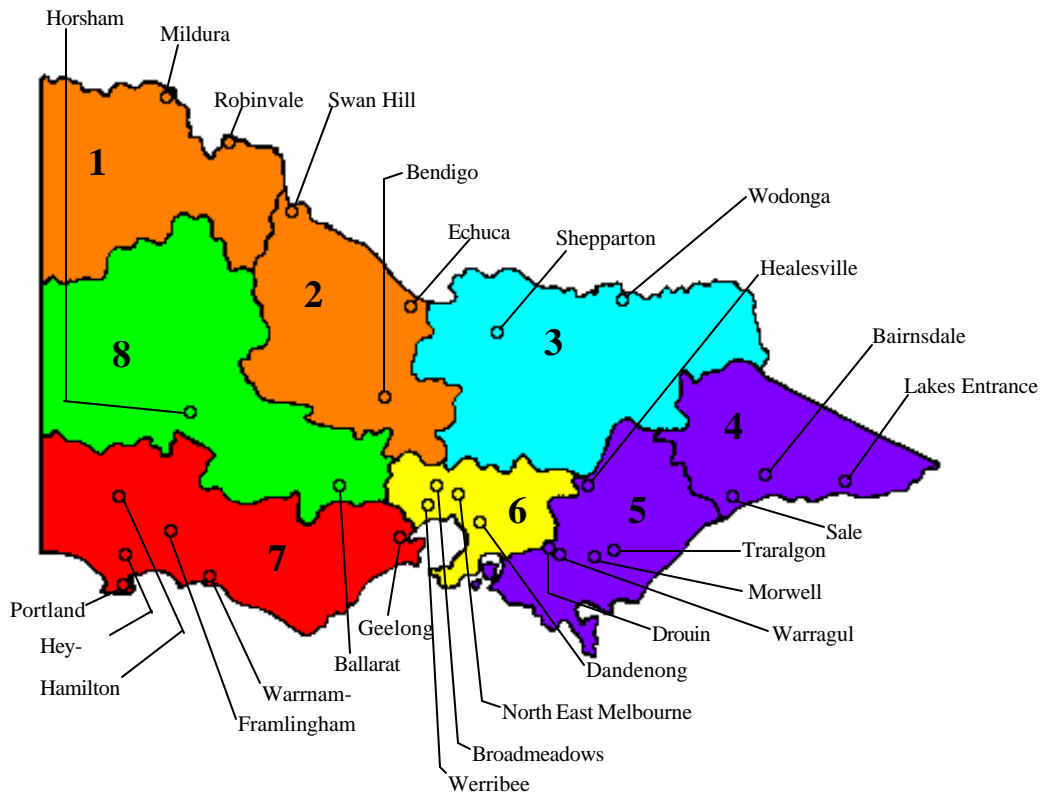


Victorian Pro-



- 1. Murray Valley**
- 2. Loddon Campaspe**
- 3. Goulburn Valley**
- 4. East Gippsland**

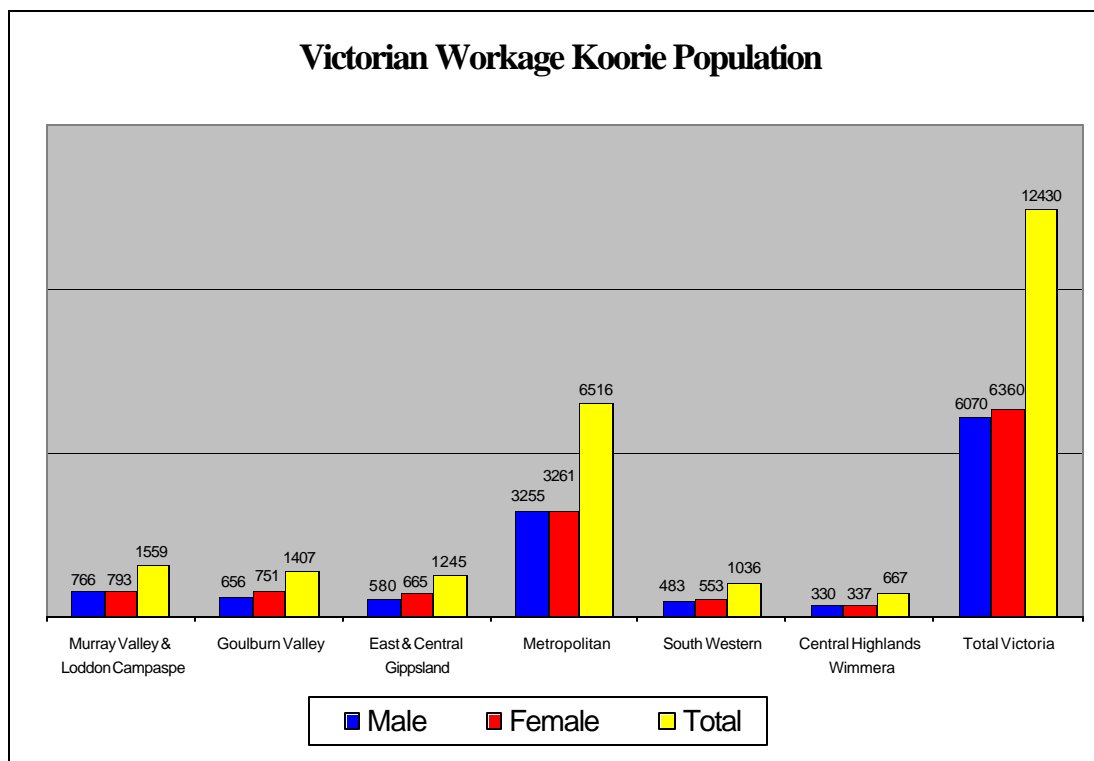
- 5. Central Gippsland**
- 6. Metropolitan**
- 7. South Western**
- 8. Central Highlands Wimmera**

Victoria’s Koorie population has increased from 16,737 or 0.4% in 1991 to 21,474 or 0.5% of Victoria’s total population of 4,373,520. These figures represent a 28.3% increase in the number of Victorian people who identify as Indigenous between the 1991 and 1996 ABS Census.

The ABS suggests that the increase in the Koorie population may be explained by improved recording on the 1996 Census form. This increase is consistent with VAEAI’s view that the Koorie population has always been underestimated by official sources.

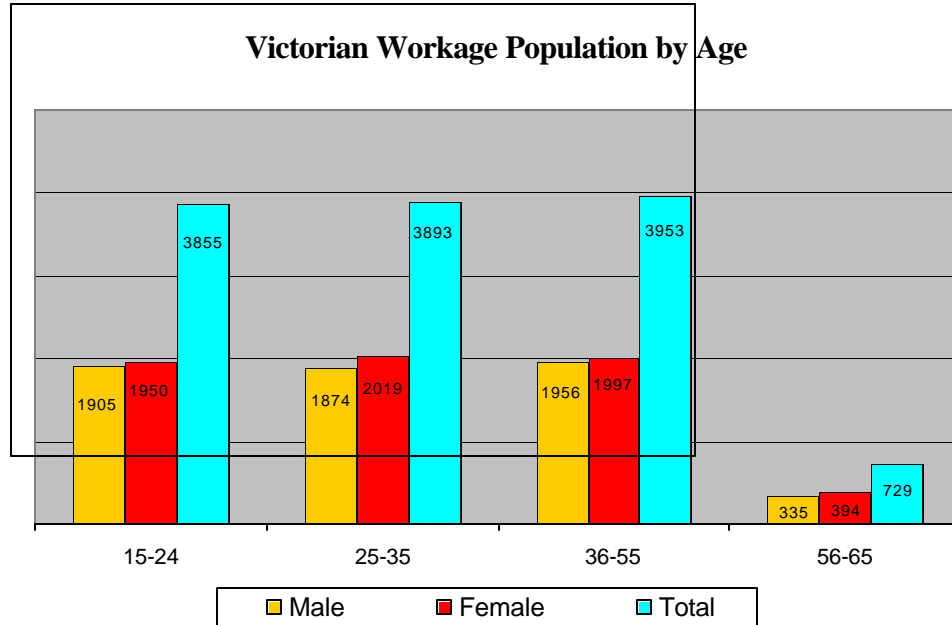
Characteristics of the Koorie population

Of the total Koorie population of 21,474 the number of workforce age persons (15-65 years) totals 12,430 or 57.9%. This comprises of 6,070 men and 6,360 women.



Source: ABS

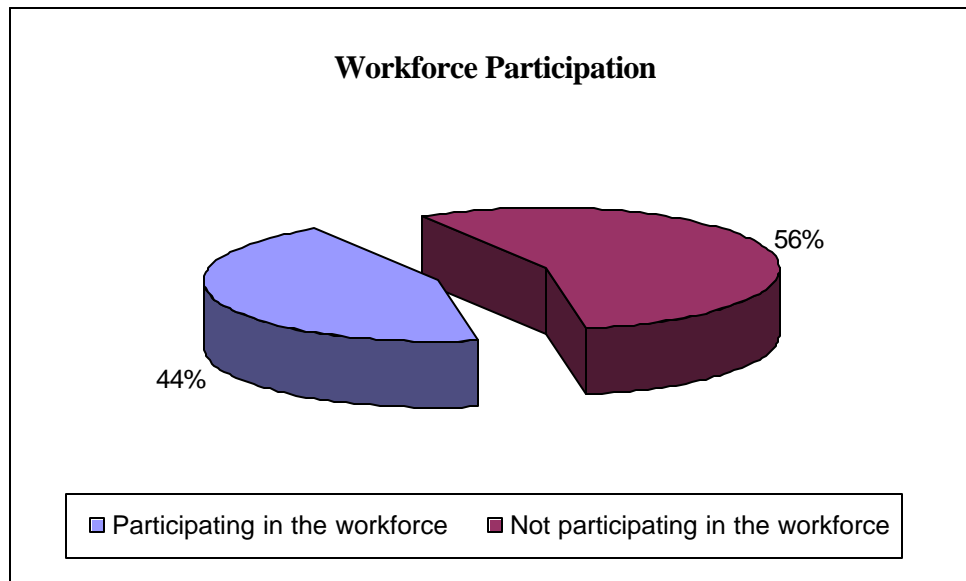
52.4% of the workforce age population reside in the Melbourne Metropolitan area.



Source: ABS

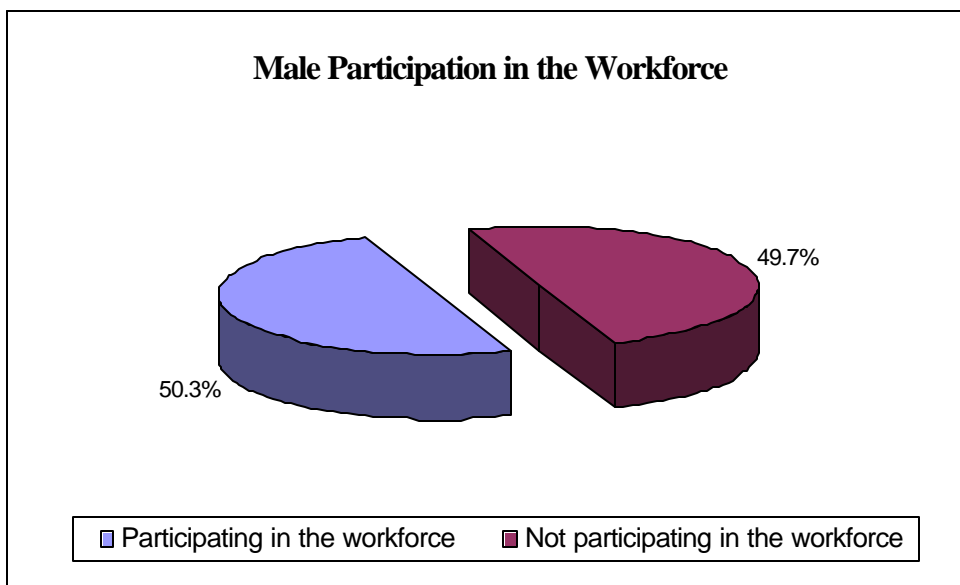
The Workforce age population is distributed evenly between the 15-24, 25-35 and the 36-55 age groups, with a significant drop in the number of people within the 56-65 age group. It is important to note that there is a 20 year range in the 36-55 age group, while the 15-24 and the 25-35 have a 10 year and 11 year range, therefore there is a marked reduction in the number of people within the 36-55 age group.

Workforce Participation

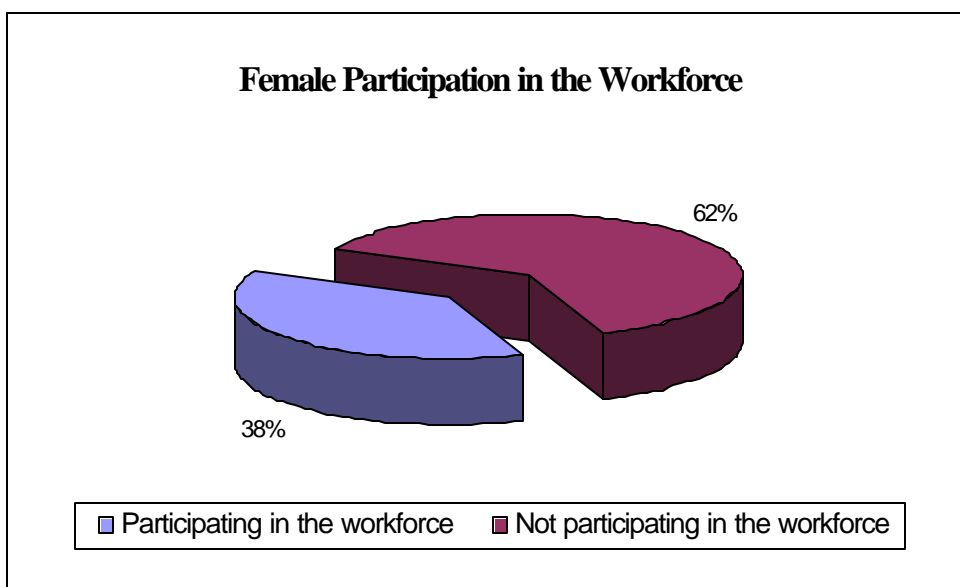


Source: ABS

Excluding Koories employed under the Community Development Employment Project (CDEP), ABS '96 Census statistics show that 5,439 Koories participated in the workforce, this comprises of 3,051 men and 2,388 women.



Source: ABS

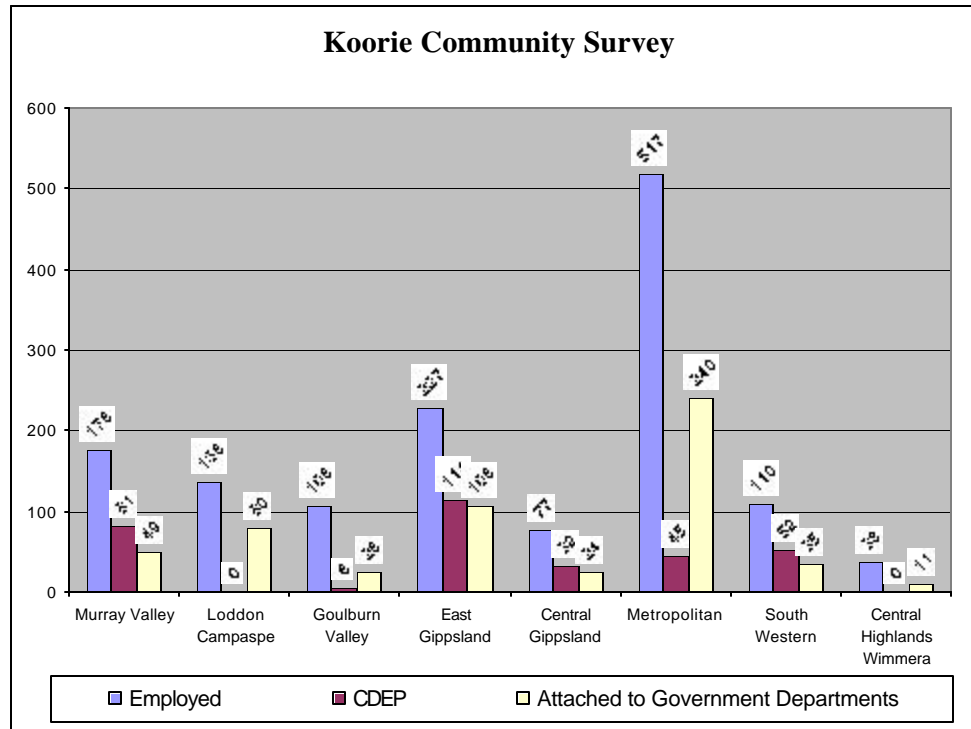


Source: ABS

It is important to note that a breakdown of those people in full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work has not been made at this stage. It is also important to note that the 1996 Census was taken before the Federal budget cuts when many Aboriginal Organisations were forced to close down or to take a reduction in staff.

The Koorie Community Survey conducted by the VAEAI in 1997 showed that 1,057 Koories (excluding people employed under the CDEP) worked within the Koorie Community and Government organisations surveyed. 571 of these were attached to Government Departments.

Our Survey showed the following:



Source:

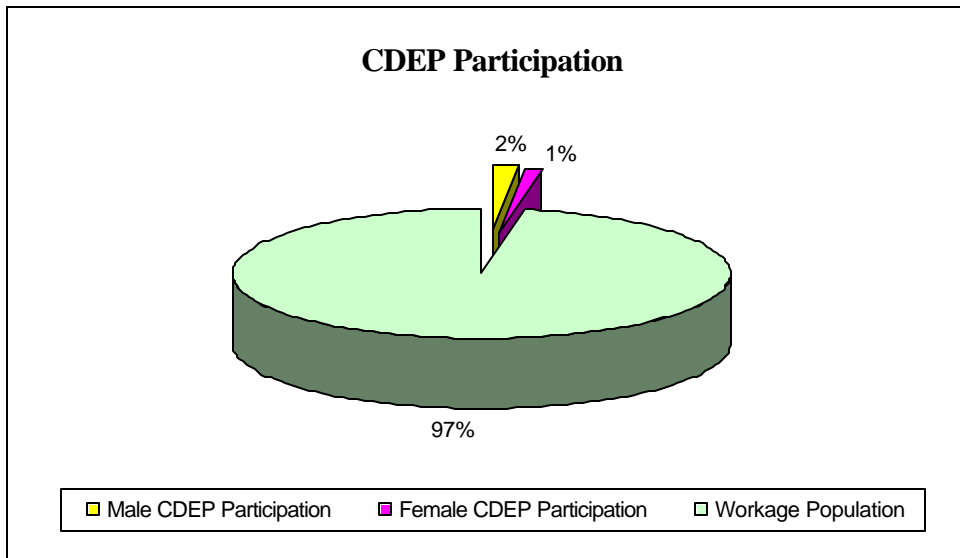
Koorie Community Survey

VAEAI

The Koorie Community Survey was large scaled, however, not extensive enough to provide a conclusive picture of Koorie employment participation rates in Community organisations and Government departments.

Community Development Employment Program Participation

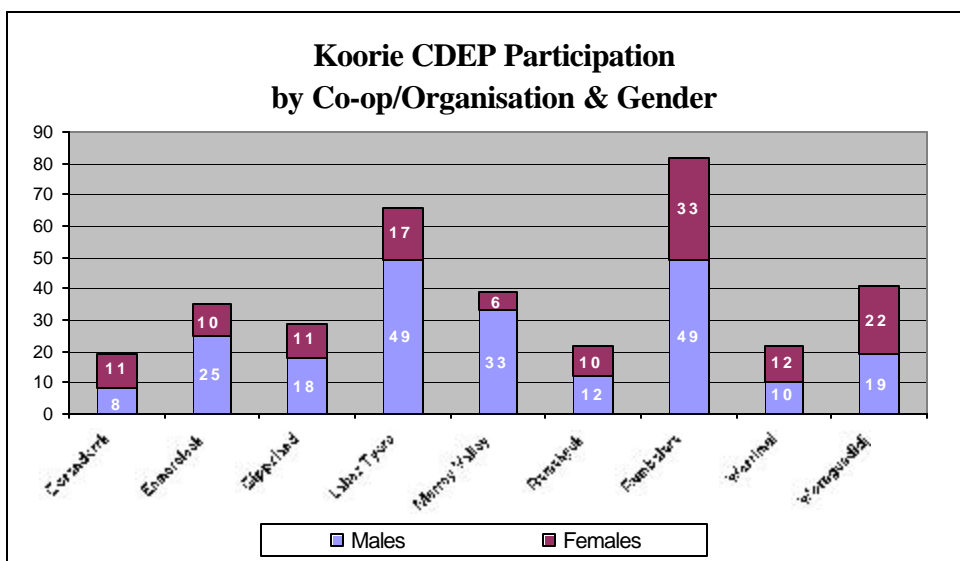
On July 1st 1996, ATSIIC funded 355 CDEP places in Victoria, comprising of 223 men and 132 women.



Source: ATSIIC & ABS

There are nine CDEP Locations throughout Victoria, with 3% of the workage population participating in the program.

The following graph shows the male/female CDEP participation by Aboriginal Co-operative/Location.



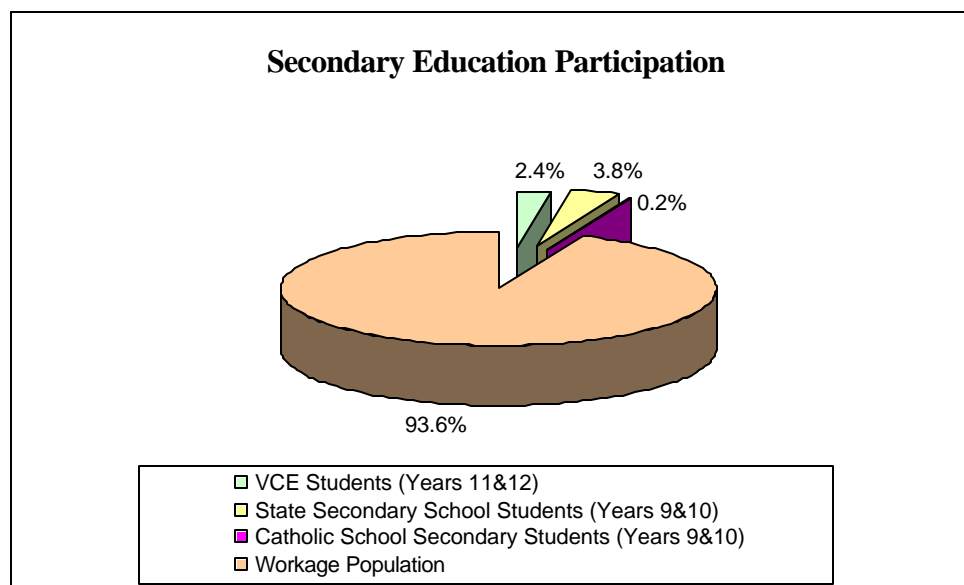
Source:

ATSIIC

The VAEAI Koorie Community Survey, 1997, results showed that 330 Koories were employed in the participating organisations under the Community Development Employment Program.

ATSIC statistics show that 510 CDEP places were funded on September 3rd 1997, across nine locations in Victoria.

Secondary Education Participation

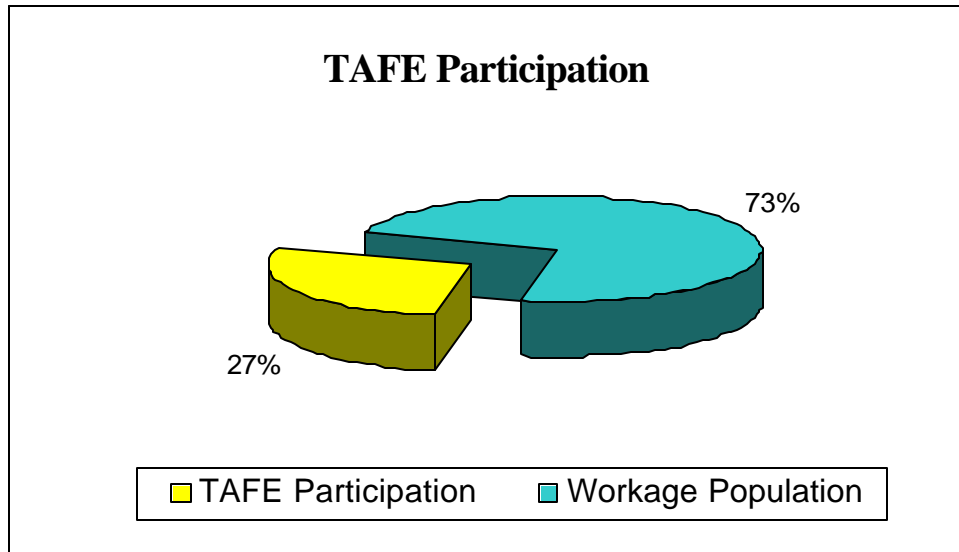


Source: Board of Studies, Department of Education, Catholic Education Office & ABS

The Board of Studies' statistics show that 294 Koories were enrolled in VCE in 1996. Department of Education statistics showed that 476 Koories were enrolled in years 9 and 10 in the State Secondary School system. Catholic Education Commission Victoria statistics stated that 25 students were enrolled in years 9 and 10. We were unable to obtain statistics for other Private school students at this stage, this would affect the number of Year 9 and 10 students as VCE statistics from the Board of Studies include all schools. Any students in Year 9 under the age of 15 have been included.

Technical and Further Education Participation

Department of Education statistics state that 3,405 Koories participated in TAFE in the 1996 year, this comprised of 1,956 men and 1,449 women.



Source:

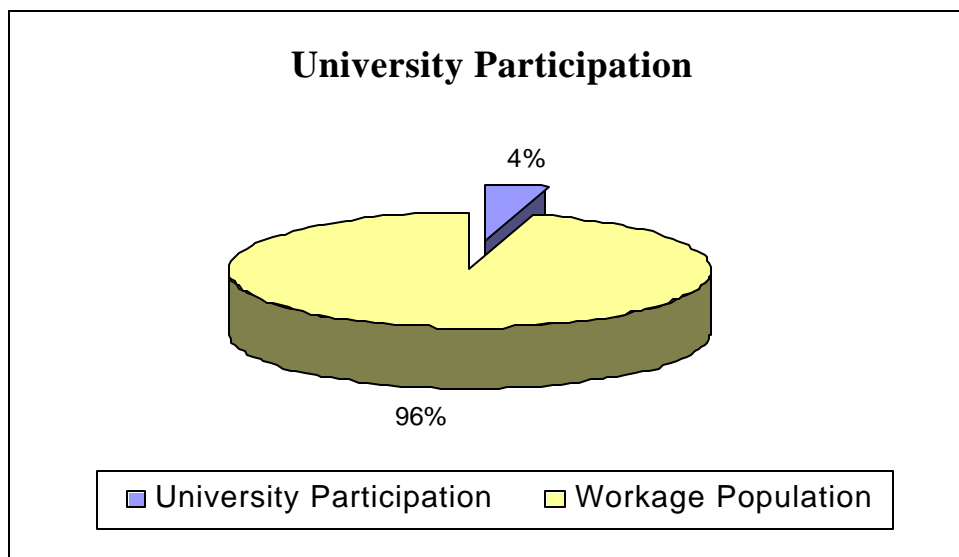
Education & ABS

Department of

These figures include full-time, part-time, short-term, VCE and Koorie specific courses.

University Participation

From information supplied by the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) and individual universities it was established that 529 Koories participated in Victorian Universities.



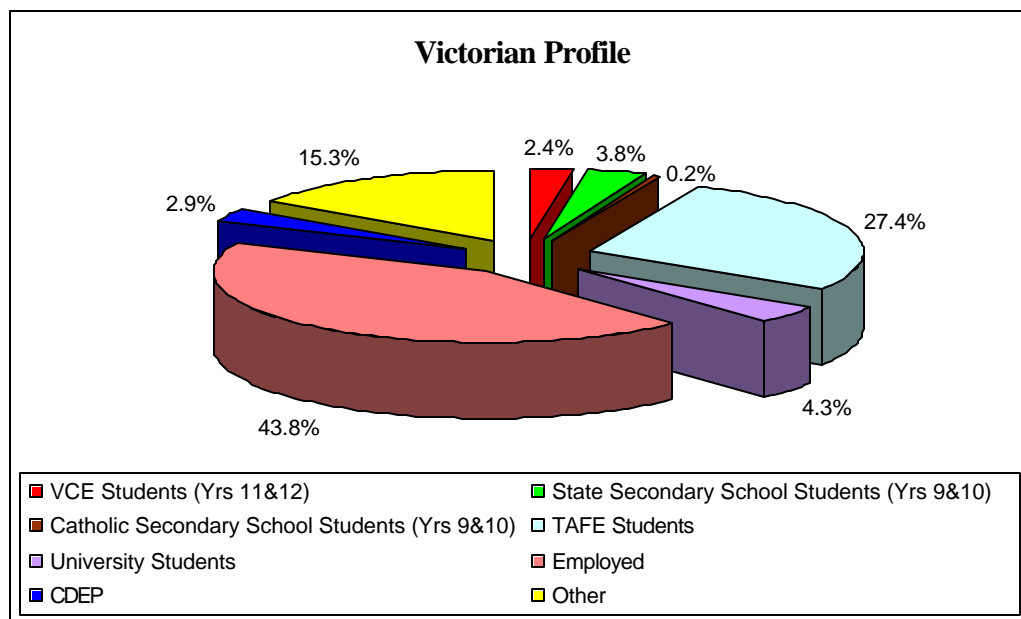
Source:

Individual Universities & ABS

DEETYA,

This graph shows the number of Victorian based students only, other figures may include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from other states studying in Victoria.

Summary



Source: Department of Education, Catholic Education Office, DEETYA, Individual Universities, Board of Studies, ATSIC & ABS

Of a total working age population of 12,430 the following is a breakdown of participation in education by type:

- **294 students enrolled in VCE;**
- **501 enrolled in Years 9 and 10;**
- **3405 participated in TAFE;**
- **529 participated in University Education.**

The Employment Profile in 1996 was as follows:

- **12,430 Koories are of working age;**
- **5439 participated in the workforce, excluding those on the CDEP;**
- **1057 Koories worked within the Koorie community organisations surveyed and 571 of these were attached to Government Departments;**
- **355 CDEP places in Victoria;**

- **the overall employment rate within the Koorie community was 44%.**

In 1996-97, the Commonwealth Government announced a 10% budget cut across all program areas within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. The effect of this was that a number of Victorian Aboriginal organisations were closed and many hundreds of Koories who worked within those organisations are now unemployed. Therefore, the figures relating to the employment rate have decreased markedly post the data collection contained in this report.