



## Myanmar Community

Located in Southeast Asia, Myanmar shares its land borders with Thailand, China, Bangladesh, India and Laos. Myanmar contains a diverse set of landscapes, languages and cultures.

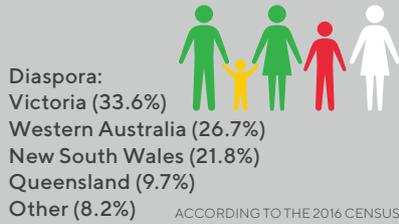
### POPULATION

**32,655**

Myanmar Born residents in Australia

**264**

Myanmar born residents live in the City of Melton



Between **2011 and 2019**, a more than twofold increase of people born in Myanmar, (from 86 in 2011 to 264 in 2019).

### AGE PROFILE

In the City of Melton, the Myanmar-born age profile:

**30%**

25 YRS AND UNDER



**50%**

25 TO 49 YRS

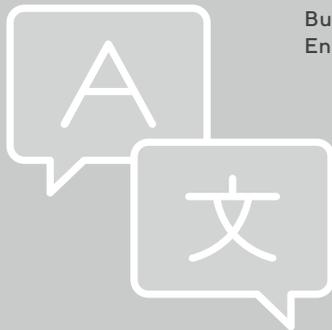


**20%**

50 TO 64 YRS



### LANGUAGES



Burmese, Karen, China Hak, English, Other languages



### EDUCATION

Most have only School Education, only a small proportion have Certificate level education.



### RELIGIONS

ACCORDING TO THE 2000 CENSUS

**61%** Baptist

**5%** Buddhism

**4%** Islam

### EMPLOYMENT

Most are employed and work full-time as Technicians and Trades Workers and Labourers,.



**Small proportion**  
Managers

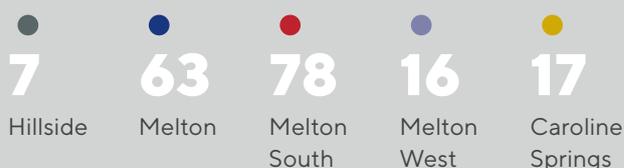
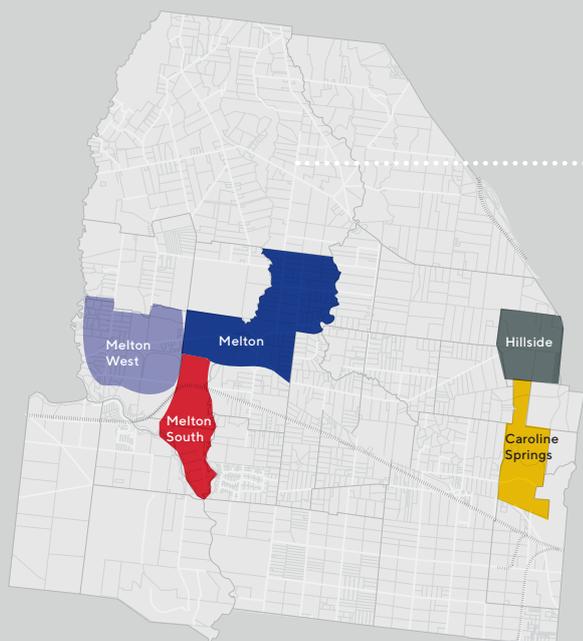


**Industry of Employment**  
Manufacturing, construction and retail



**Low proportion**  
Volunteering

## MYANMAR-BORN PERSONS IN CITY OF MELTON, 2016



### BURMESE CULTURE

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is one of the largest countries in Southeast Asia. The majority of the population are Bamar Buddhists; however, there is an incredible cultural variety. This diversity is especially visible in the Burmese migrant populations across the globe. Despite varying traditions and customs across different ethnic and religious backgrounds, there are some values that can be attributed to most people in the country. The Burmese are typically gentle, considerate, good-humoured and patient people. They appear to have a lot of gratitude for their situation, as well as hope for the future. This aspect of the Burmese character is particularly commendable when considering that the country continues to endure one of the world's longest-running conflicts.

#### Core concepts of Burmese culture

**Family** – Family is extremely important to life in Myanmar. However, it's important to recognise that the Burmese notion of 'family' extends well beyond the nuclear family to the extended-family. Myanmar families are perceived to have a collective reputation or face. The act of an individual can impact the perception of the entire family by others and the interests of the family supersede those of the individual.

**Consideration for others (Ah-nar-de)** – The Burmese are constantly mindful of whether their actions could offend, embarrass or inconvenience other people. This is related to the concept of 'ah-nar-de' – the feeling of not having the heart to say or do something that might affect another person's feelings. Ah-nar-de represents the unwillingness of many Burmese to assert themselves or interfere with other people's affairs. This concept underpins the expectations of social etiquette and interaction.

**Modesty and Face** – People from Myanmar tend to maintain a modest and calm disposition. This is partly due to the concept of face. Face indicates a person's reputation, dignity and honour. By complimenting people, showing them respect or doing something to increase their self-esteem, you give them face. Similarly, people can lose face by being criticised or behaving in a way that is considered socially inappropriate. Therefore, the Burmese generally communicate quite indirectly and maintain a modest demeanour to protect their self-worth and peer perception.

#### ETIQUETTE

- Refer to people by their chosen identity. Many from ethnic minorities may not actually want to be referred to as 'Burmese' and will prefer to use their ethnic identity, e.g. Karen, Chin, Rohingya.
- Dress modestly with your shoulders, chest and upper thigh covered.
- Avoid being openly critical or pointing out mistakes.
- It is rude to eat something without offering it to anyone else present first. Furthermore, if you are eating in view of others, it is a customary gesture to ask anyone around you if they would like some.
- Be sure to thank your host dearly at the end of a visit.

#### SOURCES

Census of Population and Housing, 2016, TableBuilder

The State of Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Population Diversity in Victoria: 2016 Census, 2018.

SBS Cultural Atlas

