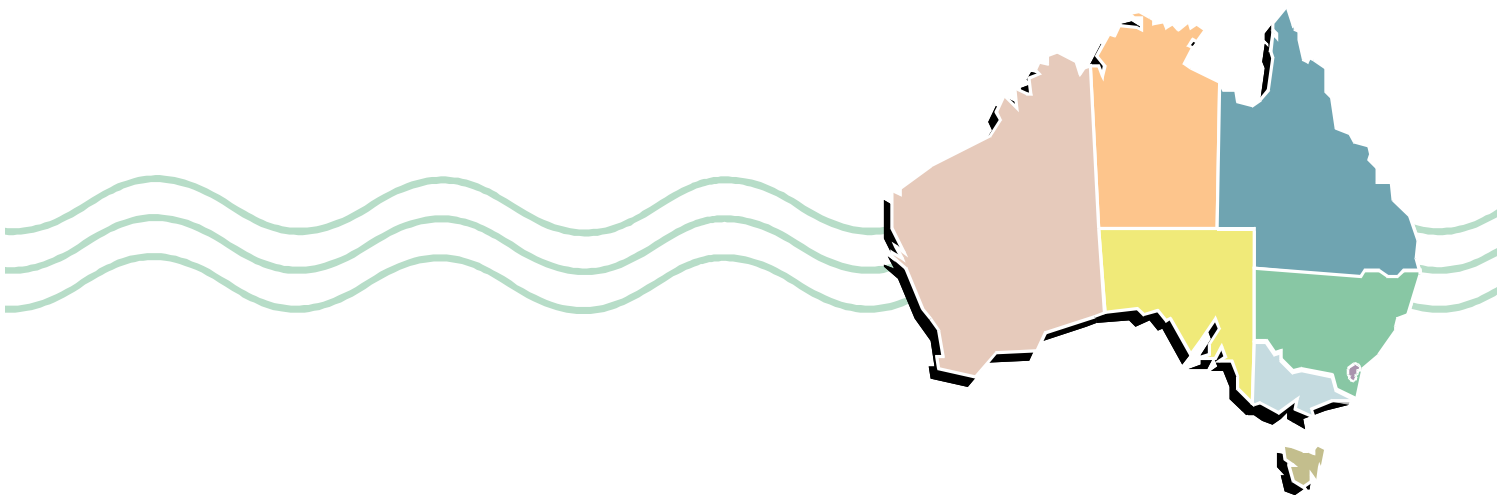


## Chapter 6

### Migration Flows to the States

- New South Wales, with 33.8 per cent of Australia's population attracted 42.6 per cent of all settler arrivals and 41.8 per cent of visitors in 1999–2000.
- Queensland and Western Australia both had the largest population growth at 1.6 per cent in 1998–99.
- The ACT was the only one of the States and Territories to have a loss through net overseas migration.
- New South Wales had a net loss of 14,315 people through interstate migration compared with Queensland which had a net gain of 17,233.
- Victoria gained people through net interstate migration in 1998–99, second in number only to Queensland.
- Tasmania lost 897 people in 1998–99 or 0.2 per cent of its population.



# Immigration to the States

## State Distribution of Population

At the time of the 1996 Census, over three quarters of Australia's population lived in three States: New South Wales (33.8 per cent), Victoria (24.9 per cent) and Queensland (18.3 per cent).

The remaining 23 per cent live in Western Australia (9.6 per cent), South Australia (8.1 per cent), Tasmania (2.6 per cent), the Australian Capital Territory (1.7 per cent) and the Northern Territory (1.0 per cent).

## Distribution of Overseas-born by State

At the 1996 Census, over three quarters of the overseas-born resided in three states, New South Wales (1,519,320 persons), Victoria (1,145,671 persons) and Queensland (590,670 persons). The highest proportion of overseas-born was in Western Australia (29.3 per cent of the State population), followed by Victoria (25.1 per cent) and New South Wales (24.5 per cent). The State with the lowest proportion of overseas-born in its population was Tasmania (10.8 per cent), followed by the Northern Territory (16.8 per cent).

People from the United Kingdom form the largest migrant group in every State and Territory, ranging from a low of 20.6 per cent of overseas-born persons in New South Wales to 48.4 per cent in Tasmania.

Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia have a high proportion of New Zealand citizens (18.5, 12.1 and 8.1 per cent respectively); Victoria and South Australia have an above average proportion of Italian settlers (9.4 per cent and 8.9 per cent respectively) while Victoria has a relatively high proportion of settlers from Greece (6.0 per cent).

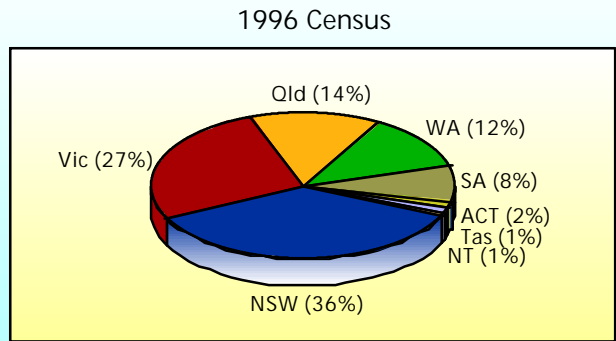
## State Population Growth

All State and Territory populations except Tasmania are estimated to have increased in the twelve months to June 1999, mainly through natural increase and net overseas migration.

Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory had the highest growth rates (1.55, 1.55 and 1.47 per cent respectively). Victoria's population growth rate was 1.13 per cent, which was a little higher than the national average of 1.10 per cent.

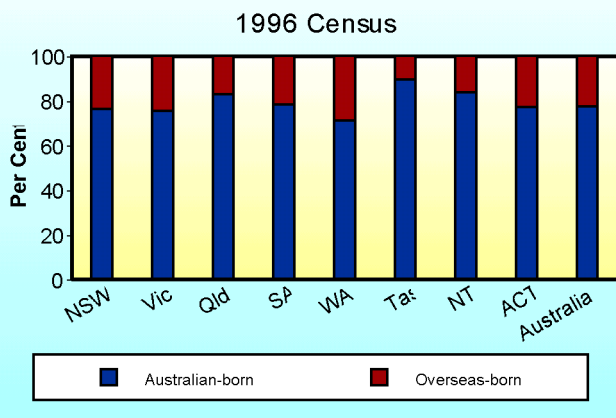
Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia are all estimated to have gained population through interstate migration in 1998-99. Tasmania lost most of its population through interstate migration (3,669 persons) and net overseas migration (114 persons). Natural increase (2,658 persons) was not enough to offset the exodus to the other States and Territories resulting in a negative population growth of -0.2 per cent.

**Fig. 6-1: Overseas-born Population by State**



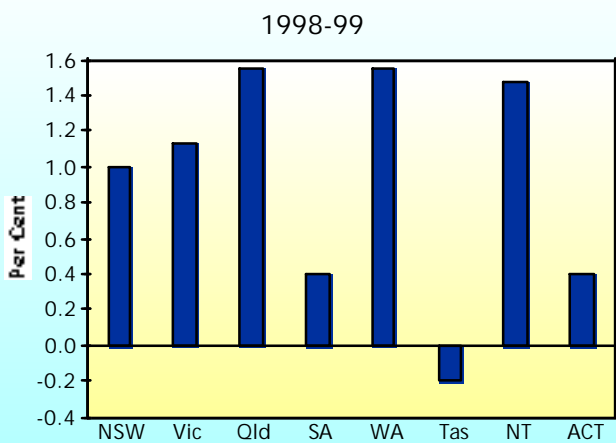
Source Data: ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing

**Fig. 6-2: Composition of State Populations by Birthplace**



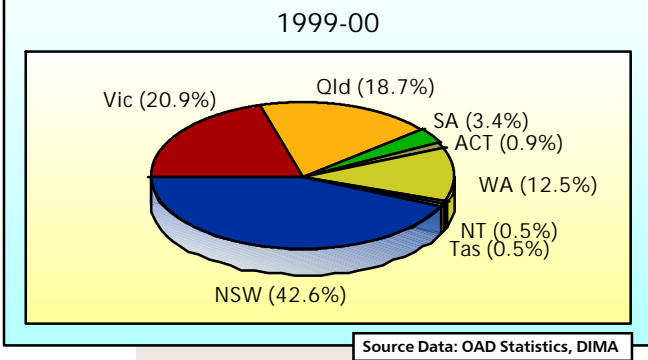
Legend: Australian-born (Blue), Overseas-born (Red)

**Fig. 6-3: Population Growth by State**



Source Data: ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, March Qtr 2000 (3101.0)

**Fig. 6-4: Settler Arrivals by State**



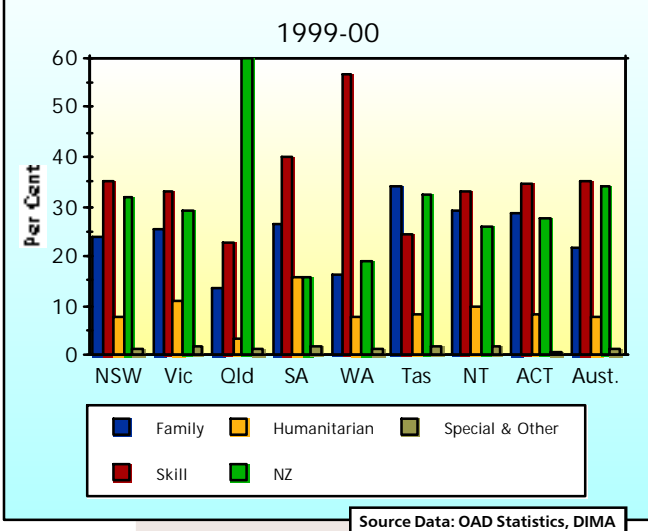
## Immigration to the States

On arrival in Australia, settler arrivals are asked to indicate the State or Territory in which they intend to settle, although they are of course free to settle where they wish and may subsequently change their intended place of settlement.

In 1999–2000, 39,311 settler arrivals intended to settle in New South Wales (up 11.9 per cent from 1998–99), 19,319 people intended to reside in Victoria (up 11.7 per cent), 17,286 people in Queensland (up 7.8 per cent), 11,512 people in Western Australia (up 7.9 per cent) and 3,105 people in South Australia (down 6.5 per cent). Smaller numbers of settler arrivals intended to settle in the Australian Capital Territory (809 persons), the Northern Territory (471 persons) and Tasmania (444 persons).

Of settler arrivals in 1999–2000, more were female than male (50.9 and 49.1 per cent respectively). This was true of all States and Territories. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of women (52.2 per cent).

**Fig. 6-5: Arrivals by Migration Stream by State**



## Settler Arrivals by Migration Stream

The composition of the settler arrival intake within each State and Territory can vary greatly in terms of migration stream. The proportions of Family, Skill and Humanitarian arrivals to total settler arrivals in Australia were 21.6, 35.1 and 7.9 per cent respectively. In 1999–2000, Tasmania received the highest proportion of Family migrants (33.8 per cent). Relative to the other States and Territories, Queensland and Western Australia received the lowest proportions of Family migrants (13.4 and 16.2 per cent respectively). The highest proportion of Skill Stream settler arrivals was in Western Australia (56.5 per cent) and the lowest was in Queensland (22.7 per cent). A very high proportion of settlers in Queensland were New Zealand citizens (59.7 per cent).

The four most populated States were the favoured destinations of settlers. New South Wales was the most popular State destination of Family settler arrivals during 1999–2000, receiving 47.4 per cent of all Family migrants, followed by Victoria (24.8 per cent), Queensland (11.7 per cent) and Western Australia (9.4 per cent). Skill Stream settler arrivals intended to settle mostly in New South Wales (42.6 per cent of all Skill Stream settler arrivals), Western Australia (20.1 per cent), Victoria (19.6 per cent) and Queensland (12.1 per cent). Settlers entering on humanitarian grounds indicated a preference for New South Wales (42.6 per cent), Victoria (29.2 per cent), Western Australia (11.8 per cent) and Queensland (7.6 per cent).

Well over half of Family settler arrivals in each State and Territory were female. The Northern Territory had the largest proportion of female Family settler arrivals (65.7 per cent) and Tasmania the lowest (54.0 per cent). There were more male than female Skill Stream settler arrivals in each State and Territory except Tasmania where 52.3 per cent were female. Male and female Humanitarian settler arrivals were fairly evenly distributed across all States and Territories except the Northern Territory. Here the proportion of female Humanitarian settler arrivals was 43.5 per cent.

## Labour Force Profile

In 1999–2000, New South Wales attracted the highest proportion of migrants who were in employment prior to arrival (51.2 per cent of total arrivals), followed by Queensland (50.1 per cent). Tasmania, with 44.6 per cent, attracted the lowest proportion of migrants in employment prior to arrival.

Queensland received the lowest proportion of settler arrivals not in employment prior to arrival, (3.3 per cent of total arrivals), followed by Western Australia (3.6 per cent). South Australia and the Northern Territory received the highest proportions of settlers not in employment prior to arrival (7.4 and 5.9 per cent respectively).

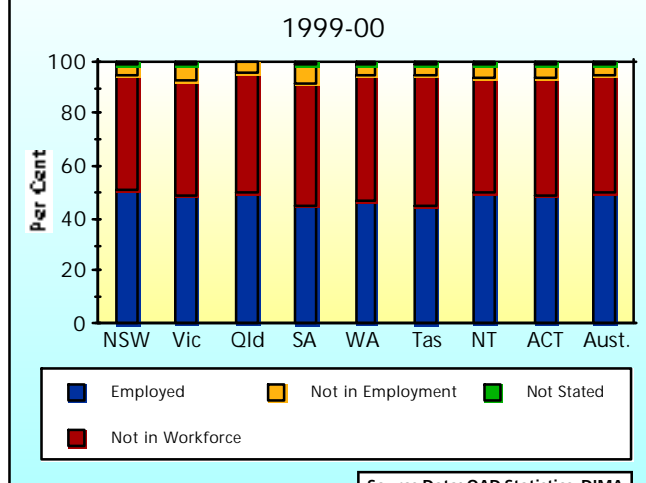
## Source Countries

The top five source countries for settler arrivals to Australia as a whole, in 1999–2000, were New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Peoples Republic of China (PRC), South Africa and India.

For the individual States and Territories the top three source countries were:

- NSW — New Zealand (7,682 persons), the PRC (4,407 persons) and the United Kingdom (2,747 persons);
- Vic — New Zealand (3,663 persons), the PRC (1651 persons) and India (1435 persons);
- Qld — New Zealand (8,080 persons), United Kingdom (2,030 persons) and South Africa (901 persons);
- SA — United Kingdom (665 persons), New Zealand (341 persons) and South Africa (189);
- WA — United Kingdom (2,262 persons), South Africa (1,840 persons) and New Zealand (1,775 persons);
- Tas — New Zealand (117 persons), United Kingdom (54 persons) and Sudan (22 persons);
- NT — New Zealand (101 persons), United Kingdom (61 persons) and Philippines (47 persons);
- ACT — New Zealand (124 persons), the PRC (77 persons) and the United Kingdom (70 persons).

**Fig. 6-6: Labour Force Profile of Arrivals Prior to Arrival by State**



**Fig. 6-7: Distribution of Australia's Top 3 Source Countries by Total Arrivals to Each State**

