



Australian Population Association

12th Biennial Conference

population and society: issues, research, policy

15-17 September 2004 - Canberra, Australia

Demographic adaptations to population ageing

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Abstract

This paper discusses the concept of 'sustainable population ageing' and the demographic adaptations relevant to achieving it. 'Sustainable population ageing' is an aspect of sustainable development requiring varied responses, the nature of which is discussed drawing initially upon ideas about the bases of 'successful ageing' for individuals. Comparisons between micro and macro approaches highlight the importance of considerations overlooked in individual-level research.

A cluster analysis of national trends in population ageing through time provides a basis for comparing trends in ageing and highlighting some prospective differences in trends and responses. Although population ageing entails a degree of convergence in national age structures, it appears that societies are "converging" to a new diverse situation in which there will necessarily be many differences in the means by which sustainable population ageing can be achieved. The extent to which demographic adaptations are sufficient is considered in light of other dimensions of sustainable ageing.

Paper prepared for the 12th Biennial Conference of the Australian Population Association, 15-17 September 2004, Canberra.

