## Australia

India and Australia have a long history predating the accidental 'discovery' of Australia by European explorers. Some studies have found that as far back as 2200 BC South Asians had been traveling to Australia. Other controversial theories suggest the history goes back even further. Regardless of how far back the history of India and Australia goes the modern South Asian and Hindu diaspora in Australia is growing rapidly.

Over millennia as things changed, the Hindu diaspora had a varied relationship with Australia. In the late 1700s Indian crews from Bay of Bengal came to Australia on trading ships and some were even brought from South Asia along with camels to serve as guides across the outback. However, things changed drastically during the early 1900s with the White Australia policy during which immigration from South Asia was drastically restricted.

After the abolishment of the White Australia policy, in 1971, immigration from South Asia increased and today South Asian Immigration to Australia is booming. The Indian community in Australia is one of the fastest-growing migrant groups in Australia. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, around almost 60,000 Indians arrived in Australia in 2021/22. By some estimates, around 3% of the Australian population has Indian ancestry.

Today the Hindu diaspora population in Australia possesses significant wealth and wealth influence in many spheres. Those from this diaspora are typically younger, higher paid, and have more education than most other migrants. 54.6% of Indians in Australia having a bachelor's or higher. They are also the fastest growing segment of the Australian population.

Currently the diaspora is estimated at nearly 800,000 people or just over 3.1% of the Australian population, the largest numbers living in Victoria. Indian diasporas contribute to Australia's international competitiveness. Most places in Australia view Indians very highly and many are deeply connected in their communities.



Pray that Hindus in Australia have profound opportunities to encounter followers of Jesus in their community. (HEBREWS 13:2)

Pray that other Australians of South Asian origin, who do know Jesus will boldly reach out to Hindus in Australia and faithfully share the love of Jesus with them. (JOB 31:32)

Pray that Hindus in Australia will be blessed and that their children will have opportunities to live life to its full while discovering the love of Jesus for them and their community. (LEVITICUS 19:34)

