

## The Mobility of Australia's Population

Some may wonder whether the restrictions on development which may flow from adoption of the We Will Decide proposal would have the effect of 'locking up' areas or creating enclaves.

This is unlikely, because Australians are so mobile. As people move out of an area, to somewhere else better for them, they create vacancies which others fill. We Will Decide does not give anyone the power to decide *who* will live in an area. At present rates of mobility, areas could dramatically change in character even if the population level does not change.

The following information on mobility is drawn from an article on the 2011 census results by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Still On the Move*, available at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2071.0main+features702012-2013>.

The key point is that **roughly 30% of Australian residents move between each census**, in addition to any movements caused by additional migration since the last census.

### Population Movement 2001-2006 and 2006-2011

<i>People<sup>(i)</sup> Who Changed Residence: i.e., at a new address at the next census</i>	<i>Moved Between 2001-2006</i>		<i>Moved Between 2006-2011</i>	
	<i>No. In 2006</i>	<i>% of 2006 Population</i>	<i>No. In 2011</i>	<i>% of 2011 Population</i>
Usual Residents <sup>(ii)</sup>	19,855,290	100.0%	21,507,717	100.0%
New arrivals from overseas	822,500	4.1%	1,194,700	5.6%
Aust residents who moved locally <sup>(iii)</sup>	4,533,000	22.8%	4,615,100	21.5%
Aust residents who moved outside local area	1,898,900	9.6%	1,800,900	8.4%
Total Aust residents who moved	6,431,900	32.4%	6,416,000	29.8%
Total movements	7,254,400	36.5%	7,610,700	35.4%

(i) The number of people who changed residence is actually a census count of those aged 5 and over, as shown on the ABS website. However, unlike the census website, the percentage calculation above is based on the total usually resident figure for people of all ages, which lowers the percentage who are shown to have moved from that shown on the ABS site.

(ii) Usual resident figures have been taken from the 2011 Census QuickStates page,

[http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/0?opendocument&navpos=220](http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/0?opendocument&navpos=220).

(iii) For these purposes, the ABS defines “locally” quite broadly. It says: “New residents are people who lived at a different address five years prior to the census year under the following conditions: for capital cities, a different GCCSA\*; for urban centres, a different SUA; or for country areas, a different Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3). Movements within each of these areas are considered to be local moves and these people are not defined as new residents. New residents include residents who were living overseas five years previously, and exclude people who did not fully state their place of usual residence 5 years ago and excludes children under 5 years of age.”

\* A GCCSA is a large area. For Canberra it comprises the whole ACT; for Sydney, the greater metro area. Movements within these areas are classed as local.