



© Kamla-Raj 2007

Anthropologist Special Issue No. 2: 37-51 (2007)

Adaptation and Integration of Indian Migrants in Brisbane, Australia

Goolam Vahed

*School of Anthropology, Gender & Historical Studies, Shepstone C-711, Howard College
Campus, Durban, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, 4041, South Africa
E-mail: vahedg@ukzn.ac.za*

KEYWORDS Indians. Diaspora. Australia. Brisbane. Ethnic Minority

ABSTRACT This paper is based on literary and ethnographic research that began in Brisbane in 2003. It is a descriptive account of information that was gathered through interviews, searches in media reports and academic publications that had relevance to the topic. People of Indian origin in Brisbane, as in other parts of Australia, are becoming a more frequent sight as they increasingly descend upon its shores from numerous ex-colonies of the British Empire. It is a country of choice largely because of its political stability, economic success and English as the dominant language. While integration into Australian society fundamentally requires subservience to its constitution and official interpretations of its policies of multi-culturalism, adaptation of Indians still depends upon culturally based institutions such as temples, mosques and regionally based centres for socialization. The information below provides an insight into these issues against the background of how the Australia government is using its policy of multiculturalism to facilitate an easier settlement for people of Indian origin.