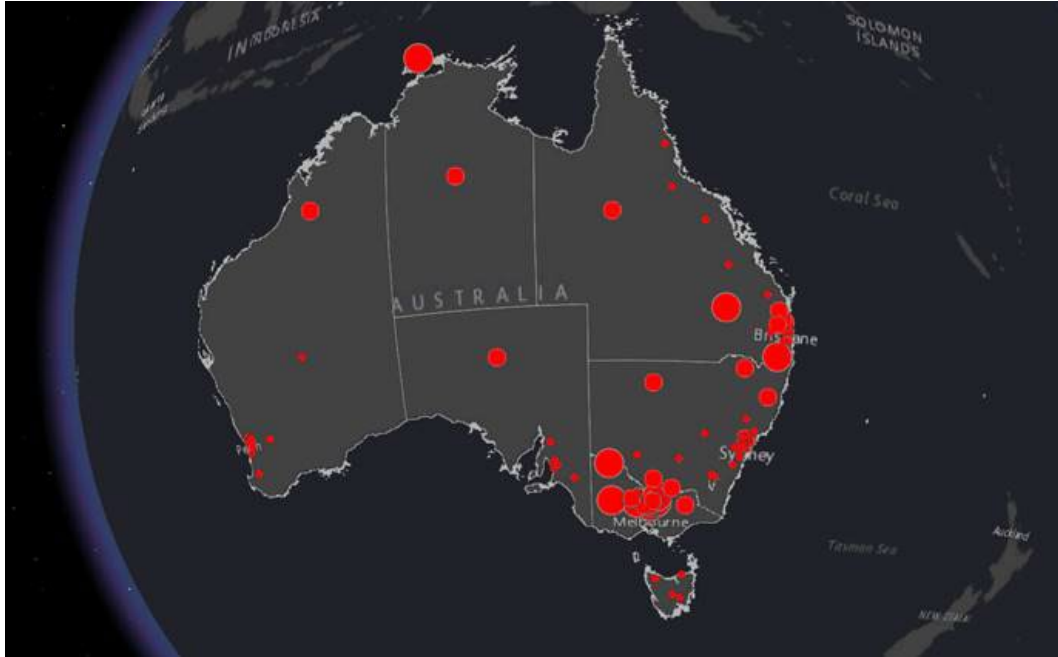


Pandemic & Population

The demographic impacts of COVID-19 in Australia



We are pleased to announce the program for the Pandemic & Population Symposium, 6 October 2023

COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on populations, from cradle to grave, around the world. In Australia, communities and governments reacted quickly at the outset, protecting lives and livelihoods. In the process though, international borders were shuttered, communities locked down and family and life decisions upended. The full demographic impact and the implications for the size and shape of Australia's future population is only just emerging. Now, more than three years since the first infection and with data and research streaming in, is the time to reflect and take stock.

Join us for this very special Symposium to hear from experts from government, the public service and academia.

[Register here](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pandemic-and-population-the-demographic-impacts-of-covid-19-in-australia-tickets-668627231047?aff=oddtcreator)

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Program

Friday, 6 October 2023, 9.00am-1.15pm (followed by lunch)

9.00am **Open and welcome**

9.15am **Opening address**

The Honourable Dr Andrew Leigh, MP

Member of the House of Representatives, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, Assistant Minister for Employment

9.50am **Session 1: COVID-19 impacts on lives and mortality**

Chair: Dr Sergey Timonin, Australian National University

Effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on life expectancy in Australia, 2020-22

Presenter: Dr Tim Adair, University of Melbourne

Australia provides a valuable international case study of life expectancy trends during the pandemic. The presentation measures trends in Australia's life expectancy during the pandemic, assessing the contributions of age group and causes of death to these changes and comparing the results with other high-income countries. It also contrasts life expectancy trends between states and territories, given the different stringency of restrictions implemented across each jurisdiction.

Estimating the health impact of COVID-19

Presenters: Michelle Gourley & Anna Reynolds, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

The presentation will discuss the methods and results for COVID-19 burden of disease estimates (years of life lost and years lived with disability) in 2022 which were reported for the first time in the Australian Burden of Disease Study 2022. An overview of the AIHW's COVID-19 linked data set which integrates existing relevant health datasets, will also be presented.

10.30am **Session 2: COVID-19 impacts on family & fertility**

Chair: Dr Natalie Nitsche, Australian National University

Baby boom or bust? Speculations on childbearing in a time of uncertainty

Presenter: Professor Edith Gray, Australian National University

When COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, there were a large number of media stories about its potential influence on childbearing, asking whether there would be a baby boom or a baby bust. This presentation reviews demographic literature on the effects of uncertainty and disruption on childbearing, and analyses available data to assess what patterns are evident so far. It questions whether period fertility measures are sufficient for making a proper assessment on the effect of the COVID-19 disruption to childbearing.

Families in COVID: Lockdown challenges and opportunities

Presenter: Dr Jennifer Baxter, Australian Institute of Family Studies

Among Australians impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, there were particular challenges for families, as everyone attempted to undertake their ongoing, new or changed roles in a different environment. While some were distanced from family, due to travel restrictions and social distancing, others were spending more time with their family than they ever had before. This presentation explores some of the challenges that accompanied these experiences, drawing on the AIFS Families in Australia Surveys. These four surveys were conducted as online surveys, with convenience samples, over the period 2020 and 2021. While a majority of respondents were females, the survey otherwise captured views of a diverse group of Australian adults. The presentation discusses how families managed work, relationships, child care, home schooling, and children's wellbeing.

11.10am **Morning tea**

11.40am **Session 3: COVID-19 impacts on migration & data**

Chair: Dr Bernard Baffour, Australian National University

COVID-19 and changes in international migration from and to Australia

Presenter: Dr Qing Guan, Australian National University

The COVID-19 pandemic slowed down international migration around the world, and Australia recorded a negative net international migration for the first time since WWII. In this work, changes in Australia's annual immigration and emigration flows during the pandemic are examined and compared to pre-pandemic levels. Results show the differing impacts of the pandemic on population groups and reveal how responsive migration can be to policies in a time of a population health crisis.

How COVID-19 impacted official migration estimates

Presenters: Beidar Cho & Tricia Chester, Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in changes to longstanding population trends and patterns with the closure of the international border, and capital cities losing some appeal to internal migrants. There were also unprecedented impacts to the data sources that the ABS used to prepare the official population and migration estimates. This presentation will discuss these issues, as well as show overseas and internal migration estimates before, during and after the pandemic. The presentation will then look to the future, and how the ABS plans to deal with these challenges going forward.

12.20pm **Session 4: COVID-19, population & society**

Chair: Dr Mike Roettger, Australian National University

COVID-19 and the impacts on social wellbeing and cohesion

Presenter: Dr James O'Donnell, Australian National University

Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic had an almost galvanising on society, leading to a strengthening of our social bonds, trust and connections with one another. The benefits though were not evenly shared and the disproportionate health and economic impacts of the pandemic, particularly among migrants and diverse communities, may have created new inequalities in personal and social wellbeing. This presentation will reflect on these trends with important repercussions for Australia's future social fabric and cohesion.

Population projections in the 2021 IGR

Presenter: Ray Harris, Centre for Population, The Treasury

Australians are expected to live longer and remain healthier to an older age, while Australia's population is projected to grow more slowly over the next 40 years.

So long as the fertility rate remains below the replacement rate, each generation will be smaller than the last. Combined with increasing life expectancy and Australia's population is projected to continue to age. Migration can offset ageing, but not entirely.

Low fertility, higher deaths as the population ages, and an assumption that migration does not increase with the population means that population growth is expected to slow to 1.1 per cent over the next 40 years. This is slower than any 40-year period since federation.

1.00pm **Closing address**

Professor Vladimir Canudas-Romo, School of Demography,
Australian National University

1.15pm **Lunch**

Register here

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