Attachment 2

BOROONDARA

Community profile of multicultural Boroondara

May 2024

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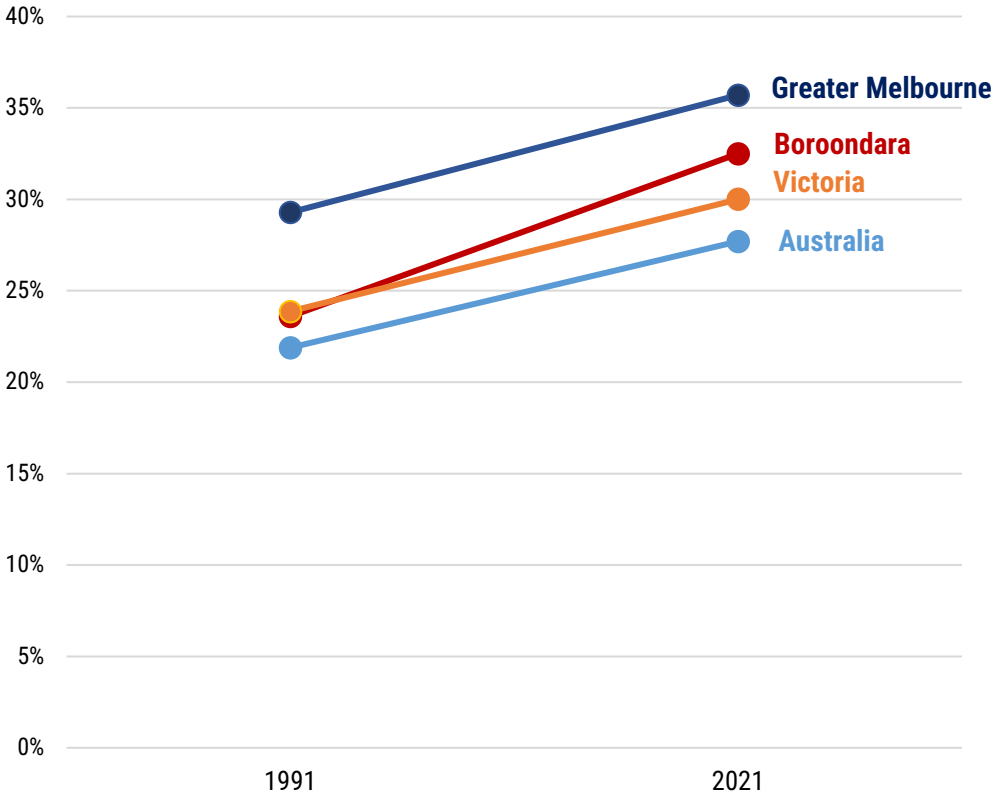
Overview of the community profile

This document was created to support the development of the draft Boroondara Multicultural Action Plan 2024-26. It provides an overview of demographic information about multicultural communities in Boroondara using the 2021 Census data as the key data source. This information will help ensure the delivery of programs and key actions in the draft Plan consider the demographics of the community and the different geographical areas in Boroondara.

Changes in our community

Over the past 30 years, Boroondara's overseas born population has steadily increased from 23.6% of the total population in 1991 to almost a third of our total population in 2021 (32.5%). Our residents originate from more than 150 different countries and speak more than 120 languages. Boroondara is home to a lower proportion of overseas born residents than Greater Melbourne (35.7%), but the gap has closed considerably since 1991, when the difference was six percentage points rather than three. Australia and Victoria have also seen growth in overseas born residents over the past 30 years, but not to the same extent as Boroondara.

Figure 1: Boroondara is increasingly culturally diverse, with a growing proportion of residents born overseas. This reflects the trend across Melbourne, Victoria and nationally.



People who speak Mandarin account for 10.4% of Boroondara residents. Between 2016 and 2021, Mandarin saw more growth than any other language in Boroondara (+3,712 people).

Persian (excluding Dari), Min Nan and Urdu are emerging languages - spoken at home by fewer than 1,000 residents in 2021, but with relatively large growth between 2016 and 2021.

Waves of settlement and migration

To understand how cultural diversity has come to underpin our identity, the city's history provides us with insight into the community we are today.

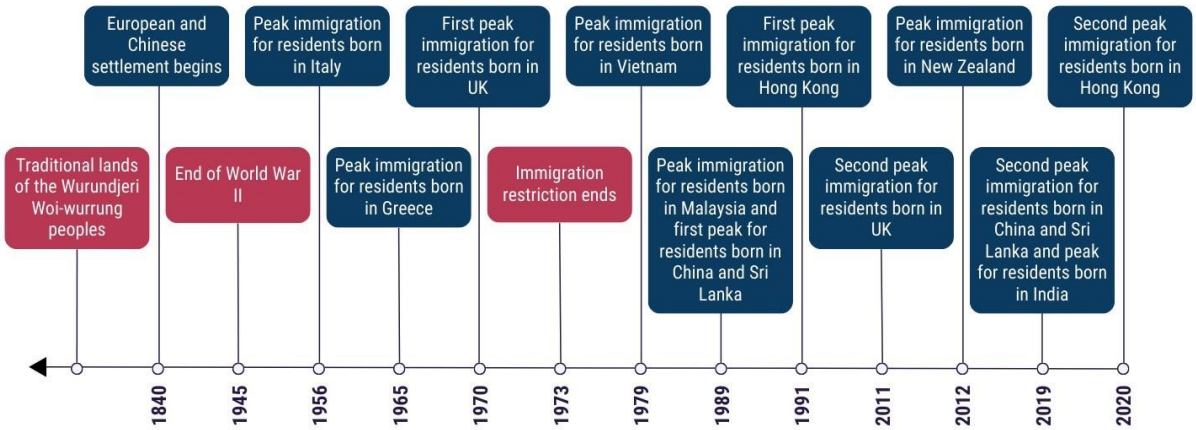
The area that is now Boroondara was originally home to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. Early European settlement in the Boroondara area began from 1840, with the first settlers arriving from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland as well as China.

Immigration to Australia from Italy and Greece increased dramatically after World War II, with 81% of Boroondara's Italian and Greek communities arriving prior to 1975.

The end of immigration restrictions in 1973 saw increasing numbers of settlers from Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia and China.

Among Boroondara residents who first settled in Australia during the 18 months prior to the 2021 Census, most were born in China (33.6%), India (12.4%) or Hong Kong (6.7%).

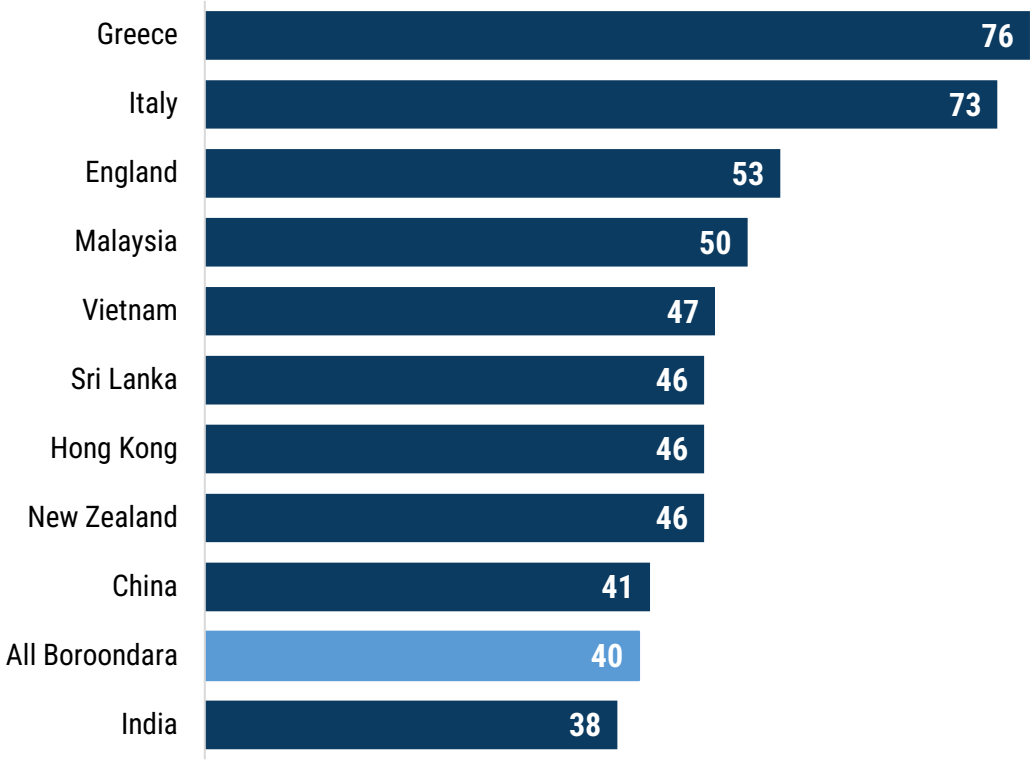
Figure 2: Waves of settlement and migration



The shifting pattern of cultural diversity in Boroondara has resulted in different age profiles among different cultural groups. The median age of residents born in Greece

and Italy (from which peak migration was in the 50s and 60s) is much higher than the median age of residents born in India (from which peak migration was in 2019).

Figure 3: Various waves of migration have resulted in differing age profiles among Boroondara populations born in different regions.



Country of birth

32.5% (54,522) of Boroondara residents were born overseas, compared with 35.7% of Greater Melbourne residents.

Boroondara residents named more than 150 countries as their place of birth.

The top five overseas countries of birth in Boroondara in 2021 were:

- China (8% or 13,393 Boroondara residents)
- United Kingdom (3.4%)
- India (2.4%)
- Malaysia (2.2%)
- New Zealand (1.4%).

The largest increases in country of birth between 2016 and 2021 were:

- China (+2,330)
- Malaysia (+416)
- Hong Kong (+283)
- Iran (+171)
- Sri Lanka (+159).

56.2% or 94,338 residents have one or both parents born overseas compared with 60.6% of Greater Melbourne residents.

43.6% or 73,149 Boroondara residents had both parents born overseas, compared with 49.3% of Greater Melbourne residents.

Ancestry

Ancestry is an indication of the cultural or ethnic group people identify with most closely. It gives insight into the cultural background of both the Australian-born and overseas-born populations.

The top five ancestries in Boroondara in 2021 were:

- English (29% or 48,730 Boroondara residents)
- Australian (24%)
- Chinese (18.2%)
- Irish (11.8%)
- Scottish (9.9%).

Language

In 2021, 20,446 Boroondara households used a language other than English. This makes households where a non-English language is used less frequent in Boroondara (32.6%) than across Greater Melbourne (37.7%) but more frequent than across Victoria (30.2% of households) and Australia (24.8% of households).

More than 120 languages other than English are used in Boroondara households.

The top five languages used at home other than English in Boroondara in 2021 were:

- Mandarin (10.4% or 17,412 Boroondara residents)
- Cantonese (3%)
- Greek (2.7%)
- Italian (1.4%)

- Vietnamese (1.2%).

Across Greater Melbourne, Punjabi (ranked 20th in Boroondara) and Arabic (ranked 11th in Boroondara) are more prevalent, replacing Italian and Cantonese in the top five.

Mandarin is the most commonly spoken language other than English in Boroondara and grew by 27.1% between 2016 and 2021.

Other fast-growing language communities are Persian (excluding Dari), Min Nan and Urdu but each was spoken by fewer than 900 Boroondara residents at the 2021 Census.

Language communities who had fewer speakers in 2021 include Italian, Gujarati, Greek, and Arabic.

English proficiency

6,801 residents (4.1%) speak English not well or not at all. This is lower than the Greater Melbourne rate (5.4%) and a little lower than the Victorian rate (4.4%).

Of the Boroondara residents who use a language other English at home, the proportion who speak English well or not well differs by age group, language and gender.

Figure 4: Of the Boroondara residents who use a language other than English at home, the proportion who speak English not well or not at all tends to increase with age after childhood.

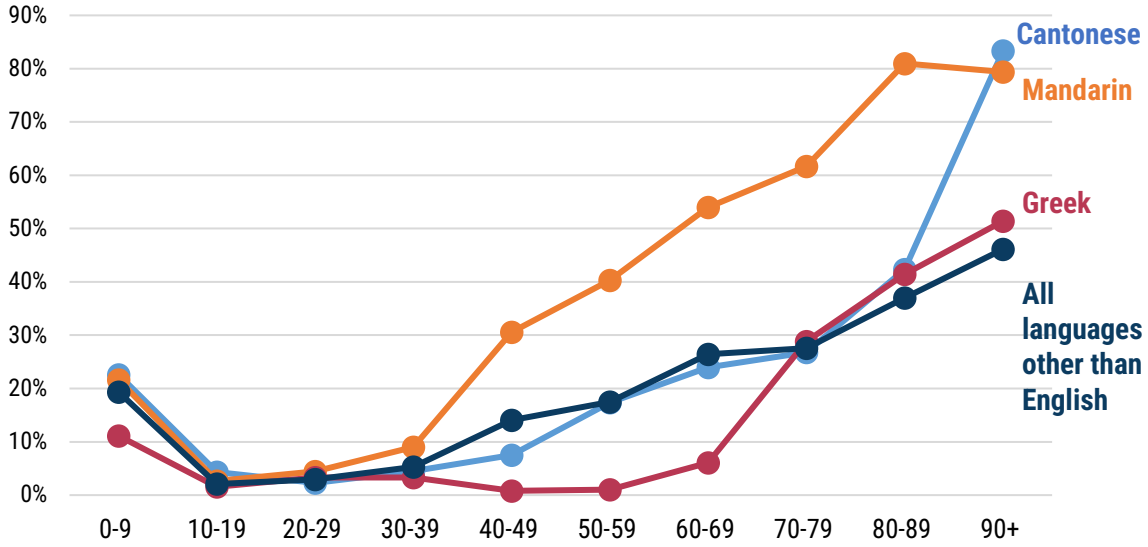


Figure 5: Most Boroondara residents who speak a language other than English at home are also proficient in spoken English. The proportion varies depending on the language.

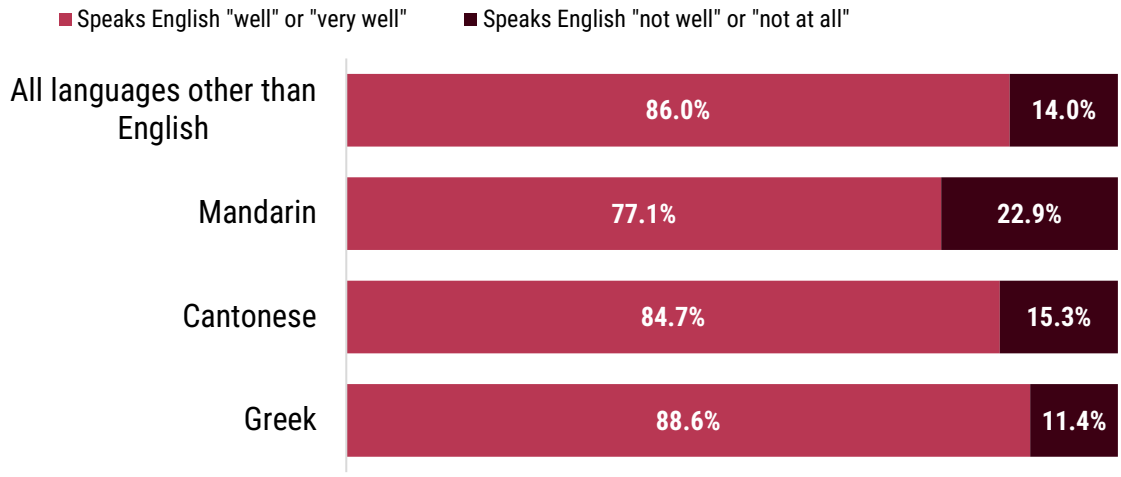
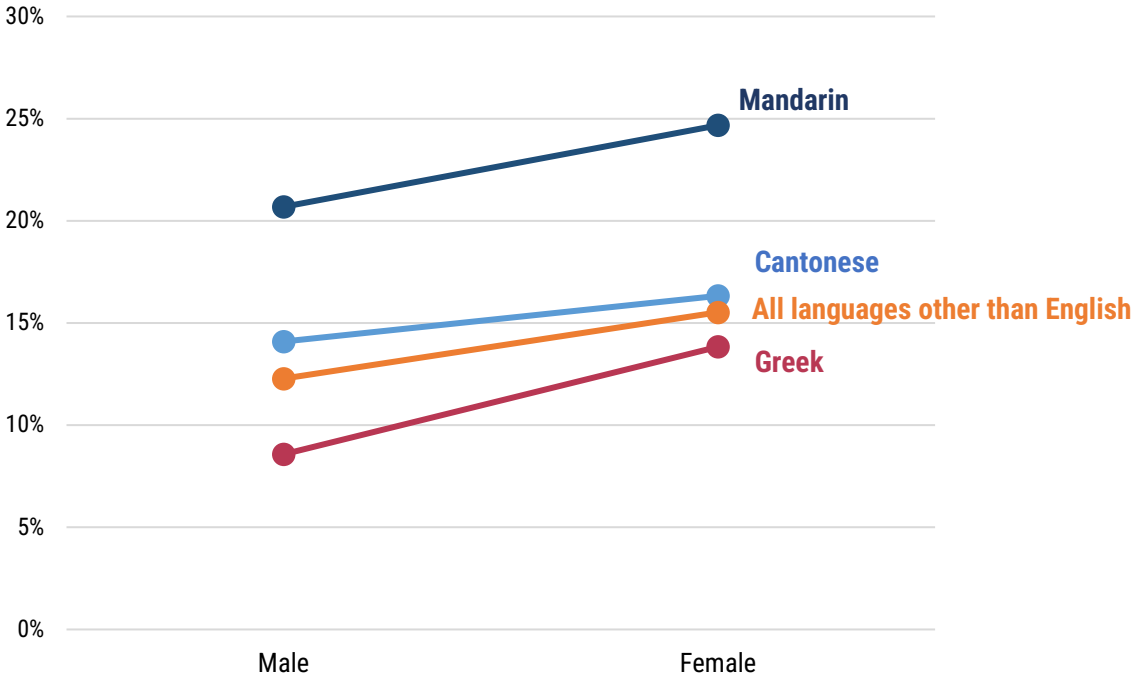


Figure 6: Among Boroondara residents who use a language other than English at home, females are more likely to have limited proficiency in English, with almost one in four female Mandarin speakers having limited proficiency.



Religion

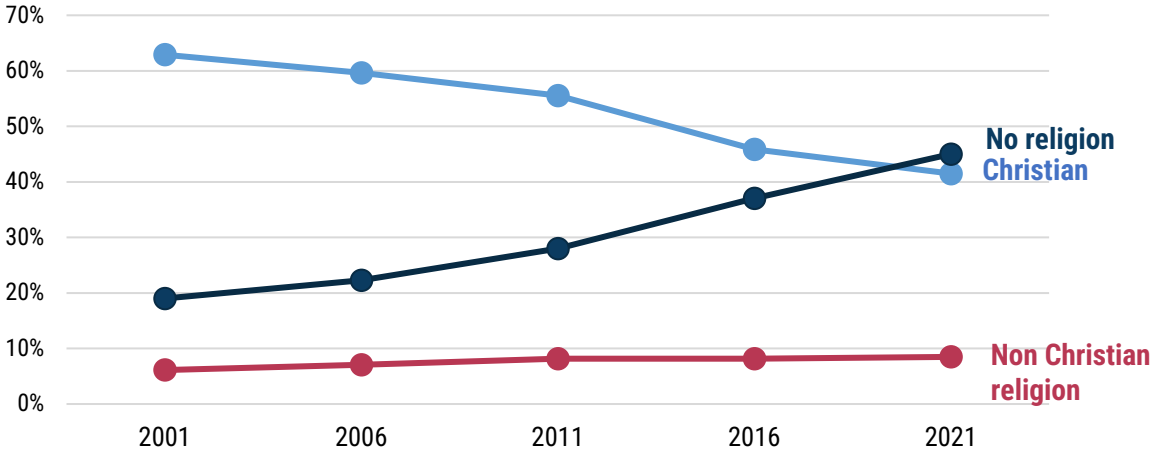
At the 2021 Census, 84,843 (50.5%) Boroondara residents reported a religious affiliation and 75,571 (45%) Boroondara residents reported no religious affiliation.

In 2021, the most common religions in Boroondara were:

- Western (Roman) Catholic (19.9% or 33,419 Boroondara residents)
- Anglican (7.9%)
- Greek Orthodox (4.1%)
- Buddhism (3.3%)
- Uniting Church (2.7%).

The proportion of residents reporting a Christian religion has been in decline and the proportion reporting no religion has been increasing.

Figure 7: The 2021 Census was the first in which the proportion of Boroondara residents who reported no religion was greater than the proportion who reported being Christian.



International students

Currently there are approximately 209,000 international students enrolled in higher education in Victoria. There is a significant international student population in Boroondara because of Swinburne University of Technology and the concentration of independent and well respected public secondary schools in the area. The Student Administration team at Swinburne University of Technology has advised that approximately 7,000 international students are attending their Hawthorn campus at any one time in 2024.

Settlement data

Based on settlement data from Department of Home Affairs for the financial year 2022-2023, a total of 15,622 individuals settled in the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR) under Humanitarian, Family Stream or Skilled Visas. Local Government Areas in the EMR with the highest numbers of individuals arriving across all three

visa types were Monash 35% (5,446), Whitehorse 24% (3,750) and Boroondara 14% (2,205).

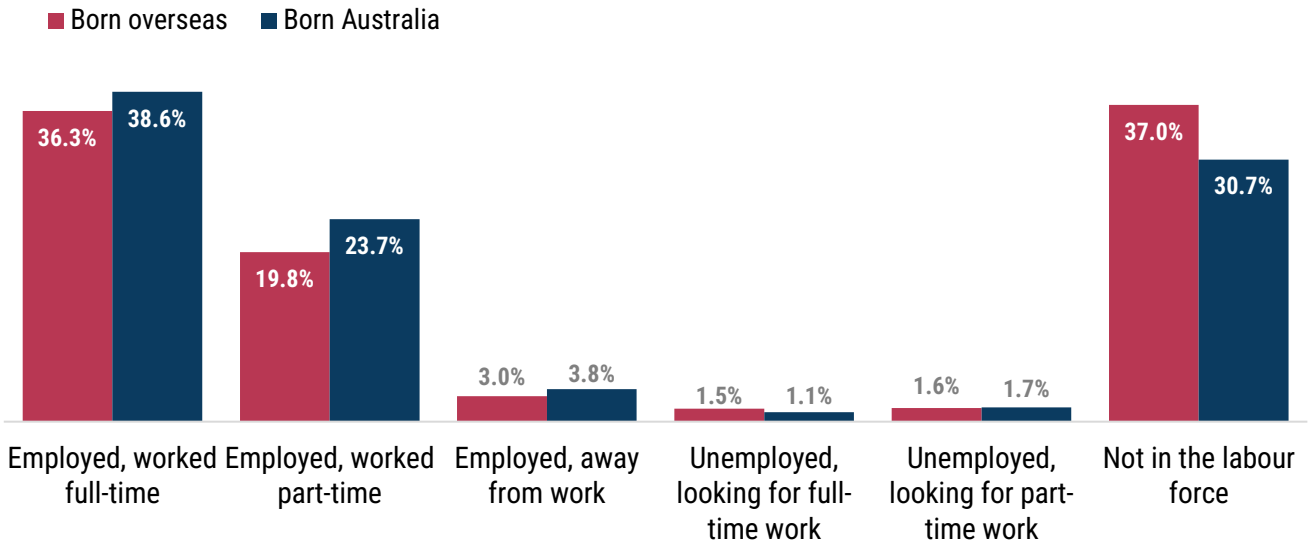
In Boroondara, Skilled Visa arrivals were the most predominant (1,746 people) followed by Family Stream Visas (443 people) and Humanitarian Visas (16 people). This is a trend reflected in the settlement data from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2022 showing that during this time, 15,415 people arrived via the Skilled Visa Stream, 4,875 people arrived by the Family Stream Visas and 145 people arrived by Humanitarian Visas.

Selected demographics

The figures on the following page show selected demographics for residents born overseas compared to those born in Australia. As shown and described below, there are notable differences.

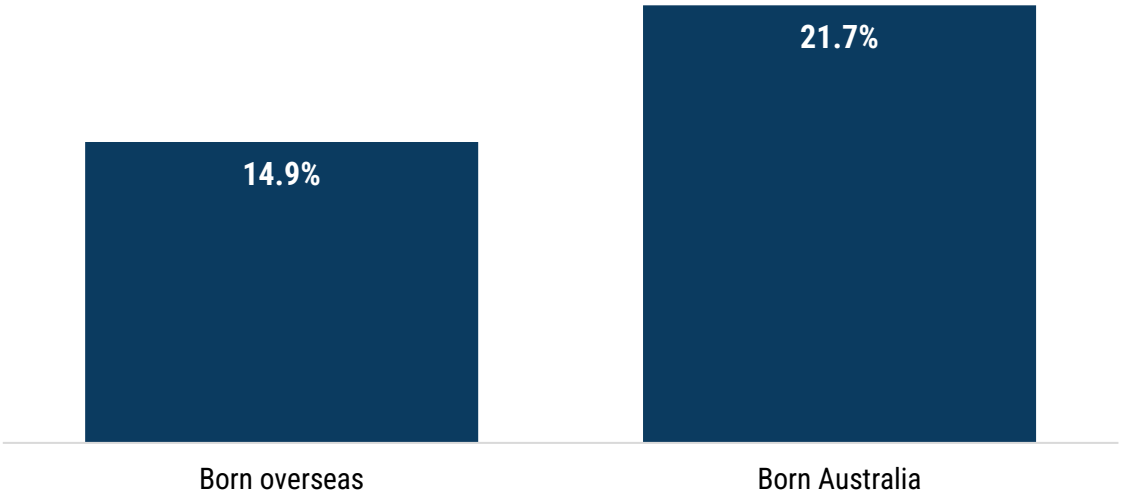
Labour force status

Figure 8: For labour force status, the largest difference between Australian born Boroondara residents and those born overseas is that overseas born residents are more likely to not be in the labour force.



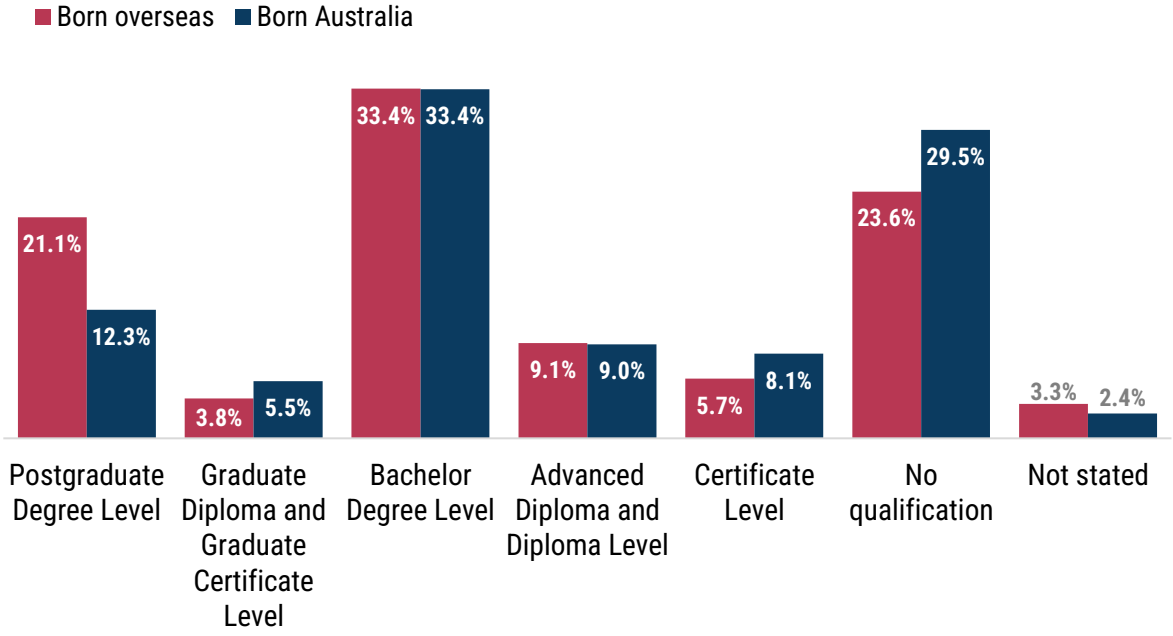
Volunteering

Figure 9: Boroondara residents who were born overseas were less likely than Australian born residents to volunteer through an organisation or group.



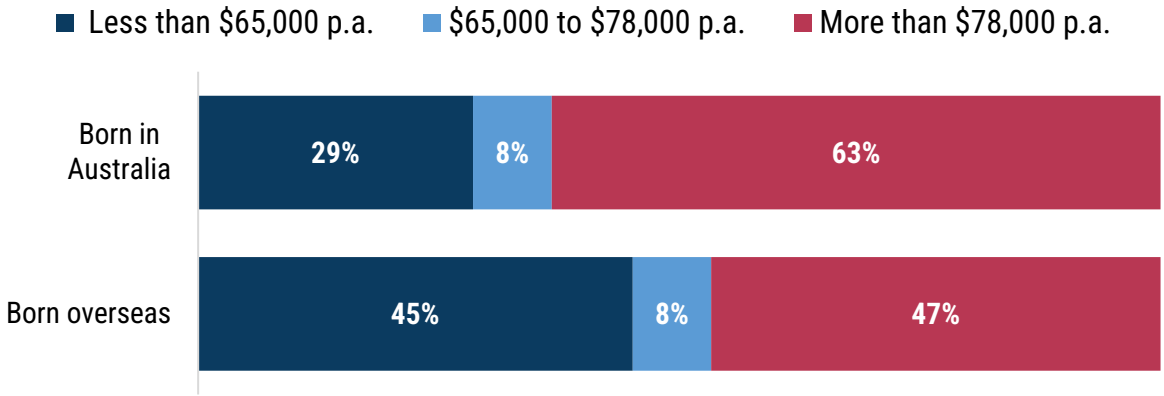
Education

Figure 10: For education, the largest difference between Australian born Boroondara residents and those born overseas is that overseas born residents are much more likely to hold a postgraduate degree and less likely to have no post-school qualification.



Income

Figure 11: Boroondara residents born overseas are less likely than those born in Australia to live in households up the higher end of the income scale.
Based on equivalised household income.



Boroondara residents who were born overseas were more likely than those born in Australia to live in a household with an equivalised household income less than $65,000 per annum and less likely to live in a household with an equivalised household income greater than $78,000. Equivalised income is adjusted to facilitate comparison of income levels between households of differing size and composition.

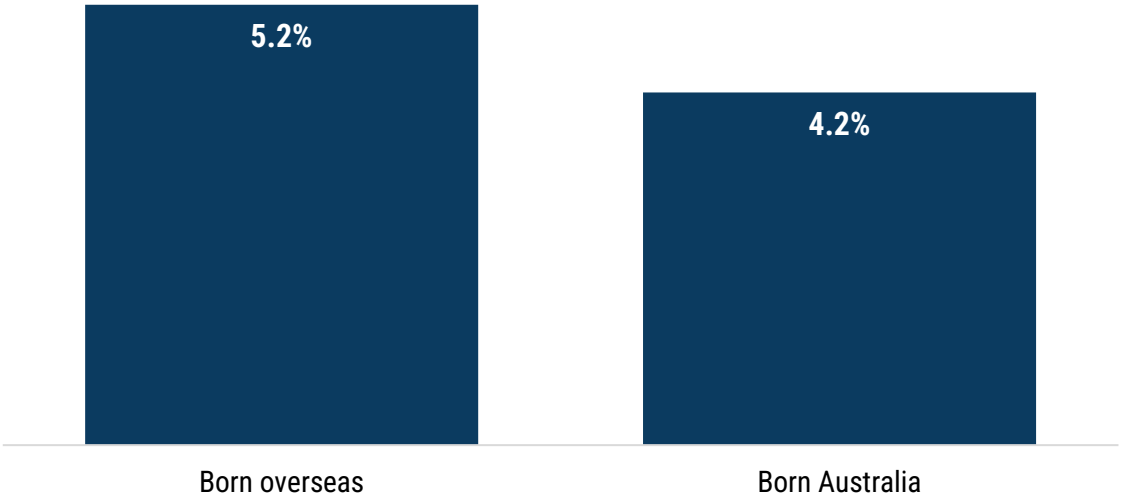
Reasons for this may include:

- Boroondara residents born overseas were less likely than those born in Australia to be in the labour force. At the 2021 Census, 30.7% of Boroondara residents born in Australia were not in the labour force (not working and not looking for work). The rate was 37% among Boroondara residents born overseas. Even among people 25 to 64, 13% Boroondara residents born in Australia were not in the labour force, compared to 20.2% of those born overseas. Among women aged 25 to 64, 16.1% Boroondara residents born in Australia were not in the labour force, compared to 25.7% of those born overseas.
- Boroondara residents born overseas were more likely than those born in Australia to be unemployed. At the 2021 Census, 4% of Boroondara residents born in Australia who were in the labour force (working or looking for work) were looking for work. The rate was 5% among Boroondara residents born overseas.

The large number of international students attracted to Boroondara by Swinburne University would also typically be a reason for lower household incomes of Boroondara residents who were born overseas, however the 2021 Census was conducted around 18 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, substantially impacting international student numbers.

Need for assistance

Figure 12: Boroondara residents who were born overseas were slightly more likely than Australian born residents to need assistance with self-care, communication or mobility.



The slightly higher rate of need for assistance among overseas born Boroondara residents is probably linked to their age profile. Rates of disability increase with age and Boroondara's overseas born population has a higher median age than its Australian born population.

Health conditions

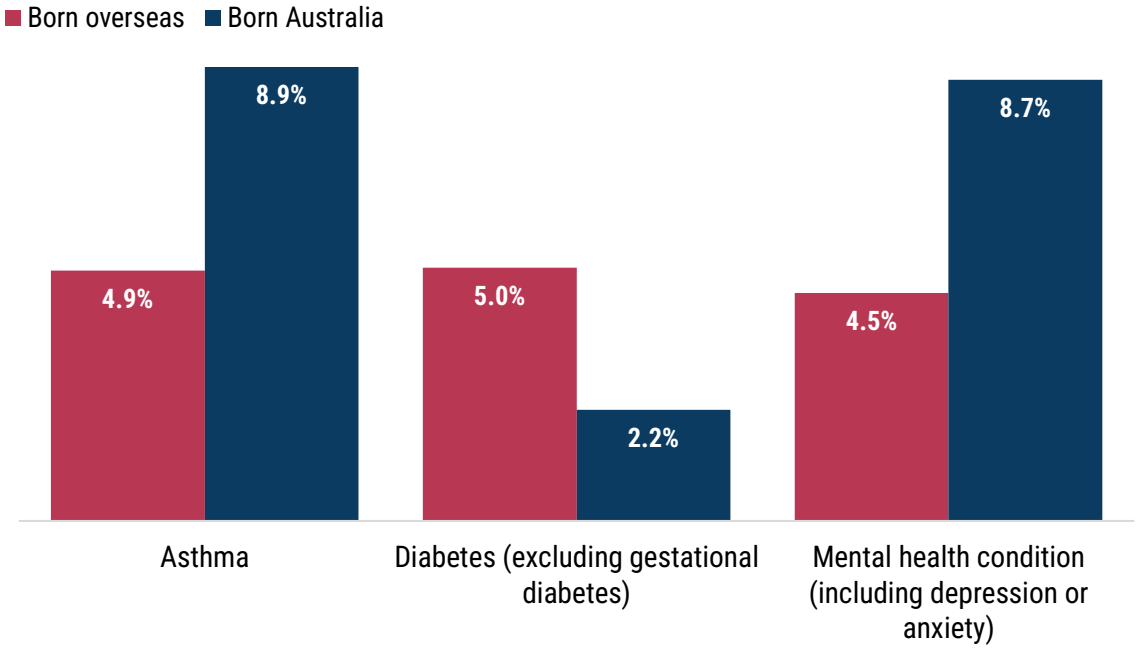
The 2021 Census included questions about 10 specific health conditions. The difference in reported rates between residents born overseas and those born in Australia residents was greater than one percentage point for only three:

- **Type 2 diabetes** risk increases with age, so the age profile difference may explain some of the identified difference in these conditions.

- Environmental factors may play a role in why rates of **asthma** are higher among Boroondara residents born in Australia than those born overseas. This pattern has also emerged in other recent research (for example AIHW 2023).

- Cultural factors may play a role in how **mental ill-health** is experienced and how likely a person is to seek help or report a diagnosed long-term mental health condition in the Census and may explain some of the identified difference in these conditions.

Figure 13: Boroondara residents who were born overseas were more likely than Australian born residents to report having been diagnosed with diabetes and less likely to report having asthma or a mental health condition.



Variations across Boroondara

While it is important to consider municipal wide data, at times it is helpful to consider more localised demographic data to ensure appropriate tailoring of initiatives. There is variation in the diversity of the population across Boroondara, as demonstrated in the following information.

Proportion born in China

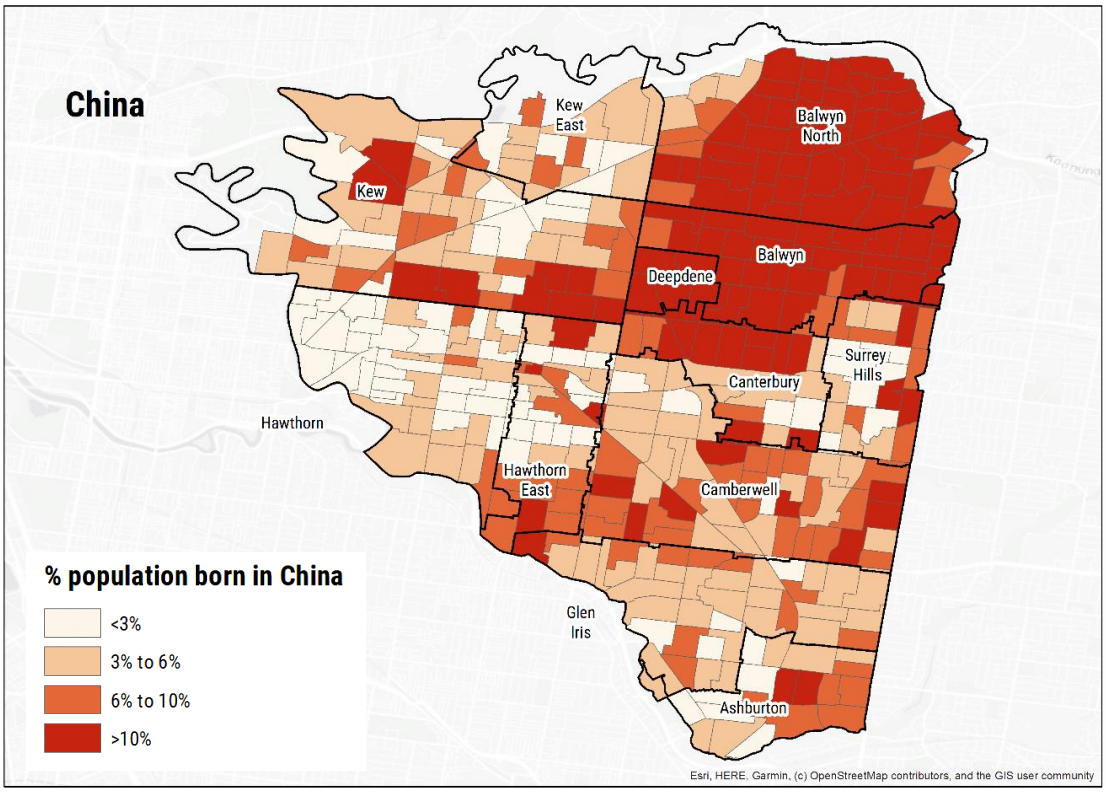
In 2021, 8% of the City of Boroondara's total population was born in China compared to 3.4% in Greater Melbourne.

Within Boroondara, proportions ranged from a low of 3.1% in Hawthorn to a high of 17.3% in Balwyn. The 5 suburbs with the highest percentages were:

- Balwyn (17.3%)
- Deepdene (15.4%)
- Balwyn North (14.5%)
- Canterbury (10.4%)
- Camberwell (7%).

Figure 14 shows the distribution in Boroondara of people who were born in China.

Figure 14: Boroondara neighbourhoods by the proportion of residents born in China.



Proportion born in the UK

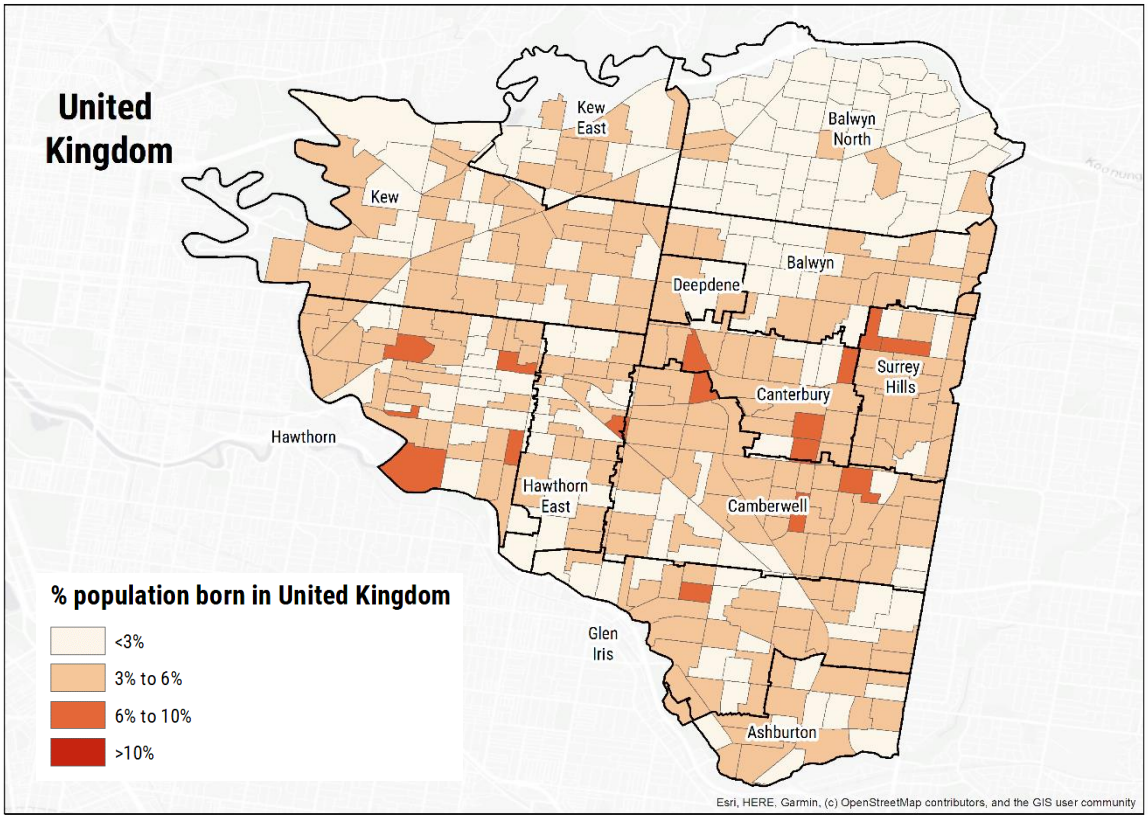
In 2021, 3.4% of the City of Boroondara's total population was born in United Kingdom compared to 3.3% in Greater Melbourne.

Within Boroondara, proportions ranged from a low of 2.1% in Balwyn North to a high of 4.3% in Surrey Hills. The five areas with the highest percentages were:

- Surrey Hills (4.3%)
- Canterbury (4.1%)
- Camberwell (4%)
- Glen Iris (3.6%)
- Hawthorn (3.6%).

Figure 15 shows the distribution throughout Boroondara of people who were born in the United Kingdom.

Figure 15: Boroondara neighbourhoods by the proportion of residents born in the United Kingdom.



Proportion born in India

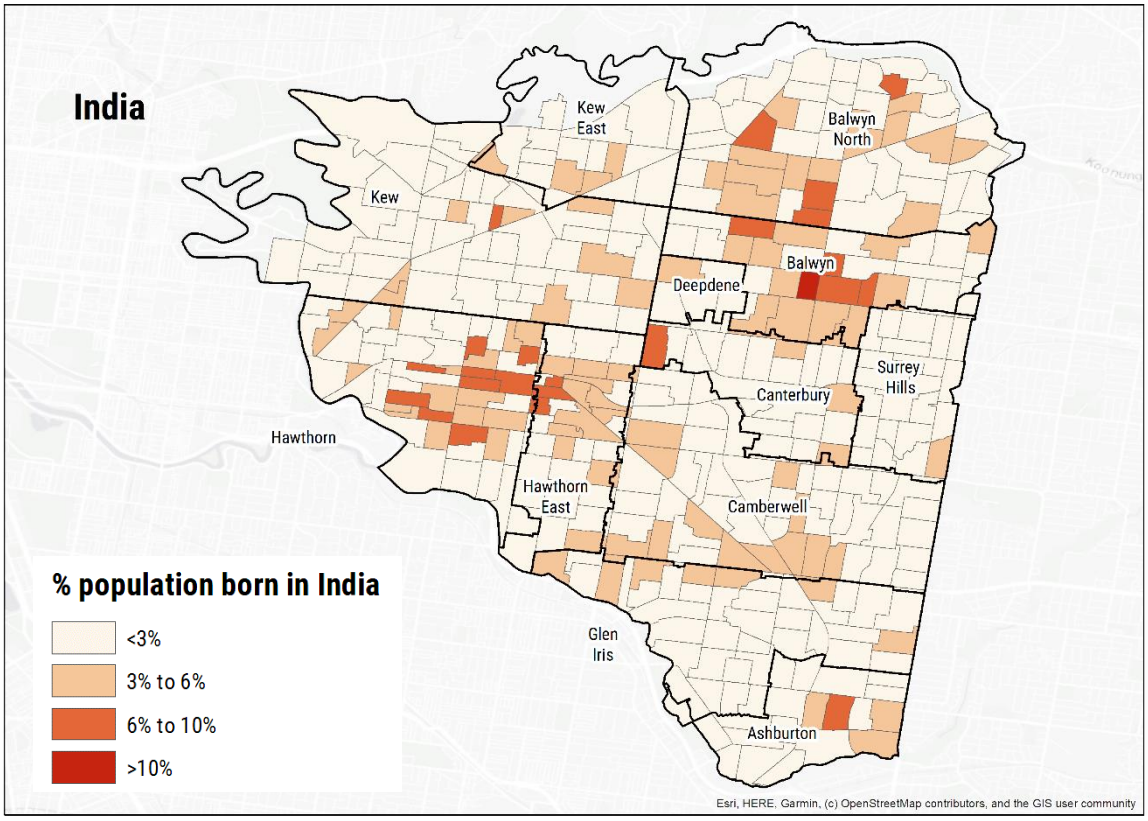
In 2021, 2.4% of the City of Boroondara's total population was born in India compared to 4.9% in Greater Melbourne.

Within Boroondara, proportions ranged from a low of 1.4% in Surrey Hills to a high of 3.6% in Balwyn. The five areas with the highest percentages were:

- Balwyn (3.6%)
- Hawthorn (3.5%)
- Hawthorn East (3%)
- Balwyn North (2.7%)
- Deepdene (2.2%).

Figure 16 shows the distribution throughout Boroondara of people who were born in India.

Figure 16: Boroondara neighbourhoods by the proportion of residents born in India.



Proportion born in Greece

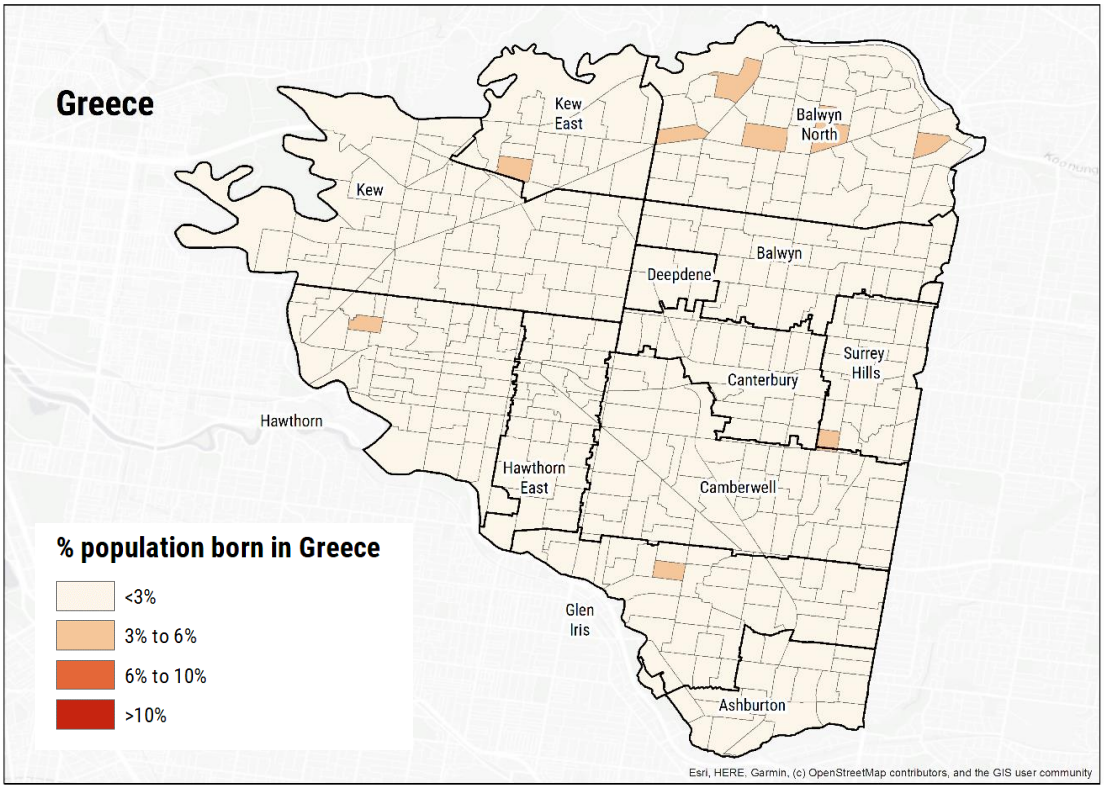
In 2021, 0.9% of the City of Boroondara's total population was born in Greece, which is the same as the proportion in Greater Melbourne.

Within Boroondara, proportions ranged from a low of 0.4% in Canterbury to a high of 1.7% in Balwyn North. The five areas with the highest percentages were:

- Balwyn North (1.7%)
- Kew East (1.6%)
- Balwyn (1%)
- Kew (1%)
- Camberwell (0.9%).

Figure 17 shows the distribution throughout Boroondara of people who were born in Greece.

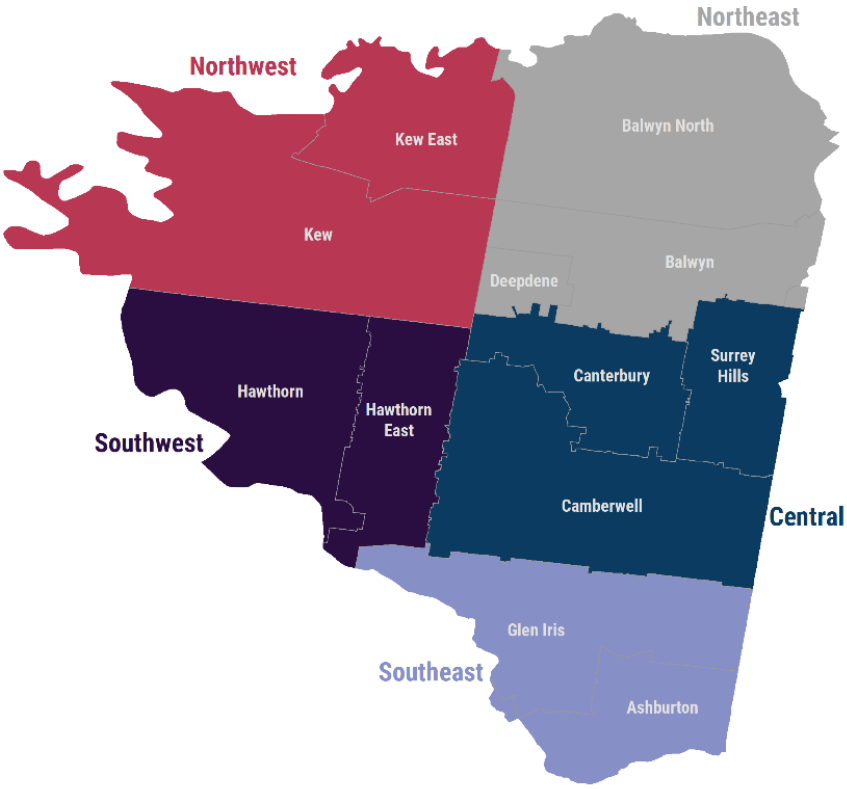
Figure 17: Boroondara neighbourhoods by the proportion of residents born in Greece.



Variation across the 5 planning precincts

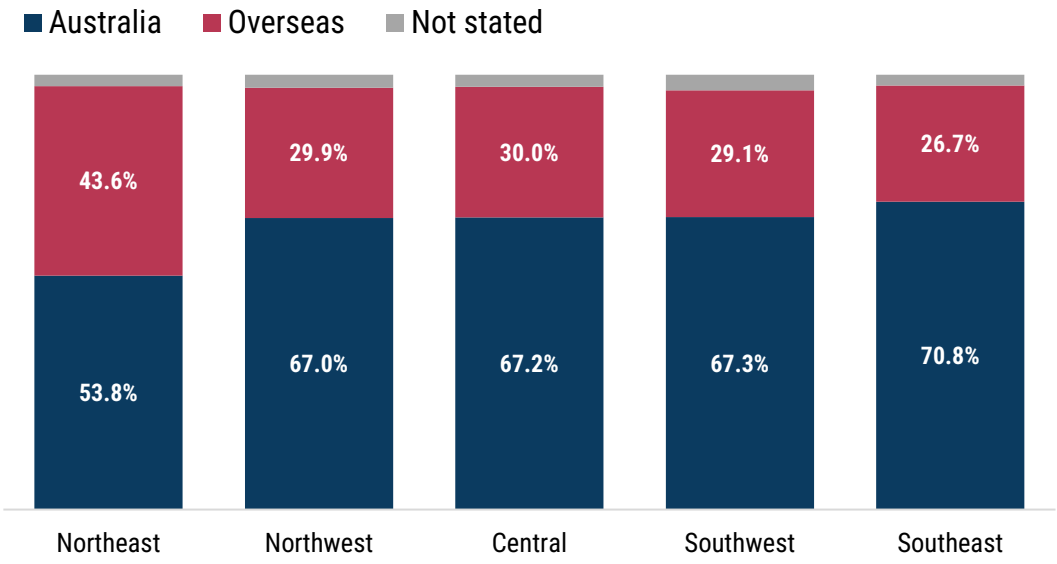
There are 5 planning precincts in Boroondara as shown in the map below. The following figures show select demographics by the five precincts.

Figure 18: Boroondara's five planning precincts.



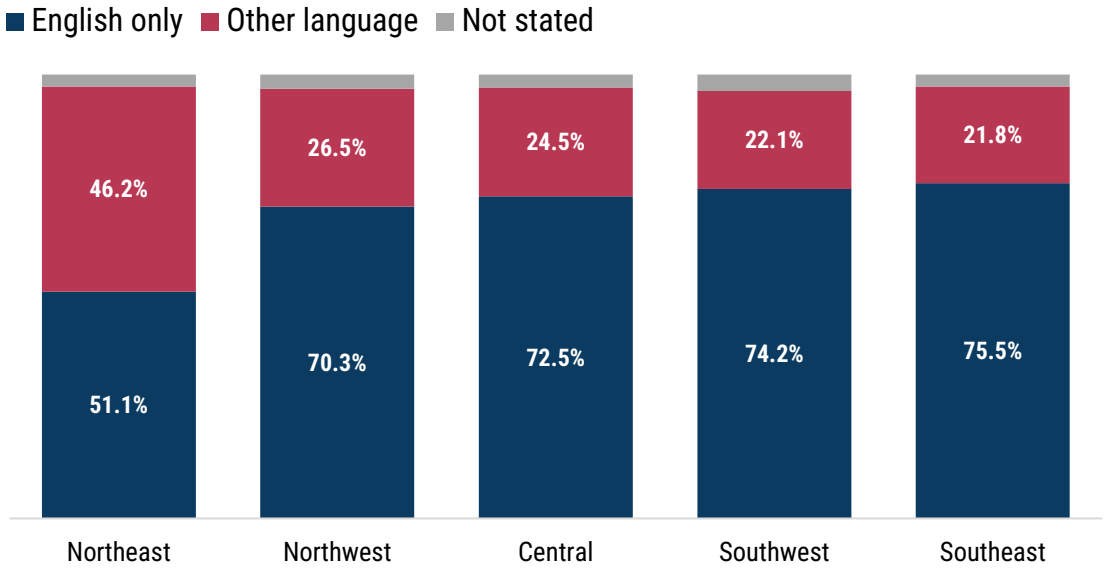
Percentage/number of people born overseas

Figure 19: The Northeast precinct (Balwyn, Balwyn North and Deepdene) has by far the greatest concentration of residents who were born overseas.



Percentage/number of people by language other than English at home

Figure 20: The Northeast precinct (Balwyn, Balwyn North and Deepdene) has by far the greatest concentration of residents who use a language other than English at home.



Percentage by limited proficiency in English

Figure 21: The Northeast precinct (Balwyn, Balwyn North and Deepdene) has the greatest concentration of residents who report limited proficiency in English.

