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**THE SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MUSLIM  
COMMUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA, 1981-96.**

**By**

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## ABSTRACT

This study contributes to the limited body of knowledge regarding Muslim settlement in Australia by elucidating the processes of contemporary settlement and adjustment of Muslim groups in Australia and assessing the role and significance of religion (Islam) in those processes. It focuses on the cultural, economic, social and demographic adjustments of these groups to Australian society and explores the role of Islam in that adjustment. In doing so it relates the immigration, settlement and adjustment processes to a substantial body of theory, especially that relating to assimilation, acculturation and adjustment.

The thesis is organised into nine chapters. It firstly introduces some significant issues relating to Muslim migration to and settlement in Australia and outlines the aims, objectives and justifications for undertaking the study. The study then discusses the theories and hypotheses which are to be tested and traces the history of settlement of Muslims in Australia. The study then moves on to an examination of the cultural, economic, social and demographic adjustments of Muslim immigrants to Australian society. It establishes the extent to which the demography of Islamic immigrants differs from that of the remainder of the population and traces the implications of those differences. The patterns and processes involved in settlement of the Muslim population in Australia and the extent and nature of their acculturation to Australian society is analysed. In doing this, the linkages between religiosity and economic

adjustment of immigrants in Australia has been examined. The entry of Muslim immigrants into the labour market and their adjustment to that market are examined.

The study establishes the impact of religion on the process of the settlement in, and adjustment of, immigrants to Australia and assesses the elements shaping their characteristics. The study establishes that variables such as economic factors, length of residence in the host society, migration experience, cultural background such as education and language skills have been important in the process of the settlement of Muslim immigrants in the Australian host society.