



CRICKET NSW

CRICKET NSW

SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY PROFILES: ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT



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BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

The Community Profiles Toolkit (the Toolkit) has been developed by Cricket NSW to provide readers with relevant information on South Asian communities, supporting informed and effective engagement to strengthen connections and build understanding. It will function as a guidance tool for navigating communications and engagements with individuals from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan.

The Toolkit has been developed to include a comprehensive yet accessible overview of relevant information using insights from the Special Broadcasting Service’s (SBS) Cultural Atlas. The key features that define a community, such as values, history, social structures, beliefs, traditions, location, and intersectionality, were identified. Additionally, experiences working with South Asian communities informed an understanding of when there is a heightened possibility for cultural misunderstandings to occur, such as the cultural, linguistic, and experiential barriers that could limit meaningful engagement.

DEFINITIONS

South Asian identity:

'South Asian' refers to individuals of the following descent: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The term comprises the geographical and ethno-cultural contexts of these countries to reflect the diverse yet inherently connected features of the region. Cricket NSW also recognises the need to include those from diasporic communities, multi-ethnic backgrounds, and individuals who are first-generation, second-generation, and third-generation immigrants.

Cultural diversity:

Cultural diversity in this context refers to the numerous variations in religion, language, ethnicity, beliefs, traditions, and experiences within the South Asian community, also referred to as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD).

KEY TERMS/CONCEPTS

- **Diasporic communities:** Groups of people who live outside their country of origin, often maintaining cultural ties to their homeland.
- **Multi-ethnic backgrounds:** Individuals or groups that reflect diverse cultural identities, ancestry, or geographic origins different ethnic backgrounds.
- **First-generation immigrants:** People born in another country who have experienced migration to their new place of residence.
- **Second-generation immigrants:** People born in a new country to at least one overseas-born parent.
- **Third-generation immigrants:** Grandchildren of individuals who immigrated to a new country.

TOOLKIT INSIGHTS

This Toolkit will provide readers with:

- A snapshot of general characteristics of South Asian communities
- A summary of key cultural insights to consider when engaging
- An overview of geographic distribution of communities throughout NSW
- Practical guidance with tips and suggestions to support effective communications.

USING THIS TOOLKIT

This Toolkit can be used by Cricket NSW staff, clubs and associations, volunteers, players, parents and families, and the broader community. It offers guidance for anyone involved in cricket who seeks to engage respectfully and effectively with members of South Asian communities. The reflection questions below can help users consider how to apply information in their programs, communication, and everyday interactions.

- How will you track whether your activities are supporting South Asian families and enhancing their experiences in cricket?
- How can you accommodate the different cultural needs and priorities within South Asian communities when planning programs or events?
- What are effective ways to involve South Asian families and community groups when designing or reviewing your programs?
- How would you communicate with someone who has limited English, and what support or tools could you provide?
- How might you adjust your activities or schedules to respect cultural and religious events important to South Asian families?
- What steps can you take to help South Asian players, parents, and community members feel welcome, respected, and included?

COMMUNITY PROFILES

INDIAN COMMUNITIES

CHARACTERISTICS:

Country of Origin: India

Ethnic Background: Indian

Languages Spoken: Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Gujarati, Tamil, Punjabi, Kannada, Marathi, Urdu, Malayalam, Assamese, English

Religious Affiliation (if any): Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhist and Jainism

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

To support effective engagement with Indian communities through cricket-related initiatives, it's essential to understand their historical connection to the sport, migration patterns, family values, and cultural nuances that shape participation.

HISTORY OF CRICKET WITH INDIAN COMMUNITIES

India's passion and pride for cricket are deeply ingrained in everyday life, influencing social gatherings, celebrations, and popular culture. Major religious festivals often coincide with cricket matches, amplifying the sense of community and shared excitement. With celebrities investing in teams and cricket deeply embedded in its national identity, India remains one of the most influential and recognisable nations in the global cricket landscape.

India stepped onto the international cricket stage in 1932, playing its first Test match against England at Lord's Stadium under the leadership of the

Maharaja of Porbandar. Soon after, the captaincy passed to C.K. Nayudu, marking a symbolic shift from royal patronage to merit-based leadership. This transition not only reflected changing times but also opened the sport to talented players from diverse communities across the country.

After Independence and Partition, cricket continued to grow in national importance. The establishment of the Ranji Trophy in 1947 strengthened domestic competition, and India celebrated its first-ever Test victory in 1952. The 1983 ICC World Cup victory, led by Kapil Dev, was a defining moment that transformed the nation's relationship with the sport and placed India on the global cricketing map.

The launch of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2008 further reshaped Indian cricket. Combining high-intensity competition with international talent, the IPL created new opportunities for young players, expanded cricket's reach, and helped make the sport a year-round celebration for millions of fans.

MODERN PARTICIPATION

India's passion and pride for cricket are deeply ingrained in everyday life, influencing social gatherings, celebrations, and popular culture. Major religious festivals often coincide with cricket matches, amplifying the sense of community and shared excitement. With celebrities investing in teams and cricket deeply embedded in its national identity, India remains one of the most influential and recognisable nations in the global cricket landscape.

MIGRATION HISTORY

Migration of the Indian community to Australia started more than a century ago and has had a significant impact on both community life and cricket in the country. Early migration was limited due to policies such as the White Australia Policy, which restricted non-European migration until its repeal in the late 1960s.

A new wave of Indian migrants arrived under skilled migration programs from the 1970s. Engineers, doctors, IT professionals, and students established a growing Indian Australian population. These communities are culturally and linguistically diverse, reflecting India's rich regional heritage.

This migration history has influenced cricket within Indian communities in Australia. For many Indian Australians, cricket provides a cultural connection to India while fostering social cohesion in their new home. Local community tournaments, youth coaching programs, and social cricket events offer opportunities to maintain cultural traditions, celebrate shared heritage, and strengthen community ties.

RELIGION AND RITUALS

India is home to a rich tapestry of religions, with the majority identifying as Hindu (79.8%), followed by Muslims (14.2%), Christians (2.3%), Sikhs (1.7%), Buddhists (0.7%), and Jains (0.37%). Other religions, including Zoroastrianism, Judaism, and the Bahá'í faith, are also practised. Key religious celebrations include Diwali, Holi, Ram Navami, Navratri, Eid al-Fitr, Durga Puja, Dussehra, and Christmas.

The Indian cricket season, which typically spans from September to May, coincides with many of these festivals. Domestic tournaments, such as the Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy, and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, typically run from September to March, overlapping with celebrations like Navratri, Dussehra, Diwali, Christmas, and Holi. The Indian Premier League (IPL) takes place from March to May, often coinciding with the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Festival timing provides a natural boost to cricket enthusiasm, allowing families and communities to spend time together both celebrating culturally significant events and enjoying the sport. Cricket matches become occasions for social connection, communal enjoyment, and cultural expression, reinforcing the link between religion, family, and national passion for the game.

FAMILY AND HIERARCHY

Historically, India has maintained strong multigenerational family dynamics, where family members often support each other socially and financially. Respect for elders and maintaining family connections remain central aspects of daily life. Cricket is nationally loved and enjoyed by families when coming together, and this dynamic continues among Indian families in the diaspora.

Beyond providing entertainment, cricket serves as a cultural bridge across generations. Families often watch matches together, discuss players and strategies, and celebrate victories collectively, fostering shared experiences. Community gatherings around cricket at local parks, clubs, or cultural events also allow extended family networks to reinforce bonds and maintain cultural traditions. Cricket is not just a sport but a social activity that supports intergenerational interaction and community cohesion.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Indian people in Australia maintain connections with fellow community members through cultural groups, places of worship, festival gatherings, and personal celebrations such as weddings and other events. Some networks that are fostering community connections are:

- Facebook groups and websites for Indian Australian communities
- *Indian Support Centre Australia* for cultural, legal and social support
- *United Indian Associations*
- Various University Clubs and Societies
- Cultural festival celebrations such as *Holi Mela*¹, *Deepavali Festival*, *Lakemba markets*², *Garba Night*³ and many others
- Religious meeting places such as Temples, Gurudwaras⁴, Churches and Mosques are of the utmost significance and spread across Australia.

Cricket can be incorporated into these already established networks, providing an accessible and familiar avenue for engagement. Utilising existing community spaces and events enables Indian Australians to engage socially, foster cultural connections, and share a passion for cricket as a shared interest.

CORE VALUES

Indian communities place high importance on education, hard work, respect, and family and community cohesion. These values are reflected in both professional and personal life and are often carried into recreational and sporting activities, including cricket.

Key cultural principles include:

- **Collectivism:** Cricket, whether played or watched communally, reinforces collective and familial bonds and provides opportunities for shared celebration.
- **Respect:** Courtesy towards others and elders is considered important. In cricket, this value is reflected in fair play, teamwork, and inclusive participation.
- **Adaptability:** Indian communities often navigate diverse environments with flexibility and creativity; skills developed through migration experiences. These skills translate to cricket, where teamwork, resilience and strategic thinking are essential for success.
- **Pride in achievement:** Success in education, work, and sport is celebrated. Cricket allows individuals to contribute to their team while finding value in collective success.
- **Family and community orientation:** Family and community ties influence activities, with festivals, holidays, and weekends often used for gatherings and watching cricket.

Through these values, cricket is not only a sport but a medium for reinforcing cultural continuity, fostering intergenerational connections, and building a sense of identity and pride among Indian communities in Australia.

CONCEPTS OF TIME

Indian communities practice flexible timing in informal settings, where prioritising family, storytelling and hospitality. However, in formal settings such as job interviews, educational institutes and organised sporting events, punctuality is expected and highly regarded.

Timing remains contextual and is often adjusted to accommodate the needs of family, friends, or the wider community, reflecting a balance between social obligations and commitments.

TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND SENSITIVITIES

In India, clothing, dietary practices, and social etiquette vary widely across regions, religions, and communities. People may wear traditional attire or modern clothing, depending on their personal preference and the occasion, with both comfort and cultural expression playing a role.

- **Clothing:** Clothing practices differ across regions, weather conditions and faiths. People may wear traditional clothing such as sarees, kurtas and lehengas on special occasions.
- **Diet:** People's diets are diverse and can be faith-based, such as avoiding beef, pork, or specific ingredients. Offering a variety of meal options is often appreciated, and hospitality plays a central role in social interactions, with guests commonly encouraged to eat and celebrate together.
- **Etiquette and hospitality:** Respectful communication, including friendly greetings and acknowledging elders, is valued across many Indian communities. These traditions naturally extend into cricket gatherings, where food, social connection, and inclusive interactions strengthen the sense of community, making the sporting experience enjoyable for all.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

India's history includes periods of colonisation, independence movements, and significant social and political transitions that have shaped the identities of Indian communities globally. Events such as the Partition, regional migration, and internal reforms have influenced how different groups understand notions of belonging, identity, and community. Within the Indian diaspora, diversity in language, region and religion can shape experiences and connections, sometimes creating varied perspectives within the broader community.

The Indian society has also historically been impacted by the Varna5 (caste) system, creating strict hierarchies in the country. While still present, the cricket community is consciously trying to represent oppressed caste communities in mainstream tournaments.

WHERE INDIAN COMMUNITIES LIVE



Figure 1. Map based on ancestry data, top 10 metro and regional suburbs in NSW

Cricket often serves as a unifying force across these differences.

The sport provides a shared space for celebration, pride, and connection, helping bring together individuals from diverse Indian backgrounds and strengthening a sense of collective identity within the diaspora.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Indian communities are diverse, with experiences shaped by factors such as gender, language, region, and socioeconomic background. First-generation migrants may prioritise maintaining Indian languages, traditions, and community networks, while younger generations often balance these cultural ties with Australian norms and lifestyles.

Access to resources, employment opportunities, and settlement support can vary among groups with different migration statuses, influencing their participation in community life, recreation, and sports. Gender expectations may also differ between households, shaping who participates in cricket and in what capacity.

Despite these differences, cricket often serves as a shared cultural bridge, uniting people across generations and backgrounds, and providing a space where cultural identity, belonging, and community pride can be collectively expressed.

THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF

Practical checklist of dos and don'ts. To highlight consideration for respectful and effective engagement with Indian communities:

- Communication styles
 - Use clear, respectful language. Be mindful that some members of the Indian community may prefer indirect communication, especially in situations involving disagreement or sensitive topics.
 - Showing respect for people's regional languages, accents and avoiding stereotypes is essential for creating welcoming and safe spaces for engagement.

- Recognising and utilising informal communication methods, such as word of mouth, can be effective since many elders in the community prefer to share and discuss information through conversation amongst friend groups.
- Caregiving, marriage, and parenting
 - Families may prioritise caregiving and household responsibilities, which can influence availability for activities. Providing flexible scheduling and family-friendly environments, such as child-friendly spaces and social areas for seniors, with features like board games and chess, can enhance engagement and create a welcoming atmosphere at a sporting club.
- Experiences of marginalisation or privilege within broader society
 - Some members of the South Asian community may feel excluded in mainstream settings. Highlighting Indian role models on social media can inspire younger community members and encourage greater participation and engagement in cricket.
 - Racial discrimination is a common experience for Indian individuals. Clubs can make sure that opportunities to participate are provided in a fair and equitable manner.
 - Inclusive imagery, posters, and signage that visually represent Indian community members can help create a welcoming and culturally affirming environment.
- Respect for traditional roles and hierarchies
 - Family plays a central role, and seeking the guidance or blessings of elders is often considered crucial when making significant decisions or initiating new ventures. It is essential to create a family-centred environment where players feel encouraged to bring their family along to games, enabling intergenerational participation and a shared activity for families to enjoy together.
 - Individuals from Indian communities may consult with family

members before making decisions or committing to something. Allowing space for these consultations supports inclusivity, respects cultural norms, and fosters well-being within the community.

- Trauma or sensitivities
 - Be aware that some community members may have experienced displacement, conflict, or discrimination. Fostering inclusive environments where individuals feel seen and their experiences are valued can provide them with the nourishment they need for sporting growth and participation.
- Language barriers
 - Understanding the linguistic diversity of India and avoiding the assumption that most Indians speak Hindi is essential. The Indian Constitution recognises 22 official languages, and providing signage or materials in several of these official languages can enhance inclusivity and engagement.



COMMUNITY PROFILES

PAKISTANI COMMUNITIES

CHARACTERISTICS:

Country of Origin: Pakistan

Ethnic Background: Pakistani

Languages Spoken: Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi and Pashto

Religious Affiliation (if any): Islam, Hinduism

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

To support effective engagement with Pakistani communities through cricket-related initiatives, it's essential to understand their historical connection to the sport, migration patterns, family values, and cultural nuances that shape participation.

HISTORY OF CRICKET WITH PAKISTANI COMMUNITIES

Cricket was introduced in Pakistan during colonisation and began as a national sport in the country after independence in 1947. Pakistan played its first test match in 1952 and soon developed a reputation for showcasing exceptionally talented sportsmen and passion across the country. They won the Cricket World Cup in 1992 under the leadership of Imran Khan. Pakistan has won numerous titles since then, including the 2009 T20 World Cup and the 2017 Champions Trophy. Cricket is deeply ingrained in Pakistan's culture and supported by passionate fans worldwide. This passion is strengthened by the presence of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), the country's premier professional T20 cricket tournament with international stars competing in city-based teams.

MODERN PARTICIPATION

Cricket is deeply ingrained in Pakistan's culture and supported by passionate fans worldwide. This passion is strengthened by the presence of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), the country's premier professional T20 cricket tournament with international stars competing in city-based teams.

MIGRATION HISTORY

Pakistani communities began their migration to Australia in small numbers in the early 20th century, with large waves arriving in the 1970s and 1980s. Early migrants were mainly students, skilled professionals and families. The expansion of skilled-migration programs in the 1990s and 2000s further encouraged professionals, such as engineers, IT specialists, doctors, and academics, to move to Australia.

Today, Pakistani students are one of the fastest-growing international student groups in Australian universities, making them a community that is significantly engaged in cricket in NSW.

RELIGION AND RITUALS

Islam is the predominant religion across Pakistan, practised by 98% of the population. Minority religions include Hinduism, Christianity and Sikhism. The country is constitutionally an Islamic Republic, with its legal system guided by Islamic jurisprudence. Faith is an integral part of daily life, including cricket, where teams often show gratitude by collectively praying before matches or at moments of victory. Pakistan is also home to a rich mosaic of ethnicities, each contributing to the country's cultural heritage.

Across these diverse cultures, cricket serves as a unifying force, bringing people together to celebrate shared cultural pride, skills and teamwork, often accompanied by music, chants, and communal enjoyment.

FAMILY AND HIERARCHY

Family is at the heart of relationships in Pakistan, with many households following a multigenerational structure that includes grandparents, uncles, and cousins. The culture is inherently respectful, with strong ties and loyalty among relatives, reflecting a deep sense of interdependence.

With cricket at the pulse of national culture, families can often be seen enjoying matches together, using the sport as an opportunity to bond, celebrate, and strengthen these vital social connections.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

With a culture centred around community, these connections away from home are essential in maintaining wellbeing. These are some prominent groups engaging Pakistani communities:

- University societies for cultural engagement and social connection, such as the *Pakistani Society* (University of Sydney) and *PakSoc* (University of New South Wales)
- Multicultural cricket competitions and recreational leagues, such as the Sydney Thunder Tape-Ball League, SCG Multicultural Cup, and local cricket leagues
- Community and cultural centres supporting social, educational, and cultural activities, such as the *Pakistan Australia Association* (PAA)
- Religious spaces and places of worship, such as local mosques and Islamic centres serving Pakistani communities

CORE VALUES

Core values for Pakistani communities are:

- Education is highly valued amongst Pakistani communities, with emphasis on higher education for a broader scope of opportunities.
- Hard work and dedication are emphasised in studies and professional life. Men and women both contribute to the success of both the community and the family. Pakistan has a rich tradition of music, poetry, and performance, particularly in classical, folk, and Sufi styles.

- The art of poetry and storytelling continues to thrive through cultural gatherings, festivals, and celebrations such as sporting victories.
- Pakistani culture is strongly collectivist, with a focus on interdependence, group cohesion, and loyalty to one's family, community, or social group. People often prioritise collective goals over individual gain, and celebrations of achievement are shared widely to foster harmony, belonging, and unity.

CONCEPTS OF TIME

Pakistani communities often follow flexible schedules in informal settings, where family obligations, social relationships, and communal events take priority over rigid time constraints. However, deadlines and appointments are respected in professional and educational settings.

Families and communities arrive together, socialise before a cricket game, and extend their celebrations after, emphasising the importance of spending time on enjoyment and collective participation. The game becomes more than a sporting event; it serves as a cultural occasion for bonding, teamwork and shared celebration.

TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND SENSITIVITIES

In Pakistan, clothing, dietary practices, and social etiquette are shaped by cultural and religious traditions.

- **Clothing:** Modest dressing is common, especially in public or formal settings, and clothing is often chosen according to the occasion.
- **Diet:** Meals are frequently prepared according to halal standards, and guests are typically offered additional helpings; elders are usually served first.
- **Etiquette and hospitality:** Social interactions emphasise respect for family and elders, including greetings and inquiries about well-being. Communal activities such as cricket, are accompanied with shared meals, celebrations, and respectful interactions.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Pakistan was created in 1947 following the partition of British India, leading to large-scale migration and displacement. Many Pakistanis experienced upheaval, loss, and disruption of communities during this time. The country has also undergone periods of political instability, including military rule and social reforms, which have shaped its diverse social and cultural landscape.

Cricket acts as a shared recreational activity that brings communities together, providing a space for connection, celebration, and the reinforcement of cultural identity across generations.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Pakistani communities in Australia reflect a range of linguistic, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. While Urdu is widely spoken among first-generation immigrants, younger generations often use English in daily life, creating a bilingual or multilingual household dynamic. Families may

WHERE PAKISTANI COMMUNITIES LIVE



Figure 2. Map based on ancestry data, top 10 metro and regional suburbs in NSW

continue to teach Urdu or regional languages, such as Punjabi, Sindhi, or Pashto, to preserve their cultural heritage. Experiences within the diaspora are shaped by factors such as education, employment opportunities, and migration circumstances, which influence settlement patterns, social networks, and access to resources.

THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF

Practical checklist of dos and don'ts. To highlight consideration for respectful and effective engagement with South Asian individuals:

- Communication styles
 - Use clear and respectful language when engaging with the community. Being mindful of the nuances in the community's experiences helps create safe and welcoming spaces where cultural connections can flourish.
- Caregiving, marriage, and parenting
 - Make sure that the whole family is invited to and accommodated for when attending a cricket match. These gatherings are a moment of connection for everyone in the family, and individuals are more likely to engage when they can involve the family.
- Experiences of marginalisation or privilege within broader society
 - Pakistani communities, particularly those who practice Islam and wear religious clothing, may face Islamophobia and stereotyping. Clubs can promote inclusivity and encourage participation by using videos, posters, and other forms of visible representation of Muslim players.
- Respect for traditional roles and hierarchies
 - Addressing elders respectfully and involving them in decision-making may increase trust and commitment. Allowing the whole family to be present during decisions can empower individuals and reinforce family and community bonds.

- Trauma or sensitivities
 - Be aware that some community members may have experienced familial displacement, religious or racial conflict, or discrimination. Foster safe and welcoming environments that avoid assumptions or stereotypes.
- Language barriers
 - Providing multilingual resources, such as translations, signage, and guides, helps ensure that critical information reaches all community members and reduces barriers caused by language differences.



COMMUNITY PROFILES

BANGLADESHI COMMUNITIES

CHARACTERISTICS:

Country of Origin: Bangladesh

Ethnic Background: Bengali

Languages Spoken: Bangla, Chittagonian, Sylheti and Rangpuri

Religious Affiliation (if any): Islam, Hinduism, Christianity and Buddhism

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Bangladeshi communities can be best engaged by understanding their dynamic historical patterns, culture, religious composition, sensitivities, and communication protocols. This information is foundational for promoting long-term involvement with cricket and respectful engagement practices.

HISTORY OF CRICKET WITH BANGLADESHI COMMUNITIES

Cricket was introduced to East Bengal (now Bangladesh) in the 18th century through British colonisation. Following the 1947 partition of Bengal, East Bengal became part of Pakistan, and Regional East Bengali teams began competing in domestic tournaments. Bangladesh officially became an associate member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 1977 as the country's officials became more enthusiastic about international exposure.

MODERN PARTICIPATION

The nation gained independence in 1971 and continued to make its mark in international cricket despite the ongoing political and humanitarian crises. Bangladeshi diaspora in Australia upholds their national pride by engaging with cricket through annual tournaments like SQUAD Bangladesh, local cricket activities and community events.

MIGRATION HISTORY

The first Bangladeshi immigrants arrived in Australia in the late 19th century but were identified as Pakistanis in the census. Bangladeshi immigration gradually increased since the 1970s and peaked around 1991-2011, primarily through the skilled migration and humanitarian pathway programs.

In NSW, second and third-generation 0-14-year-olds form the primary demographic, indicating the established nature of the Bangladeshi diaspora in the state. Professional services, community and service, and sales work are the most popular jobs held by Bangladeshi communities in NSW.

Engaging parents and carers of children aged 14 and under can help develop an early interest in professional cricket.

RELIGION AND RITUALS

Islam is the most popular religion in Bangladesh, followed by Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity. Despite religious differences, Hindu and Muslim Bengalis have shared some cultural practices that continued from the pre-partition era. Cricket is one such activity that unifies people and brings people together.

Major festivals include Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Durga Puja, Bengali New Year's Day and National Independence Day. Indigenous Bangladeshi tribes from the Chittagong Hills area celebrate the new-year with festivals like Bizu, Baisabi, and Shangrai.

Cricket tournaments around major festivals require considerations for fasting, dietary changes, and prayer times (for example, Ramadan Taraweeh⁶ prayers, fasting during Ramadan and Navratri⁷, and vegetarian/pescetarian diets during Bizu).

FAMILY AND HIERARCHY

Barhi, a traditional Bangladeshi family structure, typically consists of a husband and wife, their unmarried children, and their adult sons with their wives and children. Intergenerational family units are decreasing as young people move to bigger cities and settle in smaller residences.

Cricket is enjoyed by all generations in the country, and it is common for elders to share their sports knowledge with younger individuals. The growth of the Bangladeshi Women's Cricket team (Tigresses) has also helped change the notion of cricket as a male-only sport and inspired more girls to play cricket.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Bangladeshi audiences can be engaged via the following platforms:

- Bangladeshi or multicultural organisations, especially in Bangla-dominated regions.
- National Bangladeshi cricket associations and tournament organisers. For example, the Australian Bangladesh Community Cricket, the Australian Bangladesh Sports and Cultural Association, the Bangladesh Cricket League, and the Bangladesh Super League.
- Religious spaces such as mosques, temples, and monasteries (specifically those offering prayer services in Bangla and other regional languages).
- Community events for major festivals. For example, Ramadan markets and Durga Puja Pandals.
- Islamic schools.
- Language educators and Bangla language schools for second and third generation communities, and English support groups for newly settled individuals.

Working with trusted communication channels can bolster cricket participation among different age groups. These stakeholders provide relevant community insights that can inform culturally inclusive cricket initiatives.

CORE VALUES

Education and creativity hold the most significant importance among Bangladeshi communities.

- Bengali diasporas strive to continue their rich history of literature, paintings, folk music, dance, and drama. It is common for parents to teach their children in one of these art forms as a way of staying connected to their roots.

Education is deemed integral for accessing opportunities in a foreign country. The majority of Bangladeshi immigrants in Australia have a form of tertiary education and work in fields such as education, community services, and health. Reducing the gap in education for vulnerable communities like women, Rohingya^a refugees and ethnic minorities (Bihari, Chakma, Meitei, Garo, etc.) is a major political issue.

Cricket is another activity associated with patriotism, discipline, and overall development. More affordable, accessible and culturally aware cricket programmes can boost participation among newly settled families.

CONCEPTS OF TIME

Rules around timing in Bangladesh vary according to the social context, relationships, and religious considerations.

- Punctuality is highly encouraged and followed in formal settings. Communication regarding delays is a common courtesy.
- People are relatively relaxed with timing in personal settings, and minor delays are culturally acceptable.
- Schedules on Fridays and Ramadan are planned around daily prayers, fasting times and other religious observances. It is common for people to delay meetings to accommodate communal prayers.

Formal cricket practices are approached with punctuality and respect for one's coaches. Local community tournaments and events might start later than scheduled, especially around religious occasions.

TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND SENSITIVITIES

Bangladeshi cuisine is a diverse blend of regional influences and cultural traditions.

- **Clothing:** Modest, climate-safe, and traditional clothing are common in Bangladesh. People wear breathable materials like cotton and linen sarees, dresses, lungis (men's skirts or sarongs), and salwar kameez (traditional tunics and trousers).
- **Diet:** Seafood, freshwater fish, eggs, poultry, rice and lentils are central to a Bangladeshi diet. Some communities avoid pork and beef due to religious norms.
- **Etiquette and hospitality:** Exchanging handshakes and hugs is appropriate within the same gender. Elders are greeted with utmost respect. Sharing food during social cricket events is a form of cultural celebration, community bonding and engagement.

Muslim communities tend to cover their heads with hijabs and skull caps for modesty. Cricket players may modify their sports attire to make it more religiously suitable.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Bangladesh underwent several political changes before gaining independence as a nation.

- Several Bangladeshis have faced displacement, violence, and trauma from the partition.
- Minority Dalit⁹ and indigenous communities also face discrimination.
- The political events of 2024 led to the cancellation of some National and International tournaments for Bangladeshi cricket teams.

Cricket acts as a versatile recreational activity that unites individuals and empowers survivors of trauma.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Socioeconomic differences determine the financial position, standard of living and other experiences of newly arrived immigrants to Australia.

- Despite high English Language Proficiency, Bangla is the most common language spoken by first-generation Bangladeshi immigrants in Australia.
- English is more popular among Second and third generation immigrants; however, older generations focus on teaching Bangla to the younger ones.

Bangladeshi communities commonly watch cricket live streams in Bangla for culturally relevant commentary.

WHERE BANGLADESHI COMMUNITIES LIVE



Figure 3. Map based on ancestry data, top 10 metro and regional suburbs in NSW

THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF

These are some considerations for respectful and effective engagement with Bangladeshi communities:

- Communication styles
 - Avoid overly direct and loud communication. Practice confrontation delicately and ask open-ended questions that allow smooth conversations.
- Caregiving, marriage, and parenting
 - Care and respect for family, especially elders, are highly prioritised. Be considerate of individuals with caring responsibilities and make an inclusive space for all.
 - Organise accessible and culturally inclusive events. Arranging comfortable seating, ramps, bilingual resources, refreshments and weather safety for community elders at cricket events can bolster intergenerational engagement.
 - Arrange quiet prayer spaces and gender-specific rooms when possible. Some women might also prefer communication with the same gender — engage female coaches and staff in such scenarios.
- Experiences of marginalisation or privilege within broader society
 - Some Bangladeshis might have experienced Islamophobia and racial discrimination. Be sensitive to people's experiences and create a safe space for all.
 - Avoid generalising Bangladeshi identity with other South Asian identities (For example, consistently referring to Bangladesh as India or Pakistan can diminish their culture). Honour individual nationalities and their unique relationships with cricket.
- Respect for traditional roles and hierarchies
 - Families are deeply involved in a child's academic and personal development. Family-friendly tournaments with flexible timing

arrangements can foster positive interest.

- Community connections and kinship are highly treasured among Bangladeshi communities. Local families develop strong connections over their identity and share caring responsibilities when required. Engaging local organisations can provide holistic community insights and feedback for programme development.
- Trauma or sensitivities
 - Some individuals might identify as Bengali, whereas minority groups (Chakma, Garo, Meitei) might prefer to be addressed by their ethnic backgrounds. While Bangla is widely spoken, some groups might prefer information in their regional languages. Respect people's identifiers and adapt in-language resources as required.
- Language barriers
 - Bangladeshi communities are proud of their language(s) and aim to preserve them. In-language digital and printed resources, signage, banners, and mixed-language (English with Bangla) facilitations, workshops and verbal communication are positively received.
 - Code-switching (the habit of alternating between English and Bangladeshi languages and occasionally Hindi) is common among Bengali diasporas. A bilingual facilitator can factor in this nuance and engage different age demographics efficiently.

COMMUNITY PROFILES

NEPALI COMMUNITIES

CHARACTERISTICS:

Country of Origin: Nepal

Ethnic Background: Indo-Aryan and Tibeto-Nepalese

Languages Spoken: Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Tharu, Tamang, Newari

Religious Affiliation (if any): Hinduism, Buddhism

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nepal's connection with cricket can be accurately understood through its history, migration patterns, cultural considerations, etiquette, and political composition. While soccer is the most popular sport in Nepal, participation in cricket has grown significantly over time.

HISTORY OF CRICKET WITH NEPALI COMMUNITIES

Cricket was introduced to Nepal after the Revolution of 1951 (Sat Salko Kranti), a movement that established democracy. Previously, cricket was primarily played by the elite and dismissed by the general population due to its colonial connotations. Nepal played its first international match in 1996 and won the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) trophy in 2012.

MODERN PARTICIPATION

Nepali cricketers such as Paras Khadka, Shakti Gauchan, Mehboob Alam, Rubina Chhetry, Sita Rana Magar, and Indu Barma are a source of inspiration for Nepali communities worldwide.

MIGRATION HISTORY

The Nepali community's arrival in Australia dates back to the 1960s. Since then, the Nepali population in Australia has increased significantly, making a substantial contribution to the country's cultural landscape. The large majority of Nepali migrants arrived on temporary visas, mainly student and visitor visas.

At the end of 2023, the number of Nepali-born immigrants had increased by more than five times from 2013. NSW, in particular, witnessed drastic migration waves since 1991 due to financial instability in the country.

Annual tournaments, such as the Nepalese Premier League in Australia, keep the diaspora connected to the sport.

RELIGION AND RITUALS

- **Religion:** Hinduism is the dominant faith in Nepal (81.2%), followed by Buddhism (8.2%). Other minority religions consist of Islam (5.1%), Kiratism¹¹ (3.2%), and Christianity (1.8%). Adivasi Janajati¹² of Nepal commonly follow Shamanic and animist traditional beliefs.
- **Festivals:** Dashain and Tihar are the two most popular holidays celebrated by the Hindu community in Nepal. The two weeks leading up to the festivals hold significant religious and cultural meaning for people. Other significant Nepali festivals include Buddha Jayanti¹³, Teej¹⁴, Fagun Purnima¹⁵, Indra Jatra¹⁶, and Ramadan.

Festivals impact cricket engagement as:

- Families enjoy watching and playing cricket during festive gatherings to bond.
- Nepali diaspora communities organise local cricket tournaments, such as the Dashain Cup, every year around September to celebrate the joy of Dashain with fellow Nepalis.
- Professional cricket participation might be lower during this period as people travel back to Nepal for festivities or are unable to play due to fasting.

FAMILY AND HIERARCHY

- **Family:** It is common for several generations and extended family members to live in the same household. nuclear family structures are gaining popularity due to modernisation and emigration.

Families tend to watch cricket together as a communal bonding activity and often to showcase support towards their home team.

- **Hierarchy:** Most Nepali families follow a patriarchal structure where the eldest man of the family makes decisions. This dynamic is changing as more women pursue higher education and professional careers to contribute to their households.

Increasing interest in women's cricket is another sign of the changing times in Nepal. For instance, Nepal's women's national cricket team qualified for the 2025 ICC U-19 World Cup and performed impressively. This milestone, along with others, is a great inspiration for young Nepali girls.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Nepali communities can be engaged via the following channels:

- Nepali community organisations, especially in areas with high Nepali populations.
- National Nepali cricket associations and tournament organisers. For example, the Nepalese Cricket Association of Australia.
- Charities and NGOs raising money for the vulnerable communities in Nepal.
- Major cultural events celebrating popular Nepali festivities.
- Educators teaching Nepali language to second and third generation individuals/Educators teach English language to newly settled Nepali communities.
- Public health professionals working in Nepali communities.

CORE VALUES

- Education and a strong work ethic are highly valued in Nepal.
- Several qualifications obtained in Nepal are not recognised in Australia, and individuals must establish their careers from scratch. Several immigrants are involved in shift work, including nursing, aged care, hospitality, and service.

Working out of regular hours can make it difficult for the community to be involved in cricket. Immigrant parents might also struggle to afford the time and money required for enrolling their children in cricket coaching.

CONCEPTS OF TIME

Nepali communities are relaxed with timing in casual settings, and it is common for people to arrive 10-20 minutes late to a social gathering. However, people tend to be more punctual in professional settings.

Emphasising the importance of timing in cricket can help avoid any miscommunication during training and practice.

TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND SENSITIVITIES

- **Clothing:** A mix of modern and traditional clothing such as Sarees, Daura Saruwal¹⁷ and Dhaka Topis¹⁸ are common.
- **Diet:** A traditional Nepali diet consists of grains, legumes, regional vegetables, and meat. The majority of people consume poultry, mutton, pork, carabeef (buffalo meat), and freshwater fish. Beef is mainly consumed by those from the non-Hindu faith. People's meat consumption changes around religious occasions, such as Dashain, which impacts their energy levels and cricket performance.
- **Etiquette and hospitality:** Polite communication and greeting others with a Namaskar¹⁹ is appreciated. Guests are often given a godly stature in Hindu mythology and making people feel welcomed is highly important.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Unlike its South Asian counterparts, Nepal was never colonised by an external force. It was under a monarchy and only became a democracy after the 1951 revolution.

The country is also prone to climate disasters due to its geographical location. Massive floods struck the country in 2015 and displaced several communities from their home.

In September 2025, Nepal underwent a significant political shift, resulting in the dismissal of the government. This period caused immense chaos in Nepal and evoked strong emotions among Nepali immigrants.

These contexts distress immigrant communities as they are concerned for their loved ones. Community support, such as cricket, can help people feel a sense of support during difficult times. It's also worth noting that communities might not engage with cricket in such upheavals.

WHERE NEPALI COMMUNITIES LIVE



Figure 4. Map based on ancestry data, top 10 metro and regional suburbs in NSW

INTERSECTIONALITY

Inequality in socioeconomic status is quite common in Nepal. Similar to India and Sri Lanka, Nepali society is impacted by the Hindu caste hierarchy (varna system).

Welcoming all identities with respect and compassion is crucial to positive cricket engagement.

THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF

Checklist for respectful and effective engagement with Nepali individuals:

- Communication styles
 - Communicate politely and avoid being too direct in confrontation. Avoid generalising with other ethnicities. Nepalese communities are generally soft-spoken and prefer a similar communication.
- Caregiving, marriage, and parenting
 - Family connection and respect for elders are rooted in tradition. Parents and grandparents are deeply involved in a child's upbringing, including cricket involvement. Bilingual resources, accessible arrangements for elders, and regular communication with parents can promote cricket participation.
- Experiences of marginalisation or privilege within broader society
 - Nepali communities can be sidelined from mainstream cricket. Engaging local role models and focusing on prolific Nepali cricketers can create inclusive spaces.
- Respect for traditional roles and hierarchies
 - Intergenerational knowledge is highly prioritised among Nepali communities. Engage with elders in a respectful manner, follow cultural protocols, and honour their insights on cricket participation.

- Trauma or sensitivities
 - Several people might carry trauma from large-scale natural disasters, political instability, and caste discrimination. Approach people's experiences with empathy and identify how you can make cricket a safe space for them.
- Language barriers
 - Nepali communities are deeply patriotic. Nepali is the preferred language for first-generation immigrants despite high English Language Proficiency. Create bilingual audio-visual resources, infographics and factsheets about cricket pathways for maximum participation. Organising in-language facilitations with parents and caregivers can also boost interest.



COMMUNITY PROFILES

SRI LANKAN COMMUNITIES

CHARACTERISTICS:

Country of Origin: Sri Lanka

Ethnic Background: Sinhala, Tamil, Moor, Burgher and Vedda communities

Languages Spoken: Sinhala, Tamil, Sri Lankan Portuguese and Vedda

Religious Affiliation (if any): Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

To support effective engagement with Sri Lankan communities through cricket-related initiatives, it's important to understand their historical connection to the sport, migration patterns, family values, and cultural nuances that shape participation.

HISTORY OF CRICKET WITH SRI LANKAN COMMUNITIES

Cricket is deeply embedded in Sri Lankan national identity. The British introduced the sport in the 1880s and quickly gained popularity across social classes. By 1880, Ceylon (as it was then known) had an active cricket scene, and in 1927 the national team played its first-class match. Sri Lanka achieved Test status in 1981 and famously won the 1996 ICC Cricket World Cup, a unifying moment celebrated across all ethnic and religious groups within the country.

Today, cricket remains the most popular sport in the country, played in schools, community grounds, and streets. It's viewed not only as recreation but as a symbol of national pride and resilience.

MODERN PARTICIPATION

Sri Lankans in Australia continue this passion. Community cricket clubs, such as the Sydney Lions, Melbourne Strikers, and SL Cricket Club of NSW, provide spaces for men, women, and youth to play socially and competitively. Cricket is also a way for second-generation Sri Lankans to connect with broader Australian sporting culture. Interest spans across both Sinhala and Tamil communities, with many families encouraging children to join local programs. Burgher¹⁹ communities are highly engaged with cricket through the Burgher Recreation Club in Colombo.

MIGRATION HISTORY

Sri Lankan migration to Australia began in the late 1880s but grew significantly after the 1950s. The 1970s to 2000s saw an increase in arrivals due to civil unrest and economic opportunities, particularly from Tamil-speaking regions. Today, over 150,000 people of Sri Lankan ancestry live in Australia, with strong communities in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth. Many are highly educated, work in professional fields, and maintain social networks through cultural and sporting associations.

RELIGION AND RITUALS

Sri Lankans follow diverse faiths, such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam. Some indigenous Vedda²⁰ communities practice Animist religions such as Nae Yaku²¹. Major festivals include Vesak (Buddhism)²², Eid (Islam), Thai Pongal (Tamil)²³ and Deepavali (Hinduism), Kataragama (Nae Yaku)²⁴ and Christmas (Christianity).

During major religious or cultural periods, community members may limit participation in events or social gatherings. Cricket activities scheduled around festival dates or paired with cultural celebrations (e.g., community tournaments on Vesak weekends) are well received. Cricket itself often features in temple or church fundraisers and multicultural fairs.

FAMILY AND HIERARCHY

Sri Lankan culture places a strong emphasis on family unity and respect for elders. Parents are deeply involved in children's sporting choices – family support can determine a child's ability to join or remain in cricket programs. Gender roles are evolving, but some older community members may still view cricket as a male-only sport. Encouraging family-based activities (e.g., women's or mixed cricket days, parent-child games) can help bolster inclusion.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Sri Lankan communities maintain active social networks through:

- Sri Lankan associations of NSW, VIC, and QLD
- Sinhala and Tamil cultural organisations
- Sri Lankan churches and Buddhist temples
- University Sri Lankan student societies

Key figures such as community leaders, temple monks, and long-standing cultural/sport organisers are influential in promoting trust and participation. Partnering with these networks would ensure greater reach and relevance.

CORE VALUES

Education, respect, and perseverance are central to Sri Lankan values. Cricket is often viewed as a character-building activity that teaches discipline, teamwork, and national pride. Authority and expertise are respected; community members appreciate coaches and administrators who demonstrate skill, fairness, and integrity.

CONCEPTS OF TIME

Punctuality is valued in formal contexts, but flexibility is common in social or community events. Building extra time into matches or meeting schedules can accommodate this without friction.

TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND SENSITIVITIES

- **Clothing:** Modesty is appreciated, especially among older or religious participants. Some Muslim communities may wear the Abaya²⁵ or Jubbah²⁶ influenced by migration to Gulf countries.
- **Diet:** Some Hindu and Muslim Moor communities may avoid beef and pork for religious reasons respectively. Vegetarian options are appreciated at social gatherings, especially to accommodate vegetarian Buddhist cohorts.
- **Etiquette and hospitality:** A simple handshake or nod is appropriate; avoid overly casual gestures with elders. Sharing food and tea plays a large role in relationship-building.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

After gaining independence in 1948, Sri Lanka experienced a prolonged ethnic conflict between the Sinhalese-majority government and Tamil minority groups. The 26-year civil war (1983-2009) shaped many migration stories.

Some community members may carry trauma or be sensitive to discussions around ethnicity or politics – sports settings, when inclusive and respectful, can provide healing and unity across these lines.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Generational differences are notable:

- First-generation migrants often maintain stronger cultural traditions and language use.
- Second-generation Sri Lankans identify as both Australian and Sri Lankan, often using cricket as a cultural bridge.

Socioeconomic background also varies widely – from highly educated professionals to working-class families who migrated during earlier waves.

THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF

Checklist for respectful and effective engagement with Sri Lankan communities through cricket:

- Communication styles
 - Use clear and respectful language. Avoid assumptions about ethnicity (Sinhalese, Tamil, or Muslim) or religion. Some members may prefer indirect communication, especially with unfamiliar people.
- Caregiving, marriage, and parenting
 - Family plays a central role in decision-making. Parents are often involved in their children's activities, including sports. Family-friendly scheduling, child-safe spaces, and inclusion of parents in cricket programs encourage participation.

WHERE SRI LANKAN COMMUNITIES LIVE



Figure 5. Map based on ancestry data, top 10 metro and regional suburbs in NSW

- Experiences of marginalisation or privilege within broader society
 - Some Sri Lankan Australians, particularly Tamils, may have experienced displacement or discrimination. Clubs that ensure representation across ethnic and gender lines foster belonging and trust.
- Respect for traditional roles and hierarchies
 - Elders and community leaders hold influence. Acknowledging them respectfully, seeking their input, or inviting them to events can strengthen engagement and credibility.
- Trauma or sensitivities
 - Be mindful that some may have lived through civil conflict or migration-related trauma. Avoid political topics or imagery that references war. Create safe, inclusive environments free from assumptions or stereotypes.
- Language barriers
 - Many first-generation Sri Lankans speak Sinhala or Tamil as their first language. Providing translated materials or bilingual volunteers at community events supports accessibility and signals inclusivity.

COMMUNITY PROFILES

AFGHAN COMMUNITIES

CHARACTERISTICS:

Country of Origin: Afghanistan

Ethnic Background: Hazara, Pashtun, Tajik and Uzbek

Languages Spoken: Hazaragi, Dari, Uzbek and Pashto

Religious Affiliation (if any): Islam (Sunni, Shi'a and Hazara Shi'a), Christianity and Baha'i

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

To support effective engagement with Afghan communities through cricket-related initiatives, it's important to understand their historical connection to the sport, migration patterns, family values, and cultural nuances that shape participation.

HISTORY OF CRICKET WITH AFGHAN COMMUNITIES

Cricket first appeared in Afghanistan in the 19th century but grew significantly during the 1990s, when Afghan refugees in Pakistan adopted the sport. Many players returned home in the early 2000s and helped establish cricket as a major national pastime, even during difficult political periods.

Cricket is now one of Afghanistan's most celebrated sports. The men's national team's rapid success is a major source of pride for Afghan communities globally, including in Australia.

AFGHAN WOMEN AND CRICKET

Since 2021, women and girls in Afghanistan have been banned from playing sports.²⁶ Many female cricketers were forced to flee and were granted emergency humanitarian visas to Australia with support from Cricket Australia and former women's players.²⁷

While Afghanistan does not currently meet the ICC's requirements for a women's team, Afghan women in Australia continue to train, participate in, and advocate for the future of the sport.

MODERN PARTICIPATION

Afghan communities in Australia maintain a strong passion for cricket, as it remains a key cultural connector, stress-reliever, and source of national pride. While women in Afghanistan face bans on sport, Afghan women and girls in Australia continue to participate socially and competitively through inclusive community clubs.

Participation is strongest when clubs offer women-only training times, provide female coaches or volunteers, use modest uniform options, and create spaces where families feel comfortable. In contrast, men's participation is particularly strong, with many Afghan Australian players involved in local club cricket, multicultural tournaments, and social competitions.

Cricket has become one of the most effective ways for Afghan migrants to build friendships, find a sense of belonging, and connect with broader Australian sporting culture. .

MIGRATION HISTORY

Afghan migration to Australia began with Afghan cameleers in the late 19th century and increased from the late 1970s due to conflict and displacement. Today's Afghan community is diverse, with families coming from different ethnic backgrounds and language groups, mainly speaking Dari and Pashto.

This diversity means clubs may meet families with different cultural practices, but cricket is a common passion across the community.

RELIGION AND RITUALS

Most Afghan Australians are practising Muslims and observe key religious events such as Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, and Eid al-Adha. During Ramadan, many people fast from sunrise to sunset, which can affect energy levels and participation in daytime sports.

Cricket clubs can plan sessions around these dates and provide suitable timing, shade, and hydration breaks, ensuring Afghan players can participate without compromising their religious practices.

FAMILY AND HIERARCHY

Afghan families often prioritise collective decision-making and respect for elders. Parents and older family members play an important role in choices around children's sports, including safety, time commitments, and who is involved.

Inviting parents and family members to observe or participate in cricket sessions can build trust, encourage engagement, and make families feel more comfortable enrolling their children in programs.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community life is often centred around:

- **Religious spaces:** Mosques where Afghan families gather for prayer (Fridays are key days for engagement), community announcements, and social events.
- **Cultural societies:** Local Afghan organisations that focus on cultural preservation or heritage, such as:
 - Afghan Community Association of NSW (ACA NSW)
 - Hazara Community of Australia
 - Afghan Women's Network
- **Youth and social groups:** Clubs or programs that provide recreational, educational, or mentoring activities for young Afghan Australians.
- **Settlement services:** Organisations that assist newcomers with housing, employment, language learning, and navigating Australian systems.

Connecting with these groups helps cricket clubs and program organisers build trust, increase awareness of activities, and encourage participation from Afghan families who might otherwise be hesitant.

CORE VALUES

Common values include hospitality, respect, modesty, commitment to a family, and a strong work ethic. Cricket aligns well with these values because it is seen as a respectful, team-oriented sport that encourages discipline and community connection.

Cricket resonates with these values because it emphasises teamwork, fairness, and respect, making it a culturally appropriate sport for engagement and social connection within Afghan communities.

CONCEPTS OF TIME

Time can be approached flexibly in social contexts, but families still value clear communication. Sending reminders, providing schedules in advance, and offering slight flexibility for arrival times can reduce stress and improve attendance.

This is particularly relevant for cricket programs, where practice times, match schedules, and travel may need to accommodate family obligations.

TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AND SENSITIVITIES

- **Clothing:** Afghan communities may prefer modest attire. Some Pashtun women may have face tattoos reflecting their indigenous identities. Providing suitable options and promoting acceptance encourages a culturally safe environment.
- **Diet:** Halal dietary practices are common, so halal options or clear labelling are appreciated at events with catering.
- **Etiquette and Hospitality:** Greetings are polite and formal. Physical contact with women should only occur if invited.

Respecting these practices in cricket programs creates a welcoming and safe environment for players and families.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Many Afghan families have experienced conflict, displacement, or trauma. Political topics, ethnic tensions, or past persecution can be sensitive.

Cricket clubs should provide neutral, safe, and supportive environments where Afghan players can enjoy the sport without exposure to stressful topics.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Afghan communities vary across multiple factors, including:

- **Ethnicity and language:** Diverse groups such as Pashtun, Hazara, Tajik, and Uzbek, speaking mainly Dari or Pashto.
- **Religion and gender:** Predominantly Muslim (Sunni and Sh'a), with cultural norms influencing participation and social roles. Minority religions such as Hinduism, Christianity and Bahai'I faith are also prevalent.
- **Migration history and generation:** Recent arrivals, long-settled families, and younger generations may experience culture differently.

WHERE AFGHAN COMMUNITIES LIVE



Figure 6. Map based on ancestry data, top 10 metro and regional suburbs in NSW

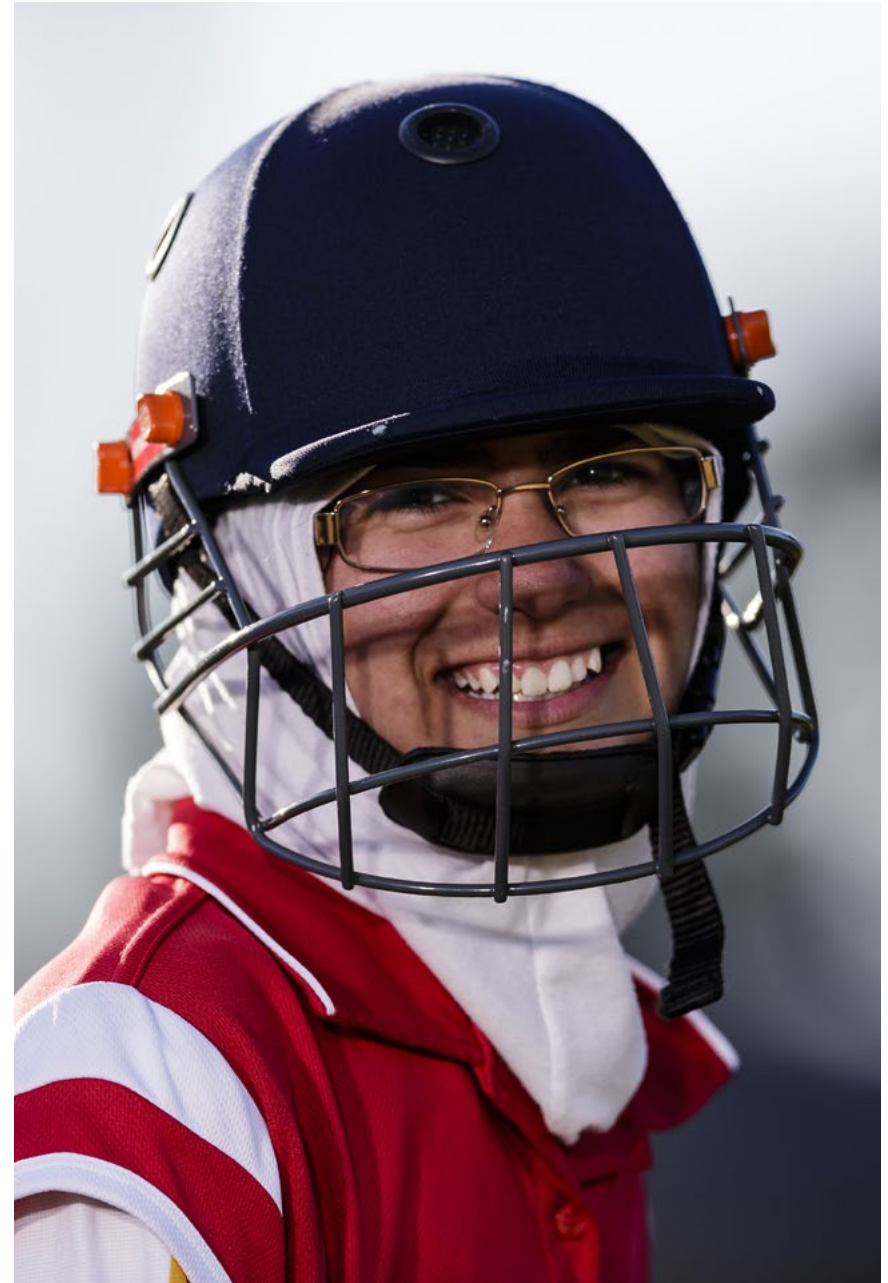
Cricket provides a shared activity that:

- Bridges generational and cultural differences
- Supports youth integration into broader communities
- Helps families maintain connection to familiar cultural values.

THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF

- Communication styles
 - Some individuals may prefer indirect or formal communication; patience is important.
 - Observe gender norms: Afghan women may wait to initiate handshakes or conversations with men. In mixed-gender groups, males and females may primarily interact within their own gender.
 - Avoid humour that could embarrass or belittle others, Afghan participants value composure and respect in interactions.
- Caregiving, marriage, and parenting
 - Families often prioritise household responsibilities, children's education, and religious obligations.
 - Extended family members and elders may influence decisions about participation in activities.
 - Do not pressure individuals to share personal family details, as some may be separated from relatives or have lost family members.
- Experiences of marginalisation or privilege within broader society
 - Many Afghan migrants have experienced displacement, conflict, or persecution.
 - Minority ethnic groups (e.g., Hazara, Tajik, Uzbek) may have distinct cultural experiences and may prefer to identify by ethnicity, whereas Pashtuns often identify simply as 'Afghan.'
 - Be sensitive to personal histories and avoid assuming shared experiences among all Afghan participants.

- Respect for traditional roles and hierarchies
 - Elders and male family members are often highly respected and play a key role in decision-making.
 - Respect cultural norms around hierarchy and gender to build trust and positive relationships.
- Trauma or sensitivities
 - Many individuals have experienced violence, loss, or displacement; some may have been detained or faced extreme hardship.
 - Avoid discussing sensitive topics (e.g., ethnic tension, Taliban, conflict, or women's rights) unless initiated by the individual.
 - Recognise that showing empathy for the current situation in Afghanistan may be appreciated, but do not probe personal experiences.
- Language barriers
 - Dari and Pashto are commonly spoken; English proficiency may vary.
 - Provide clear explanations, speak slowly, and consider using bilingual volunteers or interpreters if needed.



GLOSSARY

- ¹ Community event organised to celebrate Holi, South Asian festival of colours held in March.
- ² Yearly Ramadan night markets in the Southwest Sydney suburb of Lakemba.
- ³ Cultural celebration among Gujarati communities.
- ⁴ Place of worship and gathering in Sikhism.
- ⁵ Ancient caste structure dividing society into four social hierarchies: Brahmins (priests/religious scholars), Kshatriyas (warriors/rulers), Vaishyas (traders/agriculturists) and Shudras (laborers).
- ⁶ Special night prayers offered by Muslims during Ramadan.
- ⁷ Annual Hindu festival celebrated in honour of Goddess Durga, spanning over 9 days.
- ⁸ Ethnic Muslim minorities facing persecution in Myanmar and seeking protection Bangladesh.
- ⁹ Lowest in the Varna (caste), also called Shudras.
- ¹⁰ Indigenous animist and shamanic practice of nature worship and ancestor calling.
- ¹¹ Indigenous/tribal communities.
- ¹² Birth anniversary of Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism.
- ¹³ A three-day-long Hindu festival celebrating womanhood. Observed by Nepali and some North Indian communities.
- ¹⁴ Another term for Holi, the festival of colours.
- ¹⁵ An eight-day religious street festival celebrated in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ¹⁶ Traditional Nepali tunic and trousers.
- ¹⁷ Traditional Nepali hat.
- ¹⁸ Traditional, respectful Nepali greeting gestured with one's palms joined at chest-level.
- ¹⁹ Sri Lankan ethnic group of Dutch, Portuguese and British heritage.
- ²⁰ An Indigenous Sri Lankan community; Aboriginal inhabitants of the country before 6 BCE.
- ²¹ Ancestor worship ceremony performed by Sri Lanka's Vedda community.
- ²² Loose, robe-like clothing worn by Muslim women.
- ²³ Loose, robe-like clothing worn by Muslim men.
- ²⁴ Ethnic minority group in Sri Lanka with Arab ancestry.

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CRICKET NSW

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