



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services

# Pathways to participation for migrants Productivity Commission Inquiry Migrant Intake into Australia



Submission June 2015

# Productivity Commission Inquiry: Migrant Intake into Australia

## Introduction

Australia's Migration Programme has been fundamental to Australia's social and economic development.

The Migration Programme is complemented by Australia's Humanitarian Programme which enables Australia to meet important international obligations and contribute to international efforts to protect and resettle refugees.

Overwhelmingly, Australia's Migration Programme has contributed positively to the economic and social wellbeing of all Australians. It has contributed both in the short term and in the long term to important societal outcomes at the individual, family and community level.

Successive Australian governments have implemented a structured and managed programme which has aimed to maximise the economic and social benefits of the migrant intake for all Australians.

At the 2011 Census, 26 per cent of Australia's population was born overseas and a further 20 per cent had at least one parent who was born overseas. Australia identifies with around 300 ancestries.

While the focus of the programmes has changed over time in response to changing conditions and needs, such as the increased focus on skilled migration in recent years, the key to Australia's highly successful migration programme has been due to its balanced and planned approach (providing for skilled and family migration) and its focus on attributes (including age, skills, English language proficiency, family connections).

Australia is a stable society with high levels of social cohesion. This is in part a result of a well-planned migration programme and efforts by successive governments to consolidate and promote the benefits of a diverse multicultural population. Ongoing efforts have been made to address social cohesion, racism and discrimination through targeted programmes. International tensions can also have negative impacts at both a national and local level.

The mission of the Department of Social Services (the Department) is to improve the lifetime wellbeing of people and families in Australia. Given this, the Department would stress the need for the Productivity Commission to give careful consideration to the likely impacts of any revised migration regime on the wellbeing of Australian families and communities and on Australian society more broadly.

The Productivity Commission is reviewing the benefits and costs arising from the intake of permanent and temporary migrants, is examining alternative methods, including visa fees, for determining intakes and is also considering the optimal interaction between permanent and temporary migration pathways.

While the Department does not have responsibility for the selection of those settling in Australia, any changes in selection processes, including the balance between temporary and permanent migrants, will have a direct impact on the Department's budget and clients.

This submission sets out the Context in which the Department operates. This includes:

- the scope of expenditure on social services;
- key considerations arising from the 2015 Intergenerational Report;
- sustainability of Australia's social welfare system; and
- the role and importance of Australia's Migration and Humanitarian Programmes.

The second part of this submission discusses a number of Issues for Consideration associated with any revision to Australia's migration intake, in the context of the Department's mission and long term policy interests. These interests apply to individuals and families as well as to communities, and are both short term and longer term in nature.

Issues for consideration include:

- Confidence in Australia's migration programme;
- Migrant skills and maintaining a skills-based approach;
- Family reunion;
- Settlement services and support;
- Demand for services, pressure on infrastructure and service planning;
- Welfare support – eligibility and impact; and
- Perceptions of fairness and social cohesion.

On the basis of the available information it is difficult to predict the likely or potential impact across the Department's policies and programmes of a migration intake based primarily on capacity to pay a visa application fee, rather than capacity to meet specific visa selection criteria.

The submission also includes a number of Appendices.

## Context

### Mission and role of the Department

The mission of the Department is to improve the lifetime wellbeing of people and families in Australia.

This mission is pursued through policies and programmes that support people and families to participate economically and socially in Australian society; enhance the independence and wellbeing of people with high needs; foster independence, participation, community cohesion and promote civil society; and provide a safety net for people who cannot fully support themselves.

The Department's responsibilities cover families and children, housing, community services, seniors, disability and carers, community mental health, women, ageing and aged care, disability employment services, working age and student payments, early childhood and childcare, settlement and multicultural services, and civil society and volunteering.

The Department has lead responsibility in the Commonwealth for social security policy and expenditure. In 2015-16 the Commonwealth will spend around \$154 billion<sup>1</sup> on social security and welfare – around 35 per cent<sup>2</sup> of the Commonwealth Budget. This includes financial assistance or services to seniors, families, people with disability, students, carers and the unemployed.

The Department delivers policies and programmes that support families; reform welfare; strengthen civil society; support senior Australians; boost housing and help the homeless; support vulnerable Australians; and support a diverse and harmonious society. Ensuring that external conditions are optimal so that people and families can access opportunities and control their own wellbeing is critical in counteracting behaviours that have a significant negative impact on improving lifetime wellbeing.

The Department also has specific responsibility for migrant settlement support. In addition to mainstream services, targeted support and services are provided to newly arrived refugees, as well as to eligible vulnerable migrants, in recognition of the particular needs and barriers faced by new arrivals. This assistance aims to facilitate settlement and the gaining of independence and self-reliance.

Australia is tracking well and compares well internationally on a number of indicators of wellbeing<sup>3</sup>. Australia ranks at the top in civic engagement and above the average in environmental quality, health status, housing, personal security, jobs and earnings, education and skills, subjective well-being and social connections.

### The Intergenerational Report

In March 2015, the Treasury released the 2015 Intergenerational Report<sup>4</sup>. The report, one in a series released every five years, assesses the long-term sustainability of current Government policies and how changes to Australia's population size and age profile may impact on economic growth, workforce and public finances over the next 40 years.

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<sup>1</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper No. 1 Page 5-27

<sup>2</sup> 2015-16 Budget Paper No.1 Page 5-13 Total Expenses \$434.5 billion in 2015-16

<sup>3</sup> OECD Better Life Index: <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/australia/>

<sup>4</sup> 2015 Intergenerational Report Overview: Australian in 2055. The Treasury, the Australian Government <http://www.treasury.gov.au/PublicationsAndMedia/Publications/2015/2015-Intergenerational-Report-Overview>

The Intergenerational Report provides analysis of the key drivers of economic growth – population, participation and productivity – and examines what projected changes in these areas mean for standard of living and public policy settings.

The report emphasises the strong economic growth that has underpinned improvements in income and quality of life for successive generations of Australians. The report highlights that an understanding of the three long-run drivers of economic growth in Australia - population, labour force participation and productivity - is required to inform the action governments must take in order to continue to build jobs, growth and opportunity into the future.

The report outlines a number of key developments over the next 40 years that will affect Australia's future prosperity including that Australians will live longer; the population is ageing; workforce participation will decline; and productivity growth will slow. These changes will require adjustments to policy settings and the measures put forward by successive governments to meet community demands and expectations.

Through this lens, Australia needs a balance of skilled and family migrants, as well as humanitarian entrants. These migrants provide workers who are skilled, self-reliant and job- and life-ready. Overall, migrants and humanitarian entrants are a relatively young cohort keen to settle in Australia, raise children, gain education and training and participate economically.

The level and composition of Australia's migration intake, as determined by the structure and operation of Australia's Migration and Humanitarian Programmes, will have a critical bearing on the capacity for Australia to meet the economic and social challenges raised in the Intergenerational Report.

## Sustainability of Australia's social welfare system

### Social welfare reform

Australia needs to maintain a sustainable social services and welfare system. This is a key focus for the Government and the Department.

Changes in Australia's demographic structure<sup>5</sup> are expected to put pressure on spending in many areas of social services. As the population ages, spending on pensions, health and aged care will increase.

Australia's social security system is different from the contributory systems that operate in many countries. Entitlement to Australian social security payments is not based on contributions or taxes paid in Australia. Rather, Australia's social security system is based on the concepts of residence and need, and payments are made from general revenue paid by current taxpayers. Further information is at Appendix A.

Over the next few years, all levels of government, the private sector and civil society will need to work together to ensure Australia has a sustainable and effective social support system, one that encourages mature age participation and reduces intergenerational welfare dependency.

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<sup>5</sup> 2015 Intergenerational Report Overview: Australian in 2055.

<http://www.treasury.gov.au/PublicationsAndMedia/Publications/2015/2015-Intergenerational-Report-Overview>.

In 2014, the Government undertook a review into how to make Australia's welfare system more sustainable, effective and coherent, while better encouraging people into employment. The final report<sup>6</sup> "A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes" was launched on 23 February 2015 by Patrick McClure and the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Scott Morrison MP.

The report proposes an integrated approach to welfare reform across four pillars of reform with an employment focus. The four pillars are: a simpler and sustainable income support system; strengthening individual and family capability; engaging with employers; and building community capacity.

The review determined that Australia's current welfare system - a product of decisions made over many years - is complex, difficult for clients to access and costly to administer. The review also determined that in many ways, the system does not accurately reflect current social norms, expectations and attitudes towards employment and self-reliance. The ageing of the Australian population and other demographic changes have also placed great pressure on our welfare system.

In response, the review recommended that government assistance should be directed towards supporting the most vulnerable Australians, while encouraging those who are able to work or study to do so.

The level and composition of Australia's migration intake, as determined by the structure and operation of Australia's Migration and Humanitarian Programmes, will have a critical bearing on future spending on social welfare in Australia. Any changes to current settings, particularly any changes which will weaken the focus on migrants based on key desirable attributes, are likely to impact on future social welfare expenditure and would need to be carefully considered.

### An Investment approach<sup>7</sup>

As highlighted above, a key aspect is to ensure welfare support is directed to those most in need.

Increasing consideration is being given in Australia, and elsewhere, to investment approaches in social policy development, which focus on reducing the costs associated with long term income support by targeting and investing in people's self-reliance and independence through early intervention.

The Government announced the implementation of an Investment Approach for Australia in the 2015-2016 Budget. Such an approach would provide an opportunity to invest in services and supports for those who are disadvantaged and at risk but have capacity to develop life readiness and engage in the workforce.

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<sup>6</sup> A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes: Report of the Reference Group on Welfare Reform to the Minister for Social Services, <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/review-of-australias-welfare-system/a-new-system-for-better-employment-and-social-outcomes-full-version-of-the-final-report>, Feb 2015, Commonwealth of Australia.

<sup>7</sup> A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes: Report of the Reference Group on Welfare Reform to the Minister for Social Services. Executive Summary. <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/review-of-australias-welfare-system/a-new-system-for-better-employment-and-social-outcomes-full-version-of-the-final-report>.

An Australian investment approach would reduce long term dependence on income support by targeting resources in order to maximise returns. In real terms this would increase people's self-reliance and reduce the lifetime liability of Australia's social support system.

The investment approach could be expected to improve the fiscal sustainability of the social support system over the long term.

There is a risk that any changes in the structure and operation of Australia's Migration and Humanitarian Programmes could work to act against or weaken the successful application of an investment approach.

## Australia's Migration and Humanitarian programmes and Australia's international obligations

Migration is intrinsic to Australia's national identity and has significantly contributed to Australia's population growth, economic growth and development. Migration has increased workforce participation rates and levels of productivity. It has also played a significant role in reuniting families and has allowed Australia to fulfil its international humanitarian obligations. The Department acknowledges the Overview of Australia's immigration arrangements outlined in the Productivity Commission's Inquiry paper (pp 4-16) including the data and information on different migrant categories and pathways.

The 2014 Migration Council of Australia report<sup>8</sup>, *The Economic Impact of Migration*, estimates that by 2050, migration will contribute \$1.6 trillion dollars to the Australian economy. The report also estimates that by 2050 migrants will add approximately 10 per cent more to Australia's economy than existing residents, given the current emphasis on students and skilled migrants in the migration programme. The same modelling estimates that by 2050, '...there will be a gain in employment through migration of 45 per cent'. In short – that migration will play a role in job creation.

In light of these significant benefits, very careful consideration and costing projections are necessary in considering alternative methods for determining migrant intakes to Australia.

Special consideration needs to be given to humanitarian and refugee applicants under Australia's Humanitarian Programme. Humanitarian entrants and refugees apply for entry to Australia solely on the basis of persecution or substantial discrimination. While many bring skills to Australia, this is not relevant to the basis on which they are selected for settlement. Humanitarian and refugee entrants are, by definition, vulnerable.

Australia has a long history of supporting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the international protection of refugees. Australia has consistently been a strong supporter of international efforts to address protracted refugee situations around the world and is one of around twenty seven countries that offer resettlement places, consistently ranking in the top three resettlement countries, along with the United States and Canada, who collectively provide over 80 per cent of global resettlement places.

The Humanitarian Programme is a relatively small component of migration to Australia (with total places of 13,750 in 2014-15 compared to 190,000 places under the Migration Programme in 2014-15).

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<sup>8</sup> The Economic Impact of Migration, Migration Council Australia and Independent Economics, 2015  
<http://www.migrationcouncil.org.au/policy/>



The Department considers that, given Australia's international obligations, the Humanitarian Programme should be excluded from any fundamental change to migration intake criteria, in particular the imposition of a broad scale visa charging regime. Such an approach will ensure Australia's commitment to the protection of refugees worldwide as part of the international community and its role in resettling humanitarian entrants.

## Issues for consideration

### Confidence in Australia's migration programme

Australia is a highly successful and socially cohesive multicultural nation. Almost half of Australia's population are either first or second generation migrants.

Migration remains central to Australia's ongoing economic prosperity. At the same time, the success of Australia's multicultural society is strongly influenced by the public's confidence in the Australian Government to carefully manage migration and ensure that migration brings positive outcomes for the Australian economy and society. This includes the role of migration in filling genuine skills and employment gaps and ensuring skilled migrants, both temporary and permanent, will contribute to the continuing prosperity and stability of the country. It also includes the role of migration in reuniting family members under the family stream and providing resettlement opportunities for humanitarian entrants.

Australians' confidence in the Government's approach to migration is among the highest in the world. The comparison with the public confidence of other countries' migration programmes is stark. The Scanlon Foundation 2014 national survey, *Mapping Social Cohesion*, revealed that even in the context of rising unemployment and other economic concerns, 58 per cent of respondents indicated that Australia's immigration intake was 'about right' or 'too low'. Comparatively, 2014 'American and European surveys have found disapproval of government handling of immigration in the range of 60 to 70 per cent'.<sup>9</sup>

Earlier, this submission highlighted the positive economic contribution of migrants reported by the Migration Council Australia. However, should current migration programme controls change significantly – especially through the imposition of a charge rather than the application of specified visa criteria for the skilled, family and humanitarian streams - careful consideration will need to be given to subsequent risks to the public's confidence in the Government's ability to manage migration in Australia's best economic and social interests.

### Migrant skills and maintaining a skills-based approach

A skills-based approach helps ensure that the skill needs of Australian industry and employers are met. Australia is one of a number of countries that relies on migration, both permanent and temporary, to support the economy and meet skills and labour shortages. Migrants contribute to economic growth and thereby the wellbeing of all Australians.

International competition for prospective skilled migrants – permanent and temporary – is high. Like Australia, a number of other countries including Canada, New Zealand, the United States and various EU members, rely on migration to meet labour shortages and maintain economic prosperity. Additionally, a number of countries that have not traditionally had managed migration programmes now also have an ageing population and are likely to look increasingly over time to migration to fill labour shortages.

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<sup>9</sup> Mapping Social Cohesion 2014 National Report, p.3

This means that competition for migrants is high, and growing. It will be important for Australia to maintain a competitive skills-based approach as part of its migration programme if it is to continue to attract the skilled migrants it needs for ongoing economic development and growth. Should the key criterion for eligibility for migration become the ability of an individual to pay a visa charge, rather than the relevance of their skills for entry into the labour market, highly skilled individuals with the potential to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity are likely to look to migrate to competitor countries, to our detriment.

Those who currently are able to migrate to Australia on the basis of their family relationships (which currently can include the relationship between spouses or between parents and their children) are also likely to be negatively affected by a shift to the use of broad scale visa charges as the basis for intake. This means that those who are unable to meet the cost of those charges may have no means for being reunited with close family members in Australia. This in turn is likely to have a discernable impact on settlement outcomes and social cohesion.

While the issue of international competition is acknowledged in the Inquiry Paper, there needs to be further analysis of immigration models in other countries to determine if Australia could realistically attract fee-paying migrants, who these people might be, and the impact such a regime may have on Australian culture and society.

Consideration also needs to be given to meeting industry and employer demands for skills. Changes to reduce the emphasis on skills as a key selection criterion is likely to reduce capacity for industry and employers to obtain the right skilled migrants.

The Department notes that, with the rapidly increasing age of the Australian population and the projected shortage of unpaid (family) carers, alternative models for determining migration intakes could provide opportunities to increase/complement the existing aged and disability care workforce shortages and augment labour shortages in the healthcare system.

A further consideration is the expected impact of any changed arrangements, including a fee based regime, in increasing the number of low skilled or unskilled workers coming into Australia on a temporary or permanent basis. Of particular concern is a risk that changed cohorts will disproportionately impact on lower paid skilled occupations, such as early childhood educators, teachers and social welfare workers (eg in disability/aged care) making it harder to attract skilled migrants to these occupations.

On a related matter, a persistent issue is that of qualification recognition for migrants. Many new arrivals report difficulty in gaining recognition of their overseas skills, qualifications and prior learning. Australia does not have a consistent, national approach to overseas skills and qualifications recognition and offers limited opportunities for practical demonstration of work skills. There are some clear benefits to the current criteria for skilled migration, where skills recognition issues are considered prior to migration. Further work is required to determine the impact of this issue in light of a potential change to migration intakes.

On balance, in light of the above issues, the Department considers that the current review by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, which aims to implement a new approach (potentially as of 1 July 2016) to skilled migration, is likely to deliver desired positive outcomes for Australia. For example, that review aims to:

- introduce new and innovative skilled migration visa models to support Australia's short and long term skilled migration needs while ensuring the primacy of Australian workers.
- implement a new skilled migration visa framework that is supportive, flexible and responsive and which enriches the Australian economy through a well-managed skilled migration programme; and

- ensure that integrity is maintained and strengthened in a new skilled migration framework.

In particular, to ensure Australia is able to attract migrants with a variety of skills, including some who are willing to fill positions in lower paid positions (for example the aged care and childcare sectors) a sliding visa fee scale, which assesses applicants against agreed criteria, such as skills/qualifications, family size, financial situation, age, may be warranted.

## Family reunion

As noted in the Inquiry Paper, the family stream of Australia's Migration Programme enables close family members to be reunited in Australia. Provisions through Australia's Humanitarian Programme also give refugee and humanitarian entrants the opportunity to bring family members to Australia.

For new migrants to Australia, separation from family members can add significantly to the challenges of settlement. This experience may be particularly acute for refugees and humanitarian entrants who have been separated for prolonged periods from immediate and extended family members.<sup>10</sup> There is a negative impact on settlement outcomes, undermining health<sup>11</sup> and overall wellbeing. Implications go beyond the settling individuals and their family members, to impact the broader Australian community in terms of increased demand for social services and support.

On the other hand family and links to friends have been found to make a positive contribution to the overall settlement of new arrivals providing valuable language, social, emotional and other practical support including information about employment.<sup>12</sup> As well as alleviating post-settlement stressors, the presence of family and community can help those affected by pre-migration trauma, increasing self-efficacy and self-esteem.<sup>13</sup>

Careful consideration must be given to the policy objectives and rationale behind family reunion policy settings, with reference to both the Migration Programme and the Humanitarian Programme. There are clear implications for the wellbeing of migrants and their families and resultant increased costs to government should wellbeing decrease.

## Settlement services and support

The Australian Government works towards supporting all Australians to participate more fully in society. As indicated earlier in this submission, the Department works to ensure short and long term wellbeing for individuals, families and communities and to ensure the long term sustainability of Australia's welfare support system.

For migrants, the Australian Government provides a number of targeted settlement services that can be accessed by eligible migrants at different points in their settlement journey, depending on individual circumstances, to ensure positive settlement outcomes and improve social connectedness. A summary of these programmes is at Appendix B.

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<sup>10</sup> Humanitarian family reunion: The building block of good settlement. The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA). 2012.

<sup>11</sup> Nickerson et al. Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and prolonged grief in refugees exposed to trauma and loss. BMC Psychiatry 2014, 14: 106.

<sup>12</sup> Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals (SONA), 2011. Department of Immigration and Citizenship. <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/publications/settlement-outcomes-of-new-arrivals>

<sup>13</sup> Humanitarian family reunion: The building block of good settlement. The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA). 2012.

Settlement and support service requirements for new arrivals are predominately in the following nine priority areas<sup>14</sup>: language services, employment, education and training, housing, health and wellbeing, transport, civic participation, family and social support and justice. In particular, for migrants and humanitarian entrants, English language tuition, better pathways to employment and improved education outcomes are critical. A focus on the three priority areas of English language, education and employment, also known as the 3-Es (refer Appendix C), early in the settlement journey can lead to:

- enhanced social cohesion;
- reduced risk of long-term and inter-generational unemployment; and
- increased productivity, new ideas and access to potential new markets.

The needs and barriers faced by newly arrived migrants, including humanitarian entrants, vary considerably and require a range of mainstream and targeted settlement support and services. Additional services may be required during the settlement process for those facing particular vulnerabilities. Services need to be available, accessible, timely and culturally appropriate.

Supporting migrants on their settlement journey is critical in terms of building both personal and family capacity, life-readiness and wellbeing. This early intervention approach guides migrants towards employment and financial self-sufficiency and away from income support dependence. Well-functioning families are able to support one another through the challenges that settlement in a new country and cultural context may bring.

A change to the intake basis for migrants and humanitarian entrants is likely to result in an increase in the number of people requiring settlement services and/or the level of need of clients accessing settlement services. This in turn has the potential to impact on eligibility criteria, average costs per client for settlement and mainstream services and service levels and/or types.

## Demand for services, pressure on infrastructure and service planning

As indicated above, the Department delivers a broad range of services to its clients. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Department engages closely with other Commonwealth agencies as well as state, territory and local governments.

Housing and child care services are two areas of particular relevance for the Department. Housing infrastructure and child care services are currently subject to significant domestic demand pressures, requiring forecasting and forward planning to manage service pressures and constraints.

In the absence of direct international comparison, it is difficult to predict what demand under a fee paying regime may look like. However, there has been some research into investor-residence visas. The Migration Policy Institute<sup>15</sup> found that for some countries these programmes have proven quite popular, while other countries have attracted only few applications.

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<sup>14</sup> National Settlement Framework (currently in the process of being endorsed by the three tiers of government).

<sup>15</sup> Selling Visas and Citizenship: Policy Questions from the Global Boom in Investor Immigration, Migration Policy Institute. October 2014, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/selling-visas-and-citizenship-policy-questions-global-boom-investor-immigration>

The current migration intake allows for a relatively high degree of predictability in demand for services which assists service planning. It is expected that any changes to the migration intake would impact on service planning and forecasting, with the potential for less predictability in the demand for services by all tiers of government.

In particular, consideration would need to be given to the potential change in cohorts. It is difficult to predict from what countries potential applicants for a fee paying regime may come from. In undertaking research into investor-residence visas, the Migration Policy Institute<sup>16</sup> found that immigrant investors typically come from emerging economies or from countries experiencing political or economic instability. For example, as noted in the Productivity Commission's Inquiry Paper (p.15) China is currently a major source country of Australian immigrants. A significant and/or sudden shift in the mix of home countries of people entering under the Migration Programme could have significant implications for settlement, the labour market and the social welfare system and may affect Australia's ability to plan appropriately for services and infrastructure. This issue is particularly relevant to state and territory governments, as well as the Commonwealth.

The Department has responsibility for identifying regional towns that have the potential to support humanitarian settlement and where appropriate establishing settlement in those towns. Research indicates that regional settlement contributes positively to the settlement process.<sup>17</sup> Regional settlement can take pressure off demand for infrastructure in metropolitan areas. It can also contribute to the economic and social development of local communities, for example the recent report<sup>18</sup> *Small towns Big returns* found that the economic impact of the settlement of Karen refugees in Nhill, Victoria, contributed \$41.5 million in Gross Regional Product.

In light of the above factors, it is important for planning purposes for there to be some level of predictability in demand for services and likely settlement location. Any changes to the migration intake will need to take into account any resulting reduction in predictability in demand for services and the implications for planning purposes.

## Welfare support – eligibility and impacts

Under the *Social Security Act 1991* (the Act), access to social security payments is generally restricted to people who reside in Australia and are Australian citizens or holders of permanent visas. Temporary visa holders generally do not have access to social security payments. Eligibility for payments is prescribed in relevant regulations (refer also p.7 and Appendix A).

Migrants, regardless of their nominal employability, will be subject, as other Australians are, to broader prevailing economic factors and conditions which may determine their employment status over the long-term.

It is difficult to predict the likely or potential impact on welfare payments of a migration visa intake based primarily on capacity to pay a visa application fee, rather than capacity to meet specific visa selection criteria.

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<sup>16</sup> Selling Visas and Citizenship: Policy Questions from the Global Boom in Investor Immigration, The Migration Policy Institute. October 2014, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/selling-visas-and-citizenship-policy-questions-global-boom-investor-immigration>

<sup>17</sup> Australian Survey Research Group Pty Ltd (April 2011) *Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals*, Sydney NSW, Australian Survey Research <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/publications/settlement-outcomes-of-new-arrivals>

<sup>18</sup> Small towns Big Returns Economic and social impact of the Karen resettlement in Nhill, 2015. Deloitte Access Economics/AMES. <http://www.ames.net.au/research-and-policy/research.html>

Associated issues may include:

- Higher visa charges may create an expectation that temporary and permanent migrants have in some way purchased access to Australian Government services, without serving social security waiting periods.
- Higher visa charges make it more difficult for people on low incomes to afford to immigrate or for Australian residents to assist their partners, parents or other relatives to reunite with families in Australia.

There is a risk that high visa fee-paying applicants will displace highly skilled or other Australians in the workplace, and not necessarily fill skills gaps, with the resultant impact that more Australians could become reliant on unemployment benefits.

Less skilled workers may impose costs on existing workers competing for similar jobs. The Migration Policy Institute<sup>19</sup> notes that “immigration accounts for only a small share of the deterioration observed in less-skilled Americans’ labor market employment and earnings”. The report goes further to note, however, that this may be a relatively uniquely US labour market phenomenon. The Department would expect, however that less skilled migrants would compete for the same types of jobs as Humanitarian entrants and therefore impact on the settlement journey and employment prospects of this cohort. Less skilled and less educated workers also find economic integration and upward mobility difficult.

It should be noted that the Department holds similar concerns about worker displacement with regard to current visa arrangements. While acknowledging the role of skilled migration in providing businesses with workers who have specific skills that they require, where these skills are unavailable in Australia, the strong focus on filling skills gaps through migration tends to draw attention away from the impact on the Australian labour market, specifically on job seekers competing for low wage jobs. Each displaced Australian is a potential addition to the welfare recipient pool, with the average payment period in 2013-14 being 94 weeks for Youth Allowance (other) and 230 weeks for Newstart Allowance.

In relation to access to social security benefits for new migrants, one option that could be considered is the mandatory participation of high-VAC fee paying entrants in a social-insurance system, to protect the income support system and cover situations in which migrants became injured or sick and unable to work.

## Perceptions of fairness and social cohesion

As outlined earlier in this submission, the Australian community has confidence in the Government’s managed migration programme largely because it is perceived to be fair and responsive to the country’s employment needs, including an ageing population and the need to fill authentic skills gaps. This sense of fairness contributes significantly to positive public opinion about the Government’s management of migration which in turn builds Australia’s resilient social cohesion and community harmony.

At the most basic level, social cohesion and community harmony remain stable if people are confident that migrants are selected to the benefit of Australia, and that their arrival will not limit employment opportunities for Australians, lead to community tensions or over-extend existing public services.

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<sup>19</sup> Immigration Policy and Less-Skilled Workers in the United States: Reflections on Future Directions for Reform, January 2011, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/US-immigration-policy-less-skilled-workers>.

The Scanlon Foundation 2014 Mapping Social Cohesion survey confirms that Australians register relatively high levels of support for diversity, for example:

- 85 per cent agree that diversity has been good for Australia;
- 58 per cent agree that the current immigration level is 'about right' or 'too low'; and
- 60 per cent believe that diversity 'strengthens the Australian way of life'.

These figures demonstrate that not only is social cohesion in Australia generally stable, but also that public opinion supports the Government's management of the migration programme which it considers to be a fair approach to maintaining Australia's prosperity.

It is possible that the introduction of a broad scale visa charging regime could result in longer waiting times for family reunion applications to be decided. As indicated earlier, strong community ties and family networks are a vital component of helping migrants adjust to their new life in Australia. It is necessary to ensure a balance of young and older people from different communities reside in Australia, as respected community elders are influential in terms of role modelling and providing advice to younger people. Family and community networks can also provide valuable services such as childcare and support for disadvantaged community members.

A further key element of Australian culture is the belief in equity of opportunity. This is evident in the non-economic objectives of settlement programmes which provide humanitarian entrants with services according to their individual need, in a non-discriminatory, egalitarian approach. If not managed carefully, policy changes to immigration intakes could undermine this fundamental Australian value, one which new arrivals are encouraged to embrace.

Proposed changes to the migration intake could fundamentally shift migration policies and priorities away from migrants with the ability to contribute economically and/or socially to Australia's future, to those who simply have the ability to pay for a visa charge. Such a change would pose a risk to the public's perception that migration selection processes are fair, bring benefits to Australia and support social cohesion, which has historically been founded on a commitment of fairness, equity of selectivity and control.



## Concluding Remarks

This submission has identified a number of issues that need to be carefully considered as part of the Productivity Commission's Inquiry. These issues will need to be factored into any modelling or empirical analysis undertaken by the Commission and considered in the development of any recommendations arising out of the Inquiry.

Overwhelmingly, the balanced and planned nature of Australia's Migration Programme has contributed positively to the economic and social wellbeing of all Australians.

The Department of Social Services is keen to ensure that any future changes infer a positive impact on the lifetime wellbeing of Australians. As such, the timeframe for measuring the economic, social and cultural impacts of any change to immigration policy would need to consider both the short and longer term.

The Department also considers that, given Australia's international obligations and the special circumstances of refugee and humanitarian entrants, the Humanitarian Programme should be excluded from any fundamental change to intake criteria, in particular the imposition of a broad scale visa charging regime.

## Appendices

A. Social Security Payments

B. DSS Settlement Services

C. Importance of the 3-Es

D. Relevant Research

# Appendix A

## Social Security payments

Under the *Social Security Act 1991* (the Act), access to social security payments is generally restricted to people who reside in Australia and are Australian citizens or holders of permanent visas.

Temporary visa holders generally do not have access to social security payments. There are a very small number of temporary visas that have been determined by the Minister for Social Services via legislative instruments, which allow access to limited social security assistance. These temporary visas are generally for humanitarian purposes, and Australia is complying with its international obligations under the United Nations Refugee Convention and Protocol to provide support and assistance to asylum seekers or refugees.

Most income support payments have a two-year newly arrived resident's waiting period and some pensions, such as the Age Pension and Disability Support Pension, have a 10-year qualifying residence requirement. This 10-year qualifying residence requirement aims to ensure that only people who have established a long-term connection with Australia are able to access these payments. Under the Act, the qualifying residence period begins from the date the person starts residing in Australia as a permanent visa holder. Time spent in Australia on a temporary visa is not counted towards the two-year and 10-year qualifying residence periods for social security payments.

## Appendix B - DSS Settlement Services

Funding: 2014/15 \$ 141.5m; 2015/16 \$ 148.9m; 2016/17 \$ 158.8m; 2017/18 \$ 161.8m; 2018/19 \$ 183.6m.

\* (as at 31 March 2015)

	Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS)	Complex Case Support (CCS)	Settlement Grants	Free Interpreting Services (FIS) and Free Translating Services (FTS)
Activities	<p>Support for initial settlement for 6-12 months with exit on completion of case management plan (competencies reached) e.g. children enrolled in school, referral to medical provider etc. (can be extended by Department if competencies not reached).</p> <p>Needs-based services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial reception and food provision</li> <li>• Accommodation</li> <li>• Facilitation of medical/doctors</li> <li>• Basic household goods</li> <li>• Onshore orientation</li> <li>• Linking to Centrelink and Government services</li> </ul>	<p>Clients receive intensive case management services to assist them with their individual needs to link them in with mainstream and community services.</p> <p>CCS is available in the first five years of settlement (services are typically for up to six months).</p> <p>CCS provides support for a range of situations, including: domestic violence; mental health; torture and trauma; and disability etc.</p>	<p>Services to assist eligible migrants to become self-reliant and participate equitably in Australian society as soon as possible after arrival. Service streams include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casework/coordination and delivery of services,</li> <li>• Community coordination and development</li> <li>• Youth settlement services</li> <li>• Support for ethno-specific communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>FIS:</b> provides certain approved groups and individuals with access to FIS, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private medical practitioners providing Medicare-rebateable services;</li> <li>• Pharmacies for the purpose of dispensing PBS medications;</li> <li>• Non-profit, non-government, community-based organisations for case work and emergency services;</li> <li>• Members of Parliament for constituency purposes;</li> <li>• Local government authorities;</li> <li>• Trade unions who respond to members' enquiries or requests; and</li> <li>• Real estate agencies in eligible areas (pilot being conducted until 30 June 2015).</li> </ul> <p><b>FTS:</b> provides free translation into English of up to 10 key personal within the first two years of their arrival in Australia.</p>
Eligibility	<p>Refugee and humanitarian entrants only</p>	<p>Refugee and Humanitarian entrants, Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) visa holders.</p> <p>Assessed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Around 92% of referrals currently accepted.</p> <p>Anyone may refer a person to CCS (including self-referral)</p>	<p>On arrival – for up to five years.</p> <p>All Humanitarian entrants, plus people in the Family migration programme with low English, dependants of skilled migrants with low English proficiency and selected temporary residents in rural and regional areas with low English proficiency</p>	<p><b>FIS:</b> Australian citizens, permanent residents and Temporary Humanitarian Stay, Temporary Humanitarian Concern, and Temporary Protection visa holders.</p> <p><b>FTS:</b> Australian citizens, permanent residents, eligible Temporary/Provisional visa holders, and Temporary Humanitarian Stay, Temporary Humanitarian Concern, and Temporary Protection visa holders.</p>
Participants	<p>In 2014-15 ytd*: 8,405 clients.</p> <p>In 2013-14: 14,205 clients.</p>	<p>In 2014-15 ytd*: 156 cases (around 551 people).</p> <p>In 2013-14, 132 cases (around 450 people).</p>	<p>In 2014-15 ytd*: 26,976 clients</p> <p>In 2013-14: 42,467 clients</p>	<p><b>FIS:</b> 2014-15 ytd*: 178,330 free interpreting services.</p> <p>2013-14: 241,737 interpreting services provided</p> <p><b>FTS:</b> 2014-15 ytd*: 8,241 documents were translated</p> <p>2013-14: 11,768 documents translated</p>

## Appendix C

### Importance of English language, education and employment (the 3-Es)

#### English

English language proficiency is critical to positive social and economic outcomes for migrants and refugees. Research clearly shows that English language proficiency is an important factor in securing employment/positive labour market outcomes for migrants.

For new arrivals, the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) has a central role to ensuring English language, settlement and employment outcomes are maximised. AMEP clients benefit from a purpose designed settlement English course to help them develop basic, everyday language skills. Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) providers are required to link clients in with AMEP classes.

For many there is often a tension between short and long term outcomes. Some migrants may choose taking a job over English classes, although the latter could be considered to have more benefit in the longer term

The AMEP is administered by the Department of Education and Training. An evaluation of the AMEP is currently being undertaken by that Department.

Given the importance of English language skills in employability and independence, a migration intake which does not include English language skills within its selection criteria could be expected to have implications for the economic and social outcomes for migrants themselves, their families and also for broader community social cohesion.

#### Education

Participation in education builds individual prospects, fosters a sense of belonging and provides skills and knowledge to enable migrants to better contribute to Australian society.

A variety of issues can impact the educational experience of migrants, such as:

- financial support for schooling;
- level of cultural awareness amongst teaching staff to provide adequate support for students, particularly those from new and emerging community backgrounds;
- mental or physical health issues as a result of torture and trauma or situations of displacement; and/or
- lack of emotional support from family/community networks.

There is a strong relationship between education and success. Migrants have varied experiences and achieve mixed results within the Australian education system.

## Employment

The Australian Government, through its programmes and policy, promotes strong workforce participation by people of working age and is helping more job seekers move from welfare to work.

Migrants may experience barriers to successful employment such as:

- limited language proficiency;
- lack of Australian qualifications, or limited recognition of overseas qualifications;
- lack of familiarity with the Australian workforce, employment systems and culture;
- discrimination, prejudice or racism;
- lack of driver's licence and/or difficulty accessing transport.<sup>20</sup>

Migrants have varied experiences and achieve mixed employment outcomes.

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<sup>20</sup> Hugo, Graeme (May 2011) *A Significant Contribution: The Economic, Social and Civic Contributions of First and Second Generation Humanitarian Entrants*, Commonwealth of Australia 2011  
<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/index.htm>

# Appendix D

## Relevant Research

Title	Author(s)	Source and date	Brief description and link
<b>Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals (SONA)</b>	Australian Survey Research Group	April 2011	<p>This study, commissioned by the former Department of Immigration and Citizenship, looks at how humanitarian programme migrants fare in their first five years in Australia and identifies what factors contribute to successful settlement.</p> <p><a href="https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/publications/settlement-outcomes-of-new-arrivals">https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/publications/settlement-outcomes-of-new-arrivals</a></p>
<b>A Significant Contribution: The Economic, Social and Civic Contributions of First and Second Generation Humanitarian Entrants</b>	Graeme Hugo	May 2011	<p>This study, commissioned by the former Department of Immigration and Citizenship, researches the economic, social and civic contributions of first and second generation humanitarian entrants to Australia.</p> <p><a href="http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/">http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/</a></p>
<b>Building a New Life in Australia: Introducing the Longitudinal Study of Humanitarian Migrants</b>	John De Maio et al	Family Matters, Australian Institute of Family Studies Issue 94  2014	<p>This article introduces this longitudinal study which is designed to look at the factors which aid and hinder refugee and humanitarian migrant settlement in Australia.</p> <p><a href="http://aifs.gov.au/bnla/">http://aifs.gov.au/bnla/</a></p>
<b>The Economic Impact of Migration</b>	Independent Economics	Migration Council Australia  2015	<p>The report analyses the impact of migration on Australia's key economic indicators.</p> <p><a href="http://www.migrationcouncil.org.au/policy/">http://www.migrationcouncil.org.au/policy/</a></p>
<b>More than Additions to Population: The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Immigration</b>	Mark Cully	Australian Economic Review Vol 45  2012	<p>This article considers immigration within the conceptual framework of the Intergenerational Reports and in the context of an ageing population.</p> <p><a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8462.2012.00693.x/epdf">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8462.2012.00693.x/epdf</a></p>

<b>Enabling Rural Migrant Settlement: A Case Study of the Limestone Coast</b>	Dr Helen Feist et al	The University of Adelaide  Local Government Association of South Australia  March 2015	This study looks at settlement experiences of migrants in a number of selected non-metropolitan areas and the role local government can play in the successful settlement of new migrants in rural and regional areas. The report examines some of the direct and indirect outcomes for local communities and for migrants themselves.  <a href="http://www.adelaide.edu.au/apmrc/research/projects/Enabling_Rural_Migrant_Settlement_Report.pdf">http://www.adelaide.edu.au/apmrc/research/projects/Enabling_Rural_Migrant_Settlement_Report.pdf</a>
<b>Facilitating the transition to employment for refugee young people</b>	Sally Beadle	Centre for Multicultural Youth  2014	This report reviews the literature and data on the current experience of refugee youth in education and their transition to employment and draws out key themes or 'what works'.  <a href="http://cmj.net.au/publications/facilitating-transition-employment">http://cmj.net.au/publications/facilitating-transition-employment</a>
<b>CALD Youth Census Report</b>	Graeme Hugo et al	The University of Adelaide  May 2014	This report analyses a range of key demographic statistics relating to youth from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.  <a href="http://cmj.net.au/publications/cald-youth-census-report-2014">http://cmj.net.au/publications/cald-youth-census-report-2014</a>
<b>Inquiry into Migration and Multiculturalism in Australia</b>	Joint Standing Committee on Migration	The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia  March 2013	The inquiry assessed the benefits of migration and current issues, and considered the efficacy of multiculturalism as a framework for settlement, integration and participation.  <a href="http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=mig/multiculturalism/report.htm">http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=mig/multiculturalism/report.htm</a>
<b>The long journey: supporting asylum seekers to find sustainable housing</b>	Paul Powers  Refugee Council of Australia	Parity Volume 27  2014	The article aims to identify the challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers in Australia in securing affordable housing and the strategies which are most effective in assisting them.
<b>Using linking to sharpen thinking</b>	David Smith and Therese Smith	The Australian Economic Review Volume 47  2014	This article provides an analysis of migrant Census data using the Australian Census Migrants and Integrated dataset (ACMID). Shows how different groups of migrants fare over time, focussing on English proficiency, education and employment.  <a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-8462.12069/full">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-8462.12069/full</a>



<b>Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2011 (ACMID)</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)	ABS 2011	This dataset provides Census 2011 data items matched with data from the DSS Settlement Database; specifically the migration variables of visa stream, onshore/offshore and principal applicants of permanent arrivals.  <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2062.0">http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2062.0</a>
<b>Small Towns Big Returns</b>  <b>Economic and social impact of the Karen resettlement in Nhill</b>	Deloitte Access Economics  AMES	April 2015	This study looks at the economic and social impacts and benefits resulting from the settlement of refugees in a regional town in Victoria.  <a href="http://www.ames.net.au/documents/research-projects/small-towns-big-returns-economic-and-social-impact-of-the-karen-resettlement-in-nhill">http://www.ames.net.au/documents/research-projects/small-towns-big-returns-economic-and-social-impact-of-the-karen-resettlement-in-nhill</a>
<b>Access to services for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers</b>	Victorian Auditor-General	Victorian Auditor-General's Office  May 2014	This report assessed how effectively various Victorian government departments and agencies are meeting the needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the areas of health, education and human services.
<b>Multiculturalism and Immigrant Integration in Australia</b>	Jock Collins	Canadian Ethnic Studies Volume 45  2013	This article reviews the objective and subjective evidence on immigrant integration in Australia across a wide range of indicators (social, economic, cultural and political).
<b>Do Australian Qualifications Help? The Effect of Host Country Qualification on Migrant Participation and Unemployment</b>	Jaai Parasnis et al	Economic Record Volume 84  2008	This study examines whether Australian tertiary qualifications help mitigate the labour market disadvantages faced by migrants in Australia.  <a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1475-4932.2008.00489.x/full">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1475-4932.2008.00489.x/full</a>
<b>Do Migrants Get Good Jobs? New Migrant Settlement in Australia</b>	PN Raja Junakar and Stephane Mahuteau	Economic Record Volume 81  2005	This paper investigates the ease with which migrants to Australia from different countries and with different visa categories enter employment at an appropriate level to their prior education and experience in the source country.  <a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1475-4932.2005.00249.x/abstract">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1475-4932.2005.00249.x/abstract</a>

<b>Occupational Attainment and Immigrant Economic Progress in Australia</b>	R Chiswick and PW Miller	Economic Record Volume 84  2008	Using data from the 2001 Census this paper augments a conventional human capital earnings function with information on occupation.  <a href="ftp.iza.org/dp3316.pdf">ftp.iza.org/dp3316.pdf</a>
<b>Adult Migrant English program (AMEP) Longitudinal Study 2011-2014: Final Report</b>	Lynda Yates et al	Macquarie University  on behalf of the Department of Education and Training  2015	This study investigated the language learning and early settlement experiences of migrants as they studied in the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and then moved onto life, work and study in the community. The study was conducted in two phases. Phase 1 participants were followed for 4.5 years and Phase 2 participants for 1.5 years.  <a href="http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_human_sciences/linguistics/linguistics_research/az_research_list/adult_migrant_english_program_longitudinal_study/">http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_human_sciences/linguistics/linguistics_research/az_research_list/adult_migrant_english_program_longitudinal_study/</a>
<b>Refugees, housing and neighbourhoods in Australia</b>	Paul Flatau et al	Australian Housing and Urban research Institute (AHURI) Final report 224  2014	This report considers the housing issues of new arrivals to Australia, their neighbourhood experiences, and the effectiveness of housing assistance and support services (including Humanitarian Settlement Services and Settlement Grants Program services).  <a href="http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/projects/p82015">http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/projects/p82015</a>
<b>Maximising human capital in a rapidly evolving economic landscape, Council Statement</b>	Demetrios G Papademetriou	Transatlantic Council on Migration. A project of the Migration Policy Institute  2013	Outlines the guiding principles and recommendations of the ninth plenary meeting of the Council which focused on how public and private-sector stakeholders can make smart employment related investments in underutilised workers, including migrants.  <a href="http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/maximizing-human-capital-rapidly-evolving-economic-landscape">http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/maximizing-human-capital-rapidly-evolving-economic-landscape</a>
<b>The People of Australia: statistics from the 2011 Census</b>	Department of Immigration and Border Protection	June 2014	This report draws upon publicly available data from the 2011 census to provide detailed information on the characteristics of the Australian population, including birthplace, language, education, English proficiency and ancestry.

<b>Assessing the economic contribution of refugees to Australia</b>	Richard Parsons	Multicultural Development Association June 2013	This report reviews existing research on the economic contributions of refugees with particular reference to: how economic contributions are assessed, how to get positive messages out and what further research needs to be undertaken.
<b>Securing Futures: Making the most of migrants' skills</b>	Adult Migrant English Service (AMES) Research and Policy Unit	AMES October 2013	Reviews the effectiveness of the AMES Skilled Professional Migrants Program by documenting the professional outcomes of participants between 2010 and 2012 and the pathways that participants took towards achieving their career goals in the early years of settlement.  <a href="http://www.ames.net.au/documents/research-projects/securing-futures-making-the-most-of-migrants-skills">http://www.ames.net.au/documents/research-projects/securing-futures-making-the-most-of-migrants-skills</a>
<b>Refugee resettlement in Australia: What we know and need to know</b>	Farida Fozdar and Lisa Hartley	Refugee Survey Quarterly Volume 32 June 2013	This article reviews recent empirical research relating to settlement in Australia in order to better inform policy makers and practitioners and to highlight areas of research in need of further investigation.
<b>Employment Characteristics and Transitions of mothers in the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)</b>	Jennifer Baxter	Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) Occasional Paper No 50 2013	This paper examines Australian mothers' employment participation patterns; country of birth and language proficiency are considered.
<b>Australian mothers' participation in employment: Analysis of social, demographic and family characteristics using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey.</b>	Jennifer Baxter	AIFS Research Paper No 52 September 2013	This paper looks at the characteristics of mothers who are engaged in the labour market and to the extent to which barriers prevent employment. Includes overseas born and English proficiency data.

<b>The housing resettlement experience of refugee immigrants to Australia</b>	James Forrest et al	Journal of Refugee Studies Volume 34 2013	This article looks at housing and related circumstances of the nine largest groups of refugees in the first 18 months of settlement in Australia using data from the 1999-2000 Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia.
<b>Income support customers: A statistical overview 2012</b>	Department of Social Services (DSS)	DSS Statistical Paper No 11 2013	This paper provides a statistical overview of income payments to older people, the disabled, students & the labour market, family assistance, seniors and rent assistance. Includes figures for top 5 countries of birth plus other for all payments.
<b>How's Life in Australia?</b>	OECD	OECD Better Life Initiative May 2014	Published every two years this OECD research provides a comprehensive picture of wellbeing in Australia including international comparators. The research uses a set of regularly updated well-being indicators including the Better Life Index.  <a href="http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/#/11111111111">http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/#/11111111111</a>
<b>Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, December 2013 (ACLD)</b>	ABS	ABS 2013	This provides a longitudinal dataset by linking a random sample of 5 % from Census 2006 and matching it to the corresponding items from Census 2011 using a number of characteristics common to both samples including geographic region and country of birth.  <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2080.0Main+Features12006-2011">http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2080.0Main+Features12006-2011</a>
<b>The Migrant Data Matrices 2013</b>	ABS	Migrant Data Matrices 2013 Cat 3415.0 2013	This is a series of matrices that link to ABS summary data on migrants, covering: labour, family and community health, education and training, housing, finances, culture, leisure and crime.  <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3415.0">http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3415.0</a>
<b>Social Cohesion Research</b>			
<b>Mapping Social Cohesion National Report 2014</b>	Professor Andrew Markus	Scanlon Foundation 2014	This report is the seventh in the survey series and is based on the findings of a national telephone survey and an online survey of third generation Australians on their attitudes towards social cohesion, immigration and population issues.  <a href="http://scanlonfoundation.org.au/research/surveys/">http://scanlonfoundation.org.au/research/surveys/</a>

<b>Mapping Social Cohesion Local Areas Report 2013</b>	Professor Andrew Markus	Scanlon Foundation 2014	<p>The Australian Government funded this survey which was conducted in 2013 as an extension of the Scanlon Foundation's research programme. The research focuses on immigration and the impact of cultural diversity through exploring attitudes towards social cohesion, immigration and population issues in five urban and regional areas of low socio-economic status (Logan in Queensland, Mirrabrooka in Western Australia, Murray Bridge in South Australia, Shepparton in Victoria and Atherton Tablelands in Queensland).</p> <p><a href="http://scanlonfoundation.org.au/research/surveys/">http://scanlonfoundation.org.au/research/surveys/</a></p>
<b>Mapping Social Cohesion Recent Arrivals Report 2013</b>	Professor Andrew Markus	Scanlon Foundation 2013	<p>This survey was conducted in 2013 as an extension of the Scanlon Foundation's research programme, with additional funding from the Australian Government to increase sample size. The objective of the survey is to further understandings of the current immigration programme, particularly the attitudes and outlook of skilled and highly educated entrants. It considers both the experiences in Australia and the nature of ongoing contacts with former home countries.</p> <p><a href="http://scanlonfoundation.org.au/research/surveys/">http://scanlonfoundation.org.au/research/surveys/</a></p>
<b>Perceptions of Australia – past, present and future: Literature review and survey findings</b>	Adult Migrant English Service (AMES)	AMES 2014	<p>This report aims to gain an understanding of perceptions of Australia before and after migration, migrants' future aspirations in Australia and their attitudes towards sport. It is based on the findings of a survey of students completing AMES' Adult Migrant English Programme and a literature review focussing on how migrants transition to a new life in their adopted country by drawing on past experience.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ames.net.au/research-and-policy/research.html">http://www.ames.net.au/research-and-policy/research.html</a></p>

<b>The Australian Community – The Australian Multicultural Council’s Report on Multiculturalism and Social Cohesion in Australian Neighbourhoods</b>	Australian Multicultural Council (AMC)	AMC 2013	<p>The Australian Multicultural Council delivered this report to Government in December 2013. The Council undertook a series of community visits across Australia to observe and understand social cohesion efforts at the local level. A range of stakeholders were consulted in 13 local jurisdictions across metropolitan and rural locations in South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. The report identifies opportunities to strengthen social cohesion in Australian communities.</p> <p><a href="http://www.amc.gov.au/publications/">http://www.amc.gov.au/publications/</a></p>
<b>Interfaith and Social Cohesion in Australia: Looking to the Future</b>	Australian Multicultural Council (AMC)	AMC 2014	<p>This report provides advice to Government regarding interfaith dialogue and ways to build on opportunities for social cohesion. Three key recommendations are supporting interfaith networks; interfaith education; and interfaith representation.</p> <p><a href="http://www.amc.gov.au/publications/">http://www.amc.gov.au/publications/</a></p>
<b>Enabling Social Cohesion at the Grassroots: Working with Local Government</b>	Australian Multicultural Council (AMC)	AMC 2014	<p>This report outlines opportunities for Government to enable and empower communities to continue to be cohesive, united and resilient. Two key recommendations are supporting and developing national planning resources for fostering social cohesion at the local level; and supporting ongoing dialogues between all levels of government to encourage a whole-of-government social cohesion approach.</p> <p><a href="http://www.amc.gov.au/publications/">http://www.amc.gov.au/publications/</a></p>