

New Zealand's Immigration Policy in an International Context: An Australian Perspective

by

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**Presentation to Metropolis Plus: Perspectives from New Zealand
Te Papa, Wellington, New Zealand**

15 October 2007

Outline of Presentation

- **Introduction**
- **Australian and New Zealand in the Global Migration Context**
- **Migration Between Australia and New Zealand – Issues**
- **Common Issues and Concerns**
- **Cooperation and Competition**
- **Conclusion**

Changing Global Migration

- **Increased scale and diversity of migration**
- **Increased focus on skill-talent wars**
- **Increased south-north flow**
- **Transnationalism Vs Permanent Displacement**

Changing Global Migration (cont.)

- **Linkages between migration and security post 9/11**
- **Increasing regional cooperation on migration issues**
- **Diversification of migration**
- **Discourse on migration and development**

Important Similarities/Complementarities

- **Geographical proximity**
- **Economic, social and cultural similarity**
- **A single labour market?**
- **Location on edge of Asia-Pacific Region**
- **Low unemployment; labour demand**
- **Commitment to humanitarian migrants**
- **Strong public acceptance of benefits of migration**

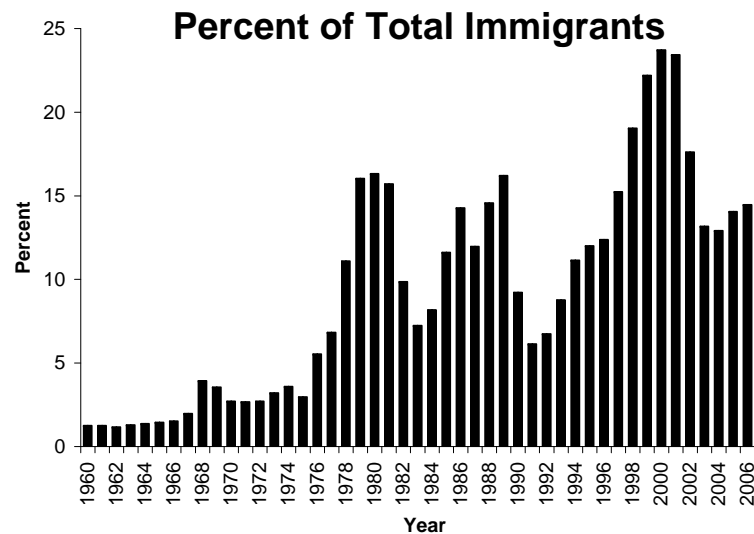
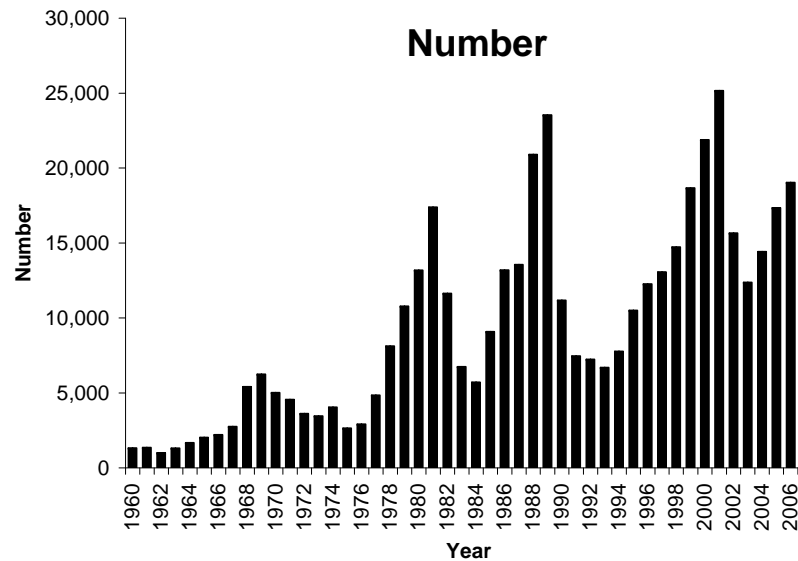
Important Similarities/Complementarities (cont.)

- **Long history of formal migration programmes**
- **Well established migration institutions**
- **Strong immigration as well as emigration flows**
- **Strong tradition of permanent settlement, recent development of temporary migration**

MIGRATION BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

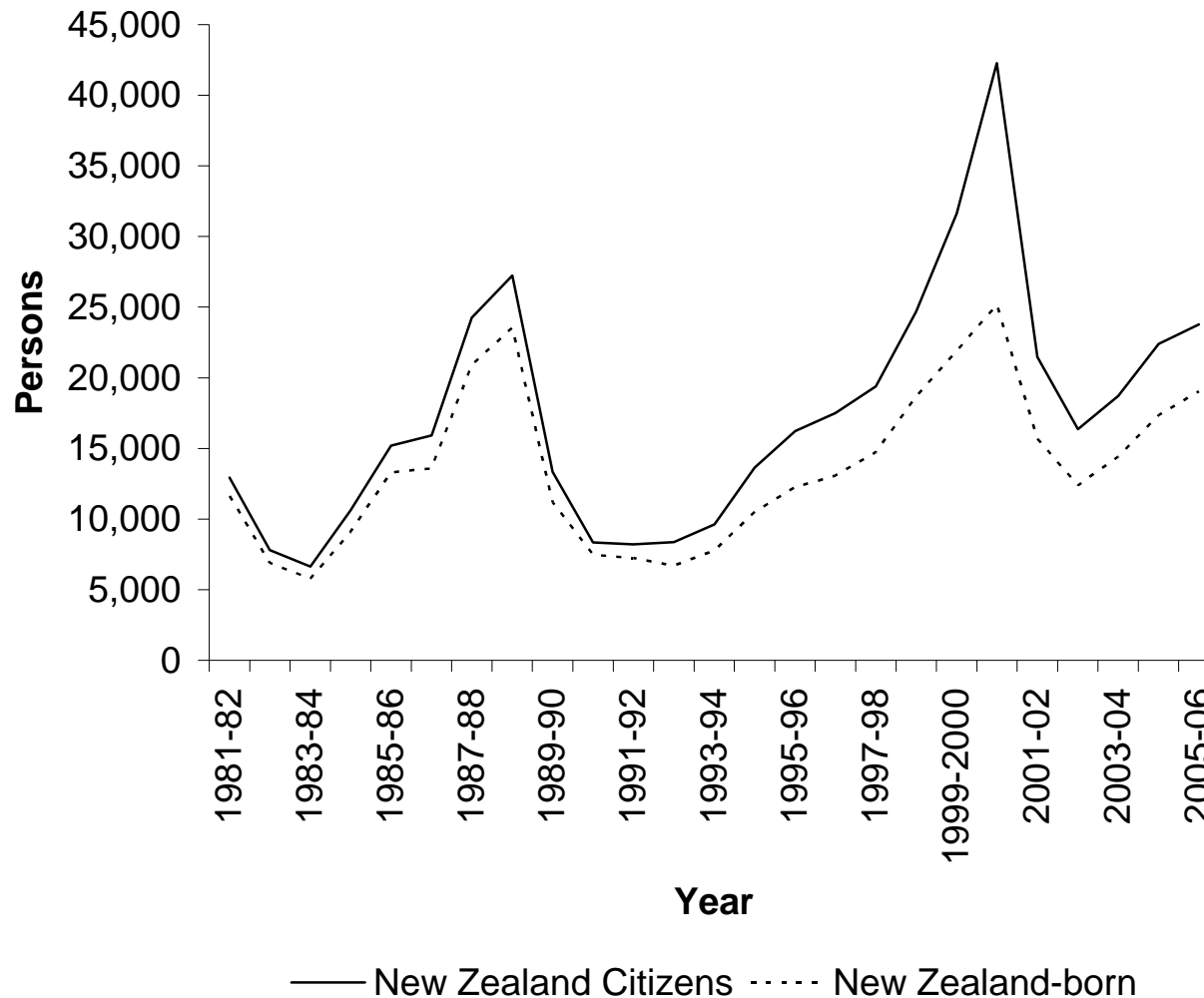
Australia: New Zealand-born Immigrants, 1960 to 2007

Source: DIMIA *Australian Immigration: Consolidated Statistics* and DIAC *Settler Arrivals*, various issues



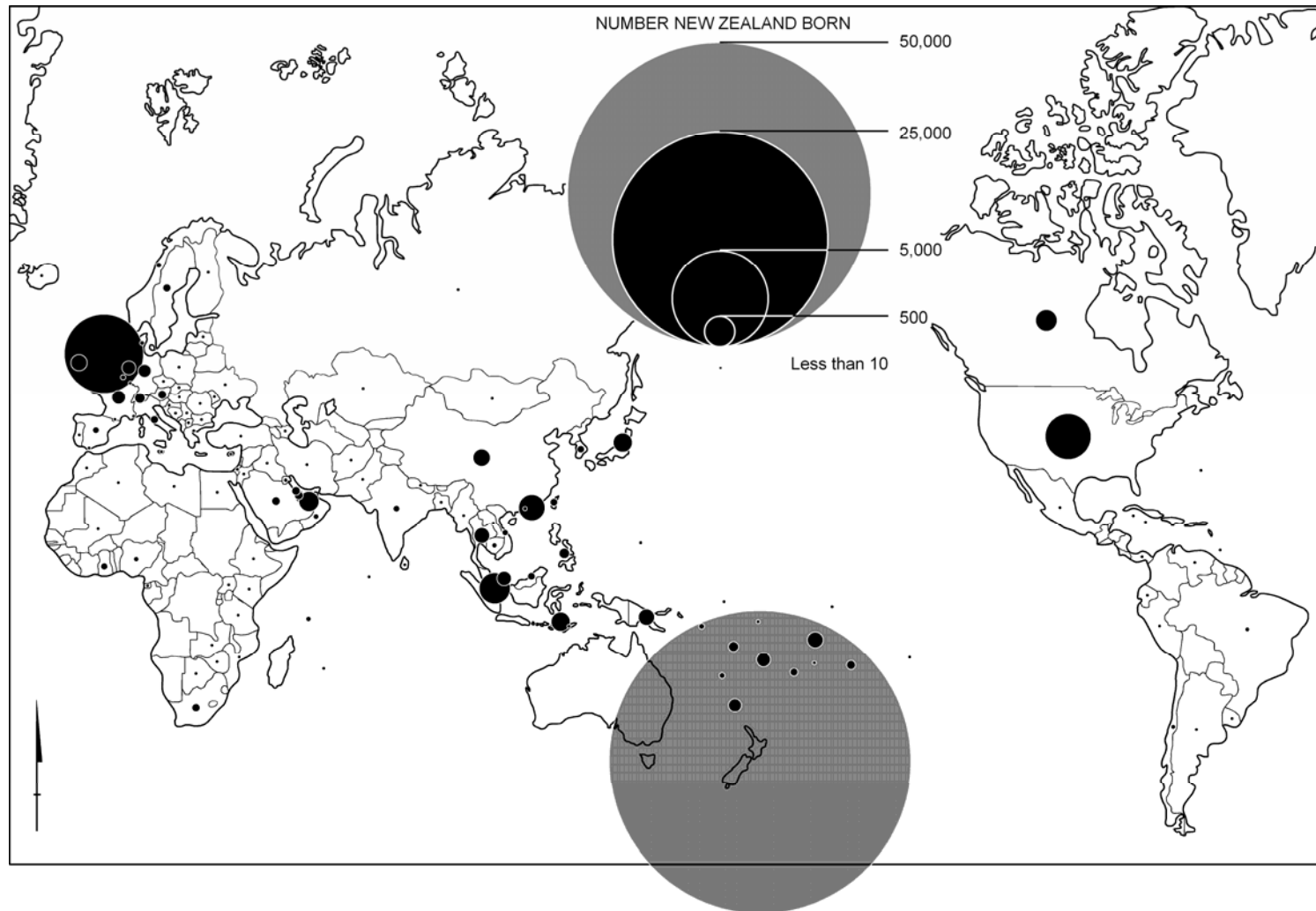
Australia: Arrivals of New Zealand Citizens and New Zealand-Born Persons, 1981-82 to 2005-06

Source: DIMA, *Australian Immigration: Consolidated Statistics and Immigration Update*, various issues



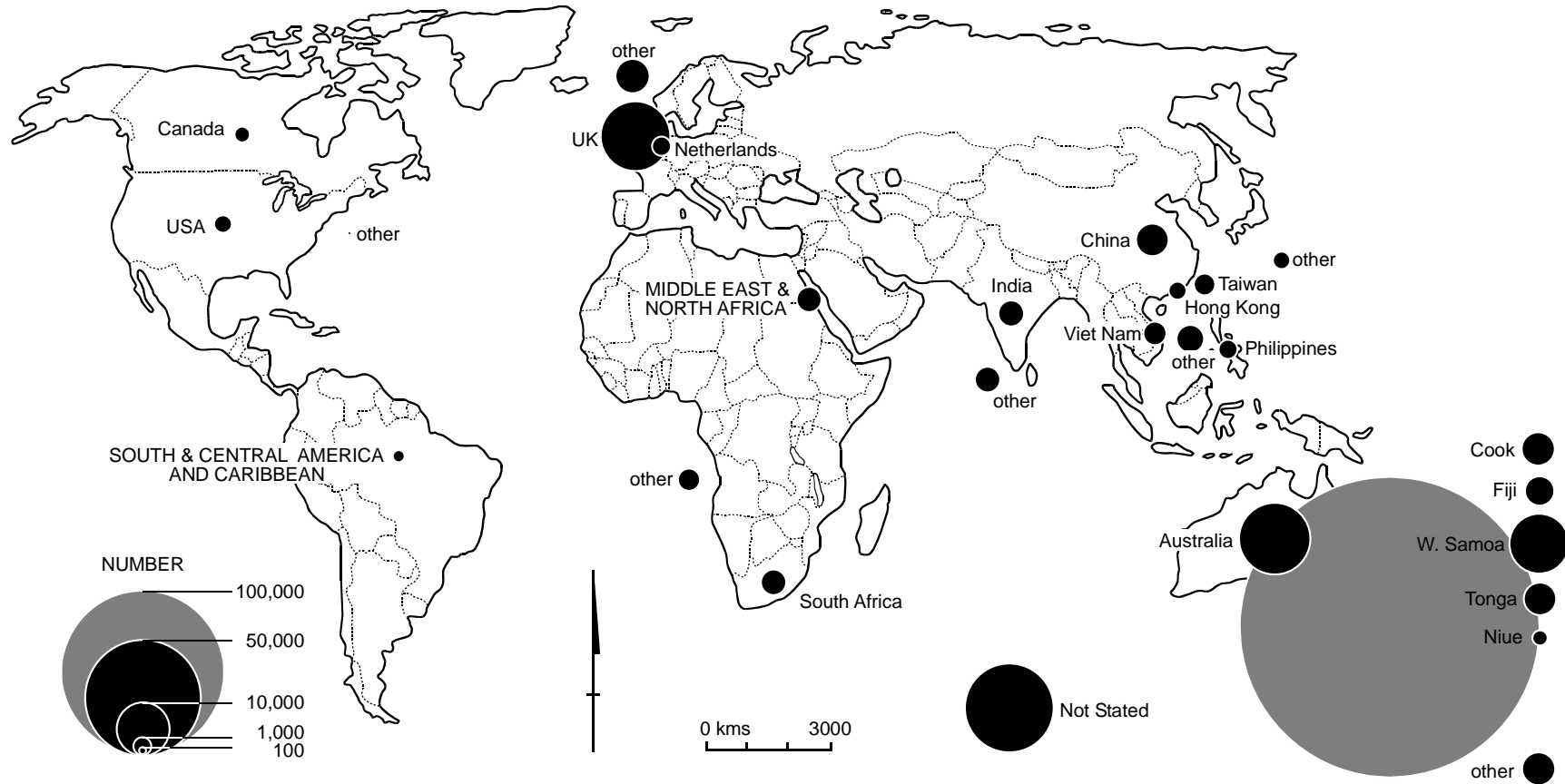
Australia: Permanent Departures of New Zealand-born by Destination Country, 1996-97 to 2005-06

Source: DIAC unpublished data



New Zealand Citizens Present in Australia by Country of Birth, 2002

Source: DIMIA, 2005



2006-7

**23,906 permanent arrivals compared
with 19,033 in 2005-6**

UK - 23,223

India - 13,496

China - 12,009

Philippines - 5,561

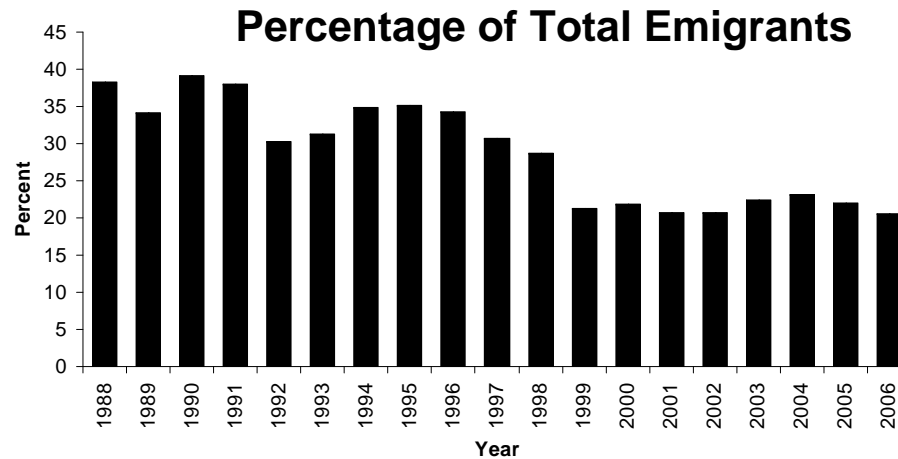
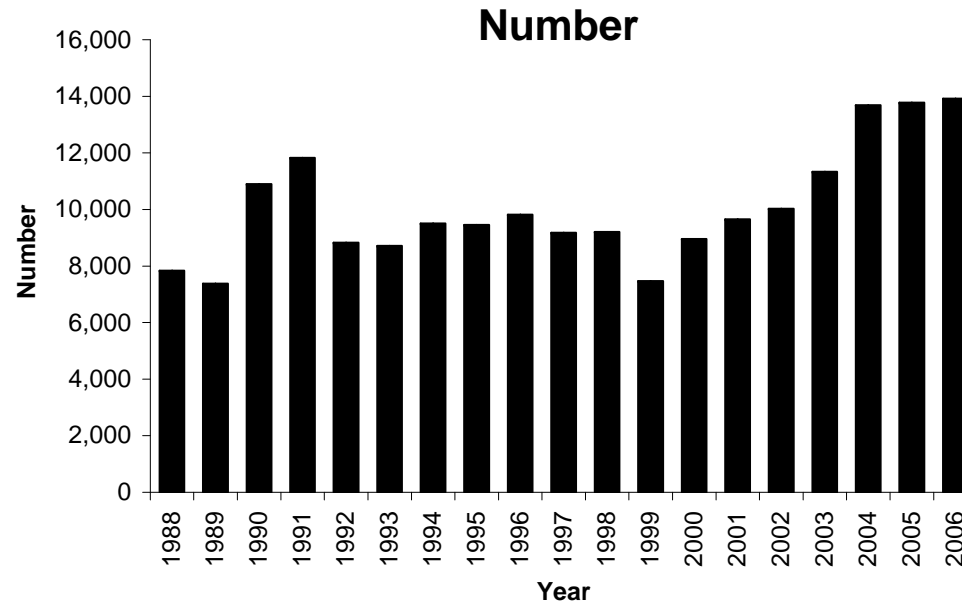
The “Backdoor” Factor in Migration

- **Subject to change over time**
- **Has been a stumbling block in gaining cooperation between neighbouring countries on migration – eg Europe**
- **Need for discussion collaboration – harmonisation of entry requirements**
- **Undoubtedly behind the 2001 changes in social security arrangements**

AUSTRALIAN MIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND

Australia: Emigration to New Zealand, 1988-2006

Source: DIMA *Immigration Update* and ABS *Migration Australia*, various issues



Some Different Perspectives on Trans Tasman Migration

- **New Zealanders make up a similar proportion of Australia's resident population as do Australians of New Zealand's population (1.9 Vs 1.5 percent)**
- **Westward Trans Tasman Migration is less selective than eastward movement**
- **New Zealanders in Australia are more similar to internal migrants than any other birthplace group**

The Escalator Migration Factor

Sydney as a global city is seen as a step in migrating eventually to UK, USA etc.

Not only for New Zealanders but Australians as well

The Demand for Skilled Labour

Australia and New Zealand both are experiencing shortages of skilled labour due to...

- economic growth**
- new and developing industries**
- retirement of baby boomers**
- impact of ageing and low fertility**

Can be a constraint on development – especially in some areas eg regional

Increasing Global Competition

- **Demographic effects more severe in Europe and parts of Asia**
- **All high income countries now are involved in migration**
- **In knowledge economy a premium is placed on skill**
- **Breaking down of barriers to skilled migration**
- **Skill friendly visa policies**
- **Fundamental to remaining competitive globally**

“ In the increasingly strong global competition for skilled workers, there may be some advantages in joint activities to attract such workers and especially in harmonisation of regulation and processes relating to this movement”

Unskilled and Semi Skilled Migration

- **Increasing mismatch between international migration selection criteria (skill) and the types of labour shortage being experienced**
- **Need to examine demand in particular sectors – harvesting, care, rural industries etc.**
- **Potential to have a positive developmental impact in some origin countries**

Unskilled and Semi Skilled Migration (cont.)

- **Threats to integrity of migration program**
- **Regional dimensions**
- **Need for pilot programmes before the “crunch”**
- **New Zealand has taken the lead**

Projected Numbers of Disabled Australians Needing Daily Assistance

Source: Hugo 2007

- **956,635**

2011	1,215,407
2021	1,713,732
2031	2,215,041

Projected Need for Paid Carers, Australia

Source: Hugo 2007

•	68,400
2011	176,153
2021	235,275
2031	290,364

The International Dialogue on Migration and Development

- **Challenging for countries like Australia and New Zealand**
- **Europe initiatives (DFID)**
- **Gains from examining jointly**

The Pacific

- **High levels of engagement in many spheres**
- **Need to look at migration**
- **Potential to have an impact**
- **Sea level rise and other climate change issues**
- **Cooperative approach likely to be most effective**

The Diaspora

- **Substantial size for both countries**
- **Strong propensity for return**
- **Role of policy intervention**
- **An element in skilled migration?**
- **Temporary and virtual return**
- **New concepts of the national population**

Regional Migration Issues

- **Increasing significance of labour shortage outside large cities**
- **Little experience in attracting and retaining migrants outside major cities**
- **Potential for shared experience**

Other Areas of Cooperation

- **Border protection**
- **Engaging better with Asian region on migration issues**
- **Refugee-humanitarian migration**
- **Environmentally displaced persons**
- **Family migration**
- **Capacity building – at home and abroad**

Areas Which Will Remain Competitive

- **Student migration**
- **Skilled migration**
- **Temporary skilled migration**
- **Business migration**

Conclusion

- **Shared values and interests in migration**
- **Australia and New Zealand will be in a stronger position to deal with some emerging issues in global migration together and separately**
- **Cooperation will ensure best practice**