Immigration Research Priorities

Presentation to the symposium on ‘New Ideas and Challenges for Demographic Research in Australia’

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Broadening the skill base around migration

- Australia’s Migration Programme has had a strong emphasis on skilled migration
- Well aligned with national labour market data
- We need to understand the effects of a broader Migration Programme on the labour market
Crosscutting issues from a broader base

- Developing a programme that supplements the domestic labour force.
- Want to avoid exploiting migrants, displacing local workers and driving down wages.

- Integrating these migrant workers
- Ensuring that migrants located in regional areas to fill labour shortages stay on.

- Should we be looking for more durable solutions?
Increasing global competition for skills …

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<th>Demand for skilled visas to Australia</th>
<th>Demand outstrips supply</th>
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<td>Allows us to set high standards when it comes to selection of skilled migrants</td>
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<td>This may not be sustainable in the face of increasing competition</td>
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<th>Changes in global competition</th>
<th>Ageing of advanced economies is leading to increased demand internationally for skilled migrants</th>
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<td>Changing demographics of the Asian region</td>
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<td>Increasing mobility of the world’s population</td>
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Creates a diverse range of policy challenges

Which countries will be the main sources of international talent?
- Where do we look to if we can no longer rely on our current sources, such as Asia?
- How do we tap into these emerging markets?

Should we do more to promote temporary migration?
- The flows of temporary migrants are unregulated
- The impacts of temporary migration are not evenly spread
- There is a paucity of reliable and detailed data on impacts

How do we facilitate the transfer of the highly mobile?
- Need to play to our strengths (e.g. climate, lifestyle)
- Need to facilitate the migration process (e.g. substantially expanding trade agreements, streamlining visa processes)