

Cabramatta and Springvale

Many Vietnamese people lived in migrant hostels when they first arrived in Australia in the 1970s and 1980s. When they left the hostels, a large number found accommodation in nearby suburbs. As a result, certain parts of Australia's capital cities surrounding migrant hostels have large concentrations of people from Vietnam. These include Cabramatta in Sydney, and Springvale in Melbourne.

Springvale, Melbourne

The number of Vietnamese people living in Victoria rose sharply in the 1980s as refugees arrived from war-torn Vietnam. Many were later joined by other family members. The 2011 census revealed there were about 60 000 Vietnam-born Victorians.

During the 1980s, the migrant hostel in Springvale housed many Vietnamese people. When they moved out of the hostel many found accommodation and set up businesses close by. Gradually the nature of the surrounding suburbs changed, and by the mid-1980s Springvale had become a thriving Asian community.

Today Springvale remains a major centre for Vietnamese Australians. Other Melbourne suburbs with large Vietnamese populations include Richmond and Footscray.



Springvale Markets

Cabramatta, Sydney



Friendship Arch and Freedom Plaza, Cabramatta



The Cabramatta Moon Festival is held every year in September or early October. The Moon Festival is a traditional celebration for people from Vietnam and China.

A similar thing happened around Sydney's Cabramatta migrant hostel, which was home to thousands of Vietnamese refugees during the 1970s. When people moved out they often found houses in the surrounding suburbs, with many setting up businesses. According to the 2011 census, Cabramatta had a total population of about 20 000. About one in three residents of Cabramatta were born in Vietnam, compared to just over a quarter who were born in Australia. Just 11.6% of people speak only English in their homes. Other languages commonly spoken in Cabramatta include Cantonese (12.9%), Thai (10.6%), Khmer (9%), Laotian (6.3%) and Mandarin (5.1%).