

EDITOR'S PREFACE

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This volume, a joint special issue of the *Journal of Population Research* and the *New Zealand Population Review*, contains papers presented at a meeting of representatives of the Australian Population Association and the Population Association of New Zealand that was held in Wellington on 29 and 30 June 2000. The meeting comprised two plenary sessions on the first day, and four workshop sessions on the second; in each session there were presentations from both countries. The first plenary theme, Key Demographic Issues Facing Australia and New Zealand, was addressed by Peter McDonald and Dianne Rudd (on behalf of Graeme Hugo) from the Australian perspective, and by Ian Pool from the New Zealand one. The second plenary focused on Immigration and Population Policy. Elsie Ho (on behalf also of Richard Bedford and Jacqueline Lidgard) and Andrew Trlin presented for New Zealand, and Siew-Ean Khoo and Don Rowland for Australia.

The four workshop themes were Fertility and Family Formation (A. Dharmalingam, Janet Sceats and Ian Pool for New Zealand; Gordon Carmichael and Natalie Jackson for Australia), Future Demographic Changes (Rebecca Kippen and John Paice for Australia; Arvind Zodgekar and Mansoor Khawaja for New Zealand), Internal Migration (James Newell for New Zealand; Martin Bell for Australia), and Indigenous Population Issues (Kate Ross and John Taylor for Australia; Cyril Mako for New Zealand). Despite best endeavours, it has not proved possible to convert all presentations into formal papers, and Peter McDonald's paper 'Low Fertility in Australia: Evidence, Causes and Policy Responses' has been published elsewhere (*People and Place*, 8(2):6–20). The papers that are presented have been ordered thematically according to the schedule of plenary and workshop sessions outlined above.

Populations of New Zealand and Australia at the Millennium begins with Graeme Hugo's essay in which he identifies recent and emerging trends in Australia's population distribution, which he argues is one of the most dynamic and policy-relevant dimensions of the country's contemporary demographic situation. The second paper is Ian Pool's essay on the major issues of population and policy confronting New Zealand. After assessing the major contemporary issues in crossnational perspective, Pool provides a brief demographic history of New Zealand that emphasizes similarities and differences compared to the experience of Australia as a preface to discussing priority issues for the country in the future.

Three papers on immigration and population policy follow. Richard Bedford, Elsie Ho and Jacqueline Lidgard first provide a comprehensive review of the context and components of, and policy issues surrounding, international migration to and from New Zealand. After detailing the distinctive heritage underpinning contemporary immigration policy, they discuss at some length the close connection between immigration and late twentieth-century Māori concern to, under the

Treaty of Waitangi, resuscitate their culture and reclaim control over various natural resources. Bedford *et al.* then discuss New Zealand's 'trans-Tasman connection', and its respectively longstanding and more recent links to island nations of the Pacific and (Chinese goldminers apart) Asia, before assessing what migration in the twenty-first century might entail. In her parallel paper on Australia, Siew-Ean Khoo identifies four main immigration issues at the millennium. The first, ironically, is increased net immigration from New Zealand. The others are a growing policy emphasis on attracting skilled migrants, a shift towards temporary, if long-term, entry arrangements for business, refugee and family migration, and a significant rise in illegal immigration. Next, Don Rowland ruminates on the approaches to population issues of the two major political parties in Australia, and assesses the prospects for, and likely characteristics of, a bipartisan approach to population policy that might influence public policy more generally in the early twenty-first century.

Under the theme of fertility and family formation, Gordon Carmichael presents a summary of the major late twentieth-century developments in relationship formation and childbearing patterns in Australia. He concludes with a recommendation for more qualitative research, in a bid to better understand the unprecedentedly low level of fertility at millennium's end. Natalie Jackson then focuses on an element of policy that may well be depressing fertility on both sides of the Tasman: the two countries' 'user pays' systems under which tertiary students contribute significantly to the cost of their education. Jackson's hypothesis is that accrued indebtedness, exacerbated by a tendency for better-educated individuals to seek similarly well-educated partners, may act as a significant deterrent to having children, and thereby contribute to structural ageing. It remains for further research to test this hypothesis. Writing on New Zealand, A. Dharmalingam uses data from a 1995 national survey of women aged 20–59 to explore recent trends in marriage, cohabitation and marital dissolution. He establishes that New Zealand has participated fully in the shift in emphasis from marriage to cohabitation experienced by most developed countries in the late twentieth century, notes the probable increase in so-called 'living apart together' (LAT) relationships, discusses trends in and correlates of marital dissolution, and constantly draws attention to ethnic differentials in these areas of family formation behaviour.

Looking to the future, Arvind Zodgekar and Mansoor Khawaja examine projected change in New Zealand's population dynamics, growth and composition, with particular emphasis on the third element. Their assessment of compositional change traverses age structure and dependency, cohort structural change that will affect the demand for tertiary education, effects on the growth and structure of the labour force, impending growing ethnic diversity, and changing household composition. Rebecca Kippen, for Australia, discusses the inevitability of future population ageing, and the reasons for it, in that country. Her main focus, though, is the three components of future population change – fertility, mortality and international migration – and the implications of alternative scenarios for the degree to which Australia's population will age. A second future-oriented Australian contribution is related, but more narrowly focused. John Paice draws attention to the large increases in numbers of older (aged 65+) and 'old old' (aged 85+) people that can be expected in certain living-arrangement categories in the early decades of the twenty-first century. He also notes inevitable changes to the ethnic compositions of

these populations, as Australia's varied postwar immigration history feeds through to the retirement ages.

On the theme of internal migration, Martin Bell attempts the difficult task of comparing population mobility in Australia and New Zealand, two countries with radically different physical sizes, populations and, so far as mobility data are concerned, geographies. He traces the issues and problems that beset such an exercise, compares the intensity of population mobility in the two countries, then discusses the degree and pattern of population redistribution resulting from mobility in each country. James Newell, from the New Zealand perspective, examines migration, both internal and international, into and out of the country's regions between 1986 and 1996. This is a particularly interesting period, embracing as it does the major economic reforms introduced by the Lange Labour government following its election in mid-1984.

Finally, Kate Ross and John Taylor compare the health of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and New Zealand's Māori population with that of the respective non-Indigenous populations, but more importantly with one another. Their primary concern is to try to unearth clues as to why the health of Indigenous Australians has remained much more resistant to improvement than has that of Māori. The scene is set by comparison of levels and trends in life expectancy; then differentials in environmental health, access to health care, socio-economic disadvantage, psychosocial stress and the situations regarding treaties are examined as potential sources of Indigenous Australian health disadvantage.

While it has not proved possible to present here the full array of papers proffered at the Millennium Meeting, this volume is a very worthwhile addition to the demographic literatures of both countries. I hope, in particular, that those members of the APA and the PANZ who were not able to attend the Meeting enjoy reading it. No attempt has been made to update papers for the two years that have elapsed in bringing them to publication, during which period some policies and policy debates inevitably have changed or moved on. There have also been further censuses in both New Zealand and Australia. This collection is, however, both the proceedings of a meeting and firmly focused on the Millennium. On both counts the year 2000 is its temporal reference point.