



South Sudanese Community

Officially known as the Republic of South Sudan, it is a landlocked country in East central Africa. South Sudan is bordered by Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. South Sudan is mostly covered in tropical forest, swamps, and grassland. The White Nile passes through the country, passing by the capital city of Juba.

POPULATION

7,699

Population in Australia

351

Population in City of Melton



DIASPORA

Victoria 35.7%
New South Wales 12.7%
Queensland 18.6%
South Australia 11.7%

Western Australia 15.6%
Tasmania 1.2%
Northern Territory 1.7%

ACCORDING TO THE 2016 CENSUS

AGE PROFILE

In the City of Melton, South Sudanese born residents are in the following age cohorts:

87

0 TO 19 YRS



66

20 TO 29 YRS



198

30 TO 69 YRS



0

70+ YRS



LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME



Dinka and Arabic



PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

86% of South Sudanese living in the City of Melton speak English very well or fluently

EDUCATION

9%

Bachelor or Higher degree

14%

Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level

20%

Certificate level



RELIGIONS (TOP 3)

52%

Catholic

28%

Anglican

1%

Presbyterian

ACCORDING TO THE 2016 CENSUS

EMPLOYMENT

The jobs held by the population born in South Sudan in City of Melton in 2016 shows:

57

EMPLOYED
worked full-time

37

EMPLOYED
worked part-time

30

UNEMPLOYED
looking for full-time work

17

UNEMPLOYED
looking for part-time work

159

Not in the labour force

INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT - TOP THREE

Education, training and health care



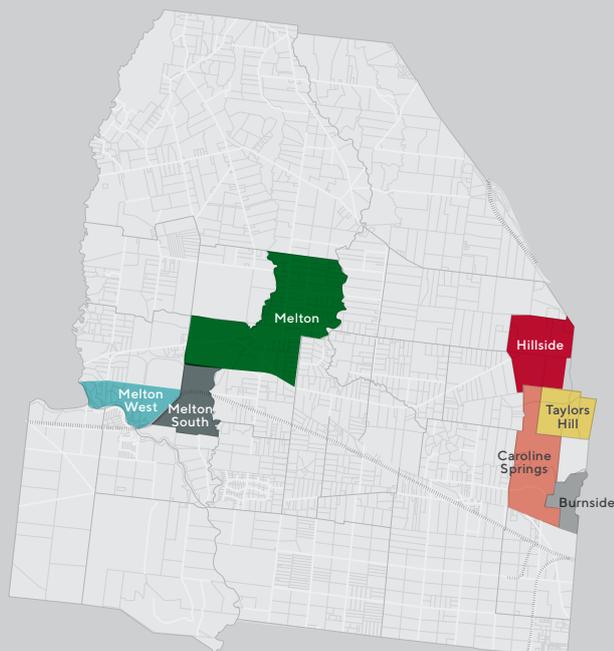
Transport, postal and warehousing



Manufacturing



SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE BORN IN SOUTH SUDAN



SOUTH SUDANESE CULTURE

Most South Sudanese people share a cultural connection based on their common practice of Christianity, and the experience of struggle and liberation from North Sudan. However, the South Sudanese tend to feel more cultural affiliation and loyalty to their tribal and ethnic groups. Despite its recent secession, the country continues to face serious civil unrest and endemic violence. The cultural lives of many South Sudanese have been deeply altered by the effects of conflict. Anecdotally we have heard from community leaders that there are more people of South Sudanese heritage residing in the City of Melton than officially recorded. It is estimated that the population has grown significantly since 2016.

KEY CONCEPTS OF SOUTH SUDANESE CULTURE

South Sudan is incredibly diverse with over 60 different ethnic groups. Traditionally the peoples and tribes of South Sudan are categorised under six distinct groupings. The majority of the South Sudanese population are defined as **Nilotic**, meaning their tribal origins trace back to the White Nile. Other groupings include Central **Sudanic**, **Nilo – Hamid**, **Bari-speaking**, **Zande** and **Anyuak** people. Each of these are defined by a host of ethnic, historical and linguistic factors.

Family is the most important aspect of life in South Sudan. “Family” can refer to an expansive kinship network, including the extended family and distant relatives, as well as the relatives of spouses that are married into the family. In this way, the organising principle of society is often based on a broad community of relationships rather than the nuclear family.

The privacy of the South Sudanese community can sometimes mean that some people do not speak up when

they are having difficulty. Individuals may accept unjust situations or challenging circumstances to avoid causing community gossip by raising their voice. Many are becoming more aware of their civil and workplace rights. However, some people may not report their mistreatment due to mistrust of the system, or fear that doing so will make their situation worse.

ETIQUETTE

- South Sudanese people tend to have a relaxed approach to time. To be late is normal and does not imply rudeness. Sometimes lateness is related to social status. Important people are expected to be late while everyone waits for them.
- Be sensitive to the experiences that South Sudanese refugees may have endured. There is a high incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder for those who have experienced war.
- South Sudanese people tend to answer personal questions in an indirect way to protect their privacy.
- Respect those who are older than you and give them your full attention.
- South Sudanese humour usually involves joking about situational circumstances and storytelling. It is often described as cheeky. However, it is generally understood that there is a time and place for it.

SOURCES

IES (2020). The Cultural Atlas. Retrieved from: <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/>
 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions).
 The State of Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Population Diversity in Victoria: 2016 Census, 2018.