

**MIGRANT INFORMATION CENTRE (Eastern Melbourne)
Multicultural Equity and Access Program**

Dutch Cultural Profile

PLEASE NOTE: This profile provides an overview of some of the cultural information relating to the diverse groups of Dutch people who live in the Eastern Region of Melbourne. This description may not apply to all people as individual experiences may vary. However this profile can be used as a guide to some of the issues that may concern your clients. This is an update of the profile in the Home and Personal Care Kit developed by the MIC in 2004.

Introduction:

- The Dutch born population is one of the oldest CALD population groups in the Eastern Region.
- Victoria is home to the largest number of Dutch-born immigrants, with a significant number of the Dutch-born population residing in the Eastern Region, in the Shire of Yarra Ranges, Knox and Maroondah.

Migration:

The Dutch population has a long history of migration to Australia, with a significant number of Dutch migrants arriving post World War II. The peak years of their arrival coincided with Australia's official migration policy of assimilation.

Local Demographics: Dutch-born residents in the Eastern Region

Local Government Area	Total Dutch-born Population	50-59 years	60-69 years	70-79 years	80 years and over	Total number of Dutch-born people aged 65 and over	People aged 65+ as a % of the Dutch-born population
City of Boroondara	334	100	57	30	27	79	24%
City of Knox	1126	348	306	243	88	480	43%
City of Manningham	354	84	92	86	31	152	43%
City of Maroondah	800	182	228	212	83	399	50%
City of Monash	478	135	112	110	29	182	38%
City of Whitehorse	588	129	135	157	86	312	53%
Shire of Yarra Ranges	1960	588	494	321	195	717	37%
Eastern Region	5640	1566	1424	1159	539	2321	41%

(ABS Census 2006 & MAV Data 2006)

- There were 22,833 Dutch-born persons in Victoria at the last census (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008).
- The median age of the Dutch-born population is 61 years compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008).

Language: Dutch-speaking residents in the Eastern Region

Local Government Area	Total number of people speaking Dutch at home	50-59 years	60-69 years	70-79 years	80 years and over	Total number of Dutch speaking people aged 65 and over	Dutch speaking people aged 65+ as a % of the Dutch speaking population
City of Boroondara	187	22	19	24	19	50	27%
City of Knox	491	92	109	133	70	265	54%
City of Manningham	164	19	24	44	22	87	53%
City of Maroondah	382	50	90	123	50	225	59%
City of Monash	213	28	41	54	19	93	44%
City of Whitehorse	276	34	40	83	55	164	59%
Shire of Yarra Ranges	920	157	188	191	144	430	47%
Eastern Region	2633	402	511	652	379	1314	50%

(ABS Census 2006 & MAV Data 2006)

- The national language of the Netherlands (also known as Holland) is Dutch.
- The Dutch-born population may also speak other languages such as German and Flemish.
- 1.0% of the Dutch-born population in Victoria identified as speaking English 'not-well' and 0.1% spoke English 'not at all' (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008).
- 25.6% of the Dutch-born population in Victoria assessed themselves as speaking English 'very well' and 6.8% as 'well' (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008). However as individuals age, conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's can contribute to reversion to the mother tongue and loss of English language.

Religion:

The Dutch-born population in Victoria identified as the following religions at the 2006 Census (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008):

- Western Catholic - 39.6% (9,030)
- Presbyterian - 5.6% (1,279)
- Uniting Church - 4.5% (1,033)
- Reformed - 2.9% (672)
- Anglican - 2.9% (655)
- Other religions - 9.3% (2,128)
- No religion – 26.3% (6,010)

Attitudes and Issues with Ageing:

- Traditionally, the Dutch were more likely to have extended family ties and to take care of their elderly at home. This is changing similar to Australia where services and residential aged care are more accepted and expected in older age.
- The Dutch-born elderly often have a need to be closer to their roots as they age. This can be difficult within families, as Dutch children were not encouraged to maintain their Dutch language and culture.
- The Dutch believe family visits to be important.

Attitudes to Disability and Mental Illness:

- The disabled and mentally ill are an invisible group in the Dutch society since they are predominantly cared for in specialised care facilities. The Dutch believed that medical expertise was better in specialised facilities and that the care for a disabled person placed too heavy a burden on the family. However there is an increasing trend towards home care.
- The mentally ill in the Netherlands were traditionally cared for in institutions where they were admitted for long or shorter periods of time.

Customs / Values:

- The Dutch-born family structure is organised around the nuclear family.
- The Dutch community has a strong affiliation with Churches.
- 'Gezelligheid' (a sense of cosiness, atmosphere, sharing, and company) is a key characteristic of Dutch culture. This concept is echoed in the décor of the home.
- Death and dying conventions for the Dutch-born community are the same as Anglo-Saxon Australians.

Communication Styles:

- The Dutch tend to be assertive and direct. This sometimes can be interpreted as tactless and hard.
- Eye contact is valued.
- It is customary for Dutch-born people to either shake hands or kiss (three times) on introduction and when leaving.

Naming Conventions:

- Older Dutch-born people prefer to be addressed using their title. For example, Mr, Mrs and Dr.
- Older family friends in the Dutch community are often addressed in conversation as 'Auntie' and 'Uncle' out of respect, even though they may not be directly related.
- Women traditionally use their husband's surname on marriage. When widowed some women may attach their maiden name to their husband's surname.

Health Beliefs and Practices:

- Dutch-born people practice a western model of health in conjunction with alternative therapies.
- Herbal teas and other herbal remedies may be used.

Greetings:

English Greeting	Dutch	Closest English Pronunciation
Hello	hallo, hoi (popular/dialect)	HALLO
Good Morning	goede morgen, Goeie morgen	GHUDE MORG-HEN, GHUIE MORG-HEN
Good Afternoon	goede middag, Goeie middag	GHUDE MIDDAGH

English Greeting	Dutch	Closest English Pronunciation
Good Evening	goede avond, Goeie avond	GHUDE AVOND
Sleep Well	welgerusten	VELTE-RUST-EN
Goodbye	tot ziens, doeie (popular)	TOTT-SINDS , DUI
Yes	ja	YAA
No	nee	NAY
Thank you	bedankt, dank u, dank u wel (polite) / dank je wel (casual)	BE-DUNKT; DUNK –U, DUNK U VEL

Key Dutch Festivals / Significant Dates:

- Liberation Day *5th of May*
- Queen's Birthday *30th of April*
- St Nikolaas Eve *5th of December*

* For other significant dates related to religious observances, refer to the Christian profile.

* To search for exact dates of key cultural and religious events, festivals and national days for this year, visit: <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/a-diverse-australia/calendar-australia/>

Local services and activities useful for Dutch-born residents in the Eastern Region

Settlement Services

Provide information, referral and casework for refugees and family migrants who arrived in the last five years.

Name	Address	Contact
Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne)	Suite 2, Town Hall Hub, 27 Bank Street, Box Hill, 3128	Ph: 9285 4888
New Hope Migrant and Refugee Centre	18 Chester Street Oakleigh, 3166	Ph: 9563 4130

Aged Care & Disability Support Services

Migrant Information Centre Aged Care & Disability Services

Address: Suite 2, Town Hall Hub, 27 Bank Street, Box Hill, 3128

Ph: 9275 6905

The aged and disability team aims to increase access to aged care and disability services for CALD communities in the EMR through working with CALD communities to promote those services, provide information and referral and supporting organisations to provide culturally appropriate care. The team also receives funding for specific projects in this area.

Residential & Community Aged Care Service

DutchCare Ltd

Address: PO Box 8219, 1105 Frankston-Dandenong Road, Carrum Downs, 3201

Ph: 9782 6633

Fax: 9782 0142

Web: www.dutchcare.com.au

Provides aged care services for older Dutch people in the Victorian community.

DutchCare Ltd – Facility Address

Address: 722-736 Mount Dandenong Road, Kilsyth, 3137

Ph: 9728 5299

Fax: 9782 0142

Provides aged care services for older Dutch people in the Victorian community.

Senior Citizens Groups

For more information please contact local councils or the Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne) on 9275 6905.

Name of the Club	LGA	Venue	Time / Day
Croydon Dutch Social Club Inc.	Maroondah	Keystone Hall Croydon Square Croydon 3136	10:00am – 2:00pm Tuesday
Nieuw Holland Dutch Social Club	Whitehorse	Blackburn Senior Citizens' Club 25 Central Rd Blackburn, 3130	9:30am – 1:00pm Thursday

Other Support Services

The Associated Netherlands Societies in Victoria Inc

Address: C/- 45 Kent Avenue, Croydon, Vic, 3136

Ph: 9725 0945

References:

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Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), 2008, *Seniors from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds*, Demography on the 50 years plus Victorian population from the 2006 census, Victoria, Australia.

Victorian Multicultural Commission, 2008, *The Netherlands-Born Community in Victoria*, Fact Sheet No. A-43, viewed 20 April 2010, <<http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/images/stories/pdf/netherlandsfs-24apr08.pdf>>.