



Australian Bureau of Statistics, Developments in Migrant and Ethnicity Related Statistics

Andrew Middleton, *Manager, National Migrant Statistics Unit, ABS, Adelaide*

In July 2006 the ABS created a National Migrant Statistics Unit (NMSU) in response to the need for a statistical evidence base to support community and government policy related to migrants, their settlement outcomes and ethnic groups. The NMSU has been established in partnership with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs with the intention of providing statistical leadership in the area of migrant and ethnicity statistics. In recent years there has been increasing community and policy interest in the population group of migrants and policy issues relevant for Australia's ethnically diverse population. Government policies at all levels recognise the contributions that can, or could, be made by migrants and different ethnic groups to society, both economically and socially. The role of the NMSU includes:

- maintaining a dialogue with key stakeholders regarding emerging issues, data gaps and needs;
- developing statistical information related to migrants and ethnicity (analyses and other products);
- providing statistical leadership and coordination in the field of migrant and ethnicity statistics;
- the development of standards and concepts;
- advancing migrant and ethnicity issues with the ABS (relating to standards, survey content and design);
- facilitating client requests relating to data on aspects of the population related to migrants as well as ethnicity.

This paper presents a summary of the activities of the NMSU and covers some of the strategic directions that will ultimately lead to a more comprehensive range of data about migrants and ethnicity.