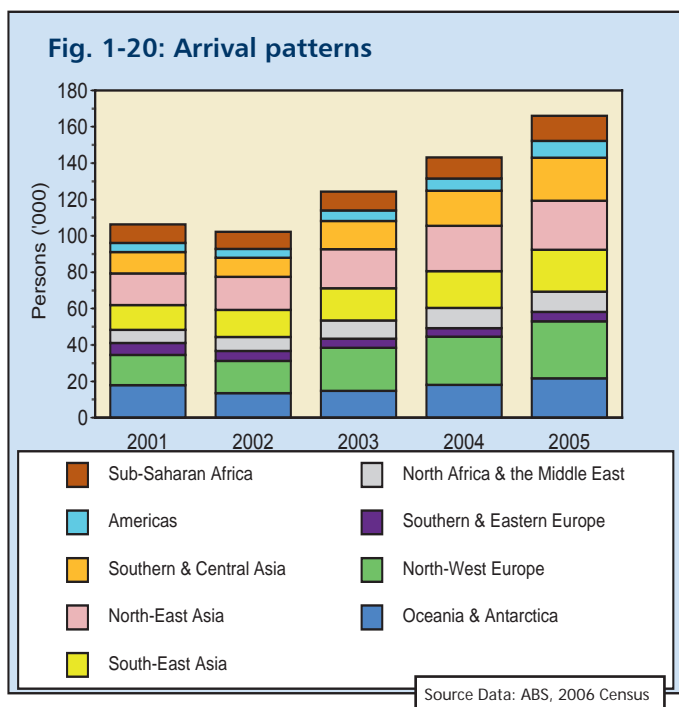


Social characteristics of migrants



This section on the social characteristics of migrants is a new addition to Population flows and has been included in order to highlight some interesting information on migrants revealed in the 2006 Census.

Fig.1-20 shows the arrival patterns by region of birth since 2001. Arrivals from the different regions have been consistently increasing over time. Arrivals from Oceania and Antarctica on the other hand have fluctuated over time and there has been a decline in the arrivals from Southern and Eastern Europe.

The marital status of the Australian born and overseas born reveals a number of interesting differences. For instance, Fig.1-21 shows that Australian and New Zealand born migrants have similar marital status profiles. For example, both have similar proportions that are married (around 46 per cent), and never married/single (around 36 per cent). In contrast, most other migrants are married. For example, the Italian population is mostly married (71.2 per cent), very few are single (5.3 per cent) and a significant portion (15.1 per cent) are widowed. These characteristics reflect the older profile of the Italian population and are also evident in the Greek population.

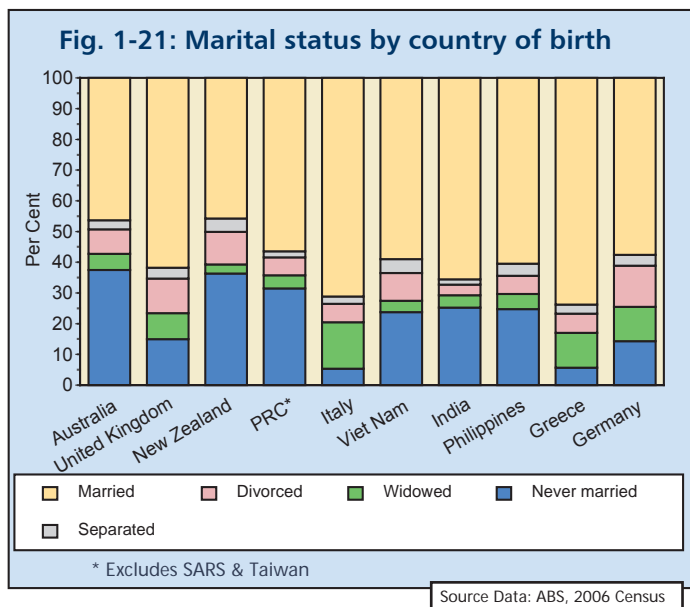


Fig. 1-22 shows the proportion of the population with one, two and three or more children by country of birth for Australia and the top seven migrant groups. People from PRC have the highest incidence of one child (23.9 per cent) and no child (39.4 per cent) families. In contrast, only 15.7 per cent of those born in Italy have one child or none and 19.8 per cent have four children or more. In the top seven migrant groups, Viet Nam has the highest proportion with six children or more (5.0 per cent).

Fig. 1-23 shows the number of children in the family by religion. Those with 'no religion', Buddhism and Hinduism have the highest proportion with no children (above 37 per cent), while Muslims had the highest proportion of having six or more children (5.1 per cent).

Of the top 15 birthplaces, Fig.1-24 shows that migrants from Viet Nam, Philippines, Lebanon and Sri Lanka had

the highest average household sizes of four people. Those from Italy, UK, Greece, Germany and the Netherlands had the lowest average household sizes of only two people.

Fig. 1-25 shows overwhelmingly that most people have internet access at home be it dial up, broadband or wireless. Access to the internet was highest for those born in India, South Africa and Malaysia, and lowest for those from Italy and Greece.

Fig. 1-26 shows the proportion of the population 15 years of age and over who volunteer. As can be seen, migrants from English speaking countries such as USA, Canada, UK and New Zealand are more likely to be involved in volunteering activities than those from a non English speaking country such as PRC, Viet Nam and India. The low proportion of volunteers from Italian and Greek born is possibly due to their older age profile.

