



Regional  
Development  
*Australia*

BARWON SOUTH WEST

# Population Distribution Policy

Anita Rank



An Australian Government Initiative



# Introduction

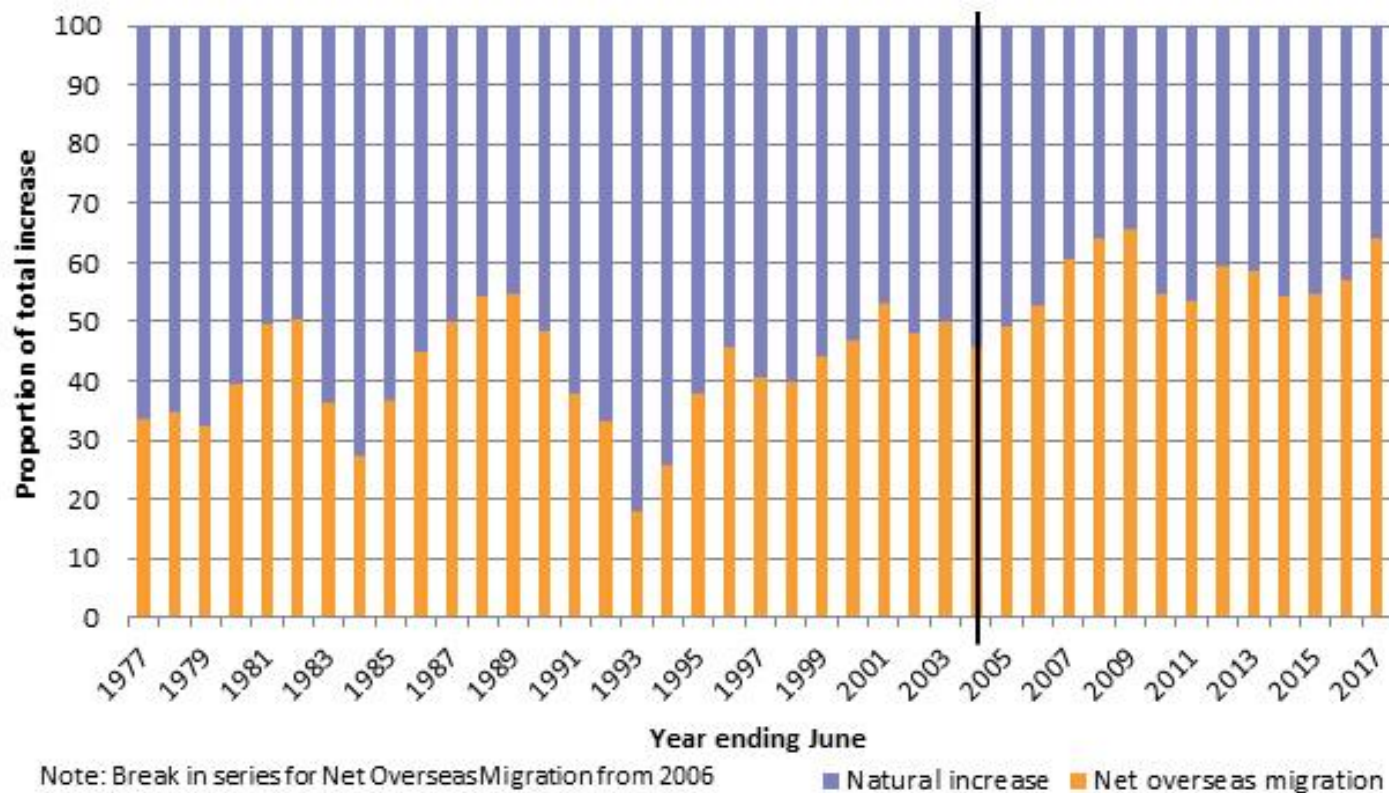
- “Increased resettlement of migrants and refugees in Regional Australia has been an ongoing focus of the policies of successive government for many years”

*Deloitte Economics*

- Our Regional Cities and more importantly rural towns, are crying out for more people
- An integrated approach to regional development is required
- A better balance between urban and rural populations is required so that economic growth is shared and rural and regional areas have a chance to prosper

# What is the Current Situation

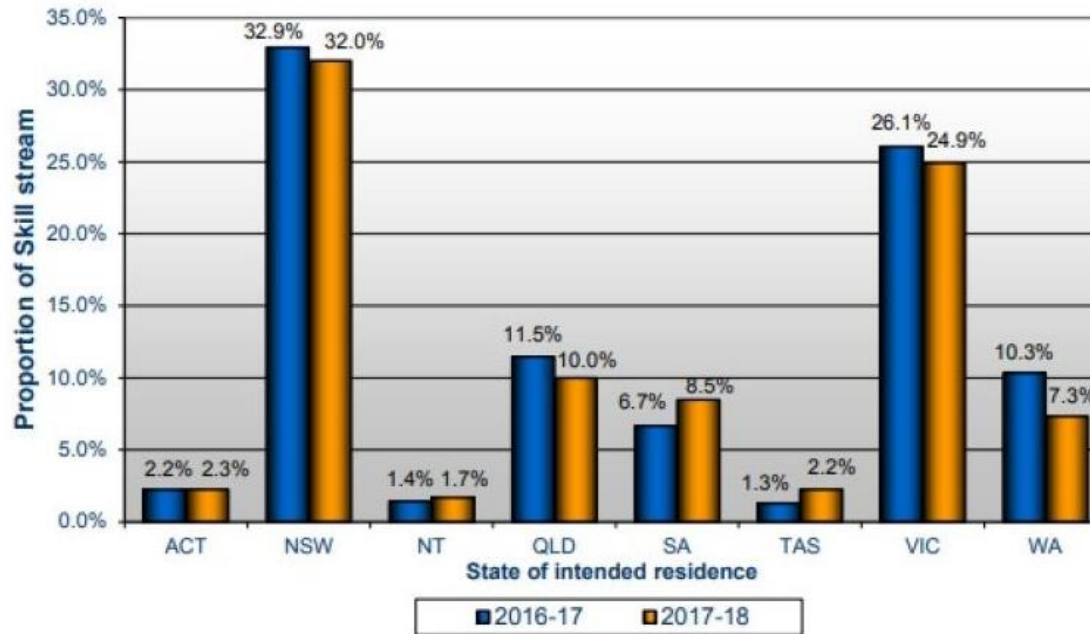
## Components of population growth



In 2017 **262,500** people migrated to Australia

# What is the current situation

Figure 5 – State of intended residence in Skill stream – comparison between 2016-17 and 2017-18




In 2017 **32.9%** moved to NSW = **86,362**  
**26.1%** moved to Victoria = **68,512**

Establishing a more balanced decentralization program would assist in alleviating the congestion currently experienced by residents living in Melbourne and Sydney

# Why we are important

## Economic Benefits

- 1/3 of Australia's workforce is employed in regional Australia
  - Regions generate 40% of the national economic output
  - 2/3 of Australia's export earnings are from regional industries
  - South West Victoria generates 4th largest agriculture output in Australia
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# How – Examples

- **Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA)**

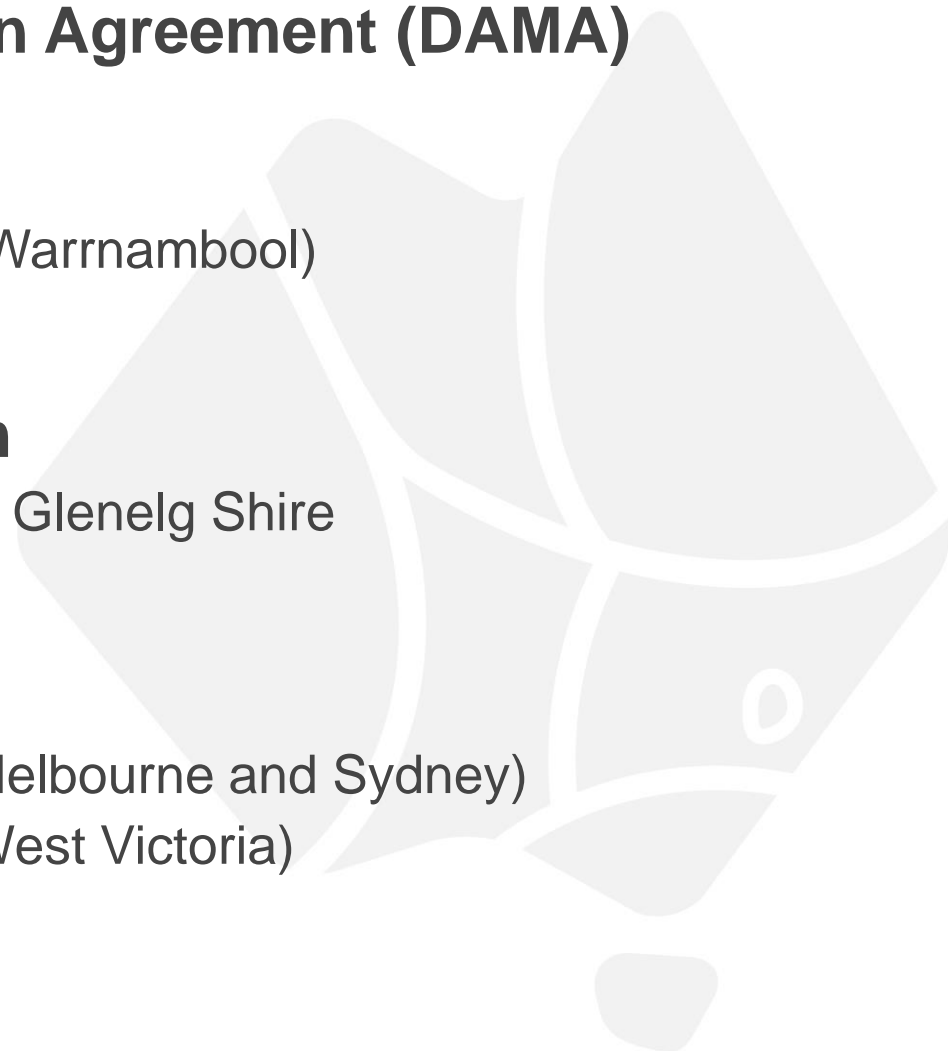
- Northern Territory
- South Australia
- Great South Coast Victoria (Warrnambool)

- **Skilled Migration Program**

- Southern Grampians Shire & Glenelg Shire

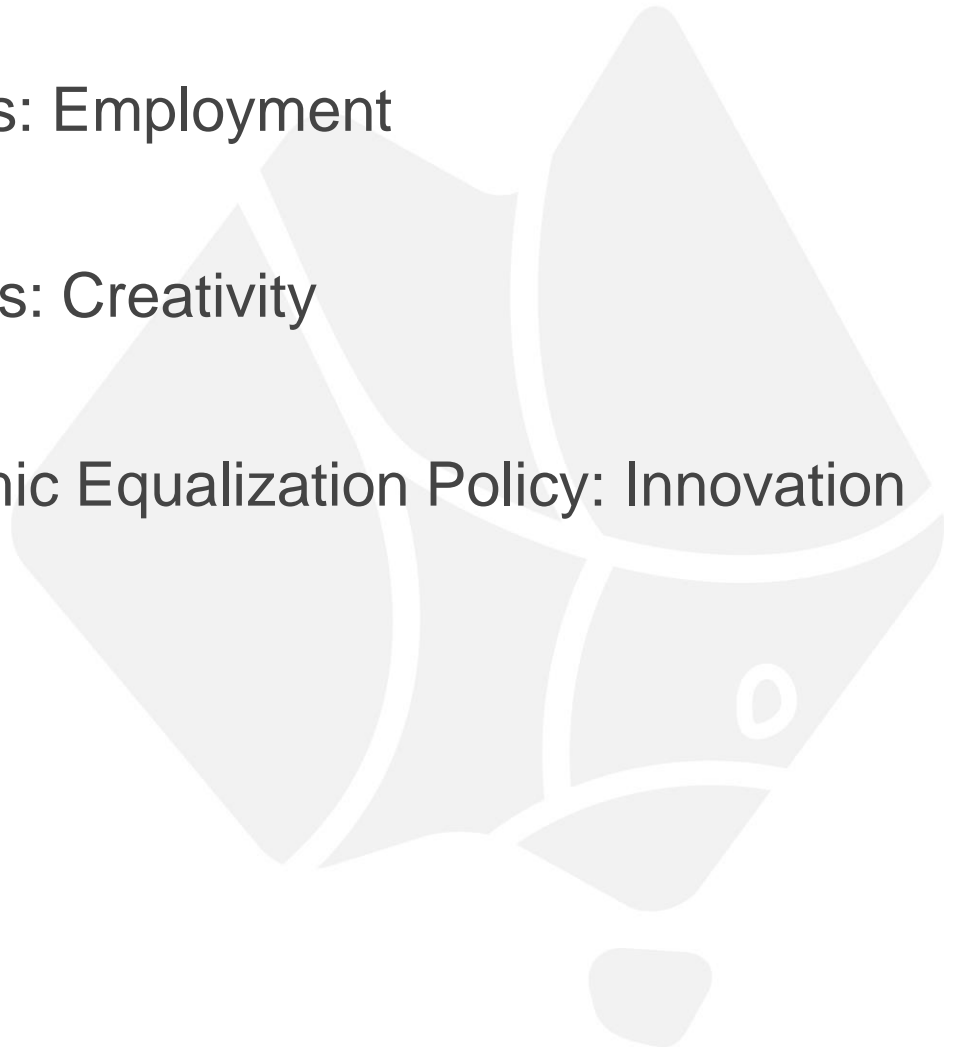
- **Vibrant Communities**

- Jugiong (half way between Melbourne and Sydney)
- Dunkeld, Birregurra (South West Victoria)



# Overseas Examples

- Israel – Developmental towns: Employment
- Norway – Development towns: Creativity
- Denmark – Regional Economic Equalization Policy: Innovation



# Moving Forward – Solutions

- Develop a Population Distribution Policy Framework
  - ❑ Analysis of current resettlement patterns
  - ❑ Best Practice Examples to implement
  - ❑ Service capacity of towns
  - ❑ Infrastructure investment
  - ❑ Incentives
  - ❑ Dedicated Portfolio: Population Minister
  - ❑ Evaluation
- Treasurers' Forum on Population (8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019)
  - ❑ The forum agreed to work together to develop a national population and planning framework, for consideration by COAG later this year, which will set out a practical approach to improve population planning and management.



# Anita Rank

anita.rank@glenelg.vic.gov.au  
0408 276 563

**RDA Barwon South West Committee  
Great South Coast Regional Partnership  
Great South Coast Group  
Mayor Glenelg Shire Council**

