

# **IRAQIS in AUSTRALIA**

## **“Community Profile”**

**Compiled by**

**Dr. Salma Al-Khudairi**

**AUSTRALIAN IRAQI FORUM (AIF)**

**June 2005**

---

**The statistics used in this document were extracted from 2001 Census of Population and Housing / Australian Bureau of Statistics.**

## *Contents*

Introduction	3
Overview	4
Demographic Statistics of Persons born in Iraq by State Usual Residence Census Night	5
Conclusion	12

## *List of Figures*

Figure 1 Gender	5
Figure 2 Age	6
Figure 3 Religious Affiliation	7
Figure 4 Language Spoken at Home	8
Figure 5 Labour Force Status	9
Figure 6 Education Level	10
Figure 7 Occupation	11

## *List of Tables*

Table 1 Gender	5
Table 2 Age	6
Table 3 Religious Affiliation	7
Table 4 Language Spoken at Home	8
Table 5 Labour Force Status	9
Table 6 Education Level	10
Table 7 Occupation	11

## **Introduction**

This document is based on demographic statistics derived from 2001 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.

The Australian Iraqi Forum is non-political, 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.

## Overview

Demographic characteristics of the Iraqi Community in Australia are diverse. According to the 2001 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, see Table 1.

The age structure (table 2) indicates that the percentage of population aged less than 15 years is 14.3%. Iraqis between age 15 and 64 constitute 80.3% of the community. The percentage of people aged 65 and above is 5.3%.

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

Data on gender shows that there are more males 55.70% than females 44.30% 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 2001 Census data reveals that among the economically active population (15-65 years) only 31.4% 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	8,622	3,375	390	456	909	76	13,828
Female	7,124	2,718	237	300	568	57	11,004
Total	15,746	6,093	627	756	1,477	133	24,832

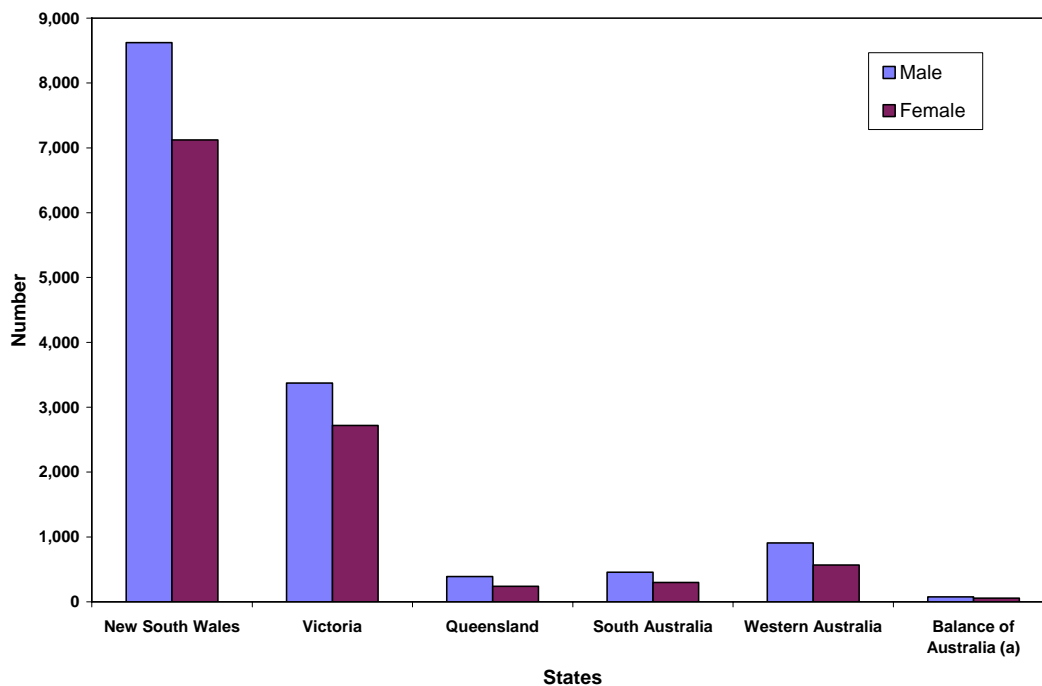


Figure 1 Gender

\*Cells in all the tables of this document 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 and over at the time of the Census.

The population for the 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	100	55	9	24	33	0	221
5-9	662	282	37	61	99	9	1,150
10-14	1,220	639	59	74	180	16	2,188
15-19	1,061	537	34	56	93	9	1,790
20-24	1,278	588	41	64	127	3	2,101
25-29	1,565	692	62	108	173	6	2,606
30-34	2,052	921	87	125	227	17	3,429
35-39	2,021	808	98	95	214	18	3,254
40-44	1,585	482	70	46	126	21	2,330
45-49	1,182	353	48	33	64	8	1,688
50-54	866	213	29	25	53	10	1,196
55-59	615	154	14	19	23	6	831
60-64	537	136	13	14	22	4	726
65-69	415	96	13	9	6	3	542
70-74	310	73	3	0	19	0	405
75 and over	277	64	10	3	18	3	375
Total	15,746	6,093	627	756	1,477	133	24,832

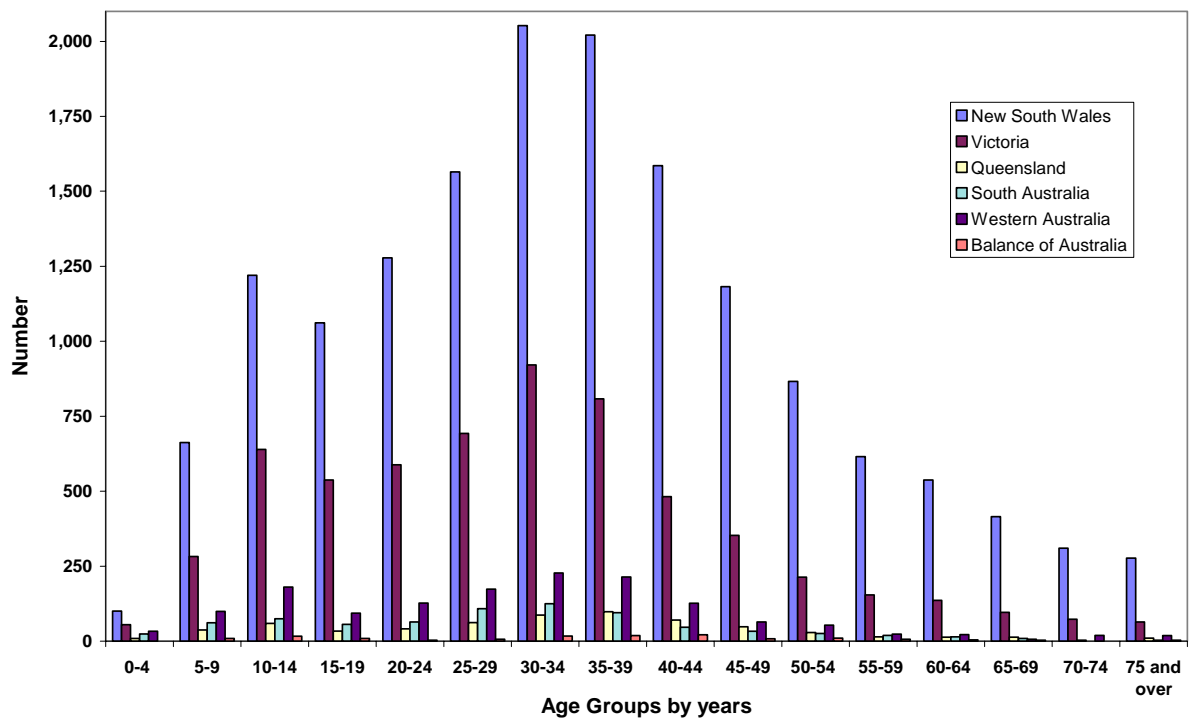
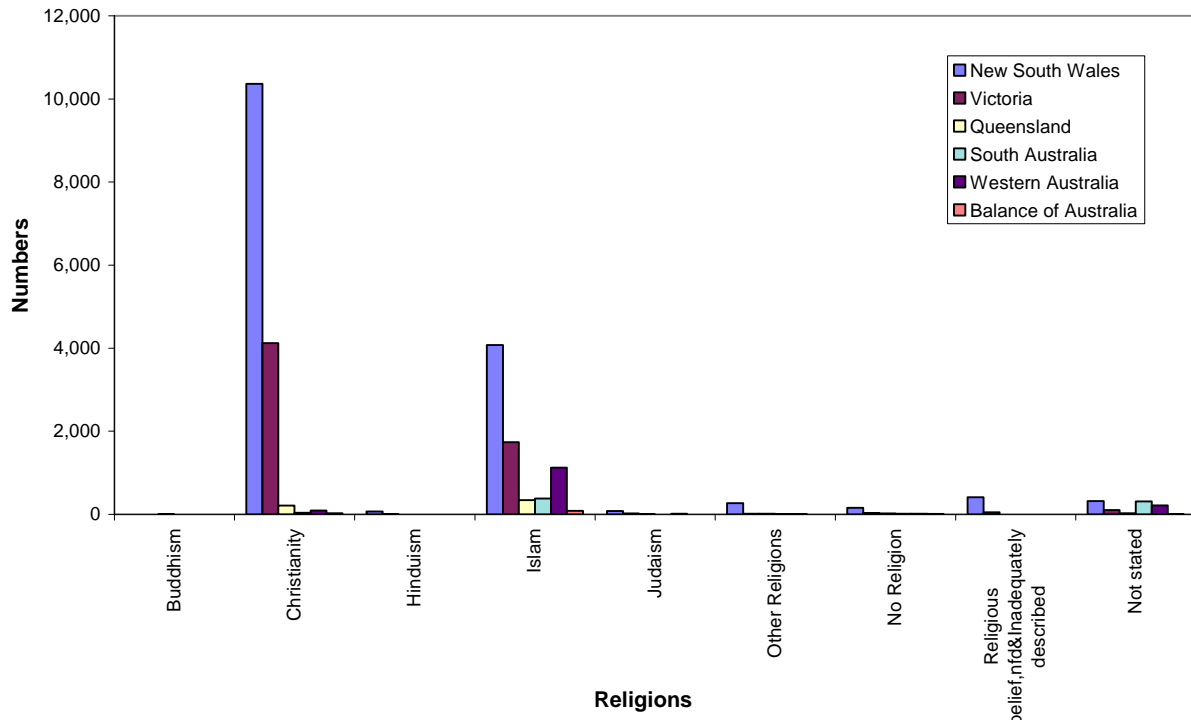


Figure 2 Age

**Table 3 Religious Affiliation**

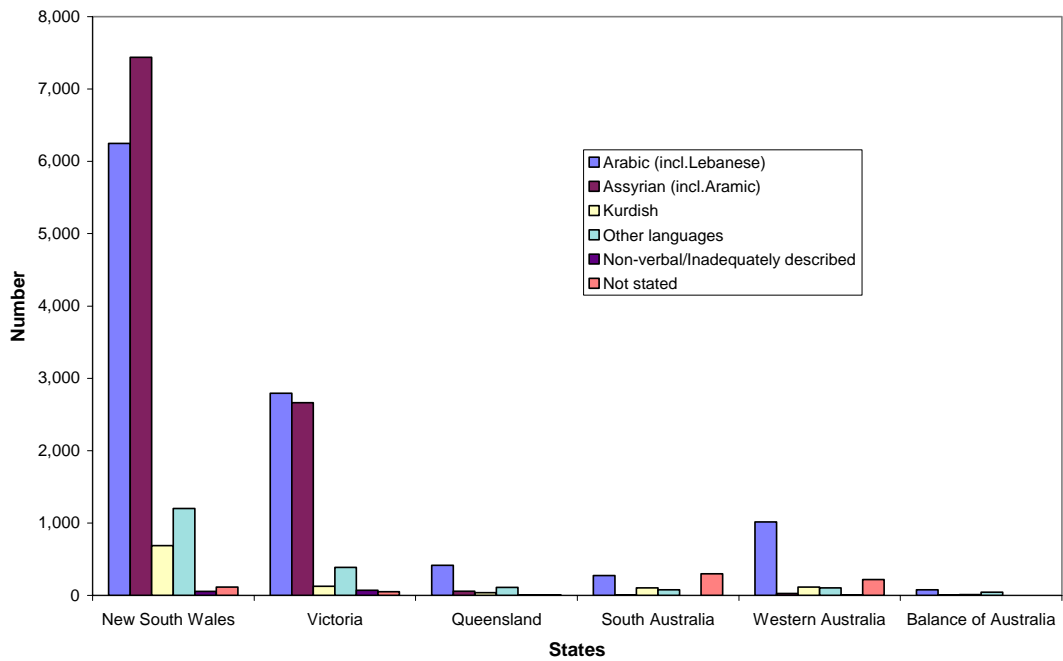
State of Usual Residence Census Night							
Religious Affiliation	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	Total
Buddhism	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Christianity	10,361	4,121	211	38	93	31	14,855
Hinduism	69	3	0	0	0	0	72
Islam	4,078	1,737	344	381	1,126	83	7,749
Judaism	79	25	3	0	16	0	123
Other Religions	268	15	16	6	5	0	310
No Religion	162	37	20	16	17	13	265
Religious belief Inadequately described	409	52	0	0	0	0	461
Not stated	319	102	29	316	215	4	985
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,745</b>	<b>6,092</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>24,823</b>



**Figure 3 Religious Affiliation**

**Table 4 Language Spoken at Home**

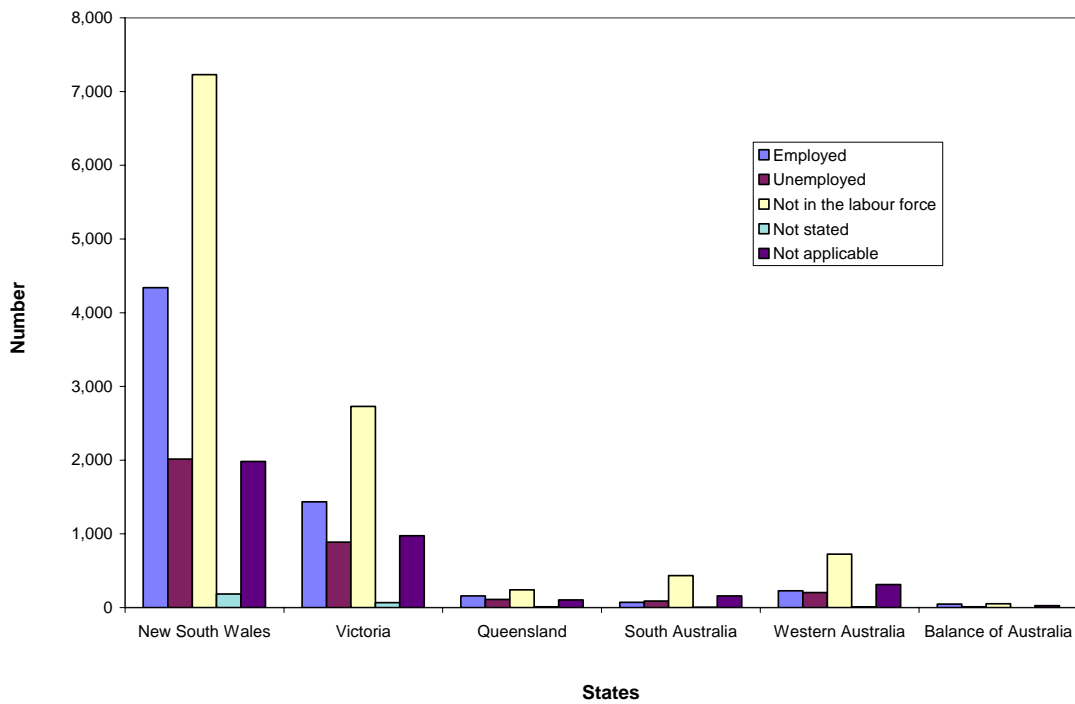
State of Usual Residence Census Night							
Language Spoken at Home	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	Total
Arabic (incl.Lebanese)	6,249	2,795	415	274	1,015	76	10,824
Assyrian (incl.Aramic)	7,439	2,663	58	3	26	3	10,192
Kurdish	688	126	36	102	113	11	1,076
Other languages	1,202	387	112	77	101	42	1,921
Non-verbal / Inadequately described	55	71	3	0	3	0	132
Not stated	113	51	5	299	220	0	688
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,746</b>	<b>6,093</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>24,833</b>



**Figure 4 Language Spoken at Home**

**Table 5 Labour Force Status**

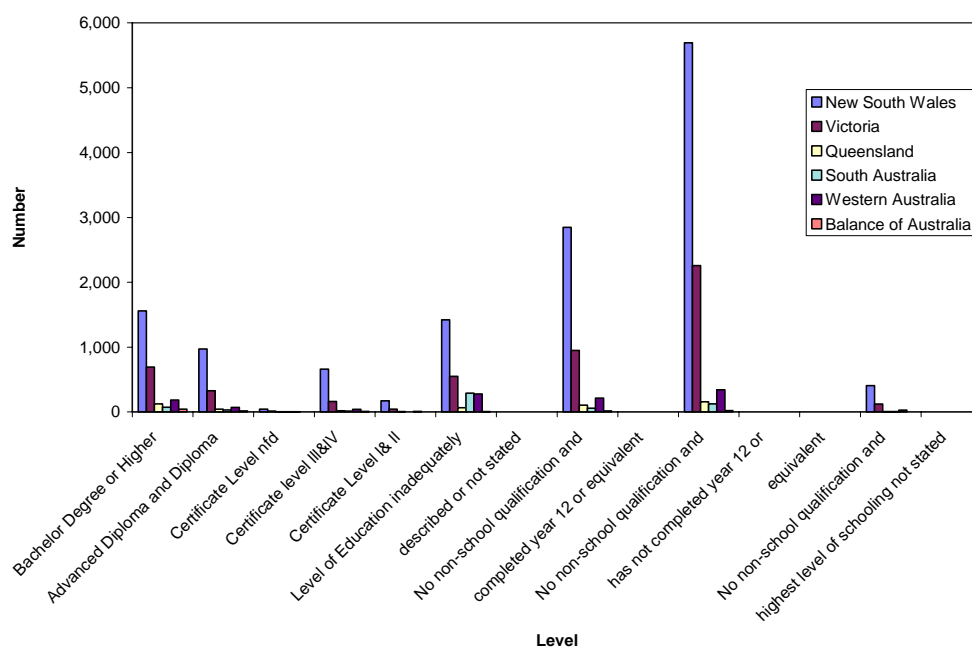
State of Usual Residence Census Night							
Labour Force	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	Total
Employed	4,338	1,434	159	72	228	47	6,278
Unemployed	2,013	887	112	89	204	11	3,316
Not in the labour force	7,228	2,728	241	433	725	50	11,405
Not stated	185	68	12	3	9	0	277
Not applicable	1,982	976	105	159	312	25	3,559
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,746</b>	<b>6,093</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>24,835</b>



**Figure 5 Labour Force Status**

**Table 6 Education Level**

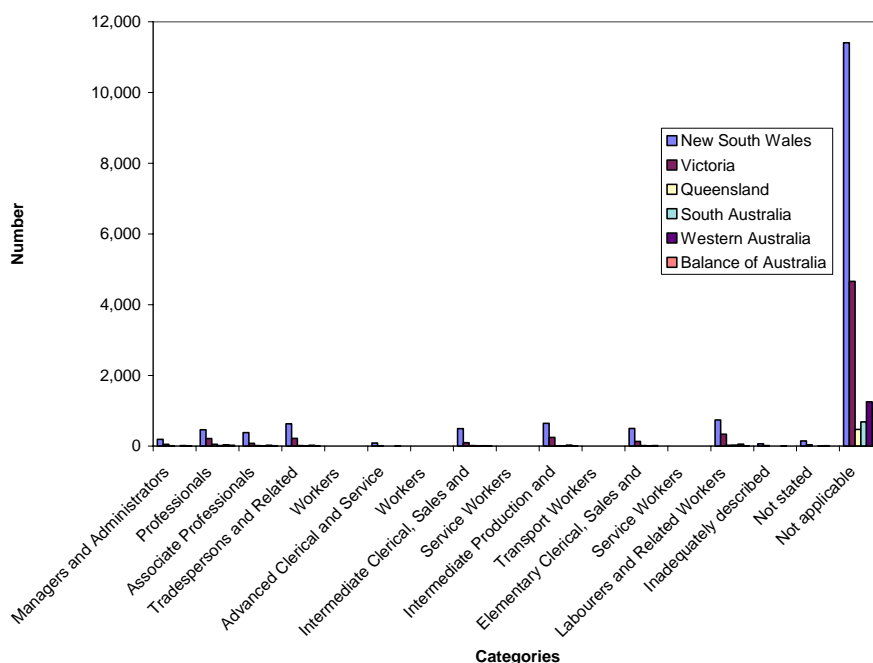
State of Usual Residence Census Night							
Education Level (persons aged 15 years)	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Balance of Australia	Total
Bachelor Degree or Higher	1,558	694	126	72	183	42	2,675
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	972	328	44	32	71	14	1,461
Certificate Level	42	12	3	3	3	0	63
Certificate level III&IV	659	163	17	11	41	8	899
Certificate Level I& II	171	42	5	0	9	0	227
Level of Education inadequately described or not stated	1,419	551	63	291	278	7	2,609
No non-school qualification and completed year 12 or equivalent	2,845	949	104	59	213	14	4,184
No non-school qualification and has not completed year 12 or equivalent	5,693	2,257	155	125	341	22	8,593
No non-school qualification and highest level of schooling not stated	405	121	7	6	26	0	565
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,764</b>	<b>5,117</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>21,276</b>



**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	189	48	12	0	16	3	268
Professionals	465	214	51	19	40	21	810
Associate Professionals	383	81	14	4	21	9	512
Tradespersons and Related Workers	630	216	14	3	25	3	891
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	87	9	0	0	5	0	101
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	491	97	16	9	11	3	627
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	645	246	9	3	28	5	936
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	498	132	15	3	14	0	662
Labourers and Related Workers	737	334	25	26	56	3	1,181
Inadequately described	69	18	0	0	4	0	91
Not stated	144	40	0	3	11	0	198
Not applicable	11,408	4,659	469	684	1,249	85	18,554
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,746</b>	<b>6,094</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>24,831</b>



**Figure 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.