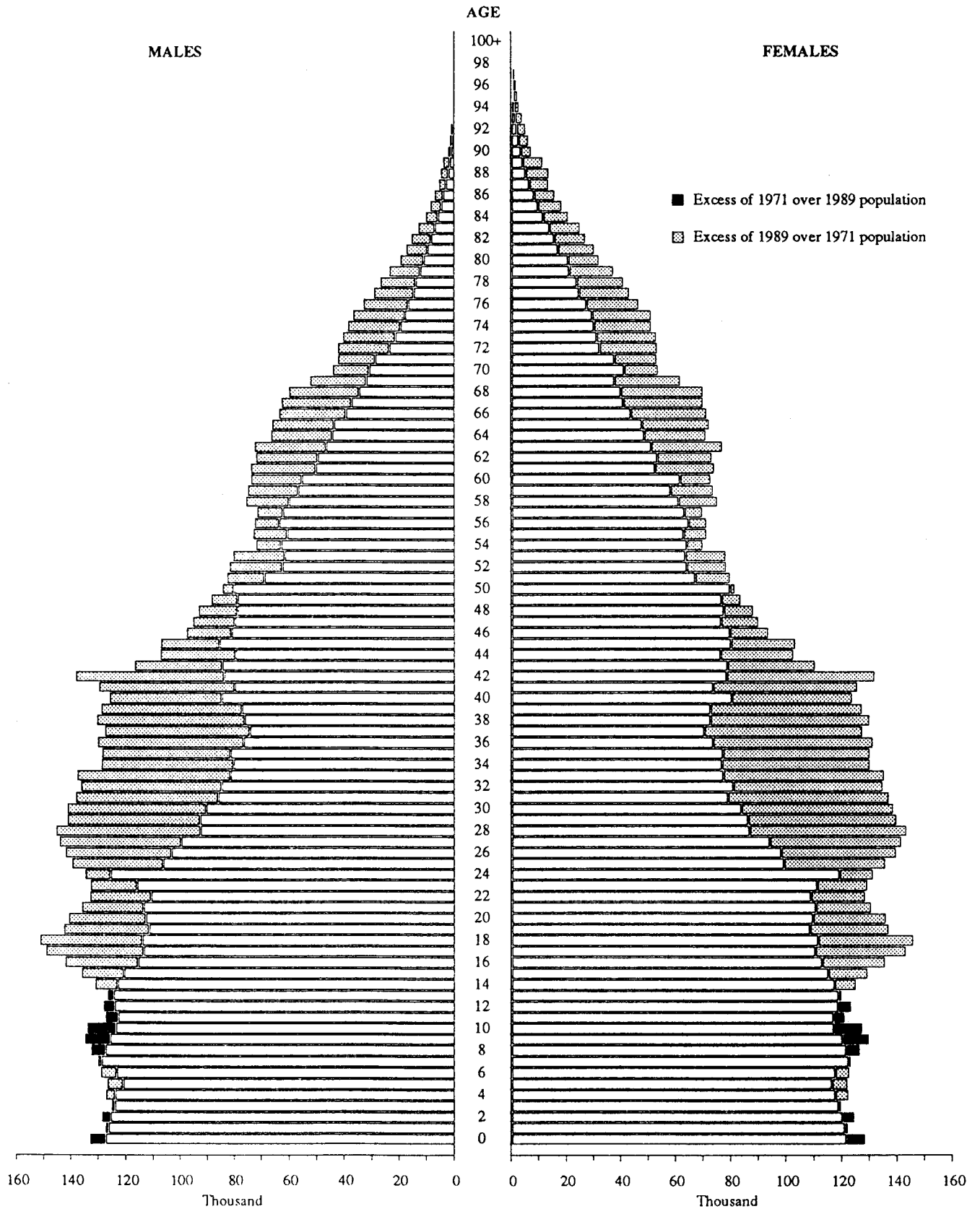


The Population Context for Australia's Children

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA: AGE LAST BIRTHDAY, BY SEX, 30 JUNE 1971 AND 1989 (PRELIMINARY)



Born Overseas: A Background of Diversity.

Courtesy Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Estimated Resident Population Country of Birth by Age and Sex, Australia, Catalogue No 3221.0*

The Australian Bureau of Statistics have published in a recent report that at 30 June 1989, 22.2% of the population of Australia was born overseas. The number of overseas-born persons increased 3.2% in the twelve months to 30 June 1989, from 3.61 million to 3.73 million. This growth rate is almost three times the growth rate of 1.2% for the Australian-born population. The large increase in the overseas-born population lifts the overall population growth rate for the year 1988-89 to 1.6%.

Among countries of birth with at least 35,000 persons as at 30 June 1989 the highest rate of population growth during 1988-89 was recorded by those born in Hong Kong and Macao (20.0%), followed by the Philippines (17.3%), Malaysia (13.2%) and China (10.0%). The populations born in USSR, Italy, Malta and Netherlands have been decreasing steadily since 1981 because the number of deaths from a relatively aged population has been greater than the number gained through net migration.

The most common country of birth of overseas-born persons was the United Kingdom and Ireland (1,208,300). The next nine most common countries of birth were New Zealand (273,900), Italy (267,600), Yugoslavia (165,500), Greece (148,700), Germany (122,300), Vietnam (108,300), Netherlands (99,500), Poland (72,700) and Lebanon (70,600). These top ten countries constitute 68.1% of the total overseas-born population.

Among the overseas-born population born in the USSR had the oldest age structure, with a median age of 64.9 years. Other populations with older age structures were those born on Poland (median age 57.3 years), Italy (median age 52.5 years), and Greece (median age 48.7 years). The population born in Vietnam had the youngest age structure with a median age of 28.5 years. The populations born in Malaysia (median age 29.1 years) and New Zealand (median age 30.6 years) also had younger age structures.

Among the ten largest overseas-born population groups, those born in Poland had the highest proportion over 65 years (33.8%), followed by United Kingdom and Ireland (19.2%), Italy (18.2%) and Netherlands (17.8%). Population groups born in Lebanon, New Zealand and Vietnam each had less than 5% aged over 65 years. For the Australian population as a whole 11.1% of the population is aged over 65 years.

Persons born in Vietnam had the highest proportion of their population aged 0 to 19 years (27.2%), followed by New Zealand (21.8%) and Lebanon (14.4%). The percentage of the total Australian population aged under 20 years is 30.5%.

The ABS Catalogue also includes the estimated resident population by age, sex and country of birth across all continents and Oceania in some detail. Figures for persons 1989 in age groups 0-4, 5-9, 10-14 and 15-19, respectively for each group of countries follow.

Australia	1,198,847	1,146,687	1,109,125	1,245,351
Africa (Egypt, South Africa, Other)	1,981	5,558	7,691	8,709
America (U.S.A., Other)	3,573	8,058	8,850	12,150
Asia (China, Hong Kong & Macao, India, Lebanon, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Other)	14,820	34,393	44,338	58,046
Europe (Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, U.K. & Ireland, U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia, Other)	10,754	27,942	39,800	58,566
Oceania (New Zealand, Other)	7,506	15,204	23,466	31,655

