

## Hungarian Cultural Profile

**PLEASE NOTE:** This profile provides an overview of some of the cultural information relating to the diverse groups of Hungarians 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:

- 83.2% of Hungary-born persons in Victoria arrived in Australia prior to 1986.
- There has been a decline in Hungary-born persons over the last 5 years due to the ageing of earlier migrants, the re-emigration of some Hungarians to other countries, and the lack of new arrivals (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008).

### Migration:

- The older population of Hungarians immigrated to Australia post World War II as refugees under the Displaced Persons Scheme. The majority of them were male professionals aged between 20 to 29 years, many married Australian-born women.
- The second largest wave of Hungarian refugees arrived in 1956, escaping political turmoil in their home country.
- Hungarians also migrated to Australia from other countries including Romania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

### Local Demographics: Hungary-born residents in the Eastern Region

Local Government Area	Total Hungary-born Population	50-59 years	60-69 years	70-79 years	80 years and over	Total number of Hungary-born people aged 65 and over	People aged 65+ as a % of the Hungary-born population
City of Boroondara	262	46	65	57	71	162	62%
City of Knox	324	60	85	76	53	181	56%
City of Manningham	157	28	45	42	27	98	62%
City of Maroondah	149	28	49	30	9	68	46%
City of Monash	379	64	114	98	57	225	59%
City of Whitehorse	318	35	89	99	59	209	66%
Shire of Yarra Ranges	132	35	41	36	10	69	52%
Eastern Region	1721	296	488	438	286	1012	59%

(ABS Census 2006 & MAV Data 2006)

- There were 6,081 Hungary-born persons in Victoria at the last census, decreasing from 6,964 persons in 2001 (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008).
- The median age of the Hungary-born population is 66 years compared to 37 years for the total Victorian population (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008).
- The real number of Hungarians in Australia is much higher when ethnic Hungarians who were born outside the post 1920 borders of Hungary, in Yugoslavia, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Austria or Germany are taken into account.

## Language: Hungarian-speaking people in the Eastern Region

Local Government Area	Total number of people speaking Hungarian at home	50-59 years	60-69 years	70-79 years	80 years and over	Total number of Hungarian speaking people aged 65 and over	Hungarian speaking people aged 65+ as a % of the Hungarian speaking population
City of Boroondara	266	30	42	50	52	125	47%
City of Knox	492	94	86	78	63	185	38%
City of Manningham	180	24	30	36	22	75	42%
City of Maroondah	158	30	42	17	9	48	30%
City of Monash	475	72	102	106	46	202	43%
City of Whitehorse	380	33	80	90	50	182	48%
Shire of Yarra Ranges	146	30	24	25	15	50	34%
Eastern Region	2097	313	406	402	257	867	41%

(ABS Census 2006 & MAV Data 2006)

- The main language spoken by Hungarians in Australia is Hungarian.
- Some older Hungarians may also speak German.
- 7.7% of the Hungary-born population in Victoria identified as speaking English 'not-well' and 0.9% spoke English 'not at all' (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008).
- 30.7% of the Hungary-born population in Victoria assessed themselves as speaking English 'very well' and 26.5% as 'well' (Victorian Multicultural Commission 2008).
- As individuals age, conditions such as dementia can contribute to a loss of English language and a reversion to the first language.

### Religion:

- Roman Catholicism is the primary religion for Hungary-born people.
- Other religions include Calvinist-Presbyterian, Lutheran and Judaism.

### Attitudes and Issues with Ageing:

- Traditionally in Hungary the younger generation are expected to take care of elderly parents at home. However, in Australia, the Hungary-born population generally accepts placing elderly parents in nursing homes and other aged care facilities.

### Attitudes to Disability and Mental Illness:

- Mental illness is generally stigmatised within the Hungary-born community.
- In Hungary, people with a mental illness or a disability are often institutionalised.

### Customs / Values:

- The conventional family structure in Australia is the nuclear family. Traditionally the extended family was very important to Hungary-born people.
- Hungarian people believe it is important for relatives to be with a person who is dying.
- Hungarian Catholics believe it is important to have a Priest present when a person is dying.

## Communication Styles:

- Hungarians have an expressive communication style.
- Hungary-born people value eye contact.
- Handshaking is generally acceptable.

## Naming Conventions:

- Older Hungary-born people prefer to be addressed using their title. For example, Dr, Mr and Mrs.

## Health Beliefs and Practices:

- Hungary-born people highly respect health professionals.
- A western model of health is generally accepted and well understood.
- Some Hungary-born people may not consider treatment complete without medication.

## Greetings:

English Greeting	Hungarian	Closest English Pronunciation
Good Day	jó napot	YO-NA-POT
Good Morning	jó reggelt	YO-REG-GELT
Good Evening	jó estét	YO-ESH-TET
Goodbye	isten veled	ISHTEN-VALAD
Yes	igen	EE-GEN
No	nem	NEM
Thankyou	köszönöm	KUR-SUR-NURM

## Key Hungarian Festivals / Significant Dates:

- Anniversary of the Revolution *23rd of October*
- Proclamation of the Republic / Martyr's Day *15th of March*
- Foundation Day / St Stephen's Day *20<sup>th</sup> of August*

\* For other significant dates related to religious observances, refer to the Christian and Jewish religious profiles.

\* 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 Hungary-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**

### **Arpad Hostel**

Address: 9 Garrison Grove, Wantirna, 3152

Ph: 9801 0855

Arpad was established in 1994 to meet the needs of the older Hungarian community. The organisation offers low and high care accommodation as well as independent living units.

### **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.

### **Senior Citizens Groups**

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

<b>Name of the Club</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time / Day</b>
Knox Hungarian Senior Citizens' Club Inc.	<b>Knox</b>	Hungarian Community Centre 760 Boronia Rd Wantirna South, 3152	9:00am – 3:00pm 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month
Nunawading Hungarian Senior Citizens' Club Inc.	<b>Whitehorse</b>	Burwood East Hall 298-336 Burwood Hwy Burwood East, 3151	9:00am – 3:00pm 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month

### **Other Support Services**

#### **Culture Club of United Hungarians**

Address: 3 Eildon Parade, Rowville, 3178

Ph: 9794 0751

#### **Hungarian Embroiderers Circle**

Address: 760 Boronia Road, Wantirna, 3152

Ph: 9874 5242

This group works together to maintain the beautiful traditional embroideries and pass the skills on to younger generations. It also promotes this Hungarian art form of needlework to the wider community through demonstrations and displays.

#### **References:**

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006, *Census of Population and Housing*, viewed 1 March 2010, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/census>>.

Gombos, G., *Mental Disability Rights*, Human Rights Resources, viewed 20 April 2010, <[http://www.speaktruth.org/defend/profiles/profile\\_46.asp](http://www.speaktruth.org/defend/profiles/profile_46.asp)>.

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 Hungary-Born Community in Victoria*, Fact Sheet No. A-27, viewed 20 April 2010, <<http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/images/stories/pdf/hungaryfs-24apr08.pdf>>.