



Modelling the Northern Territory's population

Mary Beneforti, Tony Barnes & Tom Wilson

Mary Beneforti, Northern Territory Treasury, Darwin (mary.beneforti@nt.gov.au)

A population projection model has been developed by one of the authors (Wilson) which allows for the separate, but possibly dependent, growth of two identifiable sections of a population. With the two population sections identified as Indigenous and non-Indigenous, the model is well suited to modelling the possible future growth of the Northern Territory's population. Besides allowing for differences in age-specific rates of fertility, mortality and interstate and overseas migration the model also allows for (i) mixed Indigenous and non-Indigenous unions with variable probability of offspring being identified as Indigenous and (ii) possible changes in Indigenous identification at any age. The Territory's possible demographic futures have been explored using a wide but plausible range of assumptions about the values model components might take in the future. Of particular interest is the global exposure of the Territory economy, the possible impact of improving employment of local Indigenous people and the ageing to the local and Australian populations.