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**Title:**

**Is Queensland different? Revelations from the 2001 Census**

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**Abstract:**

Queensland like Australia is undergoing significant change in population and settlement patterns. While inland areas have generally declined in population since the 1970s many coastal settlements have seen high population growth and rapid urban development. This is particularly evident in coastal South East Queensland between the Sunshine Coast and the Queensland/New South Wales border.

The population is also ageing but not as rapidly as for Australia due to the “younging” effect of principally internal migration on the population.

Preliminary analysis of the 2001 Census indicates that while there are a number of similarities with the Australian population in terms of demographic characteristics there are also a number of differences.

The low proportion of overseas born particularly from non-english speaking countries is very evident. For example, this paper will address the key findings for Queensland from the 2001 Census with appropriate comparison with other states and territories. The answer to the question “Is Queensland really different demographically?” will be revealed.