

# FACT SHEET

## MIDDLE EAST



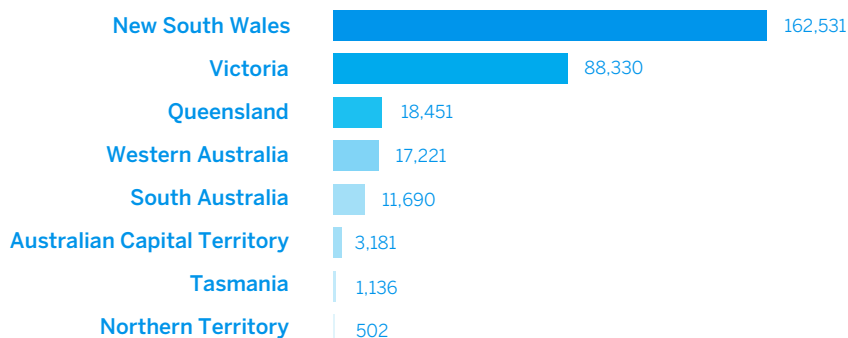
### SNAPSHOT POPULATION FIGURES:

Against Australia's total population of 23,401,891 people (2016 Census), approximately 303,093 people (1.3%) of Australia's population identified as being born in the Middle East.

### VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated Population born in Middle East (By State) **303,093**

**54%** identified as living in NSW



47%  
Median Age 41



53%  
Median Age 40

### LANGUAGE ISSUES BY REGION

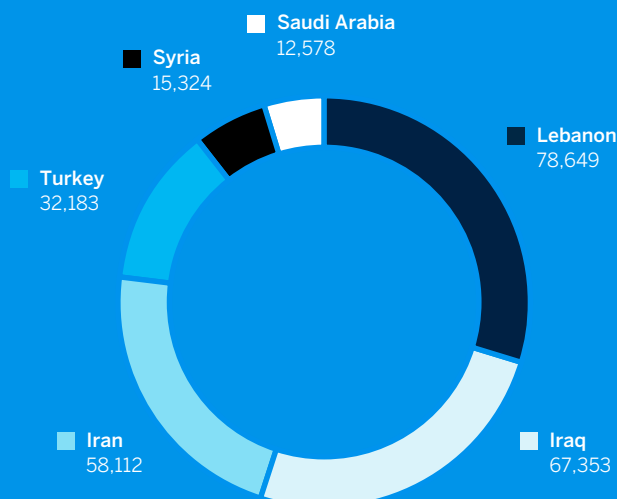
The top 5 languages spoken at home by those born in the Middle East are Arabic, Persian, English, Turkish and Assyrian/Chaldean.

Arabic is widely spoken in the following countries including Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, and Kuwait; while Turkish is widely spoken in Turkey.

### KEY TAKEOUT – WRITTEN VS. SPOKEN LANGUAGE

According to 2016 Australian Census data there are **140,545** people born in the Middle East who speak Arabic (**46%**).

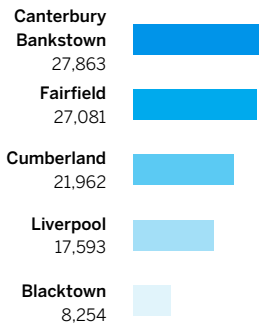
### COUNTRIES OF BIRTH



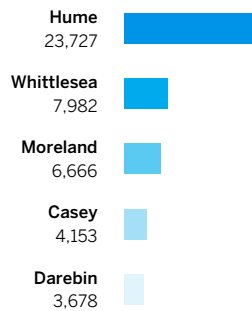
# TOP 5 MAJOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA BY STATE/TERRITORY\*

\*Australian Capital Territory: Top 5 major residential suburbs in the ACT include Belconnen, Bruce, Gungahlin, Franklin, and Harrison.

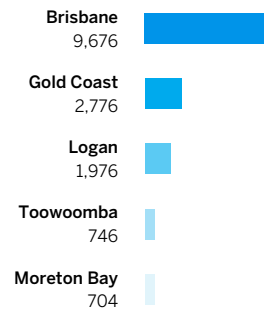
## New South Wales



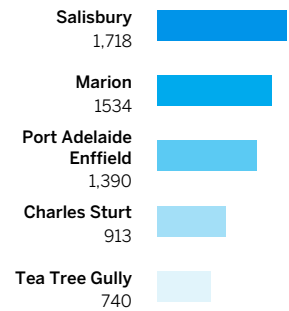
## Victoria



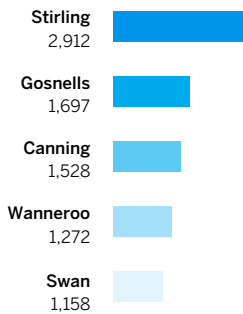
## Queensland



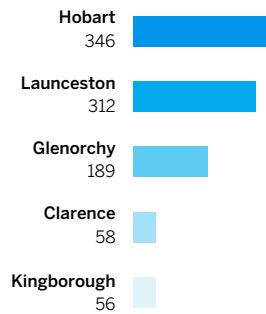
## South Australia



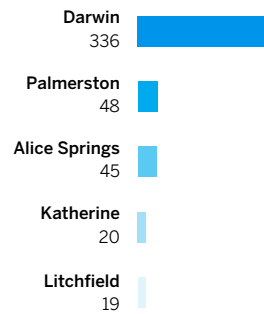
## Western Australia



## Tasmania



## Northern Territory



## VALUES AND PASSION POINTS

### Cultural Opportunities (Festivals/National Days)

#### Muslim Festivals

- ☞ Ramadan: the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Muslims fast for 29-30 days to recognise this event.
- ☞ Eid-ul-Fitr: the end of Ramadan.
- ☞ Eid-ul-Adha: the twelfth month of the Islamic lunar calendar signifying completion of the Haj and Abraham's sacrifice of a sheep.

#### Christian Festivals

- ☞ Good Friday (Varies each year)
- ☞ Easter (Varies each year)
- ☞ Christmas (25th of December)

#### Community Events

- ☞ Multicultural Eid-Adha Carnival – September (WA)
- ☞ Multicultural Eid Festival and Fair – October (NSW)

### Clothing

#### Some Muslim women may wear one or more of the following clothing:

- ☞ Hijab: headscarf
- ☞ Niqab: face veil
- ☞ Burqa: garment that covers the whole body
- ☞ Chador: full-length semicircle of fabric, which is thrown over the head. It has no hand openings or closures but is held shut by the hands or by wrapping the ends around the waist.

### Key Mannerisms

- ☞ Handshakes are the typical form of physical greeting. It is recommended that you wait for the other person to withdraw his/her hand before you do.
- ☞ Muslim men or women may prefer not to make physical contact with members of the opposite gender. If unsure, greet the other person verbally and wait for them to initiate a handshake.
- ☞ Hospitality is a key aspect of culture in the Middle East.
- ☞ Act respectfully and politely around community elders and leaders (age status)

### Key Community Structures

- ☞ Arab Council Australia
- ☞ Australian Federation of Islamic Councils
- ☞ Lebanese Community Council
- ☞ Muslim Women's Association
- ☞ NSW Council of Turkish Associations

### Passion Points

- ☞ Movies and TV
- ☞ Sport
- ☞ Family

### Participation in Sports and Physical Activity

- ☞ According to the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics General Social Survey (GSS) overall participation rate of people born in North East Asia region trend towards nonorganised sport or physical activity (87.8%) compared to organised sport or physical activity (17.2%).

### Key Media Presence & Media Consumption

- ☞ Print (Arabic): Future Australia, El Telegraph, An Nahar, Al Anwar, The Middle East Times and Middle East Herald.
- ☞ Radio (Arabic): SBS Arabic 24, SBS PopAraby, 2MORO, 2ME, 3ZZZ