

Research matters

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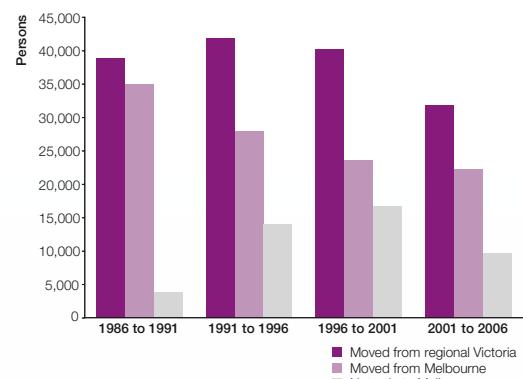
Going to town: youth migration from regional Victoria

For many years, a greater number of young people have been moving from regional Victoria to metropolitan Melbourne than in the opposite direction. This pattern has been attributed to the concentration of employment and education opportunities in Melbourne.

In 2006, for the first time in 20 years, the census showed a decrease in net movement of young people between regional Victoria and Melbourne. As the chart shows, this shift was predominantly due to a drop in the number of people moving from regional Victoria to Melbourne. The other component of net migration — the number of people making the move in the opposite direction (from Melbourne to regional Victoria) — remained relatively steady.

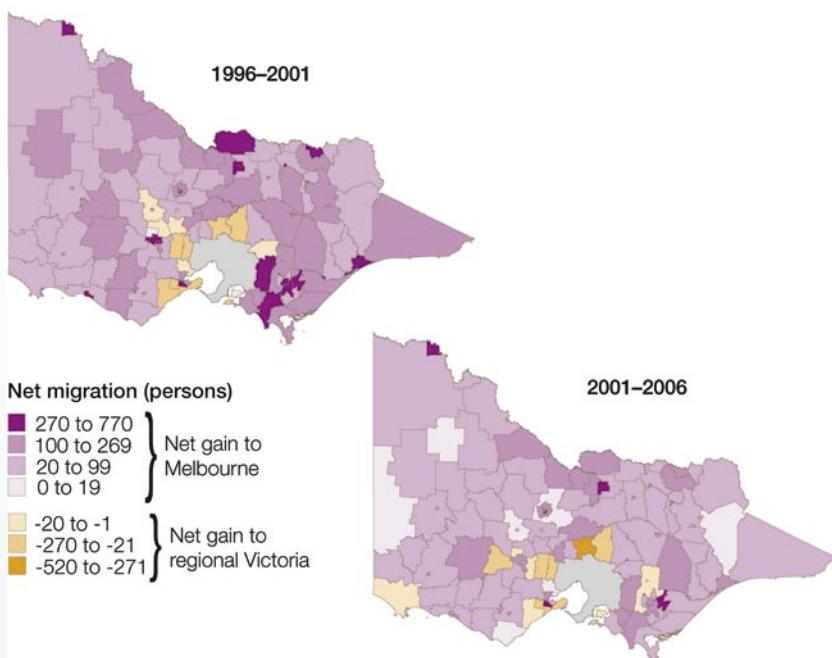
The late 1980s and the 1990s were characterised by a steady flow of young people into Melbourne, with large decreases in the number of young people

Migration flows of young people (15-34 years) between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria



Source: Unpublished migration data, DPCD, based on ABS Censuses, 1986–2006

Net migration of 15–34 year olds to metropolitan Melbourne from regional Victoria's Statistical Local Areas



Source: Unpublished migration data, DPCD, based on ABS Censuses, 1996–2006

moving out of Melbourne to regional Victoria, causing successive increases in net migration to Melbourne. The reduction in numbers of young people leaving Melbourne across this period was likely due to a combination of later family formation and growth in the 'knowledge economy'.

Declining numbers of young people in many parts of regional Victoria have played a role in this recent reduction in net migration. This reduction means that even without any changes in young people's propensity to move to Melbourne, total out-migration from regional Victoria would be expected to decrease due to a reduction in the available pool of young people. A range of other factors, including low unemployment rates, the increasing attractiveness of regional centres and the rising cost of tertiary education, may also have contributed to the reduction of migration to Melbourne.

Interestingly, the spatial patterns of net migration to Melbourne in the five years to 2001 and 2006 were similar. Areas experiencing a net gain of young people from Melbourne were largely concentrated around the edges of Melbourne and along the Surf Coast. However, most Statistical Local Areas continued to experience a net loss of young people to Melbourne.

Fertility matters

High on the list of must haves for the *Victoria in Future 2008* population projections is a well informed fertility assumption. To this end it is necessary to review current fertility trends. Here are some recent observations of two popular measures of fertility and the different interpretations they bring.

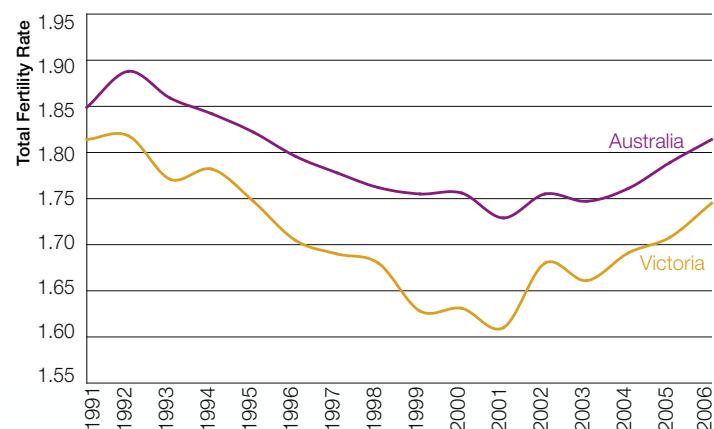
Fertility may be on the rise...

The downward trend in total fertility rates¹ across the 1990s has turned around and is seemingly on the rise after it reached its lowest point in recent decades in 2001. In 2006, Victoria's total fertility rate rose to 1.75 and Australia's rose to 1.81. Neither rate had been as high for more than ten years. While the press names the Baby Bonus as a key player in recent rises, this theory has not yet been adequately tested. Many of our Baby Boomers' children are now themselves of childbearing age (including those women born in 1971, Victoria's peak year for births), and this has contributed to the increased rate — as a secondary echo of the original boom.

On the other hand...

Another measure of fertility is 'completed fertility' or the average number of children born to women aged 40–44 years. The 2006 Census included the question 'For each female, how many babies has she ever had?' (it is currently in every second census). This allowed the calculation of completed fertility for 2006. In 2006, Australian women aged 40–44 had 2.05 children on average compared with 2.23 children in 1996 and 2.78 children in 1981. This shows completed fertility continuing 'its long term decline over the decade to 2006' (Heard, 2007, p. 3).

Total Fertility Rate, 1991–2006



Sources: ABS, 2002, *Demography, Victoria*, Cat. No. 3311.2.55.001; ABS, 2006, *Births, Australia*, Cat. No. 3301.0

1 Represents the number of children a woman would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life

Reference

Heard, G., 2007, 'Boom or gloom? Cohort fertility data from the 2006 Census', *People and Place*, Issue 3, Volume 15.

Mobile populations: focus on Queenscliff



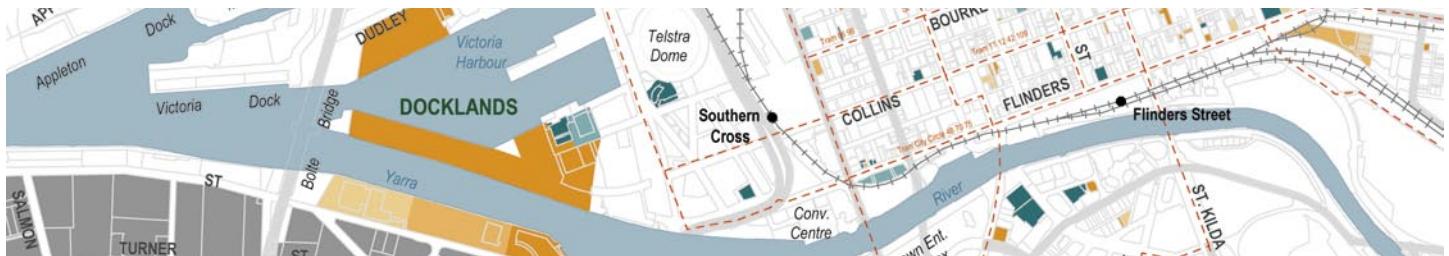
Last year *Research Matters* presented findings from a series of studies Spatial Analysis and Research initiated on the theme of mobile populations. These included the coastal population fluctuations study, which examined the scale and impact of peak populations on Phillip Island and Torquay, and the Mansfield study of non-resident ratepayers. Building on the Mansfield study methodology, Spatial Analysis and Research, in partnership with the Borough of Queenscliff and Sweeney Research, is undertaking a ratepayer survey in the Borough in June 2008.

The Borough of Queenscliff has a relatively small population — just 3,017 usual residents in 2006. The number of ratepayers is similar with around half having their main residence outside the municipality.

Following the model of the Mansfield study, these non-residents will be asked questions about their relationship with Queenscliff: how often they visit, whether they intend to move permanently to the location in the future and the degree to which they are involved in the local community. Unlike the Mansfield study, this study will also survey Queenscliff's residents, providing a benchmark against which non-resident responses can be compared. The resident survey will also ask whether they own second homes outside the Borough.

Following processing of responses, the findings of this study will be available online and a summary provided in *Research Matters*. For further information, email fiona.mckenzie@dpcd.vic.gov.au.

Urban Development Program (UDP): A new report and a new round of consultations underway



"Industry and professional bodies alike have recognised the contribution the UDP makes to monitoring adequacy of land and implementing Melbourne 2030." Minister for Planning, Foreword, *UDP 2007 Annual Report*

The *Urban Development Program 2007 Annual Report* was released in April by the Premier of Victoria. The Urban Development Program (UDP) provides a yearly assessment of available land stocks for industrial and broad hectare residential developments and for proposed major housing redevelopments in Melbourne and the Geelong region.

The *UDP 2007* report used preliminary population estimates from the 2006 Census to revise its assessment of the adequacy of land stocks to service future population growth, finding total supply of residential land in Growth Areas would service around 15 more years of population growth under current conditions. This revision was based on identified land supply and the interim population projections from Spatial Analysis and Research (based on 2006 Census data). The 2007 report also found that there is more than 25 years' supply of industrial land across Melbourne's five industrial nodes. In the Geelong region, industrial and residential land supplies were both at over 25 years.

The maps from the *UDP 2007* report are available online:

www.dse.vic.gov.au/udp. From this page, click on link 'Urban Development Program website' on left of the page to download your free copy of the report. The *UDP 2007 Annual Report* is also available in hard copy (for \$30), which can be ordered online from www.bookshop.vic.gov.au or purchased from Information Victoria, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, ph. 1300 366 356. For a CD ROM version of the report, which includes five large wall maps, base data files and spatial information in various GIS formats, email urbandevelopment.program@dpcd.vic.gov.au.

With the 2007 edition published, the UDP team is now undertaking the consultations and data collection necessary to support the 2008 edition. Consultations involve developers, local government and key infrastructure providers.

Café Society revisited

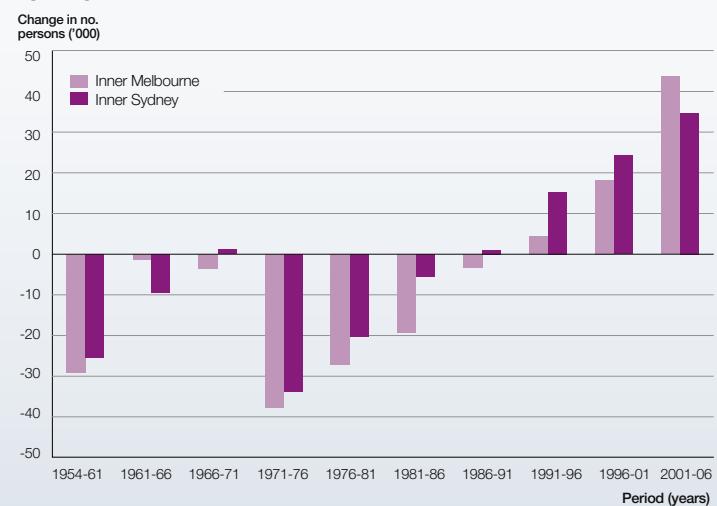
Ten years ago, after the release of the 1996 Census, Spatial Analysis and Research published a report entitled *From Doughnut City to Café Society*. This report (and accompanying video) referred to a remarkable turnaround in Melbourne's inner city: that, for the first time in one hundred years, its population was increasing. Many drivers of change were suggested. Economic drivers included strong growth in higher order business services, which often sought a central location, and government and big business outsourcing practices. Cultural drivers were also significant with people using the inner city in different ways and expressing new housing choices. Public sector policies also successfully encouraged and facilitated new inner city development. Southbank, Beacon Cove, and Docklands were all icons of this turnaround.

Many of these drivers were national and international in scope. The centres of other Australian cities also experienced a renaissance. Overseas, tired old cities such as London and New York City experienced a wave of interest and investment that led to population and employment growth at their hearts.

The 2006 Census shows that inner city populations of Australia's major cities have continued to grow and are doing so even more quickly. Total employment in inner Melbourne has increased by over 60,000 jobs in the last ten years.

This growth challenges all involved with planning in our inner cities. There is intense competition for land and the impacts of more residents, workers and visitors all contribute to demands on a city's infrastructure and services.

Change in the populations of inner Melbourne and inner Sydney, 1954–2006



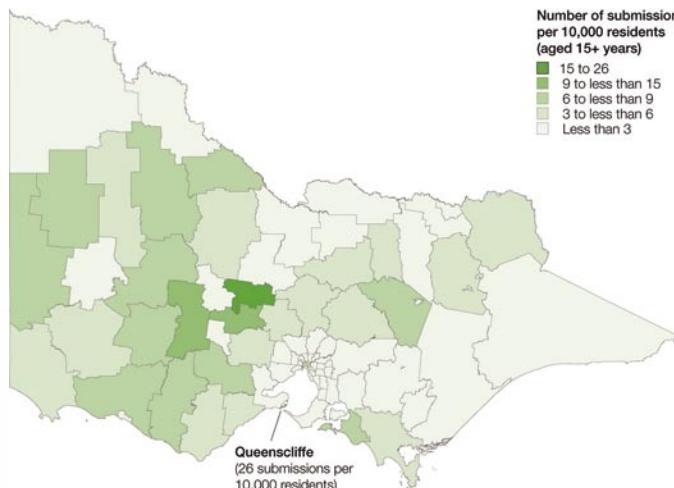
Graduating to Spatial Analysis and Research

Christabel McCarthy joined Spatial Analysis and Research's Sustainability Analysis Unit in February 2008 as part of the Victorian State Government's graduate program. The program exposes graduates to the variety and breadth of work undertaken by public servants – with graduates rotating through three different departments in their first year. You may run into Christabel in the Department of Premier and Cabinet or the Department of Human Services in the coming months, before she returns to us next year.

Having studied ecology and urban systems while at university, Christabel was put to work analysing public submissions to the Department of Sustainability and Environment's *Land and Biodiversity at a Time of Climate Change: White Paper*. With an eye to the interests of the Department of Planning and Community Development, she explored the range of land use planning and community issues that were raised by these submissions. She mapped the different levels of community participation in this consultation process, based

on the number of submissions by Local Government Area (LGA).

Submission rates to *Land and Biodiversity at a Time of Climate Change: White Paper*, by LGA



Sources: DSE, 2007, unpublished data; ABS, 2006, Census of Population and Housing

Christabel's analysis showed that, when weighted for population, submission rates were generally highest in regional and rural Local Government Areas in the State's west — a reflection of the stake the largely farming-based communities have in land management issues. These regions also house some of the state's highly valued parks and natural areas.

While with the branch Christabel has also been learning about census data analysis, undertaking training, and working with other graduates on a research project about climate change action groups in Victoria.

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What's new online

www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional

- Preliminary *Towns in Time* and *Suburbs in Time* data on population and dwellings change are now available, with the full data sets coming on line very soon. Please note preliminary data are subject to change as a result of final validation processes. To download available data, visit our main page (see URL above) and follow the links under 'What's new'.
- The December 2007 edition of the *Residential Land Bulletin* is now available. This quarterly publication provides information on pipeline indicators for residential development in metropolitan Melbourne. To download follow the links to the *Residential Land Bulletin* from our main page (see URL above). The *Residential Land Bulletin* is also available in hard copy format on request (tel. 03 9637 9441).

