Chapter Three: The Demographic Context

Immigration has been a major contributor to Australia's population growth and has helped to shape the size and composition of the population. The 2001 Census has shown that around 23% of Australia's resident population was born overseas. Population projections suggest that immigration is likely to continue to be a major contributor to population growth. As a result, the overseas-born will continue to be a significant group within the Australian population. The current overseas-born population is drawn from all the geographic regions of the world and is more diverse than at any other time in Australia's history. Associated with this increasing diversity are the lower concentrations of migrants from a wider range of birthplace countries.

The size and diversity of Australia's overseas-born population provides social, cultural and economic benefits for Australia and competitive advantages for the nation in the global marketplace. However, the diversity of the current immigration intake and the different patterns of growth and ageing within different migrant communities have implications for service delivery by both DIMIA and mainstream agencies. The challenge is to ensure that service delivery by all agencies is responsive to the range of cultures, linguistic backgrounds and experiences within the community and that new arrivals are equipped to participate in Australian society as soon as possible after arrival.

Introduction

This chapter explores the impact of immigration on the contemporary demography of Australia and the likely contribution of immigration to Australia's population future. This demographic data and analysis provides a context for a discussion of the settlement patterns and experiences of new arrivals, the role of DIMIA-funded settlement services, and the broader issues associated with service delivery in a culturally and linguistically diverse society.

The Australian population at the beginning of the twenty-first century

Size and growth

As outlined in chapter one of this report - The Policy Context, immigration has been a major contributor to Australia's population growth and has helped to shape the size and composition of the population. Since 1945, over 6 million people have come to Australia as new arrivals, with peaks of migration occurring in the post World War II period and in the late 1980s.

On average, over the past twenty-five years net overseas migration (the net addition or loss to Australia's resident population from migration) has contributed around 39% per year to population growth, while natural increase (births minus deaths) has accounted for the remainder. The actual level of net overseas migration has varied considerably from year to year, and in the years 1981-82, 1987-88 and 1988-89, migration contributed more to population growth than natural increase. In the year ended 30 June 2001, Australia's population increased by an estimated 259,900 people. An estimated 48% of this growth was due to net overseas migration, while the other 52% was due to natural increase.[1]

[1] DIMIA, Statistics Section, *Population Flows: Immigration Aspects*, 2001 edition, DIMIA, Canberra, February 2002, p. 3. Population figure updated based on 2001 Census.

The impact of migration is reflected in the proportion of the overseas-born in the Australian population. At 30 June 2001, Australia's resident population was an estimated 19.4 million people,[2] of whom approximately 23% were born overseas.[3] A further 20% of the Australian population have at least one parent who was born overseas. The proportion of the population born overseas is significantly higher in Australia than in any other traditional immigration country. The most recent census figures indicate that around 20% of the New Zealand population, 18% of the Canadian population and 11% of the population of the United States were born overseas.[4]

Current trends suggest that the proportion of overseas-born is likely to remain relatively high in the future. The Australian population is currently growing at the rate of approximately 1.2% per year and this is likely to continue for the next several years. The overall Migration Program will be maintained at its current level of 100,000 to 110,000 places per annum until 2006-07. At this level, a little less than half the growth in population will be due to net overseas migration. Longer-term population predictions suggest that by the mid to late 2030s, deaths will exceed births and population growth will only result from net overseas migration.[5]

Consequently, the overseas-born will continue to be a significant group within the Australian population. This has implications for the way in which general services and programs are developed and delivered to the Australian community, and for the way in which new arrivals are assisted to settle in Australia and equipped to participate equitably in Australian society. These issues are explored further in chapter five - The Role of DIMIA-Funded Settlement Services and chapter six - Mainstream Services.

Diversity

Immigration has had a significant impact on the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Australian population. This is reflected in the birthplaces, ancestries, languages and religions of the Australian people. People from over 200 countries have made Australia their home and over 200 languages are spoken in Australia. Apart from English, the most common languages spoken at home are Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Mandarin. The major religions of the world are practised in Australia including Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

The current overseas-born population is drawn from all the geographic regions of the world and is more diverse than at any other time in Australia's history. Tables 3.1 and 3.2 highlight the diversity of the population, showing that there are forty-four birthplace country groups with populations of over 15,000 in Australia, and another sixty-six birthplace country groups with between 1,000 and 15,000 people residing in Australia.

Associated with the increasing diversity of the population are the lower concentrations

[2] 19.4 million is Australia's Estimated Resident Population (ERP). This figure is based on the 2001 Census data which has been adjusted for net underenumeration (or undercount), to include Australian residents who were temporarily overseas on Census night, and to backdate to 30 June 2001. The ERP figure differs from the Census night figures used elsewhere in this report.

[3] Estimate based on data from the 2001 Census which has been adjusted to exclude those who did not state their birthplace.

[4] These figures have been taken from the 2001 New Zealand Census, the 2001 Canadian Census and the 2000 United States Census.

[5] DIMIA, *Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Inquiry into Skilled Migration*, DIMIA, Canberra, 2002, p. 16.

of migrants from a wider range of birthplace countries than was the case one hundred years ago. In 1901, the top ten countries of birth accounted for 94.5% of all the overseas-born. By the 2001 Census, the top ten countries accounted for only 58.8% of this population.[6]

As discussed in chapters one and two of this report, the diversity of the population provides social, cultural and economic benefits for Australia, and competitive advantages for the nation in the global marketplace. However, it also requires that services provided to the Australian community as a whole are responsive to a culturally and linguistically diverse clientele. This is important if migrants are to be able to participate fully in and contribute to Australian society.

The diversity of the current migrant intake also has implications for the way in which DIMIA-funded services are targeted and delivered. As discussed in chapter one of this report, DIMIA's settlement services have generally evolved in response to the increasing diversity of the migrant intake. As smaller groups of migrants arrive from a wider range of source countries, the challenge is to

[6] See Table 1.2: Top ten countries of birth for the overseas-born population at selected Censuses located in chapter one - The Policy Context.

Table 3.1: Overseas-born by country of birth categories: 15,000 + persons, 2001

Country of Birth	2001 Census Number (a)	% of total Overseas-born 2001 Census	Country of Birth	2001 Census Number (a)	% of total Overseas-born 2001 Census
United Kingdom	1,036,261	25.24	Fiji	44,251	1.08
New Zealand	355,762	8.67	FYR Macedonia (e)	43,557	1.06
Italy	218,722	5.33	Korea, Republic of (South)	38,881	0.95
Viet Nam	154,818	3.77	Singapore	33,486	0.82
China (b)	142,807	3.48	Egypt	33,425	0.81
Greece	116,431	2.84	Turkey	29,803	0.73
Germany	108,214	2.64	Canada	27,271	0.66
Philippines	103,915	2.53	Japan	25,497	0.62
India	95,445	2.32	Iraq	24,819	0.60
Netherlands	83,290	2.03	Bosnia and Herzegovina	23,848	0.58
South Africa	79,389	1.93	Papua New Guinea	23,620	0.58
Malaysia	78,875	1.92	Thailand	23,595	0.57
Lebanon	71,333	1.74	Chile	23,424	0.57
Hong Kong (c)	67,101	1.63	Cambodia	23,000	0.56
Poland	58,093	1.42	Hungary	22,759	0.55
Serbia and Montenegro (d)	55,362	1.35	Taiwan	22,422	0.55
United States of America	53,688	1.31	Cyprus	19,481	0.47
Sri Lanka	53,457	1.30	Austria	19,335	0.47
Croatia	51,946	1.27	Iran	18,824	0.46
Ireland	50,211	1.22	France	17,271	0.42
Indonesia	47,166	1.15	Mauritius	17,005	0.41
Malta	46,978	1.14	Portugal	15,407	0.38

Source: 2001 Census DIMIA customised Matrix C01_11. (a) There may be slight differences between census figures in different tables in this report and between this report and those published elsewhere by both the ABS and DIMIA. These occur because of random adjustments made at the individual cell level by the ABS to avoid the risk of releasing identifiable information. These fine level adjustments result in slight differences in aggregated totals when using Census data provided by the ABS in different formats. (b) Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SAR) and Taiwan Province. (c) SAR of China. (d) At the time of the collection of 2001 Census data, Serbia and Montenegro was known as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). On 4 February 2003, the name of the country was changed by the Assembly of the FRY to Serbia and Montenegro. (e) FYR - Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Table 3.2: Overseas-born by country of birth categories: 1,000-15,000 persons, 2001

Country of Birth	2001 Census Number (a)	% of total Overseas-born 2001 Census	Country of Birth	2001 Census Number (a)	% of total Overseas-born 2001 Census
Russian Federation	14,949	0.36	Norway	4,349	0.11
Ukraine	14,051	0.34	Columbia	4,322	0.11
Samoa	13,199	0.32	Somalia	3,726	0.09
Romania	12,826	0.31	Lithuania	3,689	0.09
Spain	12,651	0.31	Ethiopia	3,574	0.09
Pakistan	11,875	0.29	Jordan	3,345	0.08
Zimbabwe	11,733	0.29	Zambia	3,108	0.08
Afghanistan	11,264	0.27	Slovakia	3,009	0.07
Burma (Myanmar)	10,932	0.27	Gaza Strip & West Bank	2,685	0.07
Switzerland	10,759	0.26	Nepal	2,605	0.06
Argentina	10,732	0.26	Bulgaria	2,569	0.06
El Salvador	9,678	0.24	Seychelles	2,480	0.06
Laos	9,580	0.23	Kuwait	2,411	0.06
Uruguay	9,486	0.23	Estonia	2,397	0.06
East Timor	9,392	0.23	Brunei Darussalam	2,075	0.05
Bangladesh	9,077	0.22	Ghana	2,020	0.05
Denmark	9,022	0.22	Macau (c)	1,950	0.05
Finland	8,269	0.20	Nigeria	1,739	0.04
Tonga	7,662	0.19	Tanzania	1,734	0.04
Czech Republic	6,978	0.17	Saudi Arabia	1,638	0.04
Eastern Europe, nfd (b)	6,902	0.17	Eritrea	1,598	0.04
Kenya	6,868	0.17	Albania	1,460	0.04
Sweden	6,781	0.17	United Arab Emirates	1,458	0.04
Syria	6,752	0.16	Libya	1,408	0.03
Latvia	6,701	0.16	Solomon Islands	1,339	0.03
Slovenia	6,695	0.16	Ecuador	1,289	0.03
Israel	6,561	0.16	Uganda	1,249	0.03
Peru	5,536	0.13	Morocco	1,198	0.03
Sudan	4,911	0.12	Trinidad and Tobago	1,190	0.03
Belgium	4,888	0.12	Mexico	1,156	0.03
South Eastern Europe nfd (b)	4,774	0.12	Venezuela	1,108	0.03
Brazil	4,704	0.11	New Caledonia	1,071	0.03
Cook Islands	4,685	0.11	Belarus	1,033	0.03

Source: ABS 2001 Census, DIMIA customised Matrix C01_11. (a) There may be slight differences between census figures in different tablesin this report and between this report and those published elsewhere by both the ABS and DIMIA. These occur because of random adjustments made at the individual cell level by the ABS to avoid the risk of releasing identifiable information. These fine level adjustments result in slight differences in aggregated totals when using Census data provided by the ABS in different formats. (b) ndf - not further defined. (c) SAR of China.

ensure that DIMIA-funded services continue to be responsive to the range of cultures, linguistic backgrounds and experiences within the new arrivals group, whilst maximising the reach to those in greatest need. These issues are explored further in chapters five and six of this report.

Age

The service needs of a population are shaped by its age structure as well as by its size and diversity. In common with other developed countries the Australian population is ageing. In 2001, the median age of the population was estimated to be 36 years, having risen steadily from a median age of 28 years in 1971. The rise in the median age is largely due to a decline in the fertility rate and an increasing life expectancy. Between 1961 and 2000, Australia's total fertility rate (TFR) fell from a peak of 3.6 children per woman to 1.75 children per woman. Fertility rates are

expected to fall even further over the next ten years. At the same time, life expectancy at birth has increased to 77 years for males and 82.4 years for females.[7]

The net effect on the age structure of the Australian population is that the proportion of people aged 65 years and over is increasing and the proportion of those aged less than 15 years is decreasing. These groups are collectively known as the dependent population as they do not generally participate in the labour force. In 2001, 12.6% of the Australian population were aged 65 years or more, while 20.8% were aged less than 15 years. People of workforce age (15-64 years) made up 66.5% of the population.[8]

In recent years, the immigration program has attracted migrants who have been younger and more skilled than the Australian resident population, and migration has tended to slightly 'young' the population. However, these migrants themselves will age and so any long-term impact on the ageing of the population is reduced.[9]

This effect is evident in the age structure for the overseas-born population in 2001. The overseas-born as a group appear to be more markedly aged than the Australian-born population, in part because the locally-born children of migrants are counted in the Australian-born population. In 2001, the median age of the overseas-born population was 46 years. Approximately 17.7% were aged 65 years or more, while only 5.2% were aged less than 15 years. People of workforce age made up 77.1% of the overseas-born population.

Figures for the overseas-born population as a whole tend to obscure the age patterns of particular migrant communities. The age structure of overseas-born populations generally reflects the timing of waves of migration from that country. As table 3.3 indicates, longer-resident migrant groups such as the Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Ukrainian and Latvian, communities have much higher median ages, ranging from 59 to 73 years. Some longer-resident migrant groups such as the Chinese and South African communities have experienced strong growth in migration in recent years, and this is reflected in median ages that are lower than the median age for the overseas-born population as a whole. Newer migrant groups such as the Hong Kong and Singaporean communities have median ages that are around the median age of the Australian population, while the Indonesian and Korean communities have median ages that are below the median age of the Australian population, reflecting the intake of young, skilled migrants from these countries in recent years.

Table 3.3 does not include smaller communities that have a very recent pattern of migration to Australia. Migrant groups such as the Afghan, Somalian and Kuwaiti communities have median ages ranging from 26 to 29 years, while the Sudanese and Ethiopian communities have median ages of 31 and 32 years respectively.[10]

The size of the dependent population of overseas-born communities also reflects the migration patterns of the past fifty years. As tables 3.4 and 3.5 show, the larger migrant groups from countries such as Italy, Greece and the Netherlands have between 31% and 42% of their population aged 65 years and over and around 1% or less of their population aged under 15 years. This contrasts with some migrant groups from the Middle East such as the Saudi Arabian community, of whom only 0.8% of the population is aged 65 years and over and around 50% are under 15 years of age.

[7] Figures from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *Deaths*, catalogue no. 3202.0, ABS, Canberra, 2001.

[8] All age-related data based on 2001 Census.

[9] DIMIA, *Population Flows*, p. 11.

[10] ABS 2001 Census data.

Table 3.3: Median age of overseas-born at selected Censuses

Birthplace	1911 (e)	1921 (e)	1933 (e)	1947 (e)	1954 (e)	1961 (e)	1971	1981	1991 (f)	1996 (f)	2001 (f)
Australia (a)	20	22	25	28	28	27	25	26	29	30	32
Austria	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	30	37	45	51	54	58
Canada	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	40	28	29	33	35	38
Chile	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	25	31	33	38	42
China	45	51	58	43	35	33	37	45	39	40	41
Cyprus	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	32	35	36	44	48	52
Czechoslovakia	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	38	43	51	49	(c)	(c)
Denmark	51	56	58	61	55	34	32	38	43	47	50
Egypt	30	25	27	33	29	33	36	43	47	50	53
Fiji	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	29	28	29	31	34	36
Germany	52	57	59	53	24	27	33	41	48	52	55
Greece	30	32	35	43	36	30	33	42	50	55	59
Hong Kong	39	44	34	23	24	24	24	27	28	31	34
Hungary	(b)	46	38	42	34	36	44	51	56	59	62
India	39	45	46	(h)42	37	39	35	39	41	41	40
Indonesia	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	29	35	35	33	32	30
Ireland (Republic)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	53	49	44	45	44	47	49
Italy	34	37	34	43	31	32	37	46	54	58	62
Korea	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	31	30	29	29	31
Latvia	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	42	50	58	67	70	73
Lebanon	(g)34	(g)40	(g)43	(g)47	31	30	27	30	35	38	42
Malaysia	Na	24	23	21	23	22	21	25	31	34	38
Malta	Na	32	32	43	25	26	31	38	47	51	56
Netherlands	40	36	45	44	26	27	35	42	50	54	57
New Zealand	31	37	43	47	48	47	30	28	32	35	37
Papua New Guinea	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	13	14	17	24	29	33
Philippines	36	44	52	38	27	27	25	31	33	35	38
Poland	(b)	50	40	42	34	41	49	57	55	54	55
Singapore	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	22	22	26	31	30	33
South Africa	20	21	30	43	48	48	36	32	35	38	37
Sri Lanka	41	45	51	(h)	31	33	32	36	37	39	42
Sweden	48	54	57	60	56	40	31	35	36	37	39
Turkey	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	47	28	31	33	36	39
United Kingdom	(d)51	(d)46	(d)46	(d)52	49	46	38	41	46	49	52
USA	41	42	45	42	39	39	27	31	35	36	38
USSR	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	51	57	58	(c)	(c)	(c)
Ukraine	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	40	49	59	68	69	65
Viet Nam	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	22	30	34	38
Yugoslavia	Na	35	34	44	34	32	32	39	46	(c)	(c)
Other Overseas	42	43	42	47	35	35	32	34	33	37	41
Total Overseas	49	46	45	50	41	37	36	41	41	44	46
Not Stated	40	40	(i)	(i)	(i)	(i)	(i)	34	29	32	30
Total Population	24	26	28	31	30	29	28	30	32	34	36

Source: DIMIA Australian Immigration Statistics Section - Special table for Settlement Services Review. (a) Prior to 1996 the Census did not include Norfolk Island, Christmas Island or the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The 1996 Census excludes only Norfolk Island. (b) Included in Other Overseas. (c) Country no longer exists. (d) Prior to the 1954 Census persons born in the United Kingdom and Ireland are presented together in United Kingdom. (e) Aboriginal people were not included in the Australian census prior to the 1967 constitutional referendum. (f) Excludes Overseas Visitors. (g) Lebanon and Syria recorded together. (h) India and Sri Lanka (Ceylon) recorded together in India. (i) Distributed after further analysis.

Between 2% and 7% of the migrants from the countries of Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia are aged 65 years and over, and between 13% and 24% are aged less than 15 years. A similar pattern is apparent among other migrant groups, including those from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Korea and Iraq.

The different age structures of migrant communities within the overseas-born

Table 3.4: Twenty oldest birthplace groups (a), 2001

Birthplace (b)	AGE							
	0-14		15-64		65+		Total (c)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Estonia	36	1.5	579	24.2	1,777	74.3	2,392	100.0
Latvia	53	0.8	2,028	30.6	4,536	68.6	6,617	100.0
Lithuania	41	1.1	1,210	32.6	2,462	66.3	3,713	100.0
Ukraine	600	4.3	6,493	46.1	7,006	49.7	14,099	100.0
Slovenia	85	1.3	3,795	56.1	2,879	42.6	6,759	100.0
Hungary	227	1	12,859	56.5	9,683	42.5	22,769	100.0
Italy	925	0.4	125,964	57.6	91,865	42	218,754	100.0
Eastern Europe nfd	50	0.7	4,037	58.2	2,852	41.1	6,939	100.0
Poland	873	1.5	34,914	60.1	22,284	38.4	58,071	100.0
Belarus	59	5.8	592	58.6	359	35.5	1,010	100.0
Austria	349	1.8	12,538	64.9	6,429	33.3	19,316	100.0
Netherlands	947	1.1	55,721	66.9	26,581	31.9	83,249	100.0
Greece	1,080	0.9	78,854	67.7	36,597	31.4	116,531	100.0
Russian Federation	1,148	7.6	9,383	62.4	4,499	29.9	15,030	100.0
Gaza Strip and West Bank	97	3.7	1,837	69.2	722	27.2	2,656	100.0
Germany	2,701	2.5	76,206	70.4	29,331	27.1	108,238	100.0
Czech Republic	111	1.6	5,011	71.6	1,879	26.8	7,001	100.0
Egypt	1,116	3.3	23,725	71.1	8,529	25.6	33,370	100.0
Malta	217	0.5	35,200	74.9	11,562	24.6	46,979	100.0
Spain	201	1.6	9,365	74.3	3,046	24.2	12,612	100.0

Source: ABS 2001 Census DIMIA Customised Matrix C01_01. (a) Sorted by proportion of the total population aged 65 or over. (b) Only includes birthplace groups with a population of 1,000 or more. (c) There may be slight differences between census figures in different tables in this report and between this report and those published elsewhere by both the ABS and DIMIA. These occur because of random adjustments made at the individual cell level by the ABS to avoid the risk of releasing identifiable information. These fine level adjustments result in slight differences in aggregated totals when using Census data provided by the ABS in different formats.

population will shape their demand for general services such as childcare, education, housing, employment, health care and aged care. These service needs are related to life cycle events that are shared with the wider Australian community and require mainstream services to be responsive to the needs of a cultural and linguistically diverse clientele, including clients who have recently arrived in Australia.

The age structure of a community will also affect its capacity to participate in the workforce. Of particular note is the generally younger age structure of newly-arrived groups of migrants, some of which have over 80% of their population of workforce age. As the Australian population ages, and the ratio of dependants to workforce population increases, it is essential that these new arrivals are equipped to participate fully in the

Table 3.5: Twenty youngest birthplace groups (a), 2001

Birthplace (b)	AGE							
	0-14		15-64		65+		Total (c)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Saudi Arabia	797	49.9	787	49.3	12	0.8	1,596	100.0
United Arab Emirates	660	44.3	824	55.3	6	0.4	1,490	100.0
Somalia	871	23.6	2,734	74.1	85	2.3	3,690	100.0
Sudan	1,031	21	3,576	72.8	307	6.2	4,914	100.0
Kuwait	461	18.5	2,023	81.2	6	0.2	2,490	100.0
Solomon Islands	222	16.8	1,067	80.9	30	2.3	1,319	100.0
Pakistan	1,921	16.1	9,454	79.3	547	4.6	11,922	100.0
United States Of America	7,921	14.7	41,952	78.1	3,848	7.2	53,721	100.0
Iraq	3,536	14.3	19,872	80.3	1,353	5.5	24,761	100.0
Cook Islands	672	14.2	3,879	82.1	174	3.7	4,725	100.0
Korea, Republic Of (South)	5,480	14.1	31,784	81.8	1,578	4.1	38,842	100.0
Brunei	288	13.8	1,789	85.5	15	0.7	2,092	100.0
Afghanistan	1,536	13.6	9,362	83	381	3.4	11,279	100.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,205	13.4	19,178	80.2	1,524	6.4	23,907	100.0
Ethiopia	481	13.4	2,972	82.6	144	4	3,597	100.0
Jordan	446	13.3	2,765	82.7	134	4	3,345	100.0
South Africa	10,495	13.2	62,580	78.8	6,304	7.9	79,379	100.0
Bangladesh	1,158	12.8	7,762	85.7	132	1.5	9,052	100.0
Thailand	2,834	12	20,284	86.2	423	1.8	23,541	100.0
New Zealand	39,748	11.2	293,591	82.5	22,345	6.3	355,684	100.0

Source: ABS 2001 Census DIMIA Customised Matrix C01_01. (a) Sorted by proportion of the total population aged 0-14. (b) Only includes birthplace groups with a population of 1,000 or more. (c) There may be slight differences between census figures in different tables in this report and between this report and those published elsewhere by both the ABS and DIMIA. These occur because of random adjustments made at the individual cell level by the ABS to avoid the risk of releasing identifiable information. These fine level adjustments result in slight differences in aggregated totals when using Census data provided by the ABS in different formats.

economic and social life of the community. This has implications for the way in which new arrivals are assisted to settle in Australia. These issues are explored further in later chapters of this report.

Distribution

Another major factor influencing the demand for and location of services is the distribution of the population. Overall, Australia's population is one of the most highly concentrated and urbanised in the world with around 64% of the total resident population living in the capital cities, and approximately 77% living in the three eastern seaboard States of New South Wales (33.7%), Victoria (24.8%) and Queensland (18.8%). The remaining 23% of the population live in Western Australia (9.7%); South Australia (7.8%); Tasmania (2.5%); the Australian Capital Territory (1.7%); and the Northern Territory (1.0%).

Table 3.6: Overseas-born by State/Territory, 2001

State/Territory	Population at 2001 Census (a)	Population as a % of Australia's total population	No. of Overseas-born at 2001 Census (a)	Overseas-born as a % of the State/ Territory population (b)	Overseas-born as a % of total overseas-born population
New South Wales	6,326,445	33.7	1,476,935	24.9	36
Victoria	4,660,917	24.8	1,088,713	24.7	26.5
Queensland	3,522,015	18.8	603,841	18	14.7
Western Australia	1,828,237	9.7	495,733	28.6	12.1
South Australia	1,470,020	7.8	299,070	21.3	7.3
Tasmania	460,750	2.5	46,219	10.6	1.1
Australian Capital Territory	310,077	1.7	67,182	22.7	1.6
Northern Territory	188,071	1.0	27,011	15.6	0.7
Other/Not Stated	*2,542*	*0.01*	*785*	*32*	*0.02*
Totals	**18,769,074(c)**	**100.00**	**4,105,468**	**23.10**	**100**

Source: ABS 2001 Census DIMIA Customised Matrix C01_11. (a) There may be slight differences between census figures in different tables in this report and between this report and those published elsewhere by both the ABS and DIMIA. These occur because of random adjustments made at the individual cell level by the ABS to avoid the risk of releasing identifiable information. These fine level adjustments result in slight differences in aggregated totals when using Census data provided by the ABS in different formats. (b) In calculating these figures, persons who did not state their birthplace have been excluded. (c) The total population figure listed in this table is the 7 August 2001 census figure. This figure differs from the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) figure used on the first page of this chapter. The ERP has been adjusted for net underenumeration (or undercount), to include Australian residents who are temporarily overseas on census night, and to back date to 30 June, 2001.

Table 3.6 shows that the highest numbers of overseas-born Australians are found in New South Wales and Victoria, reflecting the historical tendency of migrants to settle in Sydney and Melbourne. This table also shows that the proportion of the total overseas-born population living in New South Wales (36%) and Victoria (26.5%) is higher than the proportion of the total Australian population living in these States. Although Western Australia has lower migrant numbers, it also has a disproportionate share of the total overseas-born population.

Queensland attracts the third highest proportion of the total overseas-born population (14.7%), but this proportion is lower than its share of the total Australian population. The lowest numbers and concentrations of migrants are found in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

The variations in the birthplaces of the overseas-born across the States/Territories are shown in table 3.7. There are higher concentrations of the Chinese and Lebanese-born in New South Wales than in other States/Territories, while Victoria has higher concentrations of people born in Italy and Greece. Both New South Wales and Victoria have sizeable Vietnamese-born populations. Compared to New South Wales and Victoria, other States/Territories have higher proportions of overseas-born from the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

These tables reflect distribution patterns for the overseas-born population as a whole and are of relevance in discussing the likely service needs amongst migrant communities across Australia. A more specific discussion on the distribution patterns of newly-arrived migrants is provided in chapter five of this

report - The Role of DIMIA-Funded Settlement Services.

Future population patterns

Australia's population future is the subject of current debate, focusing on questions such as how many people should live in this country, where they should live, and the social and economic impact of future changes to the size and structure of the population. These issues, and the role that migration will continue to play in shaping Australia's population, are relevant to a consideration of the potential demand for DIMIA-funded services in the future and the role that those services will play.

Over the past ten years, Australia's population has increased steadily by between 1.0% and 1.5% per annum. The growth of Australia's population in the future will depend on future levels of fertility, mortality and net overseas migration. These variables can be combined with the present age distribution of the population to make overall population projections.

Both the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and DIMIA have constructed projections of the future size and age structure of Australia's population and labour force. These projections are based on the continuation of a substantial immigration program, with net overseas migration levels of between 70,000 and 100,000 per year. In a recent submission to an inquiry into skilled migration conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, DIMIA outlined a baseline population projection for Australia based on the following assumptions:

- a total fertility rate of 1.65 children per woman by 2010, and a constant rate thereafter to 2100;
- a rise in life expectancy to 83.3 years for men and 86.5 years for women by 2050, and remaining constant thereafter to 2100; and

Table 3.7: Top ten overseas birthplace groups by State/Territory, 2001

New South Wales	
Birthplace	**Total**
United Kingdom	275,737
New Zealand	105,891
China (a)	85,445
Viet Nam	63,021
Italy	60,636
Lebanon	53,263
Philippines	52,243
India	37,931
Hong Kong	37,585
Greece	36,913

Victoria	
Birthplace	**Total**
United Kingdom	209,075
Italy	90,805
Greece	57,775
Viet Nam	56,679
New Zealand	55,523
China (a)	36,762
India	30,688
Germany	29,262
Sri Lanka	26,669
Malaysia	24,725

Table 3.7: Top ten overseas birthplace groups by State/Territory, 2001

Queensland	
Birthplace	**Total**
United Kingdom	177,762
New Zealand	127,335
Germany	19,137
Philippines	15,446
Netherlands	15,286
Italy	15,195
South Africa	14,369
Papua New Guinea	12,262
Viet Nam	11,571
USA	9,994

Western Australia	
Birthplace	**Total**
United Kingdom	201,953
New Zealand	44,966
Italy	23,089
Malaysia	17,394
South Africa	15,457
India	13,124
Netherlands	10,466
Singapore	10,271
Viet Nam	10,134
Germany	9,963

South Australia	
Birthplace	**Total**
United Kingdom	126,075
Italy	25,039
Germany	12,843
Greece	11,692
New Zealand	10,946
Viet Nam	10,492
Netherlands	8,423
Poland	6,914
Philippines	4,512
Serbia and Montenegro (b)	4,339

Tasmania	
Birthplace	**Total**
United Kingdom	21,796
New Zealand	3,622
Netherlands	2,578
Germany	1,978
Italy	1,107
USA	959
South Africa	895
Poland	886
Philippines	764
Malaysia	708

Australian Capital Territory	
Birthplace	**Total**
United Kingdom	17,213
New Zealand	3,933
Germany	2,499
Italy	2,358
Vietnam	2,260
China (a)	2,021
USA	1,886
India	1,802
Croatia	1,692
Malaysia	1,602

Northern Territory	
Birthplace	**Total**
United Kingdom	6,762
New Zealand	3,435
Philippines	1,731
USA	1,239
Greece	1,093
East Timor	1,005
Germany	948
Indonesia	744
Papua New Guinea	647
Malaysia	623

Source: ABS 2001 Census, DIMIA Customised Matrix C01_01. (a) Excludes SARS and Taiwan. (b) At the time of the collection of 2001 Census data, Serbia and Montenegro was known as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). On 4 February 2003, the name of the country was changed by the Assembly of the FRY to Serbia and Montenegro.

- a net overseas migration level of 100,000 per annum from now until 2100, ie a continuation of the immigration program at its current level.[11]

Under this baseline scenario, population growth would fall from its current rate of 1.2% per annum to 0.3% by 2050, reaching zero by 2100. The population would reach about 26.4 million by the middle of this century and grow very slowly to about 27.1 million by the end of this century. Deaths are likely to exceed births by around the mid to late 2030s. Beyond this point, only net overseas migration would contribute to population growth. Australia's population would continue to grow provided net overseas migration is around 100,000 per annum. A net overseas migration level lower than 100,000 per annum, however, would result in a slowly declining population from about the mid-century.

Although this baseline scenario assumes a net migration level of 100,000, under this model Australia's population would still continue to age. By 2050, about 25% of the population (6.61 million people) would be over 65 years of age compared to a current figure of 12.6% (2.37 million), and 15% (4.2 million) would be under 15 years of age compared to the current figure of 21% (3.91 million). In the following fifty years to 2100, the proportion of the population over 65 years of age would slowly increase to about 27% (7.6 million), while the proportion under 15 years would slowly decline to about 14% (4.4 million). Australia will, however, fare better than many other developed nations. For example, by 2050, it seems likely that the proportion of the population aged over 65 years will increase from a current figure of 18% to 36.1% in Italy, from 17% to 34% in Japan, and from 17% currently to 37% in Spain.

In parallel with an ageing population, the number of people of workforce age in Australia would rise slowly from the current level of 12.5 million (66.5% of the population), peaking at about 16 million around 2046 (60% of the population). It would then decline very slowly to around 15.9 million (58% of the population) at the end of the century. Below a net overseas migration level of about 100,000 per year, the potential workforce would grow for a while but then peak and decline absolutely. Above that number, the potential workforce would continue to grow until 2100 although the rate of growth would slow down.

Under this baseline scenario, all States/Territories would experience significant ageing of their populations. Tasmania would have by far the highest proportion of its population over the age of 65 years by 2100 (36%), while Queensland (24.8%) and the Northern Territory (20.4%) would have the lowest proportion by 2100 (24.8%).

In recent years, about two-thirds of all net overseas migration to Australia has been to the cities of Sydney and Melbourne. If overseas migration plays an increasing part in Australia's population growth and present trends continue, much of that growth is likely to be in Sydney and Melbourne. Projections by the ABS indicate that the populations of all capital cities can be expected to increase, while many areas in rural and regional Australia will experience continued population decline. Population projections for the States/Territories, based on plausible assumptions about fertility, mortality, net overseas migration, and net interstate migration, show declining populations by

[11] DIMIA, *Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Inquiry into Skilled Migration.*

2100 for Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia. This is due to a combination of low fertility with low or negative net interstate and overseas migration.[12]

This recent analysis of future demographic trends suggests that migration is likely to continue to be a major contributor to population growth. As a result, the ways in which migrants are assisted to settle and make a new life in Australia will continue to be an important issue for the nation. These are the issues addressed by this review.

Conclusion

This chapter has described the demographic context for the provision of settlement services. The Australian population has become increasingly diverse over time as a result of the immigration program. Migrant communities within this population reflect different patterns of growth and ageing, and this has broader service delivery implications that will be addressed later in this report. Migration will continue to be a major contributor to the Australian population, and so settlement services for new arrivals will remain an important issue for all Australian governments. New migrants are arriving from a wider range of source countries than in past intakes, which presents challenges for mainstream and specialist settlement services. The following chapter explores the settlement experiences of these recent arrivals in order to assess the likely settlement needs of future intakes.

[12] DIMIA, *Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Inquiry into Skilled Migration,* pp. 16-19.