



Australian Government
**Department of Immigration
and Citizenship**

Population flows

Immigration aspects
2007–08 edition



Population flows: Immigration aspects
2007-08

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The department's website at www.immi.gov.au contains this publication as well as a wide variety of additional information on departmental activities.

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Foreword



Australia today is recognised internationally as one of the world's most culturally diverse nations, with a unique blend of indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, and generations of migrants, all of whom bring a wealth of benefits to our communities.

In order for us to continue to grow as a nation, it is my responsibility as the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to decide how immigration can best be managed. These are not easy decisions. Many factors need to be considered and situations change over time.

Each year, skilled migrants make up the bulk of our migration program. Our intake of skilled workers has steadily increased over the last decade to meet the chronic skills shortages experienced by a range of industries throughout Australia as the economy prospered. However, with the emergence of the global financial crisis in recent times and uncertainty about its impact on our own economy, Australia's migration program must be carefully considered.

As has long-been the case, the Government determines the immigration targets according to the economic circumstances of the day. In light of the global financial crisis the Rudd Government reviewed the Skilled Migration program late in 2008 in consultation with business and industry, and state and territory governments. The overwhelming message is that we need to maintain a Skilled Migration program but one that is more targeted.

In December 2008, the Government announced changes to the 2008-09 skilled migration program that will ensure it is driven by the needs of industry and targets skills that are in high demand. The changes mean that skilled migrants who have a confirmed job or are in occupations on a critical skills list will be fast-tracked and given priority for a permanent visa to come to Australia.

While these changes impact on the program in the short-term, it is my view that there are other major long-term concerns which also need to be considered. As *Population flows: Immigration aspects* demonstrates, Australia is undergoing extensive demographic change as the labour force ages, baby boomers look to retirement and record

numbers of Australians emigrate overseas. A robust, well-managed immigration program, with a continued emphasis on skills, is an essential element to address these challenges.

Population flows: Immigration aspects provides a complete and comprehensive picture of Australia's immigration programs. There is detailed information on the composition, size and operation of Australia's Migration, Temporary Entry and Humanitarian Programs. There are assessments of migrant outcomes such as labour market performance and citizenship rates. There are reports on the range of settlement services offered to our migrants – services that help them achieve their full potential in a new society. There is also extensive information on migration flows to the states and territories.

Understanding migration is vital because of the profound effects it has on the composition, culture and evolution of our society. We are all aware of Australia's changing face over the 63 years since the first immigration program was introduced. Today, with migrants accounting for almost 60 per cent of our nation's population growth, we can be assured that immigration will continue to play a major role in shaping our society for many years to come.

I commend any publication which adds to our understanding of this important topic, something that *Population flows* does admirably.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Evans'.

CHRIS EVANS
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
February 2009

Key Statistics: 2007-08

Population	
Estimated Resident Population of Australia (<i>as at 30 June 2008</i>)	21 374 000
Australia-born population (<i>2006 census</i>)	14 072 949
Overseas-born population (<i>2006 census</i>)	4 416 029
<i>Major English Speaking Countries (MESC)</i>	1 675 320
<i>Non-English Speaking Countries (NESC)</i>	2 740 709
Natural increase	145 495
Net Overseas Migration (NOM)	213 461

Migration	
Permanent migrants	173 294
Migration program	158 630
<i>Skill Stream</i>	108 540
<i>Family Stream</i>	49 870
<i>Special Eligibility</i>	220
New Zealand citizens	1 650
Humanitarian	13 014
Temporary entrants	4 197 360
<i>Visitors (Offshore)</i>	3 609 930
<i>Overseas students</i>	278 180
<i>Working Holiday</i>	154 150
<i>Business long stay</i>	110 570
<i>Other</i>	44 530

Emigration	
Number of people left Australia permanently	76 923
<i>Australia-born departed</i>	39 144
<i>Overseas-born departed</i>	37 779

Citizenship	
No. of people conferred Australian citizenship at ceremonies	121 221
No. of people approved as citizens <i>by conferral, descent and resumption</i>	107 662

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