



Australian Population Institute (SA) Inc.

“Dedicated to responsible and environmentally sustainable population growth”

NEWS RELEASE

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SA'S POPULATION HITS A NEW HIGH

South Australia's population has grown to more than 1.5 million people - an increase of 0.8 percent in the number of people living in the State compared to last year.

Australian Population Institute (SA) Chairman Michael Hickinbotham said this is good news for Adelaide and South Australia because we need responsible and sustainable population growth in order to survive.

Mr Hickinbotham said unfortunately a total of 2,700 South Australians had moved interstate proving that more needs to be done to ensure our net migration level is reduced.

“Sustainable population growth will maintain our critical mass of people and will maintain the lifestyle that we all love in SA, for this generation and the next,” Mr Hickinbotham said.

“We understand young people will always want to travel and want an interstate experience – but we want them to return home to benefit South Australia.

“This year's net interstate migration of 2,700 people is a little less than last year, but more needs to be done to attract more people to live in South Australia.

“SA needs to do all it can to prevent people relocating interstate and encourage more ex-pats to come home.

“The lifestyle that we all love in SA can only be maintained in the future if we take action now to prevent a population decline.

“We need to ensure Adelaide does not become the backwater to the Eastern States.”

APop is a non-profit, independent policy think-tank dedicated to responsible and sustainable population growth. APop supports policies that stimulate responsible population growth through increased birth rate and overseas migration.

South Australia's looming population crisis was highlighted by APop in 2003 when it convened the National Population Summit at Parliament House. South Australia has the oldest demographic and lowest population growth of any State.

Following the Summit, the State Government responded strongly and set a State population target of 2 million by 2050. Mr Hickinbotham said South Australia is already on track to achieve this target.

South Australia last year recorded its highest share of overseas migrants in 20 years and its highest population growth since 1992.

Latest statistics show that more than 4000 people moved to South Australia in the second half of 2005 – 6.7 per cent of the national intake and a significant improvement on recent years.