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Australians' ancestries 2001

Siew-Ean Khoo and David Lucas (siewean.khoo@anu.edu.au)
The Australian National University

Abstract

This presentation is based around the paper *Australians' Ancestries 2001* published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as a part of its Australian Census Analytical Program. In this work, which is available in hard copy or viewed at www.abs.gov.au in PDF format, the ancestry data from the 2001 Census have been used to examine a number of issues relating to Australia's ethnic diversity and ethnic identity. These include the generational span of different ancestry groups; the heterogeneity of some birthplace groups and how migrants in Australia have dispersed from their home country or homeland; regional differences in ethnic composition; inter-ethnic marriages; and identification of Australian ancestry. Where relevant, comparisons are made with the 1986 census ancestry data to examine changes over the 15-year period. These analyses of the ancestry data demonstrate both the data's usefulness and limitations. The analyses also raised a number of issues in relation to the format of the ancestry question on the census form; the coding of two ancestries when people identify with multiple ancestries; and people's interpretation of the ancestry question and how they respond to it.

Full papers from ACAP can be found on the ABS website. www.abs.gov.au (search for ACAP).

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