

A focus on Alice – **PEOPLE, PLACE & PANDEMIC IMPACTS**

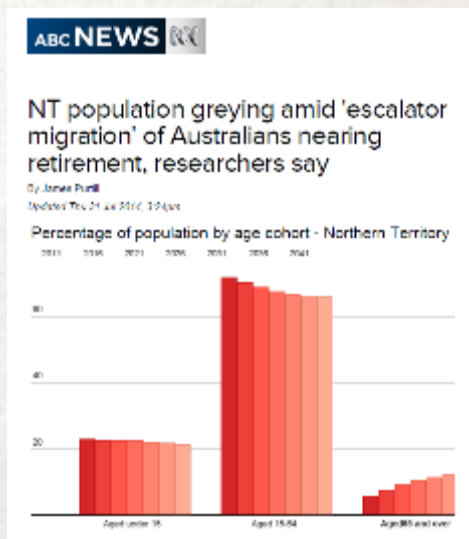


Demography and Growth Planning at CDU



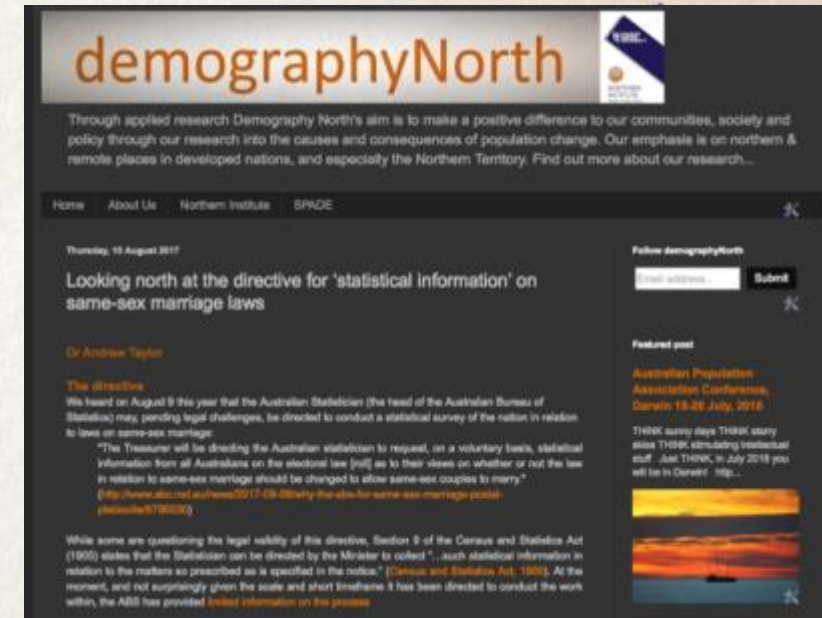
Through applied research we investigate the causes and consequences of population changes with emphasis on the Northern Territory and the north of Australia.

We are driven to make positive differences to communities, society and policy through robust, independent research.



Some of our contributions

- Enhancing understanding of Territory issues nationally / internationally
- 400 or so articles, books and technical papers
- Projections software and theory
- Training others in sourcing and applying population data
- 'Home growing' people for population analysis/ research
- Lots of media stuff to help inform debates



Presentation

1. Alice – PEOPLE & PLACE

Fiona and George illuminate the population of Alice Springs using a range of data sources. They provide a profile of the population using the themes of population structure, population trends, population diversity and population migration, including insights from the original *The Territory and Me* survey capturing drivers for Alice as a migration destination. They also place Alice in the international context of other sparsely populated regions.



Fiona Shalley 20+ years with ABS including as Director of National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics. Data sourcing and application research, partnerships and client liaison, engagement and training. PhD underway on identity in official statistics.



George Tan (PhD.) 10+ years teaching and research in migration and population. Previously at Hugo Centre for Migration and Population and SA Public Health Information Development Unit. Keen interest in international migration, particularly international students, skilled migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.



Presentation



2. Alice – A COVID update on migration sentiments

Sigurd shares initial findings from a new survey – the Territory and Me COVID Update, focusing on responses from participants who live/d in Alice Springs. He explores how Alice Springs is perceived as a place to live, a future migration destination, or a transition to another location using a range of people characteristics collected in the survey.



Sigurd Dyrting (PhD.) Previously in international banking futures. Quantitative modelling and methods. High level statistical and software development skills.

3. Dare to dream - Alice's population futures when the past is gone

Demographers have waived goodbye to the past and the future is highly uncertain to say the least. **Andrew** asks what it all might mean for the population of Alice? Will the things that drove change in the past do so in the future? We explore scenarios for Alice as we “Dare to Dream” about population futures.



Andrew Taylor (PhD.) 10 years with ABS including 5 at NT office. 16 years in demography at CDU. Project and research program management. Representing NT interests on ABS and other advisory panels (shared with other team members).



A focus on Alice – **PEOPLE & PLACE**

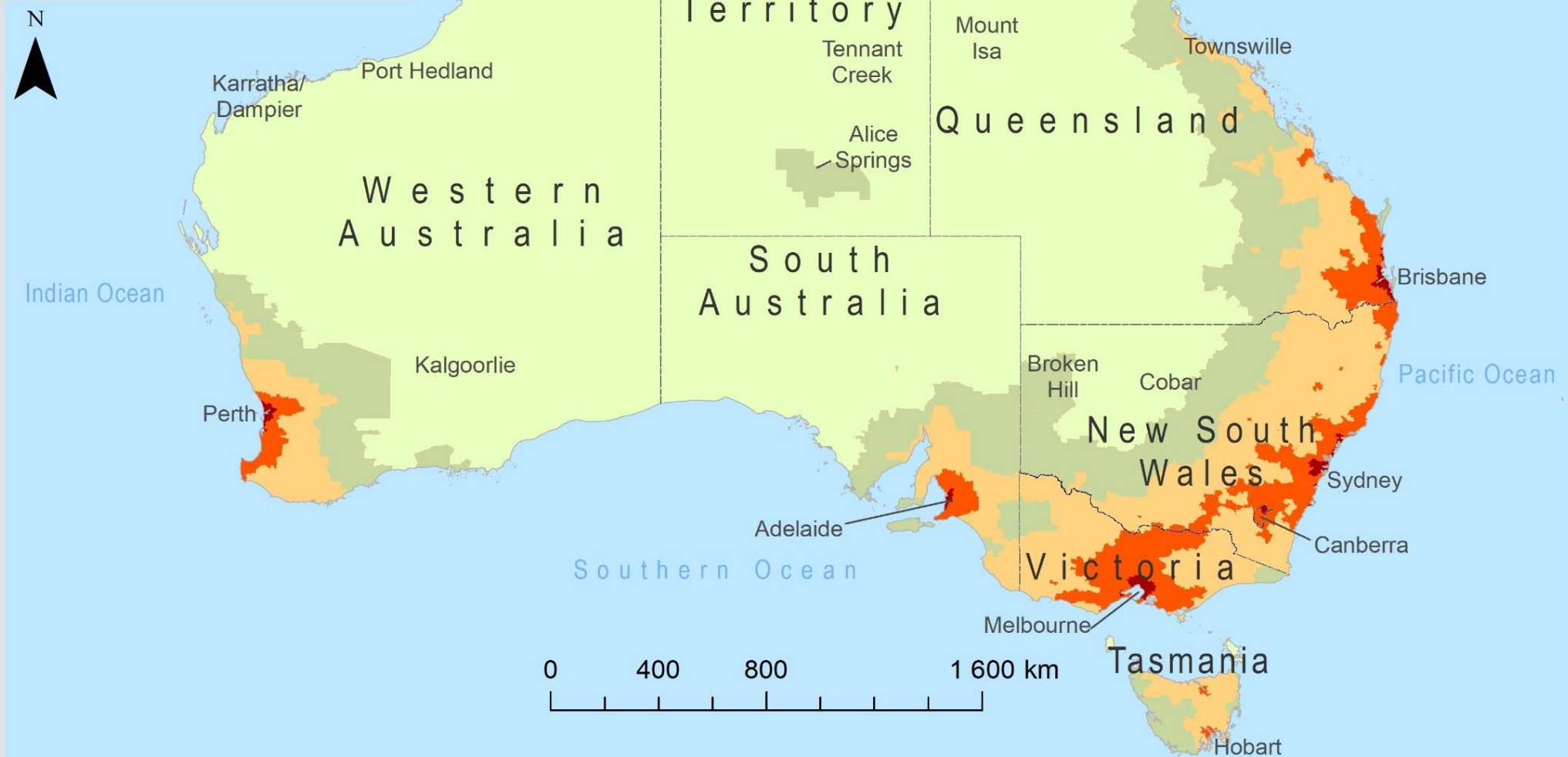


- NT is the 7th sparsest national subdivision in the world
- Like other sparsely population regions, it has significantly higher per capita GDP but shorter lives, less working age population, more children and a higher dependency ratio than national average
- It has both resource dependency and extreme remoteness

The Territory is quite unique in the world

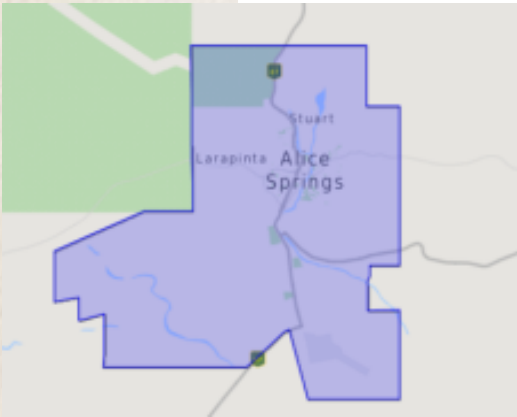
ABS Remoteness structure 2016

- Major Cities and
- Inner Regional
- Outer Regional
- Remote
- Very Remote

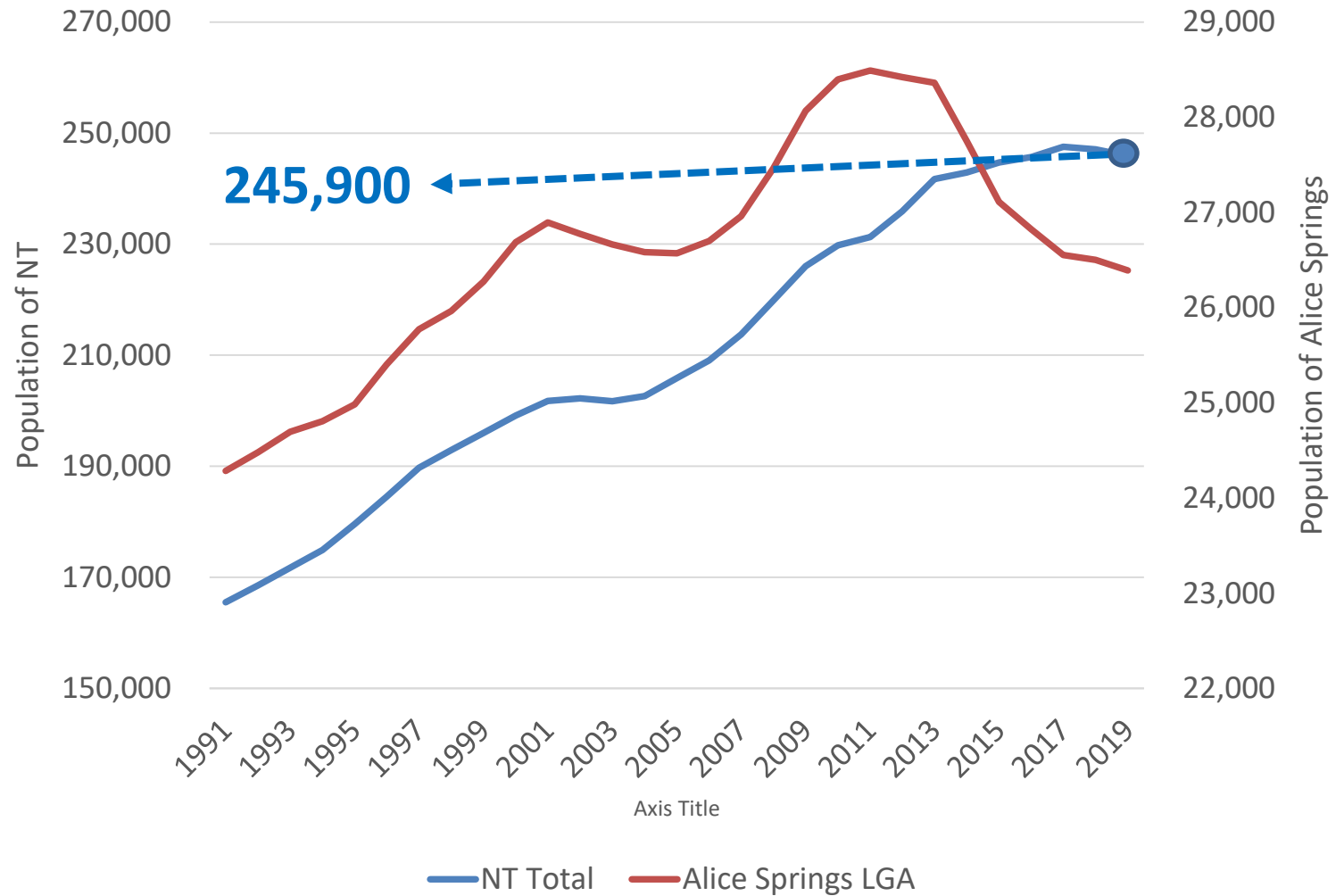
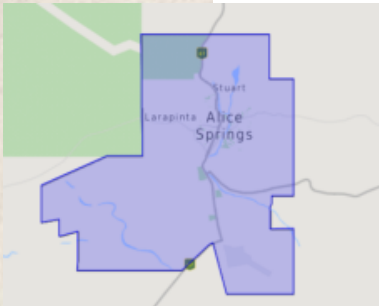




This is Alice Springs

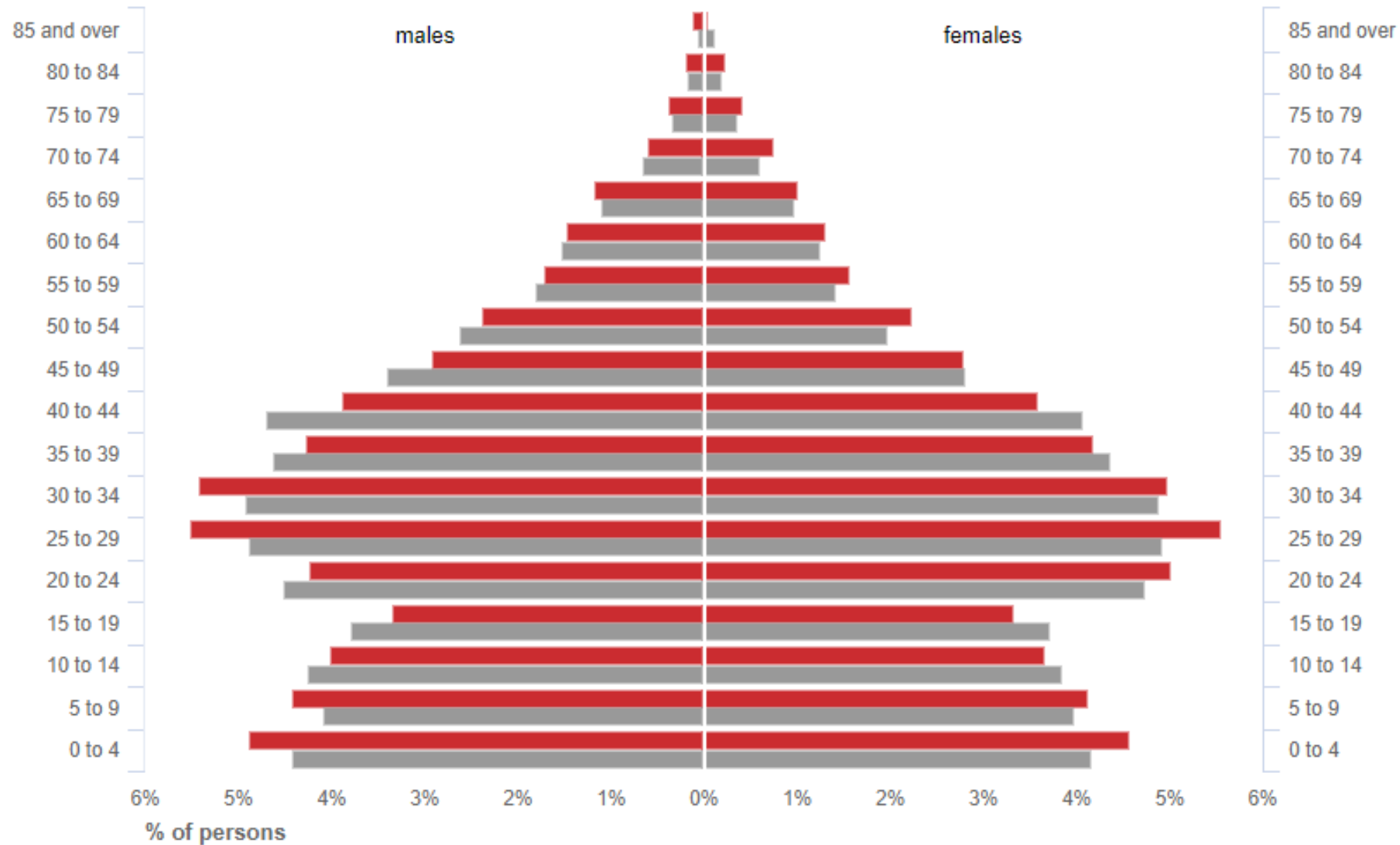


Population trends – Alice Springs LGA



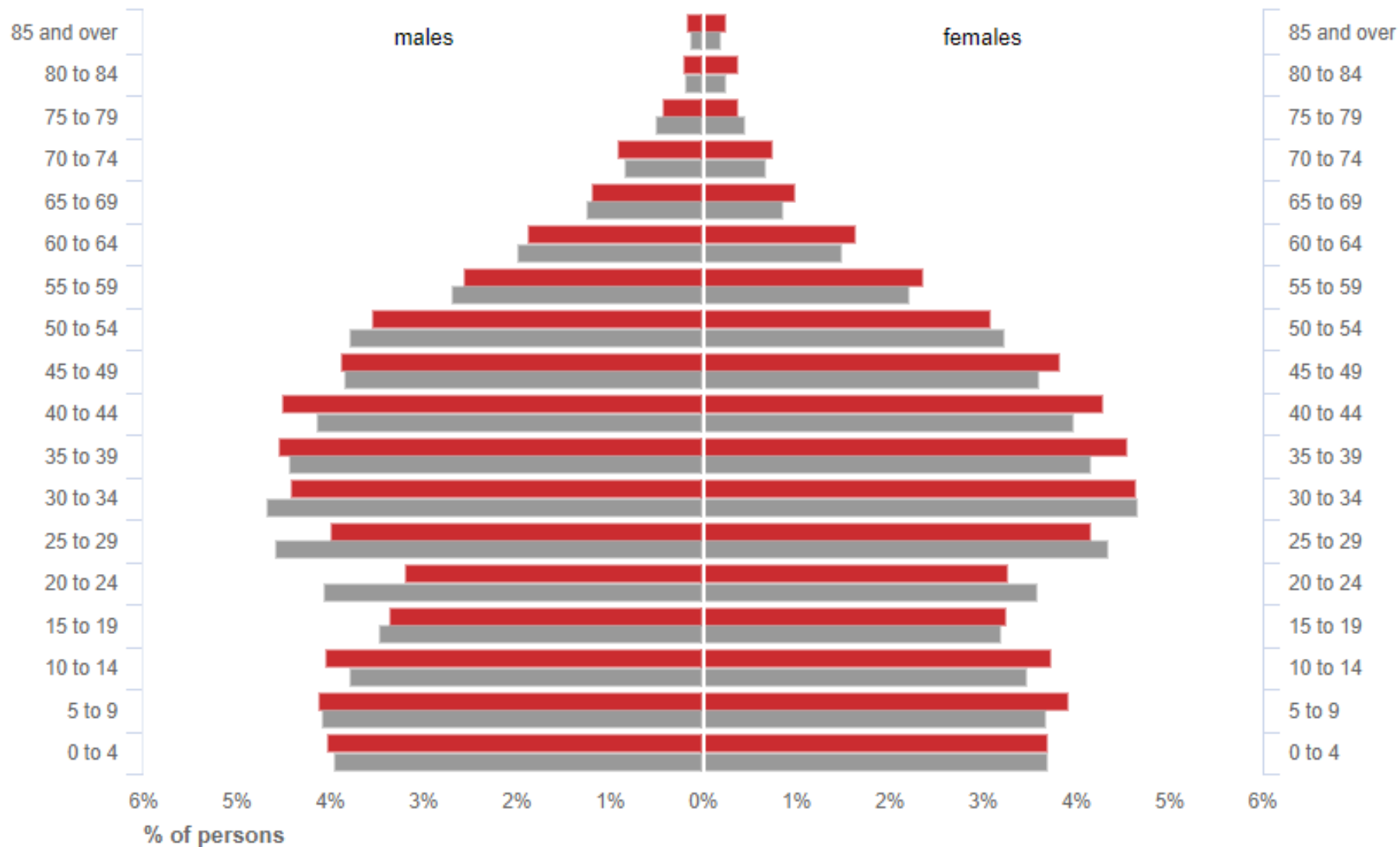
Population trends – Compared to the NT

■ Alice Springs Town Council LGA ■ Greater Darwin

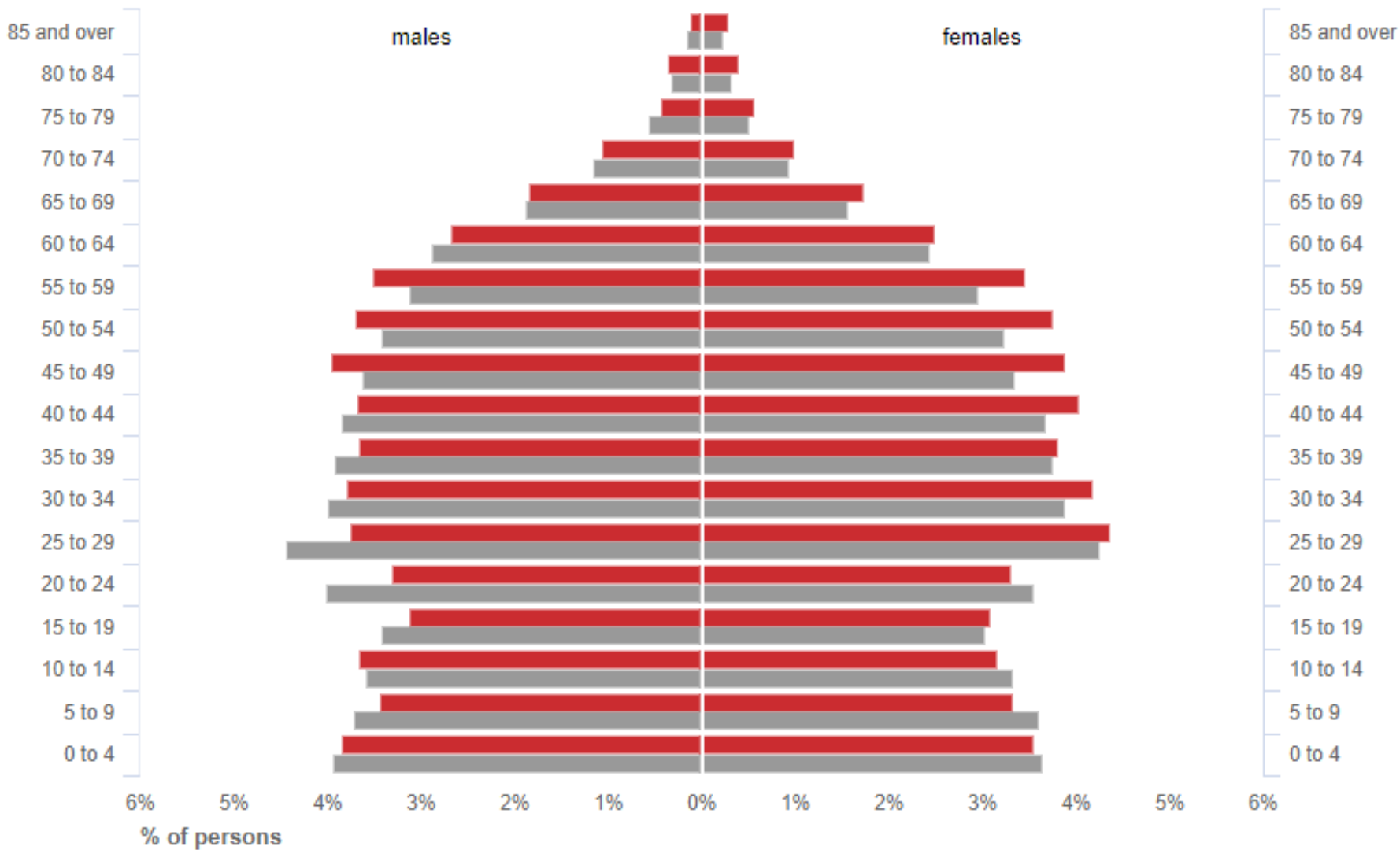


Population trends – Age and Sex, 1991

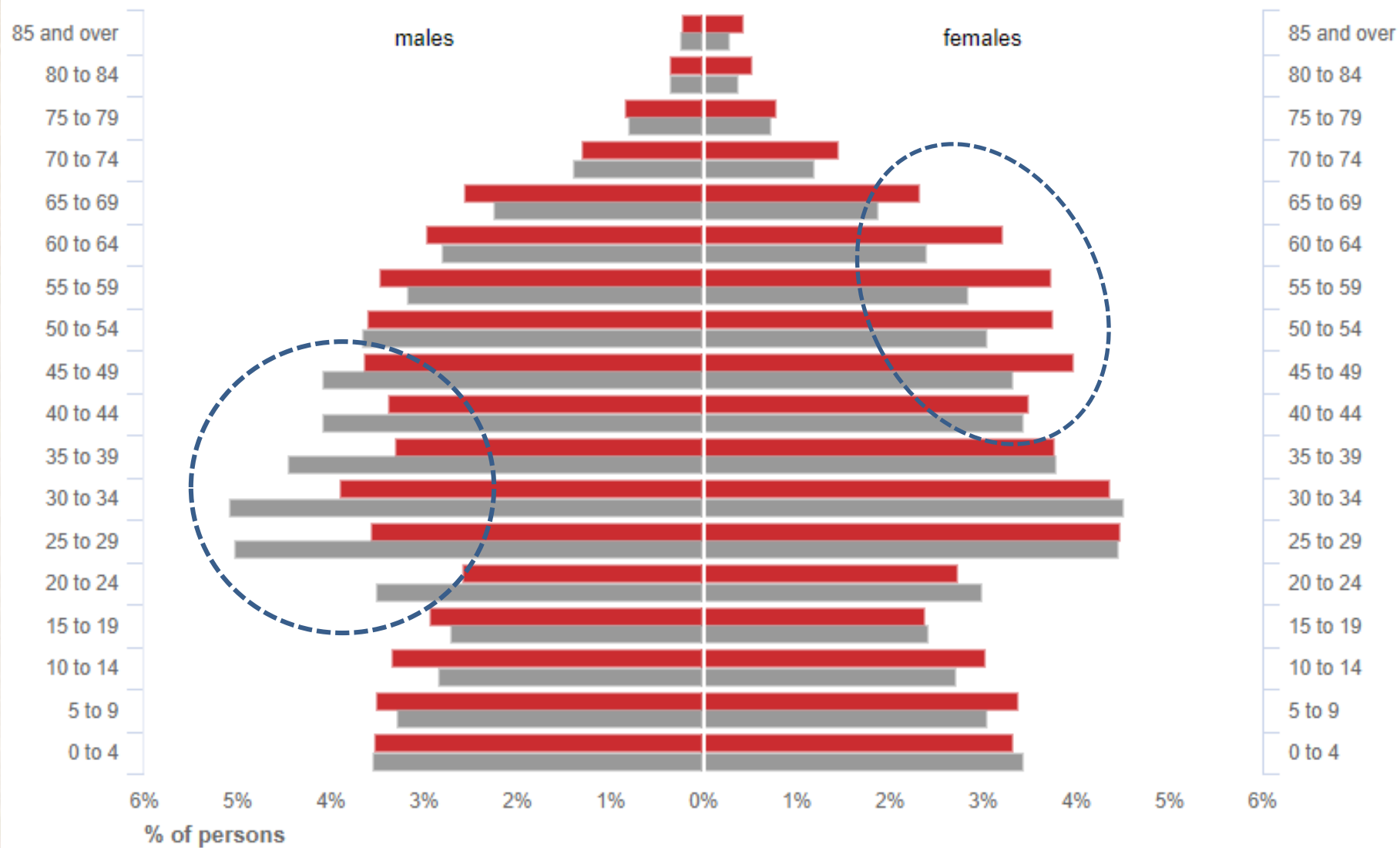
■ Alice Springs Town Council LGA ■ Greater Darwin



Population trends – Age and Sex, 2001



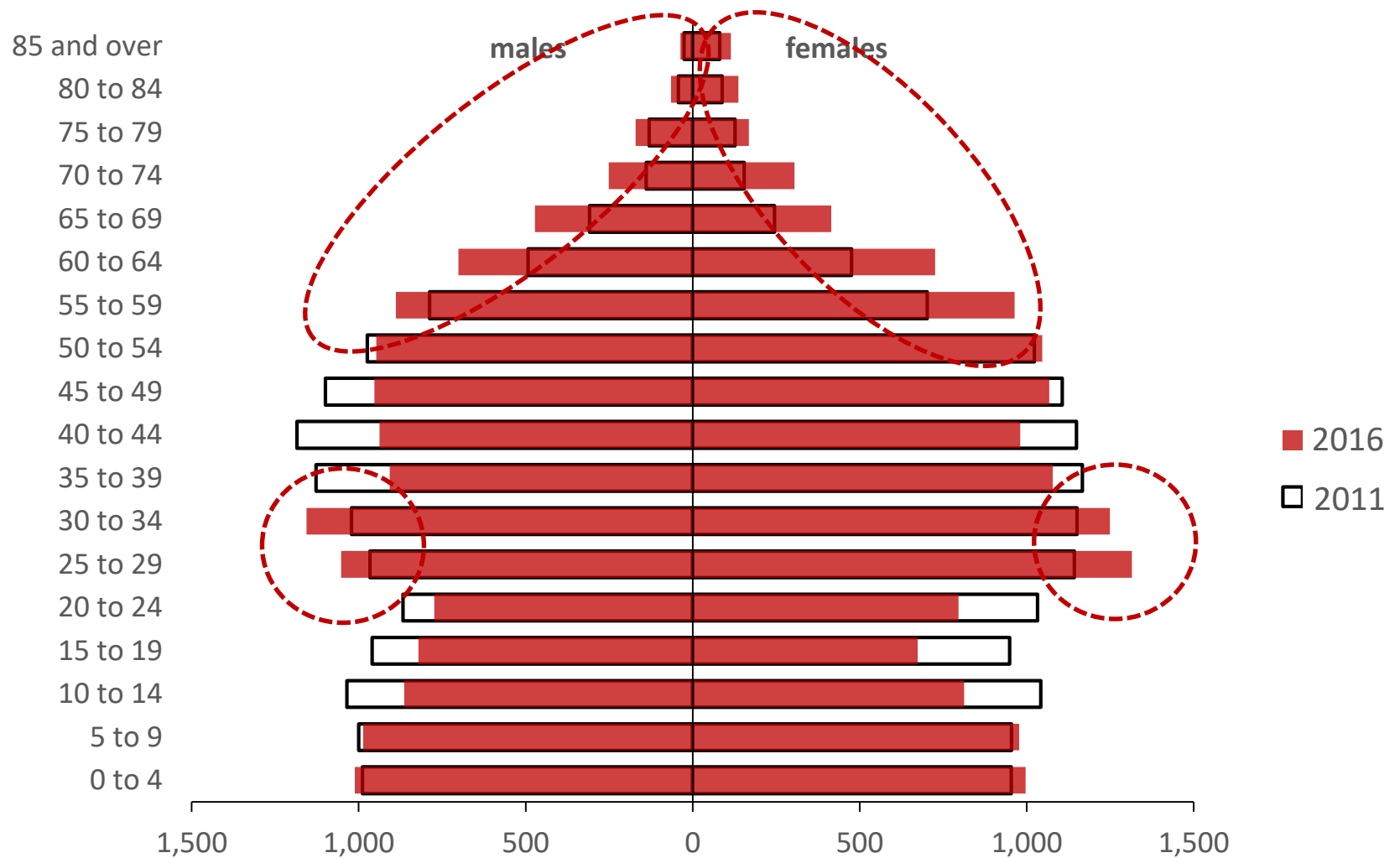
■ Alice Springs Town Council LGA ■ Greater Darwin



Population trends – Age and Sex, 2016

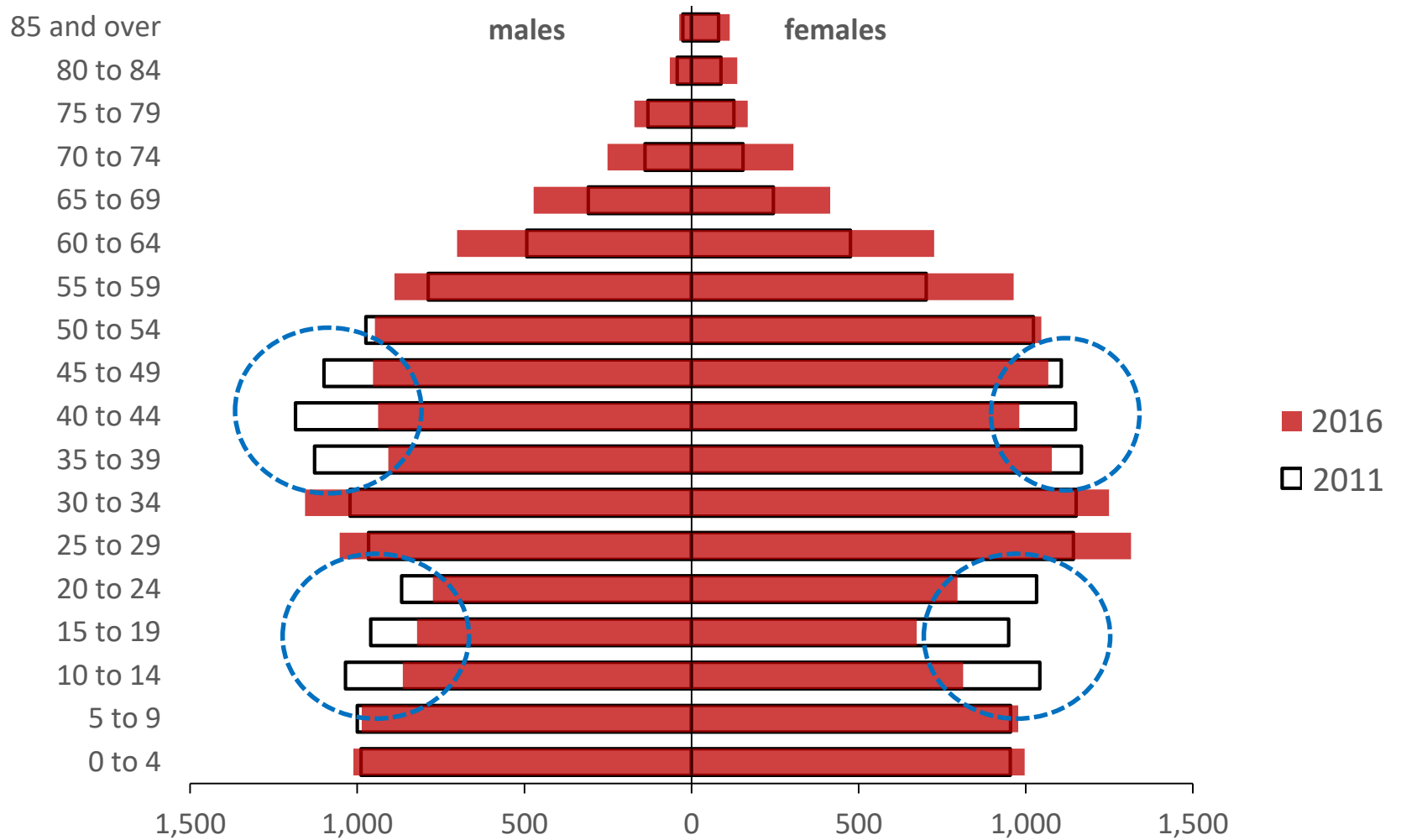
Gains above 55 years

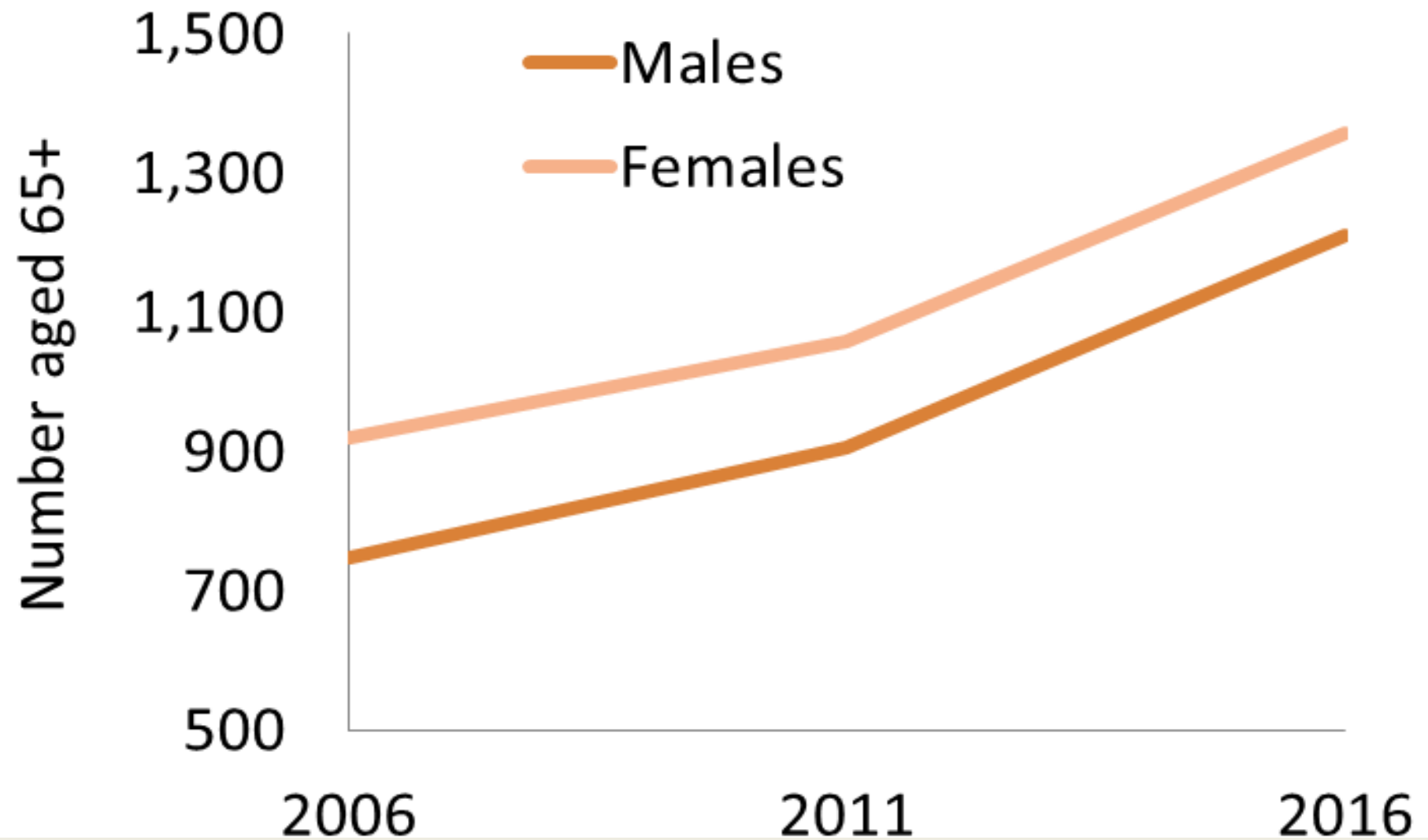
Gains in 25 to 34 year-olds



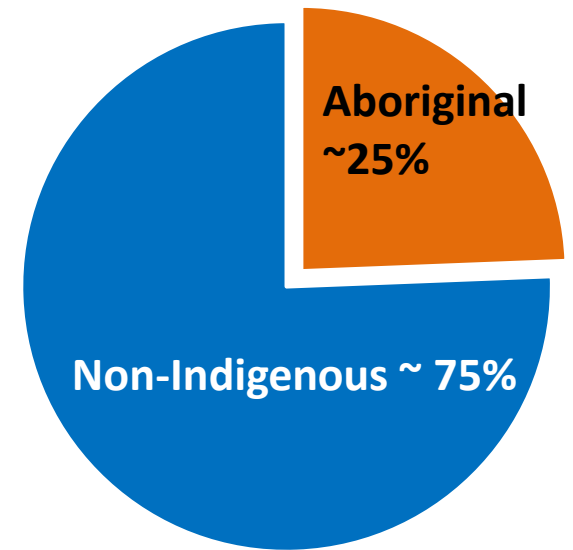
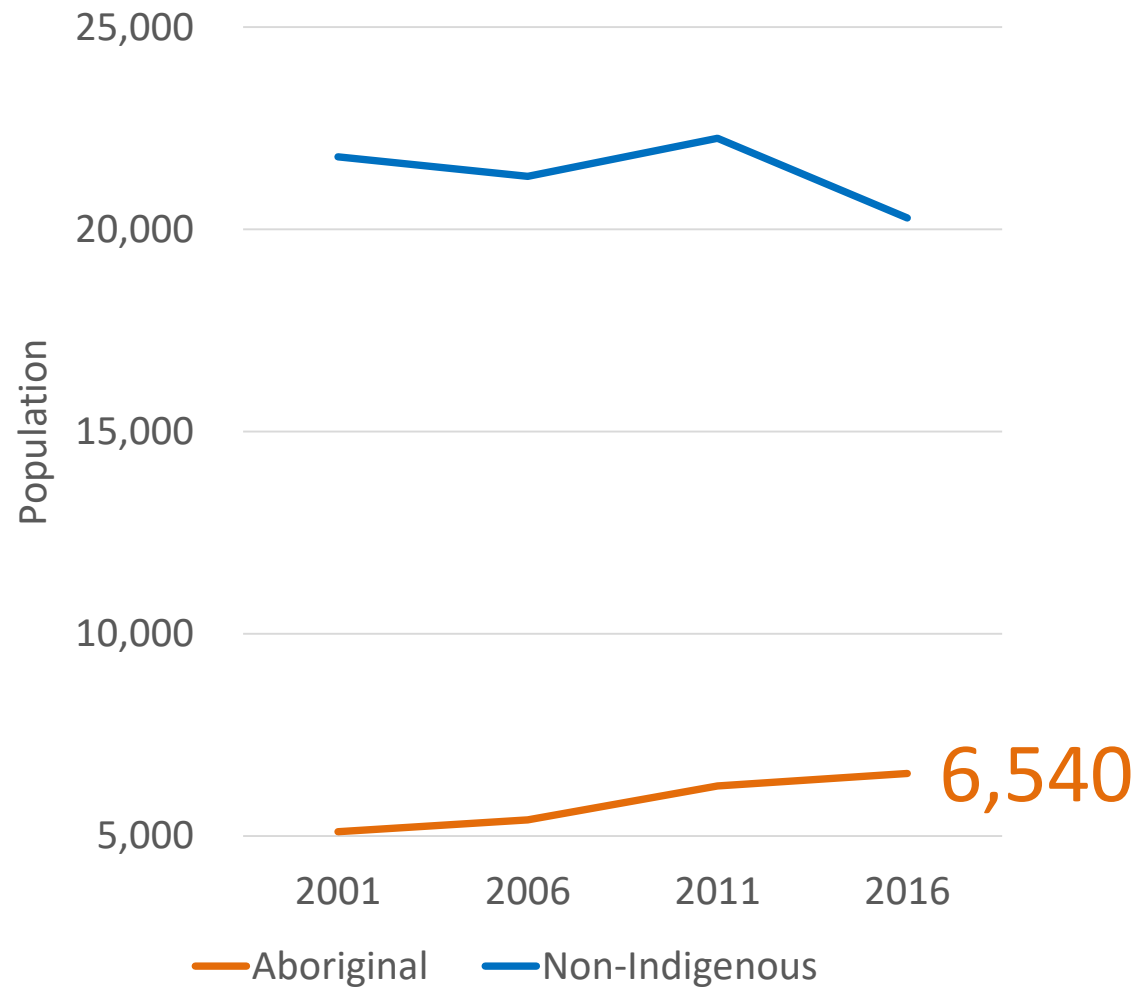
Loss of teenagers to 25 year-olds

Loss of 35 to 50 year-olds





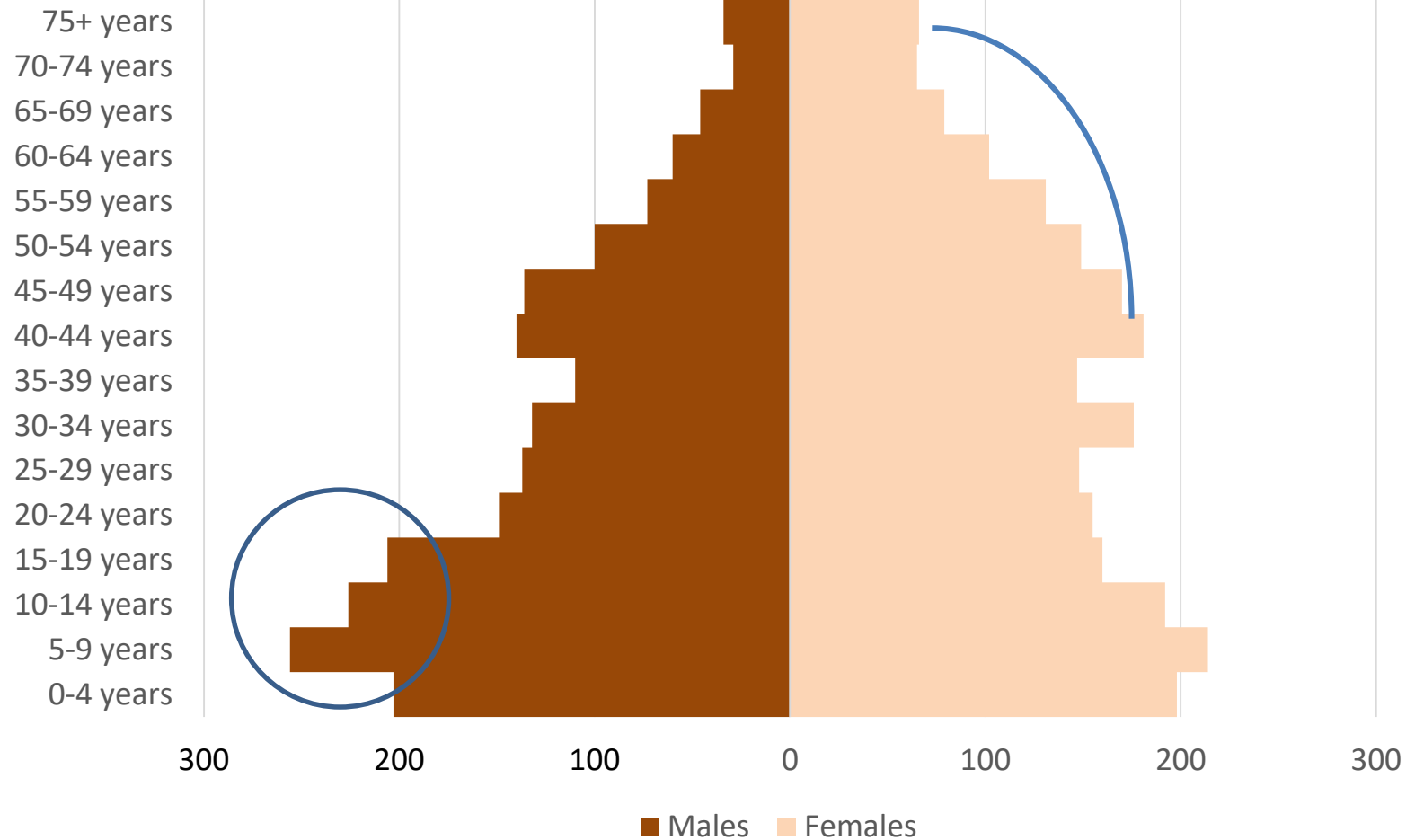
Population trends – An ageing Alice



Aboriginal population trends

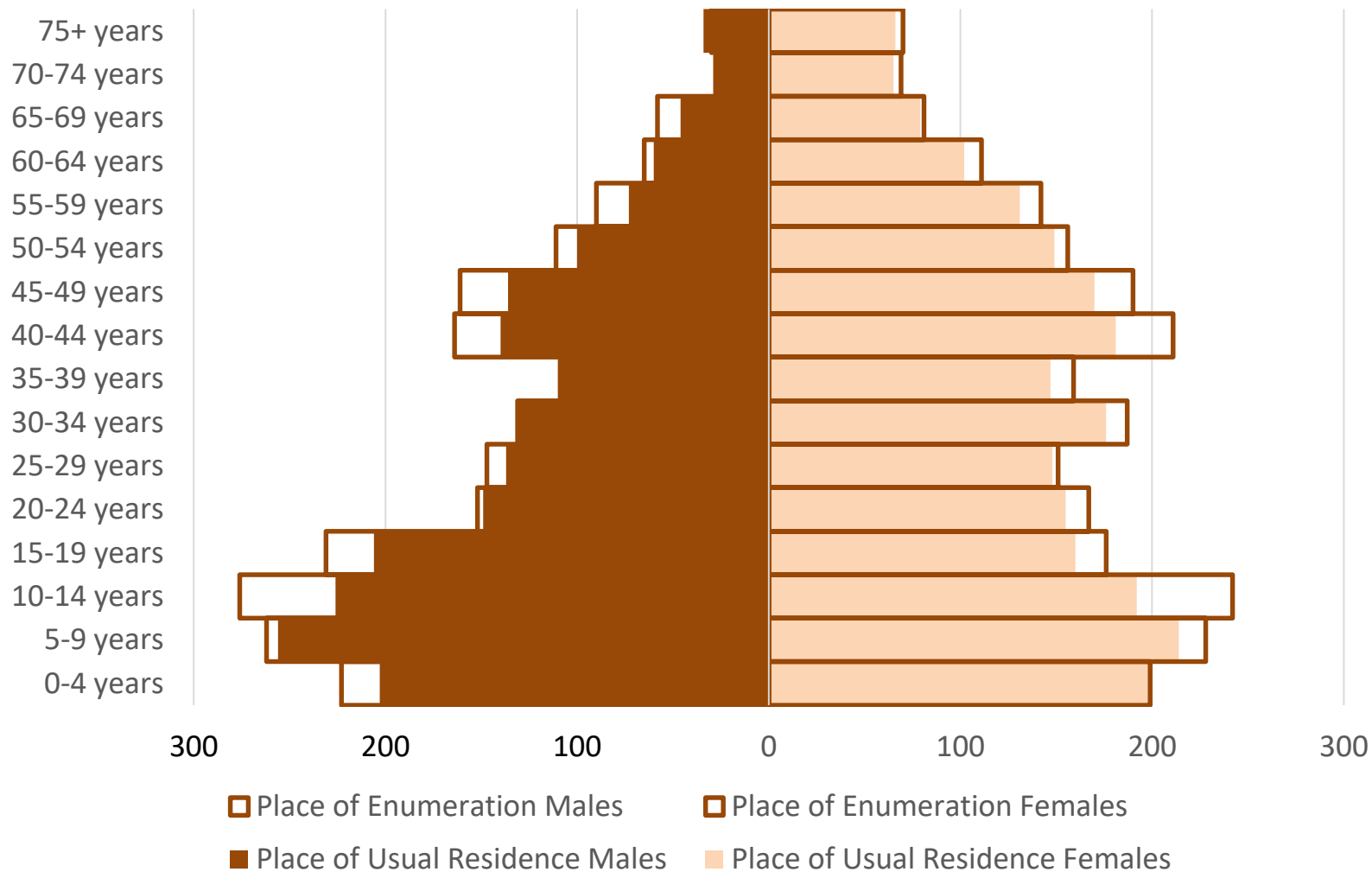
More young males – 5 to 19

More older women – over 40

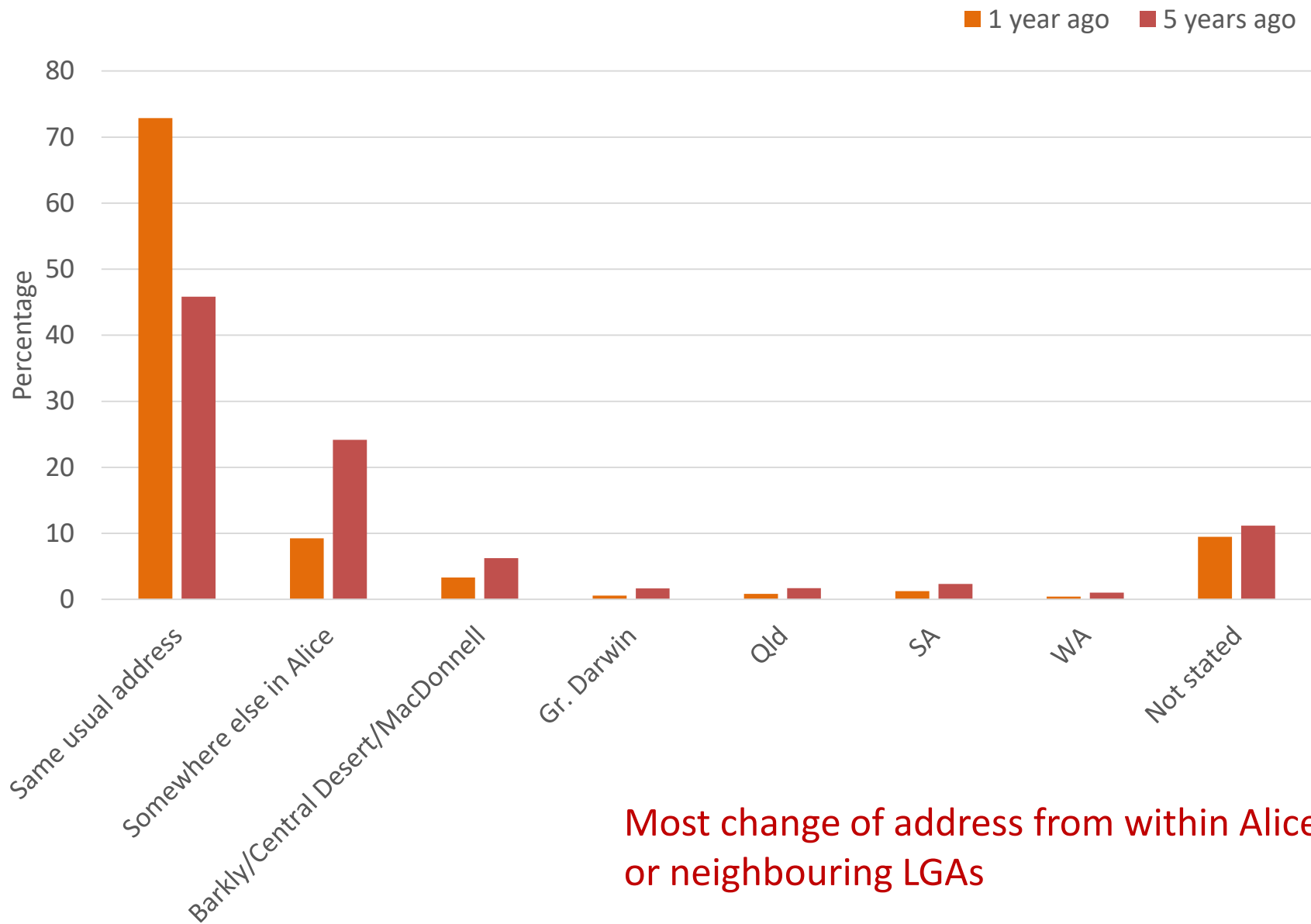


Aboriginal population – age and sex structure 2016

Larger population present on Census night

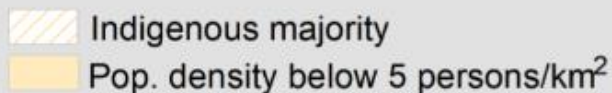


Aboriginal population – usual residents and visitors

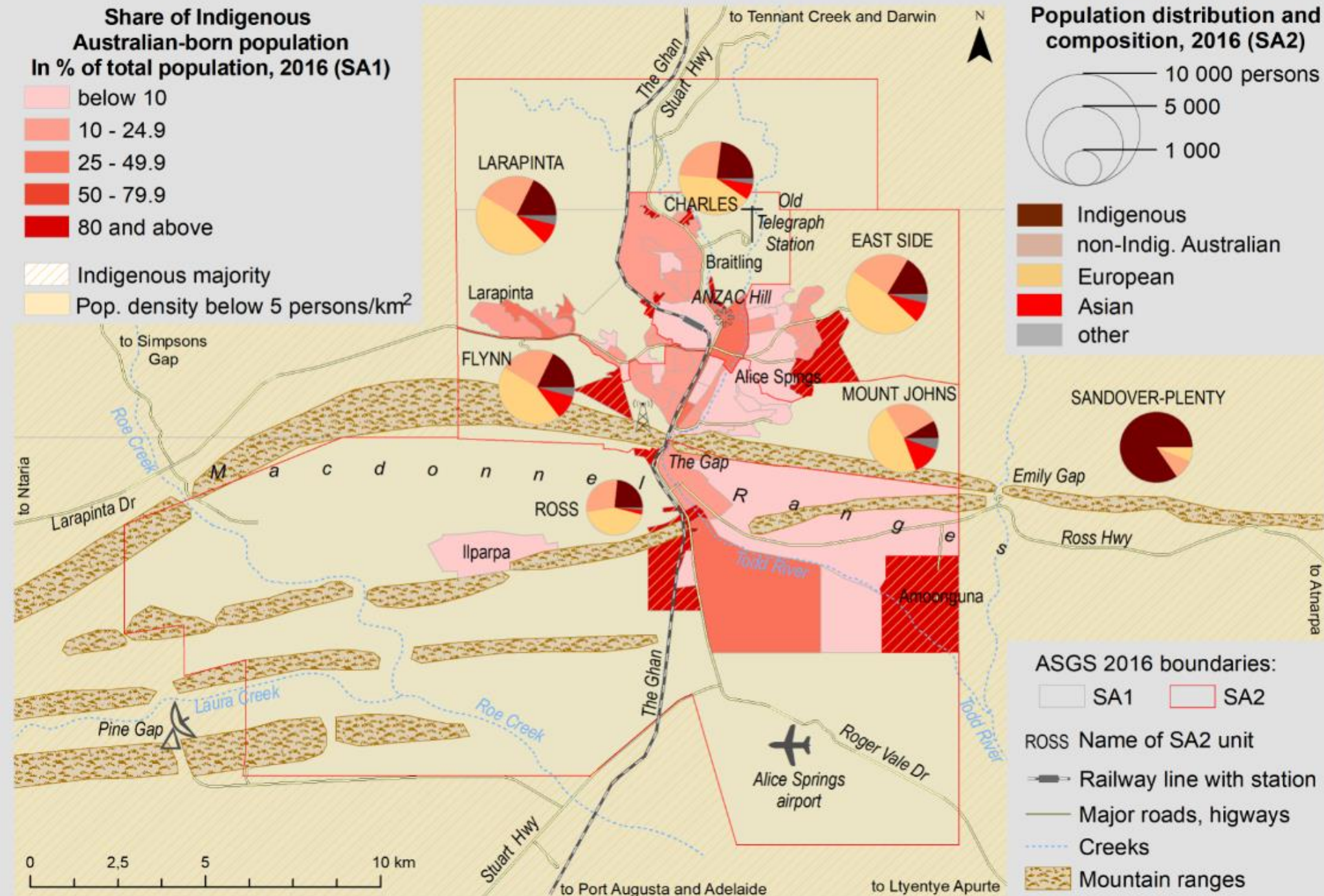
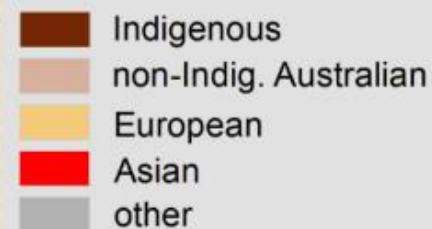
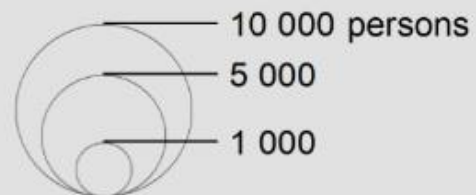


Aboriginal population - mobility

Share of Indigenous Australian-born population In % of total population, 2016 (SA1)



Population distribution and composition, 2016 (SA2)



Permanent visa holders in Alice Springs 2011 -2016



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Permanent visas	2011	2016	2011-2016 n change	2011-2016 percent change
Skilled - Independent	129	328	200	155.4
Skilled - Family or Government Sponsored	136	202	66	48.7
Skilled - Employer Sponsored	775	1221	446	57.6
Skilled - Other	13	21	8	63.6
Family - Partner	389	626	237	60.7
Family - Other	37	86	49	132.1
Humanitarian - Refugee	27	30	3	11.1
Humanitarian - Special Humanitarian Program	63	78	15	23.3
Humanitarian - Other	n.a	na	na	na
Total	1557	2586	1029	66.1

Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2011; 2016

Top 10 country of birth – Permanent visa

Greater Darwin			Alice Springs		
Country of birth	n	Percent	Country of birth	n	Percent
Philippines	3234	20.1	India	570	22.9
India	2022	12.6	Philippines	358	14.4
England	1381	8.6	Zimbabwe	173	7.0
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	694	4.3	England	170	6.8
Nepal	582	3.6	South Africa	106	4.3
Ireland	568	3.5	Australia	105	4.2
Indonesia	462	2.9	United States of America	76	3.0
Thailand	453	2.8	Fiji	65	2.6
Australia	422	2.6	Sri Lanka	54	2.2
South Africa	407	2.5	Sudan	48	1.9
Others	5486	36.4	Others	765	30.7

Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2016

Temporary visa holders in Alice Springs



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Temporary visas	n	Percent
Bridging visa	118	5.4
Special Category (New Zealand citizen)	1116	50.7
Temporary Work (Skilled)	225	10.2
Working Holiday Maker	276	12.5
Student	32	1.5
Other Temporary visa	433	19.7
Total	2200	100

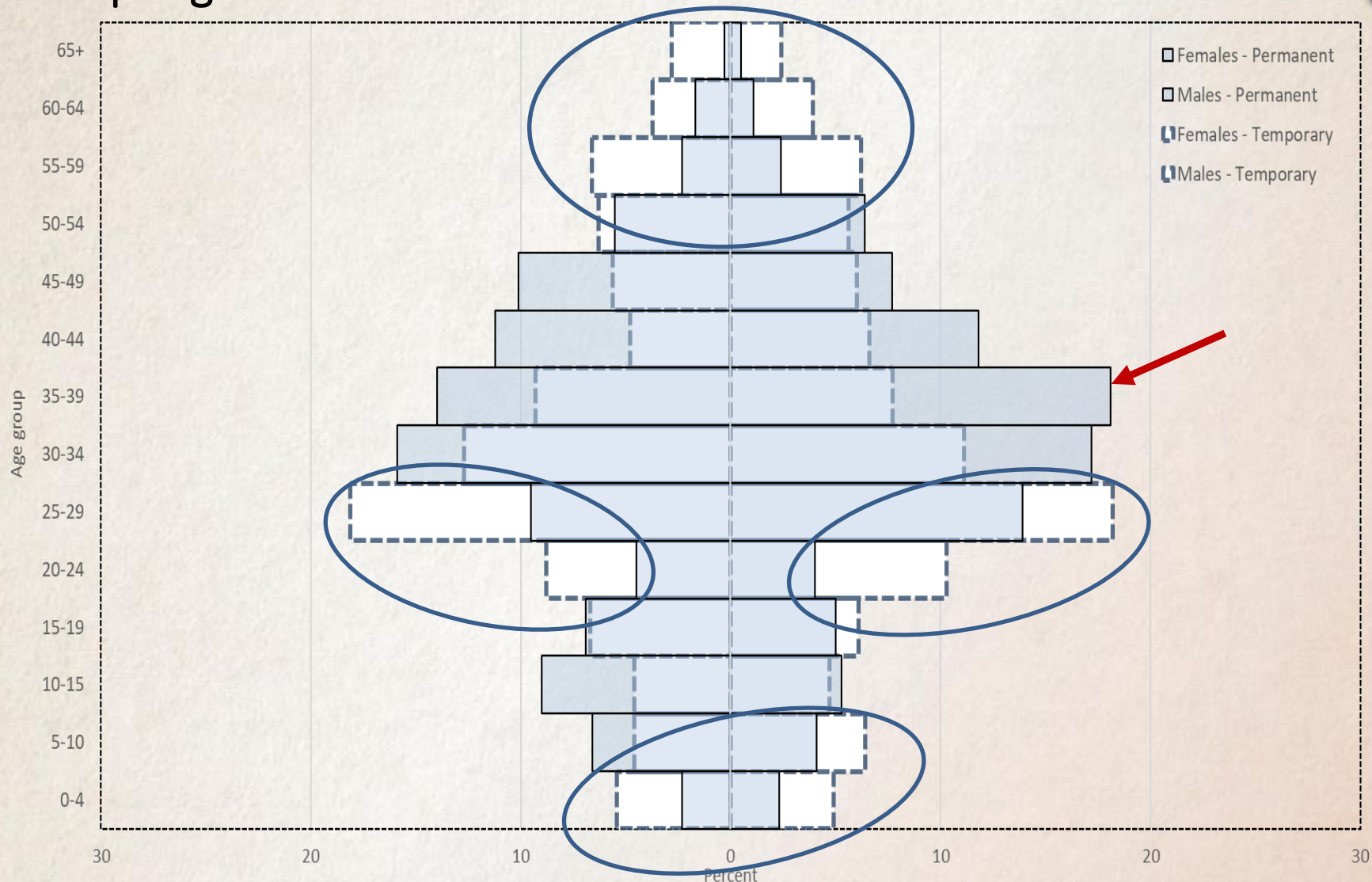
Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, Australian Census and Temporary Entrants Integrated Dataset, 2016

Top 10 country of birth – Temporary visa

Greater Darwin			Alice Springs		
Country of birth	n	Percent	Country of birth	n	Percent
New Zealand	2379	24.2	New Zealand	890	40.5
Philippines	1047	10.7	United States of America	370	16.8
India	703	7.2	Taiwan	110	5.0
England	543	5.5	Australia	107	4.8
Nepal	499	5.1	India	94	4.3
Taiwan	415	4.2	England	68	3.1
Japan	319	3.2	Korea, Republic of (South)	59	2.7
Indonesia	279	2.8	Philippines	43	1.9
Ireland	267	2.7	Japan	41	1.8
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	263	2.7	Zimbabwe	33	1.5
Others	3101	31.6	Other	386	17.5

Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, Australian Census and Temporary Entrants Integrated Dataset, 2016

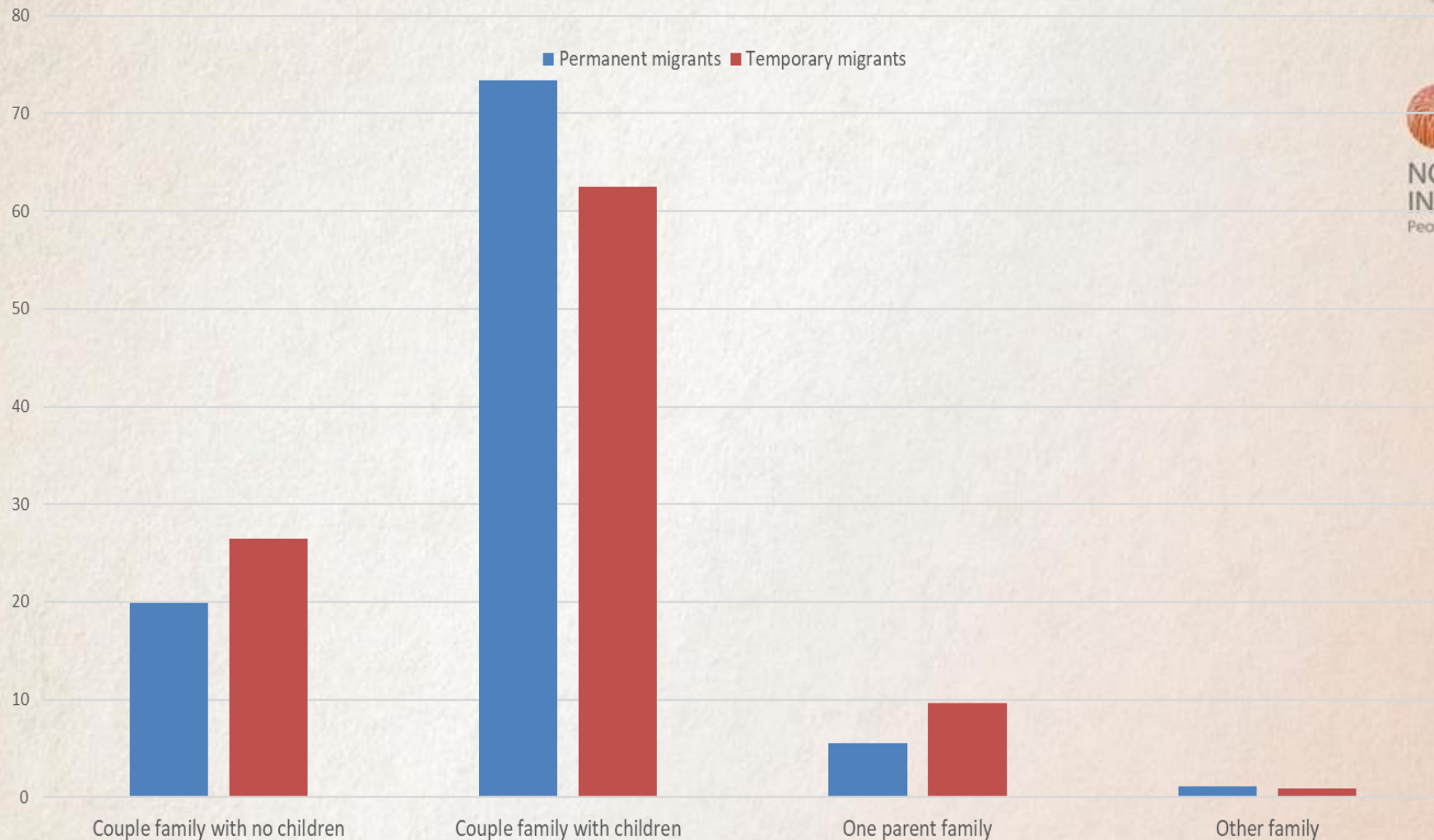
Population Pyramid – Permanent and Temporary visa holders 2016, Alice Springs



Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACMID, 2016; ACTEID, 2016.

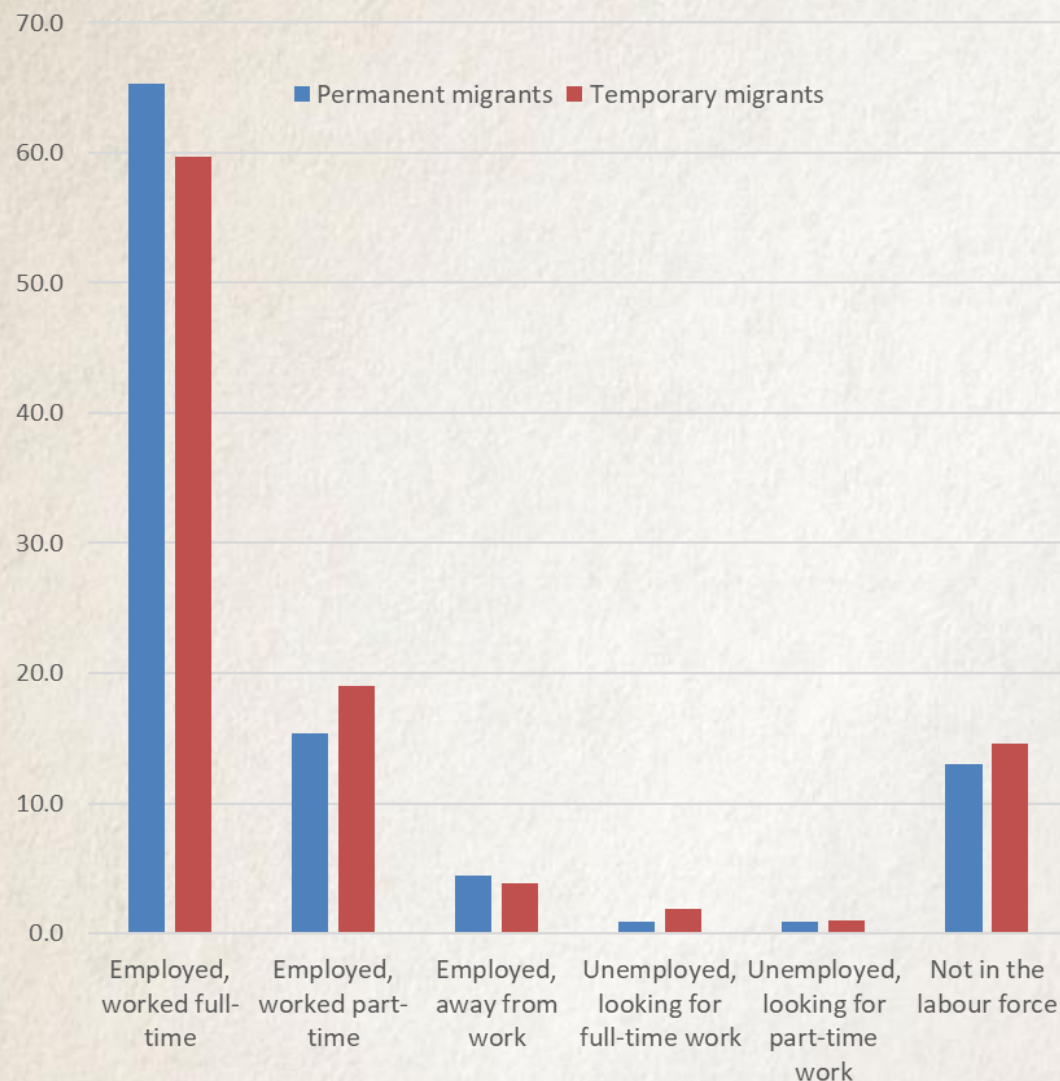
International migration – Permanent and Temporary visa holders

Family Composition - Permanent and Temporary visa holders 2016, Alice Springs



Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACMID, 2016; ACTEID, 2016.

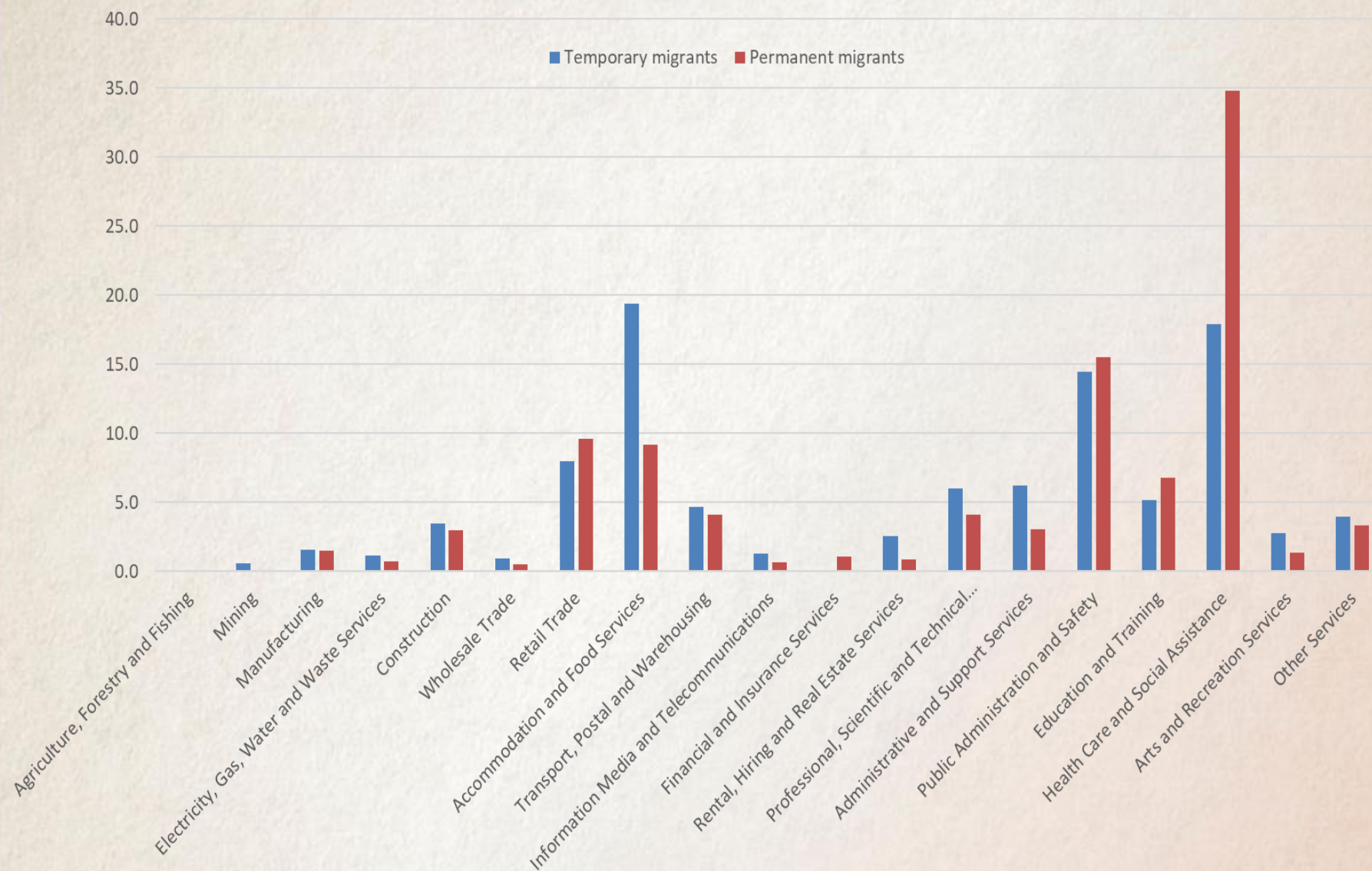
Labour force participation – Permanent and temporary migrants, Alice Springs



Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACMID, 2016; ACTEID, 2016.

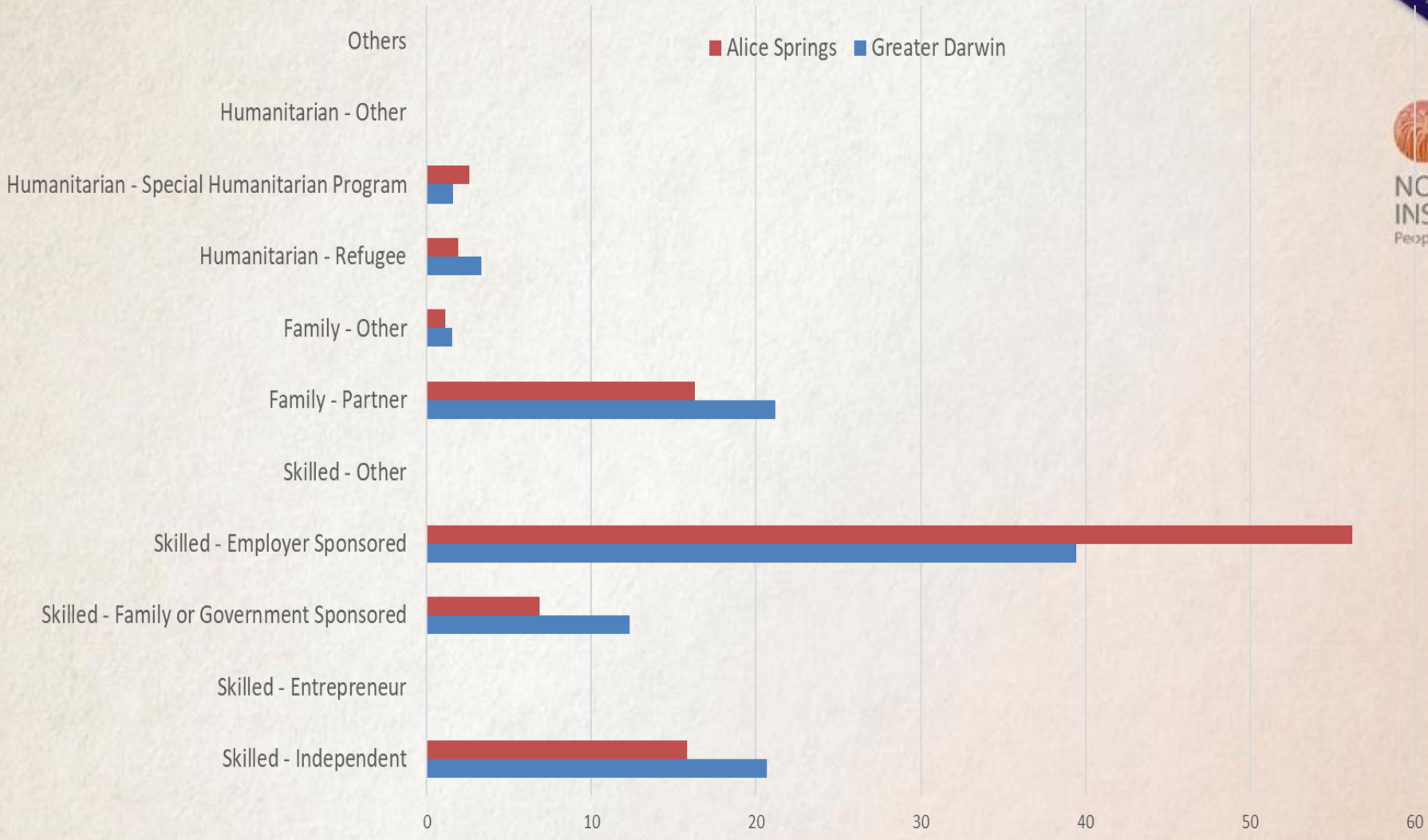
- Rate of full-time employment across the skilled migration visa subclasses fairly consistent – about 69-70% employed full-time.
- Family partner visa – 59% full-time employment in Alice Springs compared to 45.2% in Greater Darwin.
- Employer sponsored visa holder employed full-time higher in Alice Springs (70%) than Greater Darwin (63%).
- Full-time employment rates were similar across all broad temporary visa categories.

Industry of employment – Permanent and temporary migrants, Alice Springs



Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACMID, 2016; ACTEID, 2016.

Health care and social assistance – Permanent migrants in Alice Springs and Greater Darwin



Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACMID, 2016; ACTEID, 2016.

Income levels – Permanent and temporary migrants

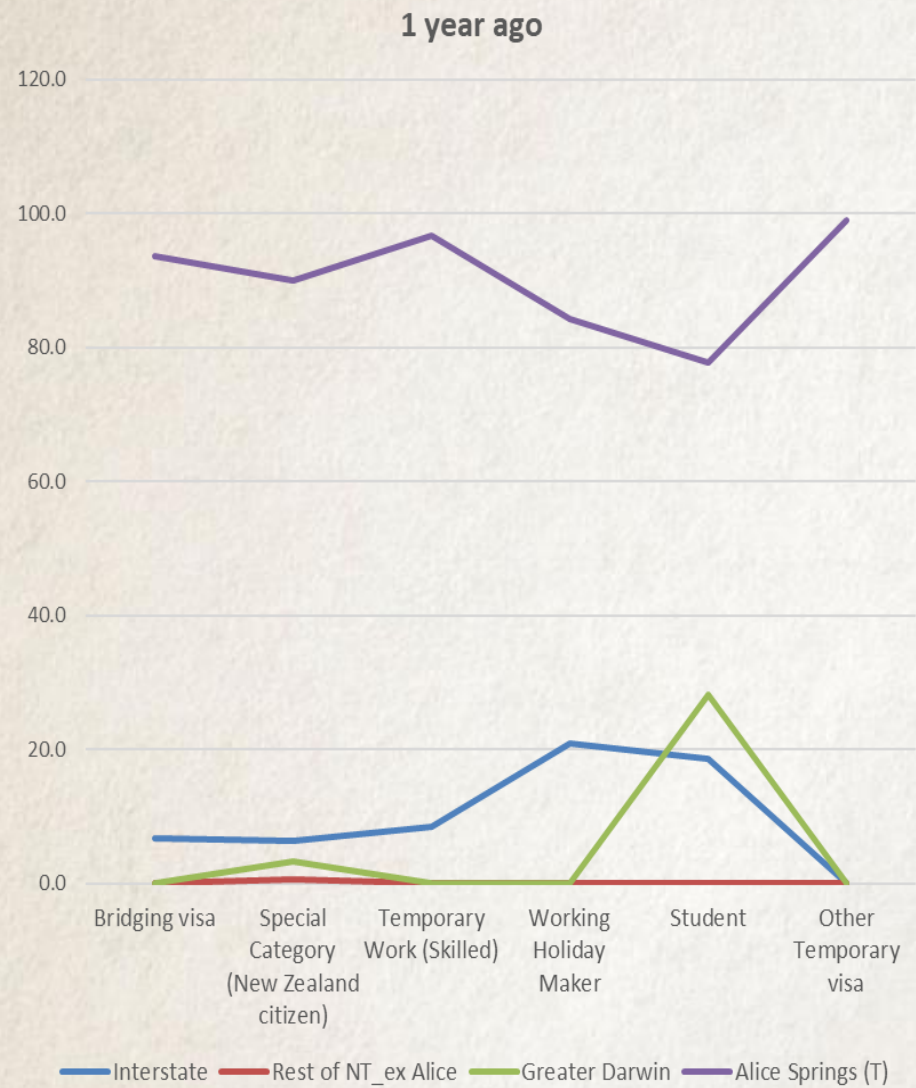


Temporary migrants
median income:
\$965 weekly or
\$50,180 a year

Permanent migrants
median income:
\$1,066 weekly
or \$55,436 a
year

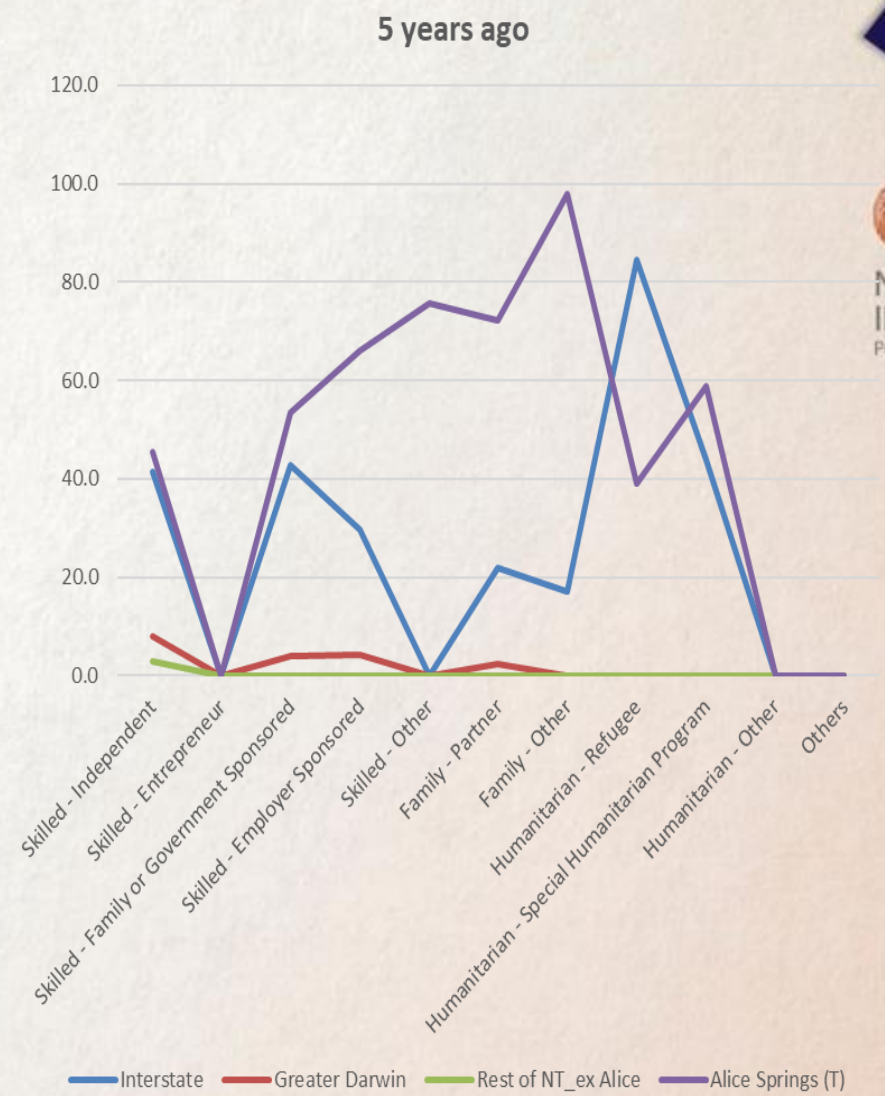
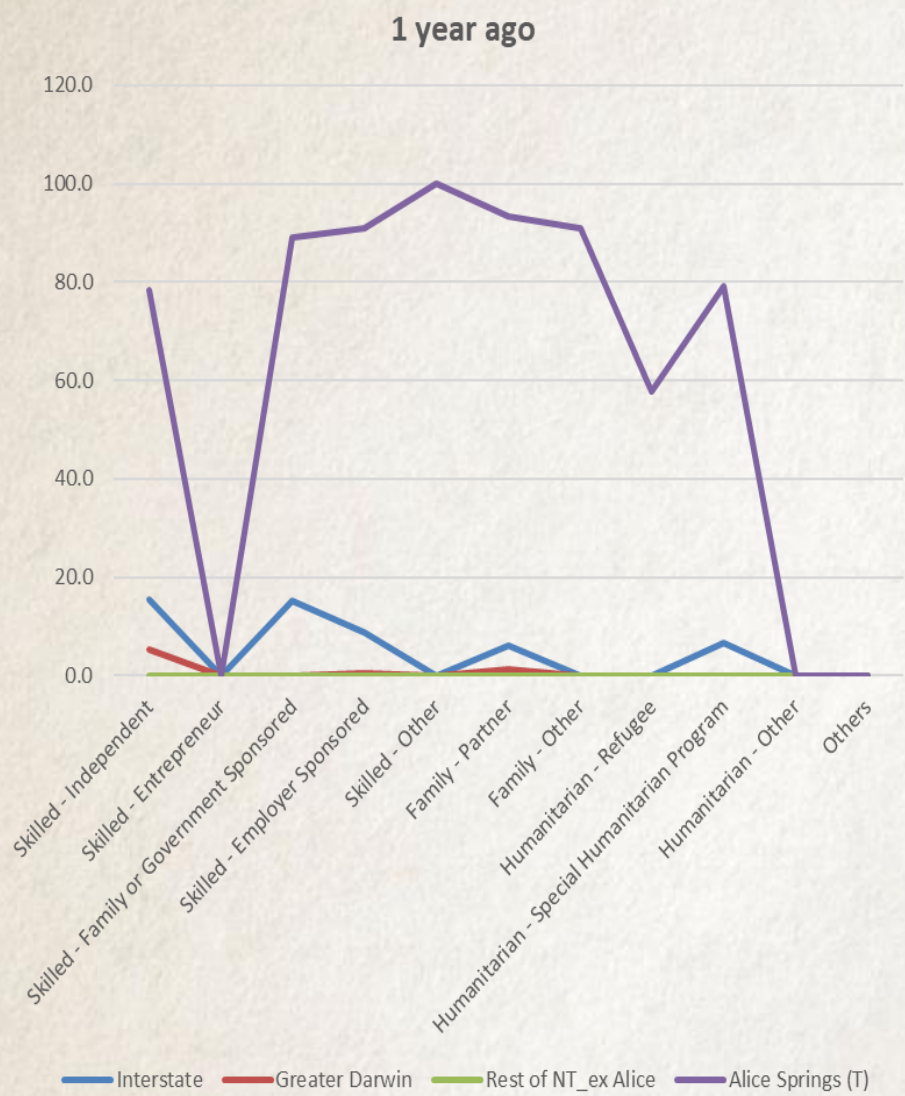
Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACMID, 2016; ACTEID, 2016.

Residential stability – Temporary migrants



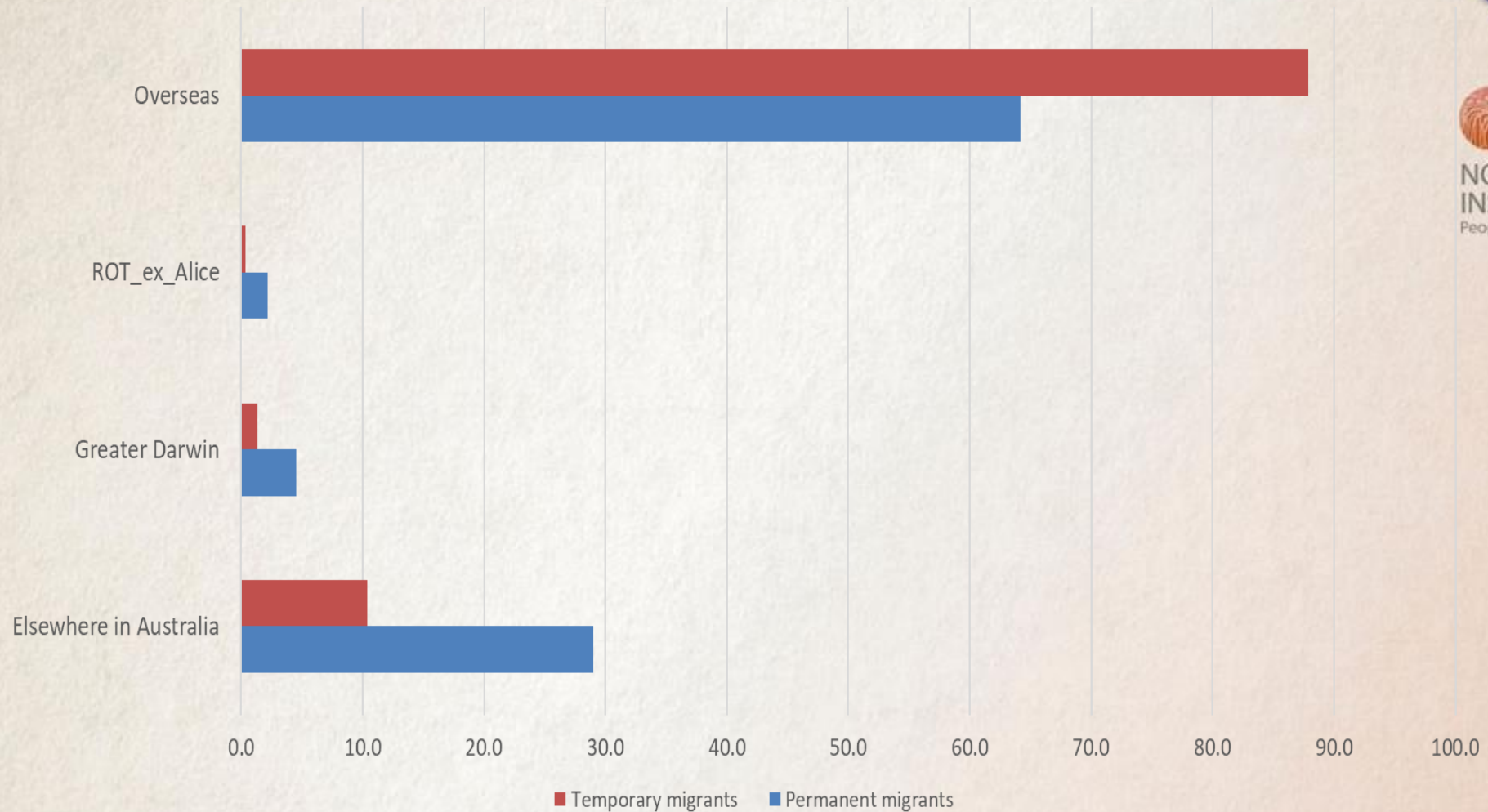
Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACTEID, 2016.

Residential stability – Permanent migrants



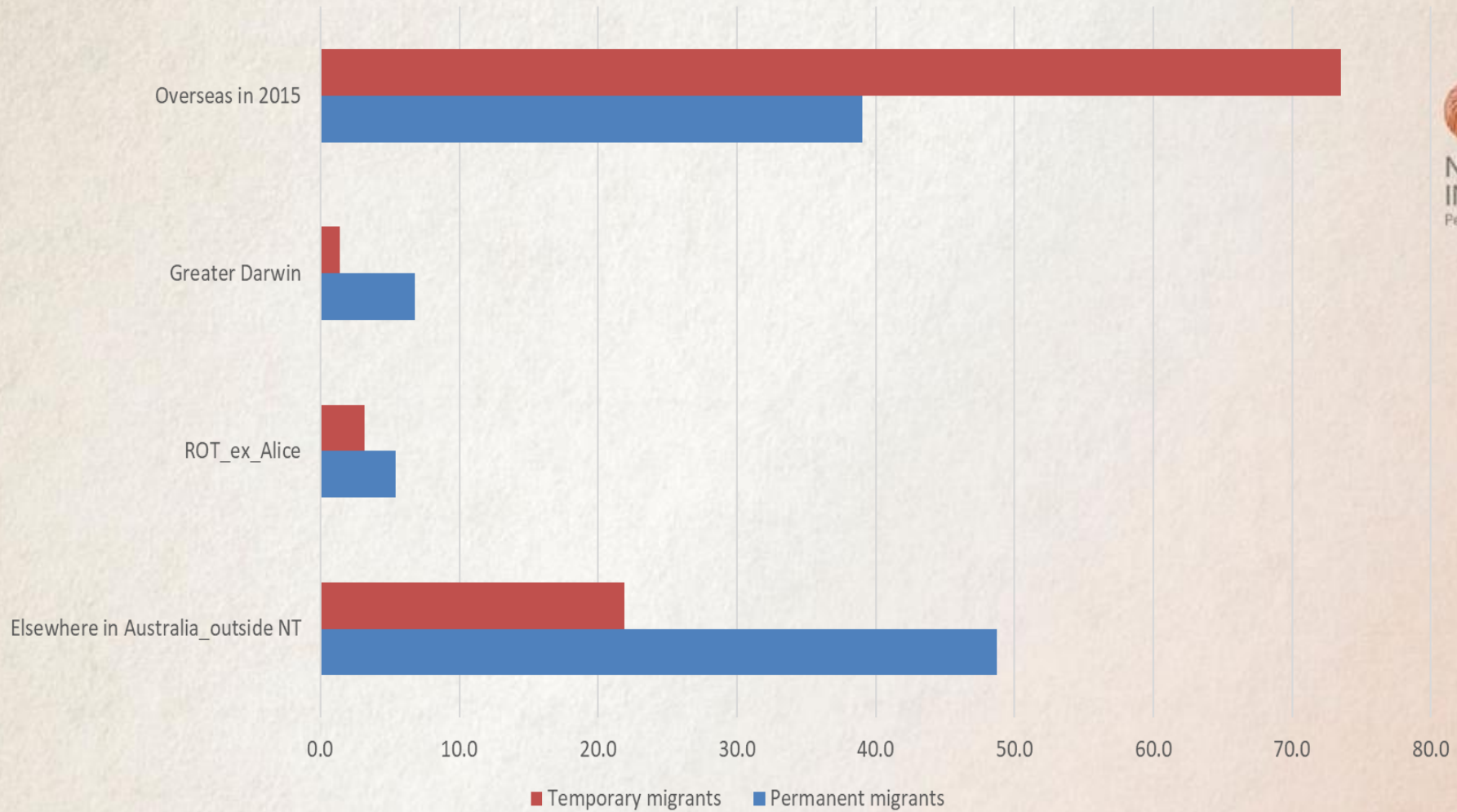
Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACMIID, 2016.

Permanent and temporary migration sources to Alice Springs (5 years ago)



Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACMID, ACTEID 2016.

Permanent and temporary migration sources to Alice Springs (1 year ago)

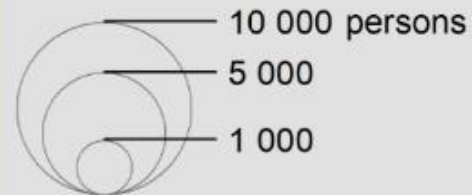


Source: Author calculations from ABS Table Builder, ACMID, ACTEID 2016.

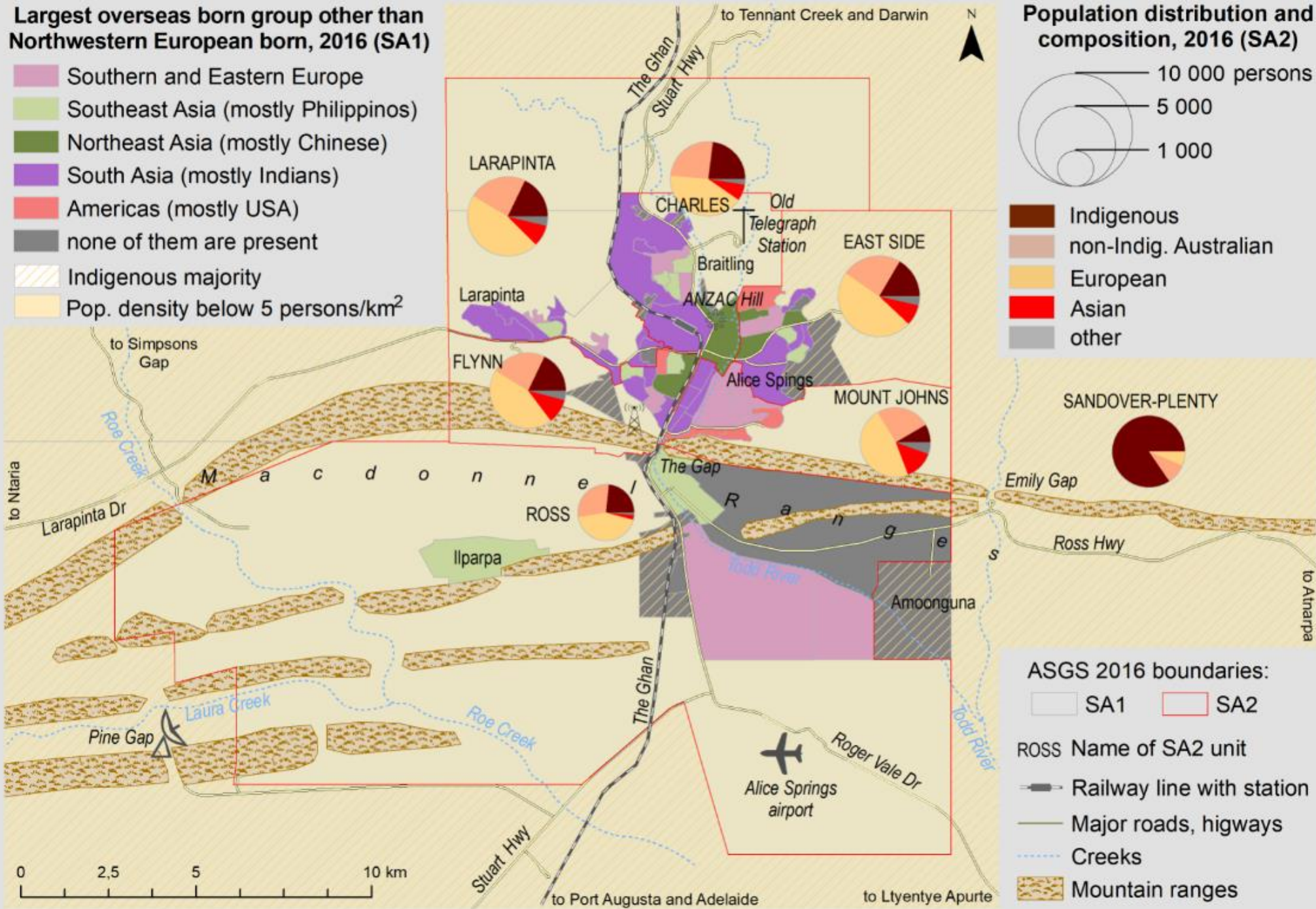
Largest overseas born group other than Northwestern European born, 2016 (SA1)

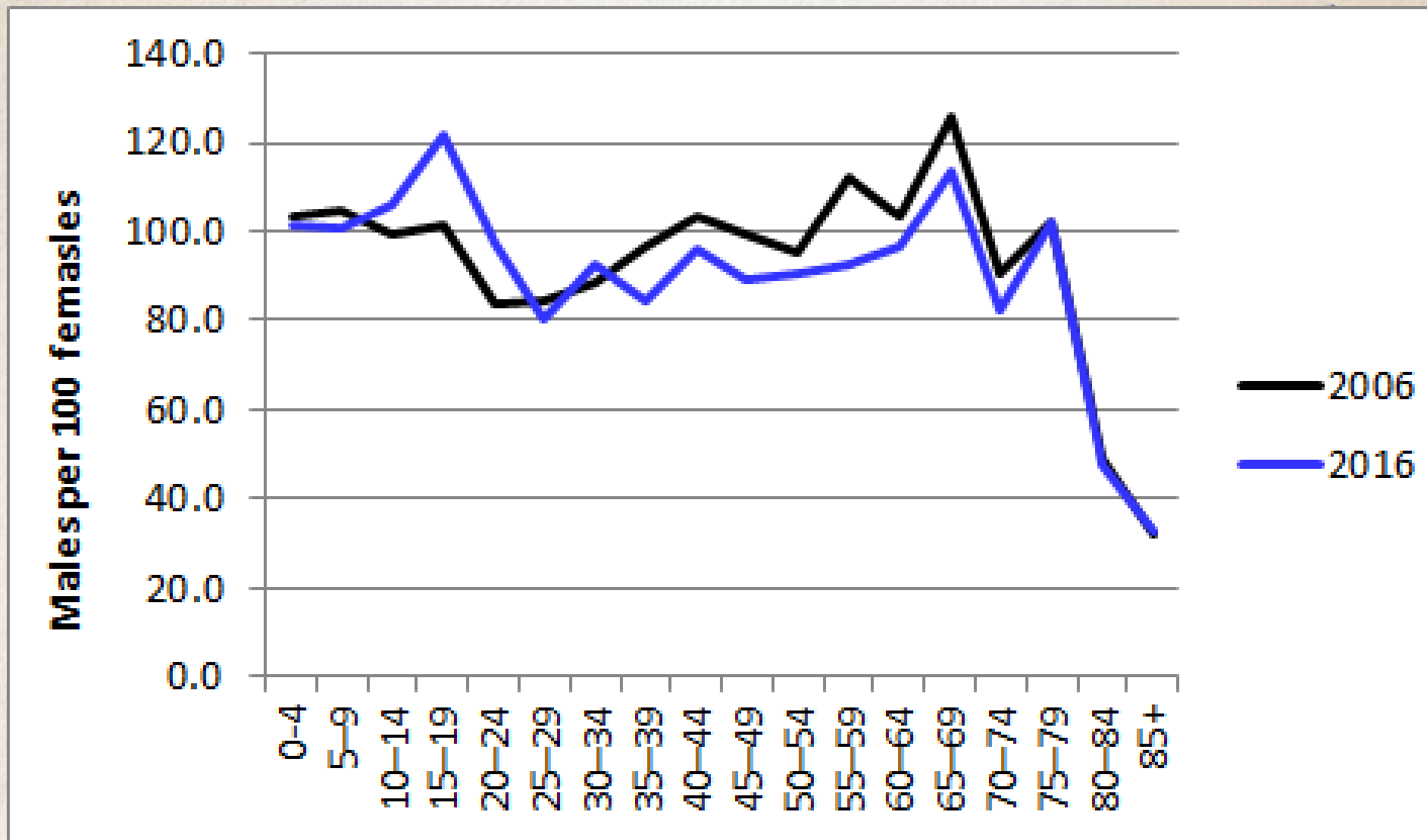
- Southern and Eastern Europe
- Southeast Asia (mostly Philipinos)
- Northeast Asia (mostly Chinese)
- South Asia (mostly Indians)
- Americas (mostly USA)
- none of them are present
- Indigenous majority
- Pop. density below 5 persons/km²

Population distribution and composition, 2016 (SA2)



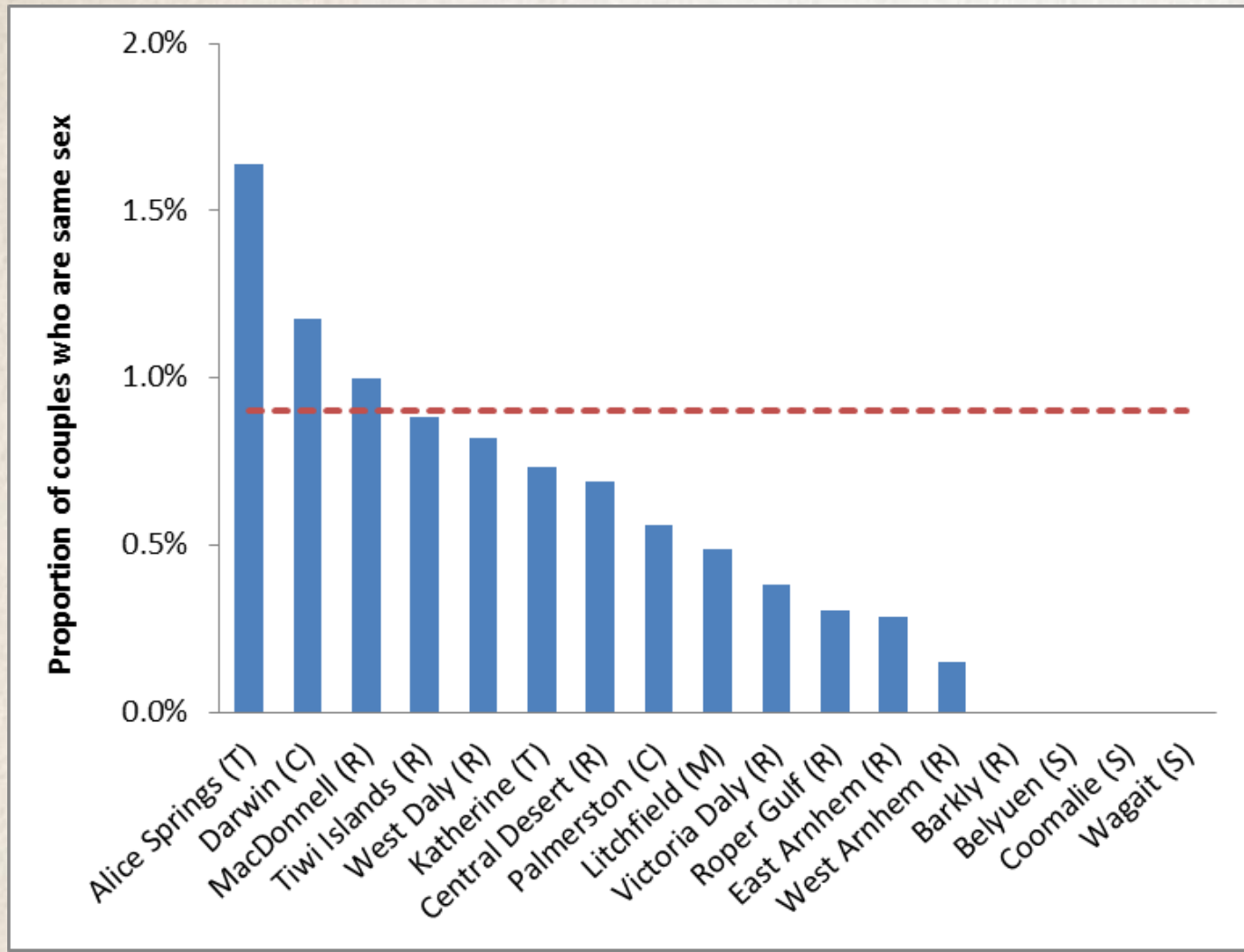
- Indigenous
- non-Indig. Australian
- European
- Asian
- other





Population trends – unique gender profile

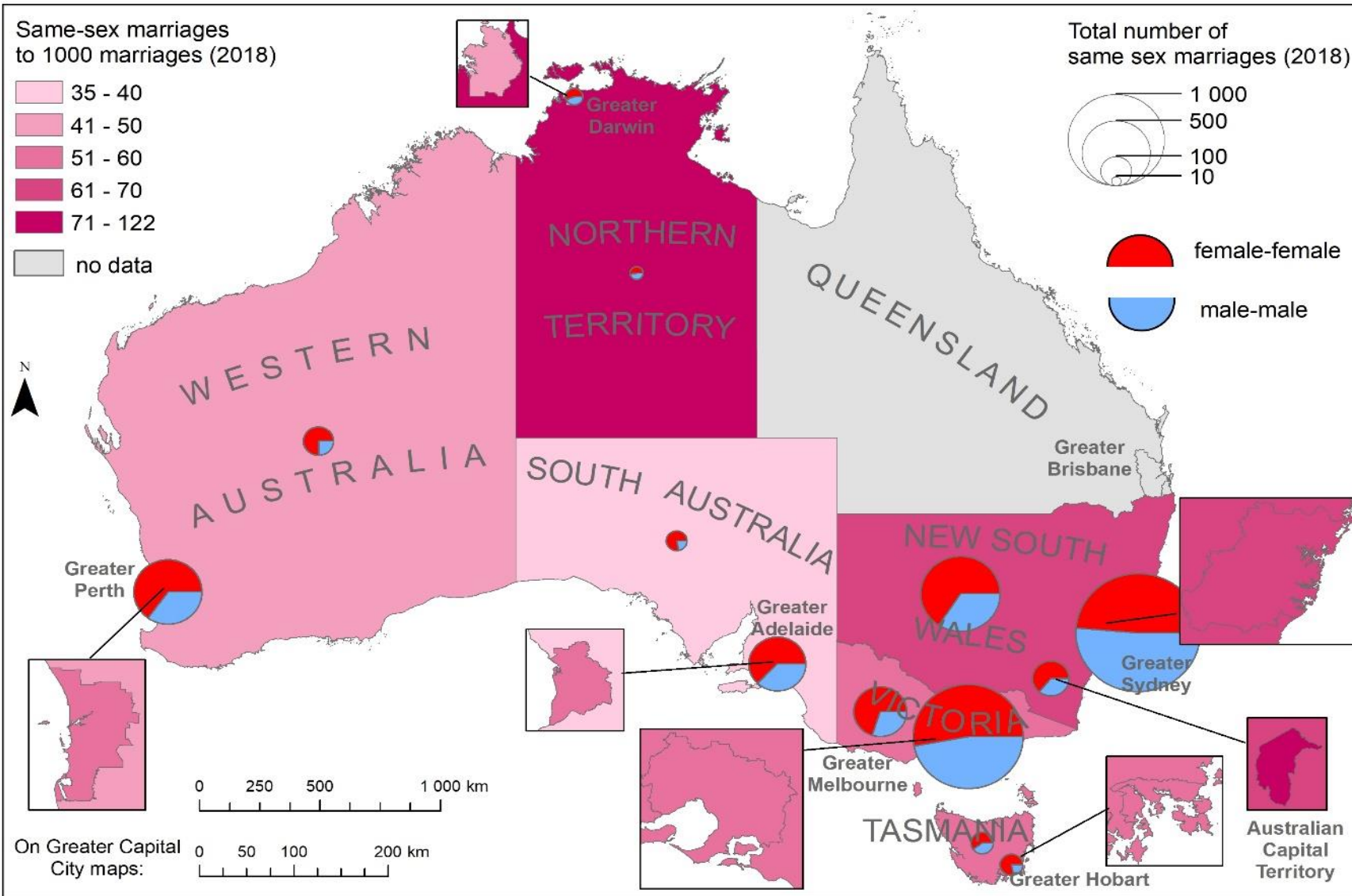
Proportion of couples who are same sex



National average (0.9%)

65% of same-sex couples are female

Same-sex marriages by Greater City, Balance 2018



Population trends – hub for same-sex marriage

Research for planning and policy: ***The Territory and Me*** !

- Research program uncovering motivations for coming to, staying in or leaving the Territory
- Focus on key population sectors
- Includes largest ever Territory survey (5,000) and focus groups in Darwin and Alice Springs
- Total Alice participants = 383, Overseas born participants = 89, Aboriginal = 31, 58 born in Alice, 105 multiple periods of residency

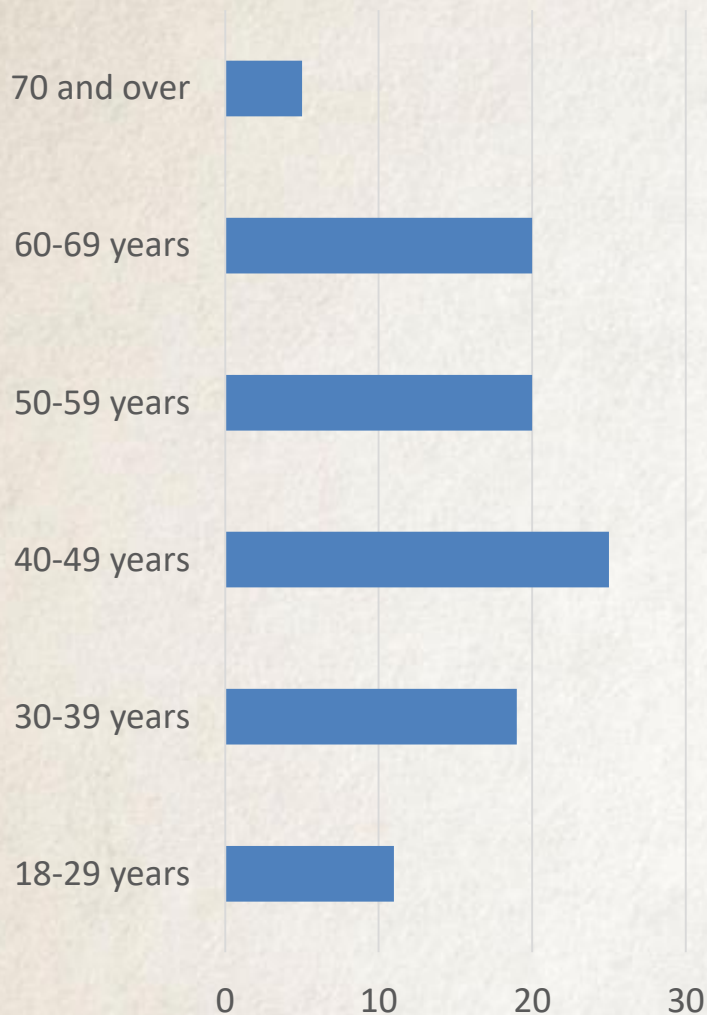


THE TERRITORY AND ME

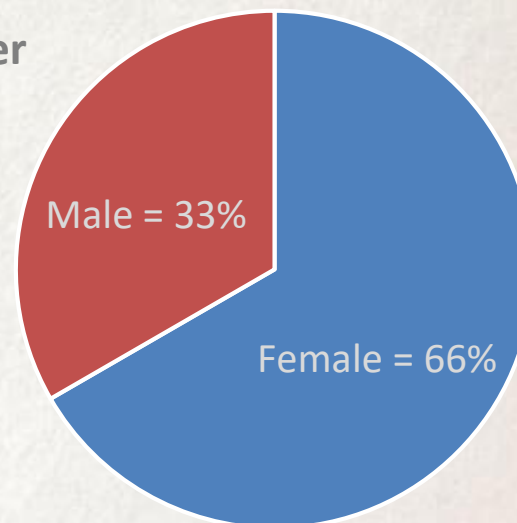
www.theterritoryandme.cdu.edu.au



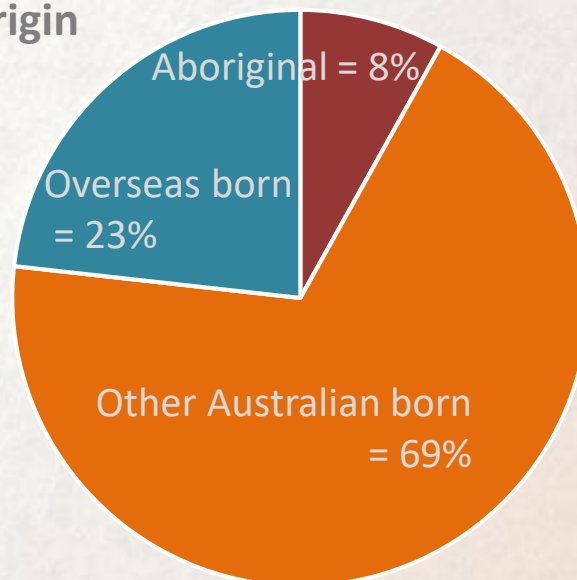
Age group



Gender



Origin



Place

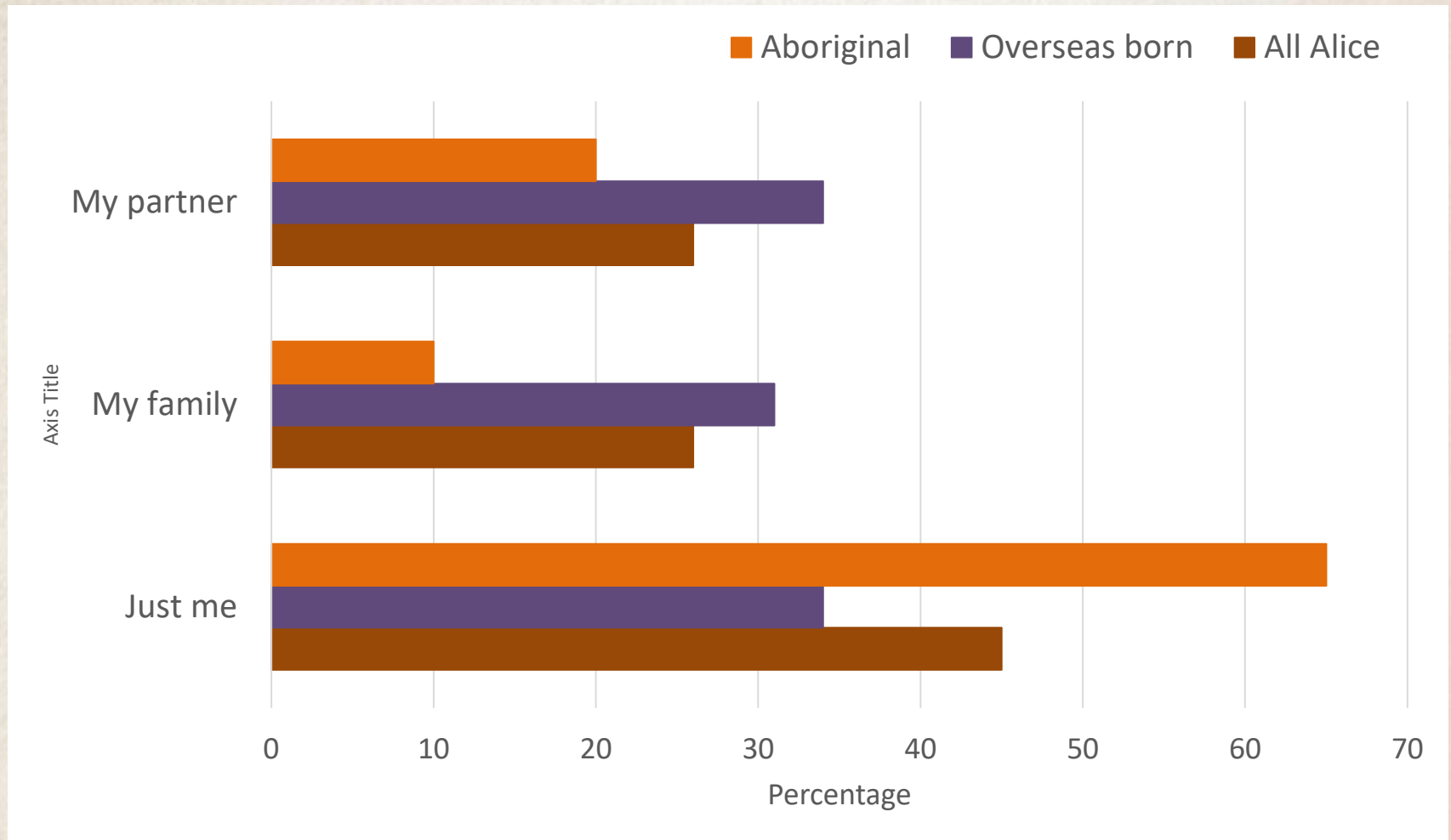
15% born in Alice (58)

27% had multiple periods of residency (105)

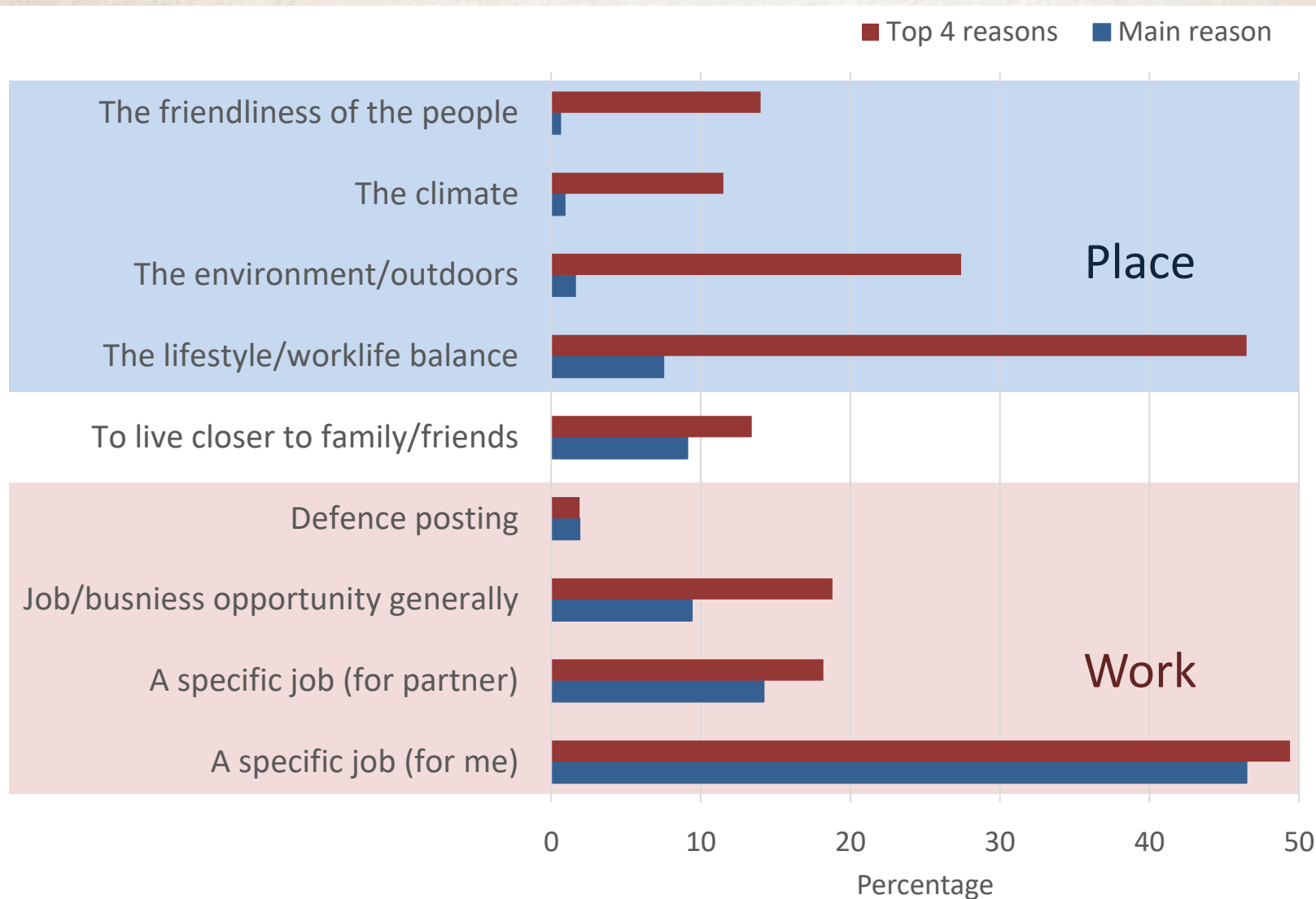


Profile of participants, n = 383

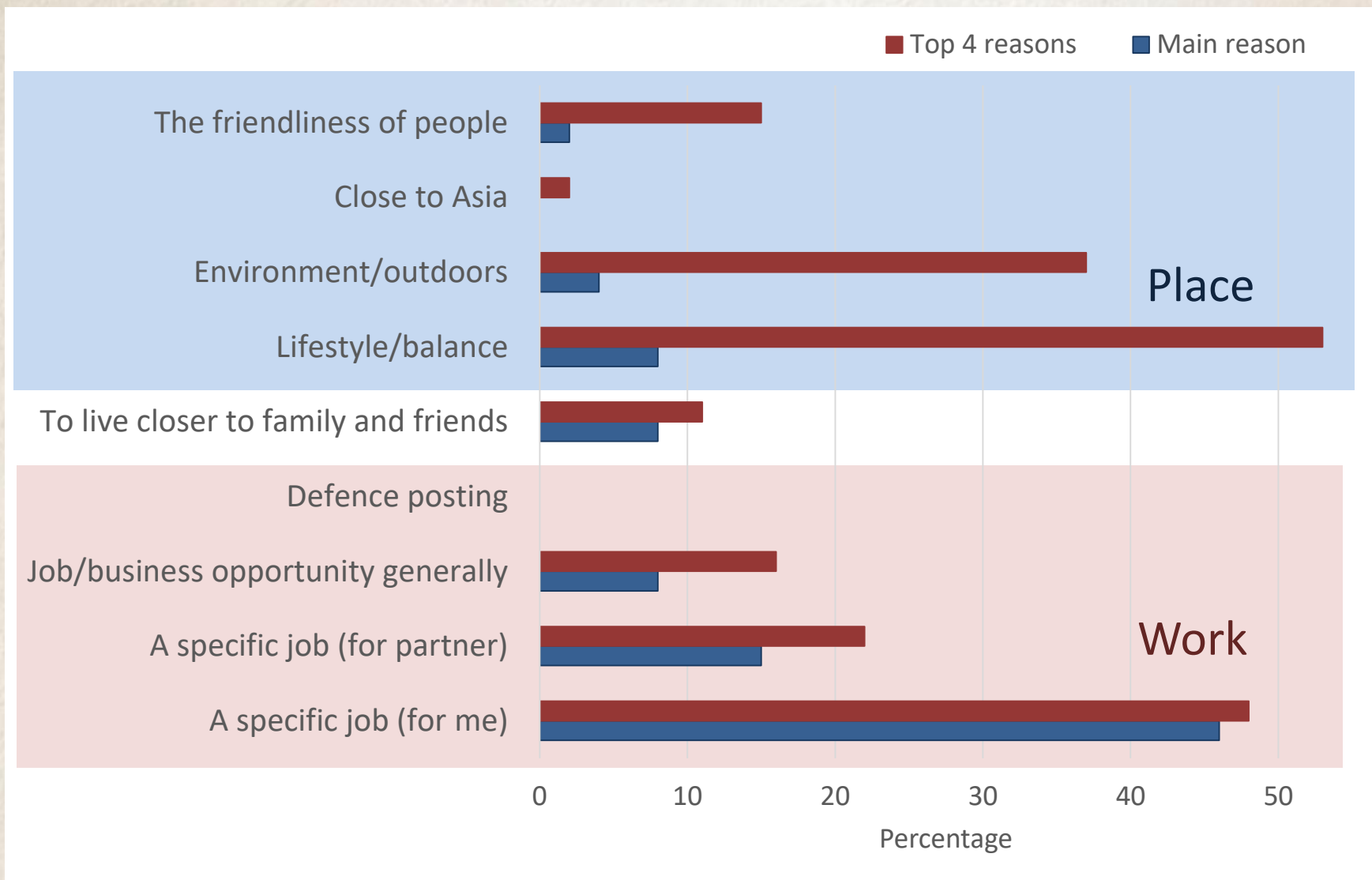
Who did you come with?



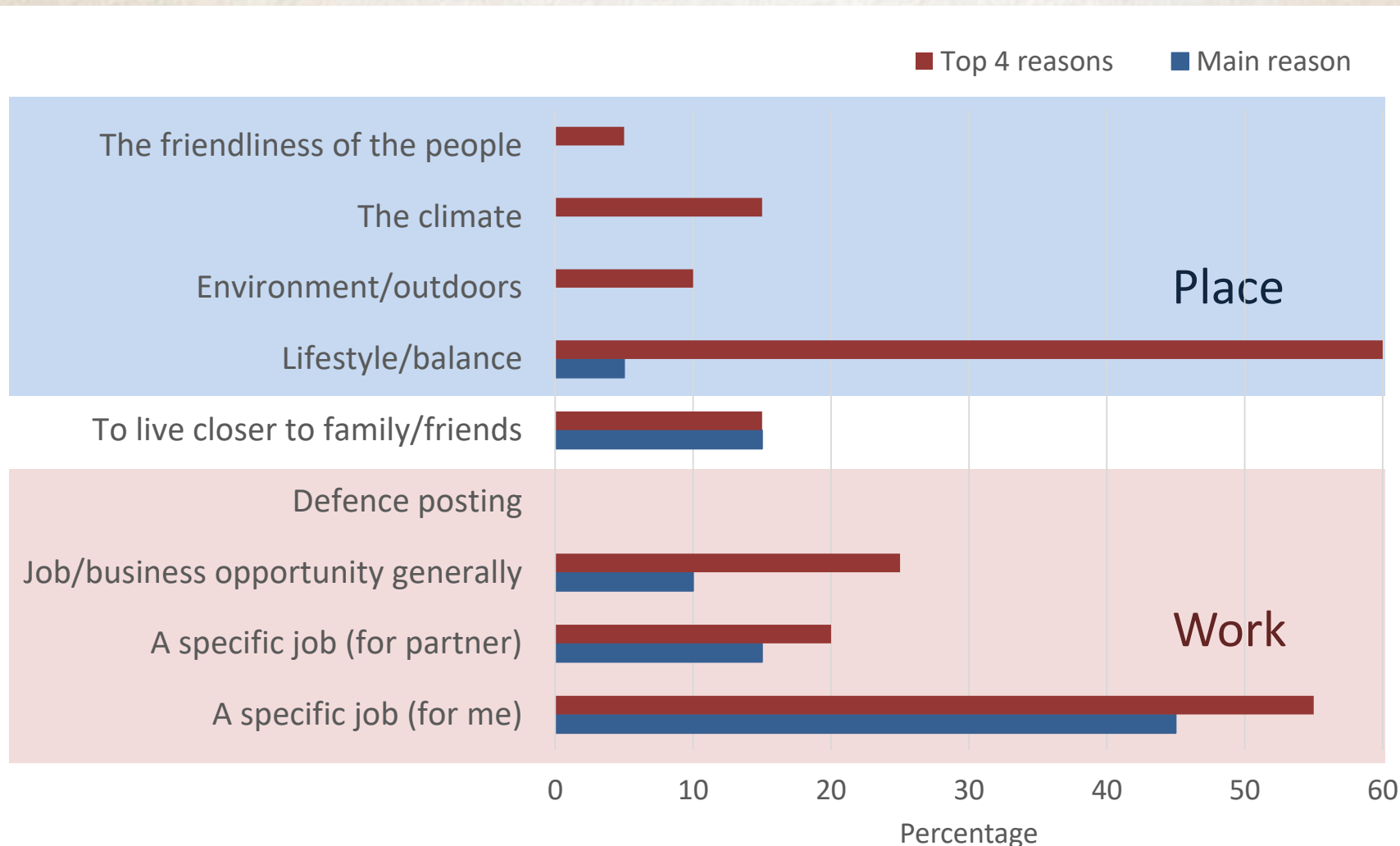
Why did you come? (all Alice)



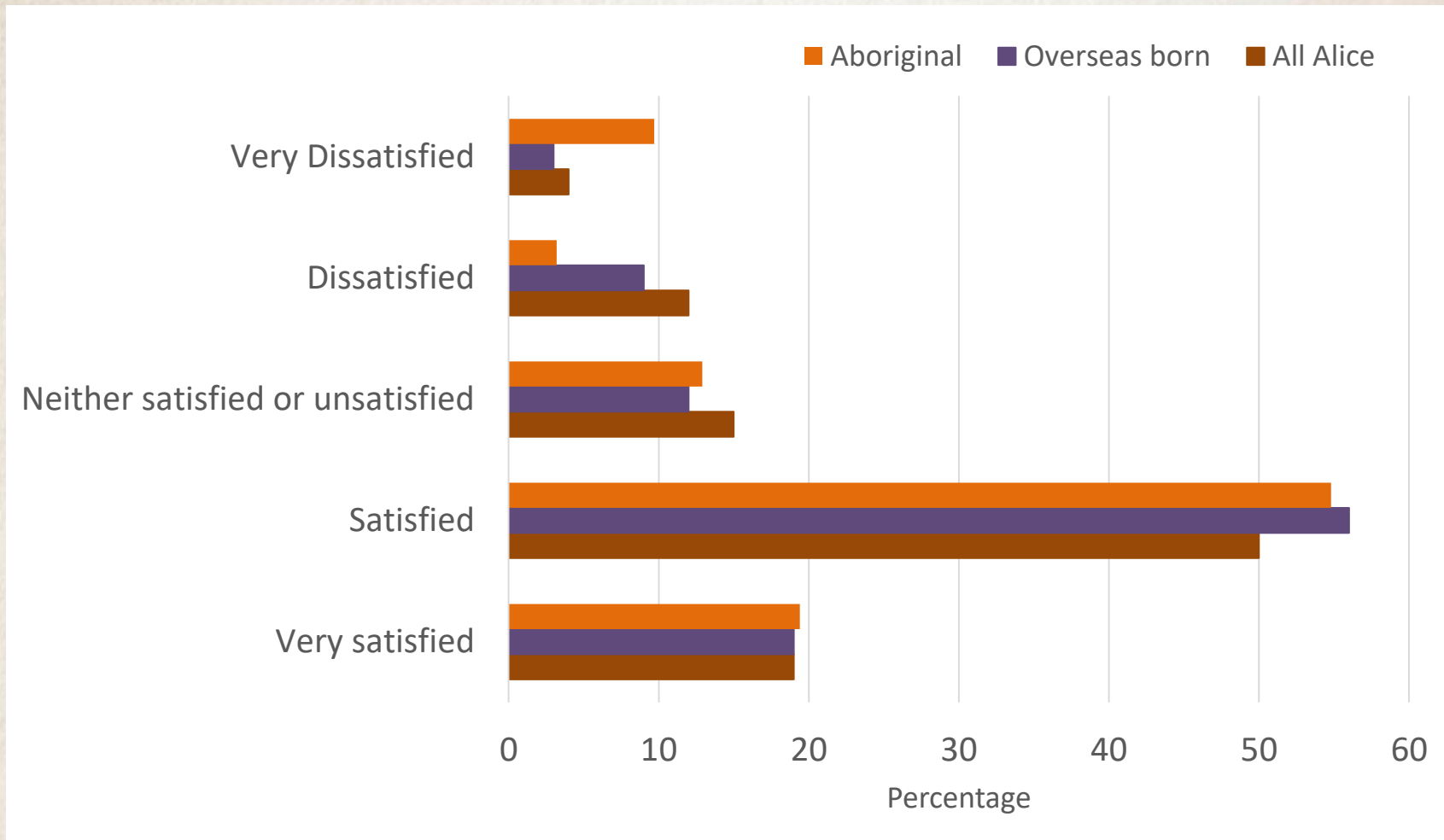
Why did you come? (Overseas born)



Why did you come? (Aboriginal)



Satisfaction level



Positive sentiments	Negative sentiments
Relaxed lifestyle Balanced, friendly, and sociable, easy commutes and low traffic, sense of community, authentic	Cost of travel Expensive airfares – high comparative to Yulara, frequency, expensive fuel, distance
Job opportunities Meaningful work, good money, career opportunity	Crime & Safety issues Break-ins, violence, anti-social behaviour
Culture History, vibrant arts scene, multicultural events, eccentricity, cafe scene, ‘getting out on country’	Cultural divide/racism Indigenous/non-Indigenous, respect, social disparity
Environment Outdoors, landscape, sunshine, camping, blue skies, space, air quality, access to wildlife	Isolation and lack of services Restricted opportunities for: shopping, attracting events, live music/theatre, Lack of amenities, poor digital connectivity and medical services
Family friendly Good for raising children, good sports amenities	Government/governance Darwin centric, no innovation, tired policies, not listening, wasteful
Weather Winter, warm, ‘April to September’	Climate Summer heat, flies
Small population No crowds, no ‘lining up’	Cost of living High rents, declining economy

Results for Alice Springs

In your words what do you love?

“ The climate, the stunning scenery and the relaxed attitude of most Territorians - a bit like the Irish or Italians in Europe.

Life styles can be as simple as you like

The ability to be completely (sic) surrounded by nature, culture, wildlife and wilderness, while still being interconnected with modern society.

Alice Springs has amazing community spirit, the best KFC and incredible places to explore and visit

*People. Challenges. Opportunities.
Diversity. Light. Aboriginal society.
Cultures. Scenery.*

Lifestyle in general. The friendly caring community. The real relationships in a small place breed a healthy happy environment. It has its ups and downs but enjoy the place.

Raising kids here, interesting fulfilling work, beautiful breathtaking natural surrounds.

Country culture family

Its a slower pace The natural beauty of it I love the dry weather

... easy lifestyle and being surrounded by other Aboriginal people”



In your words what don't you love?

“ The divide between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people
- it is really "in your face" here.

Heightened social problems with youth and crime

Regular house break in and no safety to walk during night time

...less opportunities for kids, no kids parks or family entertainment centre

*Flying out of Alice Springs is very expensive, especially a family with more than 5 people
is not affordable*

Cost of living. High power, high water expenses. Shopping is expensive, everything is expensive.

1. Cost of airfares 2. Distance from all major cities 3. The seemingly growing inequities between the have and the have nots. Both non and indigenous communities 4. The excessive use of alcohol and the follow on violence, wilful damage, break-ins and other associated crimes. 5. Imaginary or not! Seems like funding is much lower below the Berrimah Line. ”



Results for Alice Springs

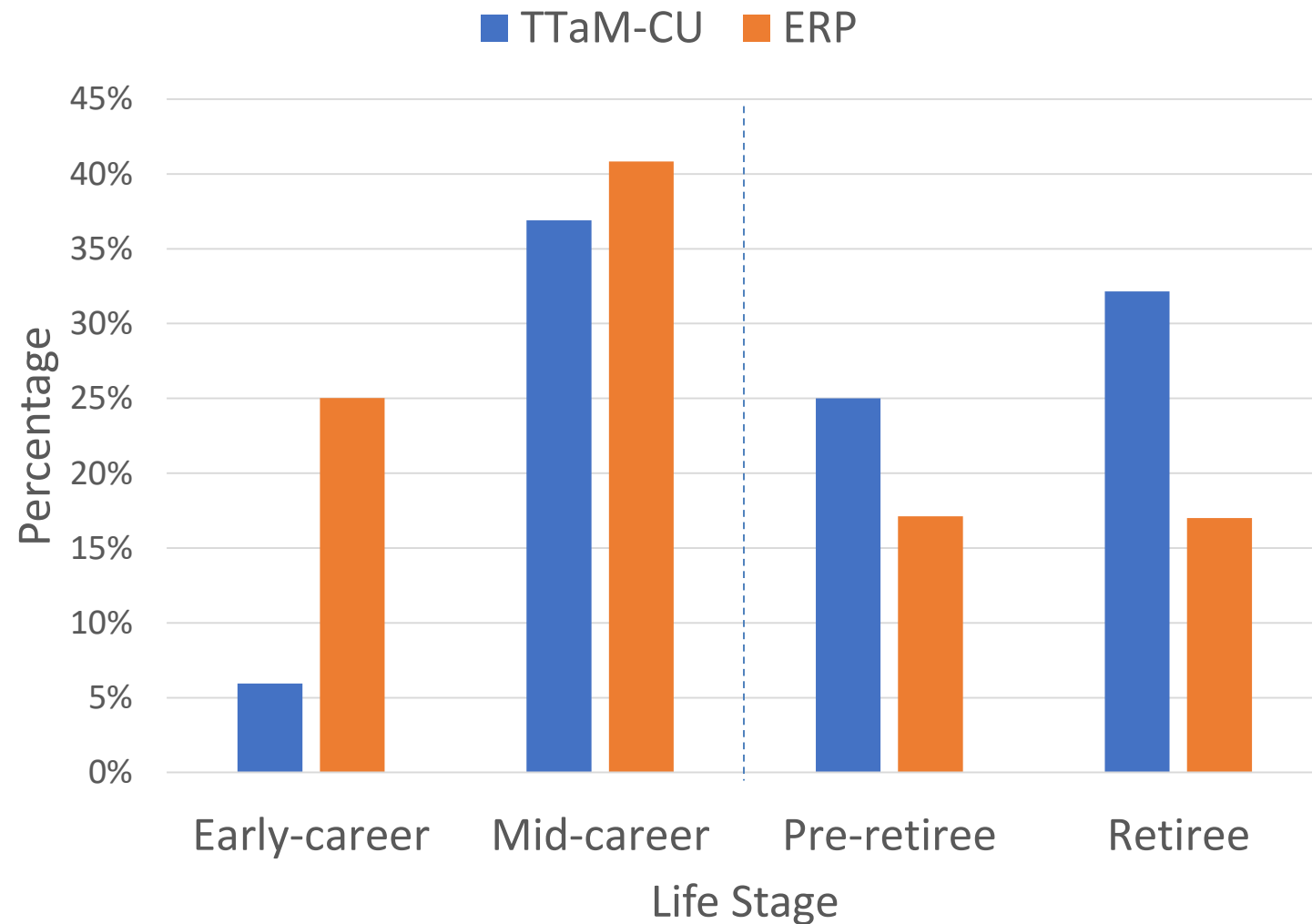


The Territory and Me:

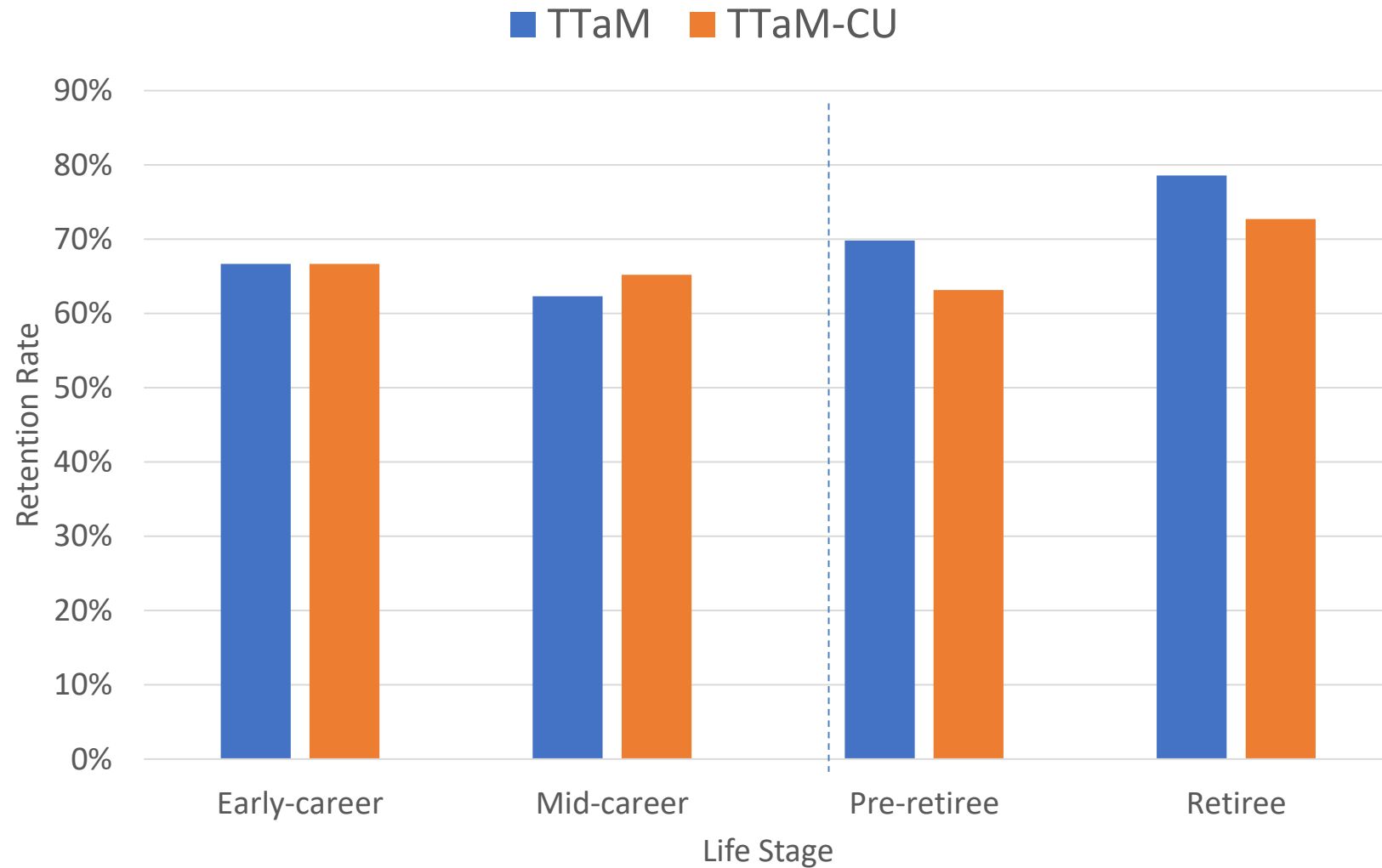
A COVID update on migration sentiments



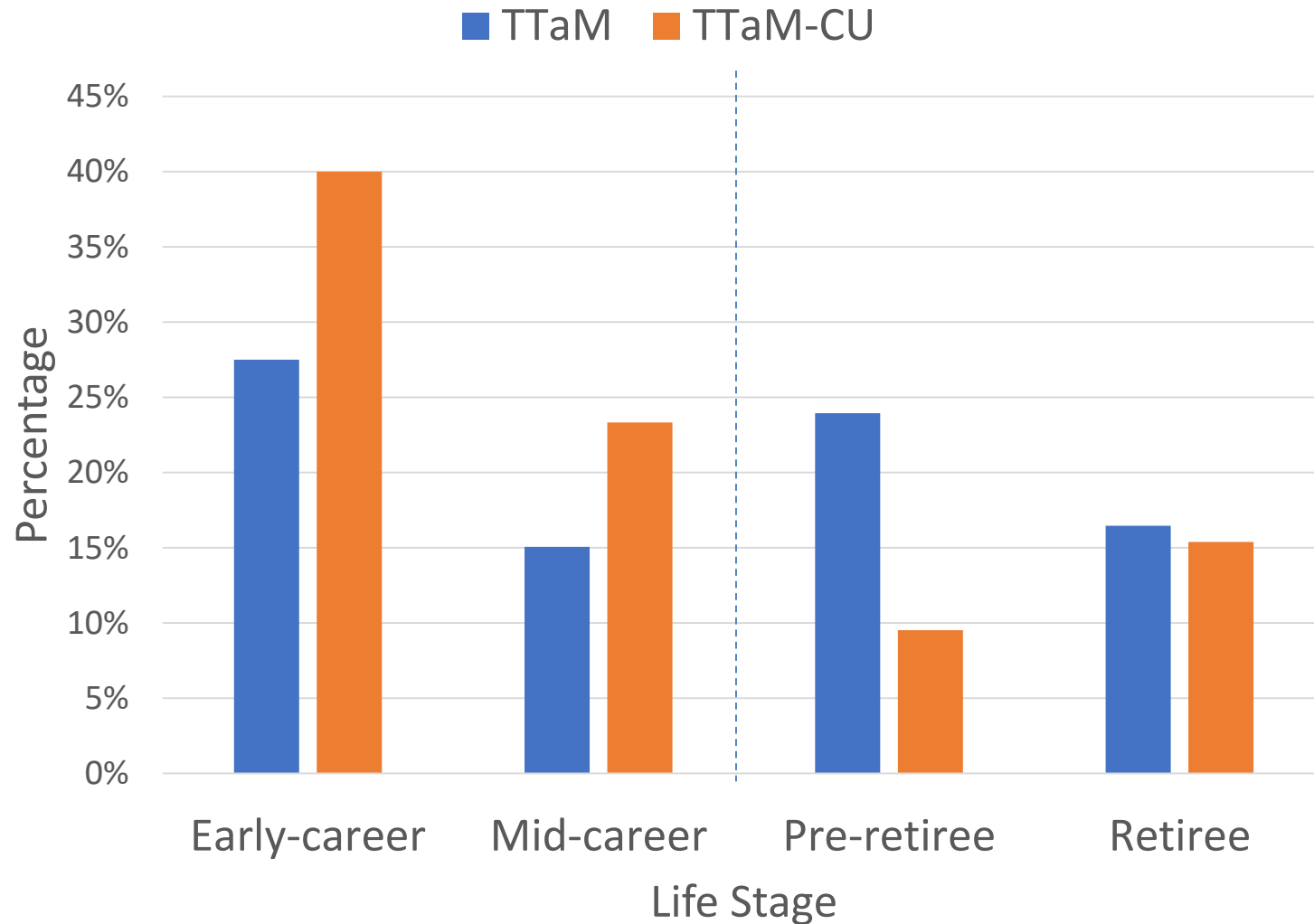
Life Stages – Alice Springs



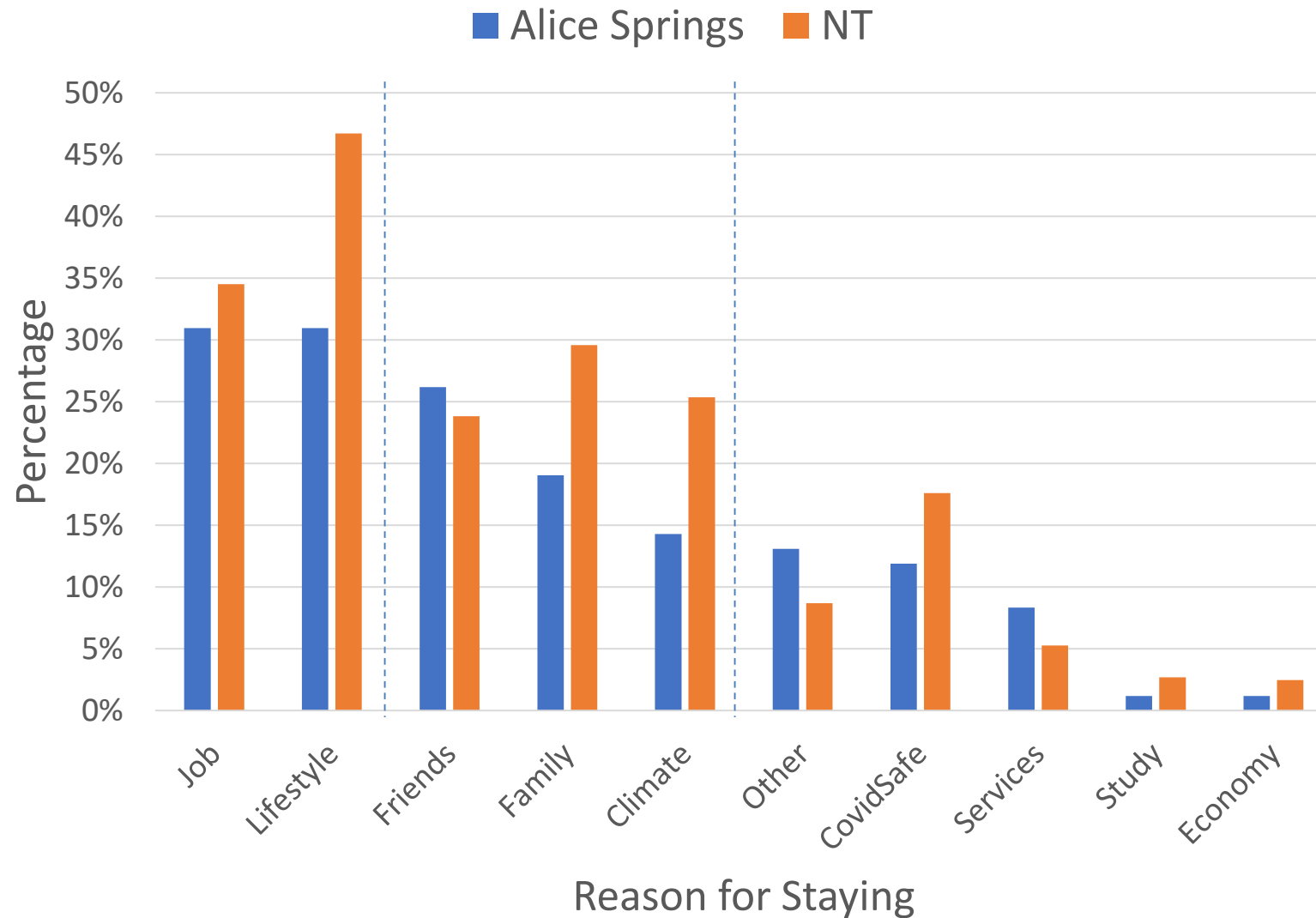
Retention Rate – Alice Springs



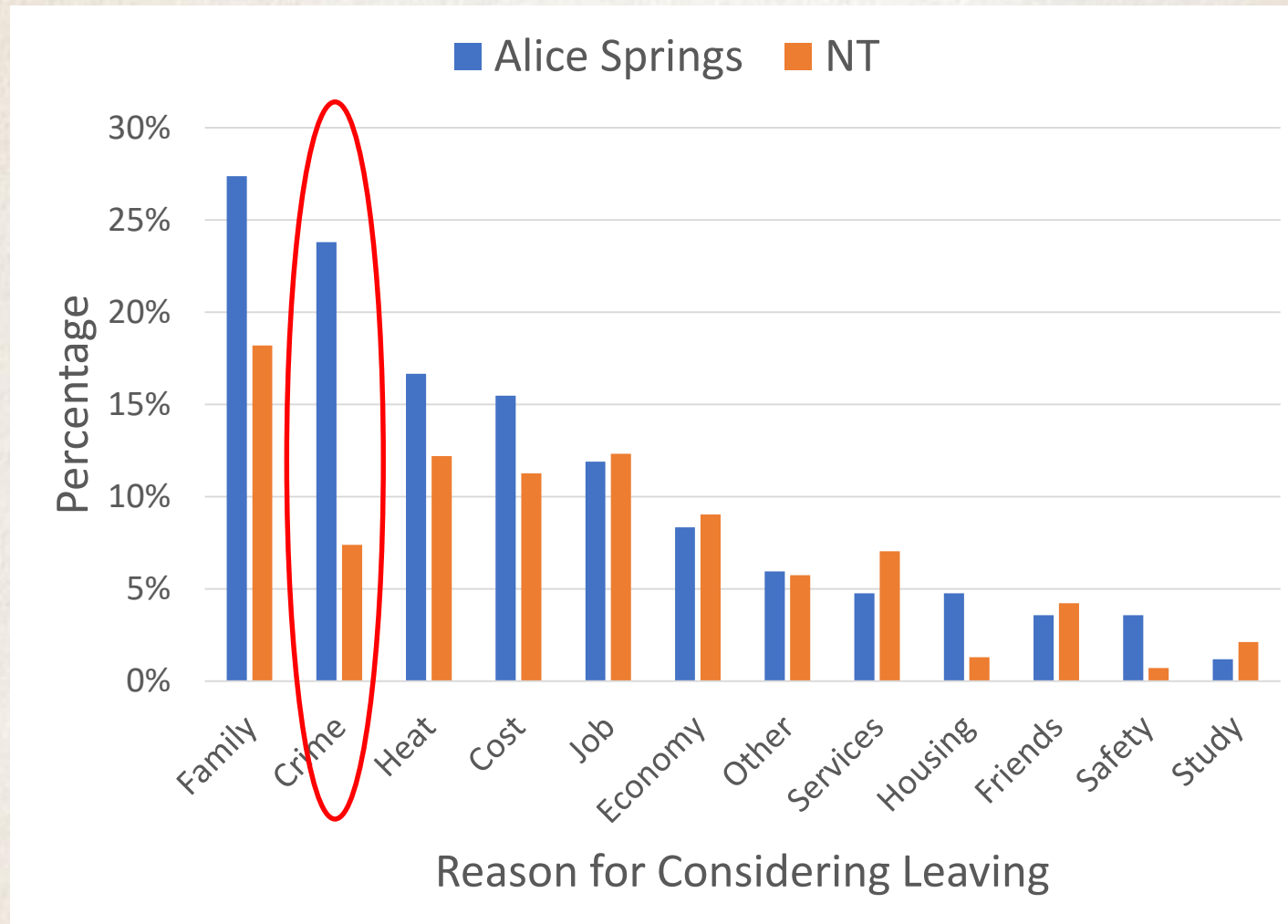
Uncertainty Rate – Alice Springs



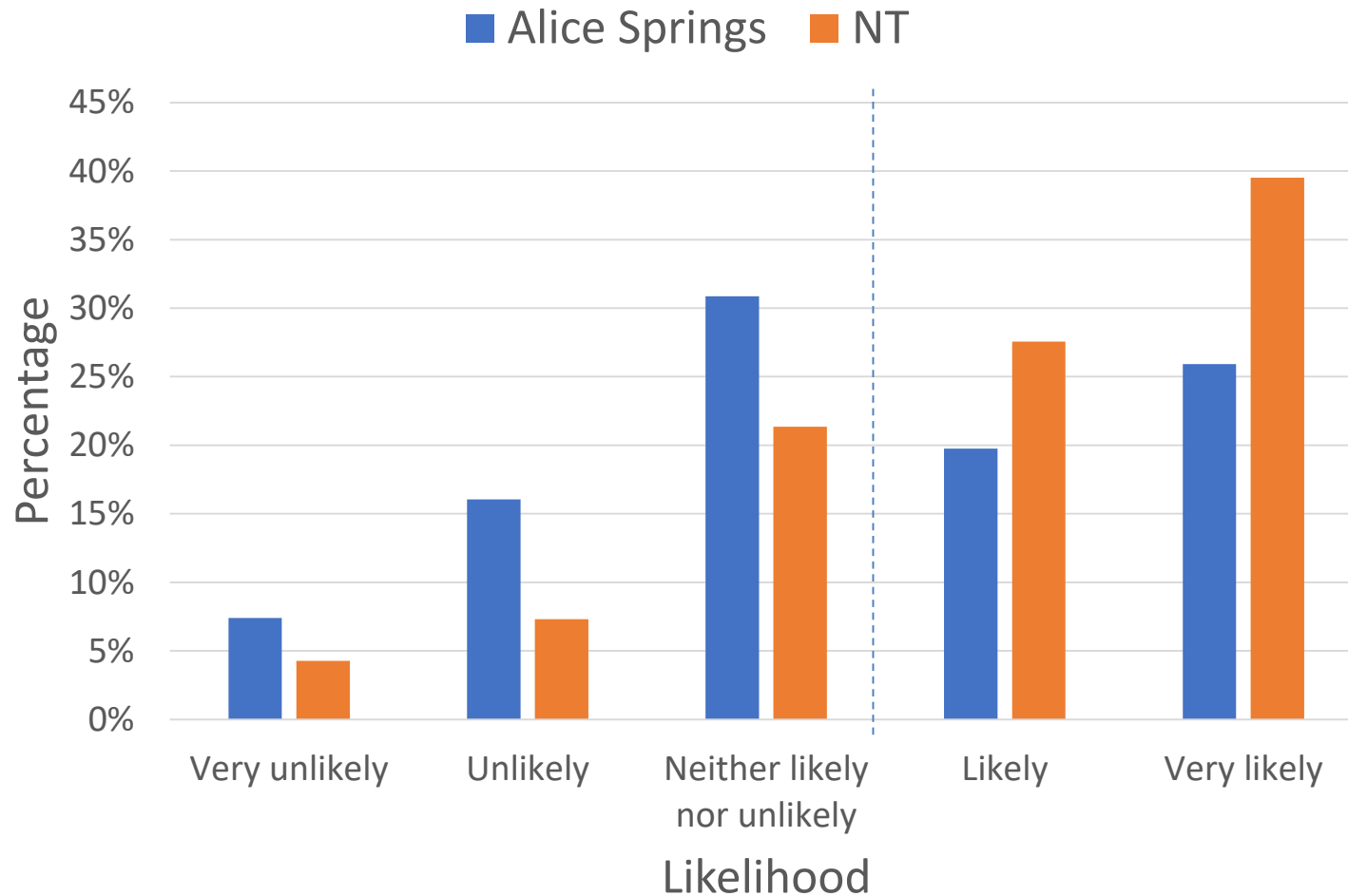
Why You Stay



Why You Might Leave



Would You Recommend NT To Others?



Dare to Dream: Alice's population futures when the past is gone

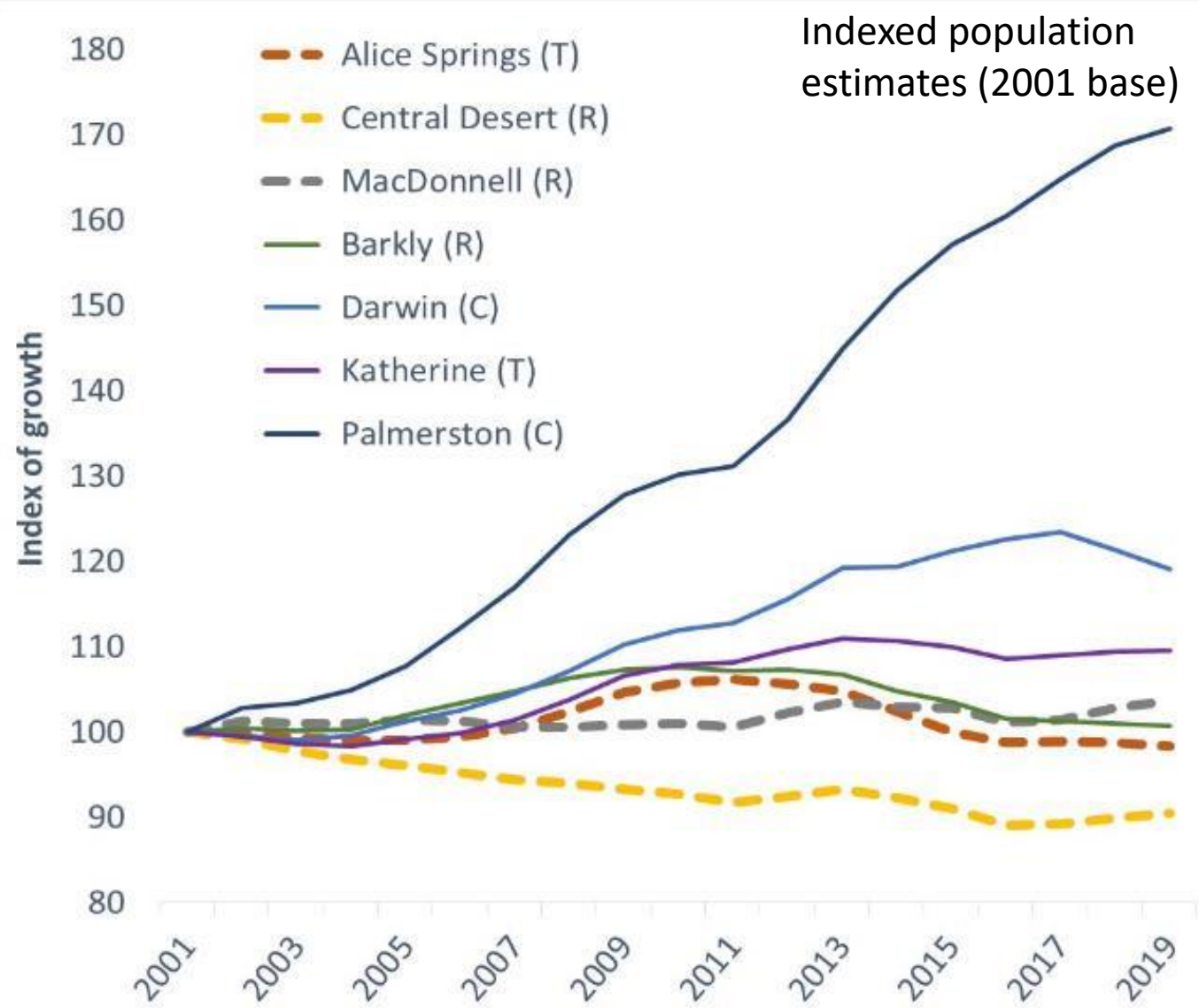


Is growth good? You decide...



Upsides to population growth	Downsides to population growth
"It's the economy stupid" – jobs, tourism, housing etc	Contravening evidence on relationship of population to economic growth
New cultures, ideas, social capital and innovations via migration	What is enough? When is enough? Who decides? Lifestyle, amenity and the uniqueness of Alice (TTaM)
'Importing' younger working population can help with ageing	Unsustainable local, national and global environmental impacts
Political influence grows	Everyone gets old - eventually
Increases in services and infrastructure (in theory)	Rapid growth leads to large numbers of dependent children

The PAST (BC-19)...



Source: Author calculations from data extracted from ABS.stat

BC-19 population drivers...

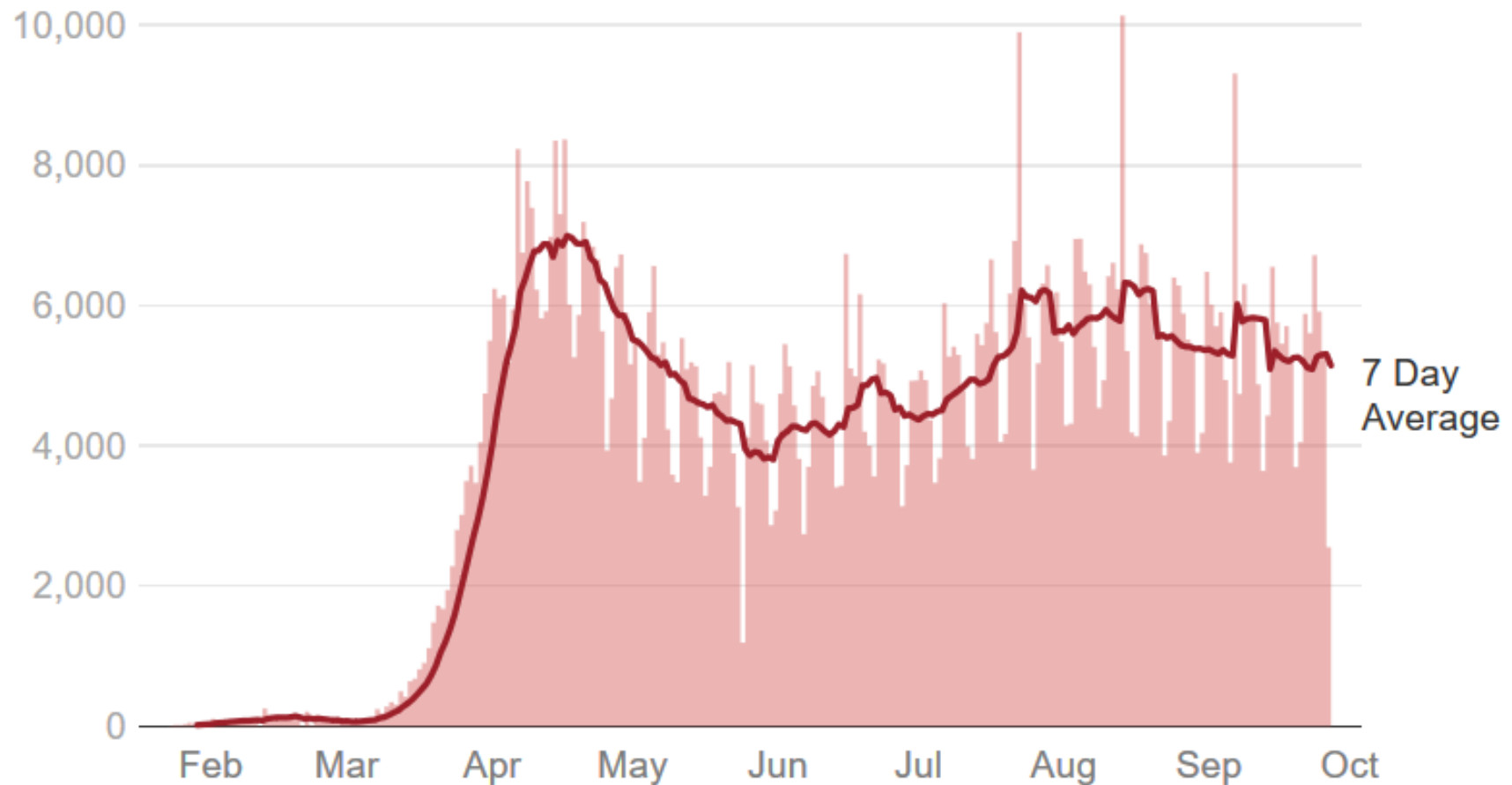


Local Gov. Area	Population Component	2017	2018	2019
Alice Springs (T)	Natural Increase	303	288	296
	Net Internal Migration	-518	-445	-506
	Net Overseas Migration	251	105	98
	Estimated Resident Population	26554	26502	26390
Central Desert (R)	Natural Increase	52	57	55
	Net Internal Migration	-47	-27	-29
	Net Overseas Migration	3	1	1
	Estimated Resident Population	4173	4204	4231
MacDonnell (R)	Natural Increase	55	60	57
	Net Internal Migration	-71	18	-8
	Net Overseas Migration	29	13	11
	Estimated Resident Population	6766	6857	6917

Source: Data extracted on 14 Oct 2020 05:46 UTC (GMT) from ABS.Stat

And then.....

Seven-day average of daily global COVID-19 deaths



How have Centralians been affected?...

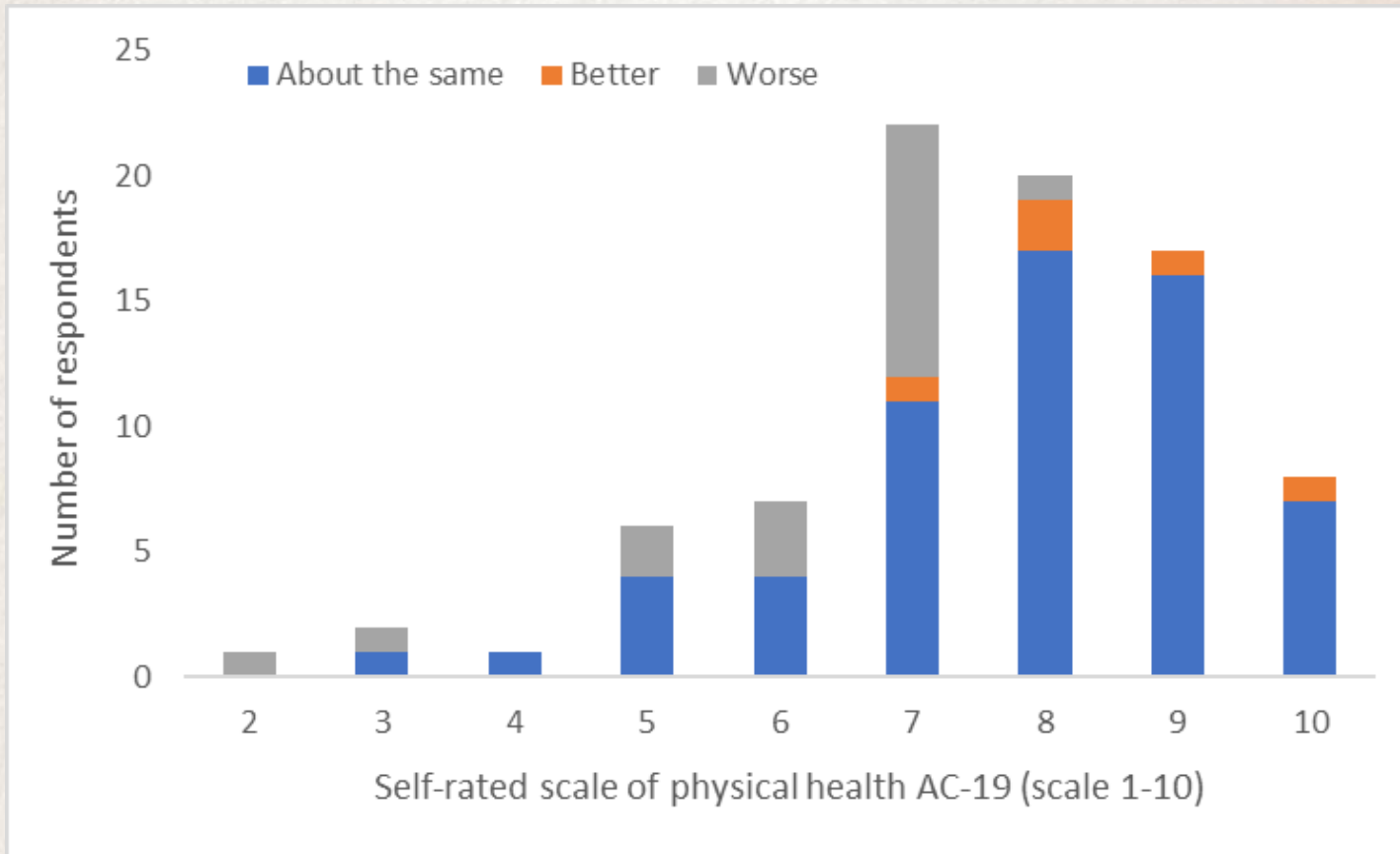


- TTaM COVID update survey
- First research we know of at this level of detail
- Beware, low numbers but still interesting
- Asked how people's physical, mental and financial wellbeing was and whether COVID-19 had made it worse or better?

COVID impacts for Alice – physical health



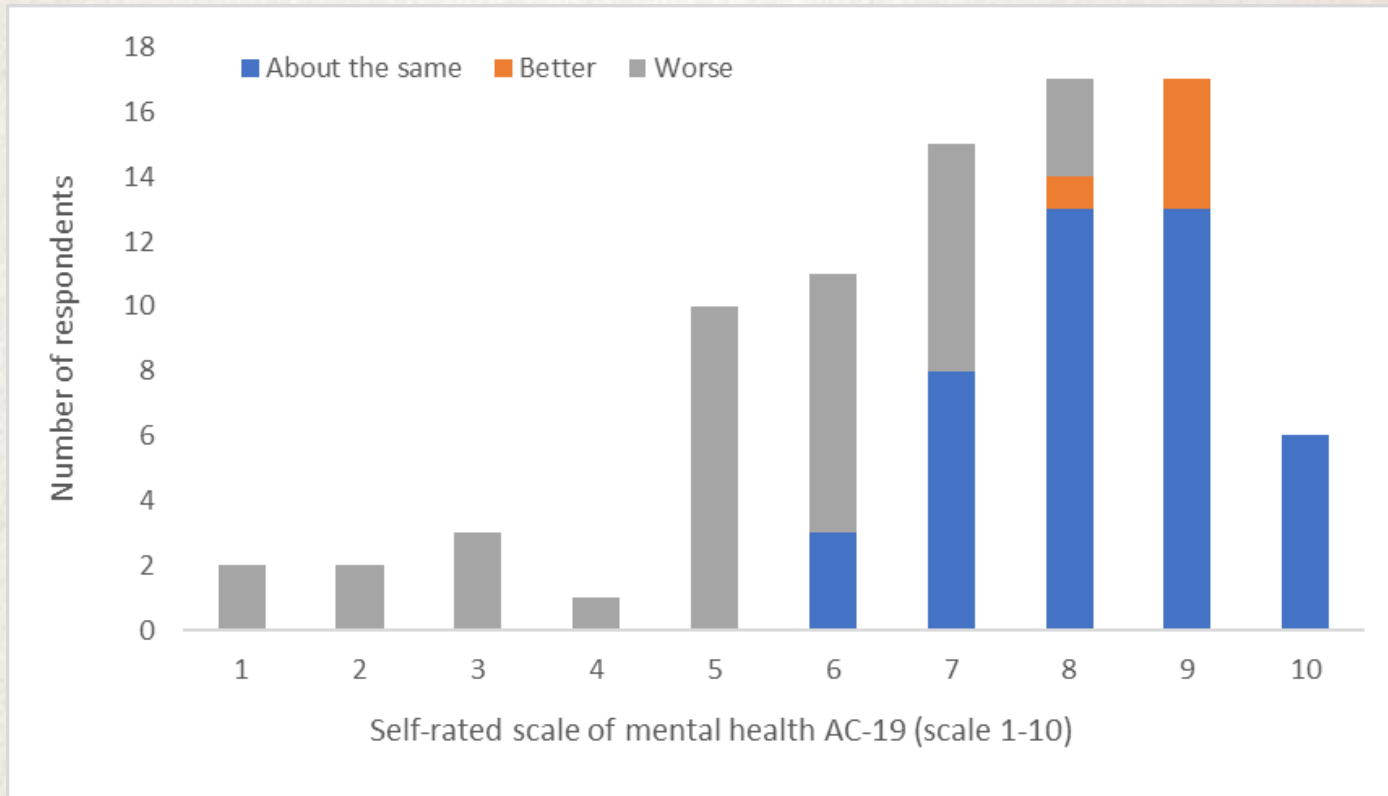
Please rate your physical wellbeing/ Is this better, the same or worse because of COVID-19?



COVID impacts for Alice – mental health



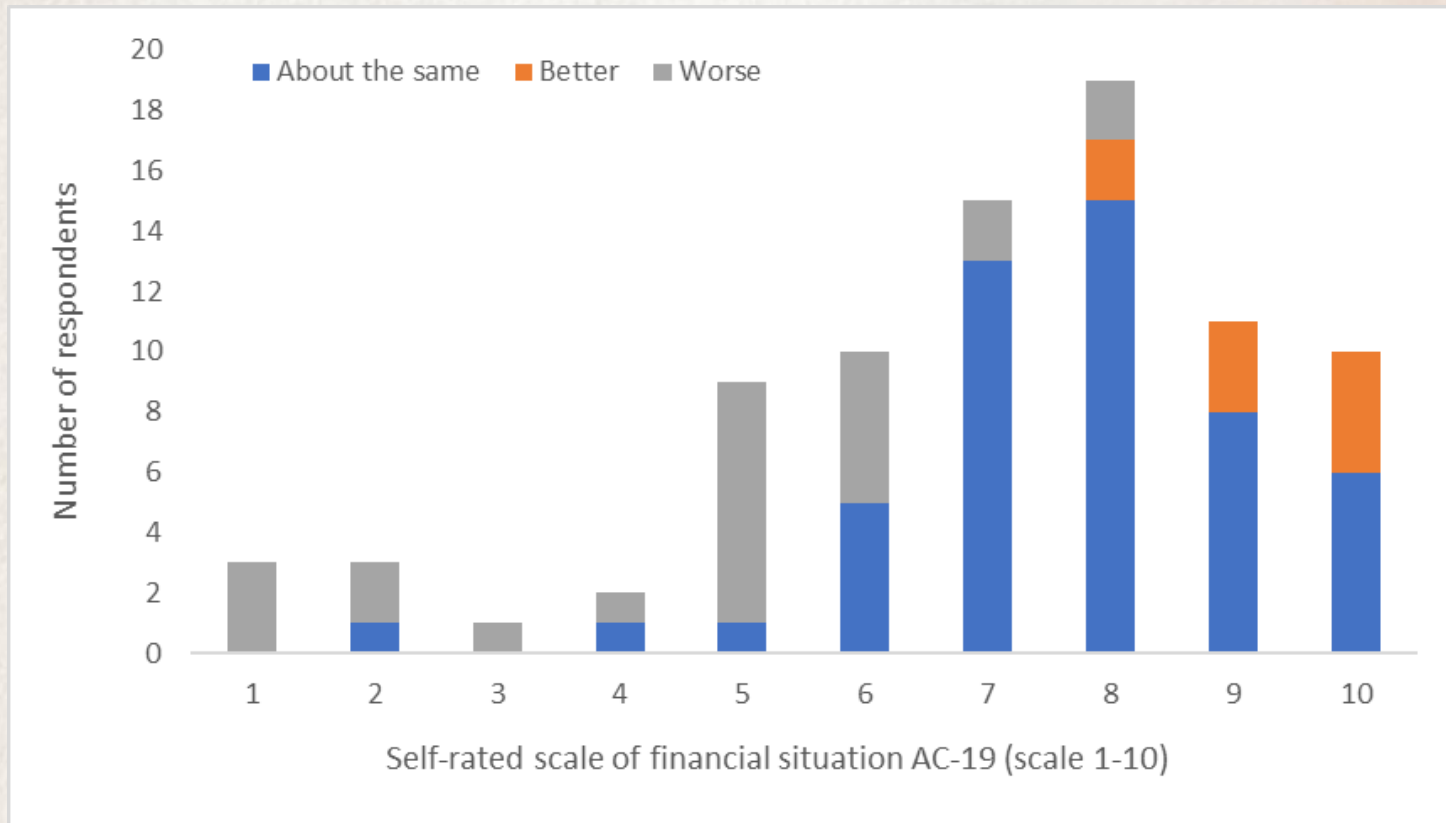
Please rate your mental wellbeing/ Is this better, the same or worse because of COVID-19?



COVID impacts for Alice – financial situation



Please rate your financial situation/ Is this better, the same or worse because of COVID-19?



Population growth: Dare to dream?...

- The past no longer exists
- What does the future look like?
- Everyone is uncertain (including demographers and bureaucrats)
- Current national population assumptions seem disconnected
- Overseas tap is off: how long for?
- Anecdotes of strange things happening - internal migration



AC-19: Population dreams...



- Alice residents feel safe so don't leave (retention)
- Feel relatively 'free' or less restricted so don't leave (retention)
- Can't leave NT - finances, restrictions, health (retention)
- Have babies after it's all over (if/ when) – (internally generated growth)
- Perception NT is less restricted (attraction – “COVID refugees”)
- Perception NT is safer (attraction – “COVID refugees”)

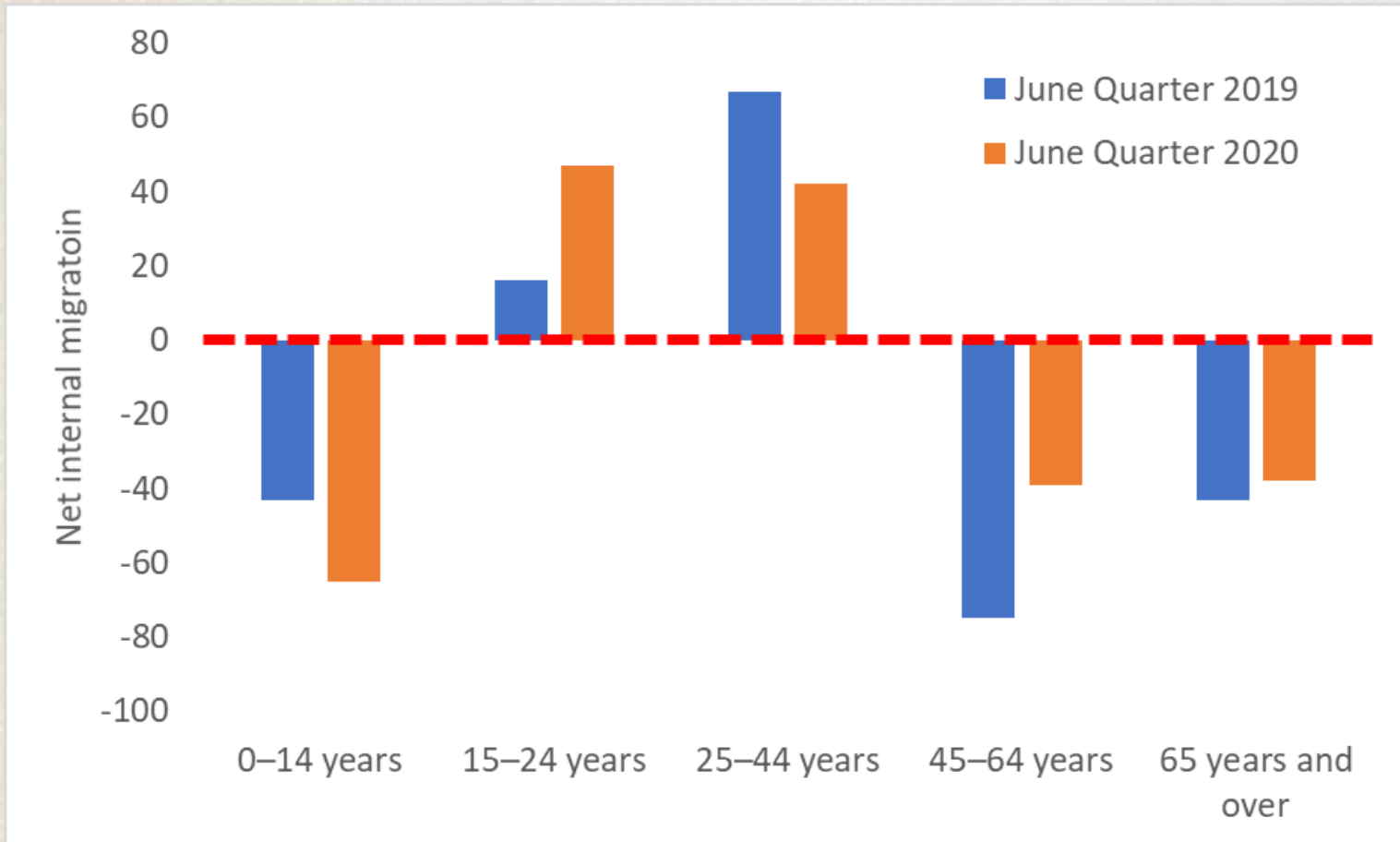
The NT Government says 'coronavirus refugees' are heading to the Territory. Will they fix its shrinking population?

By [Jesse Thompson](#)

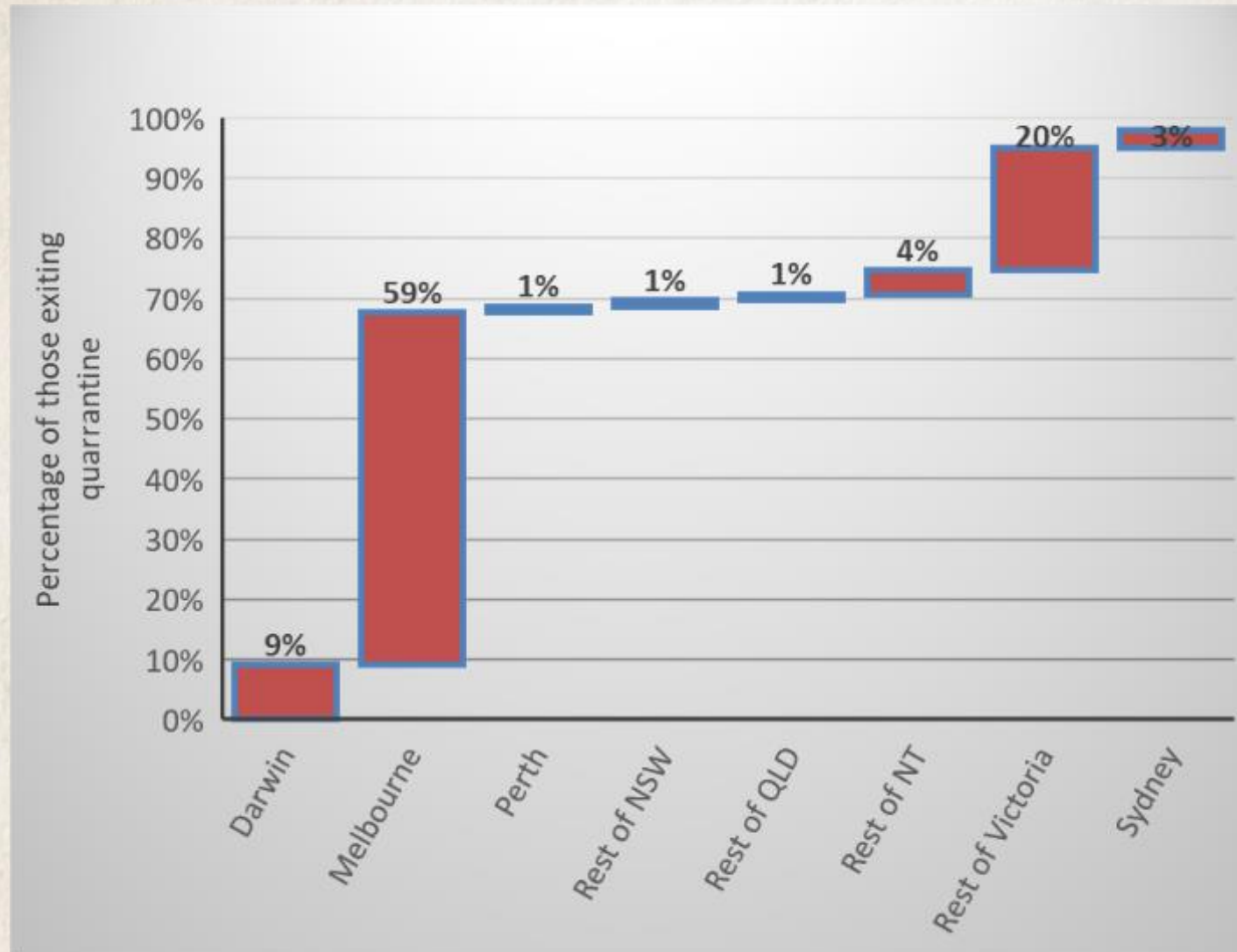
Posted Thu 17 Sep 2020 at 6:27am, updated Fri 18 Sep 2020 at 6:15am

7NEWS

Brand new data AC-19 – How has internal migration changed?



“COVID Refugees” – Myth or reality?...



Source: Territory and Me quarantine exit surveys

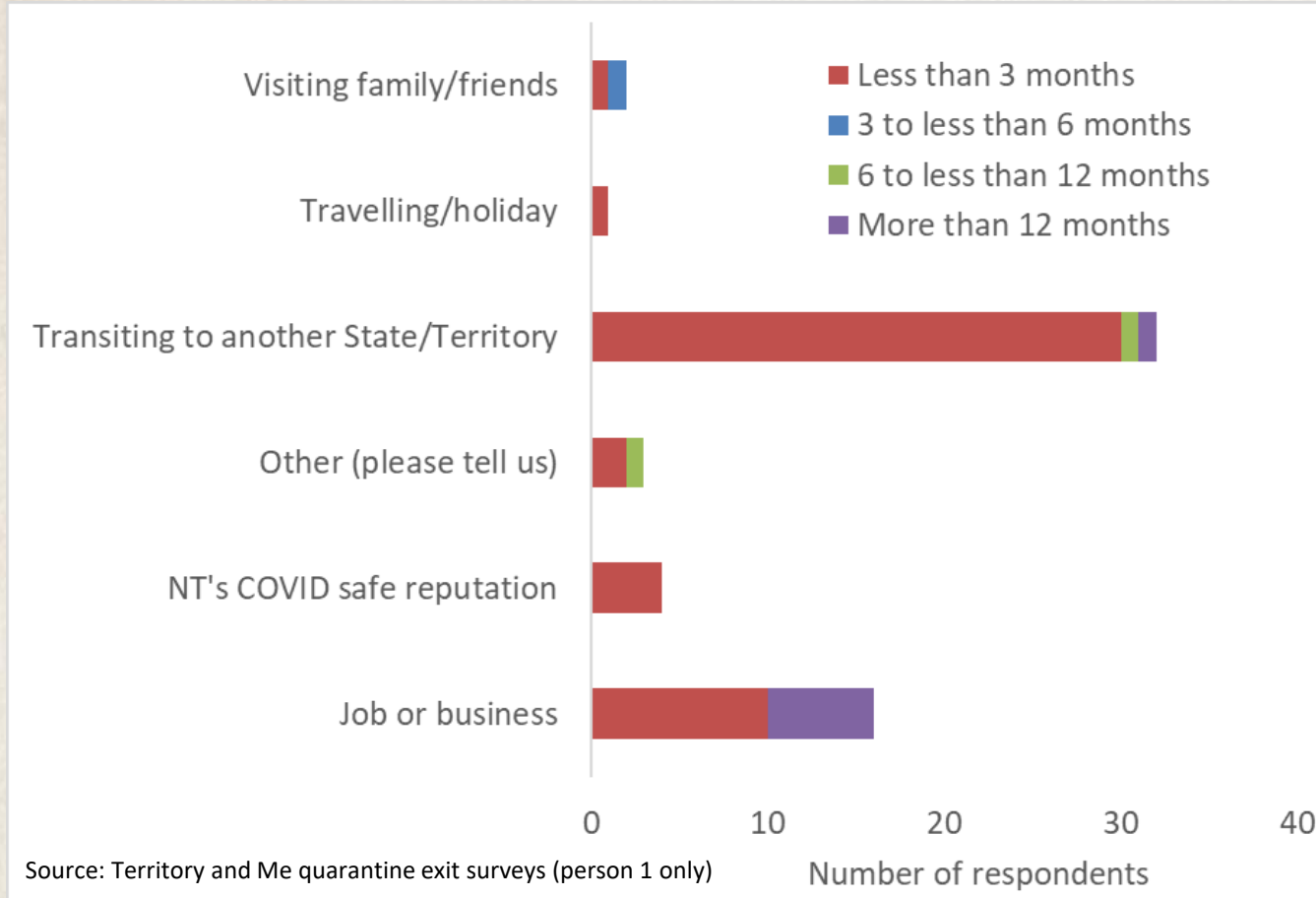
BUSTED (unfortunately)



Main reason in the Territory	How long intend to stay in the Territory				
	less than 3 months	3 to less than 6 months	6 to less than 12 months	more than 12 months	Total
Job or business	18	2	1	11	32
NT's COVID safe reputation	5			5	5
Other (please tell us)	4		1	2	7
Returning home				11	11
Studying			1	1	2
Transiting to another State/Territory	34		2	1	37
Travelling/holiday	2				2
Visiting family/friends	2	1			3
Total	65	3	5	26	99

Source: Territory and Me quarantine exit surveys (person 1 only)

The Melbourne's - Busted



'Coronavirus refugees' fleeing to the NT from southern states, according to Chief Minister

RESIDENTS in pandemic-ravaged southern states are 'absolutely' fleeing to the NT, according to the Chief Minister, as demographers say the Territory might be a winner in the population stakes due to coronavirus.

Nevertheless - AC-19 Population Dreams



“We loved living in the NT and only returned to NSW for family reasons. We would readily explore the opportunity to move back to the NT if COVID impacted on us here over the medium to long term.”

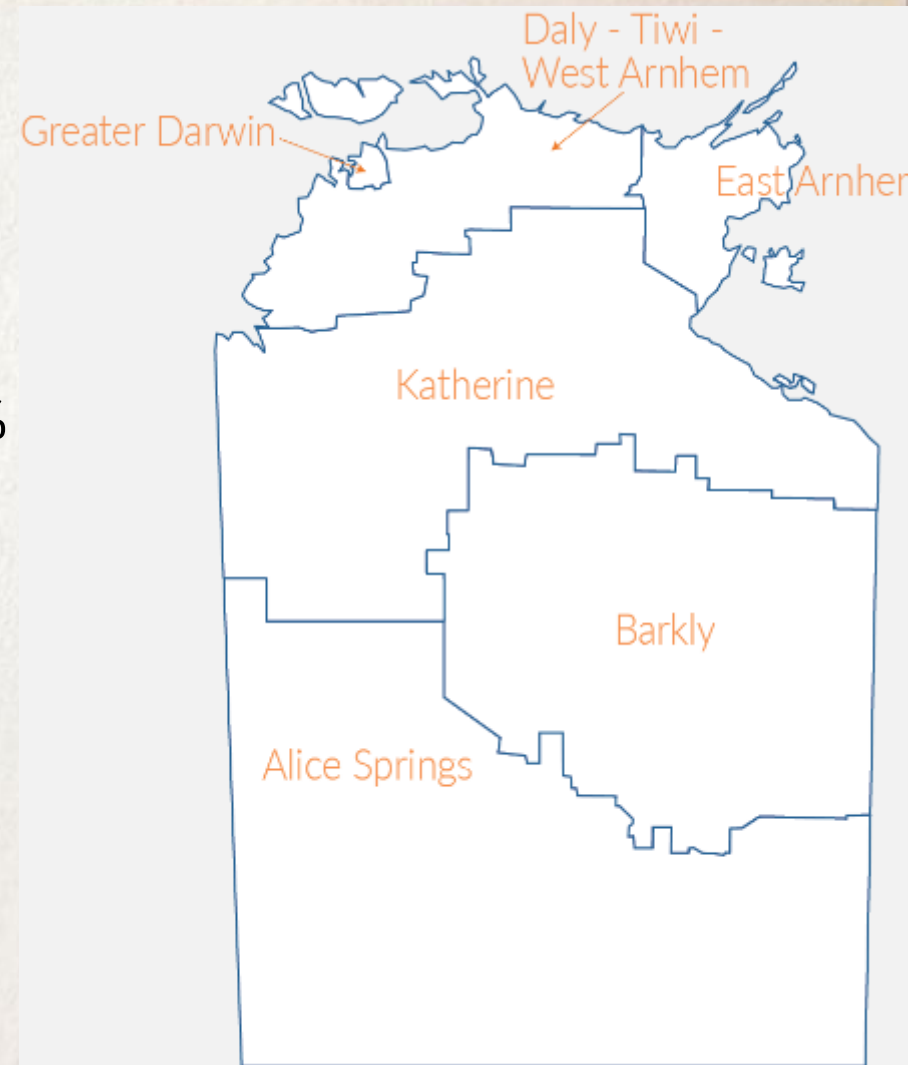
(TTaM-U participant)

“People like the fact that the case numbers haven't been that bad in the territory and that life has a lot less restrictions because of keeping the borders closed.”

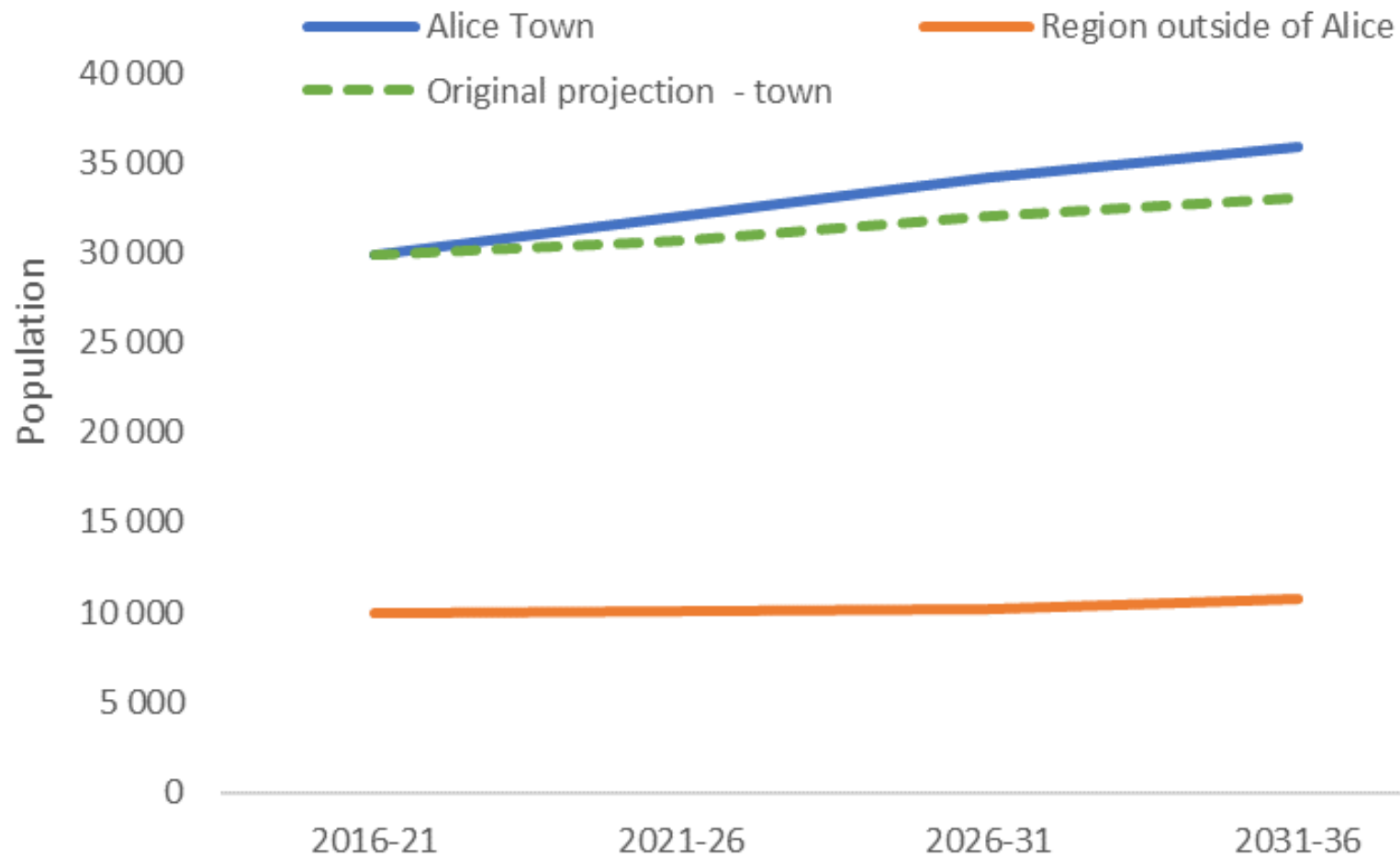
(TTaM-U participant)

Visualising the dream (S1)

- Take prior NTDTF projections (5 year period-cohort intervals)
- Assume a post-COVID fertility increase (10% increase in births)
- Make NIM net zero per year (sentiment leads to action)
- Make NOM positive 100 per year (vaccine/ bubbles)
- Assume Alice's share of region increases by 1% first two decades (following past trend)
- Project forward to 2036
- Significant limitations: High uncertainty around all assumptions



Results (S1)...



Sources: Northern Territory Department of Treasury and Finance, author calculations

However...

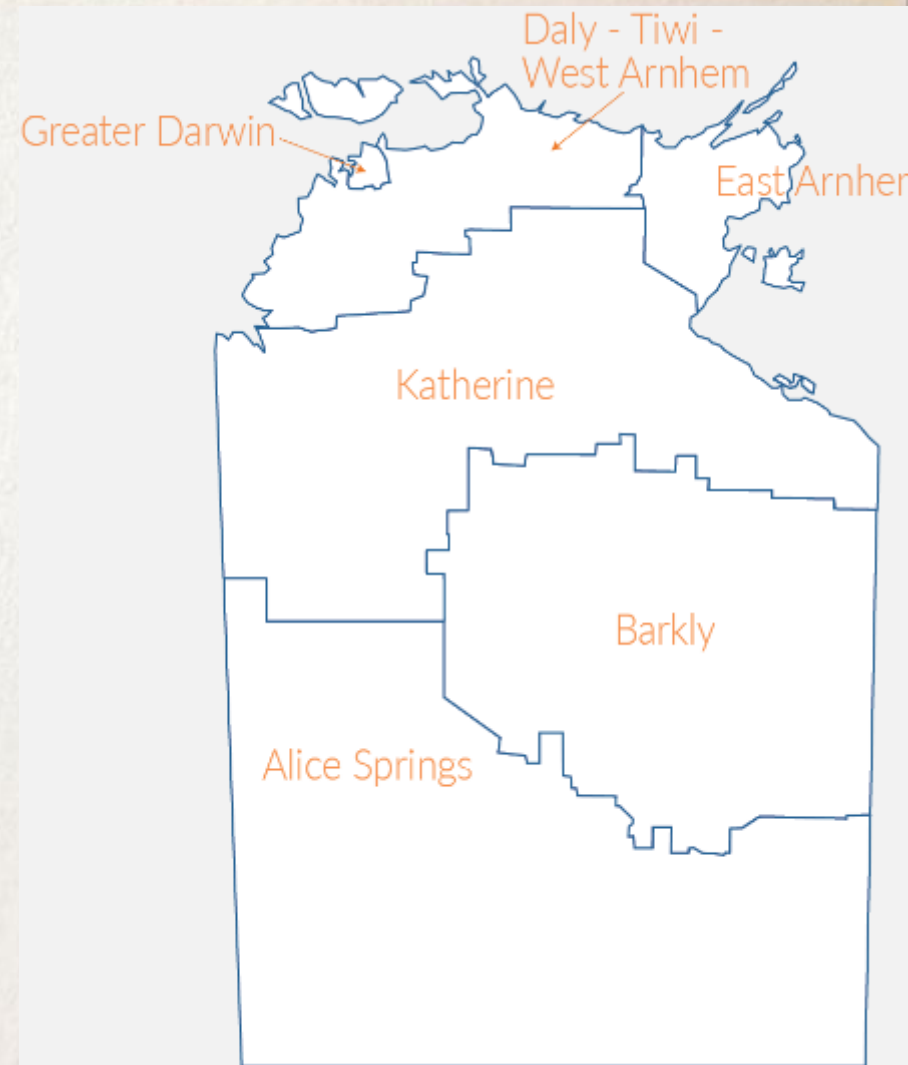
“After covid-19 I think more people are likely to migrate to live closer to their families and much of our population is on the east coast so we might see more migration there. The pandemic has kept us apart from loved ones so it might be important for people to leave the territory to be with family and friends.” (TTaM-U participant)



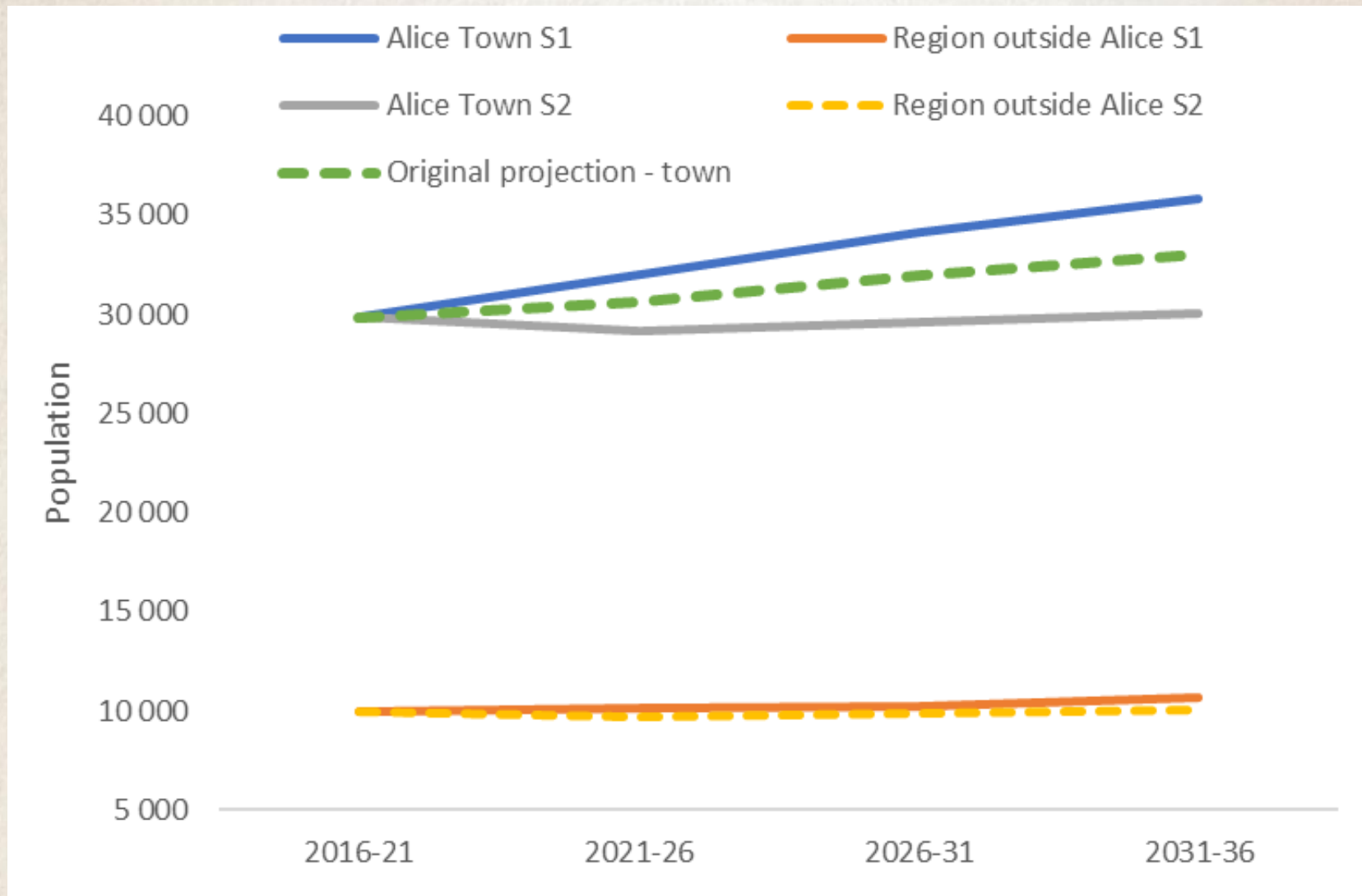
NORTHERN
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People. Policy. Place.

AC-19: Scenario 2 (S2)

- Take prior NTDTF projections (5 year period-cohort intervals)
- No post-COVID fertility increase
- No post-COVID internal bounce
NIM average last 3yrs (-2,450 per 5 years)
- Net zero NOM first five years
- Things return to 3 year pre-COVID averages after 2026
- Project forward to 2036
- Significant limitations: High uncertainty around all assumptions



Results S2...



Sources: Northern Territory Department of Treasury and Finance, author calculations

If we want growth what should we do?...

- Stay healthy! Not just for the obvious reasons
- Cuddle an overseas born person regularly
- Think about how to keep retirees (ageing)
- Make everyone feel welcome
- Find points of difference and market them - every town in the north wants COVID-changers
- UPDATE MEDICARE DETAILS (especially new people)
- Steal other good ideas. For example

In keeping with the SEGRA mission to focus on issues affecting regional Australia, we will be conducting a series of webinars to start a conversation that will explore how regional Australia can best respond.

A Conversation for
Regional Australia
about COVID-19

▶ PLAY ALL

A Conversation for Regional
Australia about COVID-19



Thank you:

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**Research is what I'm doing
when I don't know what I'm
doing.**

Wernher von Braun