

Greater Shepparton Multicultural Action Plan 2023 - 2026

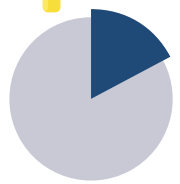
Greater Shepparton has been, and still is, an attractive place to a wide range of migrants, which has resulted in a long migration history dating back to World War One. The reasons for this include our history of migration and reputation of welcoming new arrivals, social factors such as family or community members already living in the region, the lifestyle of a country town with the economic and employment opportunities of a city, and the agricultural industry.

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to continuing to promote the diversity of our region, and strengthening the sustainability and culture of communities which reside in the area.

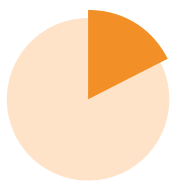
Greater Shepparton has a population of 68,873 people. 17.4% of Greater Shepparton's population were born overseas and 17.6% of the overall population speak a language other than English at home.



68,873
Greater Shepparton population

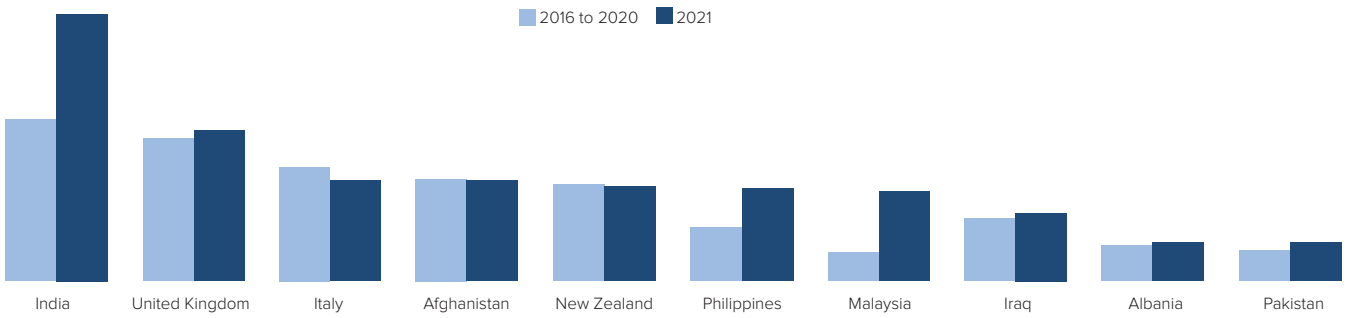


17.4%
born overseas

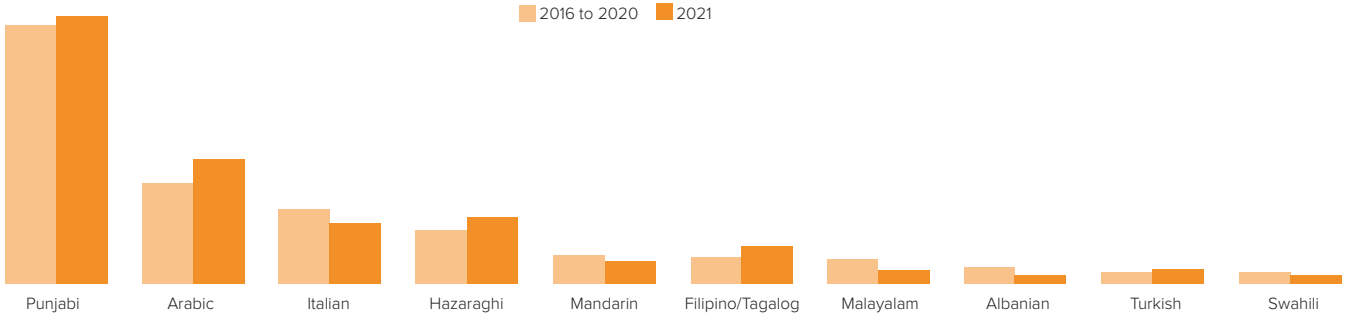


17.6%
speak a language other than English at home

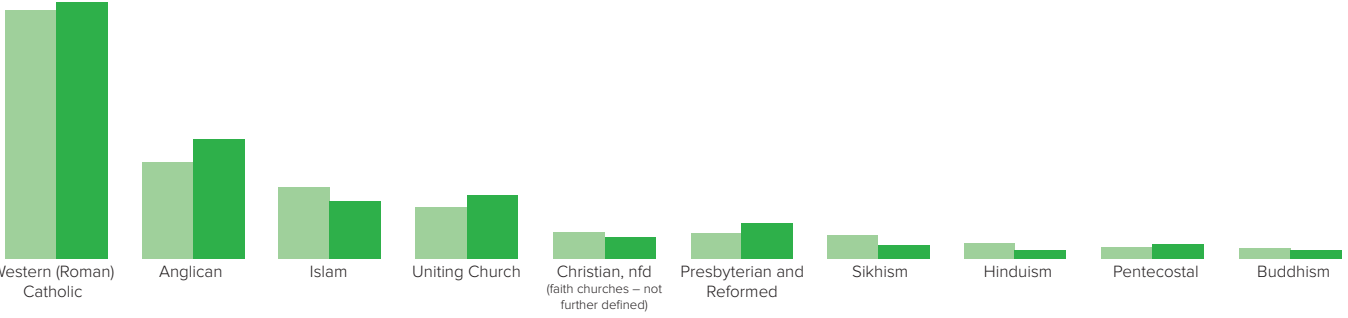
Born overseas (Usual residence) - City of Greater Shepparton



Language Spoken at Home (excluding English) – Top 10



Religion in Greater Shepparton over the past five years indicate a significant increase in Islam and Sikhism, consistent with the place of birth increase.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by <https://profile.id.com.au/shepparton>

Developing our Action Plan

Below is a snapshot of what we heard from the community consultation into the Multicultural Action Plan that ran from January 2023 to March 2023.

Total number of responses: 329

Cultural background of respondents: Australian born, Iraqi, Afghani, African, Malaysian, Pakistani, Congolese, Sudanese, German, Turkish, Syrian, Chinese, Macedonian and Spanish

How we engaged

- Social media
- Council website
- Community workshops
- Surveys
- Posters
- Community events and activities

What we heard

Top 5 priorities:

1. Better access to services, including education, employment, health and transport.
2. Overcoming barriers to communication.
3. Further opportunities for inclusion and celebration.
4. Preserving and celebrating cultures.
5. Creating safe places.

Key Themes

These priority areas have been themed into three focus areas to be addressed through the Multicultural Action Plan 2023 - 2026:

- Inclusion and celebration.
- Access to services.
- Communication.

Measure & Impact

1. The engagement of multicultural communities in Council services.
2. The delivery of increased communication to multicultural communities.
3. The Council led activities, programs and services providing opportunities for inclusion and celebration of multicultural communities.
4. Community celebrating and preserving cultures.
5. The feeling of safety of multicultural communities in Greater Shepparton.

The Greater Shepparton Multicultural Action Plan 2023 - 2025 aligns with the Council Plan Vision of a diverse, vibrant and connected community valuing accessible opportunities for everyone. We adapt and respond in a way that is innovative, sustainable and accountable. We acknowledge where we have been and look forward to where we are going. Together we are Greater!

THEME	WE COMMIT TO	BY DOING	THE IMPACT WILL BE
Inclusion & celebration	Respecting and recognising the value and contribution of multicultural communities of Greater Shepparton.	<p>Lead and partner on events, activities and programs that celebrate the cultural diversity and faith of our community, including Cultural Diversity Week, Harmony Day, Refugee Week, major events and key dates of significance.</p> <p>Review, develop and implement our communication strategies and approaches to effectively engage and reach multicultural communities via a range of communication methods.</p> <p>Providing opportunities for multicultural communities to lead and advocate on issues of importance to them.</p> <p>Promoting and encouraging small towns to welcome and reflect the cultural diversity of our region.</p>	Multicultural communities feel engaged, valued and safe.
Access to services	Advancing our services, places and activities to respond to the needs of multicultural communities.	<p>Promote and deliver a range of cultural competence training across all levels of Council.</p> <p>Review and improve processes to Council services, places and activities for multicultural communities.</p> <p>Work with partners to promote services, places and activities for to the multicultural communities.</p> <p>Provide economic participation opportunities for multicultural communities.</p> <p>Providing increased opportunities for multicultural communities to volunteer.</p> <p>Provide support for multicultural communities to plan and prepare for various disasters and critical incidents.</p>	Council will provide and advocate for services, places and activities accessible to multicultural communities.
Communication	Providing opportunities for multicultural communities to maintain healthy and active lifestyles and be well connected in the Greater Shepparton community.	<p>Promote and provide accessible options for participation of multicultural communities in the social, economic, natural and built environments of our region.</p> <p>Communicate and support opportunities for multicultural communities to engage in local, state and federal initiatives that increase access to health, employment, housing and transport outcomes in Greater Shepparton.</p> <p>Assist multicultural communities to plan and prepare for disasters and critical incidents.</p> <p>Providing increased preparedness and resilience for the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Ensuring Council's communication is provided in accessible alternative formats and reach for multicultural communities.</p> <p>Increasing opportunities for multicultural communities to build understanding and resilience on climate change.</p>	Multicultural communities participation in programs and activities that respond positive health, wellbeing and engagement.