



Iraqi Community

Iraq is a Middle Eastern country bordering Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria. Iraq contains a diverse set of landscapes ranging from the arid desert of the Euphrates, a broad central valley between the Euphrates and the Tigris, and mountains in the northeast. The capital of Iraq is Baghdad.

POPULATION

67,352

Population in Australia

356

Population in Melton
(ancestry 211)

DIASPORA

Victoria 27.7%
New South Wales 59.8%
Queensland 4.2%
Western Australia 5.1%



AGE PROFILE

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

21%
0 TO 19 YRS



23%
20 TO 29 YRS



55%
30 TO 69 YRS



0.2%
70+ YRS



LANGUAGES



Arabic **34%**

Kurdish **0.5%**



Turkmen **0%**

Assyrian **41%**

EDUCATION

12% Bachelor or Higher degree

9% Advanced Diploma or Diploma

10% Vocational qualifications



RELIGIONS

11%

Islam



39%

Christian



12%

Assyrian
Apostolic

8%

Shi'a

na

Sunni

ETHNICITIES (ANCESTRIES)

Arab • Kurdish • Turkoman •
Assyrian • Other

EMPLOYMENT

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

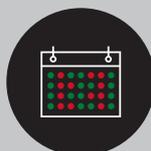
24%

Full time



12%

Part time

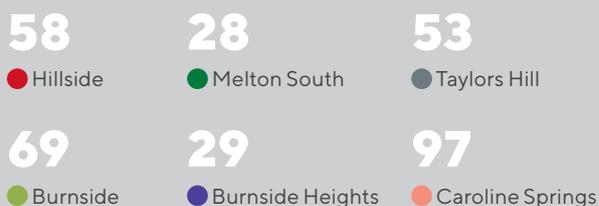
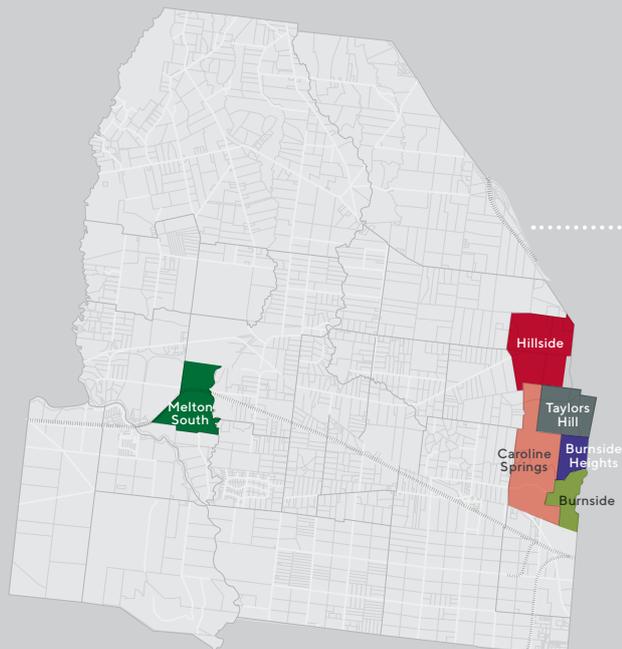


5%

Unemployed



SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE BORN IN IRAQ



IRAQI CULTURE

Iraq is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the Middle East. Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Assyrians, Mandaeans, and Armenians, among others, speak their own languages and retain their cultural and religious identities. Despite the political hardships, literary and artistic pursuits flourish, especially in Bagdad. Iraq is a Muslim nation and as a result Islamic holidays such as Newroz, Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (Feast of sacrifice) are celebrated.

KEY CONCEPTS OF IRAQI CULTURE

Iraq is considered a **collectivist** society. Individuals often perceive themselves to be members of a 'group', be that a family, extended family, or extended relationships. These groups often demand a high degree of loyalty and in return individuals gain a sense of belonging, protection and unity.

In Iraq, there are cultural pressures on individuals to conceal and deny anything that could tarnish their **honour**. Any admission of error or failure brings shame and loss of face on a person (and their family). Therefore, to prevent such indignity in Iraq, criticism is rarely given directly and praise is expected to be generously offered. People tend to take great pride in helping others.

Iraqi culture is rather intolerant of any diversion from traditional conventions and behaviours. It is a fundamentally conservative society where innovation is usually resisted and rules are expected to be followed diligently. Behaviour and public decorum are restrained and strictly governed in accordance to Islamic values. People can expect to suffer serious consequences from divergences and, therefore, society tends to approach self-indulgences with trepidation.

ETIQUETTE

- It is important to respect the age hierarchy. Stand up when someone older than you enters the room and offer them your seat if there are none available.
- It is common for Iraqis to be late. Punctuality is not highly important in Iraq and unpredictable incidents can disrupt daily schedules. Events and appointments also often run overtime as people usually try to give each other as much attention and respect as possible.
- Show an Iraqi respect by dressing modestly and remaining sensitive and polite. However, it is okay to be informal and relaxed. Doing so is likely to make an Iraqi feel well-received and more comfortable around you.
- Offer sympathy to their situation/the state of Iraq if the conversation arises. Acknowledgement of the difficulties endured are likely to be deeply appreciated.
- Be aware that some people belonging to minority groups may prefer to identify by their ethnicity rather than their country of birth.

SOURCES

IES (2020). The Cultural Atlas. Retrieved from: <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/>
 Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2018, Victorian Community Profiles: 2016 Census, Iraq-born.
 The State of Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Population Diversity in Victoria: 2016 Census, 2018.