



# **POPULATION DISTRIBUTION EFFECTS OF MIGRATION IN AUSTRALIA**

**Condensed Version**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

International migration has contributed significantly to post war population growth. Without it Australia's current population would be less than 13 million. Where immigrants settle influences their adjustment to life in Australia as well as having economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts. Further, government policy is increasingly influential. Immigrant settlement remains a neglected dimension of Australian (and global) migration and settlement policy and research. This Report seeks to investigate recent changes in the settlement pattern of immigrants in Australia and how this impacts upon regional, demographic and economic change. The first chapter outlines the objectives of the study and provides important background on the distinctive distribution of the Australian population and the drivers of change which impinge upon that distribution.

Chapter 2 examines the major patterns of internal migration within Australia, based on 2006 census internal migration data. Between 2001 and 2006 some 1.69 million people moved between the sixty Australian statistical divisions – 8.6 percent of all Australians. Five of the eight capital cities experience net internal migration losses, the largest being 121,000 for Sydney. Losses in Melbourne, Adelaide, Darwin and Canberra were relatively small. The largest net gain occurred in Brisbane, with smaller gains in the other capital cities. A significant result is that in Sydney and to a lesser extent in the other capitals, the primary drivers of population growth is not net internal migration but net international migration. That there is already substantial capital city to rest of state migration could be a starting point for future regional settlement policy. The same SDs do not dominate as sinks or sources for net migration, net intrastate and net interstate migration. Indeed, only Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay-Burnett fall into the top ten sinks for each migration category, and only North Western, in NSW, is a source for all three mobility measures. The main features of internal migration in Australia to emerge from the Chapter 2 analyses are:

- Huge net internal migration losses have been experienced in Sydney. Its only net gain was 15-24 year olds. Even with this group, it experienced the lowest net migration gain of all capital cities. It is clear that aspects of Sydney's environment – be they economic or social – impact negatively in attracting and keeping people.
- Melbourne levels of net migration loss for most variables were much less than those for Sydney, often up to one fifth the levels occurring in Sydney.
- Brisbane was the standout net internal migration capital. It experienced gains across almost all areas – and only recorded losses in mining and primary industry employees.
- For the mainly non-English speaking group (MNESEC) mobility, Melbourne showed a balanced situation between arrivals and departures during the 2001-06 period.
- Of all the groups considered, the 15-24 years group is the most unique. The numbers in this age group were larger than for any other age group. It showed net migration growth in all the capital cities and one other SD, and losses everywhere else.
- The largest mobility group, numerically, was Year 12 education or less, including no schooling, with 1.4 million movers between 2001 and 2006.
- Three socio-economic groups – movers with a bachelor degree or higher, professional and managerial occupations and high income – recorded more interstate moves than intrastate moves.

- The only other group for which interstate moves exceeded intrastate moves was for persons born in mainly non-English speaking countries.
- Large net losses for persons employed in Clerical and Sales and Community and personal services occurred in many SDs, due to widespread contraction in services provisions in rural Australia. This occurred for no other occupation categories.
- Only one category – persons employed in primary industry – had net migration losses in every capital city.
- Net migration for persons in mining industry was negative in all capital cities, except Perth, illustrating the prevalence of fly in-fly out employment conditions for this mobility group.

In Chapter 3 the main goal is to assess internal migration based on relativities, rather than on absolute value, which had been the emphasis in Chapter 2. In the first part, the migration effectiveness ratio (MER) is used to identify internal migration effectiveness in each SD. The MER relates net migration (the difference between arrivals and departures in any area) to total migration (the sum of arrivals and departures in any area), expressed as a percentage, and produces values between 100 and minus 100. The MER allows areas to be compared to determine whether migration in one area is more effective than in others, or whether migration is the same in two areas, *regardless of the fact that the actual numbers in each area may be different*. High MERs – generally above 15 percent – represent “hot spots” for intrastate and interstate internal migration. The MER analysis in the chapter has several key findings:

- Not surprisingly, the main SDs identified in Chapter 2 remain unchanged, as do the general patterns of internal migration, because the same underlying processes are still at work.
- There are SDs where relatively small ins and outs numbers, and net migration, have generated MERs equivalent to those in statistical divisions with much larger ins and outs numbers. A number of these are located in Tasmania (Southern, Mersey-Lyell and Northern), Victoria (Barwon, Loddon, Goulburn) and South Australia (Outer Adelaide, Yorke and Lower North). In these localities, net migration, be it intrastate or interstate, is effective. For policy makers the implication may be as simple as indicating that “critical” thresholds are being approached, and these can be used to anticipate the arrival of a newer demographic, and the demand for changed infrastructure demand and services.
- In terms of intrastate migration, the most effective statistical divisions seem to be located in New South Wales. This would seem to highlight the flight from capital to “coast”, whether it is to the north coast or to the south coast. A group of similar SDs is located in central Victoria. In Queensland, there are fewer SDs with high effectiveness for intrastate migration, suggesting probably that most Queenslanders are happy with their location and do not need to shift, even in retirement. Darwin and Hobart each have high MERs for intrastate migration. The MER approach, therefore, is good for identifying areas which are attractive to the “locals”.
- The MER approach indicates a new dimension to internal migration which emphasises a “drift” from the cities, by identifying areas within states which have effective intrastate mobility, regardless of absolute numbers. The drift

from the cities is growing, especially within the older population, and the baby boomer cohort.

- In terms of interstate migration, the MER analysis has demonstrated the power of Queensland, and how this power is concentrated not just in the south east corner of the state, but how it extends along its entire coastal region. It is driven by mobility in not only the retirement group, but also by particular age groups, labour force groups and occupational groups. In Southern Tasmania, its interstate MER highlights the role that interstate migration has played in the population and economic decline turnaround that Tasmania has experienced during this decade.

A second approach in Chapter 3 compared the net migration for a particular variable in any area during a given period with the actual population change (for the same variable) in the area during the same period. The approach developed a classification, or typology, of SDs in terms of net migration and population change, and the spatial dimensions of this typology has implications for population redistribution in Australia. Overall, the approach identified “real winners” and “real losers” SDs. Localities which experienced net migration gain, and total population gain, are very much “hot spots” for population growth. On this evidence, seven hot spots occur in Queensland, five in Victoria, four in NSW, three in Tasmania and two in each of SA and WA.

Chapter 4 uses a range of comprehensive data to assess the impact of international migration on population distribution. The analysis confirms a stability in Australia’s population distribution, the major lineaments of which have changed little over the last century. However, it is a deceptive stability since there is a great deal of dynamism and international migration is an important element of this dynamism. International migration has been of significance in Australia’s urbanisation and in changing the composition of Australia’s urban populations. Immigration is the key demographic process in the development of Australia’s major cities, especially the ‘Gateway City’ of Sydney, and is not only the major demographic engine of growth, but plays an important role in economic and social change. There has been a significant, albeit small, shift in the settlement patterns of immigrants in recent years, as immigration plays an increasingly significant role in regional and state development in Australia, by being explicitly factored into economic planning at state, regional and local levels. International migration had a substantial offsetting impact on the large net migration losses Sydney and Melbourne experienced between 2001 and 2006. A further finding has been the slight shift temporally in the tendency for migrants to choose capital city locations, although for recent migrants and those from mainly non-English speaking countries, the evidence suggests still that the capital cities remain the preferred locations for migrants.

In Chapter 5, analyses undertaken for the total population are repeated for recent migrants who arrived in Australia between 1996 and 2006. A number of significant findings were produced:

- Interstate mobility was dominant among recent migrants, in direct contrast to patterns exhibited by the total population. Generally, the proportion of interstate movers was 60 percent or higher. This may suggest that the initial state of location is not suitable for the needs of recent migrants. Understanding the reasons for this internal mobility characteristic could result in considerable savings and efficiencies not only for the movers but also for government agencies.
- Sydney statistical division consistently experienced substantial net migration losses, regardless of mover characteristics, which were not matched by the other capitals.

- Among recent migrants, Melbourne was consistently favoured over Sydney. Often positive net gains for Melbourne contrasted with net losses for Sydney, rather than smaller net losses for Melbourne compared with Sydney. Clearly, Melbourne possesses attributes not present in Sydney. Understanding the nature of this attraction may provide policy directions which could be used in Sydney to halt, if not reverse the current internal mobility tendencies among recent migrants.
- Typically, Brisbane recorded the highest net migration gains, not just among the capital city SDs, but within the country, while Illawarra, Northern-SA and South Eastern-WA generated consistently high net losses in a range of variables.
- The most cited statistical divisions with low net migration levels in association with relatively high turnovers were Darling Downs, Goulburn, Northern-Tas, Murrumbidgee, Barwon, Central West-NSW, Gippsland, Illawarra, Lower Great Southern, Pilbara, Richmond-Tweed and South Eastern-NSW. These SDs consistently attracted large numbers of arrivals and departures, and therefore contain a balance of positive and negative features in terms of attracting and keeping recent migrants. A better understanding of the processes that underlie these observations is an avenue for further enquiry, and may generate policy initiatives which help these areas retain the recent migrants they attract.

In analysing recent migrant mobility using census data, it needs to be recognised that in the 2001-2006 mobility data derived from the census, migrants who arrived after 2001 are not included. However, they are included in the 2005-2006. Hence the analysis of recent migrant mobility between 2005-2006 in Chapter 6 includes a much larger number of migrants who arrived in Australia after 1996. It also identified the level of “hidden” mobility among the total population and the recent migrant population. As well as showing that most of the prevailing patterns observed for the 2001-2006 period held for the 2005-2006 period, the Chapter shows the high mobility rates of recently arrived migrants. It also showed that an important element in internal migration in Australia is a small group who are ‘chronic movers’ and migrate more than once during the five year intercensal period. Nevertheless there is strong reinforcement of the patterns discussed in previous chapters including:

- Overall, recent migrants are most mobile during their initial months and years in Australia, as they adjust to life in a new country.
- Large net outflows from Sydney and, to a lesser extent, other capital cities except Brisbane and Perth. Settlement of new migrants in these capitals is their migration growth engine, not internal migration. Only Brisbane experienced substantial population growth due to net internal migration gain.
- Coastal and near city areas are consistently recording significant net migration gains. Most net gains are from internal migration but net international migration is increasing in some areas.
- There is a small but important net redistribution of skilled human capital from metropolitan to non-metropolitan areas due to internal migration.
- There is a consistent pattern of net internal migration loss of young adults from non-metropolitan SDs and net gains in the capitals.
- There is a significant net internal migration redistribution of baby boomers and the 65 years and older age group from metropolitan to non-metropolitan areas.

- Internal migration between SDs is not very effective in bringing about a redistribution of population because the net gains and losses recorded are very small compared with the size of in migration and out migration flows. Most internal migration between statistical divisions is counterbalancing.

The goal of Chapter 7 was to show the impact of recent migration on a number of aspects of population composition in the capital cities. The principal growth metrics used were total population and age, labour force participation, education and occupation and access to housing market. A particular emphasis in the chapter has been to demonstrate the impact of recent migrants by calculating, for a range of variables, how recent migrants have increased numbers above the levels that would have prevailed in the absence of recent migration.

In 2006 there were 1.121 million recent migrants in Australia, with 39 percent in Sydney, 27.7 percent in Melbourne and 12.7 and 12.5 percent in Brisbane and Perth respectively. These are the “big four” in terms of recent migrants. The recent migrant population is diverse with large proportions of low skilled persons balanced by a high skilled and well educated component. As well, significant proportions of recent migrants are furthering their education in Australia. The most significant implications related to skills and qualifications revolve around the fact that recent migrants seem determined to improve their education, and experience indicates that the next generation will take even greater advantages of the educational opportunities offered by the host country.

There is a high demand for rental accommodation by recent migrants, especially in Sydney, and has many implications for housing provision in that city. The proportion of recent migrants renting housing is greater in every capital city than the proportion of the remainder of the population in rental tenure. Within the capital cities Perth is the standout capital city. There are signs of recent migrants developing typical tendencies to transition through the various tenure categories, particularly in Brisbane and Perth. There is also evidence that recent migrants will embark on their own housing careers, moving progressively from smaller to larger sized housing.

Chapter 7 also developed a methodology to assess the impact of recent migrants on fertility levels. The results showed that the impact of recent migrants on the births component of natural increase has been significant. They have added 120,000 children to the population, with some 105,000 of these born in capital cities. Their contribution to fertility will continue for a number of years as younger recent migrants move through their child bearing stage of life. Recent migrants’ fertility has implications for service providers in a number of areas, especially in health, education and housing. Recent migrants have other social impacts including household formation through marriage, including marriage within the Australian born population.

Finally, the first part of Chapter 8 addresses the issue of future levels of international migration to Australia. This is important because international migration is a fundamental determinant of national population growth. Even with significant migration and maintaining fertility and current levels there will be little, if any, net growth in the younger working ages during the next 20 years. We therefore need to maintain growth to counterbalance the massive growth of the older population. Without immigration there will be insufficient numbers of young people entering the workforce to replace retiring baby boomers, let alone provide new workers. Further, changes in the Australian economy will influence future demand for immigration, with claims that labour demand in the next few years, especially in Queensland and WA, can only be met by increased population growth. Temporary migration has proliferated since the mid nineties, and has transformed the Australian migration

landscape. At any one time in Australia there are over 600,000 persons temporarily present. They are very important because an increasing number of them apply for, and obtain, permanent residence in Australia, and this will continue to be an important part of Australia's net annual overseas migration gain. Countering these tendencies, there is a developing view that environment and climate change issues should act to reduce Australia's future migration intake.

The second part of the Chapter focuses on future patterns of population distribution across Australia and the role of migration in that. The discussion uses projections of population prepared by the ABS for both capital cities and rest of state/territory, and projections prepared at the statistical division level by the state and territory governments. The main points from the analysis are:

#### **New South Wales**

- For Sydney, continuing international gains with internal migration losses
- Sydney's international intake dependent on size of national intake and success of regional settlement programmes
- Baby boomer exodus, plus high housing costs and congestion, will cause out migration to increase
- Regionally, size of immigrant gains dependent on extent of regional settlement initiatives
- New castle and Wollongong will be main poles of attraction for immigrants.

#### **Victoria**

- Overall net migration growth expected to be higher in Melbourne than Sydney
- Population gap between Melbourne and Sydney will continue to decline
- Government policy is to increase share of migration cake
- Out migration will increase, but at magnitude less than Sydney
- Regionally, policy is to lift growth to 1% p.a., leading to growth greater than predicted by projections
- Rapid growth expected in ring of SDs around Melbourne

#### **Queensland**

- State's rapid growth will continue. Expected growth from international and internal migration greater than in other states.
- Immigration likely to contribute most to growth – Brisbane becoming major “gateway” city
- Regional growth will be greater than any other location in Australia, with major component of this growth from internal migration
- FIFO may dilute impact of resource development on regional population growth

#### **South Australia**

- Historically, SA has low immigration growth and out migration losses.
- Government policy to increase immigration intakes has been successful. Future levels depend on economic development and continuation of regional specific migration schemes
- Present state growth rate of 1.2% p.a. likely to be 1% p.a. by 2021. Regionally, Outer Adelaide SD expecting rates approaching 2.5% p.a., but elsewhere less than 0.6% p.a.

#### **Western Australia**

- WA has had rapid growth over long period. Growth dependent principally on immigration. Immigration will remain strong.
- Regionally, however, immigration will play a lesser role. Regional development fuelled by internal migration
- Kimberley and South West SDs to grow at rates faster than Perth, while Pilbara's growth is half that of Perth's. Significant growth in Perth's peri-urban area.

#### **Tasmania**

- No real differences are expected in population growth for Hobart and the rest of the state.
- Gains and growth rates are lower than for mainland states.
- Longer term, climate change may impact of Tasmanian growth

#### **Northern Territory**

- Measuring and projecting population in the NT has always been difficult.
- Most net gain expected in Darwin – it has always had a significant overseas born community
- NT Treasury projects NT growth rate at 1.4% p.a. over next decade – twice national rate.

#### **Australian Capital Territory**

- The ABS projections present quite substantial differences depending on the Series.

Statistical divisions in regional Australia with anticipated population growth near or above the national average over the next decade have been identified, and international migration will play an increasing role in this growth during the next decade. Regions with differing levels of international migration involvement break down into three types – peri-

urban areas around major cities, mining areas and coastal areas. However, in other areas the influence of ageing on the labour force, and the outmigration of young Australians, will encourage immigrants to fill available jobs, especially in primary production and processing of primary production over the next decade.

The third part of Chapter 8 discusses the role of policy, as this will be of crucial importance in shaping future patterns of immigrant settlement, internal migration and growth. In particular, SSRM schemes, the 457 temporary workers scheme, and DIAC's new approach to humanitarian migrant settlement are discussed to show their impact on the regional distribution on immigrants.

In the final part of the chapter, a number of current policies and issues are discussed to identify their implications for future migration in regional Australia. Australia is presently developing a Sustainable Population Strategy. The Report has developed a number of implications that can inform the strategy, and these are detailed in the panel below.

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Any strategy needs to address *population distribution* as well as size and composition

International migration is becoming increasingly important in regional population growth

Australians and recent migrants do move to areas of opportunity. Hence:

- A national population strategy needs to encourage internal and international migrants into regions of labour shortage ensuring simultaneously that infrastructure development and service provision occurs
- A population policy should "grease the rails" of existing population flow

Baby boomer migration must be an essential part of any population strategy during the next two decades

Permanent and temporary migrants settle in Australia in different ways:

- An increasing proportion of permanent migrants are settling outside capital cities
- Temporary migrants are increasingly meeting workforce needs in some non-metropolitan areas

A population policy needs to recognise that those attracted to regions are typically families and /or retirees. Many have needs for employment for men and women

Liveability and lifestyle dimensions are critically important, as is housing availability and affordability

For immigrants moving to regional areas settlement services, related to welcoming and settling in strategies, are critical

Australia's settlement system has been in place for 150 years. Can a population strategy change this to achieve a:

- Release of regional potential hitherto retarded by a lack of infrastructure
  - Better balance between the distribution of people and water
  - Relief of growth pressures in and near the capital cities.
  - Reduction in pollution and environmental degradation in cities, along with increases in housing availability and improvements in affordability, and the cost of the journey to work, in cities
- 

One of the key challenges for government at all levels in relation to future international migration, and regional development associated with a sustainable population policy is the issue of liveability, productivity and sustainability. This is no easy task because it means that the value of environmental services will need to be brought more comprehensively, transparently and explicitly into decision making. More specifically in relation to increased migrants numbers in regional Australia, policies will be need to developed to meet the challenges of ethnic diversity in terms of community harmony, cohesion and acceptance of diversity. One of the encouraging findings of studies of new immigrant settlement in regional Australia is that while there have been significant issues relating to acceptance of new groups into rural communities there have been a number of real success stories.



## **CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

This project was commissioned by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), and has five main components. The first involves an analysis of population movements at the statistical division level for the whole of Australia. The second component involves an analysis of the mobility patterns for recent migrants. The third component of the Report requires an investigation into the effects and impacts of recent migration on population, the labour and housing markets, and general infrastructure. The fourth component presents some insights into future migration scenarios between now and 2021, while the fifth component considers the implication of the various future migration scenarios, in terms of population and migration policies, regional development, provision of services related to education, health, housing, and issues such as sustainability and community harmony.

### **1.2 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Migration from overseas has been a significant contributor to Australian population growth throughout the post war period and without its impacts Australia's current total population would be less than 13 million. Moreover, where immigrants settle plays an important role in their adjustment to life in Australia as well as having economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts on the areas and populations in which they settle. Furthermore, government policy is increasingly influential

Patterns of immigrant settlement, however, remains a neglected dimension of Australian (and global) migration and settlement policy and research. This Report seeks to investigate recent changes in the settlement pattern of immigrants in Australia and how this impacts upon regional, demographic and economic change. The aim of this first chapter is to outline not only the objectives of the study but also to provide some important background on the distinctive distribution of the Australian population and the drivers of change which impinge upon that distribution.

### **1.3 AUSTRALIA'S DISTINCTIVE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION**

Despite being one of the largest nations in the world by area, Australia also has one of the most spatially concentrated populations. It also has one of the most residentially mobile populations of any country. In 2006, 31.0 percent of the population aged five years and over had lived elsewhere in Australia in 2001 (ABS, 2006 Census). Somewhat paradoxically, despite this mobility, the Australian population distribution has been remarkably stable. This pattern of overall stability in the structure of population distribution, however, is very much one of 'dynamic stability' since there is a great deal of mobility within the broad pattern of concentration of population, as different subgroups in the population have different spatial patterns of distribution.

### **1.4 DATA SOURCES**

Australia has some of the most comprehensive stock information relating to international and internal migrants in the world. This is largely through the comprehensive set of questions asked at quinquennial census enumerations.

## **1.5 DATA USED IN THIS REPORT**

Much of the data used in this study have been derived from the 2006 Australian Census of Population and Housing. The ABS online tool TableBuilder has been extensively used to generate most of the data. TableBuilder enables the creation of tables, and especially cross tabulated tables, of Census data by accessing all variables contained in the Census Output Record File for all ABS geographic areas.

The statistics that have been generated from the matrices and presented as summary mobility tables throughout the Report are:

- Total internal migration out of each statistical division
- Total internal migration into each statistical division
- Net internal migration (plus or minus) for each statistical division
- Total intrastate migration out of each statistical division
- Total intrastate migration into each statistical division
- Net intrastate migration (plus or minus) for each statistical division
- Total interstate migration out of each statistical division
- Total interstate migration into each statistical division
- Net interstate migration (plus or minus) for each statistical division

The discussion principally focuses on net migration, and is based on raw numbers. This approach has been adopted because the reality is that understanding the dynamics of migration, and particularly the implications that stem from them, is all about the numbers involved, rather than percentages or other relativities.

The summary tables have also provided the data behind an extensive presentation of net migration maps in the Report. These maps show the spatial variation of net migration patterns in Australia and allow the reader to immediately gauge the broad characteristics of mobility for any group and its related variables.

## **1.6 METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES**

In completing the work a number of methodological issues have been encountered.

### **1.6.1 Identifying ‘Sinks’ and ‘Sources’**

Population mobility inevitably creates a pattern of depopulating areas and areas whose population is increasing. There are a range of ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors which cause this. Many are economic based, but others can be related to stage of life cycle events. The impact of these various social and economic processes that cause people to move can be highlighted by identifying sinks and sources – a sink is an area into which population flows, while a source is an area that provides the migration stream, and which experiences an adverse effect on population as a result of mobility.

In the Report, sinks and sources are defined on the basis of net migration data for each statistical division.

### **1.6.2 Preparation of Mobility Data for Selected Local Government Authorities**

Part of our brief for this Report asked that we prepare similar tabular data for 261 LGAs located throughout Australia. These LGAs were identified by DIAC based on LGAs meeting defined population thresholds.

We have prepared tables for total mobility, disaggregated into age and sex, for the 2001-06 and 2005-06 periods. For the same periods, we have produced tables for mobility between LGAs of all migrants, recent migrants who arrived in Australia after 1996 and migrants who arrived in Australia prior to 1997. For recent migrants, those who arrived in Australia after 1996, we have also prepared tables for total mobility, disaggregated into age and sex, for the periods 2001-06 and 2005-06. These tables have been provided to DIAC as an electronic Appendix of the Report, in Excel format.

## CHAPTER 2. POPULATION MOBILITY IN AUSTRALIA

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter examines the major patterns of internal migration within Australia, based on 2006 census internal migration data. The main focus is mobility between statistical divisions. Between 2001 and 2006 some 1.69 million people moved between the sixty Australian statistical divisions – 8.6 percent of all Australians

Net migration is the main measure used in the study, and is the balance between incoming and outgoing flows of people in a particular statistical division. The composition of inflows and outflows can be quite different so that the net migration of particular subgroups can vary from that of the total net migration. Accordingly, it is important to analyse not only patterns of total net migration but net migration for important subgroups in the population.

### 2.2 NET MIGRATION IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS

Between 2001 and 2006 five of the eight capital city statistical divisions (SDs) experience net internal migration losses. The largest loss was 121,000 for Sydney SD. The losses in Melbourne, Adelaide, Darwin and Canberra were relatively small. The largest net migration gain occurred in Brisbane, while net migration gains in the other capital cities were small by comparison. Capital city net losses due to internal migration is little recognised in public discourse in Australia. Instead, it is assumed that the large cities are draining population from their hinterlands. In fact, net internal migration loss in the capitals is a longstanding phenomenon, especially in Sydney. It needs to be stressed that in Sydney, and to a lesser extent in the other capitals, *the primary drivers of population growth is not net internal migration but net international migration*. Over the last three decades there has been a ‘switch-over function’ in Sydney and Melbourne, whereby a net loss of migrants in exchange with other parts of Australia is more than counterbalanced by an inflow of overseas migrants. The fact that there is already substantial capital city to rest of state migration needs to be a starting point for considering future regional settlement policy.

Mobility is a function of push and pull factors which operate differentially across the country. Hence, from a migration perspective, there will be statistical divisions which act as *sources*, experiencing net migration loss, and those which act as *sinks* and experience net migration gains. The major reasons for the net population change in any area can be one or more of the following:

- their retirement attraction to an increasingly ageing population, especially in coastal and some inland areas.
- agriculture and mining activity in the hinterland is clearly an additional factor accounting for the net gains.
- people leaving the increasingly congested environment
- people leaving areas where employment opportunities are diminishing, often the result of increased capitalisation in agriculture, lower demand for labour, reduced economic activity in towns, and closure of shops, schools and other services

- overflow from adjoining areas into dormitory suburbs
- development of regional urban centres

There are a number of observations that can be made for capital cities:

- In Sydney, net interstate migration loss was greater than net intrastate migration loss, a situation that also occurred in Adelaide. Net interstate losses are most likely due to economic factors, while the net intrastate losses are probably due to lifestyle factors.
- For Melbourne, net intrastate migration loss was greater than net interstate migration, indicating that its hinterland was a more significant sink than interstate locations.
- Brisbane's net migration gain was a product of net intrastate loss, and significant net interstate gain of 44,000, illustrating Brisbane's attraction to interstate movers.
- Perth was attractive to both intrastate and interstate movers – it had a net intrastate gain and net interstate gain, the only capital city with these characteristics.
- In Hobart, Canberra and Darwin, the net migration was a result of net intrastate gains and net interstate losses. .

It might be expected that the same SDs would dominate as sinks or sources for each of net migration, net intrastate and net interstate migration. However, this is not the case, and only two SDs – Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay-Burnett – fall into the top ten sinks for net migration, net intrastate migration and net interstate migration, and only North Western SD, in NSW, is a source for all three net measures of mobility.

The patterns of net migration in Australia for the 2001-2006 period is shown in Figure 2.1. SDs experiencing net migration loss occurred in hinterland locations which have been characterised by increased capitalisation of agriculture, lower demand for labour, reduced economic activities in towns, and closures of shops, schools and other services. Areas with net migration gains are coastal, especially along the eastern seaboard, and in selected regional areas. This is the principal pattern of internal migration in Australia, and analyses of various sub groups in the total population will generate variations on this underlying pattern, brought about by various peculiarities of the sub group.

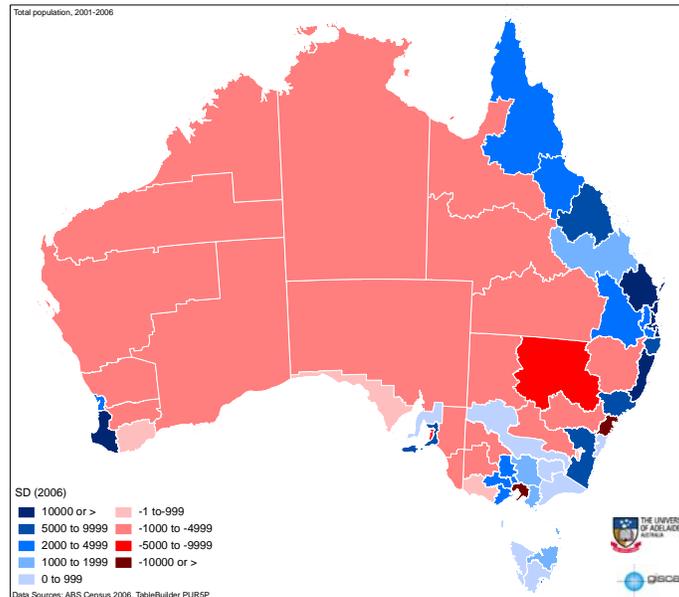
### **2.3 GENDER AND INTERNAL MIGRATION**

In general, the differences between male and female net migration is relatively small. In the capital cities experiencing a net internal migration loss, only in Sydney was there a greater outflow of women than men. In those capitals experiencing net gains it was only Perth where inward migration of males substantially outnumbered inward migration of females, probably due to the type of job opportunities available in the West. In the rapidly growing Brisbane SD there are more female internal migrants than males. The Gold Coast has more males moving in than females, but the opposite is the case for the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay-Burnett SDs. In non-metropolitan areas experiencing net migration losses typically the net loss has been greater for females than males, reflecting the lack of job opportunity diversity in many non-metropolitan areas which disproportionately impact on women. Among the capital cities, the greatest net loss of nearly 60,000 males occurred in the Sydney, compared with Melbourne (10,900), Adelaide (5,000) and Darwin (1,000). Brisbane gained nearly 21,000 males, compared with 2,000 for Perth. Outside the capitals, the same SDs that were sink SDs for total population are sink SDs for males as well as females. The essential feature of male internal migration is the attractiveness of the coastal SDs throughout Australia, and the role of hinterland SDs as regions of net population loss through migration.

In the case of female migration, five of the eight capital cities experienced net loss of females, with the greatest in Sydney (58,300). Melbourne lost 7,800, Adelaide 4,700, Darwin just under 1,000 and Canberra 650. Female net losses in Sydney and Canberra were greater than those recorded for males.

Brisbane experienced a net gain of 22,000 females. The net gains in Perth and Hobart were 1,260 and 1,300 respectively. Generally, however, the internal migration characteristics of females are similar to those for both total net migration and male net migration.

**Figure 2.1: Net migration, total population, 2001-2006**



## 2.4 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF POPULATION AGED 65 YEARS AND OLDER, 2001-06

This group currently is the fastest growing subgroup in Australia, and will continue to be over the next several decades. Therefore, the changing patterns of the distribution of the older population are important not only for planning the effective provision of services for this group, but also because this group can be the basis for substantial local and regional economic growth. The 65+ population is more strongly represented in non-metropolitan Australia than in the capital cities. The main mobility characteristics of this group are presented in Table 2.1, and a more detailed analysis can be found in the main Report.

## 2.5 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF POPULATION AGED 45-64 YEARS, 2001-06

This group is significant because it represents most of the baby boomer generation that in 2006 made up 27.5 percent of the national population and 41.7 percent of the national workforce. Six of the eight capital cities experienced net migration loss for this group. Sydney's net loss was nearly 39,000 persons, compared with 14,000 for Melbourne, and net losses between 1,000 and 4,400 in Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and Canberra. These net losses are substantially higher than those for the 65 years and older group, and indicate that the boomers seem to be responding to capital city living in the same way as their older counterparts, probably for the same reasons, and with the same implications. It would be expected that this group's impact on internal migration will increase with time as more of them flee the capital cities. The geographic distribution of net migration for this group shows widespread net losses throughout the hinterland. The main characteristics of internal migration for this mobility group is shown in Table 2.1.

## **2.6 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF POPULATION AGED 25-44 YEARS, 2001-06**

With 643,000 movers, it is the largest internal migration group numerically, and it also shows a relatively similar propensity to both interstate and intrastate movement. The main mobility characteristics for this group are shown in Table 2.1. Significant net losses occurred in a number of SDs across the hinterland, while the influence of resource development related employment opportunities contributed to gains for the Pilbara SD in Western Australia, and in the Mackay and Fitzroy statistical divisions in Queensland.

## **2.7 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF POPULATION AGED 15-24 YEARS, 2001-06**

Around 309,000 persons in this age group moved residence, and of these around 187,000 were intrastate moves. This is a key age group since it is the stage of the life cycle when Australians tend to make the education to work transition and most leave the family home for the first time. It is a diverse group, with important implications for mobility, related to education, work opportunities and rural-urban population drift. Table 2.1 summarises the groups internal mobility characteristics.

**Table 2.1: Internal migration in Australia, Age cohorts, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
65 years and over	<p>130,000 moved between 2001 and 2006, or 8.7% of all movers. 4.9% of 65+ pop in Australia.</p> <p>64% were intrastate moves, 36% interstate moves</p> <p>Largest losses from Sydney and Melbourne. Largest gains in Brisbane.</p> <p>Main sinks are in Queensland and NSW - Wide Bay-Burnett, South West-WA, Mid-North Coast, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast.</p>	<p>Changing patterns of the distribution of the older population are important not only for planning the effective provision of services for this group, but also because this group can be the basis for substantial local and regional economic growth. Moreover, the 65+ population is more strongly represented in non-metropolitan Australia than in the capital cities.</p> <p>The group's impact on population redistribution implies increased needs for services in regional areas, be they sea change or tree change regions. This redistribution process will continue to occur for some time.</p>
45-64 years. Basically the baby boomer cohort. 27.5% of national population	<p>350,000 movers (20.8% all movers). 7.1% of the total age group.</p> <p>58% were intrastate moves.</p> <p>Net loss from Sydney 39,000, Melbourne 14,000. Net gain in Brisbane 1,200</p> <p>Main sinks are in Queensland and New South Wales - Wide Bay-Burnett, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Mid-North Coast</p>	<p>This group represents the early stages of a baby boomer population redistribution in Australia. Can be expected to intensify over next several decades.</p> <p>Will reinforce implications already developing in sea change and tree change localities throughout Australia</p> <p>Along the coastal fringes, employment opportunities, as well as retirement and leisure opportunities, have influenced the mobility of this group in a way that is not the case with the 65 years and over age group</p>
25-44 years Linked to 0-14 years group as "parents"	<p>643,000 movers- the largest numerical group (38.3% of all movers). 11.5% of the total age group</p> <p>325,000 intrastate movers, 318,000 interstate movers. Balanced situation</p> <p>All capitals had net loss, except Brisbane and Hobart. Sydney lost 51,000, compared with 12,000 from Melbourne. Largest capital city gains in Brisbane (13,600).</p> <p>Top 3 sink SDs: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Mid-North Coast</p>	
15-24 years. Group making key stage of life cycle changes: Education to work transition Establishing households for first time	<p>309,000 movers (18.4% of all movers). 11.4% of the total age group.</p> <p>60% are intrastate moves.</p> <p>Net gains for all capital cities, largest in Brisbane (20,400), smallest in Sydney (5,100).</p> <p>Outside the capitals, only 2 SDs had net gains - Gold Coast and Northern-Qld (due to role of education facilities located there).</p>	<p>This group is being displaced from the regions, due to lack of educational facilities (both secondary and tertiary) and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Rural-urban drain for this group is not replicated in other age groups</p> <p>Aspects of its diversity have important implications for mobility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• undertaking education, both secondary and tertiary.</li> <li>• entering the workforce, with many employment opportunities located in the city areas</li> <li>• rural-urban loss from many SDs a feature in Australia since 1970s</li> </ul>
0-14 years. The dependent group	<p>248,000 movers (14.8% of all movers). 6.3% of the total age group.</p> <p>56% are intrastate moves.</p> <p>Largest losses from Sydney and Melbourne, biggest gains in Brisbane and Perth.</p> <p>Top 3 sinks: Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast,</p>	<p>Mobility patterns of this group very similar to that for the 25-44 group.</p>

	Wide-Bay Burnett	
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## 2.8 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF POPULATION AGED 0-14 YEARS, 2001-06

In the dependent child age category most internal migrations are the result of decisions taken by others, most typically a parent. Their internal migration patterns are summarised in Table 2.1.

## 2.9 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF THE AUSTRALIA-BORN, 2001-06

Table 2.2 presents the main characteristics of mobility for Australian born persons.

**Table 2.2: Internal migration in Australia, selected birthplace groups, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Australian born	1.41 million movers during 2001-2006. Largest losses – Sydney (92,000), Melbourne (13,800). Biggest gains in Brisbane (35,400) and Perth (7,200). 57% intrastate movers Top sinks: - Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, Hunter, Mid-North Coast	Patterns of mobility and location very similar to that for total population. Losses from remote areas and hinterlands and displacement to eastern seaboard, and parts of coastal SA and WA, and Tasmania
OSB - MESC	148,000 movers. 77,000 (52%) intrastate moves Largest losses – Sydney 17,200 and Melbourne 4,200. Biggest gains were in Brisbane 1,900 and Hobart 700. Main sinks: Wide Bay-Burnett, South West-WA, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Mid-North Coast	Mobility is widespread, and is very similar to that of the Australian born group.
OSB - MNESEC	98,000 movers. 40,000 (40.8%) intrastate moves. Therefore, this group involved in significant interstate mobility. Losses in 6/8 capitals, with largest of 9,100 in Sydney and 960 in Adelaide. Only gains were 4,400 in Brisbane and 200 in Canberra. Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, South East-NSW, Mid-North Coast	Propensity for interstate mobility may indicate dissatisfaction with original state of settlement. This has implication for states losing population from this group.

## 2.10 INTERNAL MIGRATION IN THE OVERSEAS-BORN

Internal mobility analyses show that not only are recent immigrants more mobile than other Australians but they also have quite different patterns of movement. Further, the Mainly English Speaking (MES) migrant population had a higher level of mobility than those from Mainly Non-English Speaking (MNESEC) countries. The main characteristics of recent migrants from MESC and MNESEC origins are presented in Table 2.2. It is worth stating, again, that the analysis is confined to overseas-born persons who were present in Australia at both the 2001 and 2006 censuses, and the substantial numbers of immigrants who had been in Australia less than five years at the 2006 Census are absent from the analysis.

## 2.11 INTERNAL MIGRATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL IN AUSTRALIA, 2001-06

### 2.11.1 Internal Migration and Level of Education, 2001-06

The mobility characteristics of movers with selected level of educational attainment are presented in Table 2.3.

**Table 2.3: Internal migration in Australia, human capital, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Bachelor degree or higher	284,000 movers, of which 54 percent of moves were interstate.  Sydney lost 13,000 compared with 4,200 for Adelaide. Best gains were 3,800 in Brisbane and 2,000 in Canberra.  Main sinks: Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, South East-NSW, Mid-North Coast, South West-WA	This group represents the mobility of substantial human capital, with implications for sink and source regions. Has significant impact on development, and the group's redistribution is influenced by demand from mining and resource development, as well as demand from education and commercial sectors of the Australian economy.  Spatial pattern of mobility not evident for any other group so far considered. Mining industry demand, and from education and commercial sectors, are influencing the spatial variation of net migration gains for this group
Certificate of diploma	356,000 movers, of which 55.2% are intrastate moves.  Net loss of 31,300 from Sydney and 2,700 from Adelaide. Gain of 8,000 in Brisbane.  Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, Hunter, Mid-North Coast	Distribution of net migration gain is continuous along coastal belt of eastern states, Tasmania and South Australia, and the south west region of Western Australia, in contrast to the "broken" distribution for higher qualified movers.
Year 12 or less	1.4 million movers. 55.7% of moves are intrastate.  Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, South West-WA and Hunter	

### 2.11.2 Internal Migration and Occupation, 2001-06

The main mobility characteristics for the five occupational groups examined in this analysis are presented in Table 2.4. Fuller details can be seen in the main Report.

### 2.11.3 Internal Migration and Income, 2001-06

There are strong linkages between level of education, type of occupation and income levels. Therefore, some mobility patterns related to income are likely to mirror some of the mobility patterns and trends related to both education and occupation. Table 2.5 displays the key internal migration features of persons with differing incomes.

**Table 2.4: Internal migration in Australia, selected occupations, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Professionals and managers	<p>331,000 movers. 50.2% of moves are interstate. Only occupational group with more interstate moves than intrastate moves. Similar characteristics to movers with bachelor degree or higher.</p> <p>Biggest losses from Sydney (17,300) and Adelaide (5,000). Gains of 5,700 for Brisbane and 2,700 for Canberra.</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, South Eastern-NSW, Mid-North Coast, South West-WA.</p>	<p>“Brain drain” has important implications for Sydney and Adelaide.</p> <p>Dominant sinks are those located predominantly along the eastern seaboard.</p>
Technical and trades	<p>260,000 movers. 55.7% intrastate moves.</p> <p>Losses of 8,200 and 1,400 from Sydney and Melbourne. Main gains in Brisbane (4,200) and Perth (1,300).</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Hunter, South West-WA</p>	<p>Two thirds of SDs experienced net loss of technical and trades workers. Suggests severe contraction of opportunities for these occupations, linked to population decline in these regions. Demand for this group is linked to population growth and resource development.</p>
Clerical and sales	<p>209,000 movers. 53.3% intrastate.</p> <p>Loss of 11,800 from Sydney, very small loss in Adelaide. Best gains 10,200 in Brisbane and 2,200 in Melbourne</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Hunter, Northern-Qld, Outer Adelaide, South Eastern-NSW.</p>	<p>Most mobile group after professionals and managers.</p> <p>Melbourne recorded net gain, in contrast to its net losses for most other occupational groups.</p> <p>Mobility influenced by contracting employment opportunities, especially in rural areas affected by restructuring since seventies.</p>
Community and Personal services	<p>101,000 movers (56.3% intrastate).</p> <p>Only Sydney (2,960) and Adelaide (50) had net losses. Highest gains in Brisbane (3,620) and Melbourne (1,900).</p> <p>Nearly two thirds of SD recorded net losses</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Northern-Qld, Sunshine Coast and Far North</p>	
Operators, drivers and labourers	<p>141,500 movers (60% intrastate).</p> <p>Losses in 6 of the 8 capital cities. Gains in Brisbane and Perth.</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Mackay, Fitzroy, Sunshine Coast, South West-WA, Northern-Qld.</p>	<p>Structural change has impacted on opportunities for manual semi-skilled workers. Mobility strongly influenced by resource development, but also by areas experiencing population change through retirement mobility into sea change and tree change regions.</p>

**Table 2.5: Internal migration in Australia, selected weekly income, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
High income (\$1,600 or more per week)	99,000 movers (57.7% interstate) Only Brisbane and Perth capitals experienced net gain. Main sinks: Gold Coast, Mackay, Sunshine Coast, Pilbara, South East-NSW, Hunter, Fitzroy.	Most movers interstate – similar to both highly educated and professional and managerial movers. Major sinks are predominantly resource development related – reflecting high incomes paid by this activity.
Medium-high income (\$1,000 to \$1,599 per week)	204,000 movers. 50.0 percent were intrastate moves. Five of eight capitals reported losses. Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, South East-NSW, South West-WA, Mackay, Hunter	Balanced situation between interstate and intrastate movers. Nearly half of all SDs had losses for this mobility group.
Low-medium income (\$400-\$999 per week).	514,000 movers. 55.2% intrastate. Sydney's losses ten times greater than next ranked Adelaide. Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, South West-WA, Far North, Outer Adelaide, Mackay.	Main sinks seem linked to employment opportunities associated with resource development, especially in Queensland. Mobility patterns exhibit a substantial "bleed" from interior and remote areas to selected coastal locations.
Low income (\$1-\$399 per week)	492,000 movers, of which a substantial 60.8% were intrastate moves. Sydney's loss of 41,000 was more than eight times that for next ranked Melbourne. Main sinks: Wide Bay-Burnett, Gold Coast, Mid-North Coast, Sunshine Coast, Hunter, South West-WA, Richmond-Tweed.	High proportion moving to intrastate locations, reinforcing generally acknowledged positive relationship between income and distance moved. Mobility out of Sydney suggests its high cost of living is driving low income persons and households away to the lower cost regions.

### 2.11.4 Internal Migration and Industry, 2001-06

In this analysis, the range of industries has been aggregated into four groupings – primary, mining, secondary and tertiary, and the main characteristics of mobility for each group are presented in Table 2.6.

### 2.11.5 Internal Migration and Labour Force Status, 2001-06

In this section, the residentially mobile population is analysed in terms of whether they are employed part time or full time, or are unemployed, or are not in the labour force. The main points associated with their mobility are displayed in Table 2.7.

**Table 2.6: Internal migration in Australia, selected industries, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Primary	<p>27,800 movers – two thirds intrastate moves.</p> <p>All capital cities experienced net migration losses.</p> <p>Main sinks: Wide Bay-Burnett, Darling Downs, Northern-NSW, Goulburn, South West-WA, Western Districts.</p>	<p>In capital cities, urbanisation encroaching on agricultural land is probably driving the exodus of this group from the capitals.</p> <p>Main sinks are different from those typically involved in mobility patterns for most variables considered.</p> <p>Mobility into intensive agriculture and horticulture regions, especially along the Murray, may include numbers of international migrants.</p>
Mining	<p>23,000 movers – 58.4% intrastate.</p> <p>Only Perth has net gain for this group.</p> <p>Main sinks: Mackay, Pilbara, Fitzroy, North West, Northern-SA, Hunter.</p>	<p>High intrastate mobility reflects high turnover in mining typically in response to workers moving from site to site, encouraged by high current demand for skills.</p> <p>Fly in-fly out employment conditions is predominant in Western Australia, and accounts for net gain for Perth, compared with net losses for all other capital cities.</p>
Secondary	<p>140,000 movers – 56% intrastate.</p> <p>Sydney's loss five times greater than next ranked Melbourne.</p> <p>Largest gains in Brisbane and Perth.</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, South West-WA, Outer Adelaide, Mackay, Hunter.</p>	<p>Patterns of net gains are correlated with major population concentrations, since most secondary industry is located near these concentrations, even in regional NSW and Victoria.</p>
Tertiary	<p>712,000 movers – largest of the industry defined groups. 52.5% of movers intrastate.</p> <p>Net losses for Sydney and Adelaide.</p> <p>Largest net gains in Brisbane, five times greater than next ranked Canberra.</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, South Eastern-NSW, Outer Adelaide, Far North, South West-WA.</p>	<p>Attractive potential of Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast is substantial. Net gain in these two SDs is 1.6 times greater than total gain in remaining top ten SDs.</p> <p>Spatial variation of net migration is strongly influenced by rationalisation of services – education, health, banking and commerce – in rural areas.</p>

**Table 2.7: Internal migration in Australia, labour force, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Full time	<p>614,000 movers – 52% intrastate.</p> <p>Sydney lost net 26,600, four times greater than next ranked Adelaide.</p> <p>Brisbane’s net gain was 18,000, six times greater than next ranked Canberra.</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Mackay, South Eastern-NSW, Far North, South West-WA.</p>	<p>Very tight distribution in Australia of SDs experiencing net migration gains for this group, related to the distribution of areas offering abundant full time employment opportunities. These areas defined by resource development, especially along Queensland coast, and in regional areas of NSW and Victoria.</p>
Part time	<p>250,000 movers – 57.1% intrastate.</p> <p>Sydney recorded net loss of 19,500 – more than 20 times greater than that for Darwin.</p> <p>Brisbane and Perth only capitals with net gains.</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Hunter, South West-WA, Outer Adelaide, Richmond-Tweed.</p>	<p>Often a correlation between areas with net gain for full time employed movers and those with net gains for part time employed movers.</p> <p>Exception is mining centres in remote areas where opportunities for part time employment are limited.</p>
Unemployed	<p>68,000 movers, of which 55.9% were intrastate moves.</p> <p>Net losses in Darwin, Canberra and Perth negligible compared with the net loss of 5,700 for Sydney.</p> <p>Brisbane had largest net gain of 1,700.</p> <p>Main sinks: Gold Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, Mid-North Coast, Hunter, Sunshine Coast, Richmond-Tweed.</p>	<p>Mobility of unemployed can overcome mismatches between job vacancies and available workforce.</p> <p>Regions with net gains are reasonably restricted to the east coast, from Wide Bay-Burnett to the western SDs bordering on Melbourne, all of Tasmania, near Adelaide SDs and the South West of Western Australia.</p>
Not in labour force	<p>538,000 movers, of which 60.2 percent were intrastate moves.</p> <p>Only Brisbane (5,655) and Hobart (1,140) experienced net gains.</p> <p>Sydney had a net loss of 41,900 compared with 9,500 for Melbourne.</p> <p>Main sinks: Wide Bay-Burnett, Gold Coast, Mid-North Coast, Sunshine Coast, South West-WA, Hunter, Richmond-Tweed.</p>	<p>Some of largest net losses occurred in remote areas where remaining in situ is not an option once a person leaves the labour force.</p> <p>There are striking similarities between patterns of net migration for this group and that of 65 years and over group.</p>

## 2.12 SUMMARY

This chapter has presented a comprehensive picture of internal migration in Australia between 2001 and 2006. The analyses have assessed mobility based on demography, birthplace and human capital. Internal migration analyses of this kind ultimately show how the population has been redistributed, notwithstanding the fact that the role played by recent international migration is overlooked, because migrants who arrived in Australia after 2001 are not included in the analysis of mobility in the 2001-06 period, even though they may have participated in the 2006 census. Although the impact immigration has had on influencing the distribution of population in Australia is not fully accounted for in the current analysis, but is

nevertheless and impact that policy makers need to understand. A number of significant observations have been generated which are worth recapitulating.

- Huge net internal migration losses have been experienced in Sydney. Its only net gain was 15-24 year olds. Even with this group, it experienced the lowest net migration gain of all capital cities. It is clear that aspects of Sydney's environment – be they economic or social – impact negatively in attracting and keeping people.
- Melbourne levels of net migration loss for most variables were much less than those for Sydney, often up to one fifth the levels occurring in Sydney.
- Brisbane was the standout net internal migration capital. It experienced gains across almost all areas – and only recorded losses in mining and primary industry employees.
- For the mainly non-English speaking group (MNESEC) mobility, Melbourne showed a balanced situation between arrivals and departures during the 2001-06 period.
- Of all the groups considered, the 15-24 years group is the most unique. The numbers in this age group were larger than for any other age group. It showed net migration growth in all the capital cities and one other SD, and losses everywhere else.
- The largest mobility group, numerically, was Year 12 education or less, including no schooling, with 1.4 million movers between 2001 and 2006.
- Three socio-economic groups – movers with a bachelor degree or higher, professional and managerial occupations and high income – recorded more interstate moves than intrastate moves.
- The only other group for which interstate moves exceeded intrastate moves was for persons born in mainly non-English speaking countries.
- Large net losses for persons employed in Clerical and Sales and Community and personal services occurred in many SDs, due to widespread contraction in services provisions in rural Australia. This occurred for no other occupation categories.
- Only one category – persons employed in primary industry – had net migration losses in every capital city.
- Net migration for persons in mining industry was negative in all capital cities, except Perth, illustrating the prevalence of fly in-fly out employment conditions for this mobility group.

## **CHAPTER 3. MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION, 2001-2006**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the previous chapter was to analyse internal migration in Australia, to show how internal migration works to redistribute population. The emphasis was on the absolute numbers involved, as the numbers, and the size of flows, is an important first step in identifying any policy responses to emerging internal migration trends. However, internal migration relativities, independent of the raw numbers, can provide some insights into the impacts of mobility on population redistribution. Therefore, in this chapter we measure the effectiveness of internal migration, and relate its impact to actual population change that occurred in between 2001 and 2006.

A further emphasis in this chapter is on net intrastate and net interstate migration, especially in the discussion on migration effectiveness, with the aim of showing the most effective statistical divisions in terms of internal migration, as well as the least effective in terms of capital city statistical division discussion, and the “top” SDs outside the capital cities. Statistical divisions with high MERs – generally above 15 percent – represent “hot spots” for intrastate and interstate internal migration.

Not all the demographic and human capital variables addressed in Chapter 2 are covered in this analysis.

#### **3.1.1 Data compatibility issues**

The 2001 population data were derived from CDATA01, which has created some issues related to boundary and data definition changes. Substantial boundary changes occurred in several SDs in the south east of Queensland. As a result, the Moreton statistical division was subdivided into three new SDs – Gold Coast, West Moreton and Sunshine Coast. In addition, the Brisbane SD was extended into the former Moreton statistical division. Accordingly, to facilitate the analysis, the 2006 statistical divisions of West Moreton, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast have been aggregated for comparison with the former Moreton SD, while no adjustment has been made for the fact that Brisbane in 2006 included a portion of the former Moreton SD. It is important, therefore, to recognise that there is a certain “ball park” element in some of the 2001-2006 comparisons.

Comparisons between 2001 and 2006 for income need to recognise that inflation will have affected the numbers in any income category in 2006 compared with 2001, as well as the impact of bracket creep caused by salary increase, and increasing numbers of persons being employed at higher salary levels.

### **3.2 MIGRATION EFFECTIVENESS**

How effective internal migration is in redistributing population is measured using the migration effectiveness ratio (MER). It relates net migration (the difference between arrivals and departures in any area) to total migration (the sum of arrivals and departures in any area), expressed as a percentage, and produces values between 100 and minus 100. Generally MERs less than 15 indicate relatively ineffective population redistribution due to migration, and values greater than 15 indicate that migration has a significantly increasing effect in terms of redistributing population in any area.

The interpretation of the Migration Effectiveness Ratio can be illustrated by an example. For a given area, the number of arrivals during a prescribed period was 4000, balanced by 3000 departures during the same period. Total migration is the sum of the two – viz.,  $4000 + 3000 = 7000$ . Net migration (NM) is the difference between arrivals and departures, that is  $4000 - 3000 = 1000$ . Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MER} &= \text{NM} * 100 / \text{Total migration} \\ &= 1000 * 100 / 7000 \\ &= 14.28 \text{ percent} \end{aligned}$$

This means that for every 100 migrants the net gain is 14.28. A negative MER indicates the net loss experienced for every 100 migrants.

The MER allows areas to be compared to determine whether migration in one area is more effective than in others, or whether migration is the same in two areas, *regardless of the fact that the actual numbers in each area may be different.*

### 3.3 INTERNAL MIGRATION EFFECTIVENESS, 2001-2006

This section examines the impact of a range of variables in terms of their effectiveness in causing population redistribution, and the impact that net migration has population change for specific variables in the five years to 2006. The main report should be consulted to see the data on which the main findings presented in this chapter are based. These tables allows internal migration to be seen outside the raw numbers, and enables comparisons between SDs on the basis of migration effectiveness and the relationship between net migration and population change

#### 3.3.1 Mobility of total population

Based on the migration effectiveness ratios, a number of points can be derived from the table:

- Only three capital cities have positive net migration MERs. Brisbane has the highest net migration MER of 13.7, indicating a net gain of 13.7 percent from all internal migrants during 2001-2006. The rate for Brisbane is over two times that reported in Hobart and more than seven times that for Perth.
- In the case of Brisbane, its interstate MER is very high at 30.2 percent. Brisbane and Perth are the only capitals with positive interstate MERs, although that for Perth is very low (1.9). It is clear that the driving force for Brisbane's growth through internal migration is through interstate migration, and in this respect it outperforms every other capital.
- Hobart's net migration is significantly due to intrastate migration. Its intrastate MER was 19.0, compared with an interstate MER of -0.7 percent.
- Five of the capital cities reported negative net migration MERs during the 2001-2006 period. The standout case is Sydney. Its MER was negative 33.1 percent, indicating that 33.1 percent of all internal migrants were departures. Relative to the other capitals, this level is more than four times the MER for Adelaide (-7.2) and nearly six times that for Melbourne (-6.2).
- Significantly for Sydney, its net migration MER is matched by its intrastate (-31.8) and interstate (-34.3) MERs.
- To a certain extent, the same situation occurred in Adelaide, although its net interstate migration MER was higher than its intrastate MER.

- For Melbourne SD, intrastate migration is a more effective contributor to net migration loss than interstate migration. Its intrastate MER was -12.7, compared with an interstate migration MER of -1.6 percent. People are leaving Melbourne for more attractive locations within the state, rather than beyond it.
- Darwin is interesting in that its net migration loss is countered by an intrastate MER of 30.5 percent. Its intrastate MER contrasts with an interstate MER of -8.9 percent. Hence, movement into the city from its hinterland is as significant for Darwin as is migration from it to interstate locations.
- For both Hobart and Darwin, rural-urban drift is a significant factor in redistributing population, and in each of the jurisdictions the size of the migration may have policy ramifications.

Outside the capital cities, six SDs reported net migration MERs greater than that for Brisbane. Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast had MERs greater than 20 percent for net migration, indicating the existence of powerful forces influencing internal migration to these regions. Similar processes are at work elsewhere. Wide Bay-Burnett (18.9) is adjacent to the Sunshine Coast, and Outer Adelaide (17.9) accommodates much of the overflow from Adelaide as well as containing many “dormitory” towns and suburbs, and South West-WA (18.7) incorporates the expanding Mandurah and Margaret River regions. In New South Wales, the Mid-North Coast (13.0), South Eastern (10.5) and Richmond-Tweed (10.1), along with Barwon (10.0) in Victoria owe their high migration effectiveness ratios to retirement flows and people seeking sea change and tree change environments. The significance of some areas in influencing internal migration within their own states is shown by high intrastate MERs for South West-WA, Outer Adelaide, Mid-North Coast, Richmond Tweed and Barwon.

On the other hand, in other SDs, interstate migration acts as a powerful agent in effecting population change, so that Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett and Mackay each have interstate MERs greater than 32 percent, higher than that recorded in Brisbane. In each of these SDs, the existence of characteristics, most typically related to environment, acts as important factors in the internal migration process. In the case of Mackay, these factors are at work, but the impact of mining in its hinterland also contributes to the effectiveness of interstate migration in changing its population.

### **3.3.2 Mobility of males and females in total population**

The characteristics of mobility for males and females are similar. Indeed, the correlation coefficients between males and females for net migration, intrastate migration and interstate migration MERs are 0.976, 0.861 and 0.983 respectively. Further, the key points made for the effectiveness of migration of total population in redistributing the population can also be made for male and female internal migration, because males and females are two subgroups of the total population, and each of the male and female subgroups represents about 50 percent of all movers. This is not, necessarily, the case with other groups.

### **3.3.3 Mobility of persons aged 15-24**

Each of the capital cities recorded positive MERs for net migration for this age group. Brisbane and Melbourne reported the highest net migration MERs of 35.1 and 33.8 percent respectively. MERs of greater than 20 percent occurred in Canberra, Perth and Adelaide SDs. This age group, through internal migration, has a positive effect on population change in each of the capital city statistical divisions, with the proviso that the effectiveness is substantially lower in Darwin, Sydney and Hobart than it is in the other capital cities.

In the case of net intrastate, each capital city has a positive MER, suggesting that education facilities, both for school and university, play a role in the intrastate internal migration process for these capitals. However, this is not the case when interstate MERs are assessed. Negative MERs prevail in Adelaide, Sydney and Hobart, and relatively low MERs occur in Perth and Darwin. MERs above 20 percent were reported for Brisbane Canberra and Melbourne. The suggestion here is that there are factors operating at the national level to create different effectiveness levels within this group in terms of interstate migration. Clearly, job opportunities, quality of lifestyle, as well as education opportunities, vary among the capitals and thereby influence disproportionately, the internal migration process.

Beyond the capital cities, only two statistical divisions had positive net migration effectiveness ratios – Gold Coast and Northern-Qld. In terms in intrastate MERs, there were six non capital city SDs with positive MERs, with the largest occurring in Northern-Qld (19.6), Richmond-Tweed (11.2) and Northern-Tas (8.6). The situation for net interstate migration by this group is more interesting. There were 13 SDs with a positive interstate migration effectiveness ratio, and with seven of these the MER was greater than 20 percent. The Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast had net interstate MERs of 50.5 and 26.2 percent respectively. Here, it would appear that a combination of lifestyle, education and occupation factors are at work to enhance the effectiveness of this group's internal migration in affecting population distribution. In the case of Mackay (33.4), Northern-Qld (28.8), Far North (20.7) and North West (20.4), both in Queensland, the role of employment opportunities especially in the mining industry, influences the migration by this group into these areas.

### **3.3.4 Mobility of persons aged 45-64**

The 45-64 years age group may be categorised as the baby boomer group in this analysis. For net migration effectiveness, this group exhibits some very interesting characteristics. In the case of the capital cities, this group has a positive effect in only Hobart and Brisbane. Sydney is unique, in that for all internal migrants in this age group, 52.5 percent are leavers, more than twice the rate applying to Melbourne and Canberra. Clearly, there exists in Sydney, at levels not experienced in the other capitals, push factors that are driving this group from the capital. The high MER for net migration in Sydney is matched by equally high MERs for intrastate and interstate migration within this group. Whether this group leaves for interstate or intrastate locations, their effectiveness in shaping Sydney's population is between 50 and 55 percent.

With the other capital cities, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth recorded negative MERs for intrastate migration. Brisbane experiences different impacts from intrastate and interstate mobility – its intrastate MER is -18 percent while its interstate MER is 28.8 percent.

Outside of the capital city SDs, there were 11 statistical divisions which experienced effective net migration greater than 20 percent between 2001 and 2006. Highest MERs occurred in Wide Bay-Burnett (36.1), South West-WA (33.9) and Sunshine Coast (30.5). MERs greater than 20.4 percent for net migration were reported in Richmond-Tweed, Yorke and Lower North (in SA), South Eastern-NSW, Gold Coast, East Gippsland, Outer Adelaide, Southern (in Tasmania) and Mid-North Coast.

The baby boomer group has been shown to have a propensity for both intrastate and interstate mobility. There were 14 statistical divisions intrastate MERs greater than 20 percent. The majority of these are sea change SDs, with two – Goulburn and Loddon – qualifying as tree change localities. Clearly, in these SDs intrastate migration by 45-64 year olds is impacting effectively, and positively, on population change. Of these 14 SDs, only

seven had positive MERs for interstate migration, and with the exception of Wide Bay-Burnett, the interstate MER was significantly less than the intrastate MER. Therefore, there is essentially a different group of SDs with high levels of effective interstate migration. What is especially significant in the high interstate MER group is the presence of three Tasmanian SDs – Southern (50.0), Mersey-Lyell (31.4) and Northern (29.0). In these SDs, the effectiveness of interstate migration on population change needs to be recognised. Just as significantly is the fact that the remainder of this group of statistical divisions are located in Queensland, and with the exception of West Moreton and Darling Downs, they are coastal SDs, extending the length of the Queensland coast.

### **3.3.5 Mobility of persons aged 65 and over**

This group is essentially retired and therefore not in the labour force. In terms of net migration only two capitals – Hobart and Brisbane – had positive MERs. Only seven other SDs had higher net migration MERs than Hobart's. Among the capitals, the largest negative MERs occurred in Sydney, where net loss from internal migration represented 46.2 percent of all internal migrants, more than twice the rate recorded for Darwin, more than 2.5 times the rate for Melbourne, and nearly three times that for Canberra. As has been noted for other groups, Sydney has similar effective migration rates whether it is net migration, intrastate or interstate migration that is considered.

With intrastate MERs, only Hobart (30.8) and Darwin (42.4) had positive ratios. Among the other capitals, Melbourne and Perth had the highest negative MERs for intrastate migration - -26.0 and -13.7 respectively. Interstate migration among this group was particularly effective in influencing population change in Brisbane, and to a lesser extent in Hobart and Perth.

Beyond the capital cities, internal net migration effectiveness was at positive levels in 31 SDs. For this age group, the significance of retirement options in the Mandurah, Bunbury, Busselton, Margaret River and Augusta, and points further south along the coast of WA, is clear. Similar situations are influencing the effectiveness of net migration in Goulburn, Northern (in Tasmania), Sunshine Coast, Gippsland, Outer Adelaide, Central Highlands (in Victoria), Mersey-Lyell in Tasmania, Mid-North Coast in New South Wales, and Darling Downs and Wide Bay-Burnett in Queensland.

Net migration is a combination of intrastate and interstate migration. There were 16 SDs with intrastate MERs greater than 15 percent, split almost evenly between coastal SDs and inland SDs. The SDs with the highest intrastate MERs are coastal – South West-WA (36.3), Richmond-Tweed (33.6), Mid-North Coast (33.5) and Hunter (24.8). The lowest four in the group are inland statistical divisions – Goulburn (17.0), Murrumbidgee (16.7), Darling Downs (15.8) and Central West-NSW (15.1).

Of the 14 statistical divisions interstate MERs greater than 15 percent, only three – Darling Downs, Wide Bay-Burnett and South West-WA – also had high MERs for intrastate mobility. Those SDs with interstate MERs greater than 30 percent are, with the exception of Mersey-Lyell, all located in Queensland. Those with interstate MERs between 15 and 29.1 percent are slightly more widespread, in Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and the remainder in Queensland.

## **3.4 INTERNAL MIGRATION AMONG THE WORKFORCE, 2001-2006**

This section examines the effectiveness of internal migration employed (full time plus part time) and unemployed persons.

### **3.4.1 Mobility of Employed Persons**

The analysis presents two salient points relating to the effectiveness of employed person mobility in the capital cities. Firstly, for every 100 internal migrants arriving or leaving Brisbane, there was a net gain of 16 employed persons, while Sydney experienced a net loss of 24 workers. Clearly, in terms of employment, Brisbane benefits strongly from internal migration whereas Sydney experiences significant losses.

Intrastate migration of employed persons has impacted most on population change in Darwin and Hobart, with intrastate MERs of 23.3 and 22.7 percent respectively, indicating the presence of pull factors in these capitals which contrast to the push factors at work in Sydney, which had a negative MER of 20.0. In NSW workers are effectively seeking employment opportunities elsewhere in the state.

In the case of interstate migration, the highest MER was in Brisbane (29.8). Sydney's negative rate, at 27.1 percent, indicates that mobile workers are predominantly seeking work interstate rather than in Sydney.

In the non capital city SDs, the MER analysis shows the influence of Queensland, and especially Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Mackay, in the provision of work opportunities for mobile employed persons. Their effectiveness ratios are also greater than that recorded for Brisbane. In effect, it means that these four SDs exert of powerful influence on the internal migration process in effecting population redistribution of the working population.

It is worth noting the geography of negative MERs greater than 15 percent, indicating areas losing employed persons at a rate which has a real, and effective, impact on their regions. These areas are heavily dependent on rural industries and pastoralism for their well being, and are confined to the western border areas of Queensland, the northern border areas of New South Wales, the Wimmera in Victoria and the Upper Great Southern SD in Western Australia. In these locations, internal migration of employed persons is having a significant negative impact on local population levels.

In terms of intrastate migration in non metropolitan areas, migration of employed persons has generated effective inflow levels in many of the coastal statistical divisions that are popular destinations for persons seeking alternatives to capital city living. These SDs are legitimately "sea change" SDs, and attract employed persons to produce the developing infrastructure, particularly housing, and to service the maintenance needs of growing retirement populations in these areas.

Employed persons moving interstate generate the highest effective migration rates in SDs different from those with high MERs for intrastate migration. Of all the SDs with interstate MERs greater than 15 percent only one, Southern (32.8) in Tasmania, is not located in Queensland. The dominance of Queensland in this regard is another illustration of the impact that development in the south east corner of Queensland, and along its coastline, has on influencing the internal migration process in Australia.

### **3.4.2 Mobility of Unemployed Persons**

For unemployed persons' intrastate mobility, only Sydney and Melbourne have negative MERs, in contrast to Darwin and Hobart, and to a lesser extent Perth which attract unemployed persons from their hinterlands. In respect to interstate mobility of unemployed persons, MERs for the capital cities reinforce the powerful roles they play in Australian internal migration, in that Brisbane exerts significant attraction, while Sydney and Darwin, and to a lesser extent Canberra and Perth, bring push factors into play.

Outside the capital cities, the most effective net migration gains have occurred principally in the Queensland (Wide Bay-Burnett, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast), and Mid-North Coast and Richmond-Tweed in NSW, and Northern in Tasmania. The intrastate mobility of unemployed persons is particularly effective in New South Wales, both along the north coast and to the south of Sydney. In Queensland, it is clear that intrastate mobility for unemployed persons has little real effect on population redistribution.

Interstate MERs greater than 15 percent were reported in eight non metropolitan statistical divisions. The highest were in Wide Bay-Burnett (44.3), Sunshine Coast (40.3) and Gold Coast (36.7) and the Tasmanian SDs of Southern (42.6), Mersey-Lyell (34.9) and Northern (17.5). In summary, unemployed persons are having a significant positive impact on the internal migration process especially in south east Queensland, and Tasmania. There is, however, a much larger number of SDs scattered throughout Australia where the internal migration process is significantly impacted negatively by unemployed persons.

### **3.4.3 Mobility of Persons employed in primary industries**

This group is a quite specialised group in that areas from which it might be pushed and areas to which it might be attracted are, locationally, quite clearly defined. The analysis shows that, as might be expected, patterns defined by actual mobility numbers are similar to those defined by measures of migration effectiveness. In the capital cities, this group finds no attraction, and the internal migration process pushes them to non metropolitan locations, so that outside the capital cities there are 40 SDs where positive net migration numbers and effective migration ratios exist.

### **3.4.4 Mobility of Persons employed in mining industries**

Only Perth had a positive MER for net migration, due to the large fly in-fly out mining workforce living in Perth. Outside of the capital cities, only 15 SDs had positive net migration levels for movers employed in mining. The impact of Mackay and the Pilbara on the internal migration process for persons employed in mining is significant, but in terms of migration effectiveness, the influence of Mackay is nearly half as great again as that exerted by the Pilbara region. This is an illustration of the significance of Queensland in terms of resource development in Australia and its impact on internal mobility.

Seven of the nine non metropolitan SDs with high MERs for net migration also have high MERs for intrastate migration. They include Loddon, Ovens-Murray, East Gippsland and Gippsland in Victoria, Mersey-Lyell in Tasmania, Illawarra in New South Wales and the Northern Territory-Balance SD.

In terms of interstate migration, there are nine key SDs which impact significantly on the mobility of persons employed in mining industries. The most significant of these is Mackay (60.9), Western District (48.8) in Victoria, and Northern-SA, South Eastern-WA, Loddon, Far West in NSW, Pilbara, Fitzroy and North West (Queensland) with MERs above 20 percent. The analysis shows that there is a group of SDs in which mining activity impacts positively on the internal migration process between the states, while there are a number of SDs within Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory which have a more localised effect in terms of the intrastate migration process for this group of movers.

### **3.4.5 Mobility of Persons employed in secondary industries**

Australia's secondary industry has undergone significant structural adjustment since the 1970s, and its impact on internal migration patterns has been enormous. Persons employed in secondary industries are exiting most of the capitals at significant rates. The best example is Sydney, where net migration effectiveness is negative 41.2 percent. Lower

negative MERs prevail in Canberra, Melbourne, Darwin and Adelaide. Secondary industry opportunities in Brisbane exert a positive impact on the internal migration process for this mobility group, generating a MER of 19.8 percent. MER levels in Perth and Hobart were less than 0.5 and 0.2 respectively of that for Brisbane.

In terms of the intrastate migration component of net migration, Darwin, Hobart and Perth have a positive effect on internal migration for this group of movers. In the other capitals, negative MERs prevail. For net interstate migration, the impact of Brisbane is substantial. Its MER of 45.1 percent represents nearly four times the positive effect exerted by Perth. Sydney, in contrast, had a MER of -47.4 percent.

Outside the capitals net migration MERs greater than 15 percent occurred in six statistical divisions, with four located in Queensland –Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Mackay and Fitzroy. The effectiveness of net migration in these statistical divisions does suggest a developing tendency for secondary activities to prevail increasingly in near capital city areas, rather than in the capital cities, and in areas associated with mining.

In considering the intrastate component of net migration, there were nine SDs with migration effectiveness ratios greater than 15 percent of which two thirds were in New South Wales. The remaining SDs were in WA, SA and Victoria, where there is clearly sufficient economic activity to impact positively on the internal migration process.

In considering interstate migration, the impact of Queensland was substantial. Of the 12 non metropolitan SDs with interstate migration MERs greater than 18 percent, the top nine SDs were in Queensland, with MERs ranging from 55.0 percent 27.3 percent, extending from the south east corner of the State and along its entire coastline. Outside of this group, high MERs occurred in Southern SD in Tasmania (26.7), South West in WA (23.0) and Outer Adelaide (18.2).

#### **3.4.6 Mobility of Persons employed in tertiary industries**

This mobility group is based around occupations that are generally defined as service type occupations. In the capital cities, net migration MERs are positive for all cities except Sydney (-20.5) and Adelaide (-8.4). The highest MER is again in Brisbane (16.9). Apart from Sydney and Adelaide, the suggestion is that tertiary services are impacting positively on the internal migration process for this group of movers. In terms in intrastate migration, very high positive MERs prevail in Hobart (24.8) and Darwin (26.0). However, in the case of interstate migration, only Brisbane (27.4) and Canberra (8.8) have a significant, and positive, effect on the migration process.

Beyond the capital cities, only Gold Coast (24.2) and Sunshine Coast (23.5) had MERs above 15 percent. The impact of economic activity on internal migration in these two SDs is way ahead of that in the other SDs. In terms of intrastate mobility for persons employed in tertiary industries, a cluster of coastal SDs in New South Wales – Richmond-Tweed, Mid-North Coast, Hunter and South Eastern – have sufficiently developed infrastructure and demand to generate MERs ranging from 15.0 to 29.7. Elsewhere, only Outer Adelaide had a MER above 15 percent.

In considering interstate migration, the picture that emerges yet again is the role played by Queensland in effectively influencing internal migration. There are seven SDs with MERs greater than 15 percent, and only one (Southern, in Tasmania) is not located in Queensland.

### 3.4.7 Mobility of professionals and managers

This group of movers have been selected because they represent possibly the most highly paid, and qualified, group of movers considered in the Report.

For the capital city statistical divisions, there is a clear dichotomy in terms of net migration effectiveness. Sydney and Adelaide have experienced substantial net losses in this group, in contrast to Canberra and Brisbane. Interestingly, Brisbane is ranked second, compared with its more typical top ranking in most of the previous analyses.

The situation for intrastate migration has been noted on a number of earlier occasions. Both Hobart and Darwin have positive intrastate MERs, highlighting a scarcity of opportunities elsewhere in these states for professionals and managers who only wish to move within their present state. In these cases, it is predominantly a case of the capital city, or move interstate or remain *in situ*. This is not the case in the other states, which have a greater number of potential employment opportunities distributed throughout their jurisdiction. Hence, the tendency for this group in these states has been to leave the capital and move to other localities within the state. This scenario plays an important role in the internal migration process in the case of Sydney, with a MER of 23.1 percent, Adelaide (19.4) and Melbourne (12.4).

In the case of interstate migration, the group's migration patterns are similar to those demonstrated by a number of other groups, in that there is a real aversion to Sydney and Adelaide, in particular, and a positive attraction to Brisbane and Canberra. The patterns are verification of insufficient opportunities in some states, and an increasingly abundant supply of opportunities in other states, with a subsequent impact on the internal migration process.

Outside of the capital cities, the highest effective migration rates occurred in Sunshine Coast (29.7), South Eastern-NSW (23.1) and Gold Coast (21.1) as well Outer Adelaide, South West-WA, Southern in Tasmania and Mid-North Coast.

For intrastate mobility, positive MERs greater than 15 percent were reported for Richmond-Tweed, South Eastern and Mid-North Coast, all in NSW, Outer Adelaide and Eyre, in South Australia, South West-WA and Sunshine Coast. For interstate mobility, Queensland again dominated, although the highest MER (48.7) was for Southern SD in Tasmania. High MERs also occurred in Sunshine Coast (43.9), Gold Coast (35.8), Wide Bay-Burnett (32.4), Mackay (26.6) and Far North (21.1) in Queensland, and in South Eastern-NSW (18.3) and Lower Great Southern (17.5) in Western Australia.

### 3.4.8 Mobility of technical and tradespersons

The most attractive capital cities, in terms of net migration effectiveness were Brisbane and Perth, indicating that activity in each of these capitals is clearly attractive to persons with technical and trades skills. Hobart and Darwin also reported positive MERs, while negative MERs prevailed in the other capital city statistical divisions. Sydney's MER was -33.9 percent. Highest net migration MERs in non capital SDs occurred in Queensland, in Gold Coast, Mackay and Sunshine Coast, and Outer Adelaide. These are areas with developing infrastructure, especially in housing, and clearly generate demand for the skills these persons possess.

In terms of intrastate migration, the highest MERs among the capital cities were recorded for Hobart and Darwin, with lower MERs in Perth and Brisbane. In the regions, highest MERs were concentrated in New South Wales, with isolated SDs in SA, Victoria and Queensland.

For interstate migration, Brisbane (38.4) and Perth (14.4) stand out. Both are powerful magnets for persons from interstate with these occupations. Sydney had a MER of minus 40.6, while Adelaide and Melbourne had MERs at around a fifth and lower than this level.

Outside the capital cities, there were eleven SDs with net MERs between 51.0 percent and 16.4 percent. Six of the top nine were in Queensland, with the others in Tasmania and Western Australia. These results demonstrate again the effectiveness of the coastal regions of Queensland, relative to other parts of Australia, in influencing the internal migration process, especially its interstate component, in Australia.

### **3.4.9 Mobility of operators, drivers and labourers**

In terms of net migration effectiveness, the highest MERs among the capital city statistical divisions occurred in Brisbane and Perth, the same situation which prevailed for the technical and trades internal migrants, suggesting that these two groups play tandem roles in terms of demand for their skills. Sydney reported the highest effective loss of internal migrants in this occupational category.

Outside the capital cities, high MERs occurred in resource development areas, while there were also relatively high MERs in several near capital city locations.

In terms of the intrastate component of internal migration, Hobart and Darwin again reported the highest positive MERs for this mobility group, with the highest negative MER occurring in Sydney SD. Beyond the capitals, there were nine SDs with intrastate MERs greater than 15 percent, and with these retirement opportunities in coastal areas and resource development in other locations, appear to be driving the mobility process.

In the capital cities, only Brisbane (43.3) and Perth (16.0) generated significant positive MERs for interstate mobility by this group. In contrast, Sydney's MER was negative 50.3 percent, compared with -18.7 for Hobart and -10.9 for Canberra. Beyond the capitals, there were 14 SDs with interstate MERs greater than 15 percent. The effectiveness of Queensland in driving the internal migration process within this group is evident in the fact that 11 of these 14 SDs are situated in Queensland, where life style factors and employment opportunities from mining each play a significant role.

### **3.4.10 Mobility of high income earners**

High income earners are defined here as persons who earned \$1,000 or more per week. Among the capital city statistical divisions, the highest net MERs for this group occurred in Brisbane (9.8) and Canberra (6.2), compared with lowest MERs of -19.9 and -17.1 in Sydney and Adelaide respectively. Beyond the capitals, net MERs greater than 15 percent occurred in just seven SDs. In SDs such as Mackay and Pilbara, the driving force is clearly economic, but in Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Moreton, Outer Adelaide, South West-WA, and to a lesser extent South Eastern-NSW their location on the periphery of capital cities suggest that mobility may also be influenced by prevailing housing opportunities offering space and amenity not available in the nearby capital cities. The exodus of high income earners from Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne to intrastate locations is pronounced, while rural-urban migration occurs in the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

In the regions, the most attractive localities for high income earners moving intrastate are predominantly in New South Wales – Richmond-Tweed, Mid-North Coast, South Eastern and Hunter. Victoria has two “hotspots” (Barwon and Loddon), as does Queensland (Sunshine Coast and Mackay) while South Australia has Outer Adelaide. There would seem to be a combination of factors, including employment, retirement (sea change/tree change),

and housing opportunities in near city locations, that are driving the internal migration process in relation to this mobility group.

In terms of interstate migration for high income earners, Brisbane and Canberra stand out in terms of their effectiveness in attracting this group from interstate, while, as has usually been the case, Sydney, along with Adelaide, has experienced very high levels of effective outmigration for this group. In the regions it is again the case that statistical divisions in Queensland demonstrate a real effectiveness in terms of attracting interstate migrants, as does Southern in Tasmania, South Eastern-NSW and Pilbara.

#### **3.4.11 Mobility of highly qualified persons**

In the capital cities, Canberra (7.1) and Brisbane (6.5) have approximately the same effective impact in terms of attracting persons with a bachelor degree or higher. More significant, however, is the effectiveness of other capitals, notably Sydney and Adelaide, in repelling this group. Beyond the capital cities, SDs with high MERs are fairly evenly spread amongst the states, except Victoria. It needs to be recognised that people carry their qualifications through various stages of life, so that high levels of mobility in some areas may not be influenced by employment opportunities, but rather by highly qualified retirees.

In terms of intrastate migration to and from the capitals, Darwin and Hobart exert the greatest effective attraction on this group, while Sydney and Adelaide have the greatest impact in terms of driving an urban to regional migration. In the remainder of each of the states, the most effective positive intrastate migration occurred in New South Wales and South Australia.

In the context of interstate migration by this group, the highest positive MERs occurred in Brisbane (13.8) and Canberra (7.2). It is clear that the employment opportunities in both capitals are driving the internal migration process in this instance, in contrast to the situation in Adelaide and Sydney. In the regions of each state, there are a number of SDs which attract internal migrants with high qualification levels, including Southern in Tasmania, Sunshine Coast, Far North, Mackay, Wide Bay-Burnett, Gold Coast, Lower Great Southern in WA and South Eastern-NSW.

#### **3.4.12 Mobility of recently arrived migrants**

Recent migrants are defined as those persons who arrived in Australia after 1996. From a net migration perspective, the capital city which experienced the greatest amount of effective internal migration (20.9) with this group was Brisbane. In Canberra, the migration effectiveness ratio was 12.0 percent, while much lower migration effectiveness for this group occurred in Melbourne and Perth. In contrast, Sydney had a negative MER for this group of -27.3, while much lower MERs were reported for Hobart, Darwin and Adelaide.

Outside of the capital city SDs, the influence of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria in terms of internal migration effectiveness with this group is apparent. Notwithstanding these regional “hotspots”, the highest MER was 41 percent in Southern SD in Tasmania. Outer Adelaide and South West-WA also had MERs greater than 15 percent.

In considering the situation for intrastate migration with this group, it is important to be cognisant of the relatively low number of movers involved. Therefore, although Adelaide and Darwin had high positive MERs, they are linked to low numbers. Sydney recorded the highest negative MER of 19.4 percent, while levels of losses in Hobart, Melbourne and Perth were considerably lower than in Sydney. Statistical divisions which reported effective intrastate mobility by recently arrived migrants were predominantly located in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia.

As noted in Chapter 2, recently arrived migrants show a greater propensity to move interstate than intrastate, in contrast to the total population. Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Perth each generated positive MERs for net interstate migration for recently arrived migrants. On the other hand, Sydney's MER of -29.5 indicates the significant role it plays in the internal migration process in providing "push" factors to cause recent arrivals to move interstate. Outside the capital cities, the power of Queensland in attracting recent migrants from interstate is again demonstrated in the data. Of the 11 SDs with MERs greater than 15 percent, six of them are located in Queensland, extending from the near Brisbane locations along the coast to the Cape York Peninsula. Relatively high MERs in other states are based on relatively low net numbers.

#### **3.4.13 Mobility of longer term migrants**

These migrants arrived in Australia prior to 1997, and their numbers are much larger than those for recent migrants. Therefore the MERs generated are more indicative of how this group fits into the internal migration process in Australia.

Within the capital city SD group, only Hobart (15.0) and Brisbane (10.8) have positive MERs for net migration. This role for Hobart in the internal migration process is unique. Of the remaining capital cities Sydney had the highest negative MER of -39.9 along with Adelaide (-19.0). Outside the capital city SDs, there are 22 SDs with MERs greater than 15, with a fairly even distribution between the eastern seaboard states. A further three are located in Tasmania, with two located in each of SA and WA.

In terms of mobility between the capital cities and their respective hinterlands, only two capitals experienced a drift towards the cities – Hobart and Darwin. The greatest effective exodus was from Sydney, with a MER of -44.5 percent, Melbourne (-28.8) and Adelaide (-25.2). Intrastate mobility of long term migrants is most pronounced in New South Wales, which has eight SDs with MERs above 15 percent, compared with six in Victoria. In each of South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland there were two statistical divisions with intrastate MERs of more than 15 percent.

In respect to interstate mobility of long term migrants, Brisbane generated a MER of 30.3 percent, compared with 15 percent for next ranked Hobart. Each of the other capitals played a negative role in terms of interstate migration of long term migrants. Outside the capital cities, the analysis for effectiveness is most interesting in Tasmania. Here there are three SDs with MERs greater than 33 percent – Southern (59.6), Mersey-Lyell (46.1) and Northern (33.6). Further, these MERs are associated with net migration levels ranging from 540 to 838, and clearly are likely to have implications in a number of respects. Apart from Tasmania, the effectiveness of Queensland SDs is significant. Of the 13 SDs with MERs greater than 15, eight are located in Queensland, extending from the south east corner of the state, northwards along its entire coastline. The remaining two SDs with relatively high MERs were located in Victoria.

#### **3.4.14 Migration effectiveness, 2001-2006: Summary**

The main purpose of the analysis in this chapter has been to move the emphasis to the relativities of net migration, intrastate migration and interstate migration. The two approaches – an emphasis on net migration in Chapter 2 and an emphasis on MERs in this chapter – clearly complement each other, as both are different ways of defining the internal migration process in Australia. The main conclusion emerging from this consideration is that the main statistical divisions identified in Chapter 2 on the basis of actual numbers remain unchanged, as does the general patterns of internal migration. This is not unsurprising as the

same underlying processes are still at work. However, the emphasis on relativities has produced a number of interesting findings, and these are presented in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1: Some key findings from the MER analysis of internal migration, 2001-2006**

<b>The MER approach, with its emphasis on relativities, has highlighted.....</b>		
SDs where small arrivals and departures numbers have nevertheless produced high MERs	Tasmania: Southern, Mersey-Lyell, Northern Victoria: Barwon, Loddon, Goulburn South Australia: Outer Adelaide, Yorke and Lower North	For policy makers, these MERs may indicate that “critical” thresholds are being approached. May anticipate the arrival of a newer demographic and changed infrastructure and services demand.
<b>In terms of intrastate migration, MER analysis suggests.....</b>		
Areas attractive to the “locals”. Each state has one, two, up to a handful of attractive SDS.	NSW has the most – more on North coast than on South Coast  Central Victoria has a group of SDS Not many in Queensland  Darwin and Hobart effective destinations for intrastate migration	Illustrates flight form “capital to coast”.  Sea change and tree change SDS. Queenslanders happy with their location – no need to shift, even in retirement. Everywhere in Queensland is “beautiful one day: perfect the next”.
A new dimension to internal migration	There is a “drift” from the cities	The flow to the regions is growing, in both the young old cohort and the baby boomers. Has a demand implication in affected regions.
<b>In terms of interstate migration, MER analysis highlights.....</b>		
The “power” of Queensland	The attractive power is located not just in south east corner, but along entire coast.	Mobility process driven by retirement, selected age, labour force and occupation groups.
Southern SD in Tasmania	Has generated a significant MER	Interstate migration has impacted on population and economic turnaround during this decade

The approach that has been adopted in this chapter for the total population and a number of subsets within it could be applied to the data presented in the next chapter for international migrants who arrived in Australia after 1996. However, this has not been done, mainly because the numbers are much smaller than those assessed in this chapter. However, the data presented in the next chapter could be used to calculate migration effectiveness ratios for recently arrived migrants at both their total population level, and for a range of subsets within the group.

### **3.5 RELATING NET MIGRATION TO POPULATION CHANGE**

A second approach to measuring the relative impact of internal migration on population change is to compare the net migration for any variable in any area during a given period to the actual population change (for the same variable) in the area during the same period. In this section of the main Report tables presented have been subdivided according to whether the statistical division experienced:

- Net migration gain and total population gain
- Net migration loss and total population gain

- Net migration gain and total population loss
- Net migration loss and total population loss

The approach develops a classification, or typology, of SDs in terms of net migration and population change. The actual size of the relationship between net migration and population change has no upper limit. However, a value greater than 100 percent, be it positive or negative, indicates that net migration is greater than population change. A value of 200 percent indicates that net migration is twice the size of population change, while a value of 250 percent indicates net migration to be 2.5 times the size of population change. In contrast, a value of 50 percent would mean that net migration was half the size of population change.

The impact of internal migration on population change is assessed for variables related to the total population, economic criteria, human capital measures and recent migrants. In particular, net migration is assessed as a percentage of total population change for the following variables:

- Total population (ignoring gender)
- Labour force, defined as employed, unemployed and not in the labour force
- Occupation, using categories of Professional and Managers, Technical and Trades and Operators, drivers and labourers
- Education, using persons with a bachelor degree or higher
- Migrants, defined as recent and long term

### **3.5.1 Net migration and population change – total population**

For statistical divisions where net migration gains are associated with total population gains, a number of points can be made:

- Contiguity between SDs in this classification is substantial. There is a single coastal belt of SDs in this group which extends from Northern (Mackay) in Queensland to Barwon in Victoria. From Barwon, the belt extends inland into Victoria through the Central Highlands and the Loddon and Goulburn regions, and adjoins the extensive Murray region. In Tasmania, every SDs is represented, while in South Australia two extensive SDs – Outer Adelaide and Yorke and Lower North mean that from Kangaroo Island, anticlockwise around the Adelaide SD to the south west corner of Yorke Peninsula is a region where net migration gain is accompanied by total population change. In Western Australia, SDs in this classification are confined to the south west corner of the state.
- These SDs contain 95.3 percent of all net migration gain by SDs in the 2001-2006 period.
- In Mid-North Coast and Richmond-Tweed, net migration was greater than total population change, while in Outer Adelaide, Moreton, Mackay, Wide Bay-Burnett and Northern-Qld, net migration ranged from 53.4 percent to 91.7 percent of total population change.
- There were a further 13 SDs where the relationship between net migration and total population change was between 25 and 50 percent.

There were only three SDs where net migration gain was matched by total population loss. These three SDs act to make the geography of net migration gain even tighter, so that the region of net migration gain extends uninterrupted from Cape York Peninsula to Tasmania, including all of Victoria east of, and including, the region defined by Barwon, Central Highlands and Loddon statistical divisions.

Where net migration loss and total population gain occurs, it is clear that international migration and/or natural increase is offsetting population loss through internal migration. Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra are in this classification, as well as regional SDs such as Murrumbidgee, Central West-NSW, Eyre in South Australia and Mallee in Victoria.

For statistical divisions in the remaining classification – net migration loss and total population loss – these are the real source SDs for internal migration in Australia. They are the regions which are unable, presently, to maintain population levels.

### **3.5.2 Net migration and population change – employed population**

The working population comprises persons working either full time or part time. Based on the classification of SDs that results from the analysis, a number of points can be made:

- The 18 SDs in which there was net migration gain and total population gain during the five years to 2006 is less than the 26 SDs in this classification for the total population. Net migration in these SDs represented 95.5 percent of all net migration gain throughout the country. The spatial distribution of these SDs is tighter than that for the total population, and is essentially coastal with an eastern seaboard emphasis. In no SDs was net migration greater than total population change, indicating that international migration and local persons entering the workforce are playing important roles in population change. Four of the capital city SDs – Canberra, Brisbane, Hobart and Perth – are in this classification.
- SDs where net migration loss occurred with total population gain included Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne. In these cities it seems that while employed persons are leaving the capitals, in substantial numbers in the case of Sydney, their loss is offset by gains from other sources, particularly from overseas.
- There were 20 SDs where net migration loss and total population loss occurred, representing 28.4 percent of the total net migration loss occurring in Australian SDs. These are the sources for internal migration by employed persons, and they are largely confined to the pastoral and agricultural areas of the nation, which have been subject to ongoing restructuring for more than four decades.

### **3.5.3 Net migration and population change – unemployed population**

The analysis for this group produces an essentially two fold classification, where SDs are either defined as net migration gain and total population loss or net migration loss and total population loss. In terms of the first group, three main points can be made:

- The impact of net migration on total population change is relatively small.
- These SDs are “sink” SDs for internal migration of unemployed persons.
- These “sinks” define four main regions in Australia which have received the bulk of unemployed internal migrants 2001 and 2006. These are: south eastern Queensland-northern NSW border region, the contiguous Loddon, Central Highlands, Barwon, Melbourne, Gippsland and East Gippsland SDs in Victoria, the northern part of

Tasmania and the Adelaide, Outer Adelaide and Yorke and Lower North statistical divisions in South Australia.

For the second classification, the main point is that the SDs in this classification represent “source” statistical divisions, which are repelling unemployed persons due to a shortage of relevant jobs in the SDs.

### **3.5.4 Net migration and population change – NILF population**

In an internal migration context, persons not in the labour force are equated with retired persons, and, their patterns can indicate the impact of retirement on internal migration. Twenty SDs fall into the net migration gain and total population gain classification. Significantly, no capital cities are in this group. There are ten SDs where the relationship is substantial, and the geography of these SDs, along with the remainder in the classification, can be used to define the “retirement” belt, or “hot spots”, in Australia which is highly concentrated in Victoria, in coastal and interior SDs due to “sea change” and “tree change” processes, principally in coastal SDs in New South Wales, and in south east Queensland and South Australia.

Spatially, the eight SDs in the net migration gain and total population loss classification link the retirement pockets described above, to create a more or less contiguous belt from Wide Bay-Burnett in Queensland south along the coast to southern NSW and hooking up with eastern and central Victoria. SDs in this classification also generate outlier “retirement” areas in northern Queensland, and complete the definition of the whole of Tasmania being a retirement location. In the Moreton SD, which comprises the 2006 SDs of Sunshine Coast, West Moreton and Gold Coast, the effect of net migration was to reduce substantially total population decline. Other SDs where net migration gain had a significant impact on the extent of total population loss were South Eastern-NSW, Greater Hobart and Richmond-Tweed.

### **3.5.5 Net migration and population change – professional and managerial population**

This group represents the mobility of a highly educated and highly skilled group. Its mobility produces a classification in which SDs are evenly split between net migration gain and total population gain, and net migration loss and total population gain.

With respect to the first classification, these are statistical divisions where professions and managers can either work and/or live. Many SDs in this classification can be defined as dormitory suburbs. The SDs in this classification are spread relatively evenly between the states, and in them net migration has aided the extent of total population change.

The other main classification is where net migration loss is accompanied by total population gain. In these SDs, although there has been growth in the total population of professionals and managers, net migration losses have acted to hold back that growth. The classification defines “source” SDs in terms of the mobility of professionals and managers.

### **3.5.6 Net migration and population change – technical and trades occupations**

The largest classification for this group involves SDs experiencing net migration loss. These “source” SDs are geographically widespread, and funnel internal migrants into a tight distribution of 19 statistical divisions where net migration gains and total population gain occurs. The geographic concentration of these latter “sink” SDs is highly concentrated in Queensland and characterised extensive resource development. The influence of mining development is also evident in Hunter, South Eastern-NSW, South West-WA and Pilbara, while the possible influence of infrastructure and housing expansion in retirement regions might be the reason for net migration gains in Barwon, Loddon, and Outer Adelaide SDs.

### **3.5.7 Net migration and population change – operators, drivers and labourer occupations**

This group represents the unskilled occupations. The group has been subject to pressures associated with restructuring, and accompanying capitalisation, over a long period. There were 18 statistical divisions in which net migration gain was associated with total population gain, and in which net migration had a positive effect on population change. In these SDs, internal mobility is related to resource development, in some cases to agricultural expansion, and to urban infrastructure activity in some capital cities and regions experiencing population growth.

The largest classification was for net migration loss accompanied by total population gain. In these SDs, the effect of net migration has been to hold back total population growth in the number of persons employed as operators, drivers or labourers.

### **3.5.8 Net migration and population change – persons with a bachelor degree or higher**

This group represents persons with high levels of educational attainment. The mobility of this group basically generates a twofold classification of SDs. There are 29 statistical divisions in which net migration gain is coupled with total population gain of persons with a bachelor degree or higher, and 21 SDs where net migration loss was associated with total population gain.

### **3.5.9 Net migration and population change – recently arrived migrants**

This internal mobility group is comprised of international migrants who arrived in Australia after 1996. This group breaks down into a two way classification of statistical divisions in which net migration gain is associated with total population gain, and those where there is net migration loss linked with total population gain.

There are 26 SDs in the first group, which includes Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth, indicating that these cities offer attractions to recent migrants not present in the other capitals. The second classification is the larger of the two, with 31 SDs. In these SDs, it is clear from the data that there is a high turnover of recent migrants, representing a process where recent migrants arrive afresh to take advantage of the incentives offered by these areas, but soon are confronted with factors that cause them to rethink their decision and move away from the area. While this process would seem to be common in many of the more remote, pastoral and agricultural SDs, it is also the case in Sydney, Hobart, Darwin and Adelaide.

### **3.5.10 Net migration and population change – longer term migrants**

This mobility group is defined as international migrants who arrived in Australia before 1997. The group generates a basically two fold classification where net migration gain is associated with total population loss and where net migration loss is linked with total population decline. There are 34 SDs in the first classification, and in these the impact of net migration has been to soften the extent of total population decline, as well as defining “sink” SDs for the group. In the other classification, 17 SDs are represented, including Darwin, Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra, Perth and Melbourne – six of the eight capital city statistical divisions.

### **3.5.11 Net migration and population change, 2001-2006: Summary**

This section has sought to show the relationship between net migration for groups and its relationship to total population change in the groups. The process has allocated SDs into one of four possible classes. Not all SDs fall into the same classification for each of the internal mobility groups assessed. Table 3.2 provides a classification summary for each of

the mobility groups, and can indicate how different aspects of the internal migration process affect different mobility groups, as well as showing how different group's net migration impacts on population change in each of the statistical divisions.

Overall, the approach has been a means by which "real winners" and "real losers" SDs, in terms of population change, can be identified. Those SDs which have experienced net migration gain and total population gain during the period are very much "hot spots" for population growth and "sinks" for internal migration. Based on information in Table 3.2 the "hotspot", or "sinks" SDs during the 2001-2006 period, and the dominant "sources", are shown in Table 3.3.

Those statistical divisions which have experience net migration loss along with total population loss are areas where total population decline is a cause for concern. The issue in the case of these SDs is not so much understanding the cause of the population drain, but attempting to halt the decline with policies designed to both retain population in, and attract population to, these SDs and regions. A number of these current "source" regions may indeed be areas which attract the attention of policy makers interested in developing a sustainable population for Australia.

**Table 3.2: Comparing Net Migration and Population Change by Various Mobility Groups, Statistical Divisions, 2001-2006**

Statistical Divisions	Total population	Not in Labour force	Un employed	Working (FT and PT)	Professionals and Managers	Technical and Trades	Operators, drivers and labourers	Bachelor degree and higher	Migrants who arrived before 1997	Migrants who arrived after 1996
Sydney	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Mid-North Coast	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	3	1
Hunter	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
South Eastern - NSW	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	1
Richmond-Tweed	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	3	1
Illawarra	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
Central West - NSW	2	1	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	2
Murray	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	1
Far West	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	1	3	2
Northern - NSW	4	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	3	2
North Western	4	4	4	4	2	2	4	2	2	2
Murrumbidgee	2	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
Melbourne	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Gippsland	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	3	2
Loddon	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Goulburn	1	1	4	2	1	2	1	1	3	2
Central Highlands	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	1
East Gippsland	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
Barwon	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Western District	2	2	4	2	1	2	2	2	3	2
Ovens-Murray	3	1	4	4	1	2	1	1	3	2
Wimmera	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	2
Mallee	2	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	2
Brisbane	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Wide Bay-Burnett	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Far North	3	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Darling Downs	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	2
Northern - Qld	1	3	3	1	2	1	1	2	3	1
Mackay	1	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Fitzroy	1	4	4	1	2	1	1	2	3	1
Central West - Qld	4	4	4	4	2	4	4	4	2	4
South West - Qld	4	4	4	4	2	4	4	2	2	2
North West	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	2	2
Moreton	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
Adelaide	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Outer Adelaide	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yorke and Lower North	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
Murray Lands	4	2	4	4	1	2	2	1	3	2
Eyre	2	4	4	2	1	2	2	1	3	2
South East	2	2	2	4	1	2	4	1	3	2
Northern - SA	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
Perth	1	4	4	1	2	1	1	2	2	1
South West - WA	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lower Great Southern	2	2	4	2	1	2	2	1	3	2
Midlands	4	2	4	4	2	2	2	1	3	1
Upper Great Southern	4	4	4	4	1	2	2	1	3	1
Central	4	4	4	4	2	2	4	3	3	2
Kimberley	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	2	2
South Eastern - WA	4	4	4	4	2	2	3	4	2	2
Piilbara	4	4	4	3	2	1	3	3	2	2
Greater Hobart	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	3	2
Northern - Tas	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
Mersey-Lyell	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	2
Southern	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
Canberra	2	2	4	1	1	2	2	1	2	1
Australian Capital Territory - Bal	4	4	4	4	2	1	4	4	2	1
Darwin	4	4	4	3	2	1	2	2	2	2
Northern Territory - Bal	4	4	4	4	2	4	4	4	2	2

**Legend**

1. Net migration gain and total population gain
2. Net migration loss and total population gain
3. Net migration gain and total population loss
4. Net migration loss and total population loss

**Table 3.3: Dominant “sinks” and “sources, statistical divisions, 2001-2006**

Dominant "sinks"	Dominant "sources"
Wide Bay-Burnett	Central West - Qld
Outer Adelaide	North West
South West - WA	Northern Territory - Bal
Hunter	South West - Qld
Loddon	Kimberley
Barwon	Australian Capital Territory -
Mackay	North Western
Brisbane	Central
Moreton	South Eastern - WA
Southern	
Far North	
Mid-North Coast	
Richmond-Tweed	
East Gippsland	
Yorke and Lower North	
Fitzroy	
Perth	
Goulburn	
South Eastern - NSW	
Murray	
Northern - Qld	
Greater Hobart	
Mersey-Lyell	

## **CHAPTER 4. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON POPULATION DISTRIBUTION**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

In the post war period net international migration has made a significant contribution to Australia's population growth. Accordingly, where immigrants settle has important national and regional influences on population distribution and needs to be considered in concert with net internal migration and natural increase to examine the dynamics of regional population growth.

### **4.2 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON POPULATION DISTRIBUTION**

Internal migration data based on previous residence does not detect the impact on population redistribution of international migrants arriving between 2001 and 2006. And yet, at the 2006 census, nearly 820,000 international migrants had arrived in Australia since 2001. The probability that these migrants engaged in one or more residential moves within Australia between their arrival and the 2006 census is high, but none of these moves were captured by the 2006 census internal migration data. In relation to migrants arriving after 2001, a number of points can be made:

- In 2006, 53.2 percent of them lived in Sydney and Melbourne. These two capitals experienced the greatest levels of net internal migration loss between 2001 and 2006. These migrants who arrived in Sydney and Melbourne after 2001 not only counterbalanced their net internal migration loss, but also made a significant contribution to their population growth.
- Their proportions in Brisbane and Perth in 2006 were 11.1 and 10.7 percent respectively.
- 82.8 percent of them resided in the capital cities in 2006. Beyond the capitals concentrations of one percent or greater occurred in just three SDs – Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Hunter – all coastal SDs close to major metropolitan areas.
- The peri-urban statistical divisions adjoining major cities, such as Outer Adelaide, Barwon and South West-WA had smaller but significant gains of recent migrants
- There were sizeable recent immigrant populations in some tourist coastal localities and inland mining industry areas.

The impact of these levels of international migration on population distribution in Australia is offset by people who left Australia after 2001 and who had an international address as their usual residence in 2006. The census cannot measure this offset to enable a net value for the impact of international migration on the size, structure and distribution of population throughout Australia. However, because Australia has experienced net overseas migration gains each year during the current decade, clearly international migration results in net gain. In many areas, this net gain has occurred against significant net internal migration losses between 2001 and 2006, and nowhere is this more the case than in Sydney and

Melbourne. Females comprised 50.9 percent of arrivals between 2002-06, and the 24-44 years age group was the largest, nearly twice the size of the younger 15-24 years age group.

### **4.3 DISTRIBUTION OF AUSTRALIA-BORN AND OVERSEAS-BORN POPULATIONS IN AUSTRALIA, 2006**

#### **4.3.1 Introduction**

The dominant trend over the post war period has been an increasing concentration of population in urban areas. However, the pattern has been most marked among the migrant population. In 1947 12.5 percent of people living in Australia's major cities was overseas-born, by 2006 it was 30 percent. The proportion of immigrants living in major cities increased from 61.8 to 82.8 percent in 2006 while for the Australia-born it grew from 49.7 to 61 percent. In 1947, 31.8 percent of Australians lived in rural areas but only 13.9 percent in 2006 while for the overseas-born the population fell from 24.7 to six percent.

This strong pattern of increasing urbanisation of the overseas-born population was a function of most new arrivals settling in Australia's capital cities. The pattern was especially evident for recently arrived migrants, and more so for those from mainly non English speaking countries. There were increases in the percentages of new arrivals settling in capital cities with each post war census until the 2006 enumeration. While 83.9 percent of migrants settled in these cities, the proportion fell for the first time during the post war period. A similar tendency to some decentralisation of migrant settlement away from major centres has also been noted in Europe and North America. There are then two long established elements in Australian post war immigrant settlement patterns. Firstly, immigrants from MES countries, especially New Zealand and the United Kingdom, are more similar to the Australia-born in their settlement patterns than is the case for those from MNES countries. Secondly, both groups, especially the MES group, show a strong tendency, with time, for their settlement patterns to converge toward those of the Australia-born.

#### **4.3.2 Changing Distribution between States and Territories**

A spatial shift has occurred in Australia's post war population away from the south eastern states to the northern and western parts of the country. This has been a function of structural change in the manufacturing sector especially, and resource development particularly in Queensland and Western Australia. While much of the distributional shift has been due to interstate population movements, immigrants have shown a propensity to settle in particular states, notably New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. More recently, the proportions of recent migrants residing in NSW has declined, while levels in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia have increased. There are wide differences between the states in the significance of immigrant settlement and this is undergoing substantial change.

#### **4.3.3 Overseas-Born in Urban Areas**

Not only have post war migrants tended to settle in Australia's larger urban areas but also they have concentrated especially in Sydney and Melbourne. Sydney and Melbourne's share of the nation's overseas-born population was 53.1 percent in 2006, compared with 34.1 percent for Australian born. Although Sydney remains the most significant centre of immigrant settlement in Australia, there is clear evidence of a shift in trends, occasioned by a dispersal away from Sydney towards the other capitals, as well as increased settlement beyond capital cities. There are significant variations between different birthplace groups in their propensity to settle in major cities, with higher concentrations among groups from non English speaking countries compared with those from English speaking backgrounds.

The population composition of Australian cities has been influenced by a series of waves, each characterised by a different mix of birthplace groups, as Australia's immigration policy and the national and global economic, political and demographic situation has changed. Accordingly there has been a substantial shift in the ethnic structure, and diversity, of Australian cities with those changes.

#### **4.3.4 Overseas-Born in Non-Metropolitan Areas**

One longstanding feature of migrant settlement in non-metropolitan Australia has been the high degree of spatial concentration. Outside the capitals, immigrants tended to settle in Intensive agricultural and horticultural areas, major provincial centres, mining and industrial centres and some fishing communities. They avoided the dry farming, extensive agricultural areas of the Australian wheat-sheep belt, so that the non-metropolitan overseas-born population has been even more concentrated than those settling in major cities.

There is evidence of a new pattern of immigrant settlement in regional Australia, with some settlement occurring in areas previously eschewed by immigrants, especially by those from non English speaking backgrounds. Their settlement has partly been a response to severe labour shortages and the State Specific Regional Migration (SSRM) scheme.

#### **4.3.5 The Role of Policy**

During the post war period, Australian immigration policy has been overwhelmingly concerned with shaping the scale and composition of the immigration intake. It was not until the mid 1990s that the Australian government considered attempting to shape where immigrants settle on a large scale, when the sustainability of rural and regional communities became an important national issue. Similarly, states which were lagging economically pressed for immigration to assist their economic development. The State Specific and Regional Migration Scheme (SSRM) was initiated in May 1996 to attract immigrants to areas which receiving small intakes. At no time since Federation have state governments been more heavily involved in the immigration policy and operations.

#### **4.3.6 The Distribution of the Overseas-Born**

In Sydney and Melbourne, the concentrations of overseas-born are much higher than the concentrations of Australia-born, while in Perth and Adelaide overseas born concentrations are slightly higher than for the Australia-born group. In Brisbane and the remaining capital cities, the proportion of Australia-born is slightly greater than the proportion of overseas-born. Spatially, the overseas born have shown a long term tendency for capital city, or near capital city, locations, compared with the Australian born tendency for location along the entire "verandah" of the east coast seaboard. In New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, typically 85 percent of overseas-born reside in the capital city statistical division. The exceptions are Queensland and Tasmania.

#### **4.3.7 Distribution of Overseas-Born by Length of Time in Australia**

The overseas-born population can be divided into two large groups, one comprising recent migrants who arrived after 1996, and another longer term group who arrived before 1997. Recent migrants show a greater tendency for large city living than their longer term counterparts. Some 56.5 percent of migrants who arrived in Australia after 1996 were living in Sydney and Melbourne in 2006, compared with 52.2 percent of those who had been in Australia since before 1997. There are also differences in the spatial distribution of recent migrants compared with longer term migrants, and there are discernible differences in concentrations of recent migrants who arrived between 1997 and 2001, and those who arrived between 2002 and 2006.

### **4.3.8 Distribution of Overseas-Born by Birthplace**

A further distinction between migrants and their spatial distribution can be made on the basis of birthplace. There are nearly one million more MNEC migrants in Australia than MESC migrants, while the proportion of MNEC migrants resident in Sydney and Melbourne is roughly double the proportion of MESC migrants in each city. The proportion of MNEC migrants in Canberra is greater than MESC migrants, while in Darwin each group has the same proportion. In the remaining capitals, the proportion of MNEC migrants is lower than the proportion of MESC migrants.

Migrants from mainly English speaking countries have a spatial distribution that is more similar to that of the Australia-born population, and more geographical widespread than the distribution of Overseas-born persons. In the case of migrants from mainly non-English speaking countries, their geography is much more confined than that displayed by the migrants from mainly English speaking countries and even more restricted spatially than the distribution displayed by the overseas-born group. It demonstrates very clearly the role of language in any group's success at expanding their presence. As ability in English improves, so more opportunities to extend their living space arise, through improved employment opportunities, purchasing power and housing opportunities.

## **4.4 TEMPORARY MIGRATION**

One of the most profound changes in Australia's immigration system since the mid 1990s has been an increase in non-permanent migration. At June 2008 there were 809,628 persons temporarily present in Australia and until the onset of the Global Financial Crisis the numbers were increasing by 15 percent per year. Clearly, where these groups go when they arrive in Australia has an impact on population distribution. As not all are detected in the census it is important to understand their spatial distribution.

One of the major categories of temporary migrants are Long Stay Temporary Business Entrants (Visa Category 457) who numbered a record 110,570 in 2007-08. They are more concentrated in Australia's major cities than are permanent migrants. Some 51 percent of all 457s coming in 2001-03 went to Sydney.

The largest category of temporary residents is overseas students who numbered 317,897 in 2008. This group is concentrated in the major mainland cities. There are more students in Melbourne than in Sydney which is different from the pattern for permanent settlers and 457s. One of the categories of temporary migration which has increased in scale over the last decade and which has impinged on non-metropolitan Australia is Working Holiday Makers (WHM). They are mainly involved in the hospitality, horticultural and rural industries and many of the jobs are located outside of Australia's major cities. In 2008-09 there were 187,696 WHM visas granted, an increase of 21.8 percent on the previous year and a doubling since 2003-04. Hence they have become an important element in the population of particular communities on a seasonal basis.

## **4.5 CONCLUSION**

There is a stability in Australia's population distribution, the major lineaments of which have changed little over the last century. However, it is a deceptive stability since there is a great deal of dynamism and international migration is an important element of this dynamism. International migration has been of crucial significance in the urbanisation of Australia and in dramatically changing the composition of Australia's urban populations. Immigration is the key demographic process in the development of Australia's major cities, especially the 'Gateway City' of Sydney. It is not only the major demographic engine of growth, it also has an important role in economic and social change.

This chapter has also identified a significant, albeit small, shift in the settlement patterns of immigrants in recent years. Immigration is playing an increasingly significant role in regional and state development in Australia, by being explicitly factored into economic planning at state, regional and local levels. A main aim of the chapter has been to show the influence of international migration on net migration levels, and to illustrate that international migration had a substantial offsetting impact on the large net migration losses Sydney and Melbourne experienced between 2001 and 2006. A second task for the chapter has been to show how migrants are distributed geographically throughout the country. There has been a slight shift temporally in the tendency for migrants to choose capital city locations, although for recent migrants and those from mainly non-English speaking countries, there is strong evidence presented to suggest that the capital cities statistical divisions, and to a lesser extent some adjacent SDs, remain the preferred locations for migrants.

## CHAPTER 5. INTERNAL MIGRATION OF RECENT MIGRANTS

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

In considering the changing spatial distribution of the Australian population and differences between regions in the rates of population growth a consideration of the behaviour of recent immigrants is of the utmost significance. Between 2001 and 2006 some 44,000 recent migrants moved residence between the 60 Australian statistical divisions. This is in contrast to the 1.69 million persons, or 8.5 percent of Australia's 2006 total population, who moved between 2001 and 2006. However, it must be stressed that this 44,000 recent migrants only includes immigrants who arrived in Australia between 1997 and 2001 because all those who arrived after 2001 are not included in the census internal migration data. These moves by recent migrants therefore represent 9.3 percent of all migrants arriving in Australia between 1997 and 2001. As with the analysis of mobility for the total population, the net migration calculation is the principal indicator of population mobility. Analysis of a number of subgroups has not been undertaken because their numbers were considered too small.

### 5.2 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF RECENT MIGRANTS IN AUSTRALIA, 2001-06

#### 5.2.1 Total Internal Migration between Statistical Divisions

The main internal migration characteristics of recent migrants are shown in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1: Internal migration in Australia, recent migrants, total population, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Total population	44,000 movers between 2001 and 2006, with 69.7% interstate.  Sydney had biggest losses (4,600).  Brisbane had largest gains (2,200), but gains also in Melbourne, Canberra and Perth.  Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, South West-WA, Richmond-Tweed	Interstate mobility is a feature of recent migrants' mobility, compared with total population. Why? Possibly dissatisfied with original location. Move to find work, be closer to other similar people. This is area for further research to explore the implications.  Eastern seaboard accounts for most gain

For Sydney it would appear from the analysis that after a period of initial settlement in Sydney, international migrants begin to conform to the pattern of longer term Australian residents of leaving Sydney for other parts of Australia. Sydney has for an extended period experienced substantial net internal migration *losses* while at the same time recording net international migration gains. The apparently negative relationship between substantial net gains from international migration and net losses from internal migration in Sydney has been noted since 1972.

Spatially, the dominance of the eastern seaboard in recording net migration gains of recent migrants, excluding Sydney, is clearly evident. So too are regions in New South Wales bounded by the River Murray, and in the central parts of Victoria. In South Australia, areas of net migration gain are adjacent to the Adelaide SD, while in Western Australia net gains are confined to the south west corner of the state. The areas of greatest net migration loss are in the more remote regions of the country, where much of Australia's resource

development is occurring. This might suggest a pattern of recently arrived migrants residing in these remote areas and after a few years moving elsewhere in Australia.

Recent migrants have a greater propensity to move interstate than the total population. Their mobility between states shows some interesting trends:

- Most from NSW went to adjacent Queensland or Victoria. 12 percent went to WA.
- Most who left Victoria went to NSW or to Queensland. 12.8 percent went to WA.
- Of those who left Queensland, more went to NSW, the adjacent state, than went to Victoria. 15.2 percent leaving Queensland went to Western Australia.
- Victoria and New South Wales attracted equal numbers of recent migrants from South Australia. Slightly fewer went to Queensland, and only ten percent went to WA.
- Those who left WA were evenly split between NSW, Victoria and Queensland. 86.4 percent of recent migrants who left WA went to these three states.
- Most recent migrants who left Tasmania went to Victoria, with equal numbers going to NSW and Queensland.
- For the Northern Territory, the majority of recent migrants who left went to Queensland and Western Australia. 16 percent went to New South Wales
- Of the 1,089 recent migrants who left the ACT, most went to NSW and Victoria, the adjacent states. 17.9 percent went to Queensland.

The net migration figures are quite small in comparison to the total volume of movement in and out of states. Net migration is only the 'tip of the iceberg' of a more complex pattern of flow, and in all cases there are substantial counter flows of inter statistical division migration.

### 5.2.2 Internal Migration of Recent Migrants, Gender

Table 5.2 shows the main characteristics of recent migrants' internal migration by gender.

**Table 5.2: Internal migration in Australia, recent migrants, gender, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Male/Female	<p>21,800 males and 22,400 females moved. 65.4% males, and 64% females, moved interstate.</p> <p>Sydney has greatest losses for both sexes.</p> <p>Largest gains in Brisbane, smaller gains in Melbourne, Canberra and Perth for both sexes.</p> <p>Main sinks: (Males) Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, Richmond-Tweed, South West-WA; (Females) Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, South West-WA, Mid-North Coast</p>	Both males and females have similar spatial distribution to that of total recent migrant distribution.

### 5.2.3 Internal Migration of Recent Migrants Aged 25-44 Years, 2001-06

Recent migrants aged 25-44 years are the largest group numerically, and the prime working age group, and its summary mobility characteristics are presented in Table 5.3.

**Table 5.3: Internal migration in Australia, recent migrants, 25-44 years, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
25-44 years	24,000 movers, 68.2% interstate. Only Sydney (2,800) and Adelaide (10) had losses.  Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, South West-WA, Richmond-Tweed, Hunter	Largest mobility group. Prime working age. Proportion of interstate movers much greater than for total population – 68% compared with 50%.  Mobility most likely influenced by employment opportunities.

### 5.2.4 Internal Migration of Recent Migrants and Language Proficiency, 2001-06

Most recent migrants speak English well or very well. Sydney's net loss was 1,164, considerably higher than the losses reported in Darwin, Hobart and Adelaide. Net gains were highest in Brisbane (953), Melbourne (804) and Canberra (283). The top ten sink SDs were dominated by the Gold Coast and Richmond-Tweed. As with other variables in this discussion, the largest net migration losses occurred in Illawarra, Northern-SA, Goulburn and Pilbara. Spatially, the data indicate a flight from the interior to the more attractive coastal areas and some regional locations.

## 5.3 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF RECENT MIGRANTS AND HUMAN CAPITAL, 2001-06

### 5.3.1 Internal Migration of Recent Migrants and Level of Education, 2001-06

The main mobility characteristics of recent migrants with a bachelor degree or higher, and those with Year 12 education as their highest level of educational attainment are shown in Table 5.4.

**Table 5.4: Internal migration in Australia, recent migrants, education level, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Bachelor degree or higher	13,800 movers, 70.4% interstate.  All capitals experienced losses except Brisbane and Canberra.  Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, South Eastern-NSW, Richmond-Tweed, Barwon.	Spatially, group seems to be moving from the interior SDs towards more coastal locations.
Year 12 or less	37,000 movers, of which 64.8% were interstate. Sydney lost 3,700. Gains in Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra.  Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, South West-WA, Richmond-Tweed.	Sydney clearly too expensive for this group.

### 5.3.2 Internal Migration of Recent Migrants and Occupation, 2001-06

Mobility patterns for professionals and managers only are assessed here because numbers in the other occupational groupings were too small. Their main mobility characteristics are presented in Table 5.5.

**Table 5.5: Internal migration in Australia, recent migrants, occupation, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Professionals and Managers	11,500 movers – 68.5% interstate. Losses in Sydney (900) and Melbourne (300). Largest gain in Brisbane (430).  Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Richmond-Tweed, South Eastern-NSW, South West-WA, Mid-North Coast.	Spatially concentrated along eastern seaboard, from Cape York to South Australia/Victoria border region, as well as around Adelaide and Perth and in central and north-west Tasmania.

### 5.3.3 Mobility and Labour Force Status, 2001-06

This section considers the mobility of recent migrants employed full time and part time. Table 5.6 shows the main features of their internal migration patterns.

**Table 5.6: Internal migration in Australia, recent migrants, labour force, 2001-2006**

Migration group	Scale of movement	Comments/Implications
Employed full time	10,000 movers, 66.7% interstate. Main losses from Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne. Largest gains in Brisbane and Canberra.  Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Northern-Qld, South West-WA, South Eastern-NSW.	Mobility strongly influenced by resource development in a number of states. Other economic activity in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast also impacting on their mobility pattern.
Employed part time	6,000 movers, 62.1% interstate. Four of the capitals had losses – largest in Sydney. Gains in Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra.  Main sinks: Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, South West-WA, Wide Bay-Burnett, Richmond-Tweed.	Similar distribution to employed full time. Full time and part time employment levels often complemented in a number of regions. This is not, however, always the case, especially in remote areas.

## 5.4 SUMMARY

A number of significant observations developed in the discussion are worth recapitulating:

- Interstate mobility was dominant among recent migrants, in direct contrast to patterns exhibited by the total population. Generally, the proportion of interstate movers was 60 percent or higher. This may suggest that the initial state of location is not suitable for the needs of recent migrants. Understanding the reasons for this internal mobility characteristic could result in considerable savings and efficiencies not only for the movers but also for government agencies.
- Sydney statistical division consistently experienced substantial net migration losses, regardless of mover characteristics, which were not matched by the other capitals.
- Among recent migrants, Melbourne was consistently favoured over Sydney. Often positive net gains for Melbourne contrasted with net losses for Sydney, rather than smaller net losses for Melbourne compared with Sydney. Clearly, Melbourne

possesses attributes not present in Sydney. Understanding the nature of this attraction may provide policy directions which could be used in Sydney to halt, if not reverse the current internal mobility tendencies among recent migrants.

- Typically, Brisbane recorded the highest net migration gains, not just among the capital city SDs, but within the country, while Illawarra, Northern-SA and South Eastern-WA generated consistently high net losses in a range of variables.
- The most cited statistical divisions with low net migration levels in association with relatively high turnovers were Darling Downs, Goulburn, Northern-Tas, Murrumbidgee, Barwon, Central West-NSW, Gippsland, Illawarra, Lower Great Southern, Pilbara, Richmond-Tweed and South Eastern-NSW. These SDs consistently attracted large numbers of arrivals and departures, and therefore contain a balance of positive and negative features in terms of attracting and keeping recent migrants. A better understanding of the processes that underlie these observations is an avenue for further enquiry, and may generate policy initiatives which help these areas retain the recent migrants they attract.

## CHAPTER 6. INTERNAL MIGRATION OVER 2005-06

### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

Census data enables internal migration between 2005-2006 to be analysed. There are several advantages associated with any analysis for this shorter period of time: This derives especially from:

- The five year data only detects a single move between 2001 and 2006, but many people moved more than once over those years. Therefore, five year mobility numbers are *not* simply five times the one year level due to multiple moves. Single year mobility therefore provides some additional insights.
- The single year migration data includes immigrants who were overseas in 2001 but who came to Australia between 2001 and 2005. Hence these data give more understanding of the internal migration of more recently arrived immigrants than is possible from the five year data.

### 6.2 COMPARING FIVE YEAR AND ONE YEAR INTERNAL MIGRATION

There is an element of ‘hidden’ mobility in the 2001-2006 data. By comparing mobility data based on 2005 residence with that for 2001 residence, a measure of ‘hidden’ mobility is possible. In the main Report, a comparison of the two data sets is made for total population, age and sex. The main points from that analysis are:

- For the total population, the 2001-06 data has captured 56.6 percent of ‘actual’ mobility. There is, therefore, significant “hidden” mobility in the 2001-2006 data. Despite this the patterns of net mobility produced by the two data sets is very similar.
- For the younger age groups, the extent of actual mobility captured in the 2001-06 data is low – significantly below 50 percent. This illustrates the high levels of mobility attributed to the younger age groups.
- Among older movers, the number of moves captured in the 2001-06 data moves closer to those measured in the 2005-06 data. This is more the case for movers aged 65 years and over than it is for the 45-64 years age group. The same relationship exists between the 45-64 year group and the younger 25-44 year group.
- The situation for males is similar to that for females.
- Notwithstanding any of the points above, the patterns of net mobility generated from each of the data sets have a high level of similarity.

### 6.3 FIVE YEAR AND ONE YEAR POPULATION CHANGE

In the main Report, details of estimated resident population change for each statistical division between 2001-2006, 2001-2005 and 2005-2006 have been presented, to provide a comparative benchmark against which to gauge the impact of net migration in any statistical division. These estimated resident population data allow an indication of whether, for example, high net migration is associated with high population growth, or whether net migration has been high but population growth has been low, stagnant or negative. Generally, however, there appears to be a positive relationship between statistical divisions with high percentage population gain between 2001 and 2006, and those which have experienced high net migration gains. For instance, sea change and tree change regions,

which owe their status to internal migration, have experienced large percentage changes in population between 2001 and 2006.

#### **6.4 INTERNAL MIGRATION BETWEEN 2005-06**

The research for this Report involved the preparation of tables for internal migration during the 2005-2006 period. Many produced patterns similar to those described for the five year migration data. These tables, and their associated discussion, have been presented as an Attachment to the main Report, and selected aspects of the 2005-2006 data analysis have been incorporated into the discussion for the 2001-2006 period in Chapter 2.

#### **6.5 ONE YEAR MIGRATION OF RECENT MIGRANTS**

##### **6.5.1 Introduction**

The one year internal migration data shows that recent migrants display high levels of mobility. Moreover, it succinctly demonstrates that migrants are most mobile during their initial months and years in Australia as they adjust to life in a new country.

##### **6.5.2 Comparing One Year and Five Year Internal Migration among Recent Migrants**

There is an element of 'hidden' mobility in the data relating to any respondent's 2001 residence. In the main Report, a comparison of the 2001-2006 and 2005-2006 data sets is made for recent migrants' total population, age and sex. The main points from that analysis are:

- For the total population of recent migrants, the 2001-06 data has captured just 28.2 percent of 'actual' mobility. This is a much lower proportion than recorded for the total population. It suggests that recent migrants are much more residentially mobile than the wider community, in all likelihood because recent migrants tend to move quite regularly immediately after arrival for a number of reasons related to the adjustment process, job seeking, being near friends and relatives, and matching accommodation to income levels.
- For the younger age groups, 0-14 years and 15-24 years, the extent of actual mobility captured in the 2001-06 data is lower than that for the total recent migrant population. It illustrates typically higher levels of mobility in younger age groups than in older age groups.
- Among older movers, the number of moves captured in the 2001-06 data is greater than that for the younger age groups. For persons aged 65+ years in the total population, annualised mobility represented 78.7 percent of actual mobility, but for the recent migrants, annualised mobility represented only 42.7 percent of actual mobility. This means that for the recent migrant older population there is more hidden mobility than is the case for older people in the total population. This suggests that even for the older aged recent migrants, mobility in the 2005-06 period was higher than that for the total population.
- The situation for males is similar to that for females, but the level of 'hidden' mobility in the 2001-06 data is greater for recent migrant males and females than for males and females in the total population. For recent migrant males and females their hidden mobility is over 70 percent, and this shortfall is due to the high levels of internal mobility undertaken by migrants in their early years of settlement.

### **6.5.3 One Year Migration of Recent Migrants**

Some 31,300 recent migrants moved residence between 2005-06, with 60.6 percent moving interstate. Only Sydney and Adelaide experienced net outmigration, while Brisbane had the largest gain. Outside the capitals, the main sinks were Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Fitzroy and South West-WA.

## **6.6 CONCLUSION**

The main purpose of the chapter was to identify the level of “hidden” mobility among the total population and the recent migrant population. The analysis indicated, however, that most of the prevailing patterns observed for the 2001-2006 period held for the 2005-2006 period. This notwithstanding, the chapter has indicated the high mobility of recently arrived migrants. It has also shown that an important element in internal migration in Australia is a small group who are ‘chronic movers’ and migrate more than once during the five year intercensal period. Nevertheless there is strong reinforcement of the patterns discussed in previous chapters including:

- Overall, recent migrants are most mobile during their initial months and years in Australia, as they adjust to life in a new country.
- Large net outflows from Sydney and, to a lesser extent, other capital cities except Brisbane and Perth. Settlement of new migrants in these capitals is their migration growth engine, not internal migration. Only Brisbane experienced substantial population growth due to net internal migration gain.
- Coastal and near city areas are consistently recording significant net migration gains. Most net gains are from internal migration but net international migration is increasing in some areas.
- There is a small but important net redistribution of skilled human capital from metropolitan to non-metropolitan areas due to internal migration.
- There is a consistent pattern of net internal migration loss of young adults from non-metropolitan SDs and net gains in the capitals.
- There is a significant net internal migration redistribution of baby boomers and the 65 years and older age group from metropolitan to non-metropolitan areas.
- Internal migration between SDs is not very effective in bringing about a redistribution of population because the net gains and losses recorded are very small compared with the size of in migration and out migration flows. Most internal migration between statistical divisions is counterbalancing.

## **CHAPTER 7. EFFECTS OF RECENT MIGRATION ON POPULATION COMPOSITION IN REGIONS**

### **7.1 INTRODUCTION**

The goal of this chapter is to show the impact of recent migration on a number of aspects of population composition. Only recent migrants' impact within each capital city is discussed. The principal growth metrics used are:

- Total population and age
- Labour force participation
- Education and occupation
- Access to housing market

In the main Report, tables detailing a number of relevant impacts of recent migrants were prepared. An aspect of these tables particularly related to this chapter shows the impact that recent migrants have had on each of the variables, in terms of how recent migrants have increased numbers above the levels that would have prevailed in the absence of recent migration. Selected impacts are referred to below, but full details are in the main Report.

### **7.2 SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, BRISBANE, PERTH AND ADELAIDE STATISTICAL DIVISIONS**

While a comprehensive statement is provided on the impact of recent migration in the main Report, from section 7.2 to section 7.6, Table 7.1 through to Table 7.5 summarises the impacts for each of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide statistical divisions.

**Table 7.1: Summary of recent migrant impacts within Sydney statistical division**

Impact	Sydney	Comments/Implications
Total population	In 2006, 369,000 recent migrants. Recent migrants have caused population to be 11% greater than it would have been with recent migration. Largest impact in Australia, compared with 9.8% in Perth and 8.6% in Melbourne.	
Age structure	0-14 largest presence in any capital. Implications for education provision presently, and workforce absorption in future.  15-64. Independent, working group. Largest present among capitals. Generally, recent migrants have had biggest impact on 25-44, and younger, age groups; lesser contribution to older groups.	Implications for workforce integration, plus fertility, household formation, and housing demand.
Labour force	Recent migrants caused labour force to increase by 11.9 percent. 89.7% working, compared to 95% in rest of population. Higher proportions of recent migrants unemployed in Hobart, Adelaide and Melbourne.	Implications associated with employment for large recent migrant unemployed group.
Dependency ratios	Recent migrant dependency ratios substantially different from rest of population.  In Sydney, recent migrants have reduced dependency ratio by 3.5% - highest in Australia.	Without recent migration, DRs in Sydney, Adelaide and Hobart would have been above 50%.
Industry of Occupation	In 2006, 149,300 recent migrants employed in tertiary industries – largest number among capital cities. 84.4% of all industry groups. Higher percentages occur in Hobart, Canberra and Darwin.	Once migrants fuelled Australia's manufacturing sector. Now selected on basis of different skills.
Occupation	Biggest group in Sydney is professionals and managers – 39.6% of all employed recent migrants – ahead of clerical and sales (23.1%).	Role of Sydney as source of employment for highly skilled recent migrants.
Income	Close to 140,000 have low incomes. Recent migrants have increased this category by 14% above levels without recent migration. Highest levels among capital city SDs.  High income recent migrants have increased total numbers by 19.7 percent above those that would prevail without recent migration.	Levels of recent migrant incomes have implications for buying power, especially in terms of shelter. Income levels of recent migrants reflects immigration program balanced between refugees and skilled migrants.
Education levels	Recent migrants are highly qualified. Number with bachelor degree 2.5 times number with certificate qualification.  Recent migrants have caused numbers with bachelor degree to increase by 23.1% above levels that would prevail without recent migration.  In 2006, 132,000 recent migrants still studying. From this pool, varying degrees of contribution to host community can be expected.	Recent migrants have large capacity to supplement intellectual capital and bring skills to workforce and economy.
Housing tenure and dwelling size	In 2006, 62 of recent migrants rented – the highest proportion among the capitals – reflecting high housing costs in Sydney.  Largest impacts by recent migrants have been on dwellings at the smaller end of the size spectrum. Number living in 1-2 bedroom dwellings is 22.9% larger than would be case without recent migration.	In the Sydney market, recent migrants have substantial implications for both public and private sectors in planning for housing.

**Table 7.2: Summary of recent migrant impacts within Melbourne statistical division**

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>	<b>Comments/Implications</b>
Total population	262,000 recent migrants in 2006. Have caused population to be 8.6% higher than would have been in absence of recent migration. 150,000 more recent migrants than in next ranked Brisbane.	These numbers of recent migrants have significant implications.
Age structure	Size of 0-14 group only exceeded in Sydney. Therefore, implications for education provision presently, and workforce absorption in future.  215,000 aged 15-64 years – the dependent and workforce population. 100,000 less than Sydney, but 100,000 more than in Brisbane and Perth.	Implications for workforce integration, plus fertility, household formation, and housing demand
Labour force	131,500 recent migrants in Melbourne's labour force in 2006 – 87.8% working.  Unemployment levels are higher than Sydney, but lower than in Adelaide and Hobart.	Important implications in terms of increasing recent migrant proportions with employment.
Dependency ratios	Recent migrants have caused DR to be 2.6% less than would have been case without recent migration. Greater than all other capitals, other than Sydney.	
Industry of Occupation	95,000 (80.3%) employed in tertiary industries. Higher levels in Sydney, Hobart, Canberra and Darwin. Propensity for work in secondary industry is greater than that in Sydney, but lower than for Brisbane and Adelaide.	Proportion of recent migrants in tertiary industries in Melbourne, and Sydney, is higher than the proportions in rest of population. This may point to higher level of entrepreneurship among recent migrants.
Occupation	Largest group (43,940) is professional and managers. Recent migrants have added 8.3% to this category since 1996. Next ranked are clerical and sales, and operators, drivers and labourers.	The relative significance of occupations in recent migrant population matches that of the rest of the population.
Income	Ranking of income groups similar to that for Sydney. Largest category (66,000) is weekly income of \$400-\$999. Low income recent migrants are 10.1% of Melbourne's low income population.  Nearly 300,000 recent migrants with income above \$1000 per week – 6.2 % of all persons in this group.	Significantly, recent migrant low income numbers 3.5 times high income numbers. Further, strong possibility of geographical inequality in Melbourne SD.
Education levels	In 2006, 81,300 recent migrants with bachelor degree or higher, and 35,400 with certificate or diploma. 2.3 times more recent migrants with degree qualification than diploma. Further 104,000 still studying.  Proportion of well qualified recent migrants in total population less than in Sydney, but higher than in rest of capitals.  Recent migrants caused numbers with degrees to be 17.1% higher, and for diplomas to be 6.9% higher, than would otherwise have been the case.	Recent migrants have capacity to inject intellectual capabilities into economy.
Housing tenure and dwelling size	More than 141,000 (57%) renting compared with 83,000 (33%) buying. 21,000 (8.5%) owned outright.  In 2006, 157,000 (63%) recent migrants lived in 3-4 bedroom dwellings. 31.3% lived in smaller dwellings.  Proportion in medium sized dwellings is 12.8 percent higher than that in Sydney, but lower proportions prevail in other capitals.	Although Melbourne's housing costs are less than those in Sydney, 57% of recent migrants rent compared with 19.6% in rest of population.  While relativities with rest of population can change with time, there are implications in Melbourne, and Sydney, for making housing tenure transitions possible for greater numbers.

**Table 7.3: Summary of recent migrant impacts within Brisbane statistical division**

Impact	Brisbane	Comments/Implications
Total population	In 2006 120,000 recent migrants in Brisbane. 7.1% of total population. Brisbane population is 7.6% higher than would have been without recent migration	Impact is less than in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, but does indicate attractiveness to recent migrants.
Age structure	0-14 (24,000), 15-24 (25,000) and 25-44 (51,000) largest cohorts, reflecting age selectivity of migration program. Lower numbers than in Sydney and Melbourne.  Impact of recent migrants on age structure similar to those for other eastern seaboard capitals. But high interstate migration into Brisbane has resulted in recent migrants proportions in various cohorts being lower than in other capitals.	Implications for youngest group revolve around education provision, for the older 15-24 group they are educational and workforce related.
Labour force	Working recent migrants are 91.6% of their labour force – as high as in Canberra and little lower than Perth. Proportion of rest of population working is 95.7%. Difference in Sydney is 5.3% and 7.2% in Sydney.  Number working in Brisbane is 7.5% higher than would have been without recent migrants. Relevant proportion for unemployed is 15.4%.  31,000 NILF – little higher than number in Perth, but only 39% and 30% of numbers in Melbourne and Sydney.	Recent migrants perceive higher employment opportunities in these capitals than in others.  Unemployment differential between recent migrants and rest of population of 4.1% has implications for policy to reduce this.
Dependency ratios	Dependency ratio is 1.5% lower than would have been case without recent migration. Less than impacts in Sydney and Melbourne. DR for recent migrants is 29.3% compared with 47.5% for rest of population.	
Industry of Occupation	43,600 (77.6%) in tertiary industries – more than 3.5 times numbers in secondary industries (21%).  Recent migrants are 9.4% of all persons in mining industries – compared with 10.4% in Perth.	Mining activities in Queensland, and WA, have impact on recent migrant proportions in these industries.
Occupation	19,600 (34.4%) recent migrants in professional and managerial occupations. 21.7% in clerical and sales occupations. Higher proportions in professional and managers in Canberra and Hobart.  Biggest contribution to any occupational category is operators, drivers and labourers – 8.5% of all persons in this category. Shows how recent migrants are filling low skilled positions in mining and infrastructure development.	In Brisbane, recent migrants make significant contributions to both professional and managerial and operator, drivers and labourer occupations.
Income	43,500 (47.2%) recent migrants with low income, 31,800 (34.5%) with medium income and 16,800 (18.3%) with high income.  Proportion on low and medium income lowest among capitals –except Darwin. Sydney, Canberra, Perth and Darwin have higher proportions with high income.	For recent migrants, residence in Brisbane does have positive impacts for income, especially for lower income earners.
Education levels	Some 48,000 recent migrants have qualifications, and therefore skills, relevant to the economy. 46,000 still studying.  Persons with bachelor degree or higher is 13.1 higher than would have been with recent migration – percentage for diploma qualification is 7.1%.	
Housing tenure and dwelling size	51.5% recent migrants renting – only Perth had lower proportion. Owners and buyers represent 47.6%  Total rental numbers 14.2% higher than would have been without recent migration. Therefore, rental market is significant for recent migrants. Impact on buying market is 6.3%, and on fully owned housing 3.2%.  In 2006, nearly 75% recent migrants lived in 3-4 bedroom housing, compared with 17.7% in smaller dwellings.	Opportunities in Brisbane are different from those generally prevailing in other capitals. But, these levels are significantly different from levels prevailing in rest of population.

**Table 7.4: Summary of recent migrant impacts within Perth statistical division**

Impact	Perth	Comments/Implications
Total population	118,000 recent migrants in Perth in 2006 – 12.5% recent migrants living in capitals, and fourth largest concentration.	Illustrates attractive power of WA economy.
Age structure	50,000 in 24-44 cohort, with 24,000 in each of 0-14 and 15-24 cohorts.	Age selectivity of migration program shown by 42.3% recent migrants in Perth are aged 25-44, compared with 27.3% in rest of population.
Labour force	Size of recent migrant labour force is 58,000, slightly smaller than that for Brisbane. 93% of recent migrants are employed – only Darwin has higher level. Employment level in rest of population is 96.5%.  Have caused labour force to expand by 9.7%, and working population by 9.3% above level that would prevail without recent migration. Larger impacts have only occurred in Sydney.	Recent migrants move to Perth to seek employment. Workforce shortages encourage successful job hunting.
Dependency ratios	DR for recent migrants is 30.7%, compared with 47.7% in rest of population. Impact of recent migration on DR is 1.7% - third largest impact among capitals.	
Industry of Occupation	Largest numbers are in tertiary and secondary industries. But 2,200 employed in mining – five times the number in Brisbane.	Mining industry in WA has critical significance for recent migrants. 4% of recent migrants work in mining industries, compared with 3.2% for rest of population.
Occupation	20,300 recent migrants in professional and managerial occupations, 9,500 in technical and trades. 11,000 and 10,500 employed in clerical and sales and as operators, drivers and labourers.	High numbers in occupations with high skill and education requirements.
Income	Recent migrants with low income numbered 43,400 (48%), medium income was 27,400 (30.3%) and 19,600 (21.7) on high income. In rest of population, 23.3% were in high income category.	Proportion with high income only exceeded by Canberra, and nearly matched by Darwin.
Education levels	In 2006, 26,400 recent migrants had bachelor degree or higher, 22,000 had diploma. A further 45,600 still studying.  Within total population, recent migrants with bachelor degree or higher are 14.1% - higher than in Brisbane, equivalent to Melbourne and less than the 18% for Sydney.  Recent migrants with certificate or diploma were 8.7% of total population – the highest representation among the capital cities.	Recent migrants' impact on the highly qualified component of Perth's population is significant.  Recent migrants with technical qualifications play important role in mining industry in Western Australia.
Housing tenure and dwelling size	46,400 recent migrants lived in rental housing, lower than levels in eastern seaboard capitals. This is 12,000 less than in Brisbane, which had 2,000 more recent migrants.  48,500 buying own home, 7,000 more than in Brisbane.  2,000 more recent migrants in Perth than in Brisbane own their home.  77.5% of recent migrants lived in 3-4 bedroom housing, the highest proportion in any capital. 12.9% lived in smaller housing, the lowest proportion in the capitals.	Skill level of recent migrants, plus high labour demand in WA, has implications for housing tenure.  Recent migrants have had an impact on housing that has not occurred in any other capital.

**Table 7.5: Summary of recent migrant impacts within Adelaide statistical division**

Impact	Adelaide	Comments/Implications
Total population	In 2006, 51,400 recent migrants in Adelaide, less than half the number in fourth ranked Perth. Recent migrants have caused population to be 5.2% above what would have been without recent migration.	Adelaide in second league in terms of recent migrants.
Age structure	22,400 (43.6%) recent migrants aged 25-44 years, compared with 12,600 in 15-24 years cohort.	
Labour force	19,800 (86.6%) recent migrants employed. 13.4% unemployed – only Hobart has higher unemployment among recent migrants. In rest of population, unemployment was 5.1%.  Recent migrants not in labour force number 16,700. This is 42.3% of all recent migrants. This level only exceeded in Hobart, and nearly 5% higher than next ranked Melbourne.	There is an acute need for employment opportunities to be found in Adelaide for recent migrants.
Dependency ratios	DR for recent migrants is 27.5%, compared with DR in rest of population of 50.7%. Recent migrants have had effect of total population DR to 49.3%	
Industry of Occupation	Although actual numbers much less, proportions employed in each industry group almost identical to that for Brisbane. 77% of recent migrants in tertiary industries and 21% in secondary.  Highest recent migrant presence in each industry is mining.	SA has a developing mining industry, and this should provide increasing opportunities for employment for recent migrants.
Occupation	Largest occupation group is professional and managerial (7,300; 35%). In contrast to other capital cities, operators, drivers and labourers was second ranked occupation (4,500; 21.6%).  Recent migrants' contribution to total numbers in each occupation group was greatest for operators, drivers and labourers and community and personal services (5.4% each).	Recent migrants have high presence in both high status and low status occupations.
Income	Greatest number (23,300) of recent migrants in low income – 58.7% of all recent migrants. Only Hobart has higher proportion. Numbers in medium and high income classes were 28.2% and 13.2% respectively.	Income distribution for recent migrant in Adelaide is substantially negatively skewed.
Education levels	13,100 recent migrants with bachelor degree or higher, 7,700 with certificate or diploma and 24,200 still studying. Within total population, recent migrants with bachelor degree or higher was 9.9%, lower than levels in “big four” capitals, but higher than in remaining capitals. Same situation for recent migrants with certificate or diploma qualifications.	
Housing tenure and dwelling size	56% (26,800) in rental accommodation – same levels as in Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra and Darwin. 37% were buying their home, and 10.1% were outright owners. This level higher than for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Darwin.  32,500 (67.4%) recent migrants lived in medium sized housing, with 3-4 bedrooms. Only Brisbane, Perth and Canberra had higher proportions. 27.2% lived in smaller housing.	Housing affordability, even for dominantly low income groups, appears to be greater in Adelaide than in a number of other capitals.

### 7.3 HOBART, CANBERRA AND DARWIN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS

In 2006, there were 16,000 recent migrants living in Canberra, 5,000 in Hobart and 4,500 in Darwin. Between them, these three capitals contained 2.7 percent of Australia's recent migrants.

### **7.3.1 Recent migrants' impact on age structure**

In terms of age structure, details of which are presented in the main Report, these capitals have, for all intents and purposes, the same structure as occurs in the other capital cities. When recent migrants' share of the total population in each of the cohorts is considered, relative to Hobart, Darwin and Canberra are both "younger" cities

### **7.3.2 Recent migrants and labour force status**

Of the three capitals, the largest (8,300) recent migrant labour force resided in Canberra. Its labour force was more than four times that for Hobart and nearly four times larger than in Darwin. The proportion employed recent migrants was 94.1 percent in Darwin and 91.4 percent in Canberra, but only 84.7 percent in Hobart. The proportion of working recent migrants in the total working population was 4.7 percent in both Canberra and Darwin, and 2.1 percent in Hobart. For unemployed people, recent migrants were 12.0 percent of all unemployed in Canberra, 7.6 percent in Darwin and 5.8 percent in Hobart.

### **7.3.3 Impact of recent migration on industry of occupation**

There are a number of points to be made for the industry of recent migrants:

- Between them, just over 100 recent migrants work in primary industries.
- Only 28 recent migrants work in mining industries.
- Less than 1,000 employed in secondary industries, with more than half in Canberra
- The largest numbers are employed in tertiary industries –93.9 percent in Canberra, 87.1 percent in Darwin and 86.5 percent in Hobart.

### **7.3.4 Impact of recent migrants on occupation structure**

In 2006, the largest occupation group was for professionals and managers. The second largest numerical group was for clerical and sales occupations. Recent migrants employed as operators, drivers and labourers was the third largest group for Canberra and Darwin, and the fourth largest group in Hobart. When compared with total population, Canberra and Darwin generate similar proportions, with lower levels in Hobart. Canberra influences the number of recent migrants in professional occupations, while resource development labour demand influences the numbers employed in technical occupations in Darwin.

### **7.3.5 Income levels of recent migrants**

In Darwin 39 percent of recent migrants have low income, compared with 48.7 percent in Canberra and 60.4 percent in Hobart. Clearly, Darwin is a "working" capital for recent migrants. For medium incomes, between \$400 and \$999 per week, the proportions in Darwin and Canberra are similar, but lower in Hobart. For high weekly incomes the proportion in Canberra is 23.4 percent, compared Darwin (21.3) and Hobart (15.3). The proportion of recent migrants with high income in Canberra is the highest prevailing in any of the Australian capital cities.

### **7.3.6 Effect of recent migration on educational attainment levels**

In both Darwin and Canberra, recent migrants comprise around eight percent of all persons with a bachelor degree or higher, compared with 3.6 and 3.9 percent respectively for certificate or diploma qualifications. The proportion of recent migrants still studying is greater in Canberra than it is in Darwin.

### **7.3.7 Recent migrants and housing tenure**

The proportions in each tenure category in each city show some similarities. The proportion owners/buyers is 42.8 percent in Canberra, 41.8 percent in Hobart and 41.4 percent in Darwin. The percentages for recent migrants living in rented accommodation are 56.5, 56.5 and 56.8 percent for Canberra, Hobart and Darwin respectively. In each capital, the greatest numbers live in 3-4 bedroom dwellings.

## **7.4 SUMMARY**

In 2006 there were 1.121 million recent migrants in Australia, with 39 percent in Sydney, compared with 27.7 percent in Melbourne and 12.7 and 12.5 percent in Brisbane and Perth respectively. These are the “big four” in terms of recent migrants. The recent migrant population is diverse with large proportions of low skilled persons balanced by a high skilled and well educated component. As well, significant proportions of recent migrants are furthering their education in Australia. The most significant implications related to skills and qualifications revolve around the fact that recent migrants seem determined to improve their education, and experience indicates that the next generation will take even greater advantages of the educational opportunities offered by the host country.

There is a high demand for rental accommodation by recent migrants, especially in Sydney, and has many implications for housing provision in that city. The proportion of recent migrants renting housing is greater in every capital city than the proportion of the remainder of the population in rental tenure. Within the capital cities Perth is the standout capital city. There are signs of recent migrants developing typical tendencies to transition through the various tenure categories, particularly in Brisbane and Perth. There is also evidence that recent migrants will embark on their own housing careers, moving progressively from smaller to larger sized housing.

## **7.5 THE EFFECTS OF RECENT MIGRANTS ON NATURAL INCREASE**

### **7.5.1 Introduction**

Recent immigrants not only contribute to regional population growth, but they also impact on natural increase to the extent that they have Australia-born children and the extent to which they die. Because recent migrants are heavily concentrated in the childbearing ages their impact on natural increase is significant. A methodology was developed to estimate the number of children born to capital city recent migrants between 1996 and 2006. The analysis showed that recent migrants have contributed some 105,000 to capital city populations through births over the last decade. Recent migrants who arrived between 1996 and 2001 contributed 4.3 percent of all births in Australian capital cities over the last decade (5.8 percent in Sydney) while the group arriving between 2001 and 2006 have contributed 4.1 percent of births over the five years to 2006. Migrants of the last ten years have accounted for 5.4 percent of Sydney’s births and 4.2 percent of all births in Australian capital cities over the 1996-2006 period.

A key finding is that a substantial proportion of the natural increase in population attributed to recent arrivals is occurring in Sydney, followed by Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Canberra. Of the estimated 71,000 children born to recent migrants who arrived between 1997 and 2001, 54 percent were born to recent migrants living in capital cities other than Sydney. The comparable figure for recent migrants who arrived in the 2002-2006 period is 60 percent. Around 87 percent of children born to recent migrants have been born in capital cities. Further, by fertility recent migrants have increased their numbers by nearly ten percent. These children present significant implications for health and education,

and for housing suitable for expanding families. And, these estimated numbers will continue to increase as younger recent migrants move through the childbearing stage.

### **7.5.2 Summary**

The impact of recent migrants on the births component of natural increase has been significant. They have added 120,000 children to the population, with some 105,000 of these born in capital cities. Their contribution to fertility will continue for a number of years as younger recent migrants move through their child bearing stage of life. Recent migrants' fertility has implications for service providers in a number of areas, especially in health, education and housing. Recent migrants have other social impacts including household formation through marriage, and marriage within the Australian born population. Although a consideration of this issue is important it is, however, considered to be beyond the scope of this current investigation.

## **CHAPTER 8. FUTURE MIGRATION AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION**

### **8.1 INTRODUCTION**

Australian international migration has always been volatile, influenced both by government policy and shifts in the national economy. Hence anticipating future migration levels, let alone where migrants will settle, is a hazardous exercise. This chapter discusses factors likely to impinge on future migration levels, including intake sizes and compositions, variations in fertility and mortality, changing economic and labour market conditions, social attitude and emerging environmental issues, and their implications for population distribution in the States and Territories. There is also consideration of some implications of these future migration scenarios related to:

- Population and migration policies
- Regional development policies and strategies
- Provision of settlement services
- Planning and delivery of government services
- Housing requirements
- Liveability, productivity and sustainability
- Community harmony, cohesion and acceptance of diversity.

The initial discussion is a round the issue of future levels of international migration at the national level, important because the level of international migration is a fundamental determinant of national population growth. The next part focus is on future patterns of population distribution across Australia and the role of migration in that. While population projection at the national level involves many uncertainties, these are multiplied at the regional level. There is also a discussion of the role of policy, as this will be critical in shaping future patterns of immigrant settlement, internal population movement and population growth. The final part of the chapter assesses some of the implications of a changing population distribution.

### **8.2 ASSESSING THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN AUSTRALIA**

#### **8.2.1 Introduction**

Anticipating future population trends is a hazardous exercise, and Australia faces a dilemma when planning the future course of its population growth because, simultaneously, there are strong pressures for growth, related to anticipated labour and skill shortages and the retirement of baby boomers from the workforce, and for constraint related to environment and climate issues. A sound and responsible population policy must take into account *both* positions to achieve growth with sustainability. Debate to this end is of paramount importance in setting immigration policy, targets and quotas.

### **8.2.2 Ageing of the Australian Population**

Over the next two decades much population growth will occur in the older age groups. Even with significant migration and maintaining fertility at current levels there will be little, if any, net growth in the younger working ages. Clearly, we need to maintain growth to counterbalance the massive growth of the older population. With the passage of baby boomers into retirement, in the next two decades 40 percent of the current workforce will retire. Without immigration there will be insufficient numbers of young people entering the workforce to replace them, let alone provide new workers for expected economic growth. Other advanced countries will also need high skill migrants, so that already intense international competition for skills will strengthen over the next two decades.

### **8.2.3 Economic Drivers**

Anticipating changes in the Australian economy is a less certain science. However, economic conditions and job creation are key factors impacting on future demand for immigration. While immigration will assist in replacing retiring baby boomers, to what extent are developments likely to create new jobs? There are views that labour demand in the next few years can only be met by increased population growth, especially in the resource rich states of Queensland and Western Australia, where existing labour shortages are at critical levels.

### **8.2.4 The Environment and Climate Change**

There is evidence that for some time most of the water in south western and south eastern Australia, where the population is concentrated, is committed. Presently, climate change is assuming greater significance, and most of Australia's population centres, containing almost 90 percent of Australia's population, are in the areas experiencing decreasing rainfall. Environment and climate change issues can potentially influence future net migration levels through their impact on attitudes toward population growth in general and immigration in particular. Hence, one of the major effects of environment and climate change on future immigration may be through public attitudes to the population-environment relationship.

### **8.2.5 The Role of Migration Networks**

Migrant networks shape much migration because, despite myths to the contrary, most migrants move along channels trodden previously by friends and relatives and move to places where they have friends and relatives who assist them in settling in, getting a job, and obtaining housing. This means that there is an increasing element of self-perpetuating momentum growing in the Australian international migration system, and that migration will continue to some extent regardless of the economic situation.

### **8.2.6 The Linkage with Temporary Migration**

There has been a massive increase in temporary residents since the mid 1990s, which has transformed the Australian migration landscape. At any one time there are over 600,000 persons temporarily present. These people consume resources, use infrastructure, and occupy housing and need to be considered in all planning. However, they are also very important because an increasing number of them who come as 457s or students apply for, and obtain, permanent residence in Australia. Temporary migrants making the transition to permanent residence will continue to be an important part of Australia's net annual overseas migration gain.

### **8.2.7 Emigration**

International migration in Australia is emphatically a two-way process involving both losses and gains. This has always been the case and is increasingly so. Accordingly, from a projection perspective, it is net migration which influences population change. Through emigration there are substantial net losses in the 20s and early 30s age groups. Settler loss, too, is a significant factor with over a fifth of permanent settlers eventually leaving Australia.

### **8.3 SOME NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION (NOM) ISSUES**

Australian immigration has reached unprecedented levels in recent years, with NOM almost trebling between 2003-04 and 2008-09. However, NOM data increasingly do not indicate long term permanent additions, mainly because in recent years the numbers of temporary migrants entering the country, especially students, is much greater than those leaving and this has pushed up the NOM figures.

### **8.4 WHAT NET MIGRATION ASSUMPTIONS SHOULD BE USED TO EXAMINE REGIONAL IMPACTS UP TO 2021?**

Despite much public discourse in 2010 about the rapid rates of population growth and the likely future trajectory of growth, there is no reason not to use the assumptions contained in the most recent set of population projections made by the ABS (2008). Little is gained by any proliferation of projections with marginal differences in the assumptions which are adopted.

While international migration will always fluctuate with shifts in the global, national and state economies, longer term underlying structural features are likely to maintain net migration gains at their current relatively high levels:

- Replacing baby boomer workers will not be met by school leavers.
- The continuing mining boom will exacerbate the skilled labour shortages.
- A global 'war for talent' will result in Australia losing talent to other countries but also gaining even larger numbers from other countries.
- The momentum injected by increasingly strong migration networks.

On the other hand there are a number of forces which will constrain expansion of migration beyond the levels included in the assumptions:

- An increasing appreciation of water and energy shortages.
- An increasing understanding of the potential impact of climate change.
- Increasing workforce participation rates among the Australian resident population.
- Increasing of retirement ages to keep people in the workforce longer.
- Increased training and education to reduce reliance on skills from abroad.
- Increasing competition for skilled migrants from other countries, not only in Europe and North America but in Asia's growing economies.
- The impact of the Global Financial Crisis.

The ABS allocates NOM between states/territories and between capital city/rest of state according to the ratios which prevailed over the 2001-06 period. An official definition

of 'regional' is currently under consideration by the ABS but the present study has defined the population outside of the capital city statistical divisions as regional. The ABS assumptions indicate small regional changes up to 2011 after which the distribution between the states remain constant. These changes, miniscule and with minor effects, basically project a status quo in the distribution of where new immigrants settle in Australia.

The ABS assumes that the rates between Capital City and Rest of State (considered here as the regional population) remains constant throughout the projection period. However, it is argued that this assumption needs to be changed in the next set of population projections, given that this study has demonstrated a small but significant tendency for migrants to settle outside of the capital cities to a greater extent than in the past.

The performance of the projections against actual estimates for the 2005-09 period can be gauged, and it is clear that even the most optimistic assumptions in Series A have underestimated substantially the level of net migration by 41.8 percent. The other Series (B and C) would understate the actual level by even more. The underestimates apply across each state and territory with NSW and Victoria being close to the national average, Queensland being slightly below and Western Australia slightly over, South Australia and Northern Territory well below the national average and ACT substantially above it. This underestimation of NOM in the first few years of the projection period should not change the decision to use the established ABS projections to examine the potential impact of international migration on regions up to 2021 simply because, as indicated above, they are inflated by the one-off excess of temporary resident gains over temporary resident departures.

## **8.5 PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH IN REGIONS**

### **8.5.1 Introduction**

This section assesses the projected populations for regional (i.e. outside the capital statistical divisions) parts of each state and territory, using population projections prepared by both the ABS and state based government agencies.

### **8.5.2 New South Wales**

A continuation of the pattern of net international migration gain in Sydney and internal migration loss is anticipated. The level of intake in Sydney will depend on the level of the national intake and also the extent to which current initiatives to encourage immigrants to settle away from gateway cities are successful. Sydney's dominance as the largest single destination of new arrivals is likely to be reduced. The net internal migration losses to non-metropolitan NSW and other parts of Australia may increase as more of the large baby boomer cohorts in Sydney age into the pre-retirement and retirement years and participate in 'sea change' or tree change migration. There is evidence that high housing costs, congestion, and long journeys to work may cause net migration losses to be toward the higher end of the projections.

In non-metropolitan NSW, the projections of net international migration gain for each Series are quite low, but the higher projections are most likely to be the case and may prove too small if initiatives to encourage immigrant settlement outside gateway cities are given greater emphasis. Newcastle and Wollongong are significant poles of attraction for immigrants, and this should continue, but there is increasing evidence of immigrant settlement in smaller centres. There are developments which would suggest that the existing tendencies for net migration from Sydney to non-metropolitan NSW will increase in the future.

### 8.5.3 Victoria

Victoria's projections of net international migration gain are slightly lower than those for NSW but the overall total net migration growth is anticipated to be greater for Melbourne than Sydney. Hence, it is expected that Melbourne will continue to close the gap in population size between the two cities over the projection period. Victoria is intent on increasing the state's share of the immigrant intake with most expected to settle in Melbourne. Melbourne has not experienced the same degree of net internal migration loss as Sydney and has recorded small net gains in several years over the last decade or so. The projections anticipate that Melbourne will experience significant net internal migration losses, albeit small losses when compared with Sydney, but are larger than previously experienced.

Outside the capital, the Victorian government wants to lift population growth to one percent per annum, and this is supported in the ABS projections. There are recent indications of increasing settlement of new immigrants in non-metropolitan areas not only in Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat but in areas like Shepparton, which may result in an underestimate in the projections. The projected net internal migration gains are substantially lower than the net gains in non-metropolitan areas anticipated for NSW. However, regional growth may be greater than projected given the government's Population Policy. Victoria's Department of Sustainability and Environment has prepared projections which indicate that the fastest rate of population growth will be in Melbourne. Nevertheless there are several SDs in which rapid growth rates are anticipated – Barwon, Central Highlands, Loddon, Goulburn, East Gippsland and Gippsland, which include regional cities (e.g. Geelong, Bendigo), and newer 'sea change' and 'tree change' areas.

Some regional centres in Victoria have a long history of immigrant settlement or have made concerted efforts to attract immigrants in recent times. Hence, non-metropolitan Victoria should attract significant immigrant numbers over the next decade.

### 8.5.4 Queensland

Queensland's rapid growth over several decades and will continue. Its projected net internal and international migration is greater than for any other state. Net overseas migration is likely to contribute more to Queensland's growth than internal migration through to 2026. In Brisbane net international migration is the dominant component of net migration growth, indicating that Brisbane is becoming one of Australia's major gateway cities for new immigrants. Brisbane is moving toward the established pattern in other Euro-American gateway cities of net international migration gain but net internal migration loss

Non-metropolitan Queensland is anticipated to be the dominant region of non-metropolitan population growth in Australia. Net international migration will be an important part of this growth, with much of this occurring in the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, and other coastal centres. However, the largest element in non-metropolitan growth will be from net internal migration gain.

Queensland Government's projections indicate strong population growth in south eastern and coastal parts of the state. Mining and resource development has particular salience for regional Queensland. However, the implications for regional population growth are unclear, in the light of developing fly in-fly out strategies. Clearly, careful consideration needs to be given of the potential role of mining to facilitate regional development.

### **8.5.5 South Australia**

South Australia has experienced low growth rates linked to very low international immigration and net interstate migration loss. In response the South Australian government developed a Population Policy which aimed to increase business, skilled and humanitarian migration and achieve zero net interstate migration by 2008. It has exceeded the first target, but has been unsuccessful in the second. Future international migration will be influenced by changes in economic growth and a continuation of State Specific Regional Migration schemes. International migration is the dominant migration driver of growth in Adelaide with a continuation of net internal migration losses within the state and to interstate locations.

For non-metropolitan South Australia, it is important to note that South Australia is the most primate of the Australian states. Accordingly, relatively low immigration is anticipated for regional SA. Some factors, including mining expansion and government regional development policies, could be modified this expectation. A key issue is the retention of new international migrants, especially SSRM scheme migrants.

Recent projections prepared by the State government indicate that overall growth will fall from 1.2 percent per annum during 2006-2016 to one percent in 2016-21. Rates more than twice these are expected in the Outer Adelaide SD which contains sea change and tree change areas as well as peri-urban development. Elsewhere population growth is anticipated to be less than 0.6 percent although mining is likely to attract some immigrant settlement.

### **8.5.6 Western Australia**

Western Australia has recorded rapid growth over a long period. Perth, like other capitals, relies predominantly on net international migration for net migration growth. WA's rapidly growing economy, especially the mining sector, means that international migration will remain very strong. Outside of Perth the ABS projections have relatively modest expectations about international migration, despite the expected rapid growth of the non-metropolitan economy, especially in mining. The key question remains the extent to which mining industry jobs result in increased settlement in regional Western Australia. The ABS projections suggest significant net internal migration into non-metropolitan areas. It may be that mining demand will 'suck workers in' from Perth and elsewhere in Australia rather than attract recently arrived immigrants. Projections prepared by the Western Australian government anticipate substantial growth for Perth, and even faster growth in the Kimberley and the South West. Expected growth in the Pilbara is half the State average. Significant growth is expected in Perth's peri-urban areas and slow growth in the dry land farming areas.

### **8.5.7 Tasmania**

There is only a slightly greater net gain expected for Hobart than the rest of the state. Both the capital and regional Tasmania expect net international migration gains. Projections for internal migration range from small net gains to small net losses during the period, depending on the Series, with similar expectations for non metropolitan Tasmania. Anticipated net migration gains and population growth levels in Tasmania over the next decade are lower than for the mainland states. However, in the longer term climate change may influence Tasmania's population growth. State Government projections show a relatively even pattern of low population growth across the island with slightly higher rates in Hobart.

### **8.5.8 Northern Territory**

Both measuring and projecting population growth in the Northern Territory has always been difficult because of a high level of mobility in its population, both Indigenous

and non-Indigenous. Projections for the Northern Territory show similar patterns to the other small states and territories with small variations in net international migration gains but net internal migration ranging from small gains and losses, depending on the Series. Most net gain is in Darwin which has always had a significant overseas-born community. Northern Territory Treasury projections are for Darwin and Rest of Territory, and they indicate that the Northern Territory is expected to grow faster than the nation as a whole over the next decade – 1.4 percent per annum with the rate being twice as high in Darwin than elsewhere in the Territory.

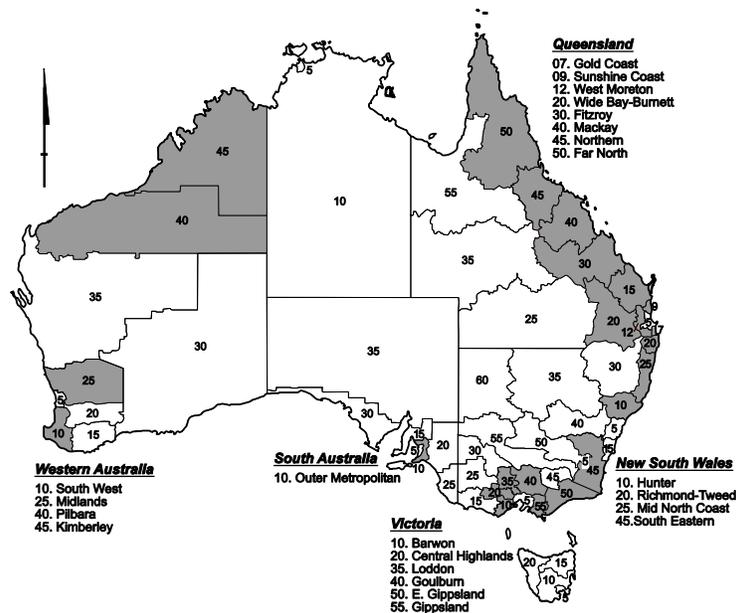
### 8.5.9 Australian Capital Territory

For the ACT there are quite substantial differences in the ABS projections, depending on the Series. Hence, Series A projects a net migration gain of 40,700 by 2021, Series C projects a net migration loss of 5,300. Series A has net internal migration being greater than net international migration, while the reverse is expected under the assumptions of Series C.

### 8.5.10 Summarising a Scenario of Future Regional Population Change

The analysis has identified statistical divisions in regional Australia with anticipated population growth near or above the national average over the next decade – see Figure 8.1.

**Figure 8.1: Australia: Non-Metropolitan Statistical Divisions with Population Projected Growth at More than One Percent per Annum, 2011-21**



In the growth of regions international migration is playing an increasing role and it is likely that this trend will continue in the next decade. Regional growth areas can be classified into a number of types with differing levels of international migration involvement – peri-urban areas around major cities, mining areas and coastal areas

It is important to note that it is *not* only rapidly growing areas that will experience an influx of immigrants over the next decade. There will be regional areas where the influence of ageing on the labour force, and the outmigration of young Australians, will encourage immigrants to fill available jobs, especially in primary production and processing of primary production. The extent to which new immigrants settle outside Australian capital cities in the next decade will be shaped by the continued growth in non-metropolitan based economic

activity creating jobs, ageing of non-metropolitan populations exacerbated by significant net internal loss of the 15-29 age category to major cities, and sea change and tree change migration. Further, these trends could be significantly enhanced by policy.

## **8.6 POLICIES TO INFLUENCE WHERE MIGRANTS SETTLE**

Several major shifts in Australian international migration policy over the last decade need to be recognised in formulating population policy at the state and local level. As a result, the potential to directly influence not only who migrates to Australia but also where in Australia they settle is significant and increasing in importance. Three new elements of the Australian immigration system introduced since the mid 1990s have increasingly channelled immigrants to settle in particular parts of Australia. These are State Specific Regional Migration Schemes (SSRM), the introduction of the 457 temporary skilled worker scheme, and the development by DIAC of a new approach to identifying and establishing new regional locations for humanitarian settlement and settling new arrivals in those locations.

State/Territory and local governments are playing an increasing role in shaping where migrants settle and in assisting them in their settlement. These efforts represent a viable and effective approach to maximising the impact of international migration on overcoming regional labour shortages. An important issue, however, is the extent to which migrants remain in the original area once they have met their settlement obligations. Significantly, there is limited evidence which indicates that the majority of new migrants deliberately settled outside the gateway cities are remaining in those areas. Employment opportunities, as well as adjustment and satisfaction levels related to children's education, social networks and integration into the local community are important factors in deciding whether a household settles permanently in a location.

## **8.7 IMPLICATIONS OF FUTURE MIGRATION FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA**

### **8.7.1 Population Policy**

The last year has seen an unprecedented focus on the future of Australia's population, with the government now committed to a Sustainable Population Strategy. What are some of the implications of the present report for this strategy?

- It must address issues of population distribution as well as population size and composition.
- International migration is becoming significantly important in regional population growth, especially in areas of rapid development. As regional populations age, and youth losses occur, migrants can be expected to increasingly fill available job opportunities.
- A national population strategy needs to encourage and facilitate internal and international migration into regions of labour shortage, ensuring that infrastructure development and service provision occurs hand in hand with these policies.
- This study has demonstrated conclusively that Australians and international migrants will move to where there are opportunities, and a population policy should develop a region's economic potential to sustain larger populations. It should act to 'grease the rails' of existing population flows which are both economically and environmentally sustainable.
- Consideration of the baby boomer generation in regional development must be an important part of any national population policy for the next two decades. Their mobility will influence the rate of population growth in many regional communities. In certain instances, their movement can be an important catalyst and economic multiplier for growth in local employment.

- A national population strategy needs to explicitly consider the indigenous population as a major element in regional populations and their development.

### **8.7.2 Immigration Policy**

Permanent and Temporary migrants settle in Australia in different ways from the resident population and have an important impact in shaping population distribution. With permanent migration there has been a general tendency for a greater proportion to settle outside capital cities, particularly for humanitarian settlers. Temporary migrants are playing an increasing role in meeting workforce needs in some non-metropolitan areas, especially in mining areas in Western Australia and Queensland, in tourism areas and in horticultural/intensive agricultural areas.

A population policy relevant to immigrants needs to be aware that those most attracted to the regions typically comprise young families, retirees and those in the pre-retirement years; that employment for both men and women is important, but not the only driver; that liveability and lifestyle dimensions are critically important as is availability of affordable and appropriate housing. As well, a population policy should develop communities which welcome new arrivals and help them to settle in, as the early stages of settlement are crucial in determining whether newcomers remain.

As Australia moves toward a greater focus on regional development in response to environmental pressures and shifts in economic structure, international migration will play an important role. To estimate the extent of this role does require, however, a comprehensive analysis be undertaken to accurately establish the current and potential future role of international migration, both permanent and temporary, in meeting regional labour needs.

### **8.7.3 Regional Development Policy**

Australia's settlement system has been in place for 150 years. But is it an optimal system? Can it facilitate a more economically and environmentally sustainable future? Could its modification deliver medium and long term dividends such as:

- A release of the economic potential of regions hitherto retarded by a lack of infrastructure investment.
- A better balance between the distribution of people and water.
- Relieving growth pressures in and near the capital cities on scarce quality agricultural land and existing infrastructure.
- Reducing pollution and environmental degradation in cities, increasing housing availability and affordability, and reducing journey to work costs.

The key to shifting growth from the large cities to regional areas is infrastructure. There is a need to think strategically about where infrastructure investment is made. Is there a case for providing infrastructure to facilitate growth in some regions outside of the capital cities where there is the economic potential to sustain a much larger community, the resources available to support a larger population and appropriate policy and safeguards to absorb population growth without compromising environmental sustainability?

Post war period attempts to change the Australian settlement system through decentralisation achieved very little decentralisation. These attempts were half hearted – 'Decentralisation is everybody's policy but nobody's program' – and seen as a laudable goal but with no government commitment to the large investment required. It could be argued that the current context is different. Certainly, the Australian economy is structurally different. Transport and communications revolutions have made many economic activities 'footloose'

and not constrained to large cities, and many more people want to live in regional localities. And most Australian states and territories have developed plans to provide a framework for their regional development. There remains the question of how increases in infrastructure can be funded when there are clearly backlogs of existing need for infrastructure. Governments will play a role but increasingly models involving public-private partnerships and user pays elements will need to be considered.

#### **8.7.4 Settlement Services**

Research on immigrant settlement in regional areas has drawn attention to the importance of immigrant settlers having access to appropriate services in their early years of settlement. This is a critical element to their longer term settlement. Providing settlement services outside of capital cities presents some significant challenges for DIAC, especially in settling newer birthplace groups into regional localities which have no history of non English speaking (NES) settlement. Undoubtedly the adjustment of new migrants in regional communities and of the communities to the migrant is a topic of needed research. This notwithstanding, there are a few policy dimensions which are clear. Regional settlement will involve less clustering of immigrant groups and make provision of post-arrival services more difficult than is the case where immigrants mainly settle in capital cities. Further, there will be less informal support available than would often be available in large cities, and local government should be more heavily involved in supplying needed post-arrival services.

#### **8.7.5 Planning and Delivery of Government Services**

While the availability of suitable employment is a *necessary* condition for attracting immigrants to peripheral areas, it alone is often not *sufficient* to attract them. The key elements in their making the move relate to factors such as lifestyle, availability of suitable employment for partners, availability of appropriate schooling for children and the appropriate provision of a range of services and social and economic opportunities. Hence while the availability of employment is basic it is often other elements which are crucial in the decision to migrate to peripheral areas. State and local government has a responsibility to provide these services, and provide them in a ‘migrant friendly’ way.

#### **8.7.6 Housing Requirements**

Housing shortage and affordability issues are significant in non-metropolitan as well as metropolitan areas. Housing is a major constraint on regional population growth and any initiatives to accommodate a greater proportion of immigrant intake in regional areas should include consideration of the pressure that it will place on local housing markets. Australia’s present housing crisis is often seen as only a crisis in Australia’s major cities, but strategic initiatives to overcome the crisis must include a full consideration of the crisis in regional areas.

#### **8.7.7 Liveability, Productivity and Sustainability**

Liveability is the attributes of a place that contribute to the wellbeing and quality of life of its residents. There is currently concern about the potential loss of ‘liveability’ associated with growth and there are some aspects of liveability that can be improved. Population growth has put pressure on liveability in Australian cities through increased pressure on infrastructure, housing, environment and redesigning our cities so that they are more liveable for more people is a national challenge. From the perspective of the present study it is reasonable to ask to what extent would absorbing a greater percentage of Australian population growth in regional areas relieve pressure within capital cities and facilitate their redesign to enhance their liveability, and to what extent can regional

development enhance the liveability of regional communities and provide more Australians with opportunities to settle in liveable regional communities?

Counterbalancing the impacts of an ageing Australian population will necessitate increases in population, participation and productivity. Achievement of increments in productivity is critical to Australia's future.

Economic growth and improved wellbeing of the Australian population should not be at the cost of the environment. The key challenges for Australian governments and the Australian people is achieving a balance in policy and programs and in the behaviour of individuals, families and businesses which takes fully into account environmental sustainability goals. This is not an easy process. It means that the value of environmental services will need to be brought more comprehensively, transparently and explicitly into decision making. The relationship between growth and environment is complex and needs to be understood if population policy and environmental policy are to be integrated to move toward a more sustainable future. Clearly sustainability outcomes need to be an essential element in discussions about development beyond the capitals.

### **8.7.8 Community Harmony, Cohesion and Acceptance of Diversity**

Australia is one of the most ethnically diverse nations due primarily to post war migration which has facilitated a transition from an almost homogenous Anglo-Celtic society to one of considerable diversity. This diversity has presented many challenges, mainly related to building social cohesion and resilience. Most post war immigration involved settlement in Australia's large cities, and where there was settlement in non-metropolitan areas it was limited largely to regional cities and rural areas with intensive agriculture. Hence, the trend toward more immigrants settling in non-metropolitan areas raises issues of community harmony, cohesion and acceptance of diversity.

One of the encouraging findings of studies of the new immigrant settlement in regional Australia is that while there have been significant issues relating to the acceptance of new groups into rural communities there have been a number of real success stories. There will undoubtedly be problems associated with the settlement of distinctly different groups in communities which hitherto have been relatively homogeneously Anglo-Celtic. However, there is evidence that many regional communities have belied 'redneck' stereotypes and embraced newcomers. It is clearly very important to engage local communities in the planning of the settlement of such groups and also in ongoing efforts to assist in settlement. However, this an area of migrant settlement that needs considerable empirical research to properly inform policy related to these issues.