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## Editorial



### Introducing *Australian Population Studies*

**Tom Wilson\*** Charles Darwin University

**Elin Charles-Edwards** The University of Queensland

**Jonathan Corcoran** The University of Queensland

\*Corresponding author. Email: [tom.wilson@cdu.edu.au](mailto:tom.wilson@cdu.edu.au). Address: Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University, Ellengowan Drive, Darwin NT 0909, Australia

Published on 20 November 2017

Welcome to this inaugural issue of *Australian Population Studies*. The aim of the journal is to disseminate and promote high-quality peer-reviewed research which extends our knowledge and understanding of population issues in Australia. In doing so, we wish to become the leading publication for Australian population research.

Importantly, *Australian Population Studies* is open access, online and does not charge fees of any kind. Academic publishing is witnessing a growth in open access journals, and we are pleased to be part of this growing movement. The benefits are numerous. It brings greater visibility and impact for research, with several studies concluding that open-access papers are cited more (e.g. Atchison and Bull 2015; Wagner 2010, 2016; Wang et al. 2015). Where research has been funded by the taxpayer it is available without readers having to pay further to access findings. Research is also readily available to practitioners, policy makers and members of the public who typically do not have access to subscription journals, as well as to academics in countries which cannot afford such journals.

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Our expectation is that there will be two issues per year, published in May and November, though the annual number of issues may be reviewed in the future. The latest dates for the submission of contributions are 15th January for the May issue and 15th July for the November issue, offering relatively fast submission-to-publication turnover.

Contributions consist of three main types. First, we publish short **Research Papers** which should not exceed 4000 words. We do not carry full-length papers. Traditional population issues, contemporary 'hot topic' demographic debates, policy-relevant studies, local case studies, new population datasets and relevant software and code are all suitable topics for Research Papers. Supplementary files of data, code, detailed results and similar can accompany papers. We particularly encourage papers focusing on 'core' demographic processes and patterns, such as fertility, mortality, migration,

population ageing, household change, population distribution, relationships, families and population policy. Sometimes demography and population studies can seem like a doughnut of specialised studies with relatively little filling in the middle!

Second, we encourage the use of data visualisation to present demographic data in interesting, new and innovative ways. These appear as **DemoGraphics**. We would like this to become a key element of the journal and will announce a data visualisation competition shortly. Third, we publish **Introductory Guides** which consist of an introduction to demographic methods, approaches, data, theories or software which are not well covered in the textbooks. We hope these guides will be of use to students, researchers, practitioners, teachers and others wishing to learn about demography. The common requirement for all three types of contribution is that they should be written for a wide-ranging audience and not limited to academics.

Many people have generously given their time and expertise to make this first issue of *Australian Population Studies* possible. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all authors, reviewers, Editorial Advisory Board members, our Copy Editor Ros Moye, our logo designer James Daley, Charles Darwin University Library, which is providing web hosting for the journal, and the Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University, which is providing financial support.

We hope you enjoy reading the first issue. We welcome feedback (via the email address shown above). Finally, we encourage researchers working on population issues in Australia to submit contributions for future issues. Submission guidelines are available at [www.australianpopulationstudies.org/index.php/aps/about/submissions](http://www.australianpopulationstudies.org/index.php/aps/about/submissions).

## References

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