

# Immigration to the states

## State distribution of population

Based on the 2006 Census, over three quarters of Australia's population lived in three states: New South Wales (35.2 per cent), Victoria (26.6 per cent) and Queensland (15.8 per cent). The remainder lived in Western Australia (12.0 per cent), South Australia (7.0 per cent), Tasmania (1.1 per cent), the Australian Capital Territory (1.6 per cent) and the Northern Territory (0.6 per cent).

## Distribution of overseas-born by state

At the 2006 Census, over three quarters of the overseas-born resided in three states, New South Wales (1 555 842 persons), Victoria (1 173 204 persons) and Queensland (699 448 persons). New South Wales, followed by Victoria, has the largest proportion of overseas-born people in its population, as shown in Fig. 8-1.

People from the UK form the largest migrant group in every state and territory, ranging from a low of 17.1 per cent of overseas-born persons in New South Wales to 44.7 per cent in Tasmania.

Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia have high proportions of New Zealand citizens (21.3, 12.4 and 8.9 per cent respectively); South Australia and Victoria have above average proportions of Italian settlers (7.3 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively) while the Northern Territory has a relatively high proportion of settlers from the Philippines (7.0 per cent).

## State population growth

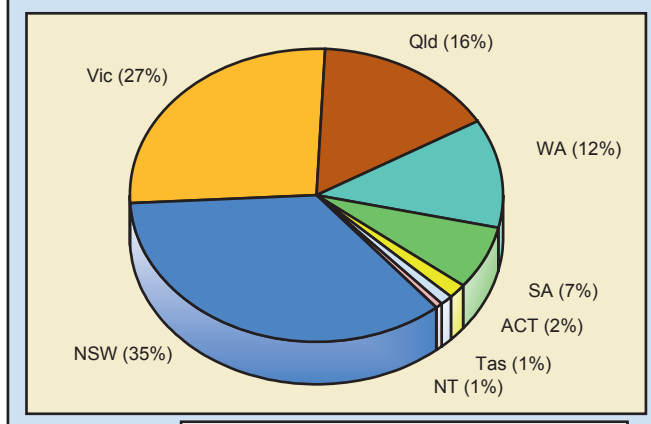
All state and territory population estimates have increased in the 12 months to June 2007.

Western Australia and Queensland had the highest growth rates (2.3 and 2.2 per cent respectively). Tasmania had a population growth rate of 0.7 per cent which was lower than the national average of 1.5 per cent.

In 2006-07 net overseas migration was the major component of population growth in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and Queensland. New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania experienced loss of population through interstate migration.

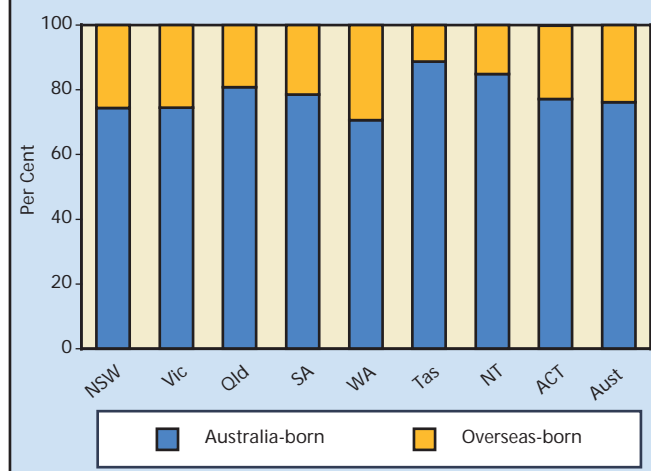
the difference between total population growth and the sum of natural increase, net overseas migration and net interstate migration is due to intercensal discrepancy.

**Fig. 8-1: Overseas-born population by state, 2006 Census**



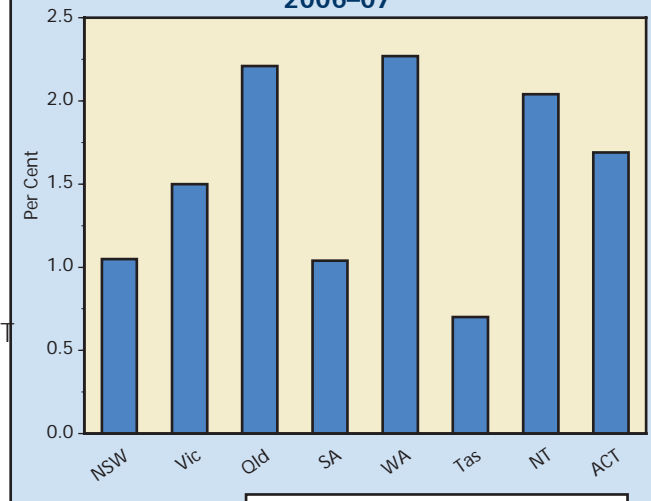
Source Data: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

**Fig. 8-2: Composition of state populations by birthplace, 2006 Census**



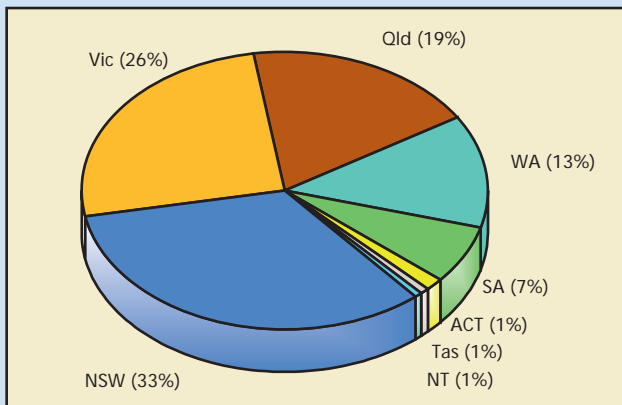
Source Data: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

**Fig. 8-3: Population growth rate by state 2006-07**



Source Data: ABS Demographic Statistics (3101.0)

**Fig. 8-4: Permanent additions by state, 2006-07**



Source Data: Permanent Additions, DIAC

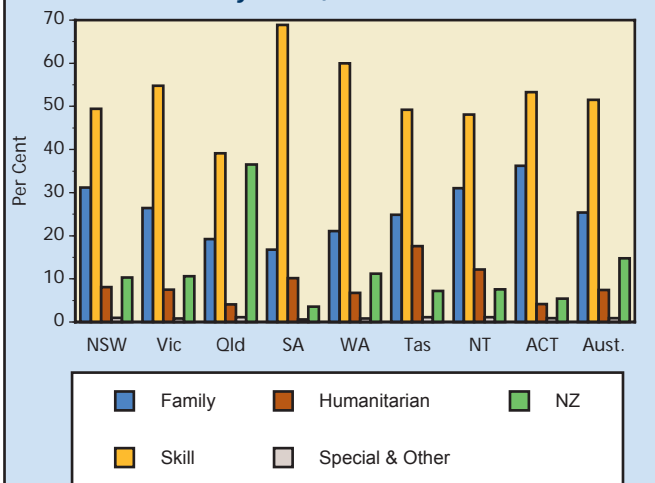
## Immigration to the states

The data used to describe immigration to states is referred to as permanent additions. Permanent additions to Australia's resident population is the sum of permanent arrivals (settlers) and permanent onshore visa outcomes in both the Migration and Humanitarian programs. On arrival in Australia, permanent additions are asked to indicate the state or territory in which they intend to settle, although they are free to settle where they wish and may subsequently change their intended place of settlement. For those granted permanent visas onshore intended state of residence is taken from visa processing information.

In 2006-07, the permanent additions in each state or territory (with the percentage of total permanent additions in brackets) was:

New South Wales	63 436 persons	(33.1 per cent)
Victoria	48 861 persons	(25.5 per cent)
Queensland	35 607 persons	(18.6 per cent)
Western Australia	25 185 persons	(13.2 per cent)
South Australia	13 037 persons	(6.8 per cent)
Australian Capital Territory	2763 persons	(1.4 per cent)
Tasmania	1394 persons	(0.7 per cent)
Northern Territory	1182 persons	(0.6 per cent)

**Fig. 8-5: Permanent additions by migration stream by state, 2006-07**



Source Data: Permanent Additions, DIAC

Of the permanent additions in 2006-07, more were female than male (51.6 and 48.4 per cent respectively). This was true of all states and territories. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of women (57.1 per cent).

## Permanent additions by migration stream

The composition of the permanent additions intake within each state and territory can vary greatly in terms of the migration stream. The proportions of Family, Skill and Humanitarian arrivals to total permanent additions in Australia were 25.4, 51.5 and 7.4 per cent respectively. The remainder was made up of non-program migration, mainly New Zealand citizens. In 2006-07, the Australian Capital Territory received the highest proportion of Family migrants (36.2 per cent) to all permanent additions in any state or territory. Relative to the other states and territories, Queensland and South Australia received the lowest proportions of Family migrants (19.2 per cent and 16.8 per cent respectively). The highest proportion of Skill Stream permanent additions was in South Australia (68.9 per cent) and the lowest was in Queensland (39.1 per cent). A very high proportion of permanent additions in Queensland were New Zealand citizens (36.5 per cent).

## Labour force profile (settler arrivals)

In 2006-07, the proportion of migrants who were in employment prior to arrival was highest in Queensland at 48.9 per cent, followed by Victoria (46.4 per cent). Tasmania, with 36.3 per cent, attracted the lowest proportion of migrants in employment prior to arrival.

Queensland received the lowest proportion of migrants not in employment prior to arrival, (1.9 per cent were reported as in the labour force but not in employment). Tasmania received the highest proportion of migrants not in employment prior to arrival (5.6 per cent).

## Source countries

The top three source countries for permanent additions to Australia as a whole, in 2006-07, were the UK, New Zealand, and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC).

For the individual states and territories the top three source countries were:

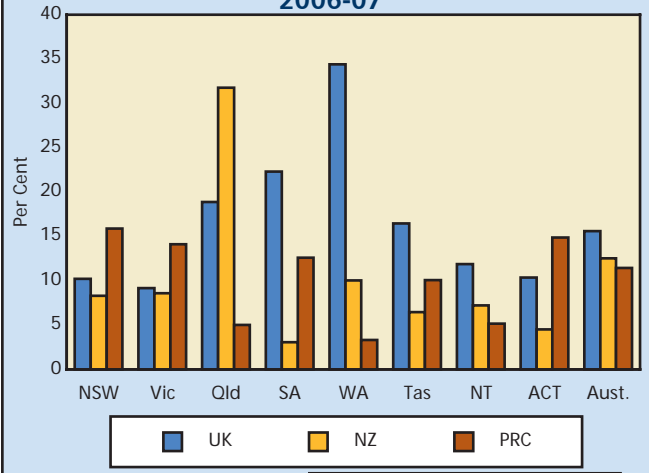
- NSW – the PRC (10 039 persons), India (7388 persons) and the UK (6461 persons)
- Vic – India (7679 persons), the PRC (6870 persons) and UK (4452 persons)
- Qld – New Zealand (11 280 persons), the UK (6708 persons) and PRC (1780 persons)
- SA – the UK (2897 persons), India (1901 persons) and the PRC (1636 persons)
- WA – the UK (8618 persons), New Zealand (2518 persons) and South Africa (1603 persons)
- Tas – the UK (229 persons), PRC (140 persons), and New Zealand (90 persons)
- NT – UK (138 persons), the Philippines (135 persons), and New Zealand (84 persons) and
- ACT – the PRC (406 persons), India (302 persons), and the UK (283 persons).

**Fig. 8-6: Labour force profile prior to arrival of settlers by state, 2006-07**



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIAC

**Fig. 8-7: Distribution by state of Australia's top 3 source countries for total permanent additions 2006-07**



Source Data: Permanent Additions, DIAC