



Some Impacts of State Specific Regional Migration Schemes in South Australia

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One of the most significant changes which have occurred in permanent immigration and settlement to Australia in the last decade has been the increasing proportion who are restricted in where they can settle in Australia, at least initially. Fully one fifth of settlers in 2005-06 were in this category. South Australia is the state which has benefited most from these new State Specific and Regional Migration (SSRM) schemes with 80 percent of all of its settlers in 2005-06 being in this category. This paper reports on the patterns of SSRM migration to South Australia and examines a number of its demographic, economic and social impacts. It utilises a range of data sources including a survey of recently arrived SSRM migrants and their employers. In addition there were in depth interviews with a small number of these migrants and employers as well as residents of communities they have settled in and key stakeholders and decision makers in SSRM settlement in South Australia. These types of migration schemes are becoming more common in OECD nations yet the research on them is very limited and this paper seeks to make some generalisations regarding these schemes from both theoretical and policy perspectives.