

# The New South Wales Small Area Population Projections (ABS)

This report outlines the method used for producing population and enrolment projections for all Census Collection Districts (CDs) in New South Wales, spanning from June 2004 to May 2010.

## Projection Method

The main technique employed for the projections was the cohort-component method, widely accepted as the best way of producing age/sex population projections. It involved applying annual fertility and mortality rates and internal migration and overseas migration by age and sex to the base population to produce a projected population, which then became the base for projecting the next year. This cycle was repeated until the projection horizon was reached.

A four-tiered approach was taken in projecting resident population aged 18 years and over for all Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and CDs in the New South Wales.

1. The New South Wales population was projected by age and sex.
2. Sydney/Balance of NSW populations were projected by age and sex (constrained to 1).
3. The population of all New South Wales SLAs was projected by age and sex (constrained to 2).
4. The SLA projections were split into CDs.

Finally, the projections were grouped into persons aged 18 years and over, and aligned with enrolment data to produce projected enrolments.

## 1. State/Territory Projections

The base population for the New South Wales cohort-component projections was revised age/sex Estimated Resident Population (ERP) as at 30 June 2004. Assumptions for the projections were based on both short and long-term trends for each component of population change. These fertility, mortality, overseas migration and interstate migration assumptions were from Series B (the medium scenario) in the latest *Population Projections, Australia, 2004-2101* (ABS Cat. No. 3222.0). All States and Territories were in fact independently projected, then constrained to sum to the Australian-level projection.

## 2. Capital City/Balance of State Projections

As per the State/Territory level, the capital city and balance of state projections were taken from Series B in the *Population Projections* publication. A revised 30 June 2004 ERP base was used, with assumptions reflecting historically observed region-specific patterns of fertility, mortality, overseas migration and internal migration. The New South Wales projections acted as control totals.

## 3. SLA Projections

The base population for the SLA cohort-component projections was revised 30 June 2004 SLA age/sex ERP. The fertility, mortality and migration assumptions were based on SLA-specific levels observed during the past decade, constrained to the assumed capital city/balance of state levels and trends. The net migration assumptions also included some adjustments to prevent excessive deviation from State Government population projections for Local Government Areas. SLA age/sex migration profiles were derived from 2001 Census data on

place of usual residence one year ago.

The ABS regularly collects demographic information down to the SLA level, which means that SLA projections (in contrast to smaller areas) are firmly based on series of known data. At each yearly cycle in this process, the resulting SLA projections were constrained to sum to the capital city/balance of state projections, helping to produce more reliable SLA figures. SLAs with ERP under 500 persons were generally held constant for the projection duration, as assumptions for the accompanying tiny age/sex cells are too unreliable.

#### **4. CD Projections**

CD projections were formed using extrapolations from 2001-2004 CD ERP constrained to the SLA projections. CD ERP is derived using 2001 Census CD-to-SLA usual residence population proportions updated for post-censal growth using CD building approvals. This approach allows for sub-SLA differential growth while retaining consistency with the SLA projections. The final process adjusts the CD projections for persons aged 18 and over to reflect projected enrolments as at 31 May 2010 using the November 2005 relationship between each CD's enrolments and its ERP.

The lack of demographic data collected regularly at CD level makes it necessary to use such a conversion method as outlined above. While the process is quite complex, it should be reiterated that the basic concept of splitting SLAs to CD level cannot be expected to give projections as reliable as those for SLAs. However, as the end product will be aggregates of large numbers of CDs there is a high likelihood that any random errors or inconsistencies will be statistically offset in the aggregation process.

#### **Boundaries**

CD boundaries are from the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001 Edition* (ABS Cat. 1216.0), corresponding to those used for the 2001 Census. SLA boundaries are from a subsequent ASGC version, the *2004 Edition*.

#### **Disclaimer**

It is important to recognise that the projection results given in this report essentially reflect the assumptions made about future fertility, mortality and migration trends. While these assumptions are formulated on the basis of an objective assessment of historical demographic trends and their likely future dynamics, there can be no certainty that they will be realised.

ABS takes responsibility for the method employed, however in accordance with ABS policy regarding small area population projections, the assumptions used are the final responsibility of the client, and the projections are not official ABS population statistics.

The projections may be referred to as "...projections prepared by the ABS according to assumptions reflecting prevailing trends agreed to by the Australian Electoral Commission...".

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