



Plenary 1 - Population and Policy in Australia's Future **Napier 102 Wednesday 6th December 9-10.30 am**

Policy Issues in Australia's Population Future

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Australia as one of the world's more developed nations faces a substantial demographic challenge associated with low fertility and ageing. These issues are now in the forefront of public and policy discourse in OECD nations, especially as they relate to the future sustainability of economies and societies in these countries. Moreover, climate change and accelerating environmental damage and resource depletion are of considerable significance in considering future population growth in Australia and other more developed countries. The current and potential role of international migration in future population growth is gaining greater attention. Federally Australia has eschewed the development of a formal integrated population policy although it has a myriad of policies which impinge significantly on population. This paper seeks to identify the major population challenges faced by Australia and focuses particularly on the role of international migration in this. There is an attempt to consider possible future developments in international migration including the role of circular migration, efforts to influence where migrants settle, relating migration to labour market and migration and environment.