

QUANTIFYING TRANSNATIONALISM: ASIAN SKILLED MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

by

Graeme Hugo

Federation Fellow

Professor of Geography and Director of the National Centre

for Social Applications of GIS

The University of Adelaide

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Outline of Presentation

- **Introduction**
- **Complexity in South-North Migration**
- **Australian International Migration Data**
- **Asian Skilled Migration to Australia**
- **Migration from Australia to Asia**
- **A China Case Study**
- **Some Implications**
- **Conclusion**

South-North Skilled Migration

- **The increasing skill focus of migration programs in destination countries**
- **The development literature on the positive effects of emigration**
- **The increasing transnational focus in migration research and policy**

Brain Drain

vs

Brain Gain

vs

Brain Circulation

Return Migration

- **Long history in migration research**
- **Increasing policy interest in how to facilitate and enhance all forms of return**
- **Lack of empirical evidence**
- **New conceptualisation of return**
 - **Permanent vs temporary**
 - **Virtual return, diaspora**

Circular Migration

- **Long history in internal migration research**
- **Involves substantial commitment to both origin and destination, repetitive movements**
- **Characterised by relative ease of movement**
- **New focus in international migration work**
- **Element in growth of transnational connections**

Growing Focus on Transnationalism

- **Strong theme in research**
- **Major element in major international documents on migration and development – GCIM, World Bank, United Nations**
- **However largely not detected in standard migration data collections**
- **Growing disconnect between focus in research on transnationalism and data collection systems focused on detecting permanent migration**
- **Barrier to policy development**

Australian Immigration Data

Stocks: Quinquennial Censuses – suite of questions

Flows: Departure and Arrival Cards

- ***permanent movement*** – persons migrating to Australia and residents departing permanently;
- ***long term movement*** – temporary visa holders arriving and residents departing temporarily with the intention to stay in Australia or abroad for twelve months or more, and the departure of temporary visa holders and the return of residents who had stayed in Australia or abroad for twelve months or more;
- ***short term movement*** – travellers whose intended or actual stay in Australia or abroad is less than twelve months.

Introduction of the Personal Identifier

- **Mid 1998**
- **Allows examination of all moves of specific individuals**
- **Used in current research to examine post-arrival mobility of Asian permanent arrivals**

Australia: A Country of Immigration

- 23 percent born overseas
- One fifth Australia-born with an overseas-born parent(s)
- 630,513 persons temporarily present at 30/6/06
- 289,300 with the right to work
- 345,761 given temporary residence in 2002-03
- 131,593 incoming permanent settlers in 2005-06
- 1 million expatriates outside Australia

Asian Permanent Migration to Australia, 1994-2006

440,954

37.3 percent of total migration

China - 92,590

India - 66,308

Philippines - 41,800

Vietnam - 30,784

Indonesia - 29,442

Hong Kong SAR- 25,800

Ratio of Family:Skill

1994-94	1.23
1996-97	1.06
1998-99	0.86
2002-03	0.70
2004-05	0.61

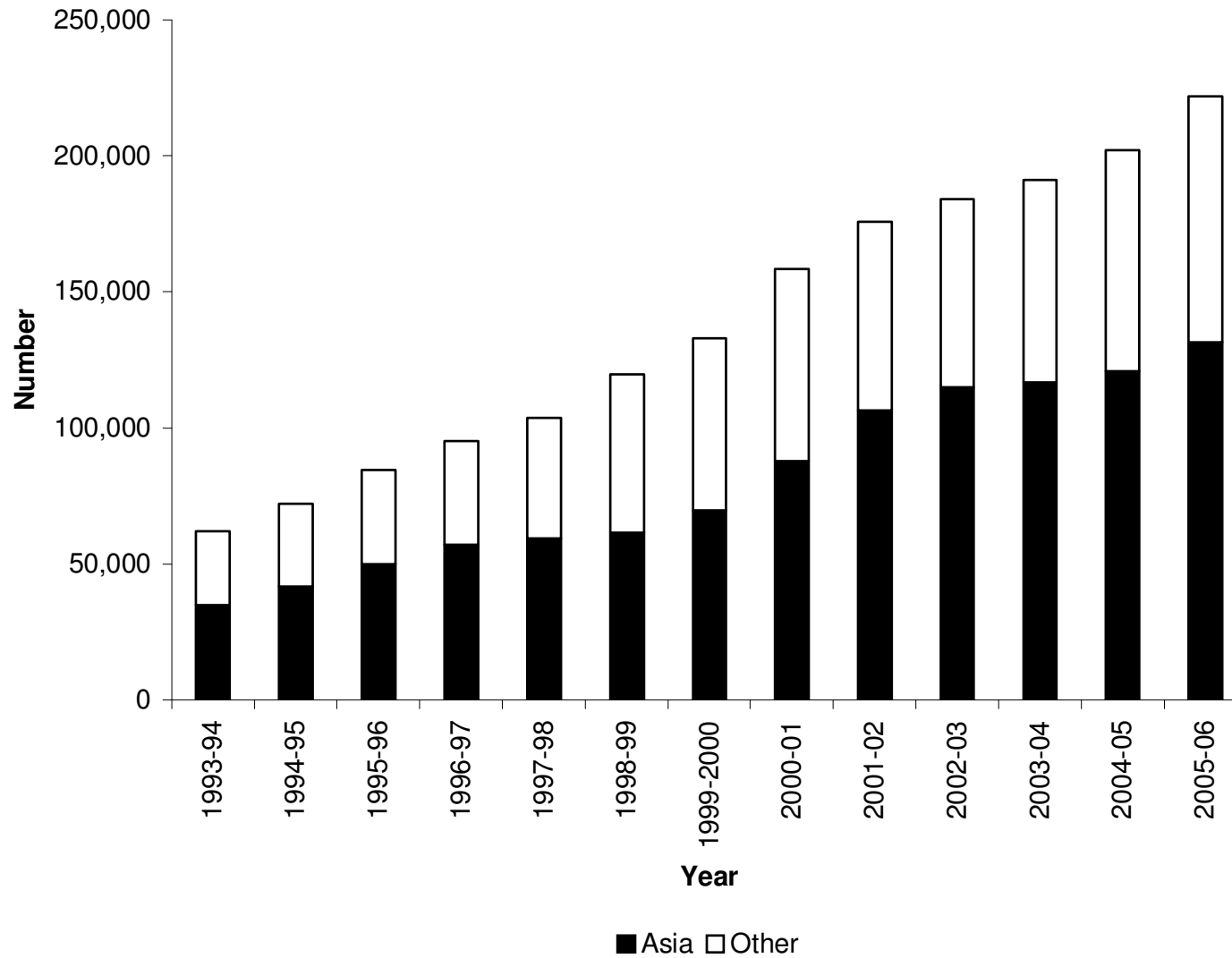
**Australia: Asia-Born and Total Settler Arrivals – Category of Traveller
by Occupation, 1997-98 to 2004-06**

Source: DIAC Overseas Arrivals and Departures

	Asia-born		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%
1.Manager & Administrators	21,698	13.5	33,841	12.7
2.Professionals	85,638	53.2	110,580	41.4
3.Associate Professionals	14,826	9.2	26,588	10.0
4.Tradespersons	12,285	7.6	46,744	17.5
5.Adv Clerical & Sales	3,459	2.1	2,400	0.9
6.Intermediate Clerical, Sales & Service	12,689	7.9	18,089	6.8
7.Int Production & Transport	1,942	1.2	10,480	3.9
8.Elementary Clerical, Sales & Service	6,929	4.3	11,010	4.1
9. Labourers	1,482	0.9	7,479	2.8
Total	160,948	100.0	267,211	100.0

Australia: Long-Term Visitor Arrivals by Birthplace, 1993-94 to 2005-06

Source: DIAC unpublished data



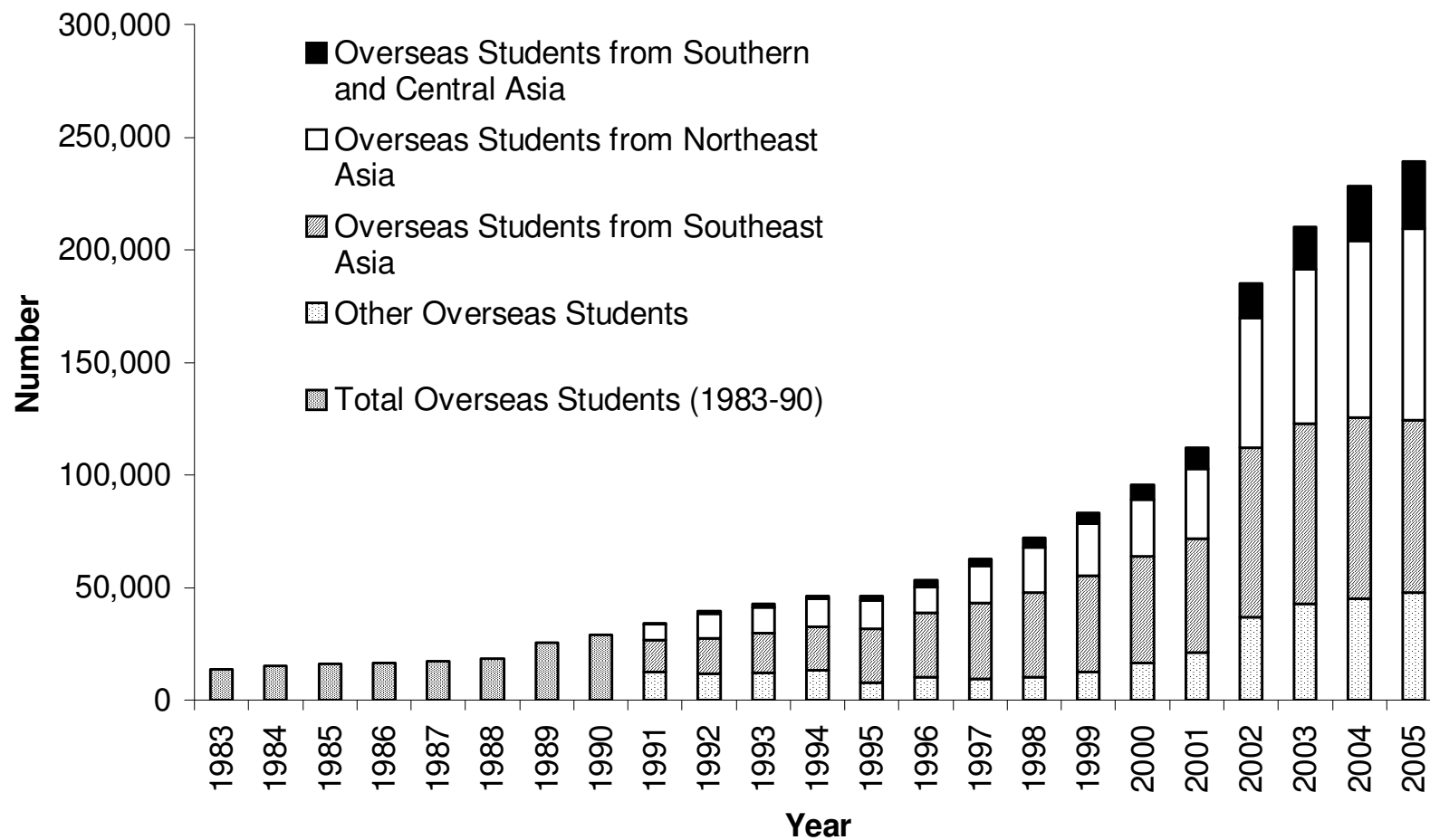
Australia: Long-Term Arrivals of Asia-Born and Total Persons by Occupation, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Source: DIAC Overseas Arrivals and Departures

	Asia-born		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%
1. Manager & Administrators	48,182	18.2	165,330	15.8
2. Professionals	113,816	42.9	469,933	44.9
3. Associate Professionals	32,281	12.2	100,849	9.6
4. Tradespersons	10,710	4.0	76,229	7.3
5. Adv Clerical & Sales	6,041	2.3	31,135	3.0
6. Intermediate Clerical, Sales & Service	32,544	12.3	126,412	12.1
7. Int Production & Transport	1,742	0.7	16,355	1.6
8. Elementary Clerical, Sales & Service	18,630	7.0	47,249	4.5
9. Labourers	1,234	0.5	12,042	1.2
Total	265,180	100.0	1,045,534	100.0

Overseas Students in Australian Universities, 1983-2005

Source: DEST *Students: Selected Higher Education Statistics*, various issues



Australia: Stock of Chinese Students Present 1999-2006 (as at 31 March)

Source: DIMA *Immigration Update*, various issues

Date	India	China	Total	Percent from China	Percent from India
1999	8,608	7,411	120,555	6.1	6.9
2000	5,481	7,415	130,801	5.7	4.2
2001	2,744	7,420	102,331	8.4	2.7
2002	2,903	13,565	110,572	12.3	2.6
2003	6,529	23,991	186,102	12.9	3.5
2004	11,523	35,576	204,794	17.8	5.6
2005	17,256	43,367	213,892	20.3	8.1
2006	22,869	49,831	234,844	21.2	9.7

2005-6, 457 Visas – 71,152

- **33% from Asia Pacific**
- **India (10%), China (6%), Philippines (5%), Japan (3%)**
- **Others significant, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore**

Increasing Onshore Migration

- **Percent of all settlers 2002-06 onshore - 26.1**
- **Percent of all settlers from Asia 2002-06 onshore - 31.8**

Australia: Visa Category of Permanent Additions from Asia, 2002-06

Source: DIMA *Immigration Update*, various issues

Visa Category	Onshore		Offshore		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Skill	62,975	75.6	102,269	57.3	165,244	63.1
Family	16,978	20.4	64,588	36.2	81,566	31.1
Refugee-Humanitarian	1,285	1.5	6,078	3.4	7,363	2.8
Other	1,596	1.9	6,132	3.4	7,728	3.0
Total	83,335	100.0	178,566	100.0	261,901	100.0

Nexus Between Student Migration and Permanent Settlement

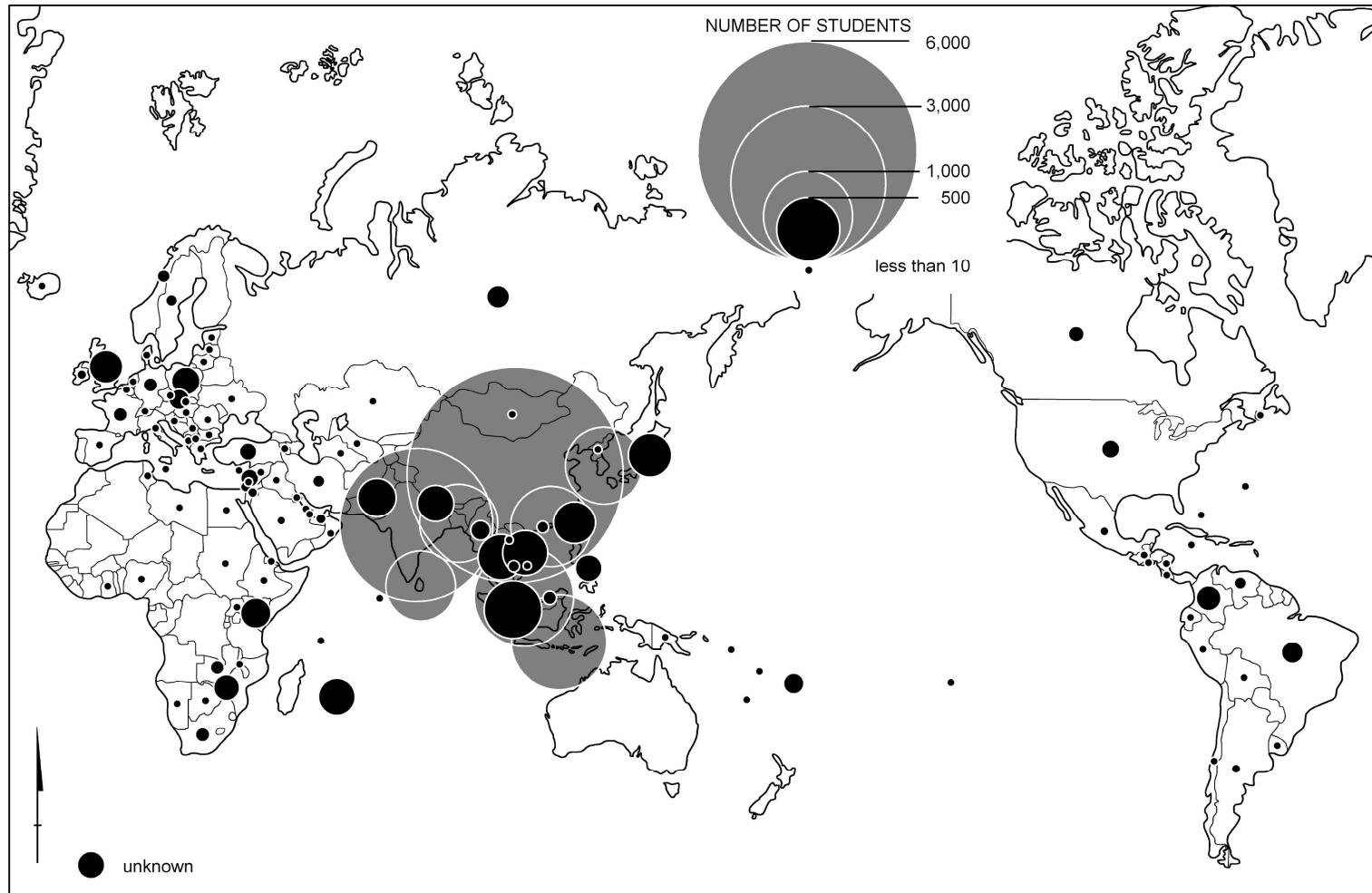
Australia: Onshore Migrants, 2001-02 to 2005-06

Source: DIMA *Population Flows: Immigration Aspects and Immigration Update*, various issues

	Onshore Migrants	Total Intake	Onshore Migrants as % of Total Intake	Students Transferring to Permanent Residence
2001-02	32,274	121,174	26.6	6,274
2002-03	31,948	125,862	25.4	8,890
2003-04	38,402	149,992	25.6	13,161
2004-05	43,895	167,319	26.2	16,485
2005-06	43,214	179,807	26.8	17,896

Australia: Overseas Students Transferring to Permanent Residence by Country of Citizenship, 2005-06

Source: DIMIA unpublished data



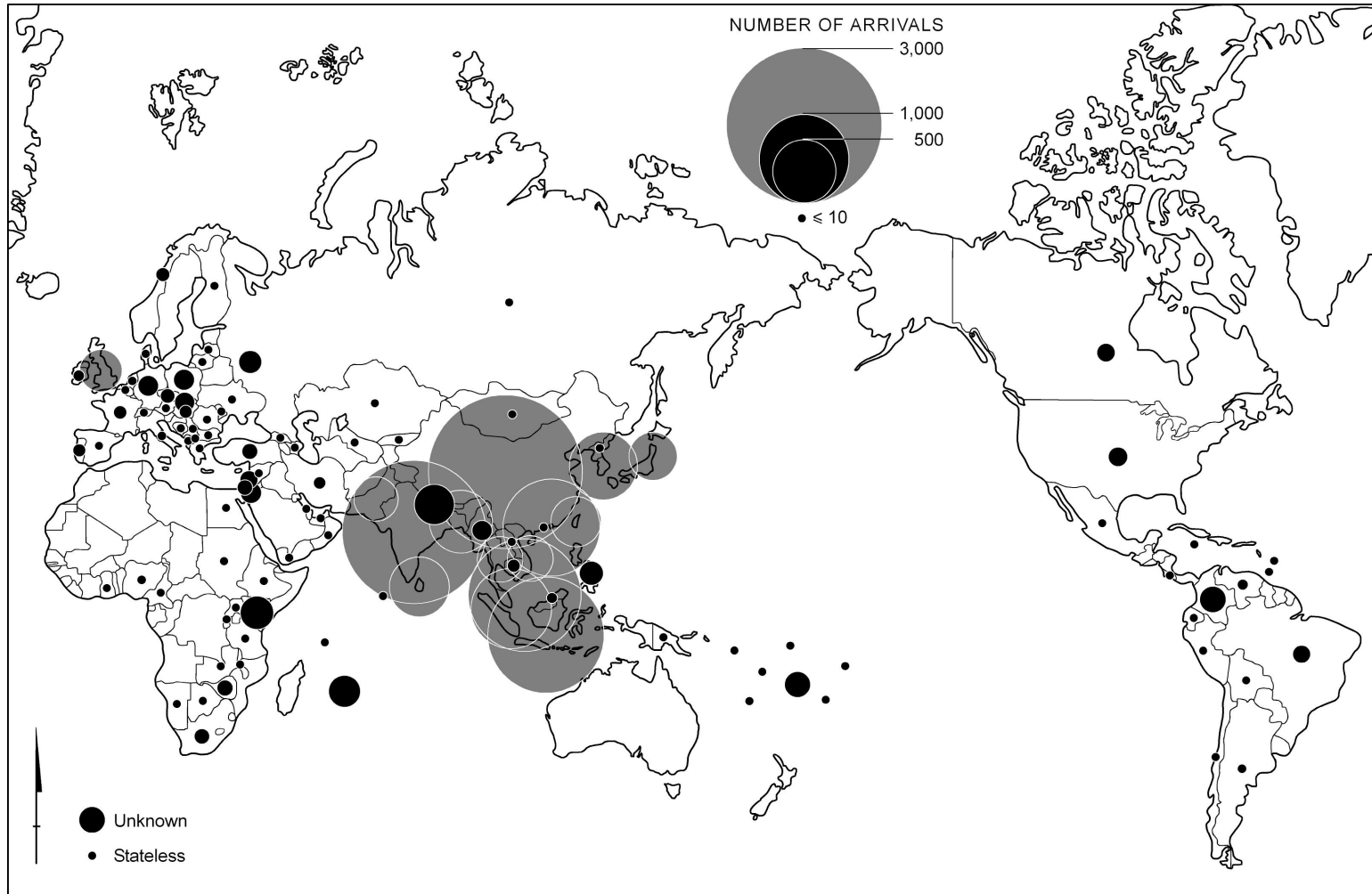
**In addition many settler arrivals have
an Australian qualification.**

**2003-04 - 55 percent of skilled
immigrant settlers had an Australian
qualification.**

Asians - 88.9 percent

Australia: Number of Skilled Stream Outcome Principles with Points for Australian Qualification by Citizenship, 2004-05

Source: Unpublished data supplied by DIMIA



**The Overwhelming Perception
Among Policy Makers Is Of A
One Way Flow Of Skilled
Migrants From Asian Countries
To Australia**

**To what extent are there flows in
the other direction?**

Australia: International Permanent Migration Permanent Departures as a Proportion of Arrivals, 1994-2006

Country	Arrivals	Departures	Percent
China	75,563	21,273	28.2
India	44,097	1,427	3.2
Singapore	43,394	22,861	52.2
Philippines	38,639	3,049	7.9
Hong Kong	37,797	39,627	104.8
Malaysia	29,214	6,272	21.5
Indonesia	28,686	10,020	34.9
Vietnam	26,947	6,181	22.9
Thailand	15,075	6,534	43.3
Pakistan	14,484	288	2.0
Taiwan	14,194	7,452	52.5
Sri Lanka	14,064	444	3.2
South Korea	9,712	8,117	92.7
Japan	8,757	3,678	37.2

Northeast Asia	-	55 percent
Southeast Asia	-	29.9 percent
Southern Asia	-	3.1 percent

Total	-	33.6 percent
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Australia-Born Departures to Asia

- **54,264 in 1994-2006**
 - **38.6% of permanent departures**
 - **Equivalent to 13% of Asia-born arrivals**
- **Australia-born children of immigrants**
- **Increasingly skilled migrants**

Main Destinations

• Singapore	-	13,547
• Hong Kong SAR	-	12,997
• China	-	5,130
• Japan	-	4,525
• Indonesia	-	4,447
• Thailand	-	3,341
• Vietnam	-	1,554

Australia: Asia-Born Permanent Arrivals and Departures by Occupation, 1997-98 to 2005-06

Source: DIAC Overseas Arrivals and Departures

	Permanent Arrivals	Permanent Departures	Net Gain	Net Gain as Percent of Total Arrivals
1. Manager & Administrators	21,698	9,092	12,606	58.1
2. Professionals	85,638	14,262	71,376	83.3
3. Associate Professionals	14,826	8,286	6,540	44.1
4. Tradespersons	12,285	2,610	9,675	78.8
5. Adv Clerical & Sales	3,459	983	2,476	71.6
6. Intermediate Clerical, Sales & Service	12,689	4,801	7,888	62.2
7. Int Production & Transport	1,942	1,047	895	46.1
8. Elementary Clerical, Sales & Service	6,929	3,172	3,757	54.2
9. Labourers	1,482	1,225	257	17.3
Total	160,948	45,478	115,470	71.7

Australia-Born Permanent Departures to Asia by Occupation, 1997-98 to 2005-06

	Number	Percent	Net Gain of Asia-Born	Overall Net Gain	Net Gain as Percent of Arrivals
Managers & Administrators	8,723	23.6	12,606	3,653	16.8
Professionals	17,007	46.1	71,376	54,369	63.5
Associate Professionals	3,889	10.5	6,540	2,651	17.9
Tradespersons & Related Workers	1,032	2.8	9,675	8,643	58.3
Advanced Clerical & Service Workers	612	1.7	2,476	1,864	53.9
Intermediate Clerical, Sales & Service	3,753	10.2	7,888	4,135	62.2
Intermediate Production & Transport	292	0.8	895	603	31.1
Elementary Clerical, Sales & Service	1,352	3.7	3,757	2,405	34.5
Labourers & Related Workers	259	0.7	257	-2	-0.1
Total	36,919	100.0	115,470	+78,551	100.0

Hence Asian-Australian Skilled Migration Is By No Means A One Way Flow:

Asia-Born Moving To Australia	418,004
Asia-Born Moving From Australia To Asia	86,161
Australia-Born Moving From Australia To Asia	54,264
Net Migration	277,579

However Other Elements

- **‘Brain Bypass’**
- **Temporary Return Migration- Circular Migration**
- **Virtual Return Movement**

Third Country Migration

‘Brain Bypass’ (Biao, 2004, 164)

‘the movement of skilled migration from the South to countries like Canada and Australia where, using experience acquired in those countries or leverage, they then move on to other countries, particularly the USA’.

Australia: India- and China-Born Permanent Departures by Destination, 1994-2006

Source: DIAC unpublished data

Destination	China-Born		India-Born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
China/India	12,320	57.1	617	20.6
Hong Kong SAR	5,722	26.4	138	4.6
New Zealand	781	3.6	315	10.6
Singapore	580	2.6	263	8.8
USA	397	1.8	523	17.5
Japan	374	1.7	31	1.0
Taiwan POC	265	1.2	6	0.2
UK/Eire	169	0.8	343	11.5
Malaysia	122	0.6	38	1.3
South Korea	102	0.5	14	0.5
Other Pacific	37	0.2	42	1.4
Other Europe	255	1.2	115	3.9
Middle East	42	0.2	190	6.4
Other Asia	312	1.4	167	5.6
Other America	77	0.4	146	4.9
Africa	26	0.1	35	1.2
Not Stated	44	0.2	2	-
Total	21,606	100.0	2,985	100.0

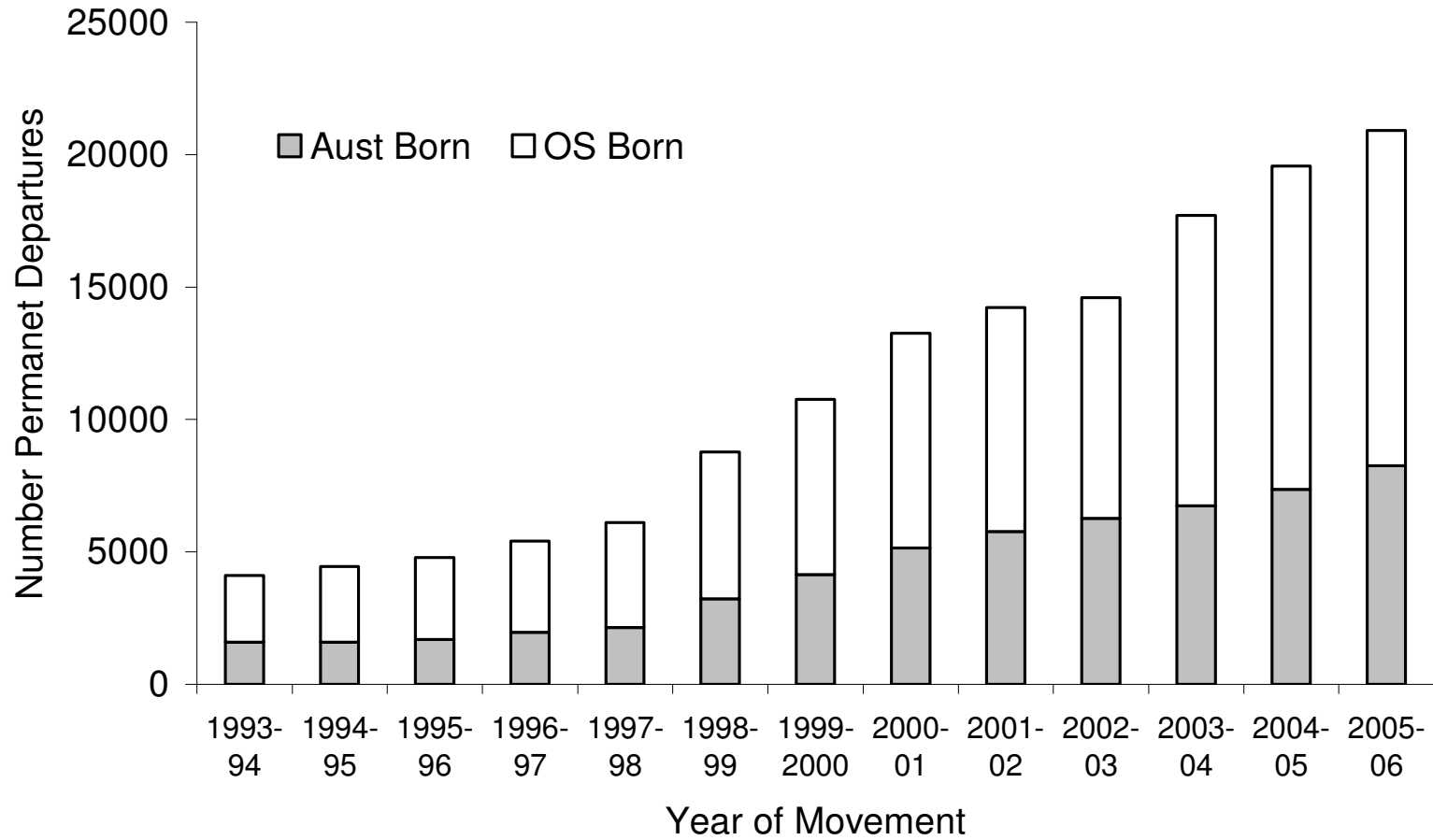
Australia: India- and China-Born Long-term Departures by Destination, 1994-2006

Source: DIAC unpublished data

COUNTRY OF (INTENDED) RESIDENCE	China-born		India-born	
	Number	%	Number	%
China / India	77,909	75.8	37,882	72.6
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	14,572	14.2	414	0.8
New Zealand	1,079	1.0	930	1.8
Singapore	2,022	2.0	2,746	5.3
United States of America	1,500	1.5	2,707	5.2
Japan	1,064	1.0	266	0.5
Taiwan (Province of China)	855	0.8	29	0.1
Uk & Ireland	524	0.5	1,396	2.7
Malaysia	442	0.4	1,116	2.1
Korea, Republic of (South)	279	0.3	38	0.1
Other Pacific	393	0.4	480	0.9
Other Europe	373	0.4	382	0.7
Middle East	66	0.1	1,531	2.9
Other Asia	953	0.9	1,499	2.9
Other America	570	0.6	341	0.7
Africa	99	0.1	358	0.7
Not Stated	115	0.1	31	0.1
Total	102,815	100.0	52,146	100.0

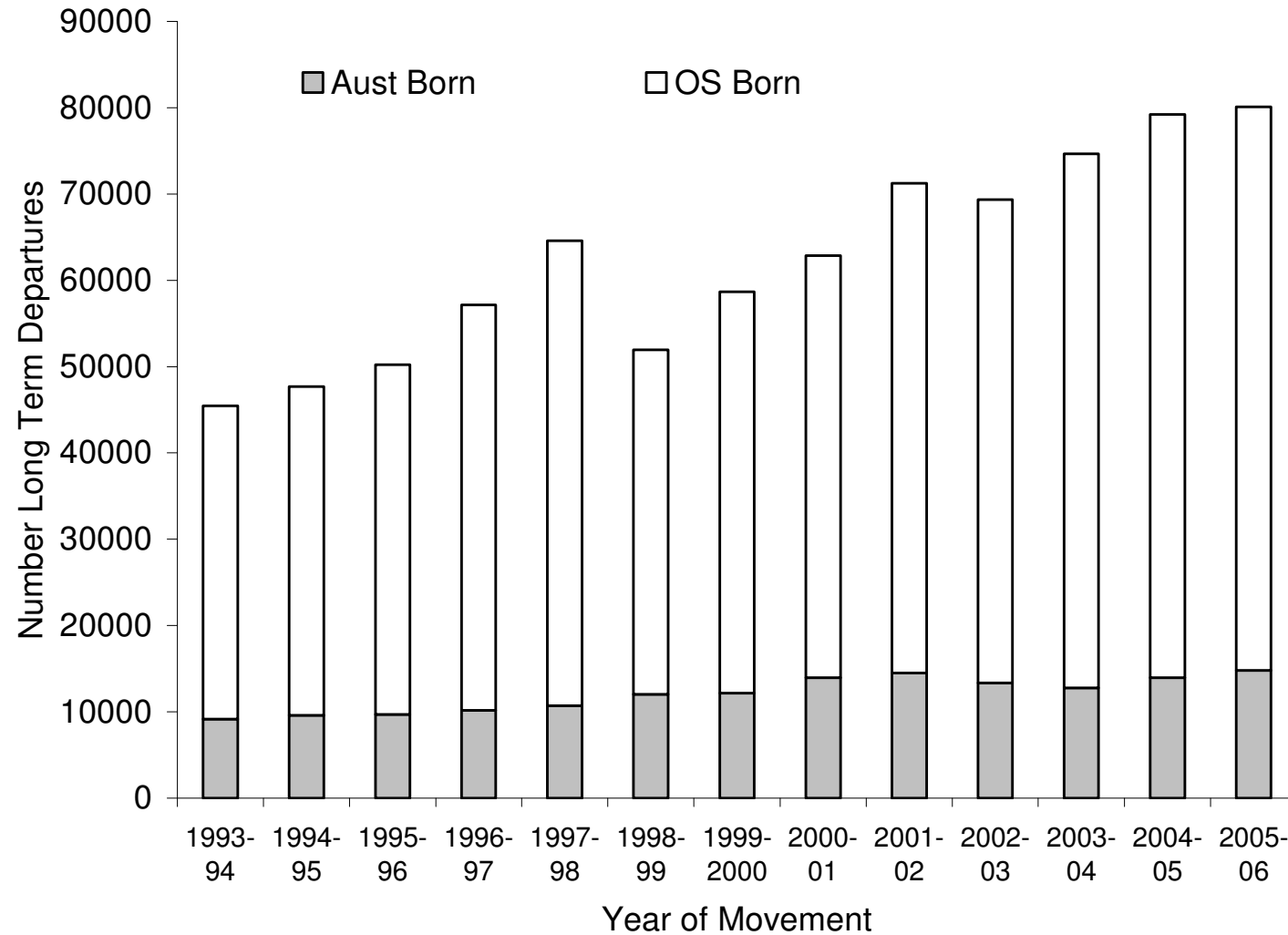
Australia: Permanent Departures to Asia of Australia and Overseas-born, 1993-94 to 2005-06

Source: DIAC unpublished data



Australia: Long-term Departures to Asia of Australia and Overseas-born, 1993-94 to 2005-06

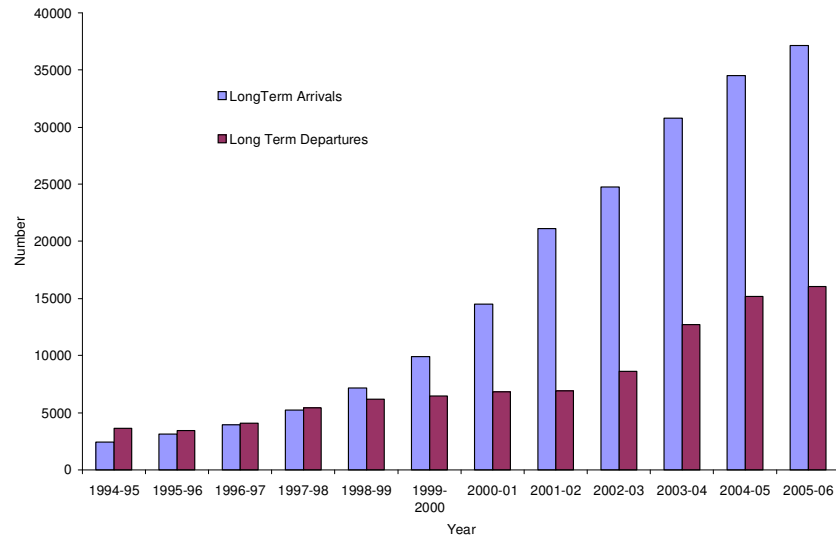
Source: DIAC unpublished data



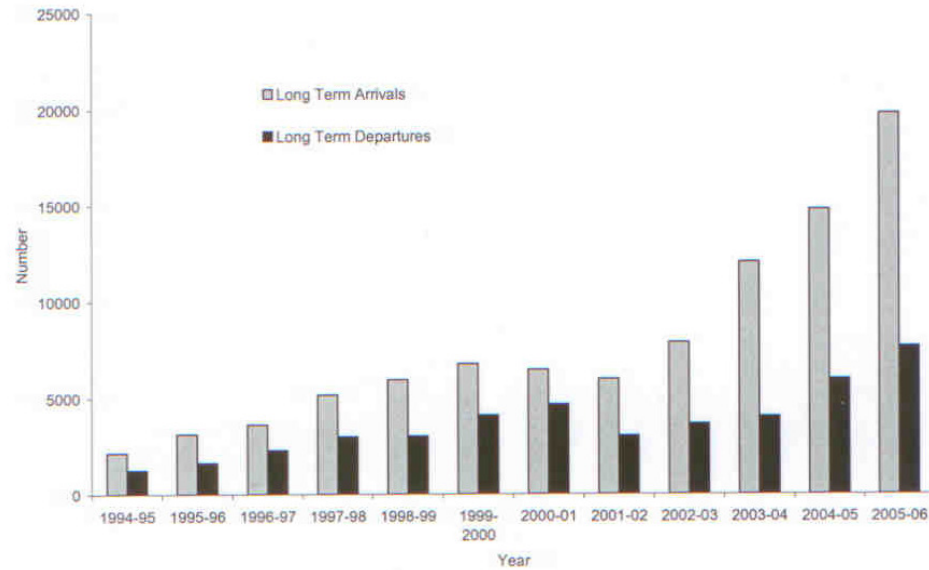
Long-Term Movement to and From China and India, 1994-95 to 2005-06

Source: DIMA unpublished data

China

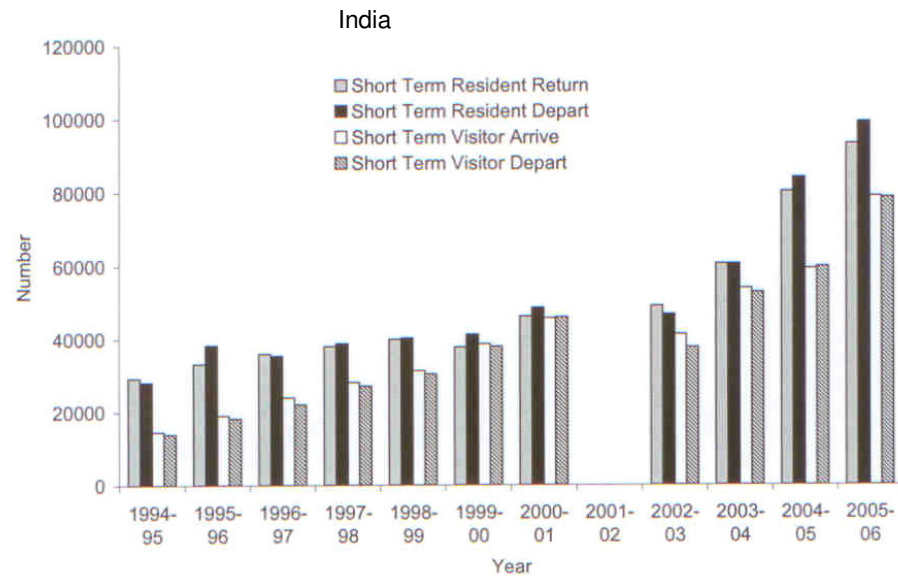
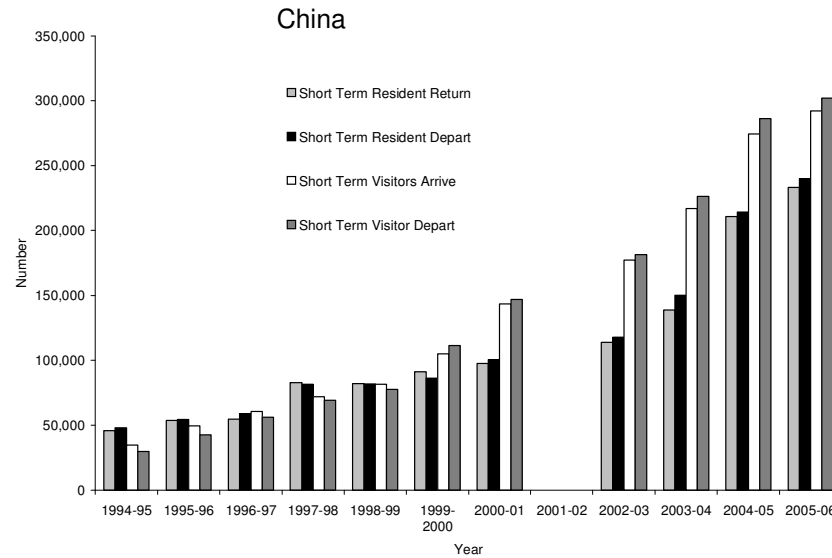


India



Short-Term Movement to and From China and India, 1994-95 to 2005-06

Source: DIMA unpublished data



**Australia: Number of Moves Out of Australia Made
by China-Born and India-Born Permanent Residents
Between 1999 and 2006**

	1999-2006	
	China-Born	India-Born
Total individuals	190,600	115,439
Total moves	931,312	416,439
Average no. of moves	4.9	3.6

Australia: Percent Settler Arrivals from China – Number of Subsequent Moves by Year of Arrival, 1999-2006

Source: DIAC unpublished data

Year of Arrival	Percent No Move	Percent 10+ Moves
1999-2000	16.6	17.3
2000-01	12.8	18.5
2001-02	13.3	18.5
2002-03	14.7	13.8
2003-04	21.2	9.4
2004-05	29.1	3.8
2005-06	42.5	2.5

Percent of Arrivals to Australia of Separate Asia-Born Persons Who Made More Than Five Moves In and Out, 1999-2006

Country of Birth	Settlers		Visitors	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
China	58,744	37.5	328,770	69.2
India	50,228	28.3	117,063	47.6
Hong Kong	8,174	54.5	123,502	83.5
Malaysia	18,116	56.1	162,184	80.2
Singapore	13,336	51.1	116,233	85.2
Taiwan	9,337	67.7	51,566	79.7
Japan	4,494	61.2	234,798	58.7

Study of Chinese Staff in Australian Universities, 2006

- **Selected on basis of name**
- **On-line survey**
- **239 responses**
- **Gave indications of**
 - **permanent return**
 - **temporary return**
 - **virtual return**

Chinese Academic Study 2006

- Visit China at least once per year 64.4%
- Contact China at least once a week 56.5%
- Plan to stay permanently in Australia 47.7%
- Percent with research projects in China 40.2%

Australian Chinese Academic Study: Linkages with Mainland China

Source: Survey (N=239)

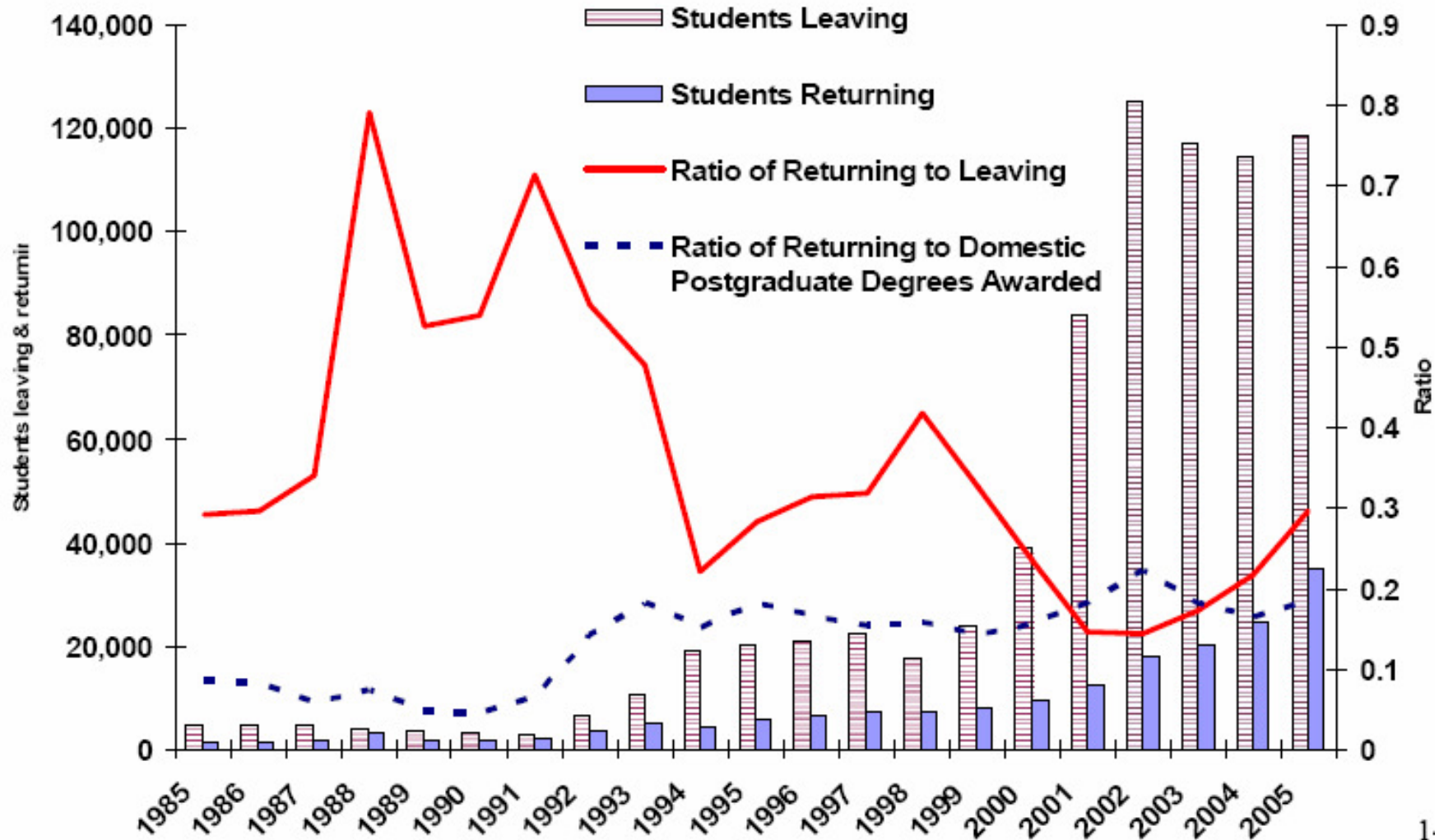
Link	%
Running Seminars and mini courses in China	61.0
Training Chinese students in Australia	51.5
Editing book with Chinese Scholar	19.5
Collaborative research with Chinese scholars	65.6
Give academic paper in China	59.5
Consultancy work in China	24.6
Have regular visits with colleagues in China	69.0
Have regular visits with family in China	84.4
Have commercial interests in China	3.9

Chinese Policy on Skilled Migration

- Encouraging movement to study in foreign countries
- Return migration policy
- Hai Gui - sea turtles
- Increased return flow

Chinese Student Flows: 1985-2005

Source: Regets, 2007



The Dumbbell Model

Source: After Wescott 2005



Implications

- **Australian data show conclusively the complexity and circularity in Asia-Australian skilled migration.**
- **Need to reconceptualise south-north migration.**
- **Indicates substantial potential for enhancing positive impacts on Asian origin countries.**
- **Substantial blurring between permanent settlement and temporary migration.**

Policy Implications

- **Australian Government thinking in migration policy still largely based on the idea that permanent migration is forever and temporary migration is not. Little understanding of complex linkages involving, and established by, population movements with Asia.**
- **Circularity, reciprocity and complexity are structured features of Asian migration to Australia, not a peripheral or ephemeral feature.**
- **Implications for Australia's wider economic, social and political linkages with Asia.**

Conclusion

- **Continuing investigation on flows of individual migrants**
- **Complexity of flows between countries**
- **Need for understanding of ‘virtual’ as well as ‘temporary’ return migration**
- **Implications of bilocality, binationality not clear**
- **Need to understand strategies of individual migrants**
- **More development sensitivity in Australian immigration system?**
- **Increasing barriers to settlement**