

# State population increase spills into Whyalla

The past year has seen an addition of nearly 12,000 people to South Australia, causing the State's biggest population growth since 1992.

The population is now 1,552,324 people, at a 0.8 per cent increase in the year from March 2005, according to the minister assisting the minister for industry and trade Karlene Maywald.

"While this 0.8 per cent figure may seem small, when it is compared with years of population decline, it is great news for SA and shows the State Government's population policy is working," she said.

"Higher overseas migration and reducing the flow of people moving interstate have been key contributors to the growth and the increase shows South Australia is turning the tables on population."

Whyalla Economic Development Board has established a Skilled

Migration scheme for the city, which has seen 25 families locate in Whyalla in the past year.

During the past 12 months, Link Engineering have also taken on approximately 60 tradesmen, which includes 14 tradesmen from the Philippines, also adding to the city's population.

At present, official figures for the growth or decline of Whyalla's population are not available, pending the Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

which is yet to be released.

The State Government's strategic plan outlines a goal of reaching a total population of two million by 2050.

In 2005/2006, the State's population changed, with overseas migration up by 8832 migrants, making it the highest 12-month total on record and an increase of 31 per cent on the previous year.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data also showed that South Australia's birth rate had increased to 1.8 babies for each woman, up from 1.7.