

Welcome to Issue 80 of *Research Matters*, the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning's quarterly planning research bulletin, featuring DELWP research and analysis, news about recently released data, and research from other sources. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact us at:

forwardpolicy.research@delwp.vic.gov.au

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In this issue...

In this issue we present research and analysis from the Land Use and Population Research team.

The first article examines the role that interstate migration has played in Victoria's recent strong population growth. Using data that spans more than 30 years, the article is able to present a comprehensive overview of the ups and downs of this important factor in demographic change.

The second article presents information about the new mobilities perspective which has emerged from academia over the past decade. This perspective highlights the complexity and scale of modern movements, both physical and virtual.

Continuing our census 2016 series, the final article takes a look at ageing and finds that, as we live longer, age 60 is not what it used to be. The article highlights the activities and service needs of this important, and growing, segment of the population.

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Interstate migration – a hidden factor in Victoria’s growth?

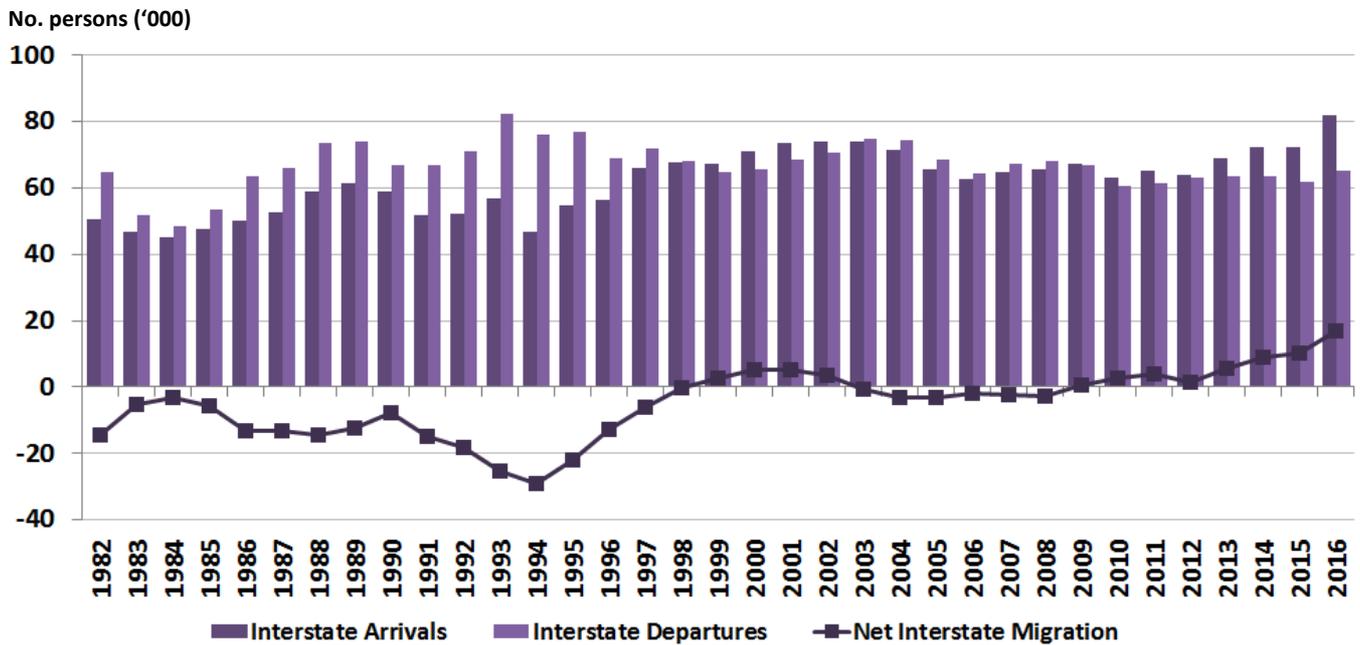


Figure 1: Interstate migration flows, Victoria 1982 to 2016
 Source: ABS cat 3101.0

Population growth involves migration and natural increase (the difference between births and deaths). Over the past decade, Victoria’s growth has been driven by both these factors. In terms of migration, net overseas migration often garners much attention, however, recent trends in interstate migration are also notable.

Two decades ago, in the year ending June 1994, Victoria experienced a net loss of nearly 30,000 people to other parts of Australia (figure 1). At that time, Australia was in the midst of an economic recession that was felt more strongly in Victoria than elsewhere. Major restructuring across public and private sectors was occurring while investment in the construction sector slumped.

However since that time we have seen a significant turnaround in the trend. Through the 2000s the net difference between inflows and outflows had shifted with net figures ranging from -3,000 to +5,000 persons and, from 2010, the trend moved strongly into positive territory.

By 2016, the net gain to Victoria from interstate was higher than it had been since the nineteenth century. Around 82,000 persons arrived from interstate and 65,000 moved interstate, making the net difference a gain of 17,000.

In terms of flows, the largest numbers move between Victoria-NSW and Victoria-Qld, however the net gain to Victoria is much higher from NSW (5,800) than from Queensland (1,000). Net gains from South Australia (3,700) and Western Australia (3,900) are also notable (figure 2).

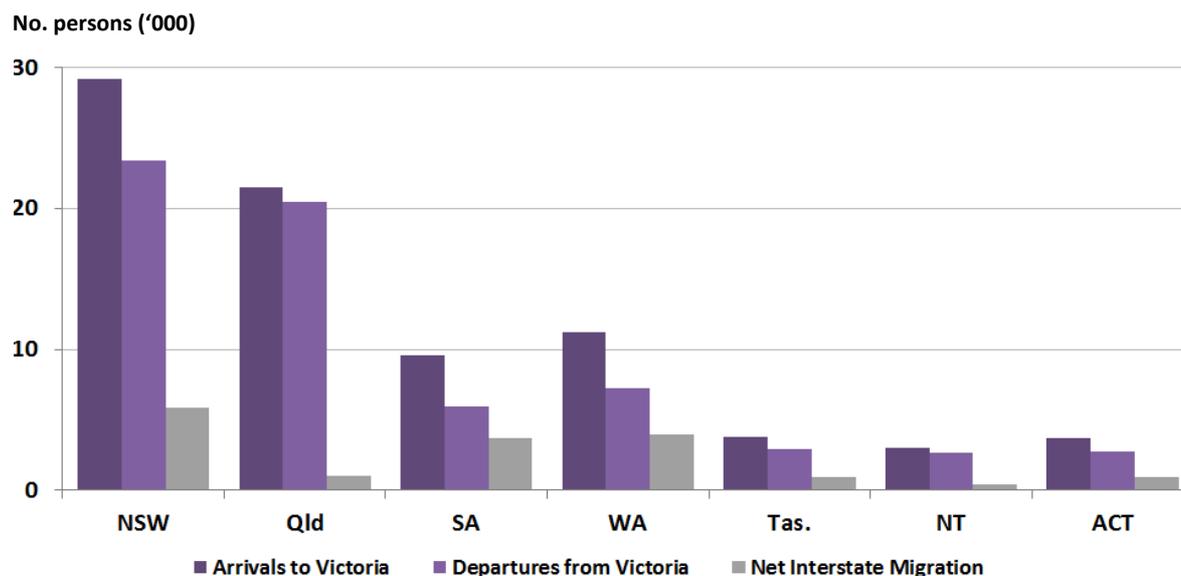


Figure 2: Source and destination of flows between Victoria and interstate in the year to 30 June 2016

Source: ABS cat 3101.0

Mobilities research conference

The inaugural conference of the Australian Mobilities (AusMob) Network was held at the University of Melbourne on 7-8 December. Modern mobilities research is much more than migration or transport studies. It extends to the complex web of virtual and physical mobilities which are changing the ways in which we interact. A key feature of this approach is seeing the world in terms of flows of movement rather than fixed objects or permanency.

New types of virtual travel are being combined with physical travel in unexpected ways, changing the experience of places and the nature of social networks. People can be in multiple locations simultaneously through physical and virtual presence. Not only people, but objects are on the move. The objects of modern life have often come from elsewhere or contain components from multiple locations.

Complex relationships have emerged between the local and global and this has challenged traditional views about space and place. For example, traditional migration analysis has tended to see the world in terms of permanent movements from point A to B. Yet there are interplays of movements that occur in conjunction, or in parallel, with this type of migration. For example, a school leaver in regional Victoria is likely to relocate to Melbourne for higher education. Yet ties with the home location may remain and,

during the course of attaining higher education, there may be multiple temporary moves back and forth for weekend visits or term holidays as well as virtual contact through social media. Even where an entire household moves from one location to another, there may be multiple movements among individual members as they commute to new or former locations and visit new or existing friends and family in multiple locations.

A focus on mobility challenges previous concepts of space and place used in regional science, geography and, sociology. Stay tuned for some more perspectives on this emerging field in *Research Matters* during 2018.

Further reading:

Adey, P. 2006, If mobility is everything then it is nothing: towards a relational politics of immobilities, *Mobilities*, 1(1): 75-94.

Cresswell, T. 2011, Mobilities I: catching up, *Progress in Human Geography*, 35(4): 550-558.

Dodge, M. and Kitchin, R. 2005, Code and the transduction of space, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 95(1): 162-180.

Sheller, M. and Urry, J. 2006, The new mobilities paradigm, *Environment and Planning A*, 38(2): 207-226.

“60 is the new 50”: a census profile of our active seniors

While it is a truism to say that we are all getting older (by one year every year), the ageing of the population refers to the increasing number and/or proportion of older people in the population. In 1981 there were 526,000 Victorians aged 60 years and over, representing 14% of the State’s population (figure 1). By the time of the 2016 census this had risen to 1.2 million people who comprised 21 percent of the population. By 2051, this is projected to have risen to 2.7 million (27%).

The structural ageing of the Victorian population is caused by factors at each end of the age spectrum. Since the 1970s, fertility rates have fallen meaning that women are having, on average, fewer children

than in the past. Over time, this can create a decline in the proportion of young people in the population. For those in middle and older age, life expectancy has increased greatly over the past century through preventative measures (e.g. dietary and fitness awareness; decline of smoking; safety campaigns) and medical advances (e.g. pharmaceuticals; monitoring and diagnosis; disease treatments). Survival rates for Victorians are shown in figure 2 and these highlight the proportion of people now surviving into older age. More than 90 percent of our population survive to age 60 compared to less than 50 percent in the late nineteenth century.

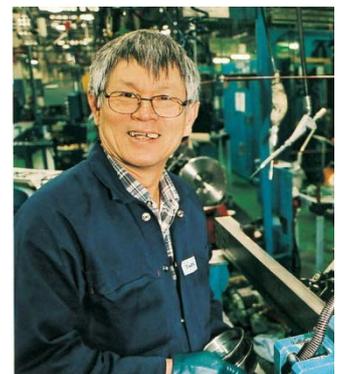
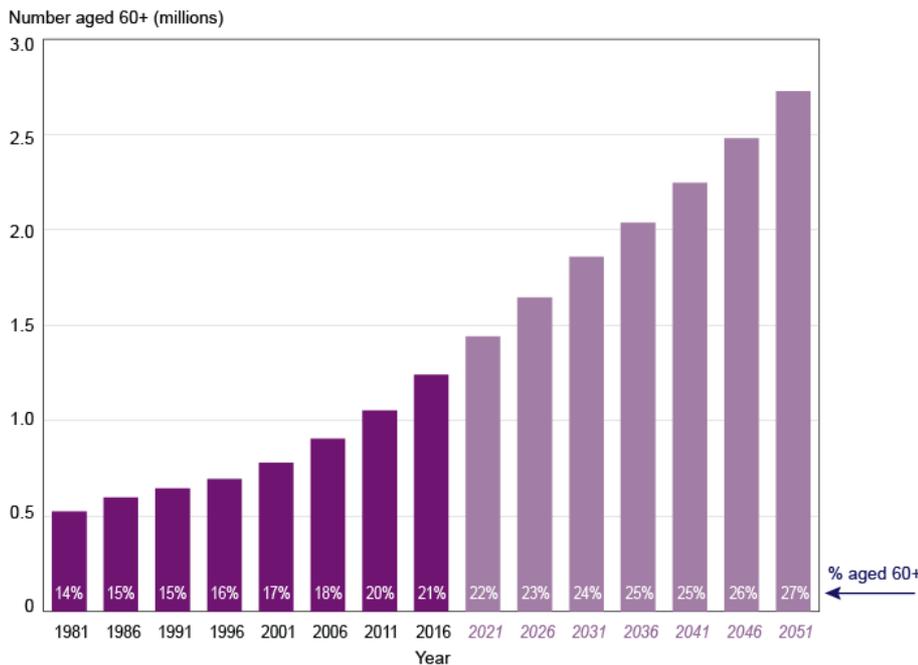


Figure 1: Number and proportion of Victorians aged 60 years and over, 1981 to 2016 (actual) and 2021 to 2051 (projected)

Sources: SAR unpublished time-series database 1981-2001 based on enumerated census data; ABS census 2016 time-series profile based on usual residence; Victoria in Future 2016 population projections

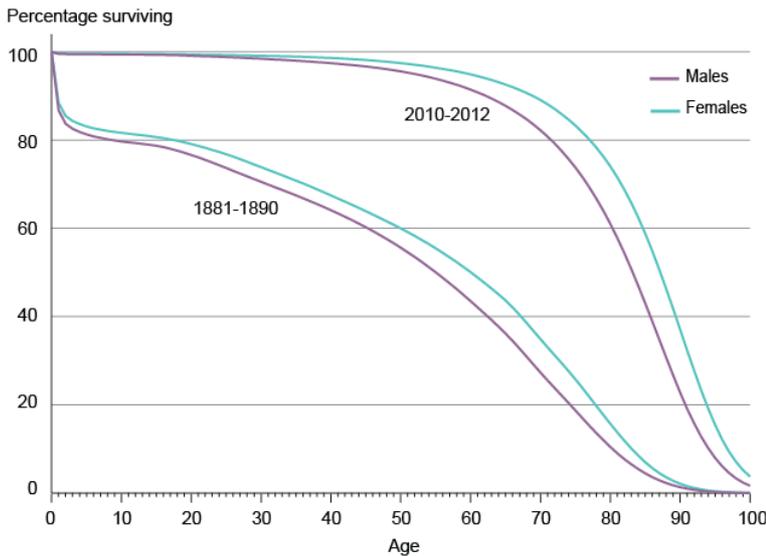


Figure 2: Survival curves* for Victorian males and females, 1881-1890 and 2010-2012

Source: ABS Australian Historical Population Statistics 2014, 3105.0.65.001

* *Survival curves* are developed from *life tables* and show the number of people surviving each year of life presented as a proportion of the total starting population.

According to the 2016 census there were 1.2 million Victorians aged 60 years and over. Of this group:

- 254,000 (20%) were in lone person households;
- 232,500 (21%) reported having volunteered during the year prior to the Census;
- 189,400 reported having some level of unpaid child caring duties with 173,000 (16%) caring for others' children; and,
- 10,500 were undertaking full-time or part-time study.

Although 187,300 reported needing assistance with core activities, this represents only 16% of the age group – 84% of those aged 60 plus do not require such assistance. This reflects the increasing life expectancy of our population and the fact that much of this longer life span comprises many years of good health. Census data shows the number of people reporting a need for assistance with core tasks; figure 3 shows that, in 2016, the proportion reporting a need for assistance reached 25% only by age 80, after which it rises more rapidly.

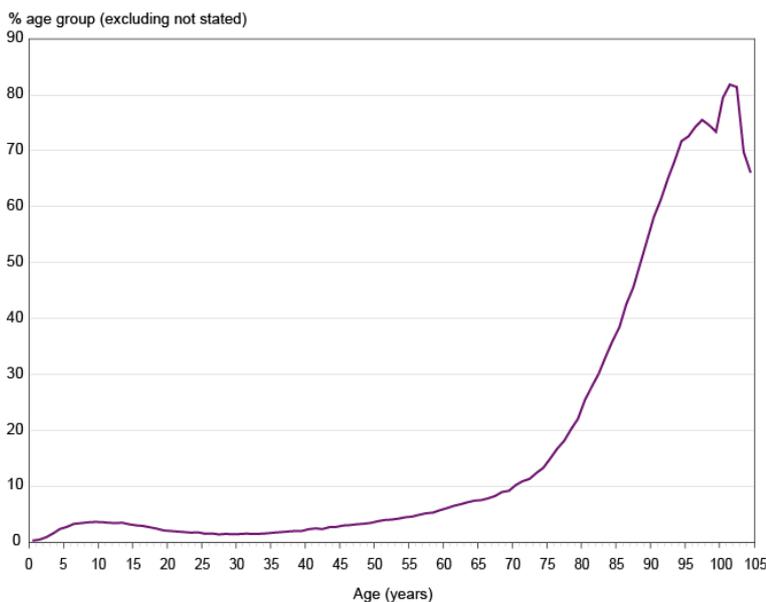


Figure 3: Need for assistance by single year of age, Victoria, 2016

Source: ABS census 2016

