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South Australia's Demographic Future to 2050: Certainties and Uncertainties

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This paper will examine the likely path of South Australia's future demography within the context of the State's stated population policy target of 2 million population by 2050. Selected future scenarios based on various projection assumptions will be described along with the future growth rates and age distribution of the population resulting from each scenario. The paper will illustrate that although the exact size and composition of some of the future components of the State's population growth remain uncertain, such as overseas and interstate migration, some of the consequences of future population change can already be classed as 'certainties', such as rapid ageing and increased age dependency ratios. The future dwelling needs of the State's population and the likely distribution of that population cannot be predicted precisely. However, based on current and likely future trends the paper will attempt to identify the likely future demand for dwellings under the various population projection scenarios and the possible impact of these changes on the future population geography of the State.