

Kiwis overtake Brits as biggest imports

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NEW Zealand has overtaken Britain as Australia's main source of migrants.

A new report released by the Immigration Department shows the number of NZ arrivals rose 25 per cent in the past year, from 19,033 in 2005-06 to 23,906 in 2006-07.

Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews said the number of British migrants, however, remained steady at 23,223 in 2006-07.

"Together, New Zealand and the United Kingdom accounted for 33.6 per cent of all settler arrivals," he said.

The figures came as Australia recorded its largest annual population increase on record.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show Australia

grew by an estimated 307,100 people for the year ended March, 2007.

This was the greatest increase since record keeping began in 1789.

This increase brought Australia's population to an estimated 20.9 million.

Australia's annual growth rate was 1.5 per cent - the highest rate since 1990.

Net overseas migration was the biggest contributor to growth, with 162,600 migrants to Australia.

Queensland recorded the highest growth rate of all the states and territories, with South Australia recording one of the lowest growth rates of just 1 per cent.

Over the five years to June

2006, SA recorded a net loss of 11,300 people - with many moving interstate.

Queensland was the most popular destination, with a net gain of 160,600 people.

The Immigration Department report - *Settler arrivals 2006-07* - details arrivals to SA in the past decade.

In SA, Britons accounted for the most number of settlers - 2535, in 2006-07.

This was followed by 1416 arrivals from India, 1134 arrivals from Southeast Asia and 1078 arrivals from China.

Almost 400 New Zealanders arrived in SA in 2006-07, 455 from Afghanistan and 290 from South Africa.

POPULATION GROWTH IN AUSTRALIA

Year to March 31, 2007



Feeling right at home in the state

FOR New Zealanders David and Bronwyn Webster, South Australia offers the excitement of a new life without any drastic changes to their lifestyle.

The couple moved to Adelaide with their two children in mid-2005 and have since enjoyed the change.

“The lifestyle is very much the same as New Zealand, but it still offers the opportunity to experience a different way of life,” Mr Webster, 37, said.

“And it’s only a four-hour flight, so relatives can visit.”

Originally from Rangiora, a town near Christchurch, Mr Webster said it was no surprise so

many New Zealanders were choosing to come to the state.

“We chose Adelaide because we wanted something a little quieter and it’s a great place to bring up kids,” he said.

“There’s some great beaches and hills and we’re really enjoying our time here.”



HAPPY HOME: New Zealanders David and Bronwyn Webster and children Elijah, 5, and Noah, 3.

Picture: CAMERON RICHARDSON