

## 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 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (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	55-64 years	65-74 years	75-84 years	85 years and over	Total number of Dutch-born people aged 55 and over	People aged 55+ as a % of the Dutch-born population
City of Boroondara	314	52	83	33	18	186	59%
City of Knox	821	141	274	217	96	728	89%
City of Manningham	250	35	66	58	39	198	79%
City of Maroondah	567	91	191	139	68	489	86%
City of Monash	345	36	107	62	46	251	73%
City of Whitehorse	427	52	109	105	52	318	74%
Shire of Yarra Ranges	1,590	323	544	295	164	1326	83%
Eastern Region	4,314	730	1,374	909	483	3,496	81%

(ABS Census 2016)

- There were 9,979 Dutch-born persons in Victoria at the last census (ABS Census 2016).
- Over 62% of the Dutch-born population were over the age of 65 years compared to 15% over the age of 65 years of the total Victorian population (ABS Census 2016).

## Language: Dutch-speaking residents in the Eastern Region

Local Government Area	Total number of people speaking Dutch at home
City of Boroondara	161
City of Knox	325
City of Manningham	127
City of Maroondah	295
City of Monash	89
City of Whitehorse	203
Shire of Yarra Ranges	762
Eastern Region	1,962

(ABS Census 2016)

- 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.
- 2% of the Dutch-born population in Victoria identified as speaking English 'not-well or not at all' (ABS Census 2016).
- 98% of the Dutch-born population in Victoria assessed themselves as speaking English 'very well or well' (ABS Census 2016). 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 2016 Census (ABS Census 2016):

- Catholic – 35.8% (7,092)
- Presbyterian/Reformed – 6.8% (1,354)
- Uniting Church – 4.0% (784)
- No religion – 34.9% (6,914)

## 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
Good Evening	goede avond, Goeie avond	GHUDE AVOND
Sleep Well	welgerusten	VELTE-RUST-EN
Goodbye	tot ziens, doe (popular)	TOTT-SINDS , DUI

English Greeting	Dutch	Closest English Pronunciation
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.

## 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 Foundation	Grattan Gardens Community Centre, 40 Grattan Street, Prahran Vic 3181	Ph: 9510 5877

### 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

#### **MiCare (formally known as DutchCare Ltd)**

Oakleigh Courthouse Community Centre

1436A Dandenong Road

Oakleigh Victoria 3166

Ph: 1800 642 273 or 9530 4986

Web: [www.micare.com.au](http://www.micare.com.au)

Email: [courthouse@micare.com.au](mailto:courthouse@micare.com.au)

MiCare provides settlement and aged care support services to people from a range of ethnic backgrounds.

## MiCare – Facilities

Provides aged care services for older Dutch people and people from a range of ethnic backgrounds in the Victorian community.

### Overbeek Lodge

736 Mt Dandenong Rd, Kilsyth 3137

Ph: 9728 7450

### Margriet Manor

722 Mt Dandenong Rd, Kilsyth 3137

Ph: 9728 7400

## 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.	<b>Maroondah</b>	Keystone Hall Croydon Square Croydon 3136	10:00am – 2:00pm Tuesday
Nieuw Holland Dutch Social Club	<b>Whitehorse</b>	Blackburn Senior Citizens' Club 25 Central Rd Blackburn, 3130	9:30am – 1:00pm Thursday

**References:**

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016, Census 2016, viewed 13 Jan 2021, <[https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/communityprofile/2?opendocument](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/communityprofile/2?opendocument)>.

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Collins, J., Mondello, L., Brehency, J. & Childs, T., 2001, *Cosmopolitan Melbourne: Explore the World in One City*, Big Box Publishing Pty Ltd, Sydney, pp.71-77.

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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>>.