more than two thirds of Wyndham residents were born in Australia (68.4%). This declined to 61.1% in 2011 and 52.8% in 2016, indicating a substantial shift in Wyndham’s demographics over time. This trend is likely to continue, barring a major immigration overhaul at the Commonwealth level.

The number of Wyndham residents born in India increased by 14,301 or 176.7% between 2011 and 2016. While the number of Wyndham residents that were born in China increased by only 3,038 people between 2011 and 2016, this was an increase of 122.2% (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Population Changes from 2011 to 2016 for Wyndham Residents’ top Six Countries of Birth

Table 3 shows the growth (in population size) of the communities that have experienced the largest population increases between 2011 and 2016. The table does this for both ancestry and country of birth, and includes the 2006-2011 period as a reference point to identify whether communities are likely to experience more growth in the coming years.

Table 3. Top 20 Ancestry and Country of Birth Growth (in population size) between 2011 and 2016

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ancestry** | **Population growth** | |  | **Country of birth** | **Population growth** | |
| **2011-2016** | **2006-2011** |  | **2011-2016** | **2006-2011** |
| Indian | 17,289 | 7,604 |  | Australia | 15,888 | 21,620 |
| English | 6,957 | 9,763 |  | India | 14,301 | 6,519 |
| Chinese | 6,432 | 4,750 |  | China | 3,038 | 2,487 |
| Irish | 2,544 | 2,644 |  | New Zealand | 2,679 | 2,655 |
| Filipino | 2,447 | 2,377 |  | Myanmar | 2,018 | 0 |
| Australian | 2,069 | 4,913 |  | Philippines | 1,801 | 1,818 |
| Punjabi | 1,916 | 202 |  | Pakistan | 1,332 | 516 |
| Scottish | 1,685 | 2,444 |  | Bangladesh | 938 | 528 |
| Pakistani | 1,530 | 650 |  | Sri Lanka | 816 | 667 |
| Samoan | 1,295 | 528 |  | Malaysia | 778 | 722 |
| Sri Lankan | 1,137 | 1,094 |  | Macedonia | 644 | 0 |
| Sikh | 1,136 | 89 |  | Ethiopia | 590 | 363 |
| Maori | 1,067 | 1,232 |  | Thailand | 563 | 617 |
| Lebanese | 1,019 | 798 |  | Vietnam | 452 | 1,175 |
| Bangladeshi | 1,004 | 648 |  | South Sudan | 425 | 64 |
| Karen | 970 | 1,091 |  | Indonesia | 424 | 744 |
| Ethiopian | 916 | 564 |  | Samoa | 406 | 123 |
| Vietnamese | 899 | 742 |  | Iran | 364 | 82 |
| Italian | 873 | 1,433 |  | South Korea | 351 | 287 |
| South Sudanese | 710 | 78 |  | Lebanon | 323 | 252 |

Note that in many cases ancestry and country of birth are the same. This is not the case for those who indicate Punjabi or Sikh ancestry, although most of these residents will likely have been born in India or Australia. Furthermore, the Maori population will be from either New Zealand or one of the Pacific Islands. The Karen population largely comes from Thailand and Myanmar.

If the increase in the number of people from specific communities was greater between 2011 and 2016 than between 2006 and 2011, then it was assumed that this trend will continue between 2016 and 2021, that being, the increase in the number of people from specific communities will be even greater between 2016 and 2021 than between 2006 and 2011 or 2011 and 2016.

If the increase in the number of people from specific communities between 2011 and 2016 was less than that between 2006 and 2011, then it was assumed that this trend will continue between 2016 and 2021, that being, the increase in the number of people from specific communities between 2016 and 2021 would be lower than that observed between 2006 and 2011 or 2011 and 2016. Applying these assumptions, Table 4 indicates for each of the communities whether their growth is likely to increase further, stay the same, or decline.

Table 4. Projected Growth Trends Wyndham 2016

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Likely growth increase** | **Likely to neither increase nor decrease** | **Likely growth decrease** |
| **Country of birth** | Myanmar | New Zealand | Indonesia |
|  | Iran | Malaysia | Thailand |
|  | Macedonia |  | Vietnam |
|  | South Korea |  |  |
| **Ancestry** | Punjabi | Irish | English |
|  | Sikh | Filipino | Scottish |
|  | Vietnamese |  | Italian |
|  | Chinese |  | Australian |
|  | Pakistani |  | Maori |
|  | Bangladeshi |  | Karen |
|  | Sri Lankan |  |  |
|  | Ethiopian |  |  |
|  | South Sudanese |  |  |
|  | Samoan |  |  |
|  | Indian |  |  |
|  | Lebanese |  |  |

It is assumed that residents from four countries of birth as well as 12 ancestries are likely to experience increased growth between 2016 and 2021 than that observed between the 2011 and 2016 or 2006 and 2011. In particular, people with Indian, Chinese, Pakistani, Samoan, South Sudanese, Sikh and Punjabi ancestry are likely to experience increased growth between 2016 and 2021.

On the other hand, growth in the group of residents with Australian, English, Scottish, Italian, Maori or Karen ancestry is likely to decline between 2016 and 2021 compared to the growth between 2011 and 2016 or 2006 and 2011.

Increased growth will likely be observed in the number of people born in Myanmar, Iran, Macedonia and South Korea between 2016 and 2021 when compared to that observed between 2011 and 2016 or 2006 and 2011. Growth in the group of residents born in Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia is likely to decline between 2016 and 2021 compared to the growth between 2011 and 2016 or 2006 and 2011.

Note that residents with Vietnamese ancestry are likely to increase growth between 2016 and 2021 when compared to growth between 2011 and 2016 or 2006 and 2011. Those who were born in Vietnam are likely to see decreasing growth between 2016 and 2021 when compared to growth between 2011 and 2016 or 2006 and 2011. This community is one of the previous migration flows; those who moved to Wyndham are now raising families locally.

Additionally, the Nepalese community has seen substantial shifts between 2011 and 2016 that would be remiss not to mention. The Nepali-identifying population increased from 172 to 567 over this period, and is likely to experience further growth in the coming years.

# Refugees

In 2017, 367 people arrived in Wyndham on a humanitarian visa, down from 494 in 2016. Wyndham is the fourth largest recipient of people on humanitarian visas behind Hume (1,657), Casey (437) and Greater Dandenong (391).

Information provided by the Department of Social Services indicates that between 18 April 2017 to 17 April 2018 more than half of the 278 entrants had Karenni ancestry (149, or 54%). Almost all of them came from Myanmar and Thailand. The next largest countries of origin are Iraq (30 people) and Eritrea (20 people).

# Proficiency in English[[3]](#footnote-4),[[4]](#footnote-5)

In 2016, most (53.1%) of Wyndham residents spoke English only (Figure 3). Just over one third of Wyndham residents (35.2%) speak another language while speaking English very well or well. Approximately 5.7% of Wyndham residents speak another language and speak English not well or not at all.

Figure 3. English Language Capabilities of Wyndham Residents

The proportion of Wyndham’s population that speak a language other than English at home (40.7%) is higher than Greater Melbourne (32.2%).

The proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home varies across the City. Figure 4 maps the proportion of Wyndham residents that speak a language other than English at home across the different locations in Wyndham in 2016. In Wyndham, Truganina has the highest proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home.

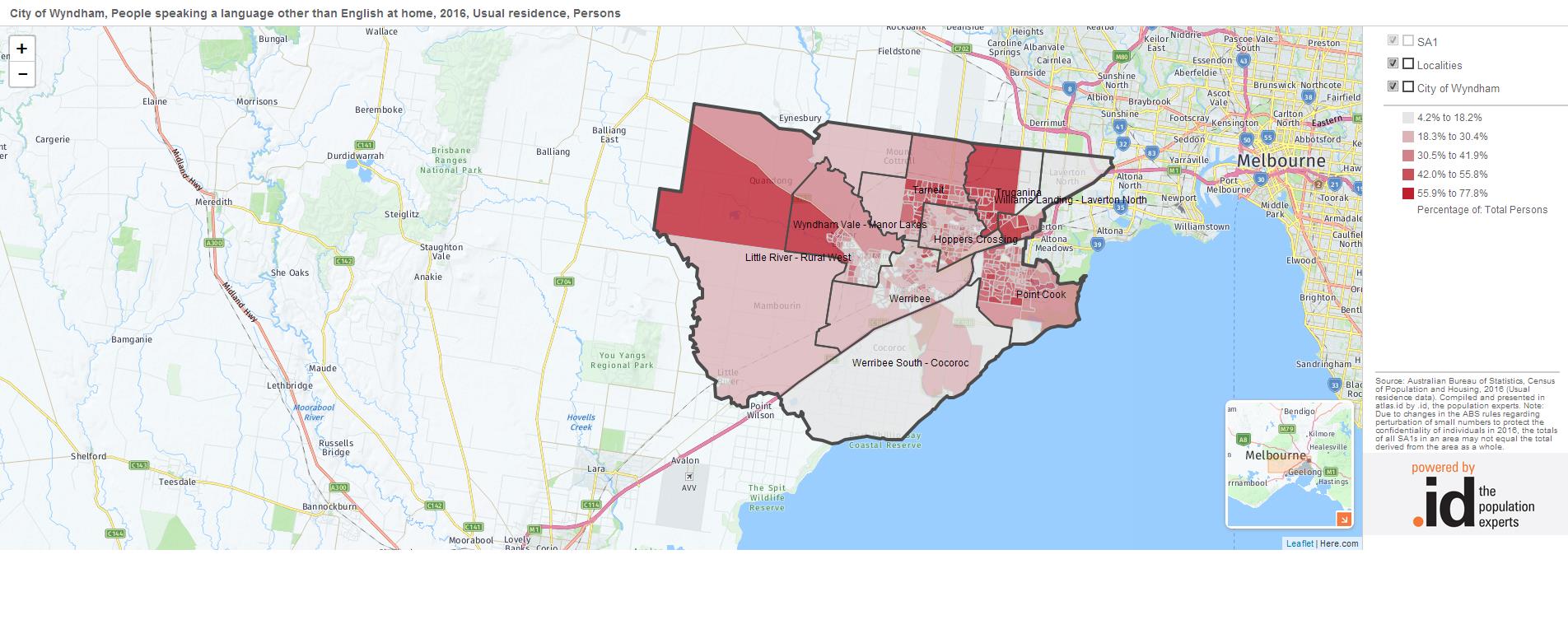
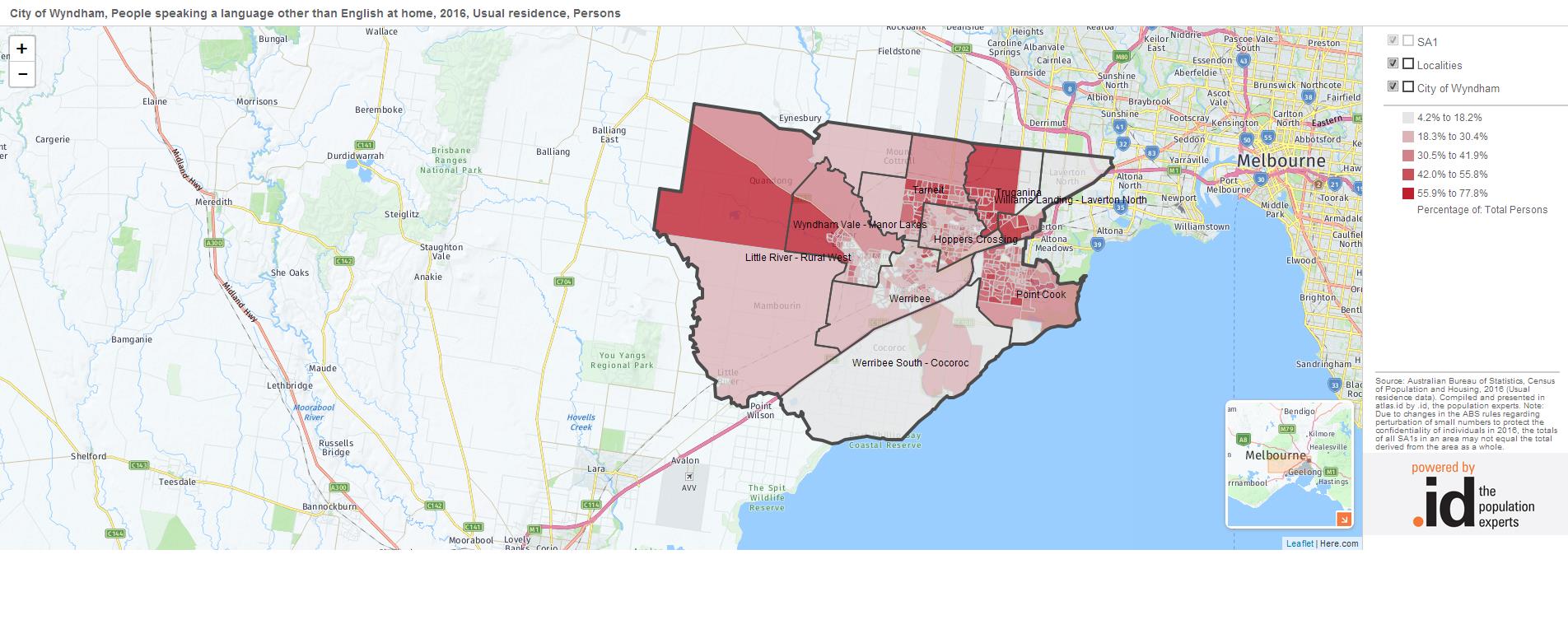


Figure 4. Map of Wyndham Population Speaking a Language Other Than English at Home, 2016[[5]](#footnote-6)

# Language Spoken at Home[[6]](#footnote-7)

In 2016, the most common language spoken at home in Wyndham was English. This was followed by Punjabi and Hindi (Table 5).

Table 5. Top Ten Languages Spoken at Home, Wyndham - 2016

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Language spoken at home | # | % |
| English | 115,332 | 53.1% |
| Punjabi | 7,854 | 3.6% |
| Hindi | 7,675 | 3.5% |
| Mandarin | 7,335 | 3.4% |
| Arabic | 4,196 | 1.9% |
| Urdu | 3,708 | 1.7% |
| Gujarati | 3,237 | 1.5% |
| Italian | 2,938 | 1.4% |
| Tagalog | 2,850 | 1.3% |
| Telugu | 2,803 | 1.3% |

# Translation Needs[[7]](#footnote-8)

When translating materials for the community, it is important to not only consider the most common languages that residents speak at home but also their English proficiency. Most residents who speak English not well or not at all speak Mandarin (17.1%) or Karen (10.1%) at home. The top ten languages spoken at home by Wyndham residents who speak English not well or not at all are listed in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Top Ten Languages Spoken at Home by Wyndham Residents Who Speak English Not Well or Not at All, 2016

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Language Spoken at Home | # | % |
| Mandarin | 2,126 | 17.1% |
| Karen | 1,251 | 10.1% |
| Punjabi | 848 | 6.8% |
| Arabic | 548 | 4.4% |
| Vietnamese | 532 | 4.3% |
| Cantonese | 475 | 3.8% |
| Hindi | 391 | 3.1% |
| Urdu | 364 | 2.9% |
| Italian | 354 | 2.8% |
| Gujarati | 327 | 2.6% |

The most common languages spoken at home by residents who speak English not well or not at all differ across the municipality. The top five languages spoken at home by residents who speak English not well or not at all are listed in Table 7 by suburb. In some suburbs, there are fewer than ten residents who speak English not well or not at all. These suburbs are not included in the table below.

Table 7. Five Top Languages Spoken at Home for Residence Who Speak English Not Well or Not at All by Select Wyndham Suburbs

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hoppers Crossing** | **Point Cook** | **Tarneit** | **Truganina** | **Werribee** | **Williams Landing** | **Wyndham Vale** |
| Karen | Mandarin | Punjabi | Mandarin | Karen | Mandarin | Karen |
| Mandarin | Cantonese | Mandarin | Punjabi | Italian | Cantonese | Punjabi |
| Arabic | Korean | Gujarati | Urdu | Mandarin | Vietnamese | Dinka |
| Italian | Vietnamese | Arabic | Arabic | Arabic | Hindi | Telugu |
| Burmese^ | Hindi | Hindi | Gujarati | Punjabi | Punjabi | Hindi |

^ and related languages, not otherwise specified.

It is recommended to refer to the languages listed in Table 6 when translating materials for all Wyndham residents. For translating materials that are tailored to communities from specific suburbs, it is recommended to refer to Table 7.

# Religion[[8]](#footnote-9)

In 2016, almost half of Wyndham residents affiliated with Christianity (46.1%). This was followed by almost one quarter of residents (23.0%) who affiliated with secular beliefs, other spiritual beliefs or no religious affiliation. These trends resembled that for Greater Melbourne and Victoria (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Religious Affiliation - Wyndham, Greater Melbourne and Victoria, 2016

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing (2016) (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in atlas.id . [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing (2016) (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in atlas.id . [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)