



Samoa Community

Pacific Islanders, or Pasifika are inhabitants or diaspora of the Pacific Islands; including the three major sub regions of Oceania (Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia). In 2016 in the City of Melton there were just under 1,200 residents who were born in Melanesia and Polynesia. Residents born in Fiji and Samoa accounted for more than 80 percent of the total population.

POPULATION

24,0176

Samoa born residents in Australia

498

Samoa born residents in City of Melton

1,285

Resident with Samoa ancestry in City of Melton

Diaspora: Victoria (25.8%), New South Wales (37.6%), Queensland (32.5%), Western Australia (2.2%), Other (1.6%)

ACCORDING TO THE 2016 CENSUS



AGE PROFILE

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

31%
0 TO 19 YRS



14%
20 TO 29 YRS



50%
30 TO 69 YRS



5%
70+ YRS



LANGUAGES



Samoa, English and Tokelaua



XX%

of Samoa's living in the City of Melton speak English fluently at home

EDUCATION

3.6%

Bachelor or Higher degree

10.7%

Advanced Diploma or Diploma

22.3%

Vocational

53.7%

No qualification

10%

Not stated



RELIGIONS

23.1%
Catholic Christianity



17.9%
Christian (not defined)



19.3%
Church of latter-day Saints



4.8%
Pentecostal Christianity



26%
Other religion

8.9%
Not Stated

ACCORDING TO THE 2000 CENSUS

EMPLOYMENT

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



25%

Professionals



5%

Managers



11%

Technicians and personal Service workers



22%

Machinery operators and drivers



16%

Labourers



13%

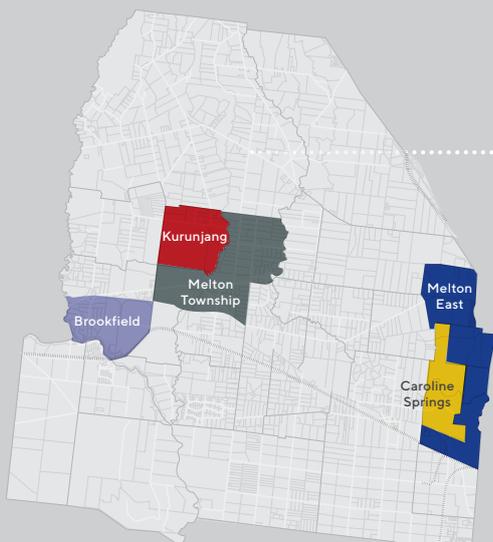
Community and personal Service workers



5%

Sales Workers

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE BORN IN SAMOA



SAMOAN CULTURE

The term *'fa'a Samoa'* translates into English as 'the Samoan Way'. *Fa'a Samoa* refers to a complex cultural code that guides and teaches individuals on how to lead their life. Samoan culture is governed by various protocols and etiquette, all in accordance with core values within *fa'a Samoa* such as family, language, the environment, genealogy, the arts (including tattooing) and political and social structures.

Key concepts of Samoan culture

Family is one of the most important and prominent qualities in Samoan Culture. It is believed that each person is a representative of their family and thus should act in such a way that honours all family members. Each is expected to contribute to the family's cumulative success. Much emphasis is placed on one's willingness to share and cooperate with those around them.

Genealogies and legends are often passed down and elaborated through the generations. The sharing of one's ancestry is important to many, as Samoans often perceive their identity through their family and genealogies.

Samoan society is based on a **collectivist** system and governance known as *'fa'a Matai'*. This system, society is organised by extended families (*aiga*), with each family having its own *'Matai'* ('chief' or 'leader') titles that are connected to certain districts, villages and plots of family land. Individuals in the *aiga* are expected to be generous with their possessions and prioritise the interests of the group or community over their own.

Traditionally, a **Tatau** (Tattoo) was a symbol of one's status and social rank as well as a rite of passage from adolescence to adulthood. Typically, it was only *Matai* who would possess a *tatau*. While these meanings continue today, tattooing is also often seen in contemporary Samoan society as a sign of dedication and pride towards one's family, regardless of their status in society.

Respect, known in Samoan as *'fa'aaloalo'* is highly valued. The importance of *fa'aaloalo* is evident in a number of ways. For example, youth are expected to refer to elders and those of higher status. Another example is *gagana fa'aaloalo*, which refers to special vocabulary that is used when speaking respectfully, particularly when addressing a *Matai*.

ETIQUETTE

- Samoans tend to have a relaxed view of time and may refer jokingly to things running on "Island time" when it comes to social situations. In a business setting or an appointment of importance, punctuality is highly valued.
- Communication is exceedingly polite and formal. In attempts to avoid offending others or coming across as too harsh, Samoans tend to be vague and will go around a point when conversing. However, depending on the context, they can be pointedly direct.
- The amount of physical contact that is appropriate during conversations depends on the relationship. Generally, Samoans are modest and will limit the amount of physical contact.
- Take care when offering compliments to your Samoan counterpart. They may feel obliged to give you the object you are appreciating. There is a Samoan proverb, which indicates that a person offers compliments because they want the object ("*o isi e momo'o*" translates as "to praise is to beg").

Sources

IES (2020). *The Cultural Atlas*. Retrieved from: <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/>
Census of Population and Housing, 2016, TableBuilder

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

Home | City of Melton | Community Profile, Aug. 2020, profile.id.com.au/melton.