



# 20 key features of Darwin's population

**Tom Wilson**

Charles Darwin University

# Definition of Darwin

## Greater Darwin Capital City Statistical Area



Darwin  
+ Palmerston  
+ Litchfield councils

Source: ABS

# Other definitions

## **ABS**

Australian Bureau of Statistics

## **Estimated Resident Population (ERP)**

Number of people usually resident in an area

## **ERP in 2011**

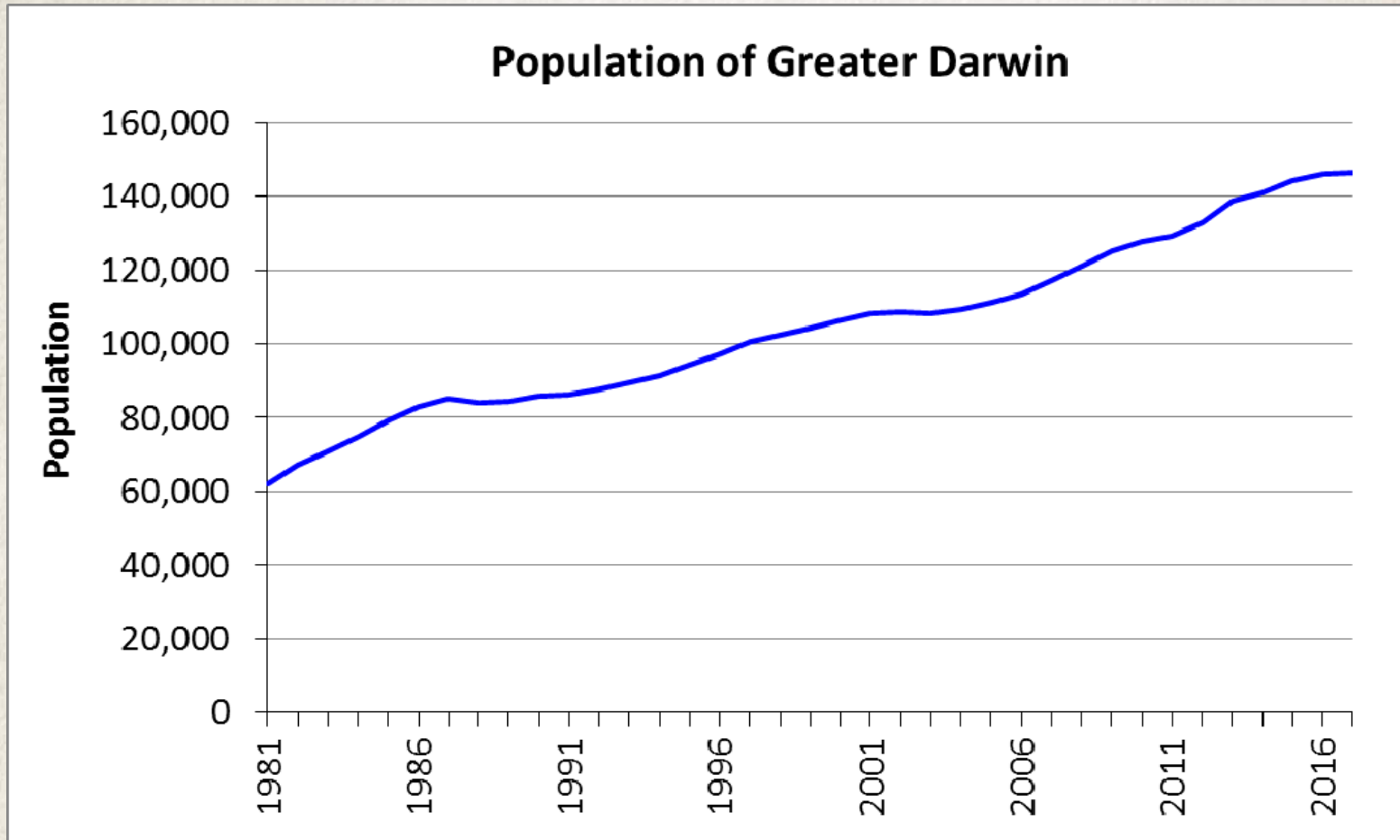
ERP at 30 June (unless otherwise stated)

## **2011-12**

Period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

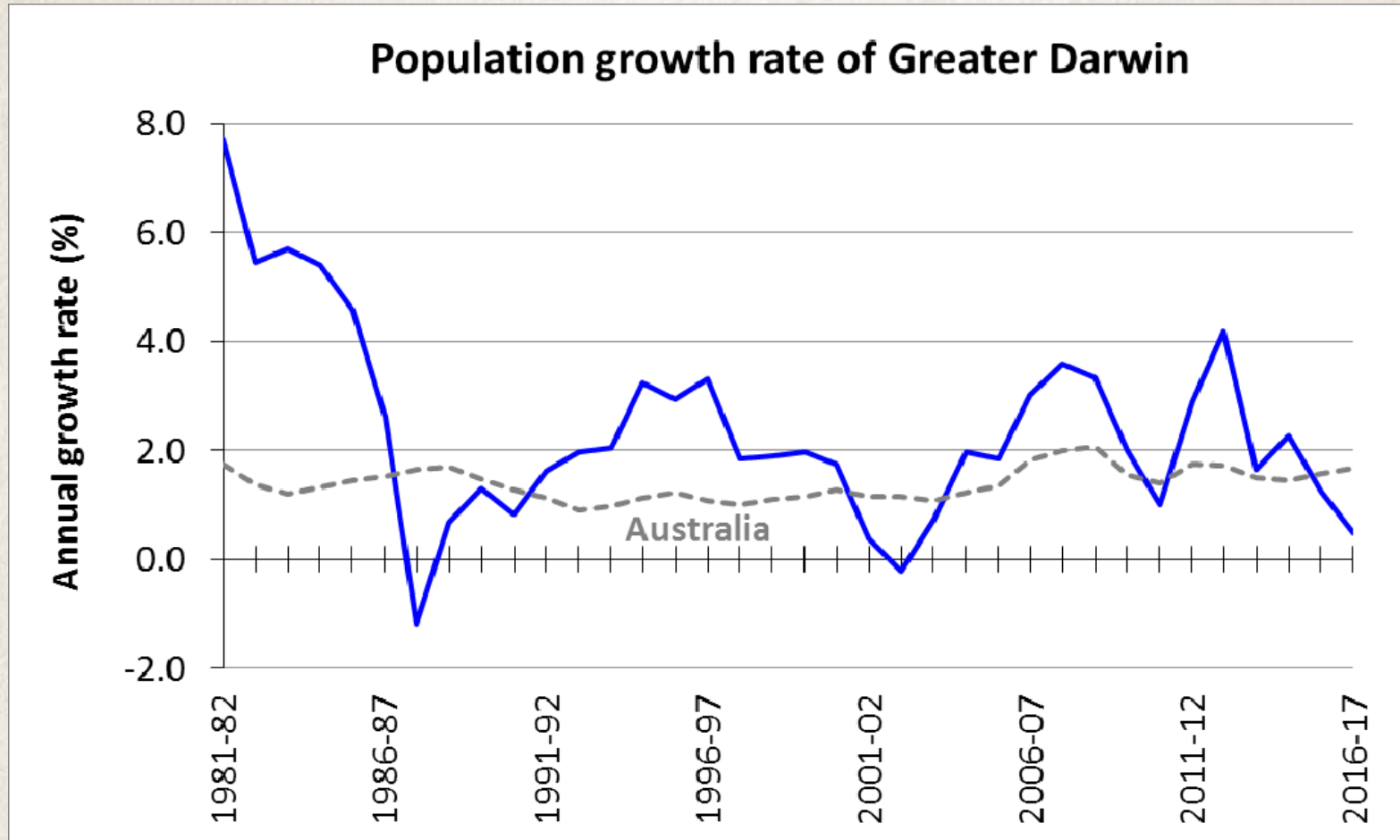


# 1. Long-run growth



Source: ABS

## 2. Volatile growth rate



Source: ABS



## 4. High population turnover



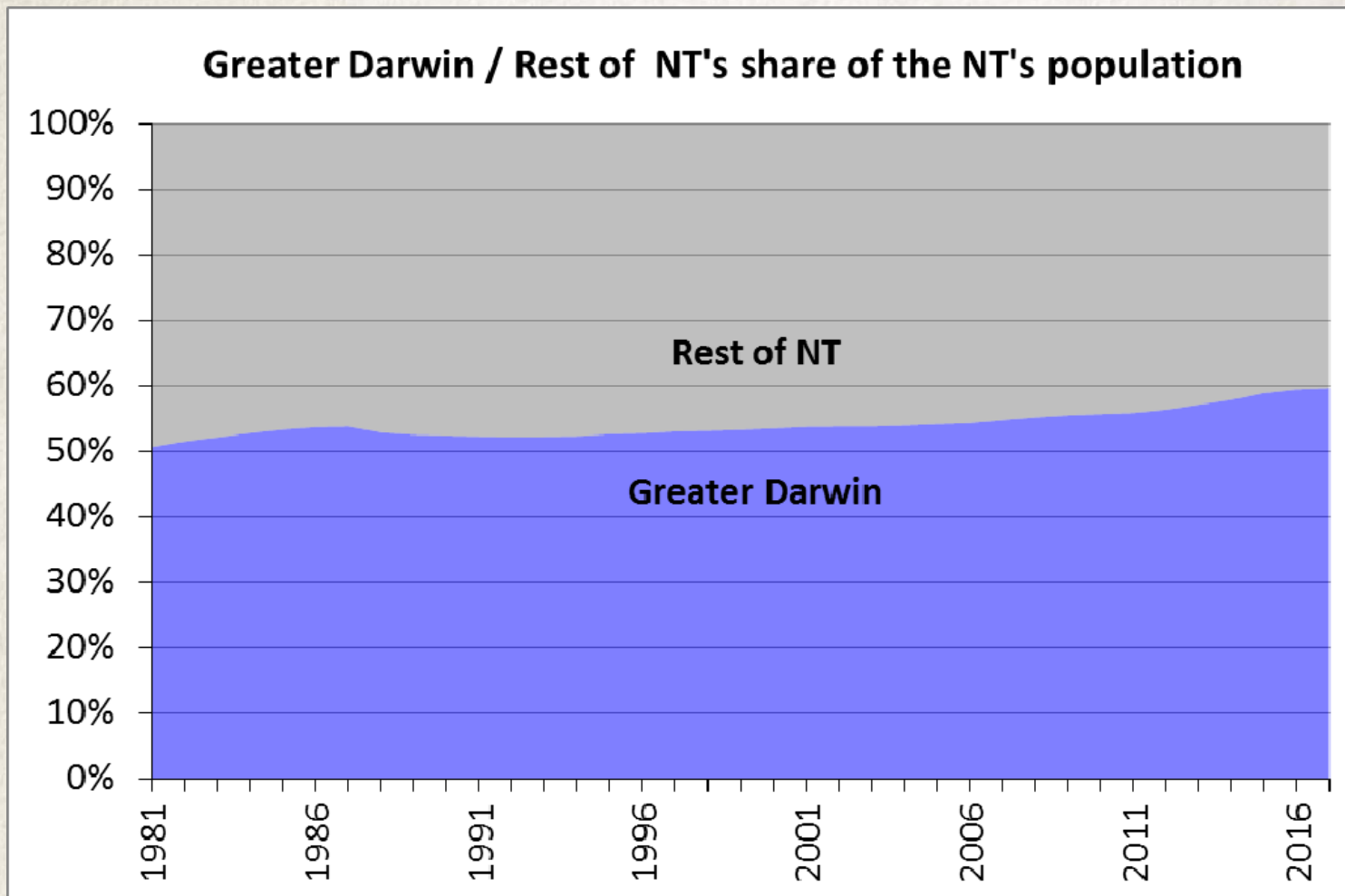
Population increase in Greater Darwin, 2016-17, about 700

Component	Inflows	Outflows
Births	+2,391	
Deaths		-514
Internal in-migration	+11,003	
Internal out-migration		-12,882
Immigration from overseas	+4,688	
Emigration to overseas		-3,990
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,082</b>	<b>-17,386</b>

Source: ABS

Turnover of about 35,500 → about ¼ of population each year

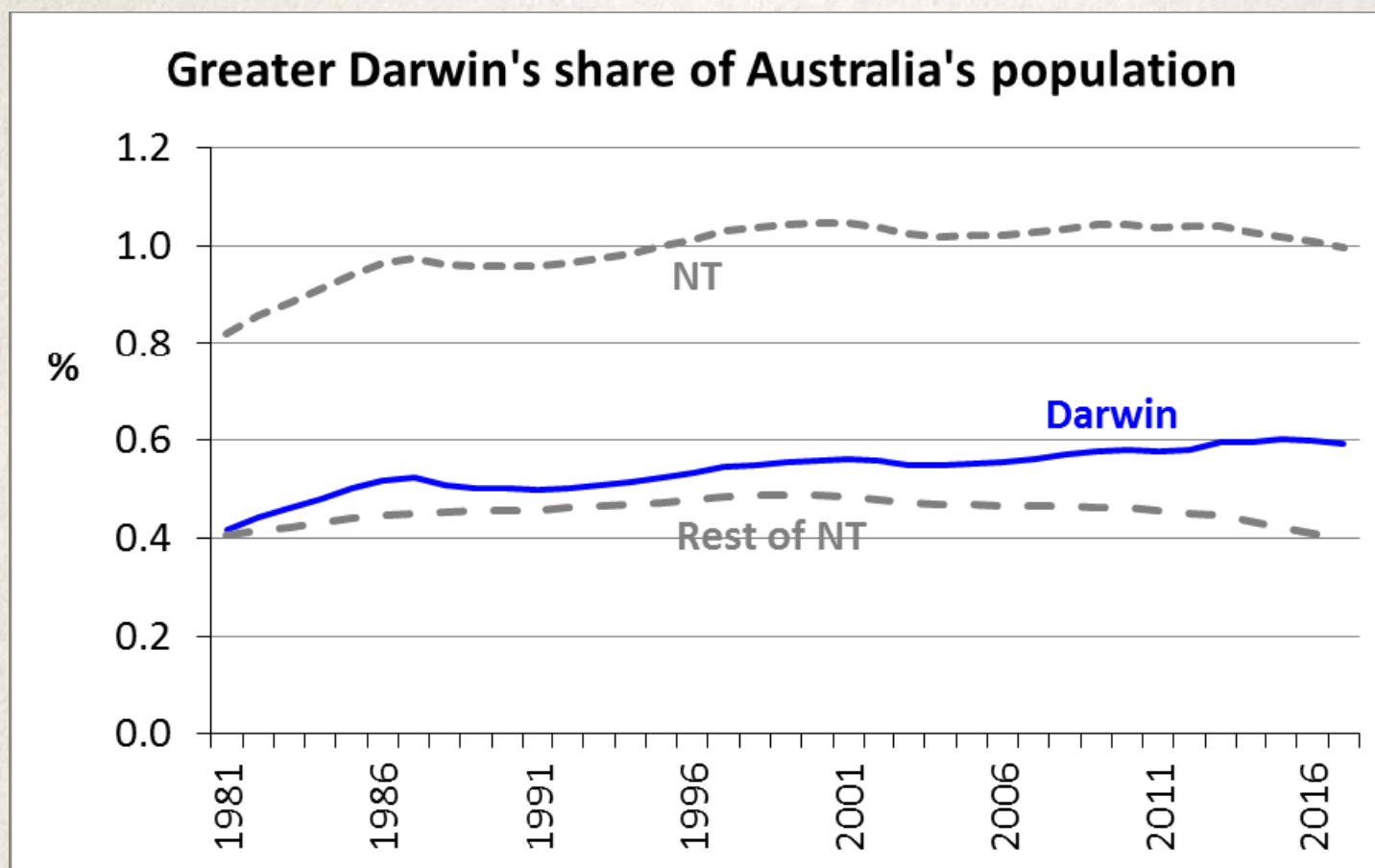
## 5. Darwin's increasing share of the NT population



Source: calculated from ABS data



## 6. Share of the national population



Source: calculated from ABS data

## 7. About 1 in 10 people are Indigenous



Latest ERPs by Indigenous status for Greater Darwin for 2011

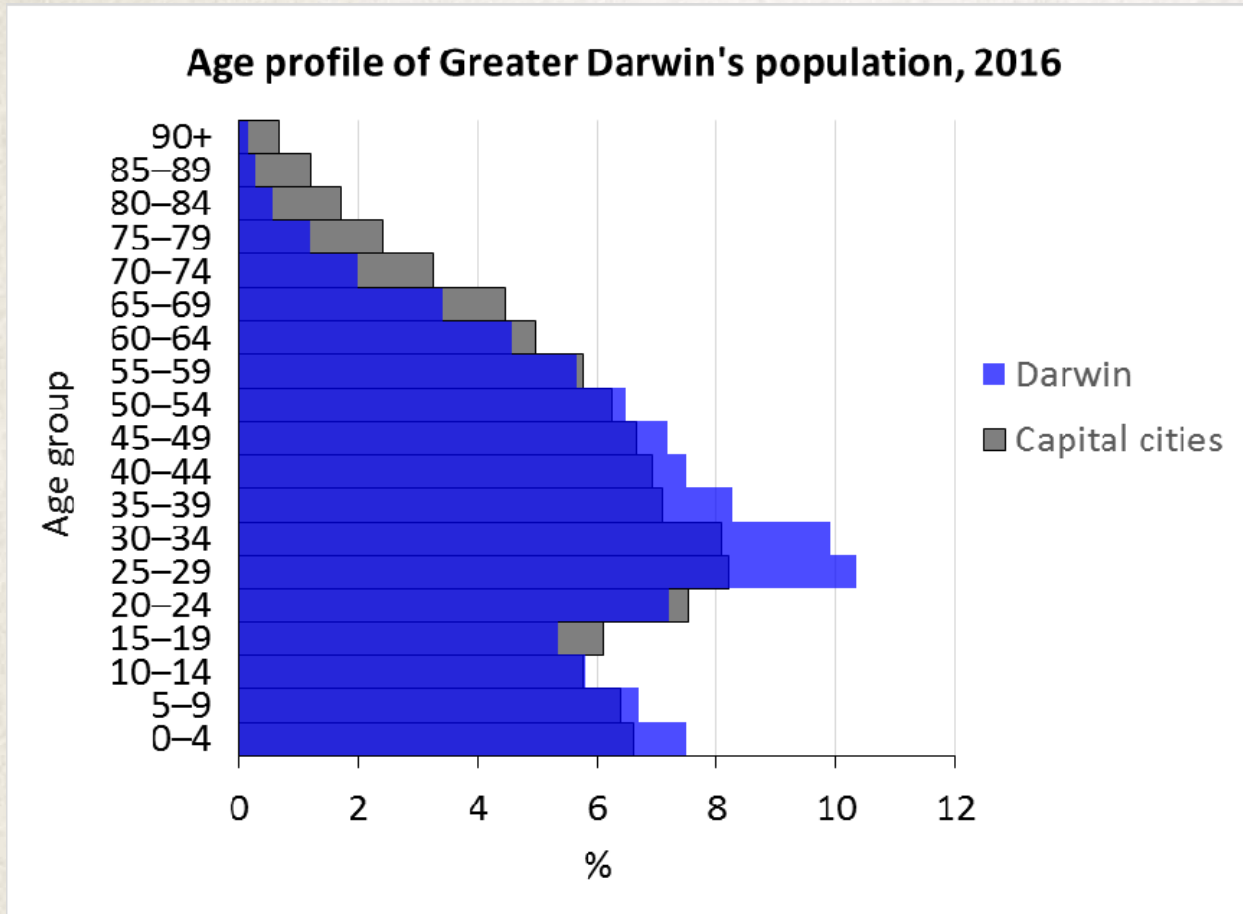
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Population	13,961	115,145	129,106
%	11%	89%	100%

Source: ABS

Rest of NT population, 2011: 54% Indigenous

NT as a whole, 2011 and 2016: 30% Indigenous

# 8. A young population

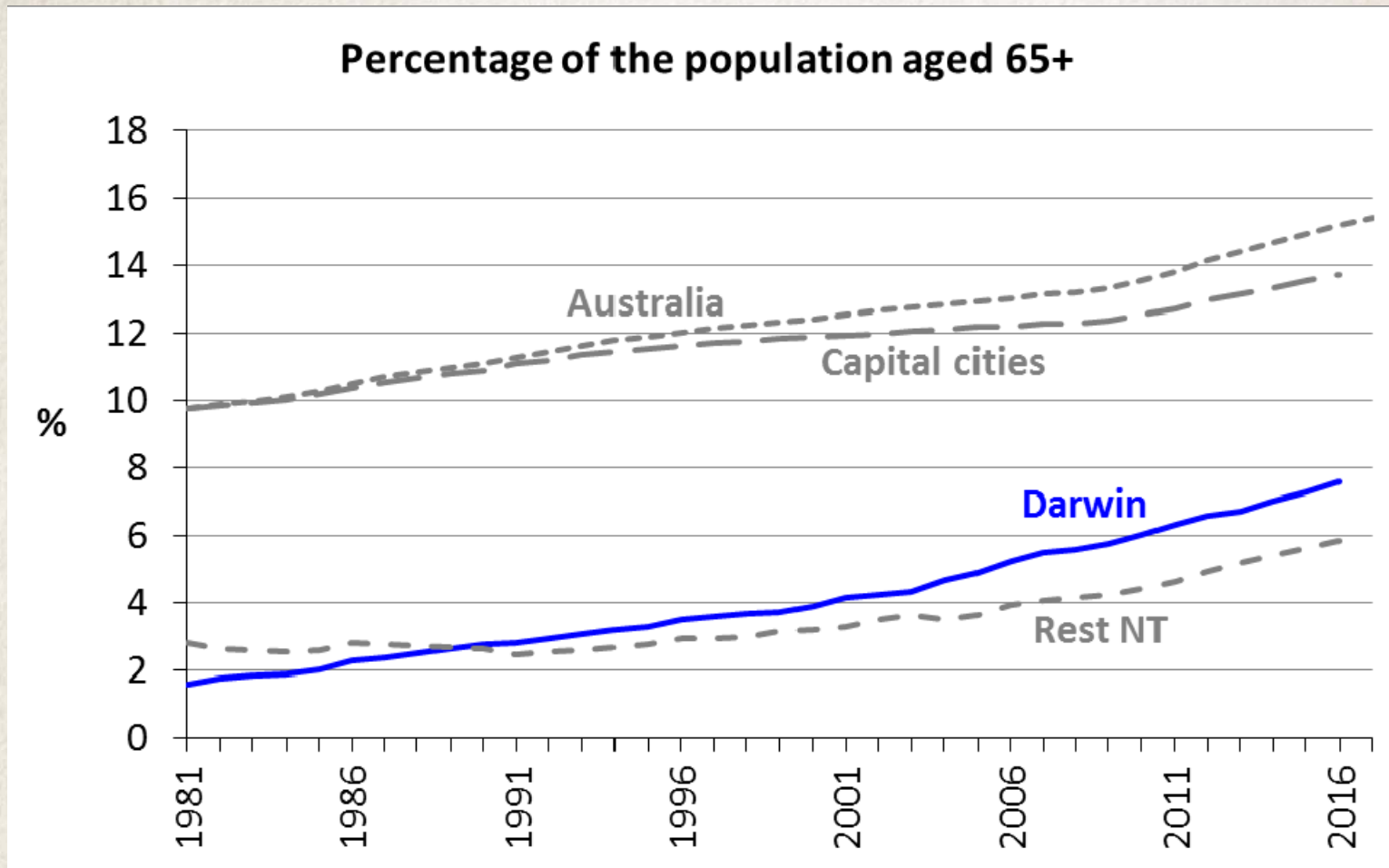


Median age: 33.5 years

(Capitals: 35.9 years)

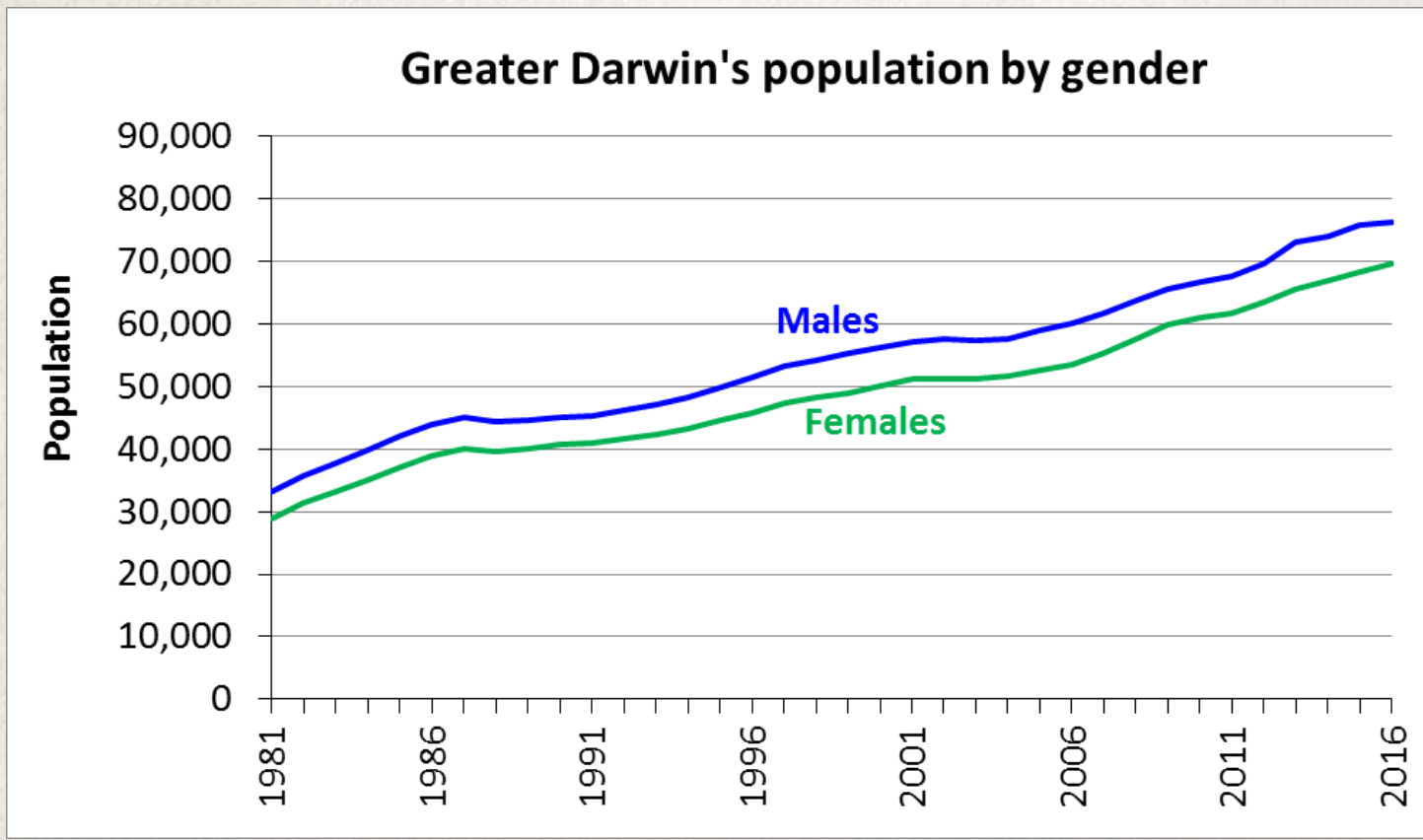
Source: ABS

# 9. Population ageing



Source: ABS

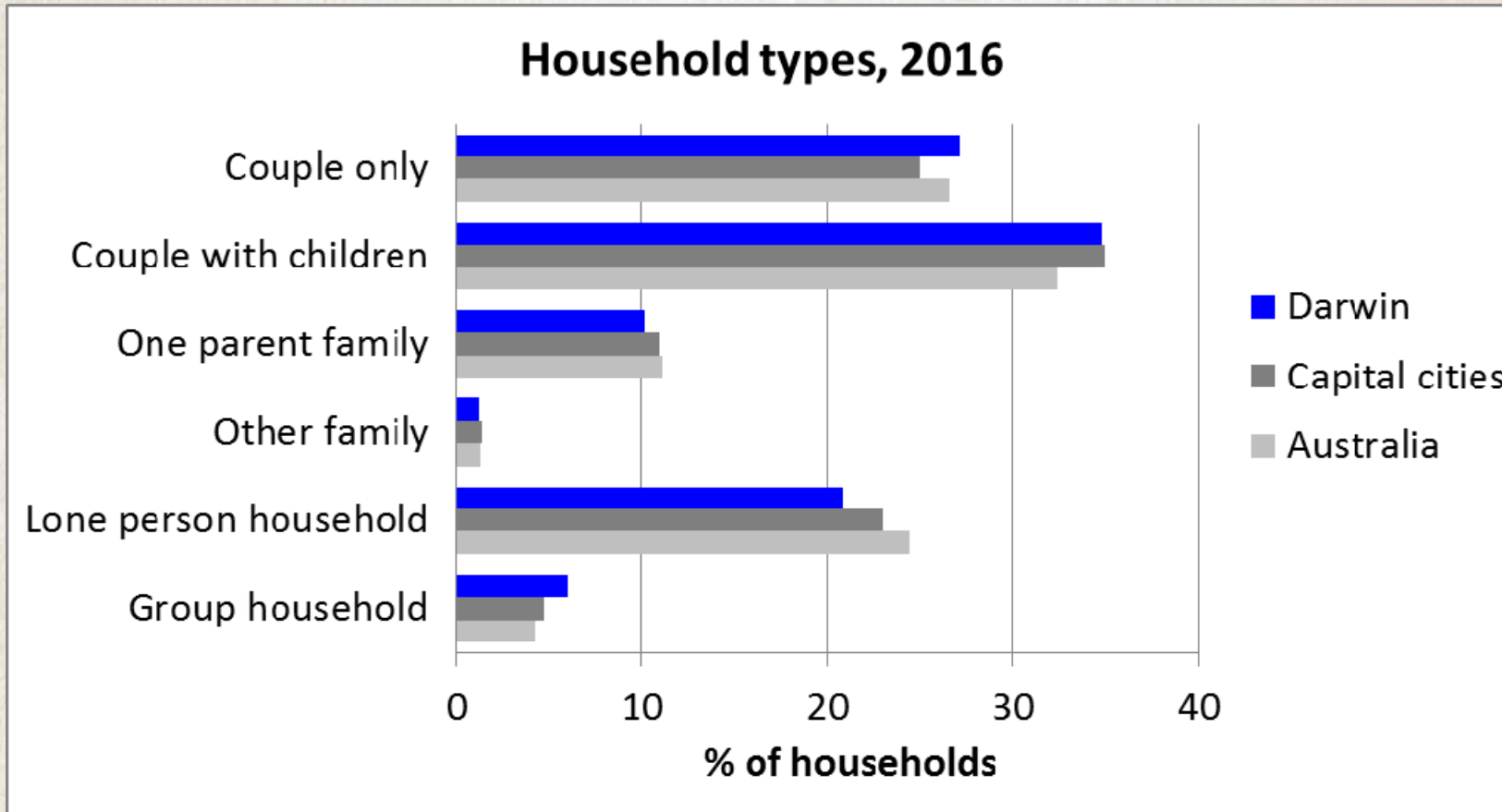
# 10. A male-dominated population



Currently 110 males per 100 females

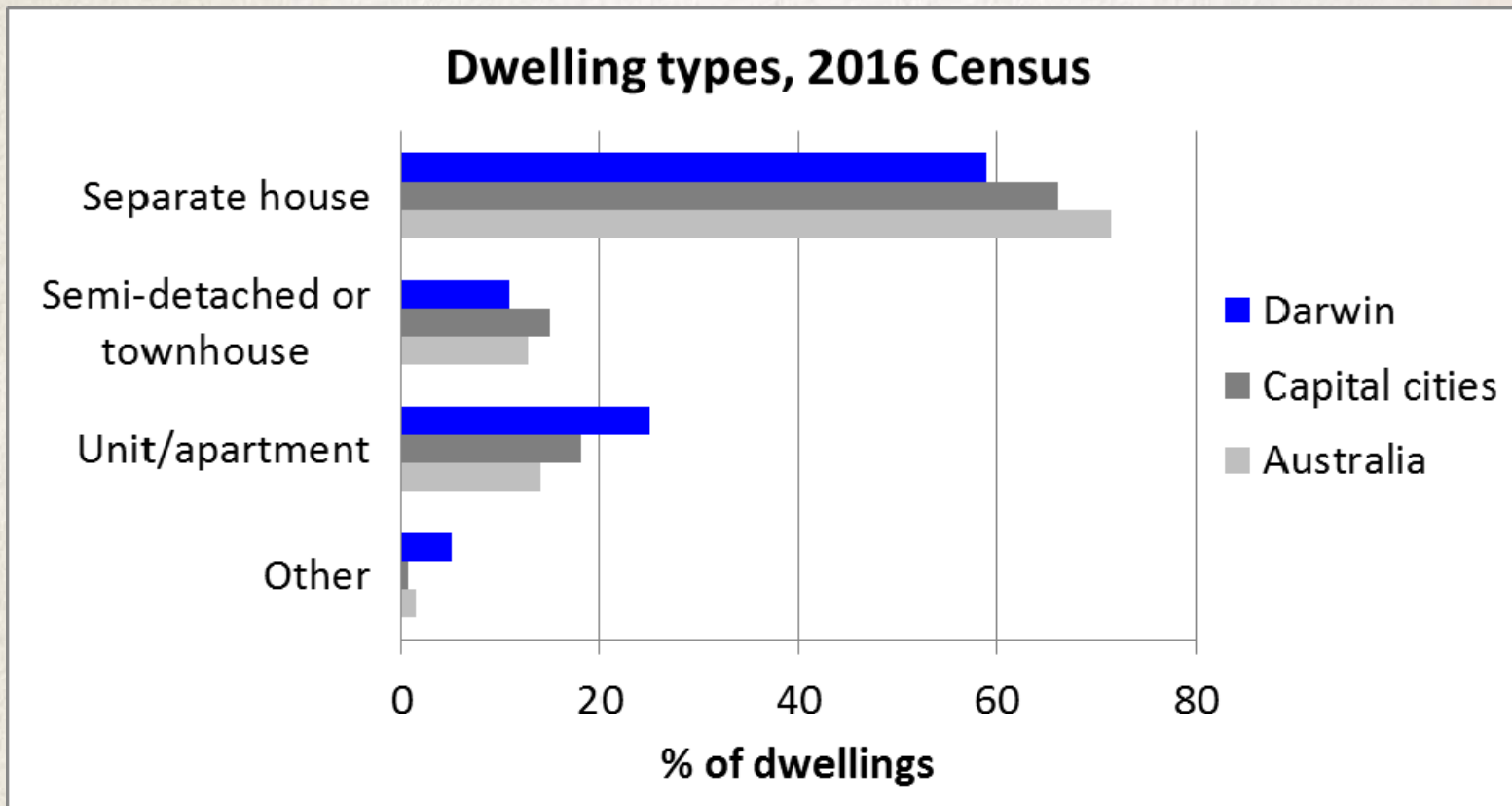
Source: ABS

# 11. Household types



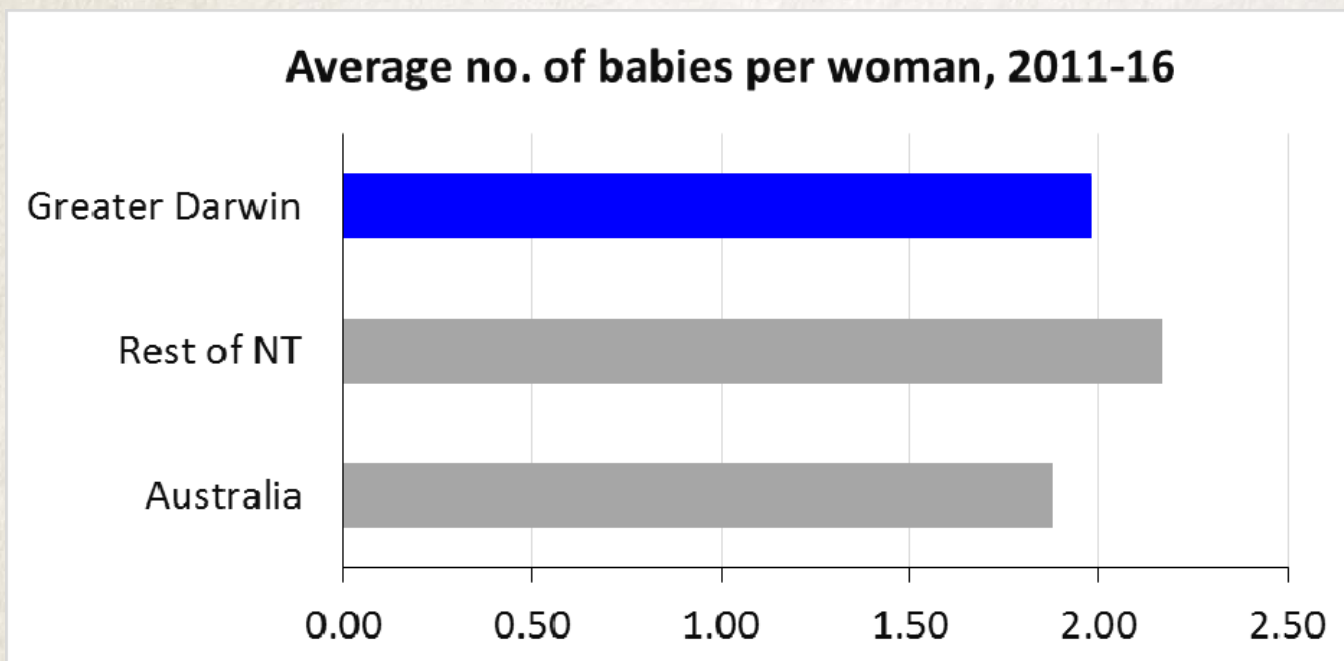
Source: ABS 2016 Census

# 12. Types of dwellings



Source: ABS 2016 Census

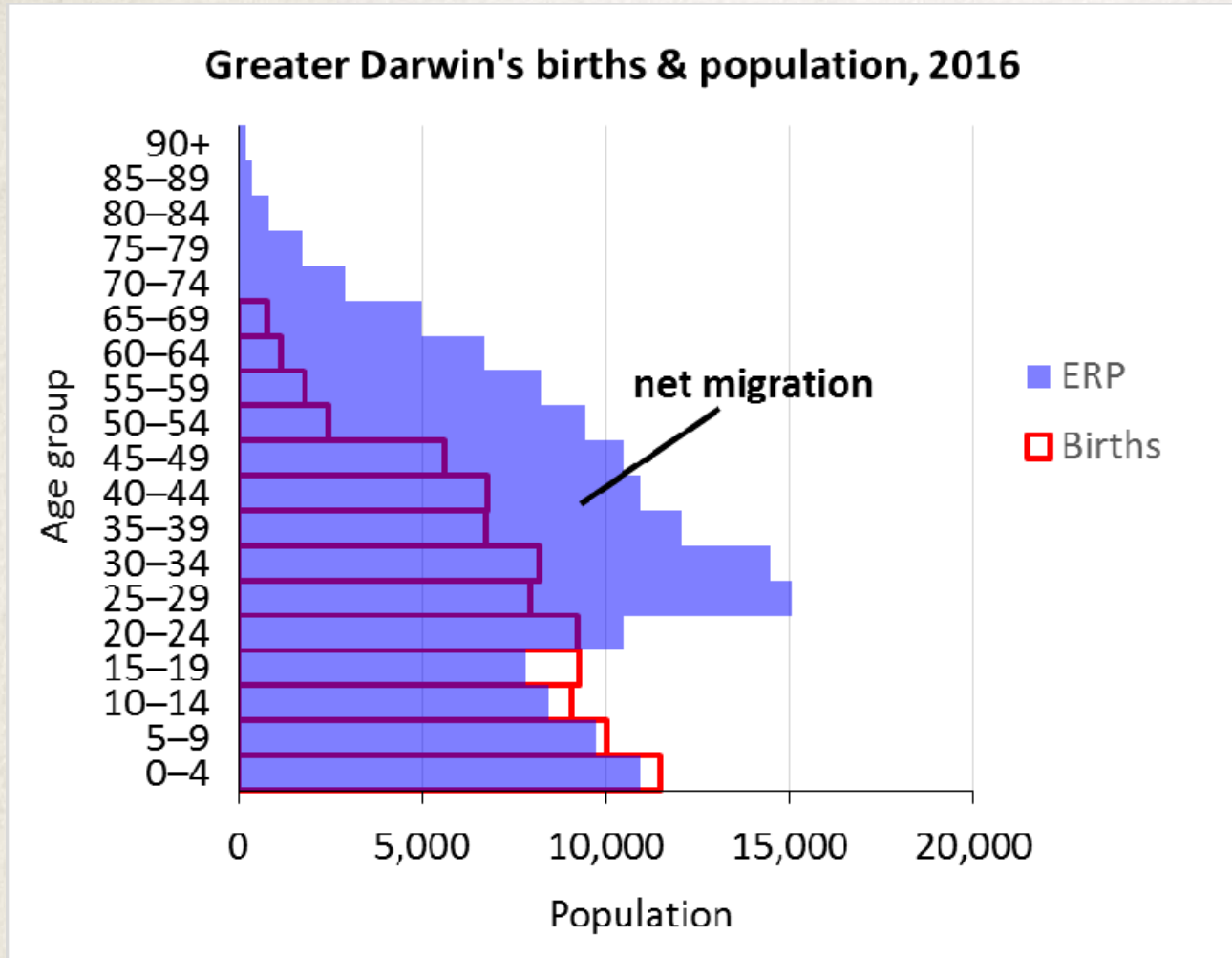
# 13. Above-average fertility rate



Source: ABS

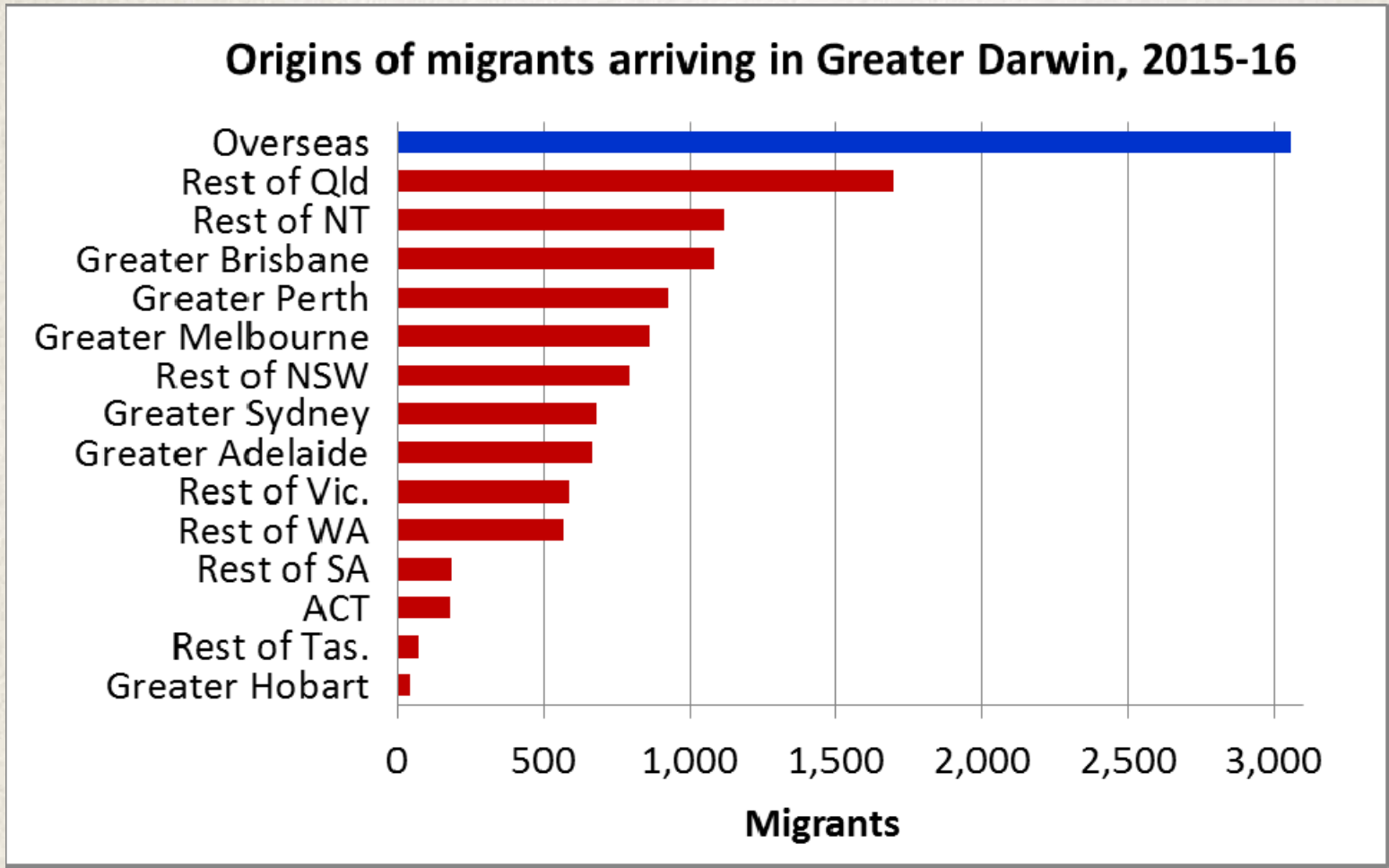


# 14. A population built on migration



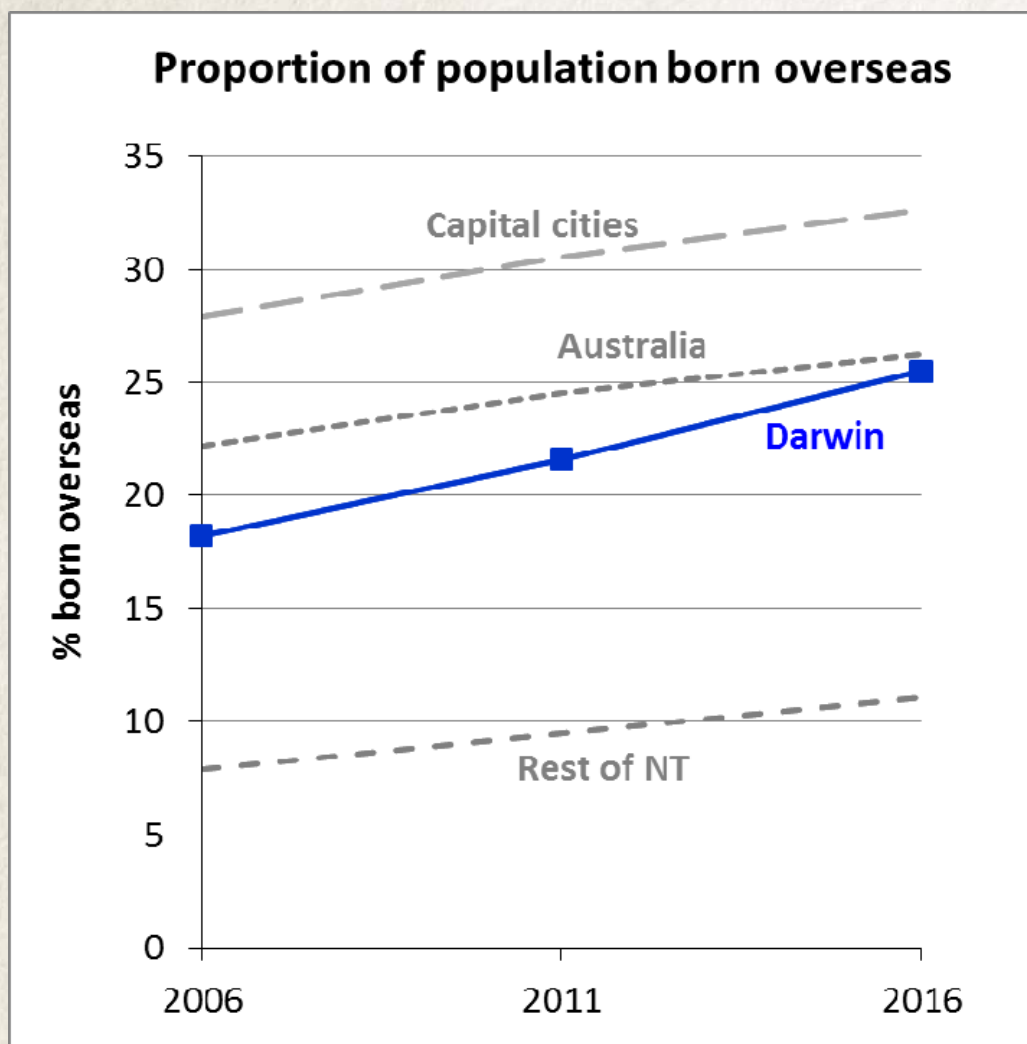
Source: ABS & own calculations

# 15. Where do people moving to Darwin come from?



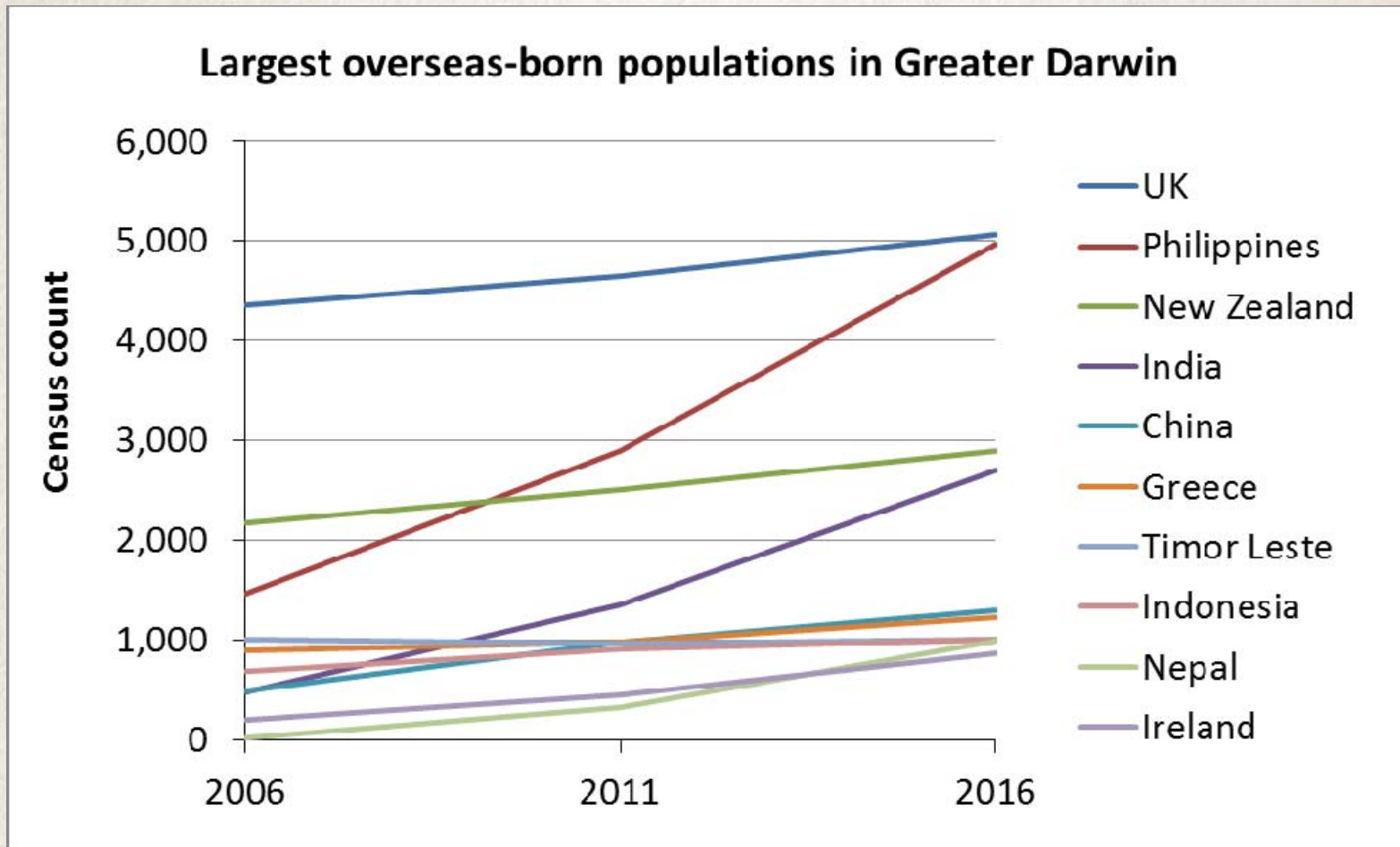
Source: ABS 2016 Census

# 16. Increasing overseas-born population



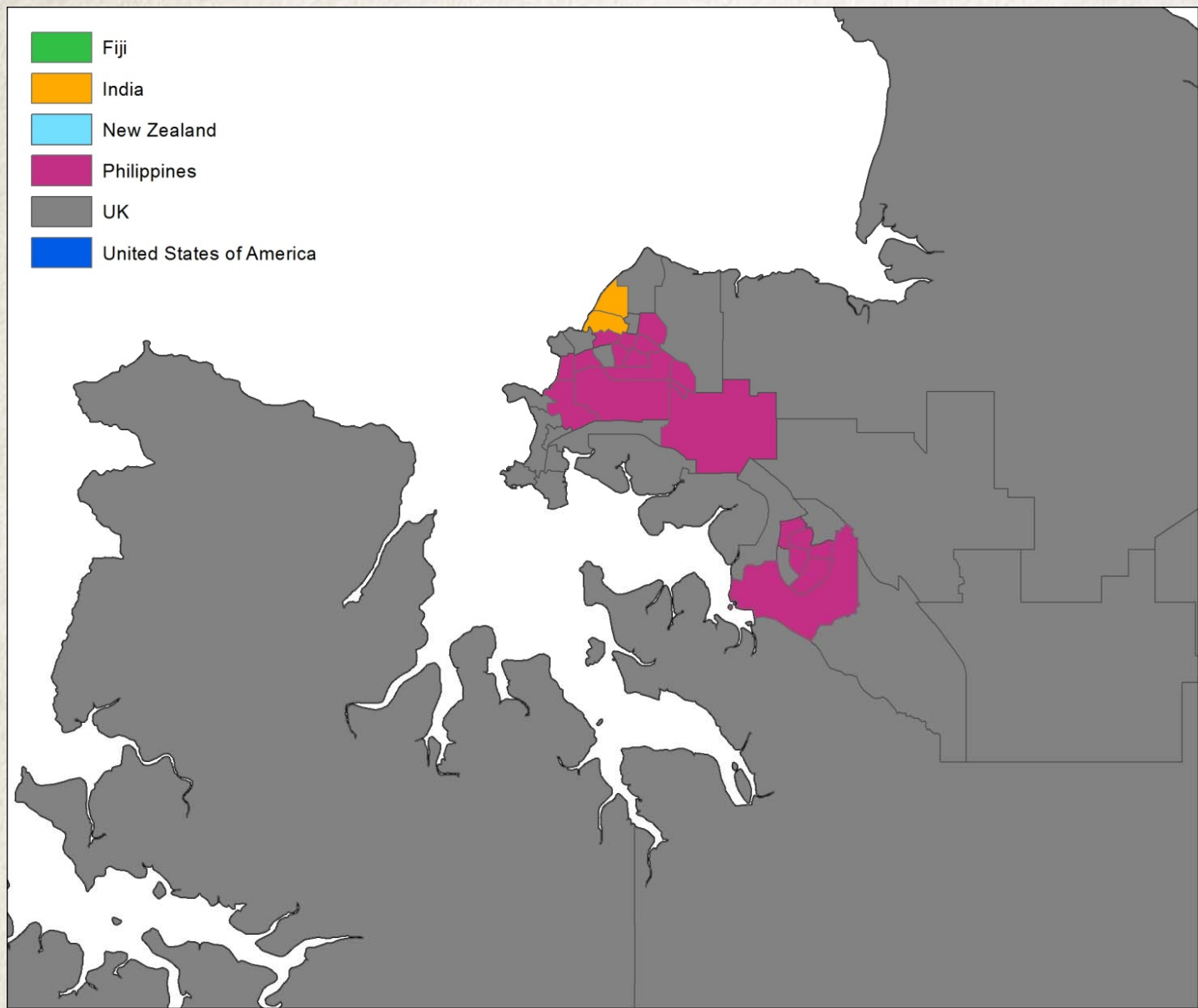
Source: ABS 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses

# 16. Increasing overseas-born population



Source: ABS 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses

# 16. Largest overseas-born populations



Source: ABS 2016 Census

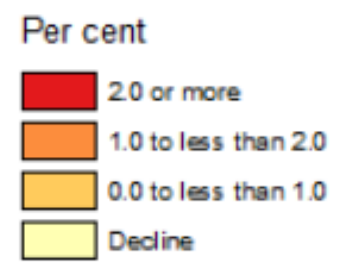
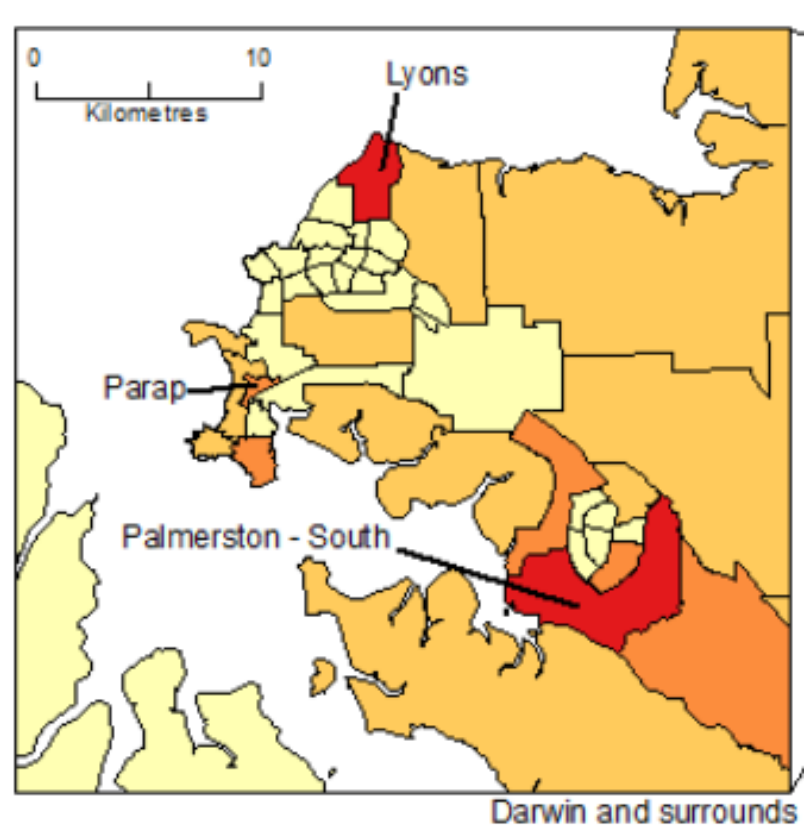
# 17. Variable population growth within Greater Darwin



## Population change 2016-17

Highest growth in new suburbs

Decline in some established suburbs (smaller households)



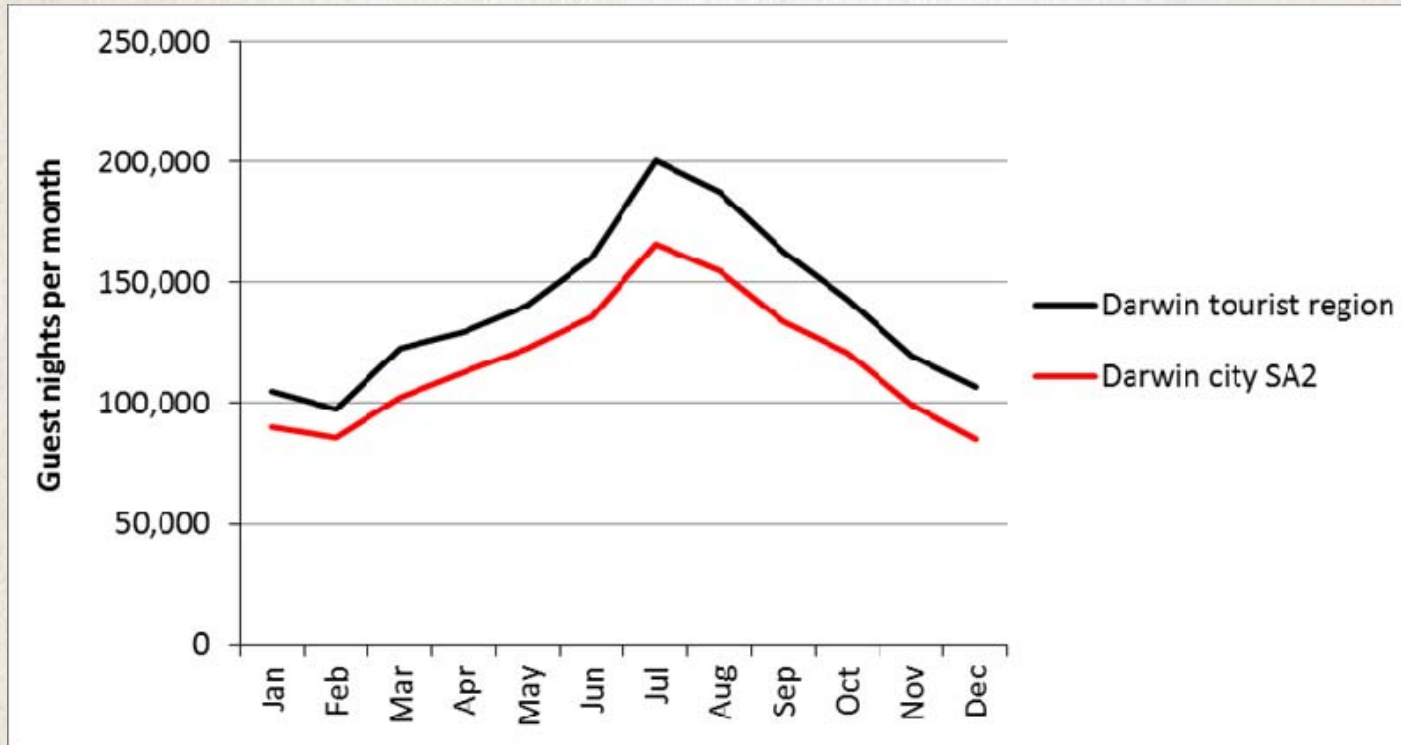
Source: ABS

# 18. Seasonal population change



No direct data on seasonal populations, but ...

## Number of guest nights spent in Darwin by visitors by month, 2015



Source: ABS

## 19. Population data quality issues

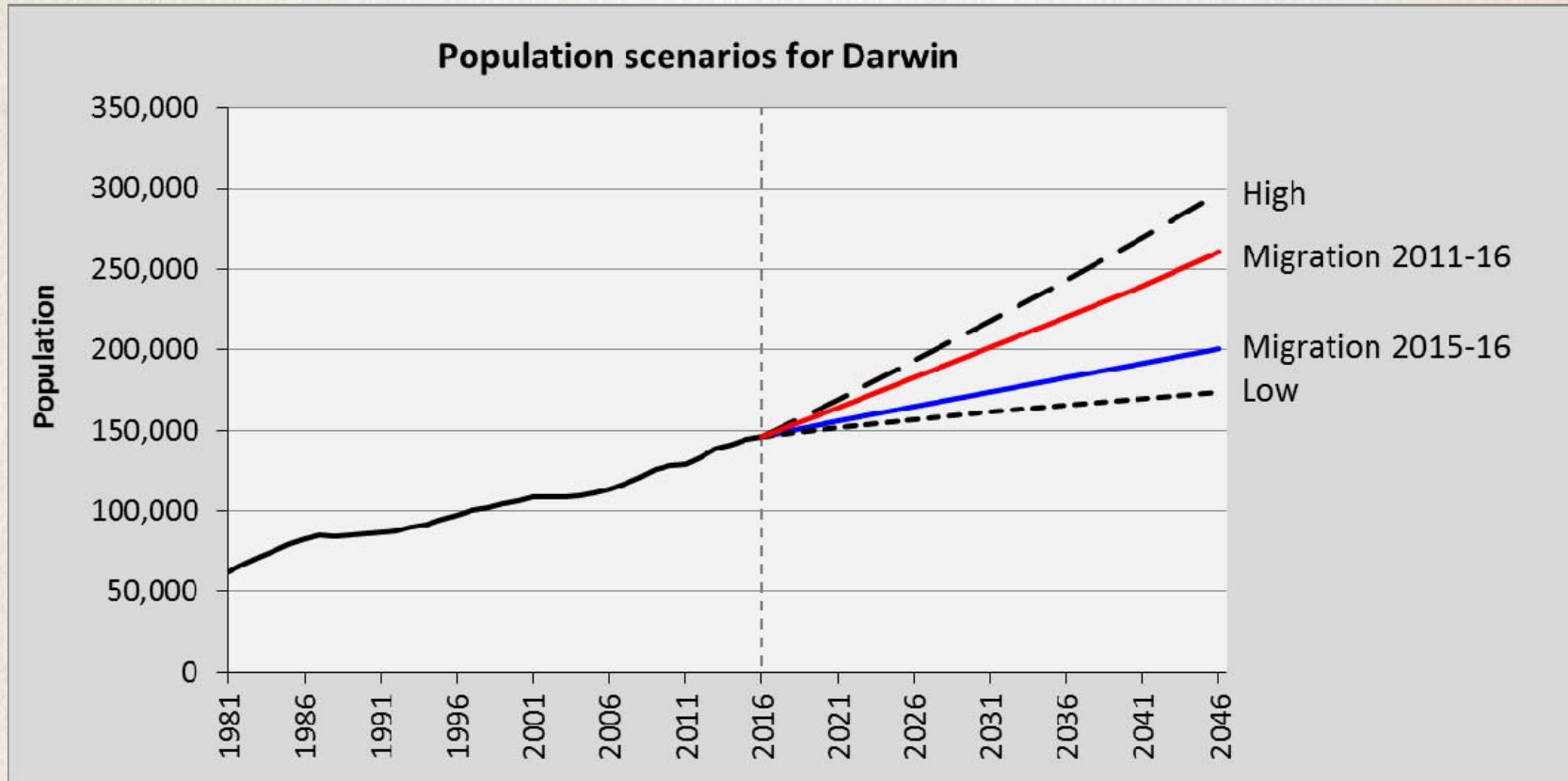
Population data quality for NT not as good as other parts of Australia

- Bigger **census undercount**, esp. Indigenous population  
Census numbers feed into ERP
- **Interstate migration** not directly measured  
based on changes of address with Medicare + defence data

Need more investment into getting better quality data for NT  
& more thinking outside the box about data and methods



# 20. The future



Source: ABS ERPs; own calculations



## Contact

Tom Wilson

[tom.wilson@cdu.edu.au](mailto:tom.wilson@cdu.edu.au)

@AppliedDemog

## Blog

<https://demographynorth.blogspot.com/>

## Acknowledgements

The demography research program at CDU is financially supported by  
NT Department of Treasury & Finance  
Australian Research Council  
Northern Institute