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## Who else does your job? The professions dominated by people from certain countries

By **Garreth Hanley** and **Craig Butt & Cassandra Morgan**

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### IN NUMBERS

**86.3**

Percentage of parliamentarians born in Australia

**84.5**

Percentage of police officers born in Australia

**39.1**

Percentage of chefs born in Australia

**48.3**

Percentage of psychiatrists born in Australia

Habibulah Hussaini arrived in Australia as a refugee from Afghanistan in 2011 with little English and no idea how to make a living.

His friend, a tiler also from Afghanistan, showed him how to tile floors and ceilings. He worked for him until starting his own business in 2014.





Habibulah Hussaini is one of 1960 tilers working in Australia who were born in Afghanistan. SIMON SCHLUTER

Mr Hussaini now works as a tiler up to six days each week. He recently finished his latest job, an extensive mosaic wall and floor for a Pentecostal church in Melbourne's south-east.

"I feel good about that job, it was a big job. It took the whole of winter, six days a week for three months. There were three of us working with the church," he said.

Mr Hussaini fled his birthplace to escape persecution from the Taliban and spent almost a year on Christmas Island before he settled in Australia.

He is now one of 1960 tilers working in Australia who were born in Afghanistan. Census data shows that while people born in Afghanistan make up about 0.2 per cent of Australia's population, they make up 11 per cent of tilers working in Australia.

**You can see the most common countries of birth of people who do your job by using the interactive below:**

Mr Hussaini said tiling was an attractive profession for immigrants, as the trade is easy to learn and does not require extensive English skills. Members of the local Afghan community had also helped to give newcomers like himself a start, he said.

For every job in Australia, the most common country of birth is right here.

Census data from 2016 shows that 68 per cent of employed people were born in Australia. But some jobs are dominated by Australian-born workers.

Automobile drivers (such as taxi drivers and chauffeurs) were least likely to have been born in Australia, at 27.3 per cent. Their most common country of birth after Australia was India (25.6 per cent), followed by Pakistan (6.8 per cent), China (4.8 per cent), Bangladesh (4.7 per cent) and Lebanon (2.6 per cent).

Fewer than half of the country's chefs, housekeepers, sewing machinists, dentists, psychiatrists, general practitioners, software programmers and electronics engineers were born here.

Some jobs recorded a large number of people from particular countries.

China is the birthplace of 9.6 per cent of gallery or museum tour guides in Australia, and 8.8 per cent of casino workers.

And if you ever meet someone born in Egypt who is living in Australia, there's about a one in 50 chance that they work as a pharmacist. People born in Egypt make up 3 per cent of all pharmacists nationwide, or 741 out of 23,372.

One of them is 77-year-old Morris Morcos, who has been working as a pharmacist in Granville, in Western Sydney, since moving to Australia about 45 years ago.



Morris Morcos says his family decided that he would become a pharmacist in Australia. JANIE BARRETT

Growing up, he wanted to be a doctor, and it was one of the highly-skilled immigrant professions sought by the Australian government, along with teachers, engineers, and pharmacists.

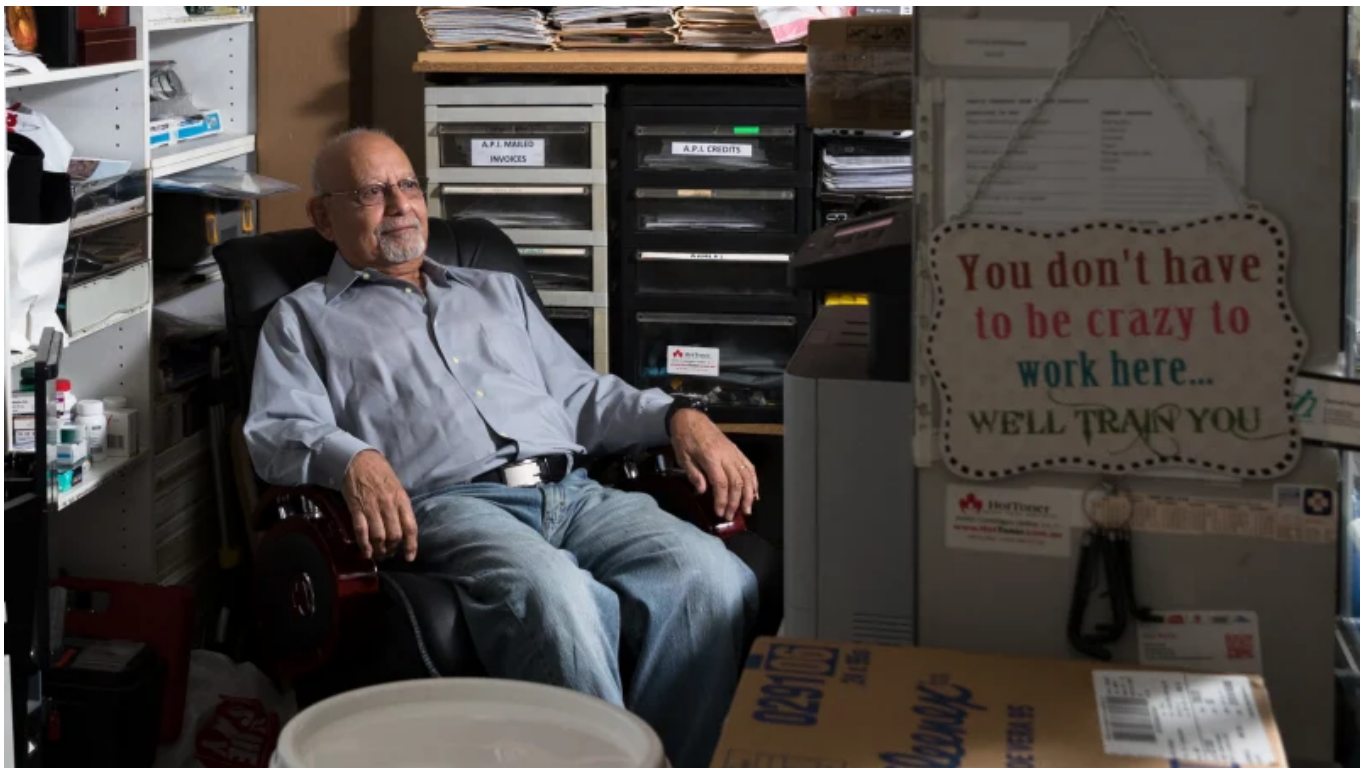
"I had the marks to be a doctor but my father said, 'No, you go to the pharmacy. Your sister will go and be a doctor'. More or less it was a family decision, not my decision," Mr Morcos said.

Back then, Mr Morcos said, Christians "weren't welcome" in the Muslim-majority country. This saw many families push their children into "top" professions in which they could thrive overseas, or remain mostly independent of the then-volatile Egyptian government.

"They said, 'OK, be a doctor or be a pharmacist', [then] you are individual and you don't need the government or don't really need a job because you have your own," Mr Morcos says.

Shortly after graduating, Mr Morcos did just that, opening his own pharmacy in Egypt before emigrating to Australia about four years later.

It's here that he began work at Granville Family Pharmacy, and he – along with his pharmacist son – still serves the Granville community.



Morris Morcos in his pharmacy in Granville, where he has worked for 45 years. JANIE BARRETT



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