

**Australian Population Association Eleventh Biennial Conference
University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, 2 to 4 October 2002**

Title:

An alternative way to estimate SLA populations: The Second phase of the Medicare Project

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Abstract:

The Medicare project is investigating the use of the Medicare enrolment file to derive internal migration for Statistical Local Areas (SLA) in NSW. The first phase of the project demonstrated that there was potential for using Medicare data in this way.

This paper reports the second phase of the Medicare project. The main objective of the second phase is to study the developments which were introduced recently by the Health Insurance Commission (HIC) and improve the quality of migration estimates. Migration estimates were produced for the five year period 1997 to 2001 and these estimates along with the registered number of deaths and births were used to produce estimates of the resident population at SLA level. The estimates for the year 2001 were then compared with the results of the 2001 Census of population and Housing.

The paper is structured in three sections; the first summarises recent developments affecting the quality of Medicare data. The second section provides estimates of migrants by type of move for the five year period 1997-2001. The third, focuses on population estimates at the SLA level. With successful estimates of internal migration, it could be possible to use the component method to estimate the annual resident population of SLAs, in order to replace or to support the annual regression based estimates produced by ABS.