



Away but not forgotten: The experiences of Australians in the United States

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Emigration of nationals is emerging as a significant trend in traditional 'countries of immigration' such as Australia. The number of Australian emigrants is increasing and the characteristics of those who are leaving are typically young, well educated and highly skilled. A key concern is how to stay connected with Australians overseas who are a valuable asset to Australia. The United States is a primary destination of Australians living abroad. This paper discusses the results of a survey answered by 1581 Australians living in the United States. The survey addresses important demographic information about respondents and investigates mobility patterns, reasons for migration, networks kept with Australia and future migration intentions. The main focus of discussion in this paper is on survey results relating to indicators of connectedness to Australia while living in the United States. Survey results show that the vast majority of respondents (94%) keep links with Australia across a variety of network types. Over half of survey respondents are in contact with Australia at least once per week, and most respondents had made at least one visit to Australia since moving to the United States. These findings highlight the importance of facilitating networks with the overseas Australian community, and indicate the potential of Australians overseas in making valuable contributions to Australia even if they are not living on it's shores.