



Australian Population Association

13th Biennial Conference

Population Policy and Australia's Destiny

5-8 December 2006 - University of Adelaide

The Australian Demographic Databank

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(Poster)

In the 1970s the Department of Economics at the ANU began an ambitious project to create an integrated system of demographic accounts for Australia, with the population disaggregated by sex, age and marital status updated on a six-monthly basis by birth, death, marriage and migration data, beginning in 1921. The project was carried through to the 1980s, and a series of publications were produced, but it was then abandoned, apparently due in part to a decline in the quality of the census counts, and the difficulty in reconciling the different data sources. We are attempting to revive and expand the Databank, focusing initially on mortality and population data. We have produced single year of age data on deaths and populations for each sex and each state and territory from 1901 to date. The data is currently available in an Excel spreadsheet, and will be made available on the Web through the Australian Social Science Data Archive.