



## Australian overview



### Language

English is the national language of Australia. Learning English is vital to settling successfully in Australia. However, over 200 languages are spoken in homes and communities all over Australia. This is because almost 25 per cent of Australia's population was born in another country, and there are more than 20 Indigenous languages still spoken in Australia.

### Australia's Indigenous people

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been living in Australia for around 50,000 years and are among the oldest cultures in the world. Indigenous Australians live in every state and territory of Australia. Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have different languages, cultural and spiritual beliefs in different places in Australia.

### Multicultural Australia

Australia has migrants from all over the world. Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia, including over 800,000 refugees.

Forty six per cent of Australians were either born overseas or have a parent who was born overseas. This makes Australia a very multicultural society.

Australia has no official or state religion. All Australians are free to practice any religion they choose as long as they are not in conflict with Australian Commonwealth and state and territory laws.

The values of equality, democracy, freedom and respect for all is what unites Australians.

