



POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

AUSTRALIAN
STATES AND
TERRITORIES

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Client Services in any ABS office as shown on the back cover of this publication, or Sue Taylor on Canberra 02 6252 6141.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This issue contains revised estimates of the resident population of Australian States and Territories as at 30 June 1998 and preliminary estimates as at 30 June 1999. These are based on the 1996 Census of Population and Housing with updates from births and deaths registrations, overseas migration and interstate migration.



ABBREVIATIONS

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT Australian Capital Territory
Aust. Australia
NSW New South Wales
NT Northern Territory
p preliminary
Qld Queensland
r revised
SA South Australia
Tas. Tasmania
Vic. Victoria
WA Western Australia

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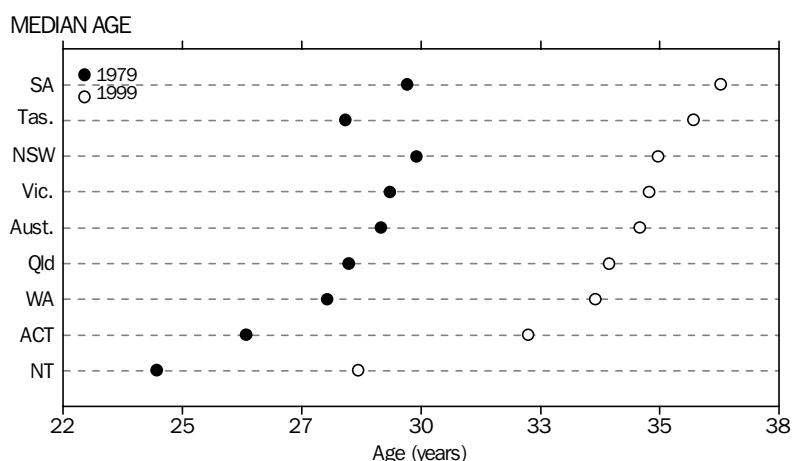
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

AGEING POPULATION

The median age of the Australian population, the age at which half the population is older and half is younger, has increased by 5.8 years in the last twenty years, from 29.1 years in June 1979 to 34.9 years in June 1999. Australia's population is ageing because of sustained low levels of fertility, which has resulted in proportionally fewer children in the population, and increased life expectancy.

South Australia has the oldest population

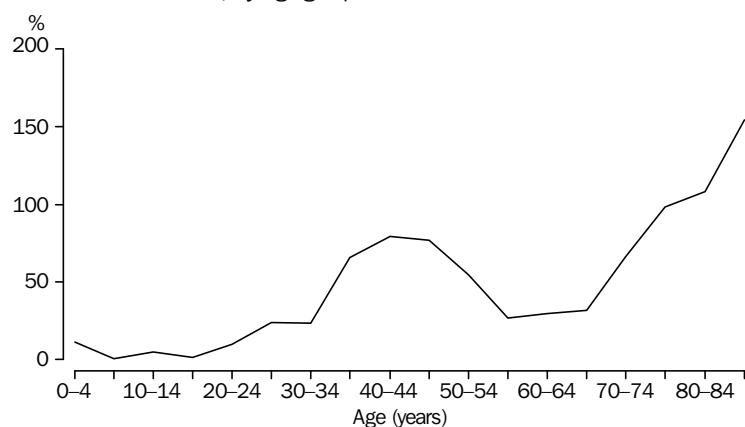
In the 12 months to June 1999 South Australia (36.7 years) continued to have the highest median age of all States and Territories. Tasmania had the second highest median age (36.1 years) followed by New South Wales (35.3 years), Victoria (35.1 years), Queensland (34.2 years), Western Australia (33.9 years), the Australian Capital Territory (32.4 years) and the Northern Territory (28.6 years). Tasmania experienced the highest growth in median age over the last twenty years, increasing by 28% from 28.3 years in 1979.



AGE STRUCTURE

Since June 1979 there has been very slow growth in the number of children (aged less than 15 years) in the population (5%), whereas the number of people aged 15–64 years has increased by 35% and those aged 65 years and over has increased by 70%.

POPULATION CHANGE, By age group—1979–99



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

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AGE STRUCTURE *continued*

In the twenty years to June 1999 there has been a large increase in the number of Australians aged in their late 30s to early 50s. This age group has grown by 74%, the second highest growth rate after the population aged 70 years and over. This growth can be attributed to the large number of Baby Boomers moving into these age groups.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

In 1999, children (aged 0–14 years) formed 21% of the Australian population, adults aged between 15 and 64 years represented 67%, and people aged 65 years and over formed 12%. The age structure of Australia's population in 1999 is closest to that of Canada and the United States. Generally, the European countries, Japan and Hong Kong have smaller proportions of children and higher proportions of older people than Australia. In contrast, countries from the Asian regions have proportionally more children and far fewer older people.

POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE, International Comparisons—Proportions

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AGE GROUP (YEARS) ..

Selected Countries	0-14	15-64	65+	85+
Italy(a)	14.8	68.3	17.0	1.7
Japan(a)	15.6	69.2	15.1	1.4
Greece(b)	16.8	67.6	15.6	1.5
Hong Kong(c)	18.1	71.5	10.4	0.7
Sweden(a)	18.8	63.8	17.4	2.1
United Kingdom(a)	19.3	65.0	15.7	1.8
France(d)	19.9	65.5	14.5	1.7
Canada(a)	20.0	67.8	12.2	1.2
Australia(e)	20.7	67.1	12.2	1.3
United States of America(c)	21.6	65.6	12.7	1.4
Singapore(c)	22.7	70.3	7.0	na
Korea, Republic of(b)	23.0	71.1	5.9	0.3
New Zealand(a)	23.0	65.3	11.7	1.1
China(a)	25.9	67.2	6.9	0.3
Indonesia(b)	33.9	62.0	4.2	na
Malaysia(a)	34.9	61.4	3.7	na
India(c)	37.2	58.5	4.3	na
Viet Nam(f)	39.6	55.4	5.0	0.3
Papua New Guinea(g)	40.4	57.2	2.4	na

.....
na not available

(a) 1996 data.

(b) 1995 data.

(c) 1997 data.

(d) 1993 data.

(e) 1999 data.

(f) 1992 data.

(g) 1990 data.

Source: 1997 United Nations Demographic Yearbook.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

CHILDREN

The number of children aged between 0 and 4 years declined in the 12 months to 1999 by 0.8% or 10,200. Over the same period the number of children aged 0–14 years in Australia increased by 0.1%. Queensland experienced the highest growth rate for this age group (0.6%), followed by Western Australia (0.3%) and the Northern Territory (0.2%). The number of children in New South Wales increased by 0.1% while Victoria remained the same as in 1998. The other States and Territories experienced a decline in the number of children, the largest decline was experienced by Tasmania (-1.8%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia (-0.8% each).

ADULTS

Nationally, the number of people aged 15–64 years grew by 1.5% during the 12 months to June 1999. For this age group Western Australia (2.1%), Queensland (2.0%), the Northern Territory (2.0%) and New South Wales (1.6%) all experienced growth rates above the national average, while Victoria (1.5%) experienced a growth rate similar to the national average. The number of adults aged between 15 and 64 years in the Australian Capital Territory (0.8%) and South Australia (0.6%) increased by less than the national average. Tasmania was the only State to experience a decline in the number of people aged between 15 and 64 years (-0.2%).

Aged 65 years and over

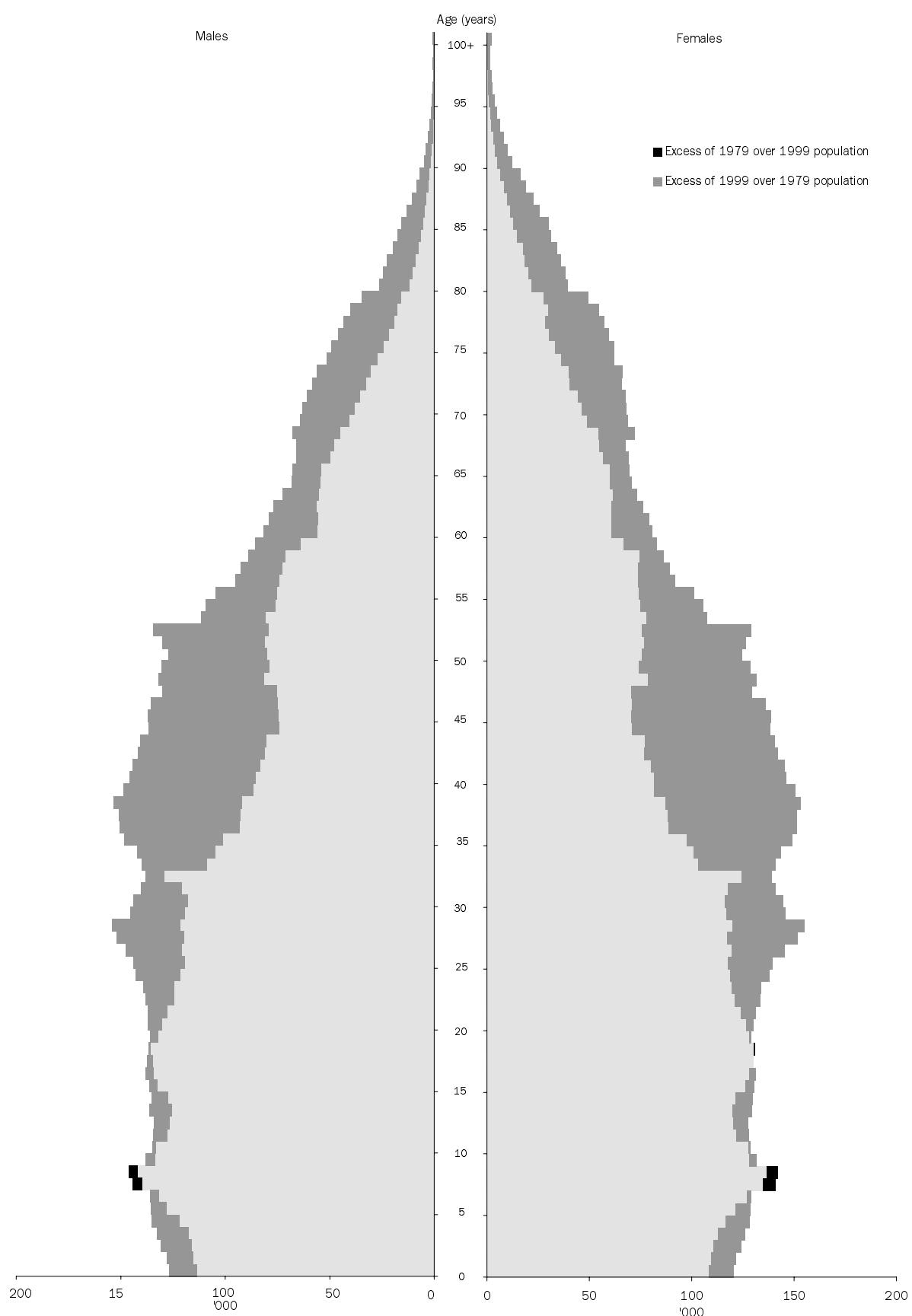
The number of people aged 65 years and over in Australia increased by 1.8% in the 12 months to June 1999 to 2.3 million. The Australian Capital Territory (4%), the Northern Territory (3.4%), Queensland (2.3%) and Western Australia (2.3%) experienced faster increases than the national level in this age group. Victoria (1.8%), Tasmania (1.7%), New South Wales (1.5%) and South Australia (1.3%) recorded increases below that for Australia as a whole.

Aged 85 years and over

Over the past twenty years the number of people aged 85 years and over has increased by 154% from 94,700 in 1979 to 241,000 in 1999, compared to a total population growth of 31% over the same period. This growth is due to increased life expectancy for both men and women resulting in a rise in the number of people living to 85 years and over. Reflecting the greater life expectancy of women, there were more than twice as many females (166,800) as males (74,200) in this age group.

In the 12 months to June 1999, this age group increased by 16,700 persons (7.4%), well above the 1.3% growth rate for the Australian population as a whole. The largest percentage increases in the number of people aged 85 years and over were in the Australian Capital Territory (11.5% increase) and the Northern Territory (11.4%) although these large percentage gains are a reflection of the small numbers of people in this age group in these two Territories. Tasmania (8.4%), Queensland (8.1%) and South Australia (7.8%) all experienced faster growth in the number of elderly people than for Australia as a whole. Victoria (6.9%) had the smallest percentage increase in this age group of all the States and Territories followed by New South Wales (7.2%) and Western Australia (7.3%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*



MEAN AGE, By Sex—As at 30 June *continued*

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(a)	Aust.(b)
PERSONS									
1979	33.1	32.7	32.1	33.2	31.3	32.1	25.1	27.8	32.5
1983	33.8	33.5	32.6	34.2	32.0	33.0	25.9	29.1	33.2
1984	34.0	33.7	32.8	34.4	32.3	33.2	26.2	29.5	33.4
1985	34.2	33.9	33.0	34.7	32.5	33.4	26.5	29.8	33.7
1986	34.4	34.1	33.3	34.9	32.7	33.6	26.8	29.9	33.9
1987	34.5	34.3	33.5	35.1	32.9	33.9	27.0	30.2	34.0
1988	34.6	34.4	33.7	35.3	33.0	34.1	27.2	30.5	34.2
1989	34.8	34.6	33.8	35.5	33.1	34.3	27.4	30.8	34.3
1990	34.9	34.7	33.9	35.7	33.3	34.5	27.6	31.0	34.5
1991	35.1	34.9	34.1	35.8	33.5	34.6	27.7	31.2	34.6
1992	35.3	35.1	34.3	36.1	33.7	34.9	27.9	31.5	34.8
1993	35.5	35.3	34.4	36.3	34.0	35.1	28.1	31.8	35.0
1994	35.7	35.6	34.6	36.5	34.2	35.4	28.4	32.2	35.2
1995	35.8	35.8	34.7	36.8	34.4	35.6	28.6	32.5	35.4
1996	36.0	36.0	34.9	37.0	34.6	35.9	28.8	32.8	35.6
1997	36.2	36.2	35.2	37.2	34.8	36.2	29.1	33.2	35.8
1998	r36.4	r36.4	r36.6	r37.5	r35.0	r36.5	r29.3	r33.6	r36.0
1999	p36.6	p36.6	p35.6	p37.7	p35.2	p36.9	p29.6	p33.9	p36.2

r revised

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(a) Includes Jervis Bay Territory prior to 1994.

(b) Includes Other Territories from 1994—see paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes.

SEX RATIO(a), As at 30 June

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT(b)	Aust.(c)
1979	99.32	98.89	100.98	98.69	102.84	99.94	118.85	101.46	99.89
1983	99.37	98.55	101.22	98.54	102.11	98.79	113.77	99.92	99.73
1984	99.32	98.55	101.22	98.60	101.99	98.66	113.80	99.84	99.71
1985	99.34	98.55	101.19	98.73	101.81	98.54	113.61	99.77	99.71
1986	99.37	98.60	101.27	98.99	101.83	98.60	112.41	100.25	99.78
1987	99.27	98.56	100.97	98.86	101.78	98.47	112.20	99.98	99.66
1988	99.25	98.63	100.61	98.65	101.74	98.40	111.69	99.75	99.59
1989	99.22	98.55	100.61	98.58	101.60	98.33	110.87	99.72	99.53
1990	99.24	98.49	100.54	98.52	101.46	98.42	110.26	99.93	99.50
1991	99.12	98.38	100.44	98.48	101.20	98.36	109.85	99.97	99.39
1992	99.01	98.23	100.41	98.39	101.17	98.08	109.88	99.72	99.29
1993	98.90	98.03	100.44	98.24	101.18	97.95	110.29	99.42	99.20
1994	98.82	97.91	100.44	98.09	101.18	97.82	110.45	98.99	99.12
1995	98.76	97.79	100.46	97.94	101.18	97.67	110.65	98.76	99.07
1996	98.63	97.62	100.44	97.86	101.13	97.57	111.02	98.49	98.97
1997	98.63	97.65	100.34	97.86	101.22	97.43	111.14	98.66	98.97
1998	r98.72	r97.75	r100.26	r97.83	r101.32	r97.28	r111.79	r99.19	r99.04
1999	p98.83	p97.82	p100.22	p97.82	p101.41	p97.14	p112.24	p99.41	p99.10

r revised

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(a) Male population per 100 female population.

(b) Includes Jervis Bay Territory prior to 1994.

(c) Includes Other Territories from 1994—see paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains revised estimates of the resident populations by age and sex of Australian States and Territories as at 30 June 1998 and preliminary estimates as at 30 June 1999. Mean ages, median ages and sex ratios of the population for the Australian States and Territories are also included.

2 Following the 1992 amendments to the *Acts Interpretation Act* to include the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands as part of geographic Australia, population estimates commencing September quarter 1993 include estimates for these two territories. To reflect this change, another category of the State and Territory level has been created, known as Other Territories. Other Territories include Jervis Bay Territory, previously included with the Australian Capital Territory, as well as Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, previously excluded from population estimates for Australia. Data for Other Territories, while not detailed separately, are included in tables where specifically noted.

RESIDENT POPULATION ESTIMATES SERIES

3 Australia's population estimates for the period since 1971 are compiled according to the place of usual residence of the population. An explanation of the place of usual residence conceptual basis for population estimates is given in *Information Paper: Demographic Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 3228.0). This paper is available via the Themes/Demography section of the ABS website: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

METHOD OF ESTIMATION

4 The estimates by age of the population of Australia and the States and Territories at the date of the Census are derived from the Census Counts and Place of Usual Residence, by adjusting for under-enumeration and adding the number of Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the Census.

5 Post-censal age distributions are obtained by advancing the estimates to the next age, subtracting deaths and adding births and net estimated interstate and overseas migration. After each census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase at each age agrees with the difference between the estimated resident populations at the two respective census dates.

Net overseas migration

6 Estimates of overseas migration are based on net permanent and long-term overseas movements with State and Territory not stated allocated pro rata. Short-term movements are excluded. The estimates from July 1976 onwards include an adjustment for the net effect of category jumping. This adjustment is necessary because net permanent and long-term migration figures can be affected by changes in travel intentions from short-term to permanent/long-term or vice versa. For example, an Australian resident departing for a short-term visit overseas (stating that he/she intends to stay abroad for less than 12 months) in fact stays more than 12 months, thereby changing his/her travel category from short-term to long-term. Prior to December quarter 1989, adjustments for category jumping were only made to final population estimates. These adjustments are now also included in preliminary estimates. For further details see *Information Paper: Demographic Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 3228.0).

Net interstate migration

7 Estimates of interstate migration since June 1986 have been derived from latest census data on interstate movement in the preceding one year and unidentified information on interstate changes of addresses advised to the Health Insurance Commission in the process of administering Medicare.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

DEFINITIONS

8 *Sex ratio*: the sex ratio relates to the number of males per 100 females.

9 *Median age*: the age at which half the population is older and half is younger.

10 *Mean age*: the average age of the population.

AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH

11 The average annual rate of population growth, r , is calculated as a percentage using the formula below, where P_0 is the population at the start of the period, P_n is the population at the end of the period and n is the length of the period between P_n and P_0 in years.

$$\left[\left(\frac{P_n}{P_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

ACCURACY/RELIABILITY

12 It should be noted that while the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) seeks to produce the most accurate estimates of the population possible, the accuracy of the estimates depends on the quality of the source data used. The major source of potential error is considered to be the estimates of interstate migration based on Medicare transfer data.

13 Single year age estimates are not shown for persons aged 85 years or older. The reliability of age estimates decreases as older ages are reached. However, estimates for each age up to 99 have been calculated and are available on request.

14 In recognition of the inherent accuracy involved in population estimation, population figures over 1,000 in the text are rounded to the nearest hundred, and figures less than 1,000 are rounded to the nearest ten. While unrounded figures are provided in tables, accuracy to the last digit is not claimed and should not be assumed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

15 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published in the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

16 Five previous issues of this series containing consolidated data were issued on 23 August 1982 (containing estimates for the years 1971 to 1976); 22 July 1983 (containing estimates for the years 1981 to 1987); 8 December 1987 (containing estimates for the years 1981 to 1987); 21 July 1993 (containing estimates for the years 1987 to 1992); and 18 December 1997 (containing estimates for the years 1992 to 1997).

17 Other ABS publications which may be of interest to users of this publication include:

Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0) — issued quarterly

Australian Demographic Trends, 1997 (Cat. no. 3102.0)

Births, Australia (Cat. no. 3301.0) — issued annually

Deaths, Australia (Cat. no. 3302.0) — issued annually

Migration, Australia (Cat. no. 3412.0) — issued annually

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (Cat. no. 3401.0) — issued monthly

Population Projections, 1997 to 2051 (Cat. no. 3222.0) — issued every two to three years.

18 A compendium of all demographic data for each State and the Australian Capital Territory has been released in State and Territory specific publications,

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Demography (Cat. nos 3311.1–8). The first release contained 1990 data. These publications are released each year for each State or Territory and contain a variety of demographic data. The first release for the Northern Territory contained 1993 data.

19 Publications are annually produced for each State and Territory showing the estimated resident population within Statistical Local Areas by age group and sex, *Population by Age and Sex* (Cat. nos 3235.1–8).

20 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. Both are available from any ABS office.

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