

Inquiry Submission by Frank Simpson
The Migration, Pathway to Nation Building

I submit the following facts for the Committee's deliberation.

1. Accelerating Australia's population growth through high levels of immigration in the past could be seen to have been beneficial to Australia but now that climate change is a scientifically proven and accepted as now happening, as evidenced over the past few years by drought, fires and floods which have caused unprecedented dislocation, disruption to lives and a decline in living standards, now is the time to stabilise Australia's population below 30 million people by net overseas migration (NOM) being limited to 60,000 people per annum. A continuation of these incidents or disasters with a larger population will only exacerbate the problems of dislocation, disruption to lives, a decline in living standards and cause a decline in social cohesion.

2. Numerous surveys like the one by Resolve Strategic on behalf of The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age newspapers reveals that Australians do not support a return to the pre-Covid pandemic high immigration intakes.

3. Immigration intakes over the last 20 years have failed to solve a mythical jobs & skills shortage. Refer to Crispin Hull's article dated 22.8.22 "Skills Shortage Is A Sham" "Since 1998 we have brought in four million people and still we have "skills shortages". Surely, if we continue doing the same thing, we will get the same result - more "skills shortages".

4. Net Overseas Migration limited to 60,000 per annum will deliver greater workforce participation, wage growth, productivity growth, and housing affordability. Fiscal costs associated with population ageing are more than off-set by lower infrastructure costs in a stable population. We will be better able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to ensure community resilience in the face of extreme weather events.

5. The website <https://overpopulation-project.com/five-myths-about-population-aging-and-environmental-sustainability/> and states:

For sustainable development, universal wellbeing should be the goal, rather than endless growth. Minimizing further growth in human populations is only part of the solution, but an essential part.

6. Dr. Jane O'Sullivan, lead author of the paper, "Silver Tsunami or Silver Lining? Why we should not fear an ageing population" explains why the fears propagated by alarmists are vastly exaggerated or ill-founded. This paper gives good reasons why past

high immigration intakes is a fallacy in preventing the ageing of the population, there will be insufficient taxpayers and an employee shortage.

Page 15 of this paper in a scenario of Very low fertility, rapidly declining population (-0.9% p.a.) shows that people aged 65 or more will only comprise 41% of the total demographic.

Page 43 of the paper stresses the benefits of an older, stationary or declining population being:

- richer with less underemployment, lower debt and better balance of trade
- smarter with a more experienced workforce
- safer with less crime, better infrastructure, and less risk of critical shortages of water, food, energy or other limited resources, and lower pandemic risk
- fairer with better pay and job security
- greener with lower greenhouse gases and other pollution, and more space for nature
- healthier, as we spend more of our life in good health and avoid the stresses of insecure employment and
- happier, with less queuing, commuting, competing, concrete jungles and crowds, and more time for ourselves, family and community.

In a post-transition world with a stationary or declining population, children can be better supported to fulfil their potential. Young adults are more likely to access secure jobs in which their contribution is valued and their human capital is nurtured. Older workers might be offered greater flexibility to remain in the workforce to the extent that they choose. Families are more likely to achieve affordable housing and to benefit from inheritance. Less income inequality and more volunteerism by our army of able retirees will add to social cohesion. The other species who call Australia home might enjoy a reprieve from the relentless disturbance or destruction of habitats they inevitably face as Australia's population grows. Future generations will have a greater chance of enjoying a world with a benign climate and healthy biodiversity. These "depopulation dividends" 137 are there for the taking, if we embrace our demographic maturity and end the counterproductive attempts to dilute the older cohorts. We need to see our generations as collaborating rather than competing with each other. Through an older, stable or declining population we can glimpse a silver lining to the otherwise darkening clouds of environmental and social crises.

CONCLUSION:

Net Overseas Migration to be limited to 60,000 per annum so as to stabilise Australia's population below 30 million so as to obtain the benefits and avoid the costs as per Points 5 and 6 above.