A Multicultural Northern Territory – Statistics from the 2016 Census (and more!)

Fiona Shalley and Anita Maertens
About us - Population research at CDU

Through applied research we strive to understand the causes and consequences of population change with emphasis on the Northern Territory, the north of Australia and other northern and sparsely populated areas.

We are driven to make positive differences to policy, communities and society through our research.
Part I
Introducing concepts:
Multiculturalism; the Census; Population data

Part II
All about Alice Springs:
Key statistics, comparisons and trends: 2016 Census and more

Part III
Future trends and challenges
Part I

Introducing concepts:
Multiculturalism; the Census; Population data
What is multiculturalism in today’s Australia?

- Half Australians born o/s or have 1+ parent born o/s [birthplace]
- Identify with about 300 ancestries [ancestry]
- Since 1945, 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia [migration]
- 150+ Indigenous languages spoken in Australia (part of our CALD)
- 85 per cent of Australians think it’s been good for Australia [acceptance, integration and tolerance]
- Most common non-English languages are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian and Greek [language and culture]
We are defined not by race, religion or culture, but by shared values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law and equality of opportunity—a “fair go”.

The glue that holds us together is mutual respect – a deep recognition that each of us is entitled to the same respect, the same dignity, the same opportunities.” (Prime Minister, Pg.2)

A Multicultural Northern Territory – Statistics from the 2016 Census

- A project for the Office of Multicultural Affairs (Territory Families)

- Profile and highlights the importance and changing nature of the Territory’s multicultural community, including information for the regions

- Today – snapshot, some context and interesting trends and changes
Multicultural before we existed!

- Indigenous Territorians - our original Cultural and Linguistic Diversity
- Chinese gold miners and railway workers outnumber Australian workers 7:1 (1800s)
- Japanese pearl divers made up 71% of male population of Darwin (1920s)
- Afghan cameleers opened up the outback during the late 1800s
Census data

• Provides an understanding of who we are, where we live, what we do and how our communities are changing over time
• Contains data that informs on our multicultural make up
• Tries to count everyone in Australia on Census night, but some people get missed
• When households do not respond, their data is imputed
• Allows us to drill down to detailed population characteristics but this attracts issues associated with small numbers
• Not the "official" population count
A Census population snap shot

- 228,830 people in the NT, ↑ 8% from 2011
- 24,751 people in Alice Springs, ↓ 2% from 2011

- Median age NT = 32, Median age Alice Springs = 35
- Median weekly household income NT = $1,983
  Median weekly household income Alice Springs = $1,937
- Average household size NT = 2.9 people
  Average household size Alice Springs = 2.6 people
Geography – some concepts

NT Local Government Areas (LGA)

ABS Statistical Geography - SA2

The LGA of Alice Springs (top), LGA with SA2 boundaries
Alice Springs population over time

Estimated Resident Population, 1996 to 2016

Population - age x sex structure, 2006 and 2016

Population change by age group, 2006 and 2016
Population components

- Births
- Natural Increase
- Deaths
- Population Change
- Net Overseas Migration
- Net Migration
- Net Interstate Migration
Immigration - a growing contribution to our national population

The big national shift in the 1990s

Permanent migrants: migration and humanitarian program visa grants since 1984–85

Source: Parliament of Australia: https://goo.gl/1JBvj3
Skilled migrating to the ‘regions’

In order to encourage skilled migration to the regions where skill shortages are particularly acute, the government has created state and territory specific migration schemes that include the Skilled Independent Regional (Provisional) (SIR) Visa, the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme and the State and Territory Nominated Independent Scheme.

Source: https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Publications_Archive/archive/Skilledmigration
And reflected in the Northern Territory...

Net overseas migration, **Arrivals** by visa type

Immigration is critical to our territory population...

Not just contributing to population size...

Demographic

- Younger, more female, likely to stay
- Many more with partners
- More have children

Economic and Labour force

- Fill skilled occupation priority list jobs
- Lower unemployment/high spouse employment
- Stay with same occupation with same employer

Social and cultural

- Arts, food, markets, festivals, events
- Highly educated and education ‘hungry’
- Can stimulate community regeneration
Alice Springs – 5 year population movement (2011 – 2016)

Source: CDU Demography and Growth Planning Team, calculations using ABS data
Part II

All about Alice

Key statistics, comparisons and trends
Multiculturalism in Alice Springs

Image: Charity Bounce

Picture courtesy of Multicultural Affairs, Territory Families
Country of Birth as a proportion of the total population

Northern Territory, 2016

- Australian born: 69%
- Birthplace not stated: 11%
- Overseas born - MESC: 7%
- Overseas born - NMESC: 13%

Alice Springs, 2016

- Australian born: 64%
- Birthplace not stated: 12%
- Overseas born - MESC: 11%
- Overseas born - NMESC: 13%

Source: ABS, Census 2016: CDU Demography and Growth Planning Team, calculations using ABS Census data

Non Main English Speaking Countries (NMESC) include all countries apart from Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, UK and USA
Country of Birth of population, percentage change from 2011 to 2016

Northern Territory

-15% -5% 5% 15% 25% 35% 45%

Alice Springs

-15% -5% 5% 15% 25% 35% 45%

Source: ABS, Census 2016: CDU Demography and Growth Planning Team, calculations using ABS Census data
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006 Male</th>
<th>2006 Female</th>
<th>2011 Male</th>
<th>2011 Female</th>
<th>2016 Male</th>
<th>2016 Female</th>
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<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Darwin</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole of NT</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<td>Whole of Australia</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Overseas born</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
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<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Darwin</td>
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<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole of NT</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole of Australia</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* as a proportion of population responding to 'country of birth' question on Census

Source: 2016 Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile, Catalogue number 2003.0
## The changing Territory migration landscape

### Size and growth of migrant communities – NT and Alice Springs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alice Springs (LGA)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>661</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>623</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>432</td>
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<td>Scotland</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>340</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>121</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>94</td>
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<td><strong>Top 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,770</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,439</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,023</strong></td>
<td><strong>17%</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<td><strong>Northern Territory</strong></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>5,082</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>5,322</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>3,295</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>3,968</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>1,871</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>3,586</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1,092</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,917</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>East Timor</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1,054</td>
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<td>940</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>1,012</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>999</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>988</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>China (excl. SARs/Taiwan)</td>
<td>865</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Top 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,368</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,681</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,682</strong></td>
<td><strong>29%</strong></td>
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</table>

Source: Author’s calculation from ABS Census data for 2006, 2011 and 2016 extracted using Table Builder
Distribution of overseas born residents

Source: ABS, Census 2016
Gender distribution, overseas born residents

Source: ABS, Census 2016: CDU Demography and Growth Planning Team, calculations using ABS Census data
Alice Springs residents speaking language other than English (LOTE) at home

Source: ABS, Census 2016: CDU Demography and Growth Planning Team, calculations using ABS Census data
Alice Springs LOTE speakers and English language proficiency

Source: ABS, Census 2016: CDU Demography and Growth Planning Team, calculations using ABS Census data
Religion in Alice Springs

Source: ABS, Census 2016: CDU Demography and Growth Planning Team, calculations using ABS Census data
Religious Affiliation, 2011 to 2016

## Ancestry in Alice Springs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ancestry (c)</th>
<th>Both parents born in Australia</th>
<th>Both parents born overseas</th>
<th>One parent OSB/one parent Aust born</th>
<th>Not stated - Birthplace for either or both parents not stated</th>
<th>Overseas born</th>
<th>Not stated Birthplace</th>
<th>Total responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian</td>
<td>6,362</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>8,143</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4,215</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>7,305</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>1,630</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2,481</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scottish</td>
<td>1,220</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Aboriginal</td>
<td>1,345</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>848</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maori</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New migrant communities – here to stay

NT leaving rates after one year

Australia
England
New Zealand
Nepal
India
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)
Indonesia
Philippines

Percent who had left after a year

0 5 10 15 20 25

Source: 2016 Census data extracted using Table Builder
Part III

Future trends and challenges
In summary, Alice Springs ...

- Is not growing much but has the potential to do so through new migrant communities (India, Philippines, Taiwan, Sri Lanka).
- Has more women – with a different gender profile compared to the rest of the NT.
- Is getting older – with the number of people aged 65+ increasing substantially between the 2011 and 2016 census.
- Is more multicultural due to new migrant communities and the increased diversity in its overseas born population.
The NT’s population futures

- Despite slow growth now still increasing in size
- We’ll continue to grow in the long-term
- Need to plan for an increase in our multicultural make-up
- Must involve cultural groups and communities in that planning

Some challenges

• How do we make new migrant communities stick?

• What does appropriate population growth look like for regional centres?

• Polarised views and misinformation on the national immigration debate and population size

• Diminishing Territory budgets for supporting infrastructure and events for communities

Pictures courtesy of Multicultural Affairs, Territory Families
Final thoughts ....

• The multicultural databank and our other research re-emphasise the long-standing, vital and growing multicultural nature of the Territory’s population

• There has been a ‘big shift’ in the national overseas born arrivals picture from ‘Euro-centric’ towards ‘Asia-centric’

• Reflects national economic policies with skilled migration inflows changing the Territory’s multicultural make-up

• New migrant(s) and their communities:
  - Mean we still have population growth (thus $$)
  - Contribute greatly to our social capital, economic, workforce and lifestyle endowments
  - Are crucial for building the future population and workforce
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Beyond the City: Who’s out there?

Darwin, 18-20 July 2018