



IRAQIS in AUSTRALIA*

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*** The statistics used in this document were extracted from 2006 Census of Population and Housing / Australian Bureau of Statistics.**

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1. Introduction:

This document is based on demographic statistics derived from 2006 Census of Population and Housing / Australian Bureau of Statistics. It is compiled by Australian Iraqi Forum (AIF) to assist government and non government organizations in their valuable work and efforts with the Iraqi community in Australia.

Australian Iraqi Forum is an independent, non- profit organization for Australians of Iraqi origin, regardless of their ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds and their political affiliations. It is an educational, cultural and technological organization dedicated to fostering better understanding between the Iraqi and Australian communities by promoting informed discussions of critical issues concerning Iraq and Australia.

The objectives of the organization are as follows:

- Establishing channels of collaboration with Iraqi government and non government organizations,
- Promote understanding of Iraq's history, culture, society and areas of excellence,
- Encourage cultural, social and scientific activities that generate benefit to Australia and Iraq,
- Assist and contribute to the development of the Australian Iraqi community to reach its potential in building a multicultural Australia,
- Develop a strategic partnership with Australian based cultural organizations,
- Support and work collaboratively with individuals and organizations within the Australian Iraqi community.

2. Overview:

Demographic characteristics of the Iraqi Community in Australia are diverse. According to the 2006 Census Iraqis are mainly concentrated in New South Wales and Victoria, where their first immigrants settled. While there are appreciably fewer Iraqis in Western Australia, their numbers in Tasmania, Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territories are minimal.

The age structure (table 2) indicates that the percentage of population aged less than 15 years is 10.3%. Iraqis between age 15 and 64 constitute 83.7% of the community. The percentage of people aged 65 and above is 5.9%.

The age structure of population usually provides key insights into the level of demand for services and facilities, most of which are age- specific.

Data on gender shows that there are more males 52.5% than females 47.49% in the community. This is due to the greater number of male migrants who had first arrived.

As for religious affiliation, the number of Christians is more than double that of Muslims; perhaps a result of the much earlier arrival of Christian emigrants.

Languages spoken at home are mainly Arabic and Assyrian.

The 2006 Census data reveals that among the economically active population (15-65 years) only 33.07% is employed. While most of those employed hold a profession or are educated, a smaller number have limited education and work as labourers in different economic activities. However, this percentage does not include casual workers and people who work in the informal sector.

Demographic Statistics of Persons born in Iraq by State Usual Residence Census Night*

Table 1 Gender

State of Usual Residence Census Night							
Gender	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia (a)	Total
Male	10,647	4,502	447	433	924	122	17,075
Female	9,886	4,113	276	332	755	83	15,445
Total	20,533	8,615	723	765	1,679	205	32,520

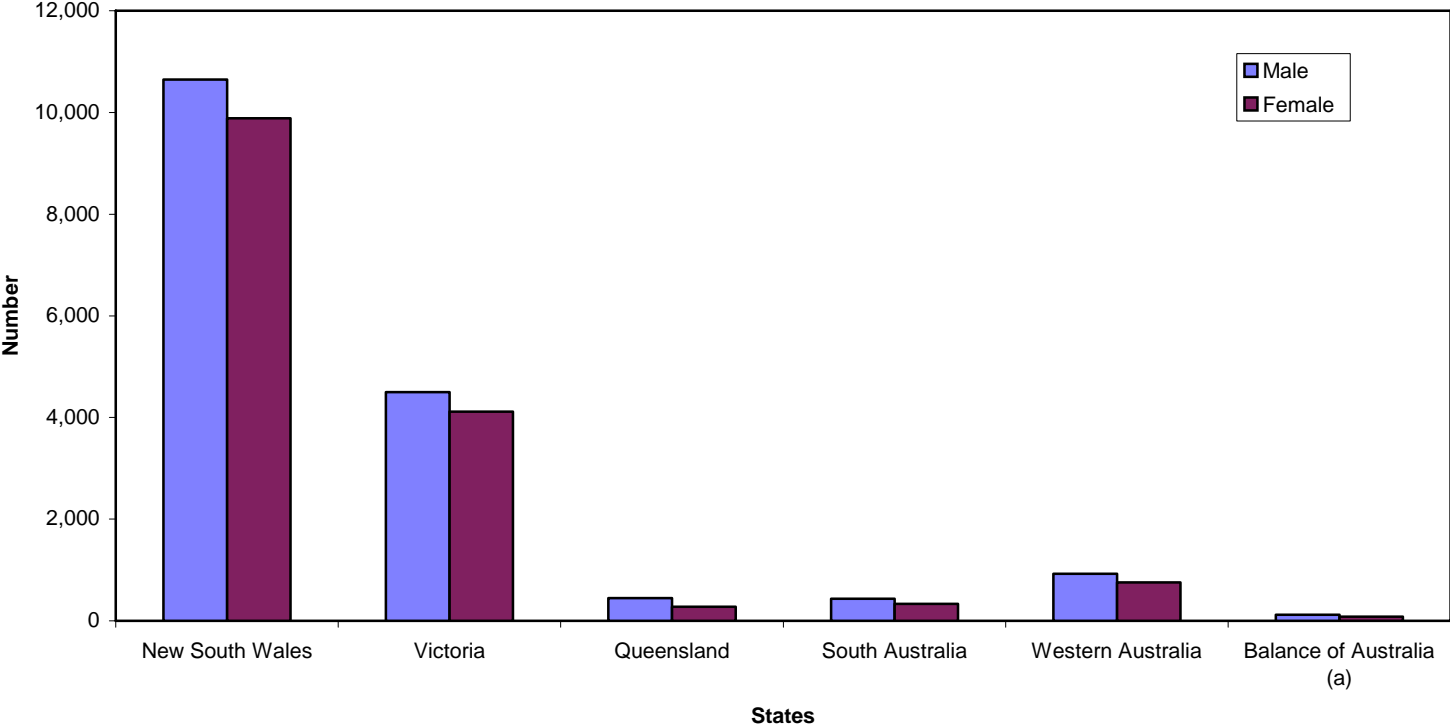


Figure 1 Gender

*Cells in all the tables have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. Totals are derived from randomised data and hence may differ slightly for each variable. N.B. The population for 'Education Level' is 18 and over at the time of the Census.

The population for each of the other variables is 'All Persons who were born in Iraq'.

(a) 'Balance of Australia' consists of Tasmania, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territories and other Territories.

Table 2 Age

State of Usual Residence Census Night							
Age group Years	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	Total
0-4	115	53	6	3	11	0	188
5-9	552	239	22	47	74	4	938
10-14	1,324	591	52	86	155	22	2,230
15-19	1,893	954	65	96	226	17	3,251
20-24	1,628	825	51	68	152	14	2,738
25-29	1,791	871	54	71	131	20	2,938
30-34	2,073	954	87	78	175	24	3,391
35-39	2,535	1,156	101	97	221	26	4,136
40-44	2,339	1,033	94	74	221	22	3,783
45-49	1,816	638	62	60	119	19	2,714
50-54	1,372	460	49	35	75	13	2,004
55-59	955	252	31	25	45	12	1,320
60-64	699	212	17	17	19	0	964
65-69	561	146	11	8	25	4	755
70-74	391	100	11	0	9	3	514
75 and over	489	131	10	0	21	5	656
Total	20,533	8,615	723	765	1,679	205	32,520

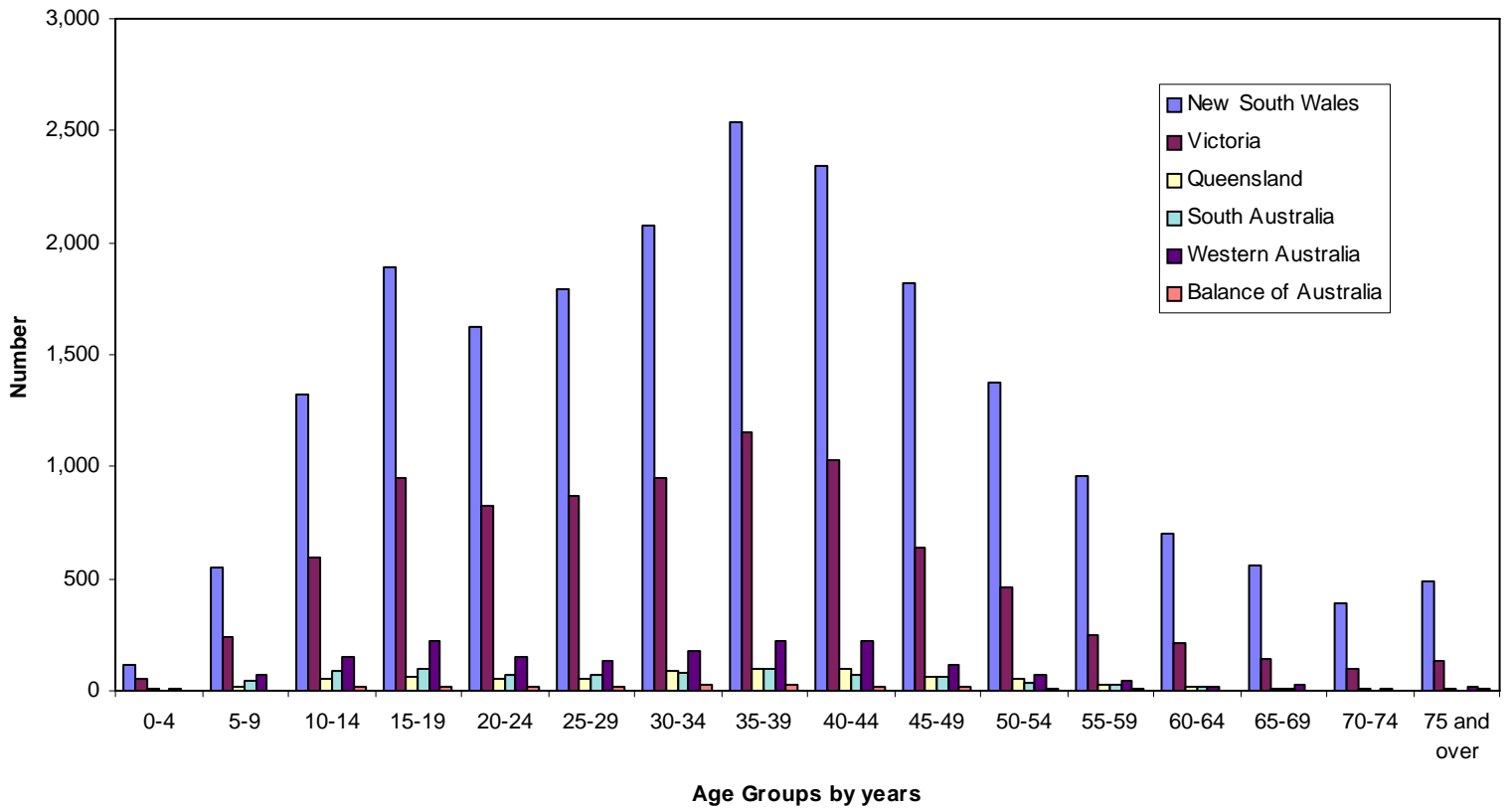


Figure 2 Age

Table 3 Religious Affiliation

Religious Affiliation	State of Usual Residence Census Night						Total
	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	
Buddhism	3	3	0	3	0	0	9
Christianity	13,261	5,936	253	69	117	54	19,690
Hinduism	3	3	0	0	3	0	9
Islam	5,103	2,346	397	598	1,465	127	10,036
Judaism	56	26	3	0	8	0	93
Other Religions	1,221	27	9	11	11	0	1,279
No Religion	251	66	30	37	25	16	425
Other Religious Affiliation	233	60	12	3	0	0	308
Not stated	402	149	21	44	49	6	671
Total	20,533	8,616	725	765	1,678	203	32,520

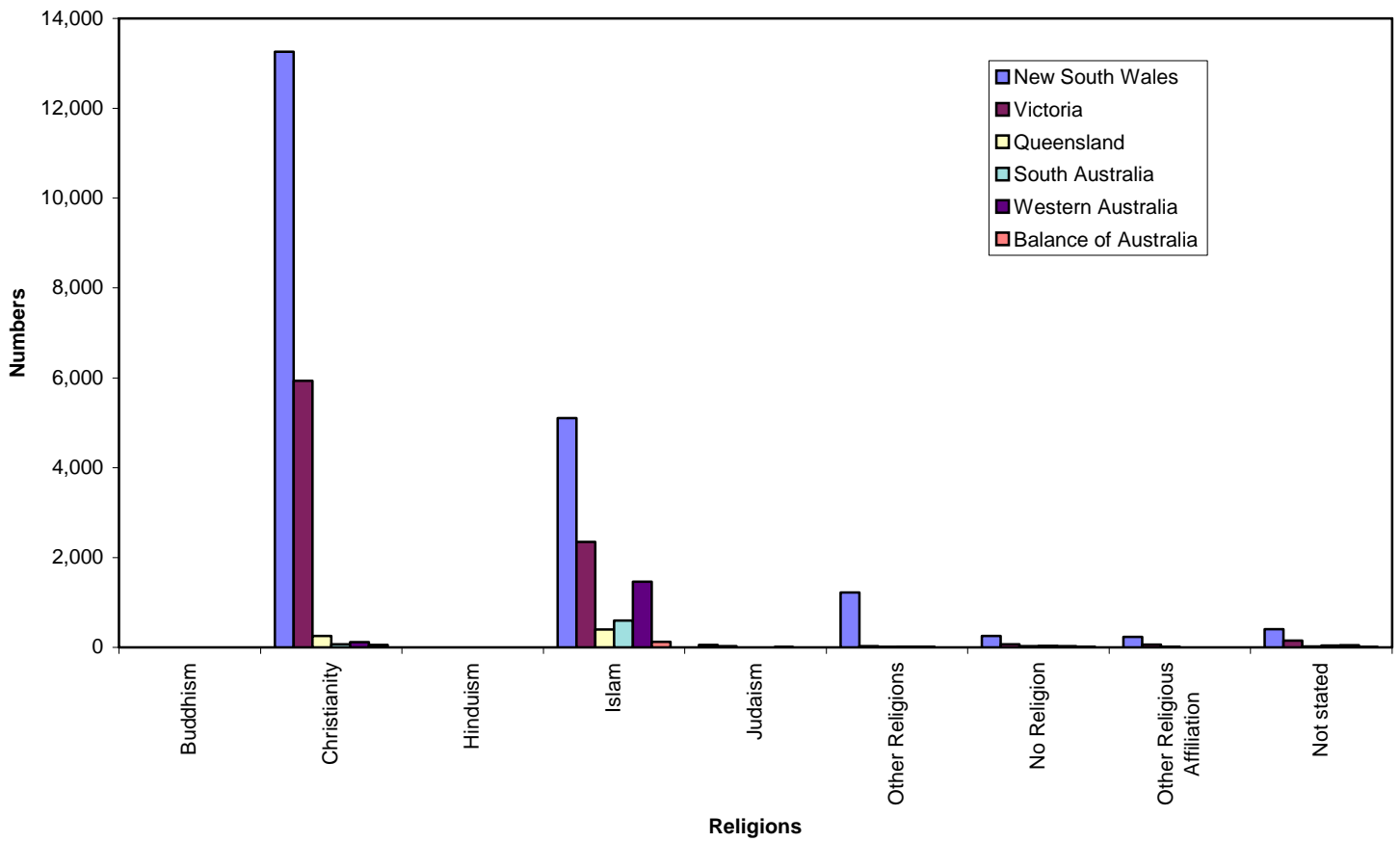


Figure 3 Religious Affiliation

Table 4 Language Spoken at Home

State of Usual Residence Census Night							
Language Spoken at Home	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	Total
Arabic (incl. Lebanese)	9,458	3,860	470	496	1,393	140	15,817
Assyrian (incl. Aramic)	8,593	3,939	54	12	30	13	12,641
Kurdish	747	189	61	136	107	8	1,248
Other languages	1,529	535	129	117	128	46	2,484
Non-verbal/ Inadequately described	29	17	3	0	8	0	57
Not stated	176	76	6	3	12	0	273
Total	20,532	8,616	723	764	1,678	207	32,520

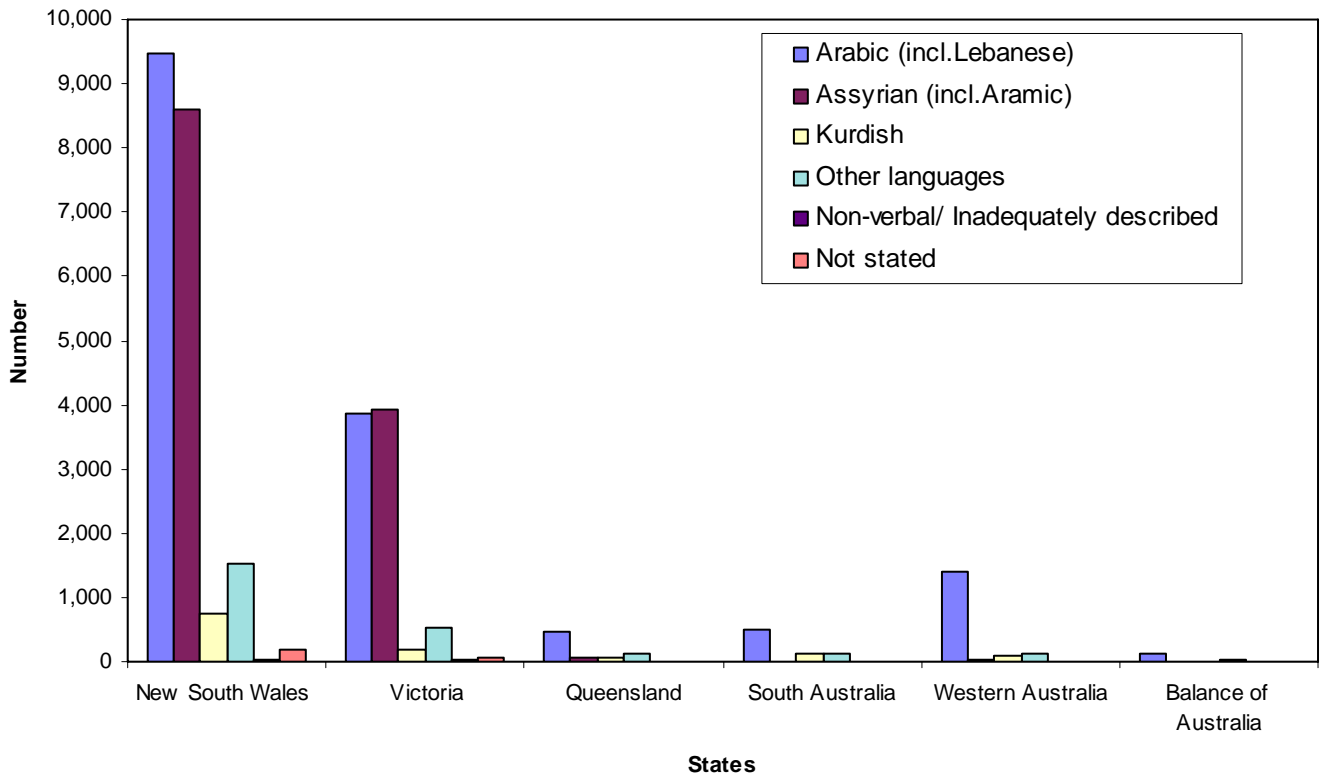


Figure 4 Language Spoken at Home

Table 5 Labour Force Status

Labour Force	State of Usual Residence Census Night						Total
	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	
Employed	5,901	2,252	265	134	373	85	9,010
Unemployed	1,664	675	60	51	115	17	2,582
Not in the labour force	10,530	4,616	308	429	900	73	16,856
Not stated	448	188	13	12	50	6	717
Not applicable	1,990	884	76	138	240	27	3,355
Total	20,533	8,615	722	764	1,678	208	32,520

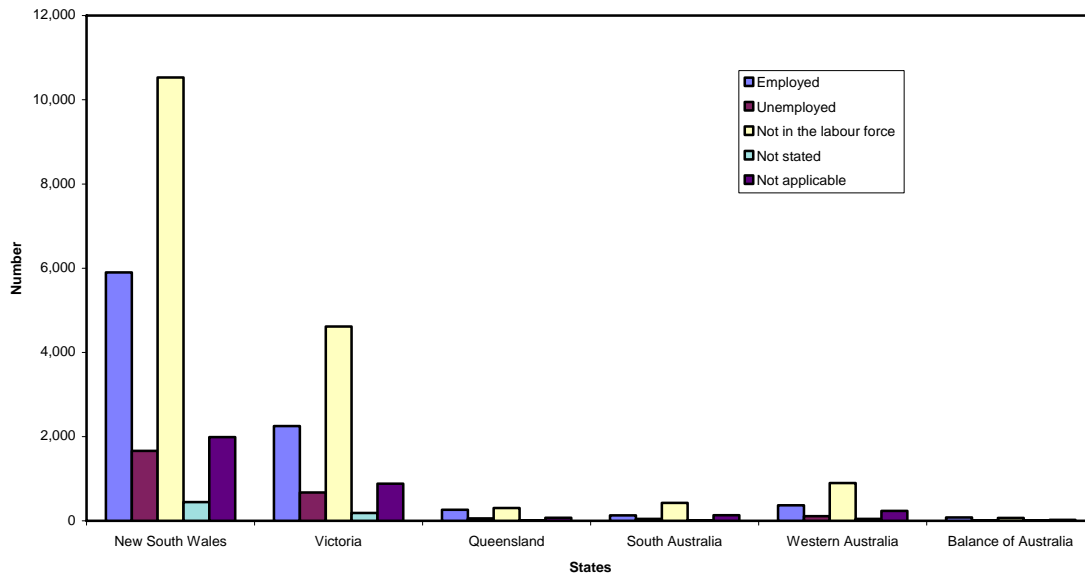


Figure 5 Labour Force Status

Table 6 Education Level

State of Usual Residence Census Night							
Education Level (person aged 15 years)	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	Total
Bachelor Degree or Higher	2,159	982	145	108	244	53	3,691
Advanced Diploma & Diploma	1,381	506	57	46	120	16	2,126
Certificate Level	20	7	0	3	0	0	30
Certificate level III&IV	934	292	38	19	68	7	1,358
Certificate Level I & II	38	14	0	4	0	0	56
Year 12	4,245	1,670	143	154	334	36	6,582
Year 11 or below	5,933	2,642	157	179	403	40	9,354
Inadequately described	292	95	13	7	19	3	429
No educational attainment	1,539	725	19	30	63	4	2,380
Not stated	2,003	797	76	78	187	18	3,159
Not applicable	1,989	885	76	136	241	28	3,355
Total	20, 533	8,615	724	764	1,679	205	32,520

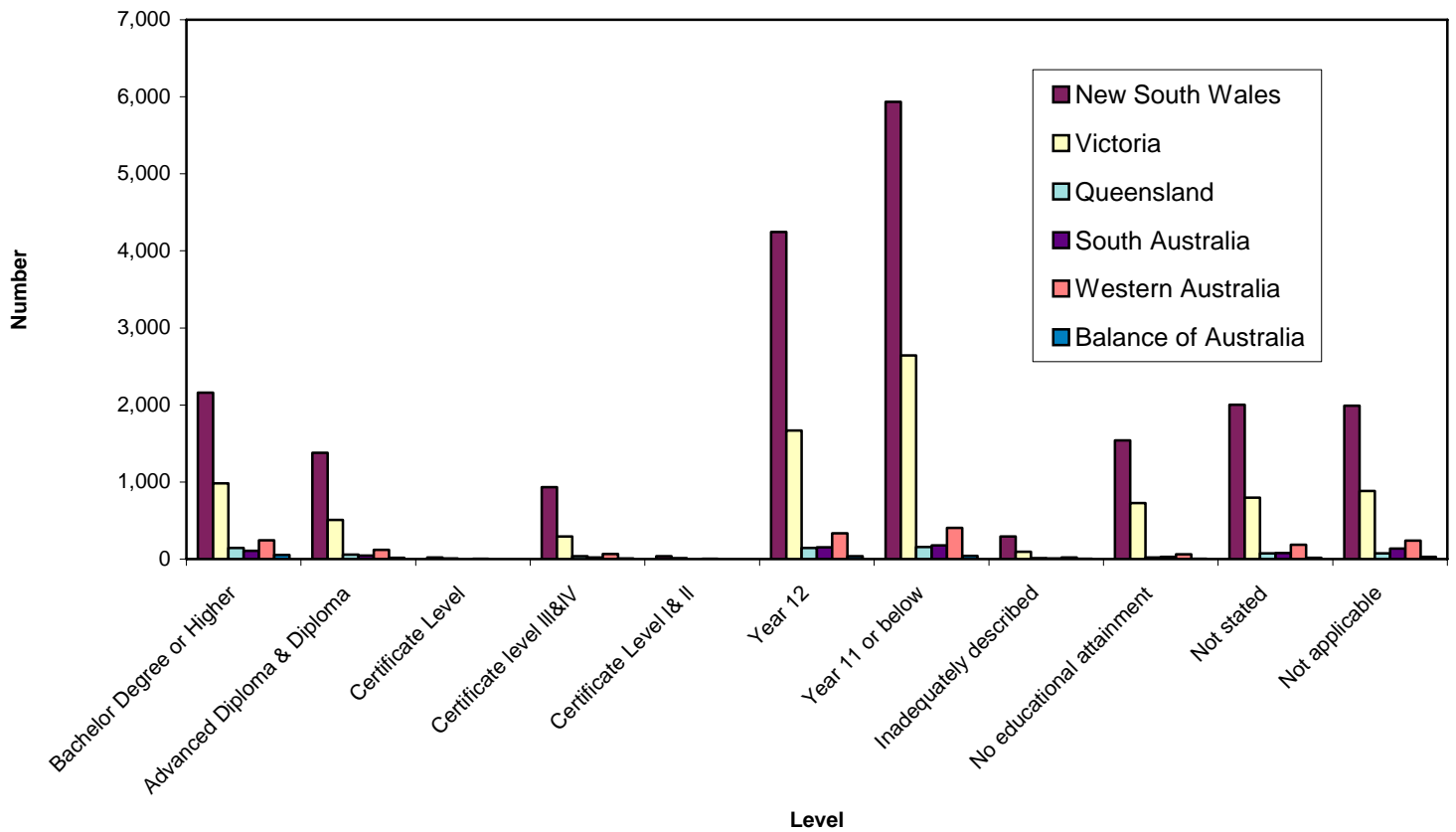


Figure 6 Education Level

Table 7 Occupation

State of Usual Residence Census Night								
Occupation	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	Total	
Managers and Administrators	233	60	10	6	18	3	330	
Professionals	667	337	60	36	62	31	1,193	
Associate Professionals	532	157	20	8	41	6	764	
Tradespersons and Related Workers	920	363	34	11	57	7	1,392	
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	92	21	5	0	4	3	125	
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	653	165	25	16	24	8	891	
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	897	356	36	21	74	14	1,398	
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	722	226	30	13	34	5	1,030	
Labourers & Related Workers	925	436	30	16	44	6	1,457	
Inadequately described	125	53	4	7	12	0	201	
Not stated	134	75	10	0	7	3	229	
Not applicable	14,632	6,367	460	629	1,301	121	23,510	
Total	20,532	8,616	724	763	1,678	207	32,520	

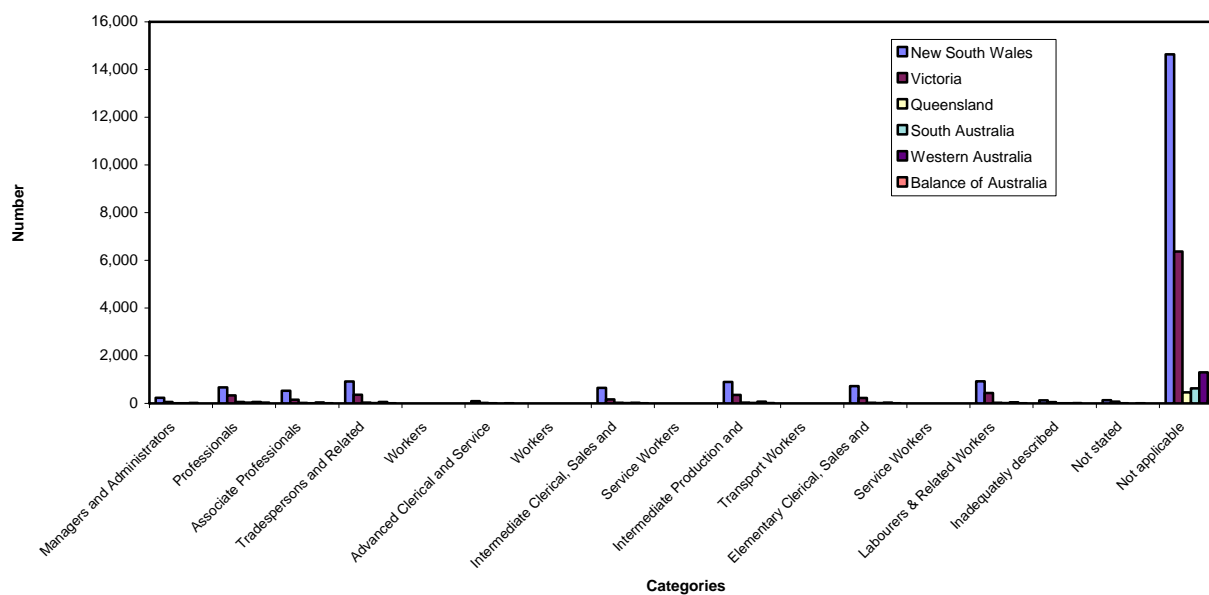


Table 7 Occupation

Conclusion

The Australian Iraqi Forum has prepared this document as background information on the demographic characteristics of Iraqis living in Australia, in the hope that it can assist organizations to provide required services and facilities to the community more effectively.

We plan to update the information in this document from time to time and always make it available for those who have interest in the Iraqi Community of Australia.