

Final Report

Migration of income-support recipients from non-metropolitan NSW and SA into Sydney and Adelaide

authored by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	I
Summation.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION: RESEARCH AIMS AND METHODOLOGY.....	1
1.1 The Research Aims	1
1.2 Study Methodology	1
1.3 The User Group	2
1.4 The Report Structure	2
2 THE LITERATURE	3
2.1 City-Hinterland Relationships.....	3
2.2 Migration of Low Income Earners	6
2.3 Migration From Non-Metropolitan to Metropolitan Australia.....	8
2.4 Summary.....	12
3 THE LONGITUDINAL DATA SET FINDINGS	14
4 THE SOCIAL SURVEY	19
4.1 Methodology	19
4.2 Approach to Analysis	21
RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS	23
RELOCATION DECISION FACTORS	26
WELFARE OUTCOMES OF RELOCATION	49
WORK OUTCOMES OF RELOCATION	66
5 MIGRATION TO AND FROM THE CITIES.....	76
5.1 Migration Factors	76
5.2 Welfare Outcomes of Relocation	76
5.3 Relative Community Ratings.....	77
5.4 Implications of Relocation for ‘Work-Ready’ Income-Support Recipients (Unemployed and Single Parents).....	78
6 POLICY RELEVANCE.....	79
7 CONCLUDING REMARKS	81
BIBLIOGRAPHY	83
APPENDICES.....	89
APPENDIX 1: THE QUESTIONNAIRE.....	90
APPENDIX 2: INCOME-SUPPORT CATEGORY TERMINOLOGY	108
APPENDIX 3. QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS: FREQUENCY COUNTS.....	112
APPENDIX 4. DETAILED SURVEY RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS	134
APPENDIX 5: POSTCODES USED TO DEFINE SURVEY BOUNDARIES	144

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Net Intrastate Migration Between Capital Cities and Rest of State, 1966-1971 to 1991-1996	5
Table 2: Total Numbers of Income-Support Recipients for Non-Metropolitan, Metropolitan and State and Territory Regions.....	14
Table 3: Movers From Non-Metropolitan to Metropolitan Areas for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category	15
Table 4: Relative Percentages of Movers for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category	15
Table 5: Net Flows to Metropolitan Areas for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category	16
Table 6: Outflows From Non-Metropolitan Areas as Proportions of All Non-Metropolitan Recipients for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category.....	17
Table 7: Inflows to Metropolitan Areas as Proportions of All Metropolitan Recipients for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category.....	18
Table 8: Very Important Considerations for Moving by Income-Support Category.....	30
Table 9: Very Important Considerations for Moving by State	33
Table 10: Highest Percentage Rated Amenity/Service in the Cities by Income-Support Category	60
Table 11: Very Important Relocation Factors for the Work-Ready Population	68

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Very Important Relocation Factors – Aggregate	27
Figure 2: Very Important Relocation Factors by Income-Support Category	28
Figure 3: Very Important Relocation Factors by State	32
Figure 4: Housing Costs as a Relocation Factor – Aggregate.....	34
Figure 5: Housing Costs as a Relocation Factor by Income-Support Category	34
Figure 6: Housing Costs as a Relocation Factor by State	35
Figure 7: Amount Spent on Housing After Moving – Aggregate	36
Figure 8: Amount Spent on Housing After Moving by Income-Support Category.....	36
Figure 9: Amount Spent on Housing After Moving by State	37
Figure 10: Housing Tenure Before and After Moving – Aggregate.....	38
Figure 11: Housing Tenure Before and After Moving by Income-Support Category	39
Figure 12: Housing Tenure Before and After the Move by State	40
Figure 13: Housing Quality and Size Satisfaction – Aggregate	41
Figure 14: Housing Quality and Size Satisfaction by Income-Support Category.....	42
Figure 15: Housing Quality and Size Satisfaction by State	43
Figure 16: Employment Tenure Before Moving to the City – Aggregate	44
Figure 17: Employment Tenure Before Moving to the City by Income-Support Category	44
Figure 18: Employment Tenure Before Moving to the City by State.....	45
Figure 19: Change in Employment Situation as a Relocation Factor – Aggregate.....	45
Figure 20: Change in Employment Situation as a Relocation Factor by Income-Support Category	46
Figure 21: Employment Opportunities as Relocation Factor by Income-Support Category	47
Figure 22: Employment Opportunities as a Relocation Factor by State	48
Figure 23: Perceptions of Being Better off After Moving – Aggregate	50
Figure 24: Perceptions of Being Better off After Moving by Income-Support Category	51
Figure 25: Perceptions of Being Better off After Moving by State	51
Figure 26: Likelihood of Moving Back to Non-Metropolitan NSW or SA – Aggregate ...	52
Figure 27: Likelihood of Moving Back to Non-Metropolitan NSW or SA by Income-Support Category	53
Figure 28: Likelihood of Moving Back to Non-Metropolitan NSW or SA by State.....	54
Figure 29: Overall Community Ratings – Aggregate	55
Figure 30: Overall Community Ratings by Income-Support Category	55
Figure 31: Overall Community Ratings by State.....	57
Figure 32: Place Satisfaction After Moving – Aggregate	58

Figure 33: Place Satisfaction After Moving by Income-Support Category	59
Figure 34: Place Satisfaction After Moving by State.....	61
Figure 35: Lifestyle Adjustment Satisfaction – Aggregate	62
Figure 36: Lifestyle Adjustment Satisfaction by Income-Support Category	63
Figure 37: Lifestyle Adjustment Satisfaction by State.....	64
Figure 38: Work-Ready Population – Very Important Relocation Factors	68
Figure 39: Work-Ready’s Current Engagement in Paid Employment.....	69
Figure 40: Work-Ready’s Willingness to Work More by State	70
Figure 41: Work-Ready’s Satisfaction with Finding Paid Work by State.....	71
Figure 42: Work-Ready’s Satisfaction with Housing Location in Relation to Work.....	72
Figure 43: Work-Ready’s Overall Perceptions of Being Better off After Moving.....	73
Figure 44: Work-Ready’s Likelihood of Returning to the Country	74

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AHURI	Australia Housing and Urban Research Institute
DSP	Disability Support Pension
FaCS	Family and Community Services, Australian Government Department
HALCS	Housing and Location Choice Survey
LDS	Longitudinal Data Set
NHS	National Housing Strategy
NSW	[state of] New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
QLD	[state of] Queensland
SA	[state of] South Australia
SPP	Sole Parent Pension
TAS	[state of] Tasmania
UB	Unemployment Benefits
UNSW	University of New South Wales
UWS	University of Western Sydney
VIC	[state of] Victoria
WA	[state of] Western Australia

GLOSSARY

Metropolitan – major urban centres within a state. For New South Wales, metropolitan refers to the Sydney basin (excluding the Wollongong-Newcastle conurbation and the ACT) and for South Australia, it refers to the city of Adelaide. For a more detailed description of the metropolitan areas as defined for this study, refer to Appendix 5.

Perimetropolitan – the settlement zone within 100 km of the centre of metropolitan Sydney and Melbourne, but beyond suburbia. In the case of the other mainland state capital cities, 75 km from the metropolitan centres (or the Central Business Districts).

Non-metropolitan – the ‘rest of the state’ outside of the metropolitan or perimetropolitan regions. The conurbation of Wollongong and Newcastle has been excluded from the study. For a more detailed description of the non-metropolitan areas as defined for this study, refer to Appendix 5.

Aged Pensioner – is receiving an Age Pension. An Australian resident, males over 65 years of age or females over 60 years of age. For a more detailed description of the different categories of Centrelink payment Categories, refer to Appendix 2.

Single Parent – is receiving a Sole Parenting Payment. A sole or partnered parent (Australian resident) who has a qualifying child under 16 years of age. For a more detailed description of the different categories of Centrelink payment categories, refer to Appendix 2.

Disabled – is receiving a Disability Support Pension. An individual with a physical, intellectual, or psychiatric impairment assessed and is unable to work for at least the next two years as a result of impairment and is unable to undertake educational or vocational training. For a more detailed description of the different categories of Centrelink payment categories, refer to Appendix 2.

Unemployed – is receiving a Newstart Allowance (over 21 years old), Youth Allowance (under 21 years old), or Mature Age Allowance (60+ years but not on the Age Pension). An unemployed individual capable of undertaking work and who is available for employment. For a more detailed description of the different categories of Centrelink payment categories, refer to Appendix 2.

Note: Throughout this Report and to vary the text, certain terms are used interchangeably, although the Research team does understand the nuances and differences in the technical, more detailed terminology. The terms ‘non-metro’, ‘country’ and ‘rural’ are used to denote non-metropolitan areas (as defined above). The terms ‘city’ and ‘metro’ are used to denote metropolitan areas as defined above.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study was jointly undertaken by the AHURI UNSW-UWS Research Centre and the AHURI Southern Research Centre with cooperation from the Housing Support Branch of the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services. Within Australia, approximately 50,000 income-support recipients move annually from non-metropolitan areas to metropolitan cities. This study aimed to identify the motivations of, and trade-offs made by, these movers. In particular, the importance of housing and employment considerations vis-à-vis other choice factors, and changes to the perceived net welfare of movers, were explored. Public interest in the research derived from the a priori suggestion that low income-earners, which income-support recipients are by definition, face particular difficulties in settling in cities due especially to high housing costs. For 'work-ready' income-support recipients (the unemployed and single parent pensioners) finding affordable and appropriately located housing may influence their capacity to find work and their willingness to stay in cities where job opportunities are relatively high. For other categories of income-support recipients (disabled and aged pensioners) the availability of affordable and appropriate housing may influence the extent to which they are able to access metropolitan services and social support networks that are presumed to be significant factors in their relocating.

There is a host of considerations (social, economic and environmental factors) that individuals consider in their decisions to move between non-metro regions and city locations. It was hypothesised that for some, housing and employment factors may together create powerful pressures for people to move. These linkages were explored in the research. People may be imperfectly informed about destination options and may find that their conditions have worsened as a consequence of moving. As a result, a principal question for this project asks: is a person's aggregate welfare improved as a result of moving from a non-metro to metropolitan area?

Over the past 20 years, internal migration studies have tended to focus on metropolitan to non-metropolitan moves. There is little contemporary knowledge about choice factors influencing moves from country areas to the city. The Population and Housing Census and other secondary sources of information, such as the Department of Family and Community Services' (FaCS) Longitudinal Data Set (LDS), sheds some light on the numbers and spatial distribution of migration but direct questioning of those relocating was required to get a better understanding of decision factors and the implications of moves for individuals.

This project complements AHURI Project 70066: Welfare Outcomes of Migration of Low-Income Earners From Metropolitan to Non-Metropolitan Australia which was conducted by the same research team in 2001-2002. The principle aim of that study was to test the assumption that the bias towards lower-income earners in the migration outflow from Australian primate cities to non-metropolitan regions meant that movers were being 'forced out' by unaffordable housing and that this choice led to a net loss in their overall welfare. In the case of migration to cities by income-support recipients, it is conjectured that housing, employment and private and social costs generally may impact on movers in fundamentally different ways than in the case of the metropolitan out-migration. General conclusions of the findings for each of the two studies are compared in a latter section of this Report.

This study had three components: (1) Literature review; (2) Analysis of migration patterns using FaCS' LDS; and (3) A postal questionnaire survey of a sample of movers from non-metropolitan to metropolitan postcodes drawn from Centrelink's database. The social survey focused on moves from non-metropolitan parts of New South Wales and South Australia to their respective capital cities of Sydney and Adelaide. Sydney is Australia's largest city, most globalised and expensive and thereby, low-income migrants greatly feel the effects of moving into that city. However, because the phenomenon of low-income migration is evident around Australia, the inclusion of one other State, South Australia, in the survey goes some way towards determining how different the impact is on movers into a smaller city with different State characteristics. Whilst coverage of all Australian regions would have been the optimal research strategy, the focus on NSW and SA produced results that can be reasonably applied to all States and Territories.

The study had three key aims which are noted in this summary along with the study results addressing each aim.

Key aim: to determine the factors, and the relative importance of those factors, that influence decisions by income-support recipients to move from non-metropolitan regions to cities, with particular reference to housing and employment considerations.

Not surprisingly, the main reasons for moving vary depending on the category of income-support received. For the Unemployed job opportunities were by far the most important relocation factor with 60% indicating so. For Single Parents the most important factor in deciding to move was also job opportunities, although other important factors included being closer to family and the education facilities in the country compared to those in the city. The most important relocation factor for the Disabled was health-related. Finally, the most important relocation factor for Aged Pensioners was them wanting to be closer to family and friends, with 72% indicating this was a very important consideration in moving. Retirement opportunities was relatively unimportant to this group, supporting the a priori conjecture that seniors were moving for pragmatic, often health- and family-related reasons, rather than for 'opportunities'.

Housing cost was not a very important consideration in the decision to move to Sydney or Adelaide, although it had an impact on movers post-relocation, especially Single Parents – least so on Aged Pensioners. Not surprisingly, approximately 50% of all respondents paid more for their housing after moving into the metropolitan areas and as a result were generally dissatisfied with the affordability of housing after moving.

After moving, approximately one-quarter of all respondents owned their home, down from when they lived in the country. This change in home ownership was most marked for Aged Pensioners. More respondents were renting and receiving Centrelink assistance after moving into the city, up from the non-metropolitan situation. This was most marked for the Unemployed and Single Parents. Interestingly, a relatively high percentage of respondents indicated they were 'boarding with family or friends' both before and after moving.

Key aim: to assess the extent to which movers perceive themselves to be 'better off' or 'worse off' after moving.

The notion of welfare is a multidimensional concept that incorporates all factors that influence an individual's sense of well-being. The study parameters accepted the assumption that individuals are able to assess their levels of satisfaction with different aspects of their life circumstances. Rationally, people would not knowingly move to an

area where their overall welfare would be reduced. Believing that, 59% of all movers indicated they were better off in the city than they were in non-metropolitan NSW or SA. In aggregate, Single Parents were the most positive about their welfare – the Disabled were the least. However, within each of those groups, the perceptions of their welfare as a result of their moving were polarised. When asked what their likelihood was of moving within the next 12 months back to non-metropolitan NSW or SA, approximately half stated that it was very unlikely. The Aged Pensioners most strongly indicated that they were very unlikely to move back. The Unemployed's responses indicated they were the most likely to move back to the country or were unsure of their moves in the next 12 months. The South Australians were slightly more positive about moving into Adelaide than were those from non-metropolitan NSW respondents about moving into Sydney. One-in-five respondents believed they were better off in the country.

Generally though, both the cities and the non-metropolitan areas received positive comments, although the non-metropolitan communities from which the respondents recently moved were rated just slightly more positively than Sydney or Adelaide. From a State perspective, Adelaide was rated more positively as compared to Sydney. Although the non-metro communities were rated more positively than the cities and most movers indicated they were unlikely to move to the country. Facilities, amenities and services were seen to be much better in the cities when compared to those in the non-metropolitan areas – transportation services and costs, shopping facilities and commercial services, restaurants/clubs and health services were particularly noted. Only one 'place satisfaction' indicator was seen to be better in the non-metro areas: community spirit.

The most satisfying lifestyle adjustment made by movers was maintaining family ties which was mentioned by 89% of all respondents. Aged Pensioners were the most consistent and positive in their adjustment to the cities. Generally, SA respondents were slightly more satisfied with making lifestyle adjustments than were their NSW counterparts.

Key aim: to determine the impact of relocation on 'work-ready' income-support recipients (essentially the Unemployed and Single Parents).

Unlike the two other income-support groups, the work-ready population rated the cities more positively than their previous, non-metropolitan communities although both types of areas were rated very highly as places in which to live. Not surprisingly, the potential job opportunities in the city were the single most important factor for the work-ready population in their decisions to leave non-metropolitan regions for the cities – this was mentioned by 62% of the Unemployed and 56% of Single Parents. After these, the reasons why the Unemployed and Single Parents moved were quite different, as were their circumstances and levels of satisfaction with their move.

After moving, the Unemployed were not as enthusiastic as one might have thought. Full-time employment often did not eventuate for this group. As a reminder, the potential survey respondents had to have been receiving an Unemployment payment both before and after moving (although this condition did not preclude those who had gone off the scheme and back onto it within a one year period.) Only 20% of the Unemployed in Sydney believed they were 'much' better off after moving there. However, this same group of Unemployed were more likely than people receiving other forms of income support to believe they were 'somewhat' better off after moving. The Unemployed in both States were more neutral about their well-being after moving than

were Single Parents. As a result, the Unemployed (especially those in Sydney) believed they were the most likely (income-support group) to move back to country areas in the next 12 months, followed by the Sydney Single Parents. Single Parents in Adelaide were the least likely move back to country SA.

Summation

In sum and not unexpectedly, the push and pull factors for each income-support group moving from non-metropolitan localities to the cities were quite different. The Unemployed moved to the cities in the hope of securing paid work. Single Parents were also relocating for employment considerations but were also expecting to be closer to their support network of family and friends. The Disabled typically moved for health reasons. Aged Pensioners were the older seniors or those who needed the support of carers such as family and friends.

Both the cities and the country areas were seen as good places to live but for different reasons. The cities were favoured for their facilities and services and the non-metro areas won with atmosphere, 'a country way of life' and community spirit. For those who were really country-folk at heart (and many of the movers were) pragmatic reasons took them into the city. For those who were not, they were always going to end up living in the cities – because of their job potential, facilities and services and the 'city way of life'.

1 INTRODUCTION: RESEARCH AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

Within Australia, approximately 50,000 Unemployed, Single Parent, Disabled and Aged Pension income-support recipients move annually from non-metropolitan areas into the cities. This study aimed to identify the motivations of, and trade-offs made by, these movers and the importance of certain relocation choice factors in their decisions to move. Further, it explored whether or not the movers believed they were better or worse off after moving. The 'work-ready' population was particularly studied, exploring the a priori idea that many of the movers would be hopeful of finding employment in the cities and gaining access to urban services and social opportunities not found in non-metropolitan regions.

Internal migration studies have tended to focus on metropolitan to non-metropolitan moves. There is little contemporary knowledge about choice factors influencing moves from non-metro areas to the city. The Population and Housing Census and other secondary sources of information, such as the Department of Family and Community Services' (FaCS) Longitudinal Data Set (LDS), sheds some light on the numbers and spatial distribution of migration but direct questioning of those relocating was required to get a better understanding of decision factors and the implications of moves for individuals. This results from this study fulfil that gap in research and knowledge.

1.1 The Research Aims

For each of the project aims an assessment was undertaken, for the different income-support categories (Unemployed, Single Parents, Disabled and Aged Pensioners) and by State (New South Wales and South Australia), to:

- determine the economic, social and housing factors, and the relative importance of those factors, that influence decisions by different income-support recipients to move from non-metropolitan regions to cities, with particular reference to housing and employment considerations,
- assess the extent to which movers perceive themselves to be 'better off' or 'worse off' after moving with specific regard to housing affordability and suitability, employment and private and social support arrangements
- determine the impact of relocation on 'work-ready' income-support recipients (essentially the Unemployed and Single Parents).

1.2 Study Methodology

The primary research for the project had two components. First, data from Family and Community Services' (FaCS) Longitudinal Data Set (LDS) were used to describe the pattern of migration of income-support recipients from non-metropolitan to metropolitan areas nationally, especially by looking at non-metropolitan 'origin' regions and metropolitan 'destinations'. The relative importance of these flows vis-à-vis base populations of income support recipients in metropolitan and non-metropolitan regions was also identified. The second and major part of this work was a social survey of income-support recipients who had recently relocated from non-metropolitan localities in New South Wales and South Australia into Sydney and Adelaide, respectively.

This project complements AHURI Project 70066: Welfare Outcomes of Migration of Low-Income Earners From Metropolitan to Non-Metropolitan Australia. The research team went into this new project knowing what aspects of methodology and analysis worked well and what could be improved upon (Marshall et al. 2002b). To be consistent with AHURI Project 70066, measures of being 'well-off' that were operationally defined for that project are transported into this one. The focus is on respondents' perceptions of their net welfare. Factors in welfare assessment include: housing quality, size, tenure and affordability, and a set of 'place' and 'life' satisfaction indicators, that encompass a range of social, economic and environmental factors.

The social survey was conducted of NSW and SA income-support recipients who have moved in a 12-month period from non-metropolitan to metropolitan regions to particularly answer the research questions set for the project. Recognising that income-support recipients tend to be highly mobile the questionnaire was designed to enable recent mobility history to be incorporated into data analysis. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix 1. For the purposes of this study, 'metropolitan' and 'non-metropolitan' have been defined by postcodes – the research team acknowledges the perimetropolitan areas around Sydney and Adelaide but analysis of these regions was beyond the scope of this AHURI project. Analysis of the LDS and social survey data was informed by a literature review of Australian and international contexts. All analysis is at the level of the different income-support categories and by State.

1.3 The User Group

A User Group was established and included two representatives from the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services in Canberra and one representative from both the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations in Canberra, and the NSW Department of Housing in Sydney. The purpose of this Group was to familiarise these experts with the project, for them to provide comment on the overall research process and review the draft survey materials and AHURI reports. Overall, this User Group was very policy-oriented and provided relevant and direct links to policy application of the research findings.

1.4 The Report Structure

This Final Report consists of seven parts. First, the introduction has set the general research aims and methodology for the study. Second, Australian and international literature on migration and low-income migration is reviewed. The third section, data from the Department of Family and Community Services' Longitudinal Data Set are presented to establish recent pan-Australian movement patterns of income-support recipients. This illustrates the magnitude of the migration phenomenon and how it varies by category of income-support recipient and by State and Territory. It is purely descriptive and offered for contextual framing and background data. Fourth, the results from the social survey conducted are presented, in aggregated form and then by income-support category and State for each of the research aims presented above. The fifth section compares the results of the two complementary AHURI projects, migration to and out of the cities at the level of conclusion. A sixth section considers the broad policy implications of the in-migration phenomenon based on the results of the entire study. Finally, the last section of this Report consists of concluding remarks.

2 THE LITERATURE¹

This part of the report is in three sections. First, the changing nature of the relationships between cities and their hinterlands are sketched to provide a context for interpreting population movements. Second, recent literature on non-metropolitan to metropolitan migration is reviewed. Third, factors influencing the mobility decisions of low-income earners are addressed. Some of the material presented in the section also appears in previous AHURI reports conducted by this same research team (Marshall et al. 2002a and Murphy et al. 2002). This information provides a contextual framework for both this study and AHURI 70066:Welfare Outcomes of Migration of Low-Income Earners From Metropolitan to Non-Metropolitan Australia and rather than rewriting the same information in a different way, the research team has decided to present the material in a very similar manner for both studies.

2.1 City-Hinterland Relationships

There are various ways of structuring a sketch history of the relationship between Australia's primate cities² and their hinterlands since mid-twentieth century. Three phases since the Second World War may be identified: the long economic boom of the 1950s and 60s; the period of economic restructuring of the 1970s and 80s; and the sustained period of economic growth after the severe 1991 recession.

The 1950s and 60s: post-WWII industrialisation and the 'long economic boom'

Large city growth compared with smaller cities and towns and rural areas accelerated after the Second World War as the Australian manufacturing sector grew rapidly. This expansion was based on strong increases in business and household demand during the long economic boom of the 1950s and 1960s and high levels of tariff protection from imports (Logan et al., 1981). Immigration, which ran at high levels in that period, largely favoured the cities, where jobs in the factories and the lower echelons of the service economy were booming (Burnley, 1974). The metropolitan cities that particularly attracted immigrants were Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Adelaide. Secondary industrial cities also attracted immigrants: Wollongong in New South Wales, the Latrobe Valley complex and Geelong in Victoria and Whyalla in South Australia.

At the same time, job loss in the rural economy was accelerating due to increased use of machinery in place of labour. There was also increasing realisation on the part of many younger people and their parents that their financial prospects were better in the cities. Resulting rural-urban drift produced a political response in the 'decentralisation' policies of the 1960s. This was partly because it was felt that rural-urban migration was significantly increasing metropolitan growth. This was not the case in NSW nor Victoria for rural-urban migration, although important, was only a small fraction of Sydney's and Melbourne's growth.

¹ Authors of Section include: Nancy Marshall, Peter Murphy, Rae Dufty, Ian Burnley, and Graeme Hugo.

² The Australian settlement system, on a State-by-State basis, has a pronounced level of what geographers call 'metropolitan primacy' (Rose, 1966). This means that the largest cities in the system, in the Australian case the State capitals, are very much larger than the next largest centres in the respective States. In NSW, Sydney at 4.2 million people represents around 61 percent of the State's population. High levels of primacy also characterize Victoria, WA and SA. Exceptions are Queensland, where there are a series of large towns up the coast, partly because Brisbane is eccentrically located in the State's southeast corner, Tasmania and the Northern Territory where in each case there are two large towns, but not much else.

Small town decline, centres with populations less than 5000, was in fact initiated in the 1950s and 60s by a combination of factors (Henshall, Hansen 1988). Road improvements, increased car ownership and growth of the larger regional centres combined to encourage farmers and residents of small towns and villages to bypass those places to shop and access services in the regional cities. In some instances the small town declines began before the First World War, or in the 1920s.³

At the same time, metropolitan affluence produced by the long economic boom of the 1950s and 1960s produced benefits for rural and regional Australia. As well as increased demand for food and fibre products there were notable increases in domestic tourism in a period when overseas travel for recreational purposes was still very much the province of the rich (Murphy 1992). Building on established coastal and near-metropolitan districts, booming car ownership, disposable income and leisure time combined to widen the geographic range of domestic tourism and increase its numbers overall. This was a period of no frills, weekender homes and also the nucleus of coastal sprawl (Murphy 1977). The sprawl is still there but the weekender homes of today are more likely to be designer homes or units because building regulations are much tighter, many people have a lot more money to spend and the general demography of the residents has changed.

One aspect of change in non-metropolitan areas themselves that further enhanced the attraction of metropolitan interest during this period was a contraction in the dairy industry in remote areas on the north and south coasts of NSW and in Victoria's Gippsland (Nelson 1968). As farmers left the land, a lot of cheap, isolated farmland provided footholds for alternative-lifestylers from the early 1970s, most publicly visible in northern NSW (Munro-Clark 1986). Whilst small scale in the overall spectrum of non-metropolitan change these bridgeheads of counter-culture settlement remain the focal point for alternative lifestyle settlers today.

The 1970s and 1980s: economic restructuring and first phase population turnaround

What portended to be a major demographic shift was identified in the mid-1970s. This was the so-called 'population turnaround' (Champion 1989, Hugo 1994). It refers to the fact that non-metropolitan areas were attracting increased shares of national population growth and the shares of State population contained in the capitals were contracting. This historic transformation of the demographic balance between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas was heralded as signalling a market-driven resurgence of non-metropolitan areas as places in which to live and work. Since the 1970s, more than one million people left the five mainland capitals for smaller places with 450,000 leaving Sydney alone (Burnley and Murphy 2002).

In the 1970s, de-industrialisation and restructuring, driven by global economic processes and reinforced by decreased tariff protection from 1975, were the buzzwords in academic, public policy and media circles. The early 1980s, however, marked another shift in discourses around urban and regional development with the term globalisation entering academic and popular parlance. From the early 1980s notions of

³ Loss of population from rural areas also took place in the 1920s when commodity prices were low and people were forced off the land during the Great Depression. Despite this, however, 'there was actually a slackening and short term reversal of the longer term trend toward urbanisation in Australia during the Depression when the nation's rural population reached a pre-War peak' (Hugo and Bell 1998, 107).

'global cities' took hold and it was realised that a new round of capitalist accumulation was in full swing and that its natural home was once more the larger cities. Paralleling this it was noted that the population turnaround had spatially contracted (Hugo 1994). This did not mean that fewer people were leaving the cities - in fact the strongest net internal migration losses to metropolitan Sydney and Melbourne occurred between 1986-1991 – rather, the cities were more than making up for losses through internal migration by gains from immigration and natural increase (Burnley and Murphy 2002). Brisbane and Perth also benefited from internal migration from Sydney and Melbourne, and this process continues.

Since the early 1990s: second phase population turnaround

Despite these trends a second population turnaround appears to be in evidence today. Over the 1991-1996 intercensal period, 21,693 more persons left Australia's six state capital cities to live in non-metropolitan areas than moved into the cities from those areas. Table 1 shows however, that only in Sydney, and to a lesser extent Melbourne, were there net migration losses. The other state capitals received small net gains. In Table 1, negative figures indicate that more people were moving out of the metropolitan areas than moving into them. The Table also shows that the net losses in Sydney and Melbourne are a longstanding feature. However, it is important to point out that these net migration figures are only the tip of the iceberg of much larger inflows and outflows from the capital cities. The net migration losses in volume in Sydney were less during 1991-1996 than between 1986-1991 and almost certainly fell much further between 1996-2001.⁴

Table 1: Net Intrastate Migration Between Capital Cities and Rest of State, 1966-1971 to 1991-1996

	New South Wales	Victoria
1966-71	-5,784	20,998
1971-76	-22,429	-5,865
1976-81	-34,045	-18,514
1981-86	-26,652	-26,481
1986-91	-67,348	-29,118
1991-96	-33,059	-4,264
	Queensland	South Australia
1966-71	13,456	9,362
1971-76	6,718	5,900
1976-81	-2,481	2,375
1981-86	-9,811	1,651
1986-91	-3,035	3,902
1991-96	-1,889	4,815

⁴ This includes not only those moving to and from non-metropolitan NSW, but also those to and from other parts of Australia.

	Western Australia	Tasmania
1966-71	15,187	3,396
1971-76	15,881	3,370
1976-81	6,722	-56
1981-86	7,347	na
1986-91	4,576	3,731
1991-96	6,534	2,982

Source: Bell and Hugo, 2000, 96

There is considerable evidence, much of it ad hoc and as yet under-researched, of a new round of spillover effects from metropolitan to non-metropolitan regions. The benefits of growth created in the big cities in the 1980s and 90s have for some time been translated into new growth impulses in some non-metropolitan regions. These benefits are of two kinds: those that involve metropolitan demand for non-metropolitan resources and those that involve people relocating from metropolitan to non-metropolitan settings. People are still leaving the cities in significant numbers despite the demographic balance having shifted back to the cities. Indeed, whilst the numbers fluctuate, more people moved out of Sydney to non-metropolitan NSW in the intercensal period, 1991 to 1996, than moved out in any other five-year period from 1971 to 1986 (Burnley and Murphy 2002). However, between 1996 and 2001, the out-migration slowed and the population retention rate in metropolitan Sydney rose. This increase in population retention in Sydney (and Melbourne) resulted from favourable labour market conditions and ease of finance for house purchase, despite price inflation, because of low interest rates.

2.2 Migration of Low Income Earners

Internal migration research and theory development has been reluctant to examine issues of the socio-economic effects of population movement and indeed the class dimensions of mobility generally. Research has focused on describing and predicting the spatial patterning of movement, the age, gender, birthplace, labour force and education characteristics of movers and the macro and micro economic determinants of that movement (Marshall et al. 2002a). Much is known about all of these areas in the Australian context (e.g. see Rowland 1979; Bell 1992, 1995; Bell and Cooper 1995; Bell and Maher 1995; Bell and Hugo 2000; Jarvie 1985, 1989a, 1989b; Salt 1992) but work on the impacts of movement, the factors that are weighed by movers in their relocation decisions and the social policy implications remains limited.

As previously noted by this research team (Marshall et al. 2002a), in the United States there is growing recognition of the significance of migration of the poor as an influence upon the level and spatial distribution of rural poverty. It has been convincingly demonstrated that the poor, less educated and least skilled are under-represented among the people leaving depressed rural areas (Cromartie 1993, Garkovich 1989, Lichter et al. 1994). Rodgers and Rodgers (1997) demonstrate that rural to urban migration in the United States resulted in permanent increases in real earnings of the migrants themselves. Wenk and Hardesty (1953) investigated the effect of rural to urban migration on poverty status of youth in the USA and found that such migration reduced the time spent in poverty for women but the effects were not statistically significant for men.

Again, as reported by the research team in Marshall et al. (2002a), in Australia there has been only limited examination of migration and income effects. The major work has been by Wulff and Bell (1997) based on the 1991 Population Census internal migration data and the 1992 ABS Family Survey and examines the migration patterns of low-income groups. This had a number of important findings including the fact that persons receiving unemployment benefits and sole parent pensions have higher mobility than those in paid work. They found that spatial patterns of net migration gain and loss differed markedly between employed workers and the unemployed, that there were net out-movements of low-income groups from Sydney and Melbourne and net gains in many, non-metropolitan regions. Somewhat earlier Hugo (1989a 1989b) advanced the 'welfare-led' hypothesis to assist in the explanation of counter-urbanisation in Australia. This suggests that a significant component of population growth in Australian non-metropolitan areas is due to the in-migration and retention of low-income groups. An important element in this movement is that transfer payments from government are equally available across the entire nation and portable, and an attraction to move is the cheaper cost of living, including cheaper housing. This hypothesis has been developed by Hugo and Bell (1998). The poverty/welfare-led hypothesis should not, however, be seen purely in terms of 'economic-push', since there is undoubtedly a contingent of people on low incomes or reliant upon transfer payments who decide to relocate to a congenial environment in non-metropolitan areas for amenity reasons.

With regard to non-metropolitan to metropolitan migration flows, Renkow and Hoover (2000) advocate that rural-urban population dynamics are fundamentally due to the economic restructuring changes, mentioned earlier, and hence due to spatial redistribution of employment opportunities. Many theories of migration follow this structural interpretation and are based on the belief that the 'work-ready' population moves in search of employment opportunities (Bell 1995). Flood (1992) agrees that this is especially true for longer distance moves.

As both Flood (1992) and Morrow (2000a) point out however, theories of migration, that emphasise labour market aspects of migration, are of limited use in explaining the migration of welfare recipients. Historically, the Australian population redistributed itself around the nation in response to work opportunities. In more recent times, the role of labour markets has declined but is most useful for explaining migration to the major metropolitan and economic centres amongst the young or those who are work-ready (those on Newstart, Mature Aged benefit schemes, some Sole Parenting payments and fewer Disability pensions). For others, however, (people with low-income jobs or not working at all and retirees), alternative motivations must be considered.

In the literature, a gender dimension also emerges as a factor in internal mobility. In the Australian context, Flood (1992, 46) noted that "young women aged 15-24 moved within states slightly more often than young men, because of the greater numbers moving from the country to the city". Though lacking detail this is in keeping with international research into gender as a factor encouraging rural-urban migration. Of relevance here is Dalström's (1996) research investigating the migration of young women from rural areas in northern Scandinavia. She found that young rural women seem to be "groundbreaking in the sense that they have ambitions for life very different from that of their mothers" (Dalström 1996, 269). She noted that many girls planned to study and thereby enter occupations requiring high qualifications; they were prepared to move in order to achieve this. The young rural men interviewed appeared to be more traditional and less flexible with many of them willing to stay in rural areas and continue

in the footsteps of their fathers. However as a consequence of these decisions the men were more prone to being unemployed. Dalström (1996) puts forward the explanation that it was easier to live this kind of life in rural areas without being socially marginalised, since these areas have strong traditions of combining jobs and of seasonal variations in jobs and workloads. Thus, to be unemployed for a while does not always bring as strong a stigma as unemployment might to people in urban areas (Dalström 1996). Despite this, Dalström (1996, 270) concludes that “the increasing cultural gap between [young] men and women in rural areas illustrates a risk that the young men may be left behind”, i.e. marginalised. Meanwhile, young women’s marginalisation in rural areas prompts them to make much sounder long-term employment decisions than their male counterparts.

Deconstructed to their most fundamental elements, the ‘regional restructuring’ versus ‘deconcentration’ arguments come down to whether the internal mobility trends of the population are attributable to larger, structural forces that individuals have no control over (e.g. economic restructuring) or simply to personal choices (e.g. moving for the environmental amenity of coastal areas or the ‘bright lights’ of the city). Of course the historical situation has been more complex than what has been presented but it is important to be cautious of the dominance of either explanation. It is true that structural explanations of change have become relatively out of date since the crisis in Fordism, although Hugo’s and Bell’s (1998, 128) concern over the neglect of the class dimension in internal migration research should also be noted as “part of this neglect is [due to] the limited amount of attention which had been devoted to consideration of migration of the poor and its consequences”. The social survey aspect of this project and previous work by this research team follows this idea and sheds light on migration factors, influences, and movers’ perceptions of their well-being before and after moving from country areas into cities.

2.3 Migration From Non-Metropolitan to Metropolitan Australia

Historically, Australian cities have tended to dominate non-metropolitan regions and as a result fuelled the rural-urban drift. It should be noted that out-migration to metropolitan cities does take place from population turnaround areas to metropolitan regions, especially at younger ages. This is particularly the case on the NSW North and South Coasts, in east Gippsland Victoria, the Murray Valley and Victor Harbor in SA and in the southwest of WA. In the 1990s, this out-migration increased in coastal NSW and in eastern Victoria. Cohort effects were almost certainly involved: persons born to parents who had migrated to population turnaround localities, and a generation earlier who were now entering the labour force. The population turnaround involved net migration gains – there were always migration flows from the turnaround places to the metropolitan cities.

The longer-term causes of rural depopulation range from technological change, seasonal factors and economic restructuring which have resulted in reduced employment opportunities in non-metropolitan areas and the withdrawal of private and public services (Nugent 1998; McKenzie 1994, 1996). Unfortunately, as McKenzie (1996, 205) points out, “while structural and technological changes triggered rural depopulation, in many cases this initial population decline has created a cumulative effect” often resulting in further decline in service demand, reductions in employment opportunities and further out-migration. Perhaps the most significant factor for rural depopulation in Australia has, however, been the accelerated trend of restructuring in the Australian economy over the last 30 years as earlier discussed.

The far-reaching impacts of change were well encapsulated by Burke (1996, 103).

The economic and social transformations, such as the economic rationalism and globalisation processes ... impact on people's lives by affecting their income and wealth (for most people held in the form of housing), their confidence in the future, aspirations for self and family, patterns of consumption and lifestyle choices. Changes in these societal processes then overflow into how people see and use space. The degree, form and direction of household and personal mobility are in part outcomes of social and economic transformations.

Population movements between non-metropolitan and metropolitan Australia are by no means homogenous. The internal migration flows in New South Wales and South Australia are very different in volume and direction of flow. As the literature indicates, people also move for a variety of reasons as diverse as employment, economic, personal lifecycle, environmental and broader social factors. There may be 'push' considerations in the non-metropolitan locations that are perceived to be significant enough to influence individuals' relocation decisions. These may include such factors as decreased services and facilities in a region, reduced employment opportunities and feelings of isolation. Alternatively, there may be strong 'pull' factors to the cities which could include increased employment opportunities, connections to family and friends and increased education opportunities. Individual characteristics and the reasons as to *why* people are moving from a more detailed, personal level than already documented in this section are conjectured and discussed below. The following factors have been identified throughout the literature as increasing an individual's or a household's propensity and frequency of mobility.

Age/lifecycle factors

Rowland (1979, 5) identified the 'popular stereotypes' of an "uncompensated exodus of young people" from country districts in Australia. While this analysis of data collected in 1971 reflected the impact of the baby-boomers hitting the 'leaving the parental home' stage of the lifecycle, the trend of people aged between 15-24 moving from rural areas to metropolitan capitals has continued (Nugent 1998; McKenzie 1996; Bell and Hugo 2000; Culpin et al. 2000). According to Bell (1995, 1996) almost all non-metropolitan regions of Australia lose younger adults aged 15-24 to the large metropolitan areas, even those coastal regions experiencing rapid population growth. Bell suggested that these young people are chasing the jobs concentrated in larger economic centres, and the typically higher wages that go with them. Besides the obvious employment opportunities, younger people often move to the cities for the educational (particularly tertiary) opportunities that exist there. The other documented reason why youth move to the cities are the 'bright lights' and increased social activities on offer. Contrary to this position, Burnley and Murphy (2002) found that only one-fifth of the out-movers aged 15-24 in the section of NSW west of the Dividing Range actually moved to Sydney. Many moved to non-metropolitan coastal NSW or interstate. In fact, while the population turnaround dominated the policy attention in the 1980s and 1990s, the process and settlement outcomes were spatially selective. In NSW, net migration losses, especially in the age range 15-24, occurred in many areas west of the Dividing Range, particularly in the Northern Tablelands and central west of NSW; the Monaro region; the Mallee region of north western Victoria; the Eyre Peninsula of South Australia, and the great

northern region of WA. In some of these areas there were net migration losses in the mature workforce age ranges as well.

Flood (1992) found that for about half of the statistical regions in Australia the net movement of those aged 15-24 was in the opposite direction to other age groups. "Young people are moving to the inner cities, largely from the country, while other age groups are moving outward" (Flood 1992, 45). The other age group that experiences migration flows into the city are the elderly. Whilst the 'young old' including early retirees, are often moving out of cities to amenity and coastal areas, the 'old old' (those aged 75 and over) have often moved in the other direction (Vintila 2001, Rowland 1979) into the cities. This may occur when more specialised health services are required, when a partner dies and when the elderly just want to move closer to family and their support network.

Marital status also affected movement rates. Flood's research established that divorced or separated people had annual movement rates more than twice those of married people; while two-income families had a particularly low mobility rate (1992, 46-47). Morrow (2000b) observed that single parent households were more likely to move to coastal and other high environmental amenity areas which had access to services and a lower, overall cost of living. Although, he also found that in general these households usually faced an increase in rents paid with the move they made. Burnley and Murphy (forthcoming) have also documented this process.

Moves by other age groups is very dependent on personal lifecycle stage and specific circumstances. Considerations for all age groups include changes in relationship status, employment termination and the availability of (often public) housing.

Employment factors

As discussed, in Australia, there have been great structural changes to the economic system. From this and major technological and sociological shifts, what exists is a decrease in agricultural jobs and an increase in the importance of major metropolitan areas, particularly Sydney, on the global economic scene. New Economy jobs (those in high technology and professional service industries as opposed to those in traditional manufacturing and resource-based industries) are based in the cities or in their fringe locations. For any 'work-ready' individual seeking employment this is a major consideration for moving from non-metropolitan into metro areas.

Due to the use of labour market theory in explaining internal migration patterns, the unemployed population has probably had the most research focus. Dockery (2000) identified that persons receiving unemployment related benefits are more likely than other income-support recipients to change location and that the most mobile of the unemployed are young, single persons living in metropolitan rental accommodation. Dockery's findings also indicated that mobility appeared to decline with duration of unemployment, and that less mobile persons were less likely to exit from unemployment.

Morrow's (2000b) study found that unemployment beneficiaries have very different migration behaviour to the single parent and disability pension client groups. He found that the areas of high net loss for this group was the coastal areas of eastern Australia and regional industrial centres, while the areas of gain were concentrated in the capital cities (Morrow 2000b). As Morrow explains "the net effect contradicts several other studies which suggest that the unemployed leave capital cities and move to coastal

areas and other non-metropolitan regions” (Morrow 2000b, 37). Overall, the study suggests that the unemployed were moving to take advantage of the internationally competitive jobs available in the capital cities. Wulff and Bell (1997) and Morrow (2000b) both note that the structure of Australia’s current unemployment program also influences the mobility of the unemployed. Both identified that because the “Unemployment Benefits program ... requires clients to actively search for work and to take steps to improve their labour market circumstance” the process of moving around in search of work is strongly encouraged (Morrow 2000b, 5).

Housing factors

According to Wulff and Newton (1996, 437) “a signal of potential social justice concern is the frequency with which private renters move”. While many will move voluntarily, private renters, particularly those on low-incomes, are more vulnerable to forced moves because of decisions made by their landlords outside of their control. Private renters were also found by the National Housing Strategy to be considerably more likely to experience housing stress (that is they outlay more than 30 per cent of their income on rent) than homeowners or public renters (Wulff and Newton 1996). Many low-income earners move as a result of the availability of public housing for which they have been waiting. In the case of the aged or more infirm requiring housing with special accommodation and care requirements such as nursing homes or hostels, the availability of appropriate housing often forces individuals into the metropolitan areas.

Services and facilities factors

Governments have cut back services and facilities. Private businesses have also rationalised and consolidated, both resulting in the general services in rural or country areas being contracted. After the initial entrenchment occurs, the negative multiplier effect sees the reduction of further support services and facilities as people leave these non-metro areas. The effects ‘snowball’ and fewer shops, restaurants, entertainment facilities and commercial ventures survive the population loss. It is well documented in the literature that beyond the human loss, overall, the social infrastructure and social capital is reduced. Whilst these inconveniences and fewer opportunities may not drive a person out of the country area, they are definitely a factor in someone’s sense of well-being (Marshall et al. 2002a).

The internal migration pattern of disability support pension recipients is similar to that of low-income households more broadly (Morrow 2000a). One of the biggest issues faced by those with a disability in rural areas is access to support and services. As Gething’s (1997) study revealed people with disabilities living in remote and rural areas experience ‘double disadvantage’ in regard to receipt of services. While experiencing similar disadvantages to other remote and rural dwellers (as compared with their metropolitan counterparts), the disadvantages experienced by the disabled were compounded by those associated with living in an environment which does not cater to the needs of people with disabilities (Gething 1997).

Welfare/low income factors

Research in Australia is beginning to identify that internal migration is a major contributor to emerging locational inequalities, with disadvantaged groups playing an increasingly significant role in the redistribution of Australia’s population (Holmes et al 2002, 301). Hugo and Bell (1998) argue that Australian research has essentially ignored poverty- or welfare-led explanations. While there has been a relative dearth of work in the field, the last ten to fifteen years has produced some research on the

relationship of low-income households and their relatively high mobility. For example the National Housing Strategy (1992), through the 'Housing and Location Choice Survey' (HALCS) found that "the access difficulties of older single people, sole parents and couples with young children were more than for the population as a whole, and were exacerbated by location, gender and means of transport" (NHS 1992, xii). Similarly, Wulff and Bell (1997, 5) have also made a significant contribution, their study revealing "that social security recipients are more mobile than commonly realised and more mobile than the general population". They also identified that as a consequence of two decades of sustained economic and social change, the fastest growing groups within the social security system were now people of working age: the unemployed and sole parent pensioners.

2.4 Summary

For many individuals and families, migration provides a means to pursue opportunities. For others it is a product of necessity, imposed by events or circumstances beyond their control. The circumstances surrounding a move often determine how successful its long-term outcome will be. As Bell (1996, 27) points out "it is those who have the least choice over their movements who suffer the greatest disadvantage". 'Involuntary moves' and 'speculative moves' are of particular concern. An involuntary move (e.g. eviction, domestic violence etc.) usually results in the mover making hurried and therefore less informed choices. This in turn usually results in a higher frequency of moves for that household which only adds to the financial and personal strains being experienced (Wulff and Newton 1996, Bell 1996). Speculative migration is most common amongst the unemployed. For some this can also result in poor decisions being made, as the information gathered from a distance is not always reliable or comprehensive (Bell 1996).

No matter what the blend of choice and compulsion, migration involves considerable economic and psychological costs (Bell 1996). Moving is expensive which increases the financial strains on some households. Financial costs include fees and charges associated with the sale and purchase of a dwelling, or of securing a new property to rent, as well as the many other costs involved in establishing life and livelihood in a new residential environment. Moving can also be emotionally unsettling, making it very difficult for low-income families to establish stable ties and networks in their communities. Frequent moving (especially by 'churners' who move in and out of rural and metropolitan areas regularly) may also undermine the effectiveness of community-based programs and employment training (as a result of the negative multiplier effects and the possibility of a constantly changing social structure and cohesion in a community) which are intended to improve peoples' economic opportunities.

For those on low incomes or welfare payments, moving to metropolitan areas represents major change. Those moving face the increased probability of falling into a cycle of increasing poverty or even homelessness, due to higher living costs, particularly if they have trouble finding work in the first few months. McCaughey (1992) observed that while there were numerous and different paths into homelessness most have moved around a lot, often in search of low-skill, casual jobs (they tended to have a very marginal attachment to the workforce) or because of a series of unstable relationships.

Similarly, frequent changes of address make it challenging to get consistent information about community services, employment opportunities, medical and health care in new areas. As a consequence of losing a local network social isolation may result, which may lower self-esteem particularly among young people (Budge 1996, Wulff and Bell 1997, Bell 1996).

A relatively new data source has been developed to shed light on some of these complex issues and that of migration patterns into the capital cities. The Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services' Longitudinal Data Set has great potential for spatial migration analysis of income-support recipients as partly demonstrated by Morrow (2000a, and 2000b) and Marshall et al. (2002). The social survey conducted for this research also helps complete the picture of low-income or income support migration patterns.

3 THE LONGITUDINAL DATA SET FINDINGS

This section involves the presentation and analysis of the relocation trends of income-support recipients drawn from FaCS' LDS covering moves made by some of their clients between December 1999 and December 2000. The compilation of these tables required operational definitions of metropolitan and non-metropolitan postcodes for each of the Australian States and Territories. This task was accomplished by the Key Centre for Social Applications in GIS, University of Adelaide with assistance from FaCS and its LDS operational descriptions of the States and Territories.

The following tables provide background data on the migration flows between non-metropolitan and city areas and by relating the scale of flows to the size of origin and destination populations of income-support recipients. For ease of reading, NSW and SA have been highlighted as the States on which the social survey focuses. Any minor inconsistencies in the table totals are due to rounding. In themselves the numbers do not mean much other than to support the contention that there are many people involved in each of the categories. The data is descriptive with the intent to provide a context for better understanding low-income migration patterns. Within Australia, 53,990 income-support recipients moved in one year from non-metropolitan areas to metropolitan cities in 2000.

Table 2: Total Numbers of Income-Support Recipients for Non-Metropolitan, Metropolitan and State and Territory Regions

Income-Support Category	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Non-Metro Totals								
Unemployed	589	115,231	11,663	103,392	19,767	16879	63,991	31,382
Youth Unemployed	74	19,544	2,194	19,216	3,072	3359	10,709	5,791
Single Parents	684	87,902	4,166	69,952	13,124	9817	47,295	25,836
Disabled	724	127,860	3,403	85,621	20,548	16434	67,215	27,384
Aged Pension	1,949	355,481	3,752	222,914	59,052	36283	199,637	71,690
Totals	4,020	706,018	25,178	501,095	115,563	82772	388,847	162,083

Income-Support Category	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Metro Totals								
Unemployed	5,076	60,840	2,220	27,702	34,007	4,384	73,013	26,591
Youth Unemployed	914	6,324	444	5,032	5,410	939	8,605	4,097
Single Parents	4,599	44,796	1,343	17,235	20,158	2,391	41,754	15,842
Disabled	5,209	71,938	1,395	25,322	37,419	4,515	74,599	22,232
Aged Pension	13,650	232,852	1,660	72,317	108,246	11,404	250,511	73,720
Totals	29,448	416,750	7,062	147,608	205,240	23,633	448,482	142,482

State/Territory Totals	33,468	1,122,768	32,240	648,703	320,803	106,405	837,329	304,565
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Source: FaCS 2001

Table 3 indicates the numbers of FaCS income-support recipients who lived in non-metropolitan and metropolitan areas within each Australian State and Territory in December 2000. The total figures are also given. These numbers are presented only for context in this section of the Report.

Table 3: Movers From Non-Metropolitan to Metropolitan Areas for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category

Income-Support Category	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Unemployed	156	4,011	519	4,592	2,151	649	4,439	2,986
Youth Unemployed	47	874	107	1,409	717	228	1,173	830
Single Parents	102	2,660	226	2,744	1,337	394	2,826	1,787
Disabled	69	2,061	167	2,042	992	358	2,036	1,126
Aged Pension	69	1,932	67	1,525	937	236	2,330	1,079
Totals	443	11,538	1,086	12,312	6,134	1,865	12,804	7,808

Source: FaCS 2001

Table 4 shows the numbers of recipients, by FaCS income-support payment categories, who moved from non-metropolitan to metropolitan areas within each Australian State and Territory. Not surprisingly, NSW, Queensland and Victoria have the greatest numbers of intrastate movers from the country into the metropolitan areas. Just over 11,500 and 6,100 income-support recipients left non-metropolitan NSW and SA and moved into Sydney and Adelaide, respectively.

Table 4: Relative Percentages of Movers for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category

Income-Support Category	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Unemployed	35%	35%	48%	37%	35%	35%	35%	38%
Youth Unemployed	11%	8%	10%	11%	12%	12%	9%	11%
Single Parents	23%	23%	21%	22%	22%	21%	22%	23%
Disabled	16%	18%	15%	17%	16%	19%	16%	14%
Aged Pension	16%	17%	6%	12%	15%	13%	18%	14%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: FaCS 2001

Table 4 shows the proportions of movers by income-support category to give a better sense of how the rural outflows varied across Australia.

- Nearly half of all non-metro to metro income-support recipient movers in the Northern Territory were those on Unemployment benefits. This is the highest percentage category of any State or Territory.
- Surprisingly, the Youth Unemployed represented a lower percentage of movers into the cities in NSW and Victoria than the other States and Territories, although the actual numbers of movers are larger. In NSW, this may be explained by the fact that several regional, inland cities exist, giving the younger unemployed 'urban' choices other than Sydney.

- The relative percentages of Single Parents and Disability Support Pensioners moving from non-metropolitan to metropolitan areas were essentially equal in all States and Territories.
- As a relative percentage, Aged Pensioners in the Northern Territory were less likely to move into the metropolitan area of that State (i.e. Darwin) than are their counterparts in the other States and Territories likely to move into their respective large cities.
- All but the NT and VIC had the same order of relative percentages of income-support recipients moving into the city areas i.e., the highest percentage of movers are the Unemployed, followed by Single Parents, Disabled and Aged Pensioners and then the Youth Unemployed.
- The highest percentage of movers in all States and Territories were the Unemployed followed by Single Parents.

Table 5: Net Flows to Metropolitan Areas for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category

Income-Support Category	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Unemployed	60	-855	-181	-438	287	-31	-366	-53
Youth Unemployed	31	-126	-15	-13	232	-5	164	19
Single Parents	-10	-676	-26	-331	136	38	-308	-116
Disabled	17	-805	1	-483	-139	64	-693	-243
Aged Pension	-9	-2,128	-19	-816	-62	41	-1,236	-452
Totals	89	-4,590	-240	-2,081	454	107	-2,439	-845

Source: FaCS 2001

Table 5 shows net flows (movements out of the non-metropolitan areas minus movements into the non-metro areas) by payment category for each State and Territory. That is, positive figures in this chart denote population gain to the cities – negative figures indicate the gain in income-support population to non-metropolitan areas. Nationally, per annum, as represented in the year 2000, approximately 9,500 more income-support recipients were leaving the city areas than moved into them.

- In total, in NSW, NT, QLD, VIC and WA, there were more income-support recipients moving out of the cities to country areas than moving into their respective metropolitan centres. This, of course, includes more recipients moving out of Sydney and Melbourne than moving into these cities.
- The States of NSW and QLD lost population from their city areas to the non-metropolitan areas from *all* income-support categories. The NT lost population from all but the Disabled income-support category – Western Australia and Victoria lost population from all but the Youth Unemployment category. Hence, these States and Territory were similar in their income-support migration flows and net loss from their metropolitan areas.
- The ACT and SA were the only two of the States and Territories that had a net gain of their Unemployed in the larger cities.

- The metropolitan areas of Canberra, Adelaide and Melbourne experienced net gains in their Youth Unemployed category. The other States and the NT are losing more of their young unemployed to the non-metropolitan areas than are moving into their cities although the actual numbers are small. Interestingly, Melbourne and Sydney as the two largest cities in the country, differed in retaining the Youth Unemployed – Melbourne was having net gains whilst Sydney experienced net losses of these income-support recipients.
- TAS and SA are the only two of the States and Territories that had a net gain of Single Parent income-support recipients in their metropolitan areas during this period.
- More Disability Support Payment clients were moving out of the cities (away from major health centres) than moving into them in all States and Territories but the ACT and TAS, where the numbers of movers were small.
- In all States and Territories but TAS, there were net losses of Aged Pensioners from metropolitan areas.

Table 6: Outflows From Non-Metropolitan Areas as Proportions of All Non-Metropolitan Recipients for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category.

Income-Support Category	ACT*	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Unemployed	26%	3%	4%	4%	11%	4%	7%	10%
Youth Unemployed	64%	4%	5%	7%	23%	7%	11%	14%
Single Parents	15%	3%	5%	4%	10%	4%	6%	7%
Disabled	10%	2%	5%	2%	5%	2%	3%	4%
Aged Pension	4%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Totals	11%	2%	4%	2%	5%	2%	3%	5%

Source: FaCS 2001

Caution should be used when looking at the ACT percentages due to the small numbers of recipients in this area.

Table 6 indicates outflows from non-metropolitan areas to the large cities as a percentage of the numbers of income-support recipients living in the country areas. These are regarded as out-migration (emission) rate indicators.

- Compared to the other States and Territories, the ACT, SA and WA experienced greater percentages of Unemployed and Youth Unemployed leaving the country areas as relative percentages of those residing in the non-metropolitan areas. Of particular note, nearly one-quarter of all Youth Unemployed in country SA moved into Adelaide – a comparatively high out-migration rate.
- Generally all States and Territories had a low, total emission rate for income-support recipients from the non-metropolitan areas.

Table 7: Inflows to Metropolitan Areas as Proportions of All Metropolitan Recipients for Each State and Territory by Income-Support Category

Income-Support Category	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Unemployed	3%	7%	23%	17%	6%	15%	6%	11%
Youth Unemployed	5%	14%	24%	28%	13%	24%	14%	20%
Single Parents	2%	6%	17%	16%	7%	16%	7%	11%
Disabled	1%	3%	12%	8%	3%	8%	3%	5%
Aged Pension	1%	1%	4%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Totals	2%	3%	15%	8%	3%	8%	3%	5%

Source: FaCS 2001

Table 7 indicates inflows from non-metropolitan areas to the cities as a percentage of the numbers of income-support recipients living in the metropolitan areas. These give an 'order of magnitude' as to what the impact may be in the local areas that experience changes. Features of this table include:

- NSW, SA and VIC had very similar inflow percentage rates in all categories of income-support.
- The NT had markedly higher percentages in all categories of income-support. The ACT had noticeable lower percentages and hence these movers had less of a local impact on the metropolitan area to which they move.

4 THE SOCIAL SURVEY

4.1 Methodology

Besides a literature search and the data presented from FaCS' Longitudinal Data Set, (both presented in earlier chapters of this report), a social survey was conducted of income-support recipients to determine the relative importance of certain factors in their residential location decisions and how their moves out of country NSW and SA into Sydney and Adelaide, respectively, affected their net welfare. The social survey in this project mirrored the one reported in AHURI project 70066: *Welfare Outcomes of Migration of Low-Income Earners From Metropolitan to Non-Metropolitan Australia*. This project was conducted by the same research team in 2001-2002.

The survey focused on income-support recipients (Aged Pensioners; Newstart, Youth Allowance and Mature Aged Pensioners – aggregated together as the Unemployed; Disability Support Pensioners; and Sole Parenting payment recipients) since these low-income earners are likely to most intensely feel the results of moving into cities. Operational definitions of these income-support recipients are included in Appendix 2.

The survey methodology assumed the completion of between 1000 and 2000 self-administered, mail-back questionnaires by income-support recipients who moved within the previous 12 months. A copy of the questionnaire is attached in Appendix 1. To achieve this number of returns, 7000 movers were selected from Centrelink's current database of its income-support clients. An expected response rate of 15-25 percent was based on FaCS' recent experience with client surveys and the team's previous AHURI study. The sample was stratified by income-support category. Postcodes used to define the survey boundaries of metropolitan Sydney and Adelaide and non-metropolitan NSW and SA are listed in Appendix 3 and are the same as those used in the team's previous project.

Centrelink was able to identify (name and address), for each income-support category, how many clients moved within a 12-month period from a non-metropolitan postcode to a metropolitan postcode. Although FaCS is responsible for payments made by Centrelink, it is Centrelink's database that provided the names and addresses of the survey sample. For privacy reasons, FaCS directed staff at Centrelink to sample its client base (as noted above) and organise the mailing process to potential respondents with a contracted, bonded firm. The research team designed the questionnaire, organised the overprint for a reply-paid envelope and printed of the package of mailout materials. Each 'mover' selected as part of the sample received a written subject information letter (as required by the UNSW and Adelaide University Ethics Committees), a questionnaire, and a reply-paid envelope for mailing back the survey. Participation in the survey process was completely voluntary.

The sample was drawn in such a way as to obtain sufficient returns for each income-support category from NSW and SA to enable reliable conclusions to be drawn from the data. Because of the relatively small numbers of movers from non-metropolitan SA to Adelaide, and variation in numbers of recipients moving in each of the categories in both NSW and SA, over-sampling in some categories was deemed necessary. In total, 4900 questionnaires were dispatched to NSW residents and 2100 sent to SA movers. Specific details of distribution are found in Appendix 4.

A reminder letter was sent to all 7000 income-support recipients in the sample to augment response rates. Survey packages were mailed out mid-January 2003 and collected until March 15, 2003. Completed questionnaires were returned to the Faculty of the Built Environment, UNSW. Because a FaCS-authorized logistics firm managed the mailout process to ensure confidentiality of its clients, the UNSW research team did not see the names or addresses of potential respondents unless questionnaires were returned with names and contact details for entry into an incentive draw prize of five \$100 cheques. This identifying information and entry into the draw was optional to ensure complete anonymity if a respondent so desired. When names and addresses were submitted, they were removed from the questionnaire and kept in a locked cabinet in a locked office at UNSW. Prize draw winners were sent a cheque by mail in March 2003. This additional income does not affect an individual's Centrelink payment, as advised by FaCS' legal department. Of the SA respondents, 86% included their name for the incentive prize draw, versus 75% of the NSW respondents. The completed, de-identified questionnaires were processed for entry into a computer statistical program by the research team. All names and addresses and valid questionnaires will be destroyed at the completion of the research program as required for ethics clearance.

The collection of questionnaires was closed on 15 March 2003. In total, 458 questionnaires were received from SA recipients (out of 2100 dispatched) giving a response rate of 22%. From NSW recipients, 1019 questionnaires were received (out of 4900 dispatched) giving a response rate of 21%. Overall, the combined survey response rate was 21%.

In addition, many phone calls from potential respondents were also fielded, 98 by UNSW staff and some by University of Adelaide staff. Many of these calls were from people who stated they had never lived in country NSW or SA and thereby they would not be sending in a questionnaire. Many others indicated that their move into the metropolitan area was only for a very short time (e.g. whilst receiving medical treatment, waiting for a house to be built, vacationing/respice) and did not feel they were 'movers' to the metropolitan area, as they had every intention of moving back to the non-metropolitan area in the very near future. Several others were very elderly people who said they were physically unable to fill in the questionnaire or carers of disabled individuals suggesting they would not be sending in their questionnaire either. However, some of the written comments on the returned questionnaires suggested that some of the respondents, if very elderly or infirm had someone help them complete the survey. Our research team and staff from FaCS were satisfied with the overall response rate given the population is a difficult one to survey. Potential respondents were recent movers and may have been less inclined to complete a personal questionnaire, or unable to fill out a questionnaire because of a disability, old age or literacy problems. There is no reason to believe that the respondents who did send in a questionnaire were different to that of the entire population of the income-support recipient movers. This is based on the fact that more than one-third of that base population were in fact surveyed. The most accurate comparison of the survey population compared to the entire income-support population would require a social profile of the latter through FaCS' Longitudinal Data Set, to which this project did not have access.

4.2 Approach to Analysis

The questionnaire was very similar to the one used in the research team's first AHURI project as is the presentation of the results in this section of the Report. The questionnaire consisted of the following sections in order of presentation: personal and employment details, residential location history, social and economic relocation considerations, housing indicators, and lifestyle and place satisfaction post-relocation.

Frequency counts for each question are presented in Appendix 3. This includes responses for all questions except for the last open-ended one asking for general comments. These answers have been recorded but, in totality, are not part of this report. The research team can provide these upon request, although a range of comments from this question is found throughout this section of the report. For illustrative purposes, these 'Quotable Quotes' depict the sentiments of most respondents and add a qualitative dimension to the statistics presented. They give a sense of the feelings and emotions surrounding respondents' stories about their moves.

The exploration of any survey data normally suggests many interrelationships between variables that may be examined by means of crosstabulations. Whilst the interpretive strategy for this report is to focus on comparative frequencies, crosstabulations that yield depth to understanding are presented. Crosstabulations have been categorised by 'income-support category' and all other questions, and 'state origin' and all other questions. Other crosstabulations were run to specifically target the research questions posed. Chi-square analysis was undertaken on key crosstabulations to determine the statistical significance of the findings. The Chi-Square test compares the observed and expected frequencies in each category to test either that all categories contain the same proportion of values or that each category contains a user-specified proportion of values. It indicates the extent to which the crosstabulated variables are independent, and the strength of the relationship. The significance level is based on the asymptotic distribution (Asymp. Sig.) of a test statistic typically when the dataset is large (such as this). Typically, a value of less than 0.05 is considered significant. A figure of .000 indicates a strong, direct relationship between the two variables. The research team made an a priori decision that a '*p*' Chi-Square value of <.05 will be this project's significance threshold. As such, these values are reported on and interpreted if there is particular reason to comment further on the bivariate relationship.

For all questions, unless otherwise stated, response rates have been calculated excluding non-responses and 'not applicable' answers. This provides the most relevant response pattern for each question. However, caution must be used where small denominators result which will inflate the relative importance of these answers. Intuitively, people are more keen to ensure that what is important to them is recorded than what is not important. Questions that offered respondents an opportunity to write in their own 'other' answer will always have an elevated importance attached to them. Naturally, if a respondent took the time to write in their own answer to an 'other' option, it would be very important to them.

For ease of reading, whilst 'very important' and 'important' nuances have been recorded independently for certain questions, the interpretation presented in the text is for combined totals (e.g., where respondents were asked to note the relative importance of a housing relocation factor on a Likert scale where there were very important, important, neutral, unimportant and very unimportant ratings to choose from, the categories have been collapsed into important, neutral and unimportant groupings).

This eases the interpretation of the figures. However, where significant findings exist, these are reported at a detailed level.

Where complex figures exist, notes for correct interpretation are provided. All percentages within the report have been rounded to the nearest whole percent. Where appropriate, a total sample population number (N) is given for figures – this is only possible for figures showing aggregate data. All other figures have several N values e.g. for figures indicating income-support responses, at least four N figures exist, more if several variables are included in one figure. The income-support recipient numbers and percentages do not include respondents who identified themselves as ‘not receiving any benefits at this time,’ who were ‘not sure’ of which category of benefit they were on or did not answer the income-support identifying question. Where the Unemployed are referred to in this section of the report, this category includes those unemployed receiving a Newstart, Youth or Mature Age Allowance benefit. Whilst each group was specifically sampled, case responses were too low to report with validity or confidence and so are reported collectively as Unemployed. The ‘work-ready’ population includes the Unemployed and Single Parents, again excluding those who were ‘not receiving any benefits at this time,’ who were ‘not sure’ of which category of benefit they were on or did not answer the income-support identifying question.

This section of the Report describes and interprets response patterns to questionnaire items in the context of the research aims, as mentioned in the Introduction, which were to:

- determine the factors, and the relative importance of those factors, that influence decisions by income-support recipients to move from non-metropolitan regions to cities, with particular reference to housing and employment considerations, and
- assess the extent to which movers perceive themselves to be ‘better off’ or ‘worse off’ after moving.
- determine the impact of relocation on ‘work ready’ income-support recipients.

Five key sections follow in this section of the chapter. The first highlights respondent characteristics. This is followed by three sections based on the above research questions. Each of these sections starts with a summary of the general findings in relation to that question. The discussion is then analysed in detail with charts, data and analysis for each component presented in three ways: data presented by aggregate numbers (which includes all respondents to any particular question); data presented by income-support category; and finally, by State, namely SA and NSW. The last section of this chapter presents an overall discussion of the findings.

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

This section presents a brief description of respondents in aggregate, by income-support category and by State. It covers personal and relocation details pre- and post-move. This material is presented here to provide the reader with a sense of who the survey respondents were without having to refer to a complete listing of their social characteristics found in Appendix 4.

Aggregate Characteristics

- At the time the sample was drawn from Centrelink, in NSW plus SA, approximately 1.5 million people (unemployed, disabled, single parents and aged pensioners) were receiving an Australian Government payment. This research surveyed 42% of NSW non-metropolitan to Sydney income-support movers and 34% of non-metropolitan SA to Adelaide movers between December 2001 and December 2002.
- Of the 1222 questionnaires returned, two-thirds were from NSW and one-third from SA.
- Of all questionnaire respondents, 59% were female and 41% male.
- Nearly one-quarter of all respondents were born outside of Australia. Of those respondents who were not born in Australia, 94% indicated they been in Australia for more than 10 years – 81% more than 20 years.
- Nearly 40% of all respondents moved from a small town.
- Approximately three-quarters of all respondents had previously lived in the metro area to which they moved. Approximately one-quarter were first-time movers to the city.
- Only 3% of all respondents indicated that the recent drought had influenced their decision to move.

Income-Support Recipient Characteristics

- Of the total income-support respondents 36% were Aged Pensioners, 22% Unemployed, 18% Single Parents and 24% were Disabled pensioners.
- Just over one-quarter of all Unemployed were aged 15-24 years, with another one-quarter aged 25-34.
- Not surprisingly, 92% of all Single Parents were female.
- Of all Single Parents, one-quarter were aged between 15-24 years.
- In all income-support categories except the Unemployed approximately two-thirds of respondents were from NSW, and one-third from SA. The Unemployed had a slightly higher representation than the other categories from SA – 41% were from that State and 59% percent were from NSW.
- Aged Pensioners had the lowest percentage of individuals born outside of Australia at 36%. Of those not born in Australia, 88% had lived in Australia for 20+ years.
- Seventy-nine percent of the Unemployed were born in Australia.

- Twenty-seven percent more Single Parents defined themselves as being a sole parent household with dependent child(ren) after relocating to the city than before.
- More Unemployed, by 13%, lived with a group of unrelated adults after moving to Sydney and Adelaide than did in non-metropolitan NSW and SA.
- Twenty-one percent of all Unemployed and 31% of Single Parents indicated they currently (in the cities) had some paid employment. Of the Unemployed, 71% worked less than 20 hours/week. Of the Single Parents 67% worked less than 20 hours/week.
- Twenty-two percent more Single Parents indicated they were the household's main income earner after moving to the city than before. This is consistent with the idea that relocation often occurs for this population after a relationship breakdown.
- Parents of the Unemployed decreased by 10% as the main income earner for this income-support category, suggesting that some of the Unemployed were moving away from their parents by moving into the cities.
- Just 4% more Aged Pensioners were living with their child who was the main income earner after moving than before.
- More Aged Pensioners had the greatest percentage moving from small towns (43%). Comparatively, fewer Aged Pensioners (12%) and Disabled (11%) moved from regional cities.
- Eleven percent of all Disabled had moved from the country to the city or vice versa more than eight times in their life. Just 4% of all Aged Pensioners had moved this often.

State Respondent Characteristics

- SA only had one survey respondent who had lived in Australia for less than 10 years.
- More respondents were part of a couple with one or more dependent children in non-metro areas than were after moving into the city. This was more pronounced for SA than NSW.
- Nearly half of all SA respondents had lived in the country for more than 10 years before moving into Adelaide. Comparatively, only 31% of NSW respondents had lived in non-metropolitan areas for that length of time before moving into Sydney.
- Given the prominence of regional cities in NSW, it is not surprising that a higher percentage of NSW respondents (39%) moved from large towns and regional cities than respondents from SA (29%). Higher percentages of SA respondents moved from villages and rural areas than did NSW respondents.
- When asked where they had spent most of their childhood 44% of NSW respondents noted Sydney, whilst 31% of SA respondents noted Adelaide.
- For those who moved into Sydney, 5% moved to the Central Business District, 21% to the inner city, 41% to the outer western suburbs, 18% to the northern suburbs, 13% to the outer southern suburbs and 2% to 'other' regions within the Sydney metro area.

- For those who moved into Adelaide, 7% moved to the Central Business District, 14% to the inner city, 27% to the north-eastern suburbs, 18% to the outer northern suburbs, 30% to the outer southern suburbs and 4% to 'other' regions within the Adelaide metro area.

RELOCATION DECISION FACTORS

Aim: to determine the factors, and the relative importance of those factors, that influence decisions by income-support recipients to move from non-metropolitan regions to cities, with particular reference to housing and employment considerations.

Summary:

Two major relocation factors were of particular interest to this study: expected job opportunities in the city and the associated housing costs.

Not surprisingly, the main reasons for moving varied depending on the category of income-support received. For the Unemployed the opportunity to find employment was by far the most considered relocation factor with 60% indicating this to be a very important consideration in their decision to move. For Single Parents the most important factor in deciding to move was also job opportunities, although other important factors included being closer to family and the education facilities in the country compared to those in the city. The most important relocation factor for the Disabled was their own health or that of a family member – housing costs, wanting to be closer to family and friends and the amount of public transportation were also very important factors for the Disabled. Finally, the most important relocation factor for Aged Pensioners was them wanting to be closer to family and friends, with 72% indicating this was a very important consideration. Retirement opportunities were relatively unimportant to this group, supporting the a priori thought that seniors were moving for pragmatic, often health- and family-related reasons, rather than for 'opportunity'.

With regard to housing issues, just 19% of respondents stated that housing cost was a very important consideration in their decision to move into Sydney or Adelaide. An equal percentage indicated that housing cost was not an important factor in their moving. When the idea is analysed, Single Parents had the highest percentage (31%) of those who noted housing cost was a very important factor in their decision to move. This factor was least important to Aged Pensioners (11%).

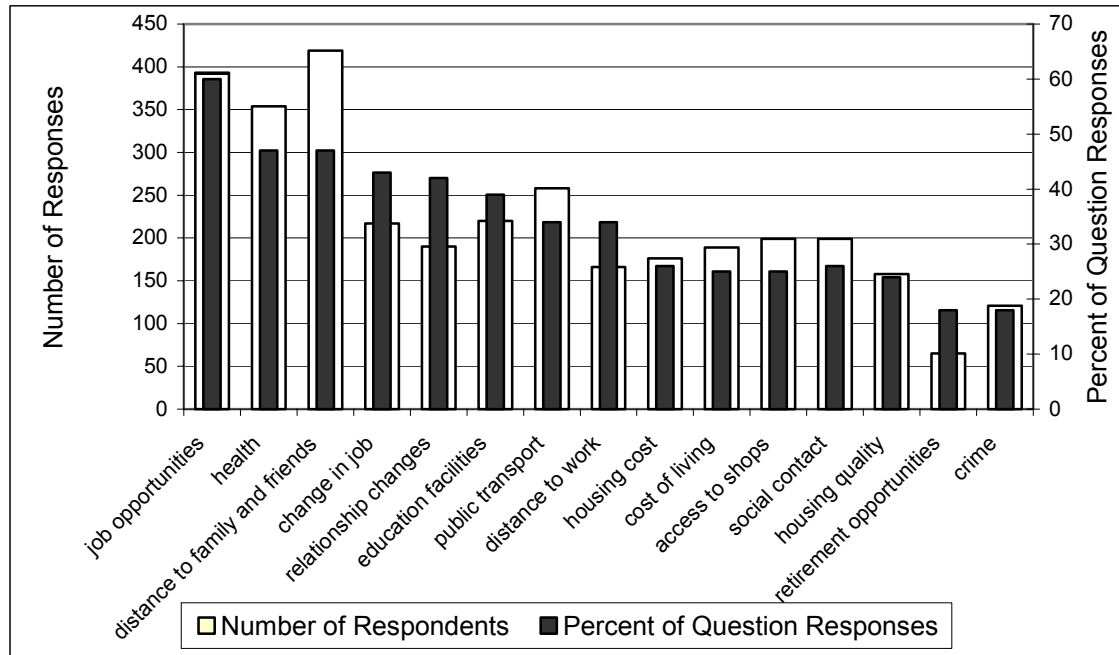
Not surprisingly, approximately 50% of all respondents paid more for their housing after moving into the metropolitan areas. Comparatively, 17% paid less after moving to the city. By income-support category, the highest percentage that paid more was 58% by Single Parents, the lowest was 43% by Aged Pensioners. In aggregate, respondents were generally dissatisfied with the affordability of housing after moving. Regardless of the amount spent on housing before and after moving 44% percent of all movers believed they were much or somewhat better off with respect to housing affordability in the non-metropolitan areas.

After moving into the city, approximately one-quarter of all respondents owned their home, down from when they lived in the country. More respondents were renting and receiving Centrelink assistance after moving into the city, up from the non-metropolitan situation. This was most marked for the Unemployed and Single Parents. Interestingly, a relatively high percentage of respondents indicated they were 'boarding with family or friends' both before and after moving. Also, more in each group owned their home outright in the country compared to living in Sydney or Adelaide. This was of particular note for the Aged Pensioners whereby, 63% owned their home outright when living in non-metropolitan NSW and SA but which dropped significantly after moving into the city.

In aggregate, movers were basically split as to whether they believed they were better off with regard to their housing quality after moving into Sydney and Adelaide. With regard to housing size more thought they were better off in the non-metro areas.

A variety of decision factors in location choice is analysed below – first by aggregate totals, then for the four income-support groups followed by response patterns for SA and NSW. Employment and housing factors are then specifically reviewed. A final section describes housing arrangements, distinguishing between housing expenditure and non-price aspects of housing, pre- and post-relocation which determined the housing impacts of moving to metropolitan areas.

Figure 1: Very Important Relocation Factors – Aggregate



Note on interpretation: This chart represents data from a question format that allowed respondents to answer the question, leave any question blank or indicate that it did not apply to them. ‘Non-responses’ and ‘not applicable’ answers were excluded from percentage calculations. The shaded bars represent percentages of those who rated an item. The ‘open’ bars show the number of respondents who rated each item. In general, questions that were rated by the largest number of respondents should be given most weight in interpreting survey results. Example: 392 respondents noted that ‘job opportunities’ was a very important factor in their decision to move. This represents 60% of all respondents who rated this factor. Comparatively, 419 people noted that ‘distance to family and friends’ was a very important factor in their decision to move and this represented 47% of those who responded to this factor.

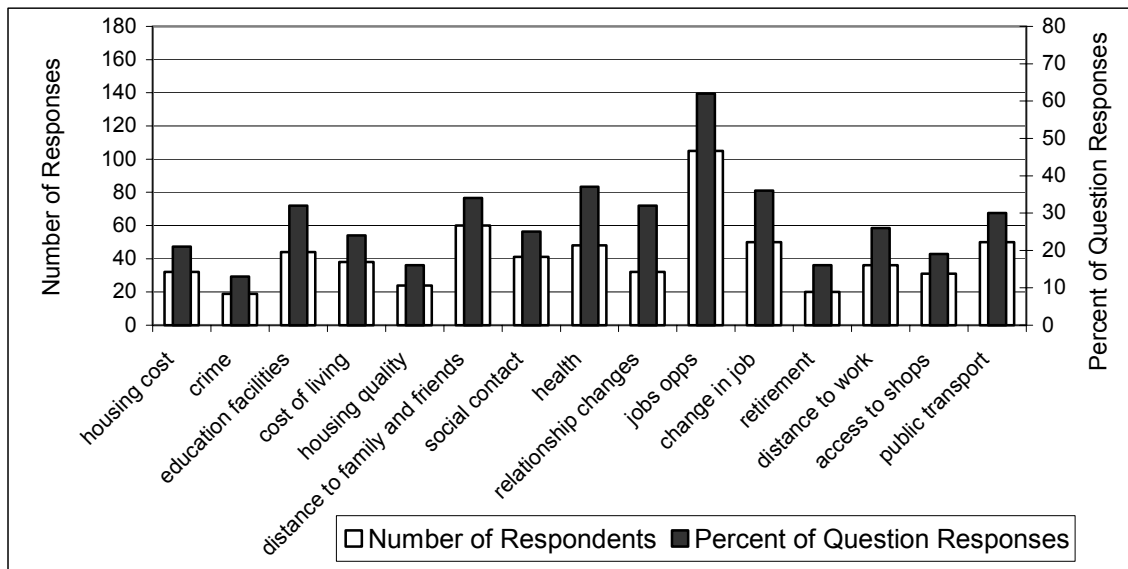
From Figure 1 it is evident that there are many factors that are regarded as ‘very important’ by people who relocate from a non-metropolitan area to a city. This Figure orders and presents the factors by the percentage of responses for each. The factors most often commented on and noted with the highest percentage of being very important in the decision to move were job opportunities (of which 60% indicated this was a very important factor), the respondent’s health or the health of a family member (47%), and wanting to be closer to family and friends (47%) – this factor had the highest number of responses of all the factors. As will be noted later in this section of the Report, this was not an unexpected finding given that many elderly and single parent families move to be closer to family and other social support networks. *“The country is a nice place to live and to bring children up but I think you need to be near family for support through your life ... The country is a beautiful place to live if you are lucky enough to have family there” (Respondent 4406).*

Alternatively, retirement opportunities and crime levels were the factors that had the lowest percentage for respondents rating them as 'very important' and the lowest number of responses answering those two factors. Beyond the factors that were listed in this set of questions, 'other' considerations, written in by the respondents themselves, were also very important. These 'other' factors included 'lifestyle', 'had no choice', 'access to medical facilities' and 'access to social activities and facilities'.

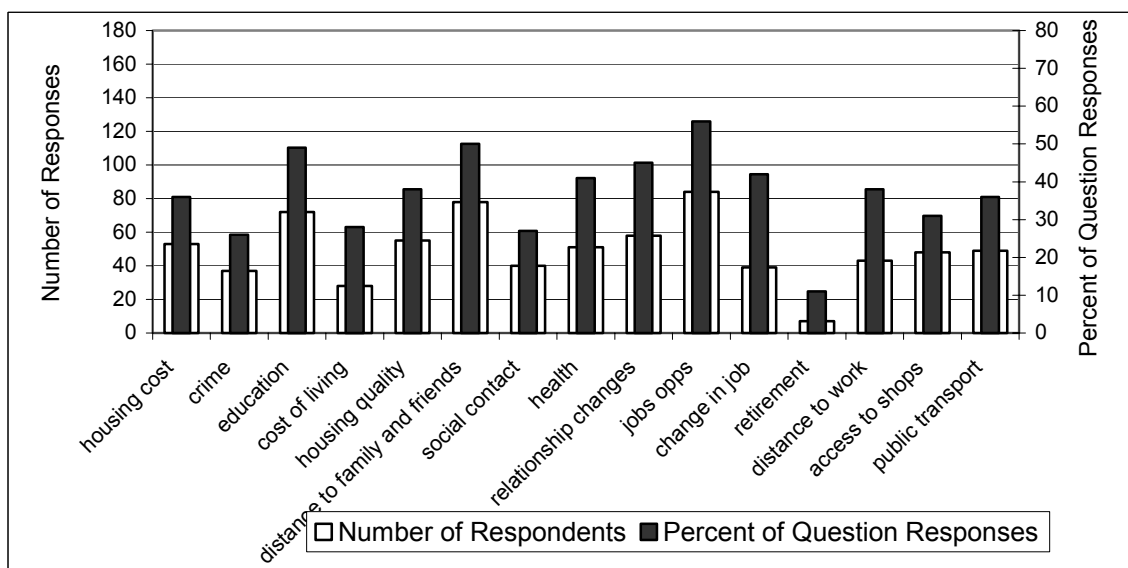
The set of 4 graphs in Figure 2 show that for the 'work-ready' population (the Unemployed and Single Parents), job opportunities was the most important consideration in them moving. Specific comments for each income-support category are given below Table 8.

Figure 2: Very Important Relocation Factors by Income-Support Category

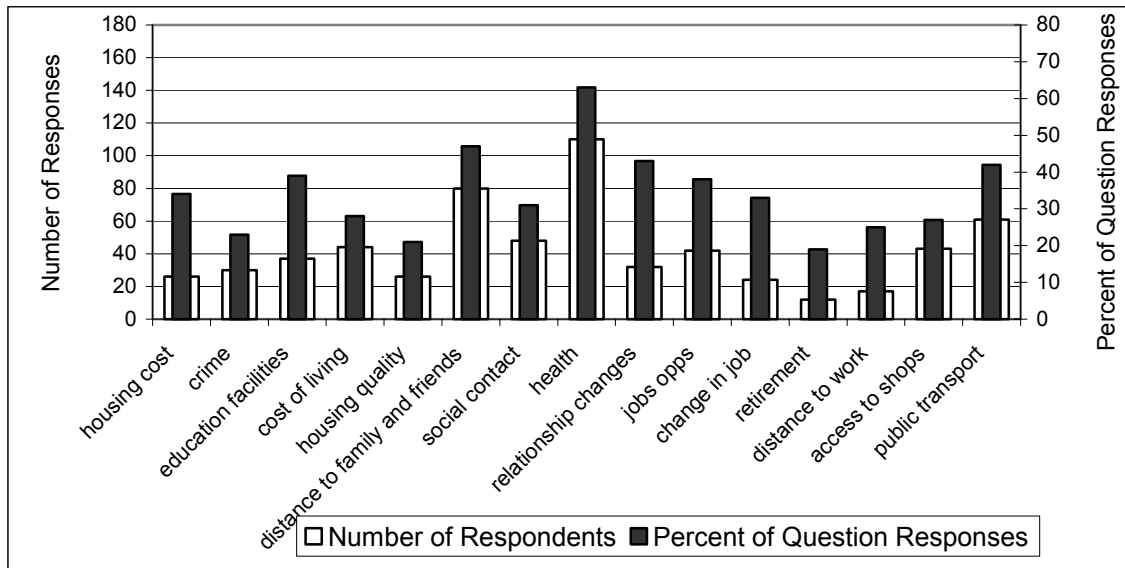
Unemployed



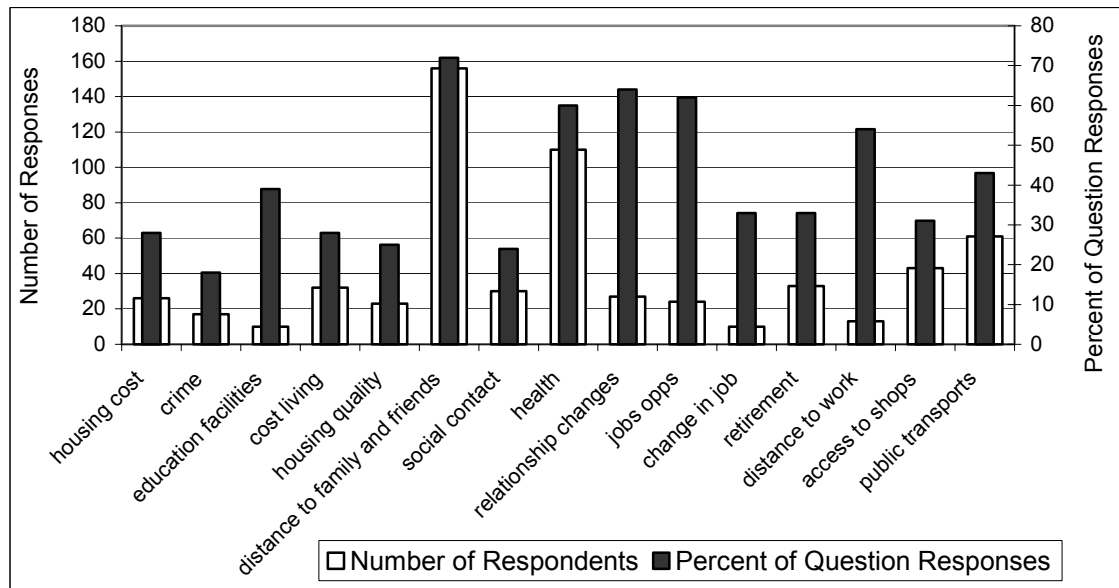
Single Parents



Disabled



Aged Pensioners



Note on interpretation: This chart represents data from a question format that allowed respondents to answer the question, leave any question blank or indicate that it did not apply to them. 'Non-responses' and 'not applicable' answers were excluded from percentage calculations. The shaded bars represent percentages of those who rated an item. The 'open' bars show the number of respondents who rated each item. In general, questions that were rated by the largest number of respondents should be given most weight in interpreting survey results.

Table 8 summarises the top three ‘very important’ relocation factors within each of the different income-support categories as depicted in the graphs above.

Table 8: Very Important Considerations for Moving by Income-Support Category

	Highest Percentage	Second Highest Percentage	Third Highest Percentage
Unemployed	job opportunities	health (respondent's or family member's)	change in employment situation
Single Parents	job opportunities	to be closer to family and friends	education facilities
Disabled	health (yours or family member's)	distance to family and friends	amount of public transport
Aged Pensioners	distance to family and friends	change in relationship status job opportunities	health (yours or family member's)

Note: For the Aged Pensioners, whilst the factors of ‘marital or relationship changes’ and job opportunities’ have high percentages as noted in Figure 2, these factors were mentioned by relatively few respondents, which somewhat discounts their relative importance.

The ‘other’ considerations, which all income-support recipients noted as the most important factors for moving, included lifestyle, access to medical facilities, access to social activities and facilities and actually having no choice.

For the Unemployed job opportunities were by far the most important relocation factor (based on the number of responses and percentage of the ‘very important’ responses) – it had the highest percentage of question responses (62%) – the next factor being 25% behind this one. The second most important factor was the respondent’s health or that of a family member closely followed by a change in employment situation and wanting to be closer to family and friends. *“The move was not a personal lifestyle choice, but a response to the needs of my parent” (Respondent 4530)*. The factors that were least important to this group were crime, retirement opportunities and housing quality. The relationship between income-support category and job opportunities as a relocation factor was statistically significant at 0.000. This supports the a priori hypothesis that the Unemployed and Single Parents, are in fact moving into the cities in search of employment. Distance to work ($p=.045$) was also statistically significant as the spatial access to work was very important to those who wanted to be in the work force, especially Single Parents.

For Single Parents the factor which was ranked the most often as ‘very important’ was, as it was for the Unemployed, ‘job opportunities.’ *“As long as you hit a job with the right employer [it] can breed contentment. It makes you feel as a human being with dignity and treated with respect. It helps you hold your head up high regardless” (Respondent 4262)*. Other important factors were the education facilities in the country compared to those in the city and wanting to be closer to family and friends (mentioned by 76% and 68% respectively). *“Country: the schools have not got the modern equipment like Sydney. Less excursions and old computers” (Respondent 4581)*. ‘Marital or relationship changes’ was also considered to be a very important factor to this income-support group. Retirement opportunities and cost of living factors were amongst the least important in their decisions to move.

The relationship between income-support category and housing quality (.004) and education facilities (.000) as relocation factors were statistically significant. These two factors were particularly important factor for Single Parents, who likely consider housing and educational quality as being key to the overall welfare of their children. (In contrast, housing quality was not considered important for 29% of the Unemployed.) Single Parent families tend to have improvement aspirations for their children and may tend to be less fatalistic than those in the other income-support categories. Interestingly, 'crime levels' was also statistically significant (.032). Single Parents considered this factor moreso than the other income-support recipients, perhaps perceiving they were more vulnerable than others.

The most important relocation factor for the Disabled was their own health or that of a family member. Housing costs, wanting to be closer to family and friends and the amount of public transportation were also very important factor for the Disabled. Like the Unemployed and Single Parents, retirement opportunities and crime levels were the least important factors in their decisions to move.

The most important relocation factor for Aged Pensioners was them wanting to be closer to family and friends, with 72% indicating this was a very important consideration in moving. *"Sorry to leave quiet and slow life style but happy to move to the city to be with family and friends"* (Respondent 6228). Whilst the factors of 'marital or relationship changes', job opportunities' and 'distance to work' show great percentages on the Aged Pensioners figure above, the latter two were mentioned by relatively few respondents, which somewhat discounts the percentages listed for these factors (for this group). Hence, health matters and public transport become important factors for the Aged Pensioner (based on the number of responses and the percentages indicating they were very important). Retirement opportunities was relatively unimportant to this group, supporting the a priori thought that seniors were moving for pragmatic, often health- and family-related reasons, rather than for 'opportunity'.

The relationships between income-support category and distance to family and friends (0.000), and health of the respondent or family member (0.000) as relocation factors were statistically significant. Not surprisingly, Aged Pensioners were moving in from the country to be closer to family and friends as their health or that of their partners required additional support and medical facilities and services.

Figure 3: Very Important Relocation Factors by State

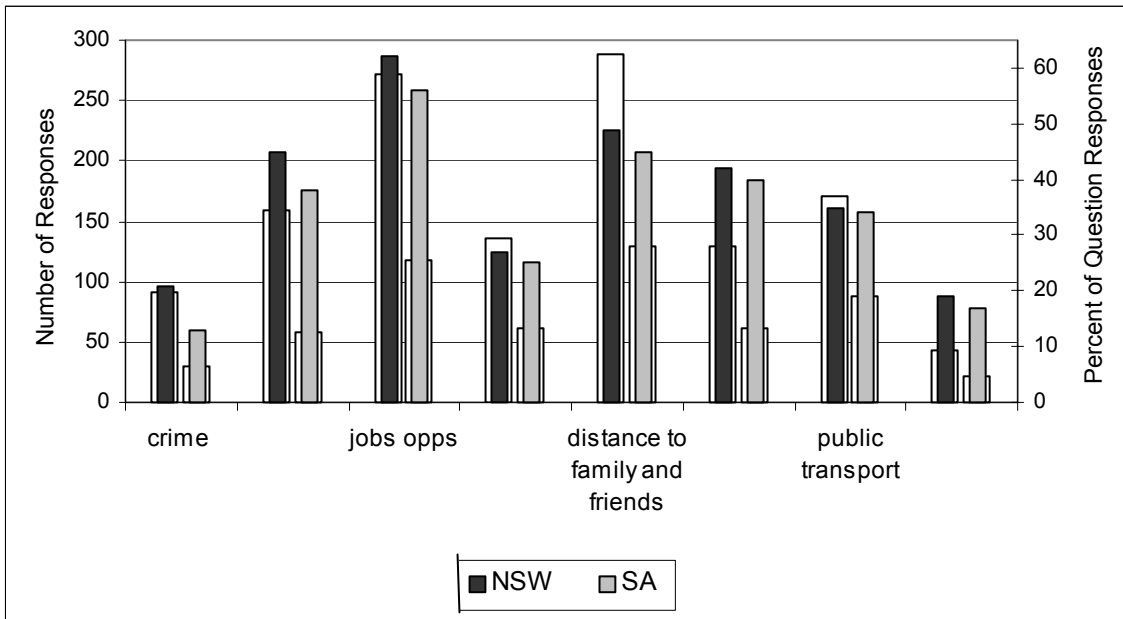
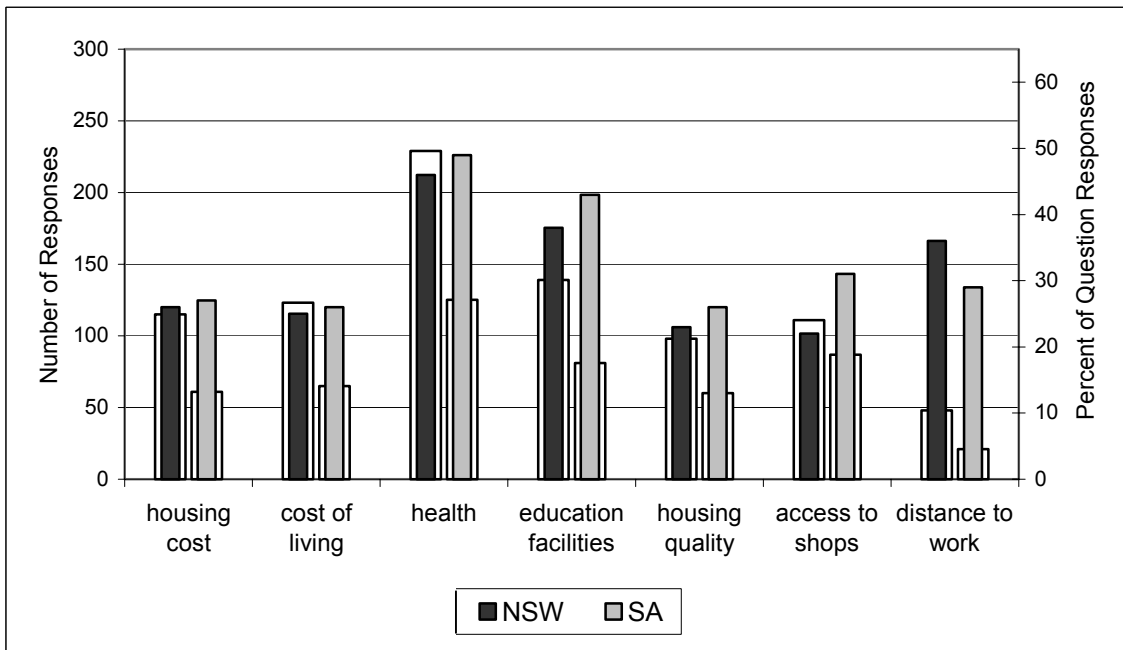


Figure 3: Very Important Relocation Factors by State (continued)



Note on interpretation: This chart represents data from a question format that allowed respondents to answer the question, leave any question blank or indicate that it did not apply to them. 'Non-responses' and 'not applicable' answers were excluded from percentage calculations. The shaded bars represent percentages of those who rated an item. The 'open' bars show the number of respondents who rated each item. In general, questions that were rated by the largest number of respondents should be given most weight in interpreting survey results.

Table 9 summarises the top three very important relocation factors by State as depicted in the two charts above. For comparison purposes, the percentage within each category is ranked.

Table 9: Very Important Considerations for Moving by State

	Highest Percentage	Second Highest Percentage	Third Highest Percentage
NSW	job opportunities	to be closer to family and friends	health (yours or family member's)
SA	job opportunities	health (yours or family member's)	to be closer to family and friends

When comparing the two States, the top three factors that respondents considered to be very important in their decision to move were the same, with NSW having slightly higher percentages for each ranking. These factors were job opportunities, to be closer to family and friends and for health reasons (the respondent's or that of a family member). *"I love the country, the fresh air, the openness, the people etc. [in the country] but in the end the family won the day"* (Respondent 4156). The 'other' category for both States actually had the highest very important percentages. These 'other' relocation considerations included lifestyle, access to medical facilities and social opportunities and actually having no choice at all.

The relationship between State and crime levels was statistically significant as per Chi-Square testing (.012). This factor was much more important for NSW movers suggesting that they had more concerns about moving into Sydney with its perceived crime levels and safety issues than those moving into Adelaide. (Just 42% of respondents from NSW who suggested this was a relocation factor indicated crime levels was not an important consideration. Fifty-four percent (54%) of SA movers did not perceive crime to be an important relocation factor. Also statistically significant was the relationship between State and the amount of public transport ($p=.032$), which supports the a priori hypothesis that public transport services in the country are inadequate, especially noted by low-income earners who are quite likely to depend on it for transportation. For this segment of movers, public transport was an important relocation factor for 62% of NSW movers and 52% of SA movers suggesting that more low-income earners may rely on public transport in Sydney than Adelaide and are aware of the spatial layout of housing relative to jobs, schools and distance to family and friends.

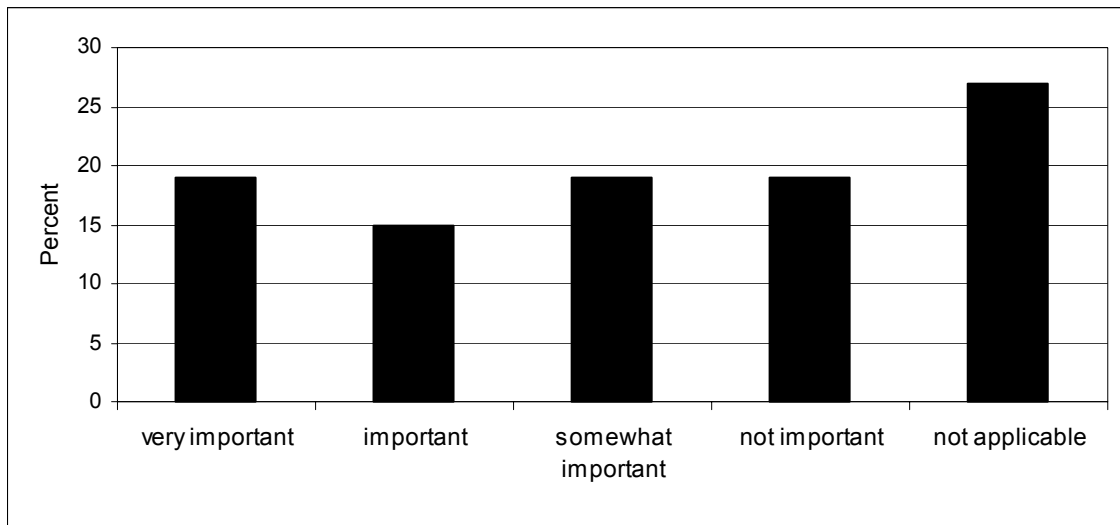
Housing Arrangements and Employment

Two factors which were of particular interest to this study were the importance of expected job opportunities and the associated housing costs in the cities. Each of these relocation factors are reviewed in detail and analysed at the income-support and State levels of detail.

This first section describes housing arrangements, distinguishing between housing expenditure, and non-price aspects of housing. Following an explanation of the extent to which moving resulted in higher housing costs for the movers, changes to the non-price aspects of housing – quality, size, dwelling type and tenure are identified pre- and post-relocation. The second section determines how important job opportunities, distance to work and changes in an employment situation were to the movers and for context, indicates their employment tenure before they moved. Some of this employment information is further analysed specifically for the work-ready population in the last section of this chapter.

Housing Affordability as a Relocation Factor

Figure 4: Housing Costs as a Relocation Factor – Aggregate



N=935

Figure 4 presents aggregate data indicating the importance of housing cost as a key relocation factor for all survey respondents. These percentages include the value label of 'not applicable' for a comprehensive picture of this housing cost variable. Nineteen percent (19%) stated that housing cost was a very important consideration in their decision to into Sydney or Adelaide. An equal percentage (19%) indicated that housing cost was not an important factor in their moving. Respondents who noted that housing cost was not applicable to them could include individuals living with family or friends whereby someone else paid for their housing, those living in public housing or nursing home/hostel care facilities where market rental prices were not applicable or in housing whereby they had no choice in their move, so price was simply not a factor for them. These considerations should also be applied when reading the following two Figures.

Figure 5: Housing Costs as a Relocation Factor by Income-Support Category

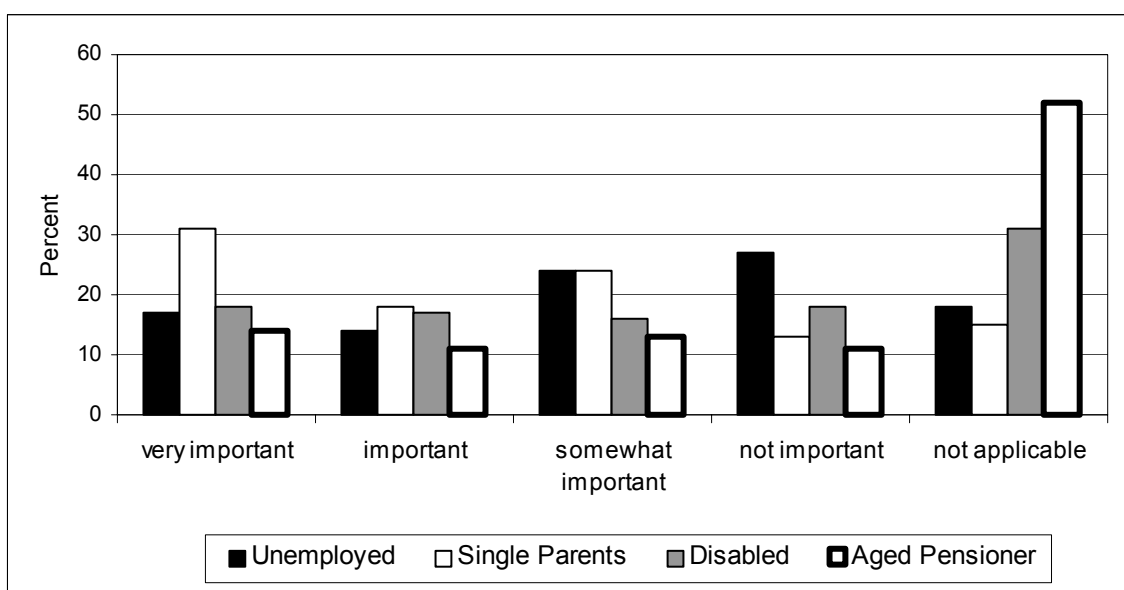
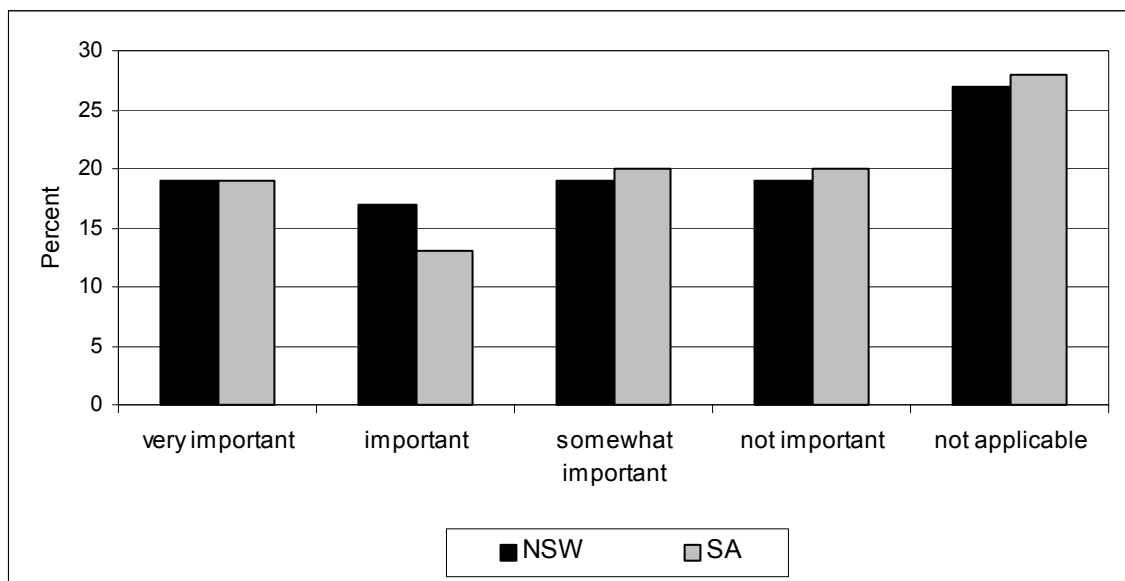


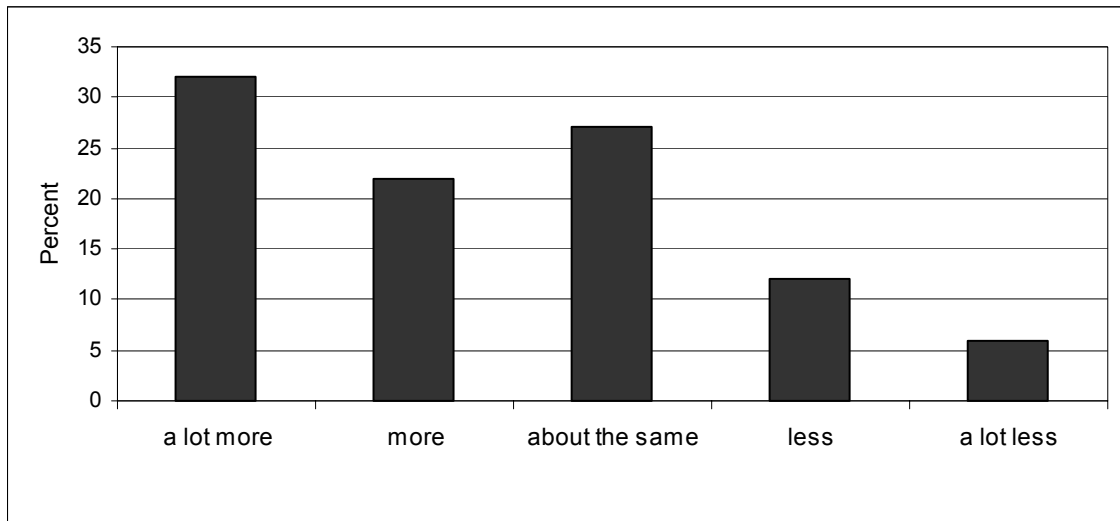
Figure 5 shows that Single Parents had the highest percentage (31%) of those who noted housing cost as a very important factor in their decision to move.. This factor was least important (11%) to Aged Pensioners. It is interesting to note the relatively high percentage (27%) of Unemployed income-support recipients who indicated that housing cost was not an important consideration in their decision to move. Relating back to Figure 2, non-housing considerations were more important to this group, namely health concerns, a change in their employment status, (likely becoming unemployed in the non-metro area), the distance to family and friends and education facilities (likely for retraining or upgrading of study and skills. This is in stark contrast to the other 'work-ready' population, the Single Parents whereby this group was more concerned with housing costs. This factor indicates that a 'work-ready' population should not be treated as one typology of individual looking for work. Also, as noted in detail later in the report, Single Parents most often only work part-time and hence would have less income to spend on housing per se. *"I am lucky that I have a cheap place for us to live but if this arrangement changes we will be forced to move back to the country"* (Respondent 4631). For over half of all Aged Pensioners, housing cost was not an applicable relocation factor for them which could be indicative of them moving in to cost controlled housing (public housing, hostels or retirement villages) or in with family where they were not responsible for covering the cost of their own housing.

Figure 6: Housing Costs as a Relocation Factor by State



Housing cost was not noted as an overly important relocation factor for respondents by State as noted in this Figure 6. Surprisingly, there is little difference between the States – one might have suggested that people contemplating a move from rural SA to Adelaide might have been less intimidated by housing costs than those moving from non-metro NSW into Sydney. In both NSW and SA, almost the same percentages indicated that housing cost was 'very important' and 'not important' in their decision to move to their respective metropolitan areas. More than a quarter of respondents from both States indicated that housing cost was not applicable to them and their move.

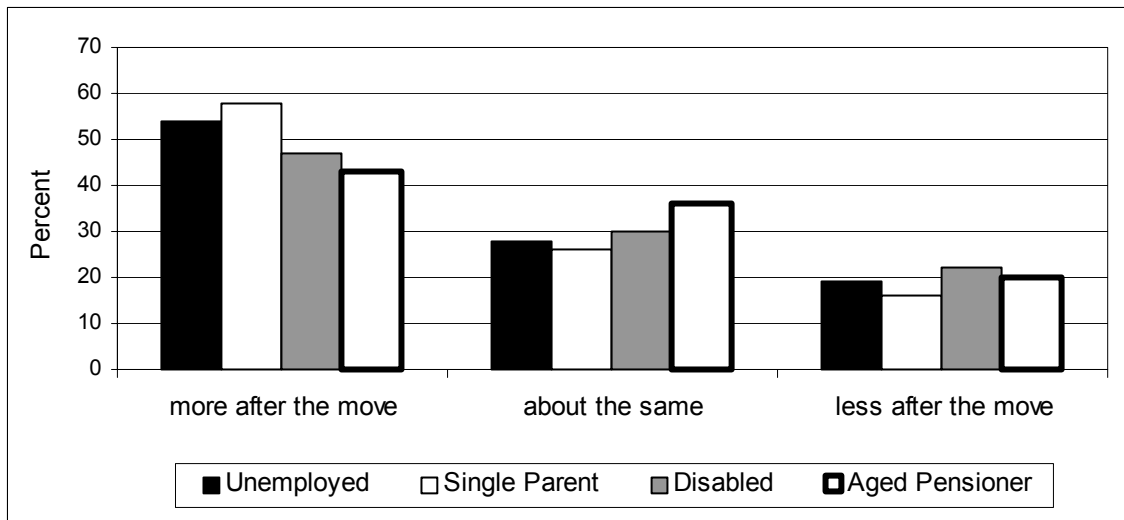
Figure 7: Amount Spent on Housing After Moving – Aggregate



N=1169

Figure 7 shows how much respondents ended up spending on housing in Sydney or Adelaide compared to when they lived in non-metro areas of NSW and SA. Thirty percent (30%) paid a lot more, whilst another 21% paid more. Predictably, when totalled, approximately 50% of all respondents paid more for their housing after moving into the metropolitan areas. *“One day a prince, next day a pauper” (Respondent 4744)*. Comparatively, 17% paid less or a lot less after moving to the metro areas. One-quarter paid about the same amount for housing regardless of location.

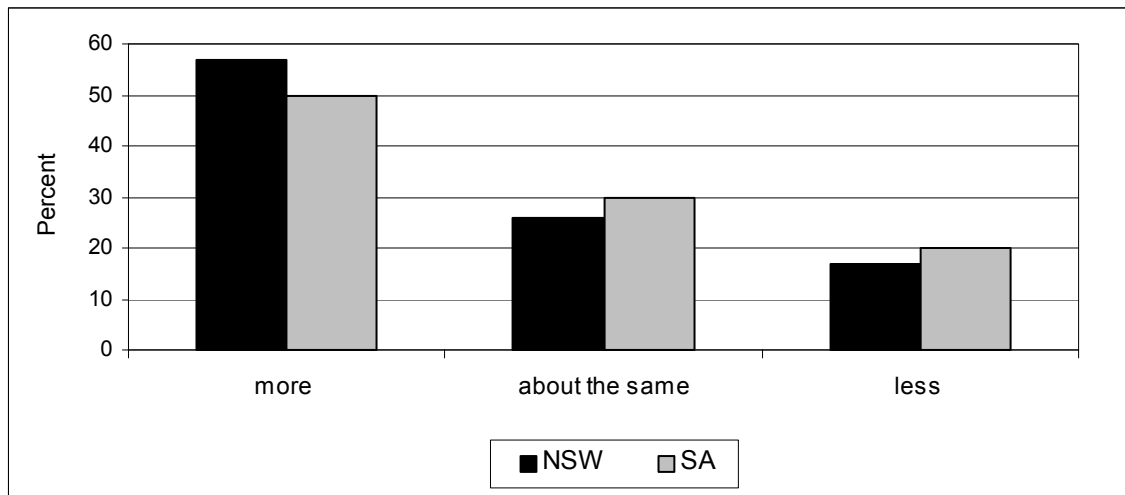
Figure 8: Amount Spent on Housing After Moving by Income-Support Category



By income-support category, Figure 8 shows the amount spent on housing after moving into Sydney and Adelaide. The relationship between housing affordability and income-support category was statistically significant at the 0.003 level. The work-ready population (Single Parents - 58%) and Unemployed - 54%) paid more for housing than did the other two income-support groups. In fact, 32% of Unemployed and 38% of Single Parents paid ‘a lot more’ for housing since moving to the city. *“Housing is expensive and it is hard work to maintain a balance of giving time to the children and working to pay for a roof over your head. I’d prefer to live simply in order for the children*

to have some sense of home life. The coastal country can supply that” (Respondent 4196). In comparison, 47% of the Disabled, and 43% of Aged Pensioners paid more for their housing. All of these respondents were worse off with regard to housing cost after moving. However, between 16% and 22% of the different income-support categories actually paid *less* after moving into the city. That is, these respondents were essentially better off with regard to housing cost than when they lived in a non-metropolitan area. Approximately one-third of each of the income-support groups paid about the same for their housing regardless of whether they were in the country or the city.

Figure 9: Amount Spent on Housing After Moving by State



Not surprisingly, 57 percent of all movers into Sydney paid more for housing after moving than they did when they lived in non-metropolitan NSW – 17% actually paid less. Half (50%) of those respondents who moved into Adelaide paid more for housing than they did in non-metro SA – 20% paid less. These percentages support the a priori expectation that housing is generally less expensive in Adelaide and non-metro SA than Sydney and non-metropolitan NSW. As supported by very detailed material found in Appendix 4, a change in household makeup was noted in both States where more individuals lived with a group of unrelated adults in the cities, than did in the country areas and hence may have been paying less for housing after moving into Sydney or Adelaide. Also, as indicated in Figure 12, after moving to into both Sydney and Adelaide, many more respondents were receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance than they were in non-metro areas, perhaps then paying less for their housing. The percentage of individuals who were renting public housing also increased after moving into the cities. Finally, as noted in Figure 14, whilst quality of housing seemed to be better in the cities, housing size was not. This may have contributed to some who moved into smaller dwellings and hence paying less than in the non-metro areas.

Housing cost satisfaction

In aggregate, respondents were generally dissatisfied with the affordability of housing after moving. Regardless of the amount spent on housing before and after moving noted in the three previous Figures, 44% percent of all movers believed they were much or somewhat better off with respect to housing affordability in the non-metropolitan areas. Eighteen percent (18%) perceived they were better off in Sydney and Adelaide.

As expected, affordability was a housing satisfaction indicator that respondents strongly suggested had worsened after moving into Sydney and Adelaide, with higher expenditures in both Sydney and Adelaide. This was especially noted by the Single Parents (57%) and Aged Pensioners (54%). However, 29% and 27% of Disabled and Unemployed, respectively were more satisfied with housing costs in Sydney and Adelaide. Sixty-one percent (61%) of NSW movers indicated they were better off with regard to housing cost in non-metro NSW compared to Sydney – 48% of SA movers believed they were better off before moving into Adelaide. The relationship between the satisfaction of housing affordability and State was statistically very significant at the 0.001 level.

Housing tenure

Figure 10: Housing Tenure Before and After Moving – Aggregate

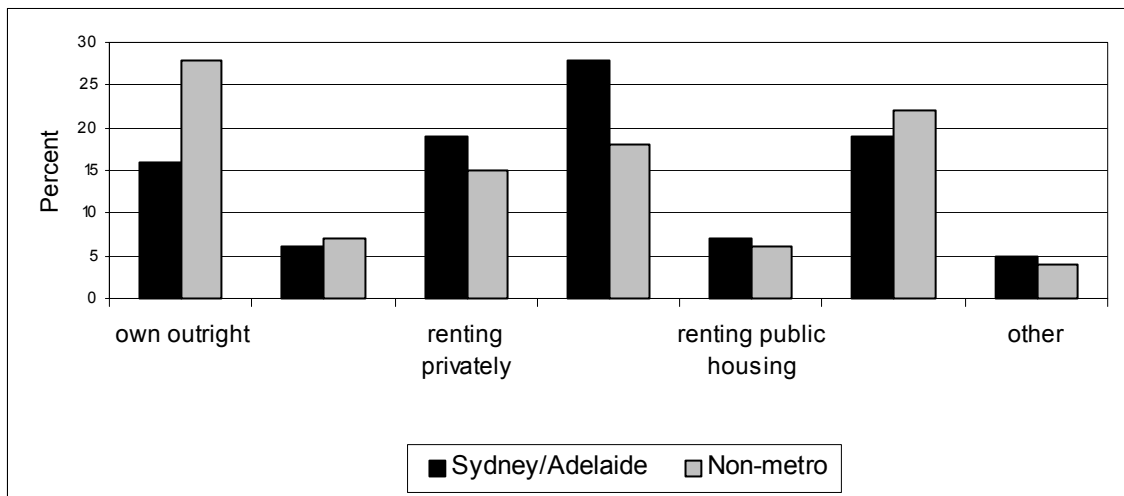
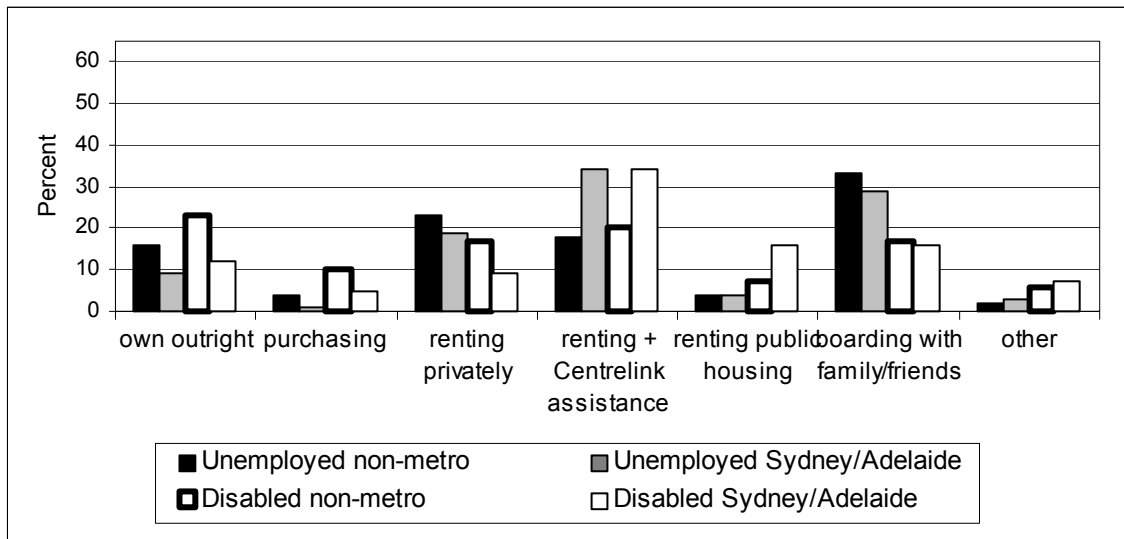
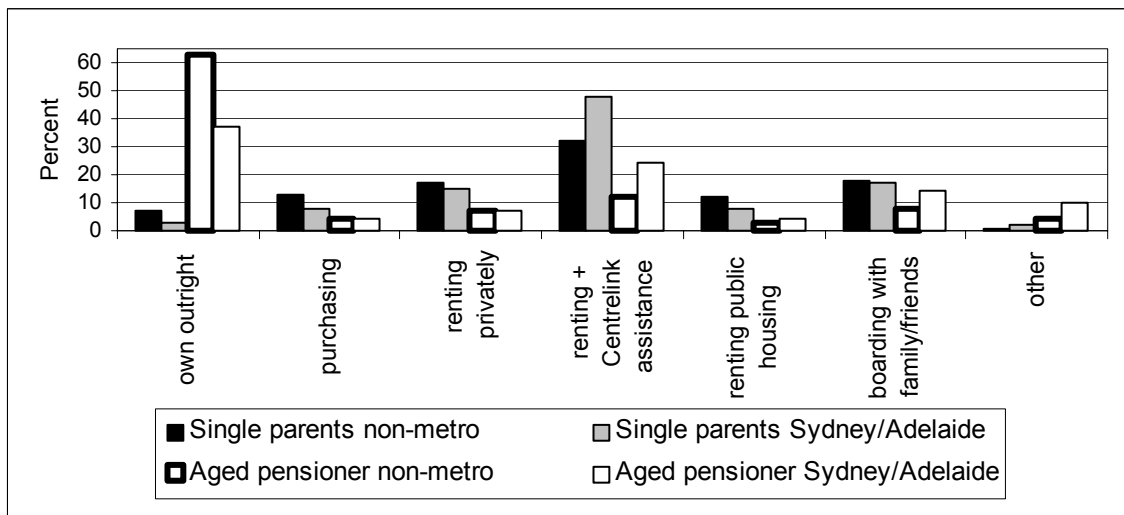


Figure 10 shows that after moving into the city, 27% of all respondents owned their home, down substantially (11%) from when they lived in the country. More respondents were renting and receiving Centrelink assistance after moving into the city (28%), up 11% from the non-metropolitan situation. Interestingly, a relatively high percentage of respondents indicated they were ‘boarding with family or friends’ both before and after moving. Slightly higher percentages were renting privately in the cities and slightly fewer were boarding with family or friends than they were in the country areas. There were very few renting public housing in either location. *“The cost of living in Sydney is unbelievable and government funded housing is impossible to get” Respondent 4041*. The general ‘other’ category included living in a car, were homeless or in temporary hostel accommodation. Figure 11 indicates housing tenure by income-support category.

**Figure 11: Housing Tenure Before and After Moving by Income-Support Category
Unemployed and Disabled**



Single Parents and Aged Pensioners

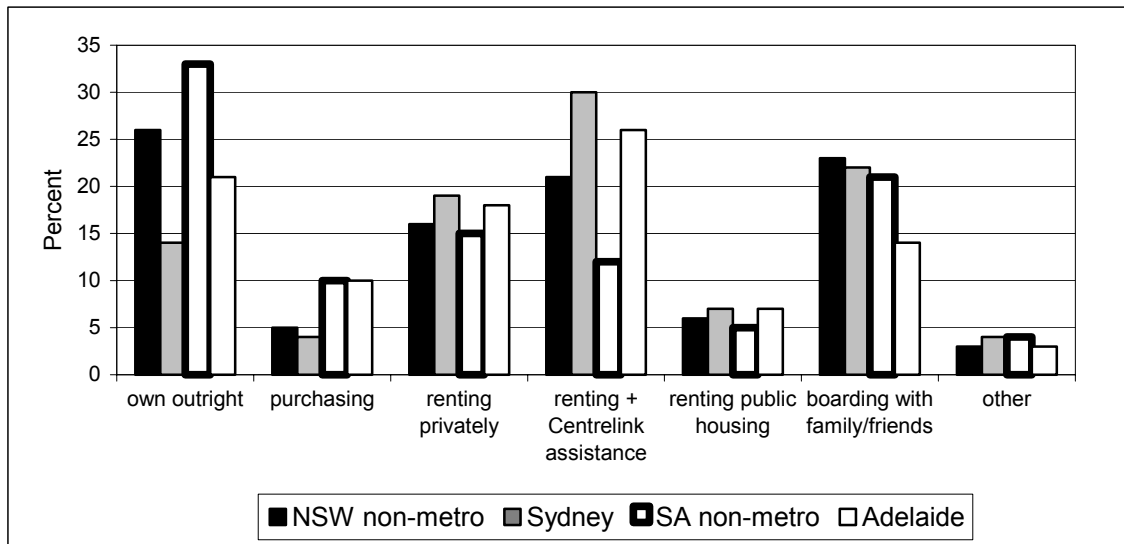


As a result of moving, housing tenure differed significantly amongst the income-support categories. Amongst all income-support categories, more people were renting with Centrelink assistance in the city compared to when living in non-metropolitan areas. This was most marked for the Unemployed and Single Parents – both increased in this tenure category by 16%. Approximately half (48%) of all Single Parents were renting and receiving Centrelink Assistance after moving into Sydney or Adelaide. Also, more in each group owned their home outright in the country compared to living in Sydney or Adelaide. This was of particular note for the Aged Pensioners whereby 63% owned their home outright when living in non-metropolitan NSW and SA but which dropped significantly after moving into the city, where just 37% owned their home outright. In Sydney and Adelaide, compared to the country areas, more seniors were renting and receiving Centrelink assistance and boarding with family or friends. *“Could not personally manage the maintenance of the larger property, physically” (Respondent*

4018). A very small percentage of Aged Pensioners were renting privately in either location.

Also of note in this Figure is the very small percentage of Single Parents who owned their home outright, regardless of where they lived. The Unemployed had the highest percentage of private renters amongst the different income-support groups. Again, the 'other' category indicated respondents living in a car, being homeless or living in temporary hostel accommodation. "I now live in a tent" (Respondent 4144).

Figure 12: Housing Tenure Before and After the Move by State



The housing tenure situation differed between the States as shown in Figure 12. Just more that one-quarter (26%) of all NSW respondents owned their housing outright in non-metropolitan NSW but this dropped below 15% after moving into Sydney. Comparatively, one third-third (33%) of non-metropolitan SA respondents owned their own housing outright which dropped (about the same percentage as NSW respondents) to 21% after moving to Adelaide. A relatively higher percentage of respondents changed from renting and receiving Centrelink assistance after moving into Adelaide from non-metro SA than those who moved into Sydney from country NSW. Still, higher percentages existed for this tenure type in NSW/Sydney before and after moving, than for SA/Adelaide. The other notable difference between the States was those who were boarding with family or friends. Whilst the same percentage of NSW respondents found themselves in this housing scenario in non-metropolitan areas and Sydney (23%), fewer SA respondents were boarding with family and friends after moving into Adelaide (down from 21% to 14%).

Dwelling type

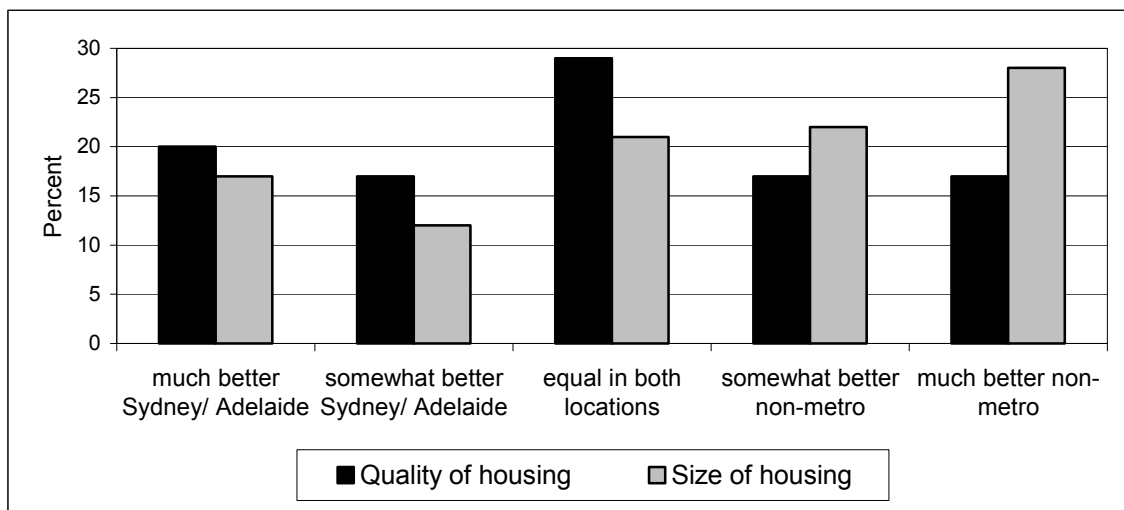
Three-quarters (76%) of all survey respondents lived in a (detached) house in the country before moving to Sydney or Adelaide, where the percentage dropped to one-half (51%). Where only 10% of all respondents lived in a flat in non-metropolitan areas, after moving, 26% lived in this type of dwelling in the city.

Variations in dwelling type were noted by the different income-support categories. Generally, Aged Pensioners moved out of single detached houses in country areas and moved into flats and retirement villages in the city. The Disabled were the second most likely category to move out of detached houses and into flats. Seventy-one percent

(71%) lived in a house in the non-metro areas which fell to 45% in the city. In the country, just 10% of the Disabled lived in a flat – this jumped up to 27% in Sydney and Adelaide. Interestingly, of all those respondents who lived in a boarding house, 62% were Disabled income-support recipients. Of all those who lived in a caravan park, 41% were Disabled recipients – in both instances, over-representing the percentage that that income-support category represents in the survey results as a whole (these percentages represent small actual numbers of respondents.) The Unemployed essentially moved from single detached houses into flats/home units. Single Parents were the least likely to change the type of dwelling in which they lived. There were no significant differences in the changes of the dwelling types between the State – not surprisingly, both saw a general shift out of detached houses into flats.

Housing quality and size

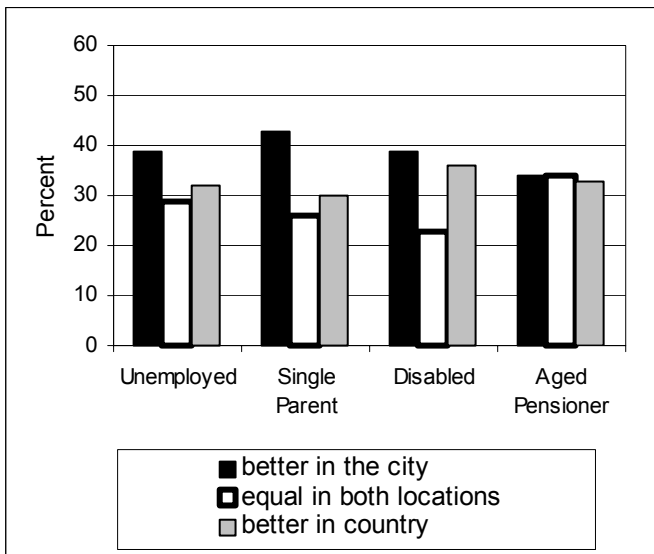
Figure 13: Housing Quality and Size Satisfaction – Aggregate



In aggregate, movers were basically split as to whether they believed they were better off with regard to their housing quality after moving into Sydney and Adelaide. Thirty-seven percent (37%) believed housing quality was better in the city and 34% believed it was better in the country – the others believed it was about the same in both locations. With regard to housing size more thought they were better off in the non-metro areas. Twenty-nine percent (29%) believed their housing size was better in the metropolitan areas – 50% thought it was better in the country. *“Rent was equal but we could get a house [in the country] opposed to a unit” (Respondent 4783).*

Figure 14: Housing Quality and Size Satisfaction by Income-Support Category

Housing Quality



Housing Size



Three of the four income-support groups (the Unemployed, Single Parents and Disabled) indicated that housing quality was better in the city as compared to the country. Comparing the different income-support categories, Figure 14 indicates that Single Parents were the most positive about housing quality in the city. The Aged Pensioners were very even split in their opinions as to whether their housing quality was better in the metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas.

Housing size, however, was seen by all income-support groups to be better in the country as compared to the city. The most determined on this point were the Aged Pensioners, with 57% suggesting they were better off in non-metropolitan areas when it came to the size of their housing, that is, they had sacrificed the most in their move. The other three groups (the Unemployed, Single Parents and Disabled) were very similar on their thoughts on housing size before and after moving. Forty-six percent (46%) of the Disabled, 45% of Single Parents and 44% of the Unemployed thought housing size was better in the country versus the city.

Figure 15: Housing Quality and Size Satisfaction by State

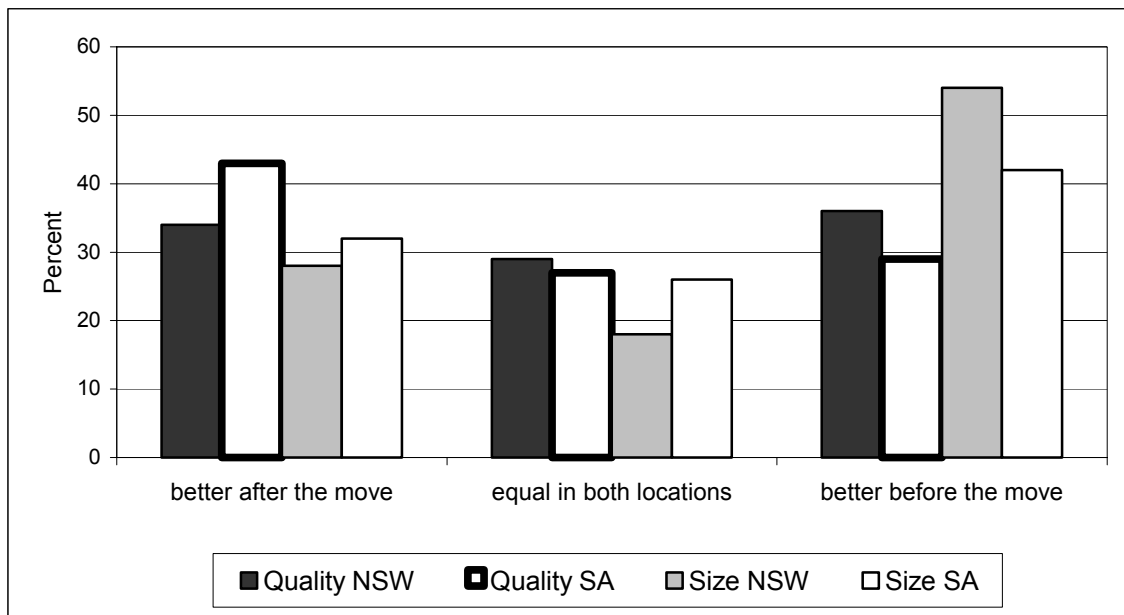


Figure 15 indicates that housing quality was seen by NSW movers to be (essentially) of equal quality before and after moving. Thirty-four percent (34%) thought housing quality was better in Sydney, whilst 36% thought it was better in country NSW – all others thought it was about equal in both locations. SA respondents believed housing quality was better in Adelaide (43%) than that in non-metropolitan SA (29%). The relationship between housing quality and State was statistically significant ($p < 0.020$).

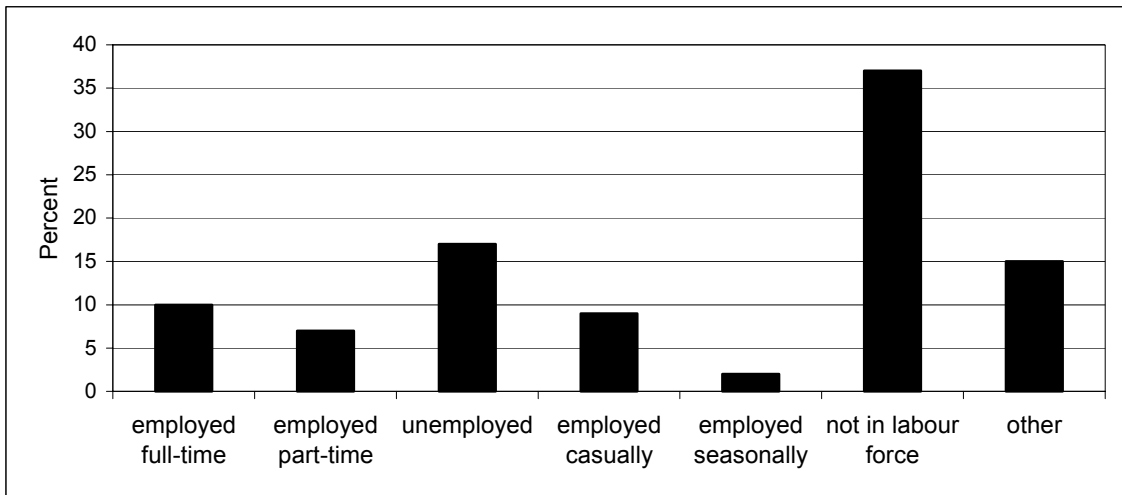
Housing size however, was seen to be better in both non-metropolitan regions compared to that in Sydney and Adelaide. A Pearson Chi-Square shows the relationship between housing size and State was statistically significant at the .002 level. More than half (53%) of all NSW movers thought housing size was better in the non-metro areas of NSW than in Sydney. In comparison, 42% of all SA respondents believed housing size was better in country SA compared to Adelaide. Hence, in NSW, after moving into Sydney, income-support recipients were typically housed in smaller sized dwellings, but were in better quality housing than they were in the country.

Employment Factors as a Relocation Factor

Some of the employment-related relocation factors are reviewed in this section for all income-support categories to more accurately understand reasons for moving. This section analyses the push and pull factors with regard to employment and relocation considerations and the employment status of respondents in the non-metropolitan areas.

Specific analysis for the work-ready population, namely the Unemployed and Single Parents, is presented in the last section of this chapter. It looks more at post-relocation satisfaction levels of their move into Sydney and Adelaide.

Figure 16: Employment Tenure Before Moving to the City – Aggregate



N=1196

Figure 16 indicates the employment tenure of all income-support categories before making the decision to move to the city. Just over one-quarter (28%) were involved in some form of paid employment – this included full-time, part-time, casual and seasonal work. The ‘unemployed’ category was defined on the questionnaire as “not working but actively looking for work”. The ‘not in the labour force’ mostly included Aged Pensioners, Disabled and Single Parents who were not looking for work at that point in time. The ‘other’ category included respondents indicating they were on the pension, doing charity work, self-employed, responsible for home duties or studying.

Figure 17: Employment Tenure Before Moving to the City by Income-Support Category

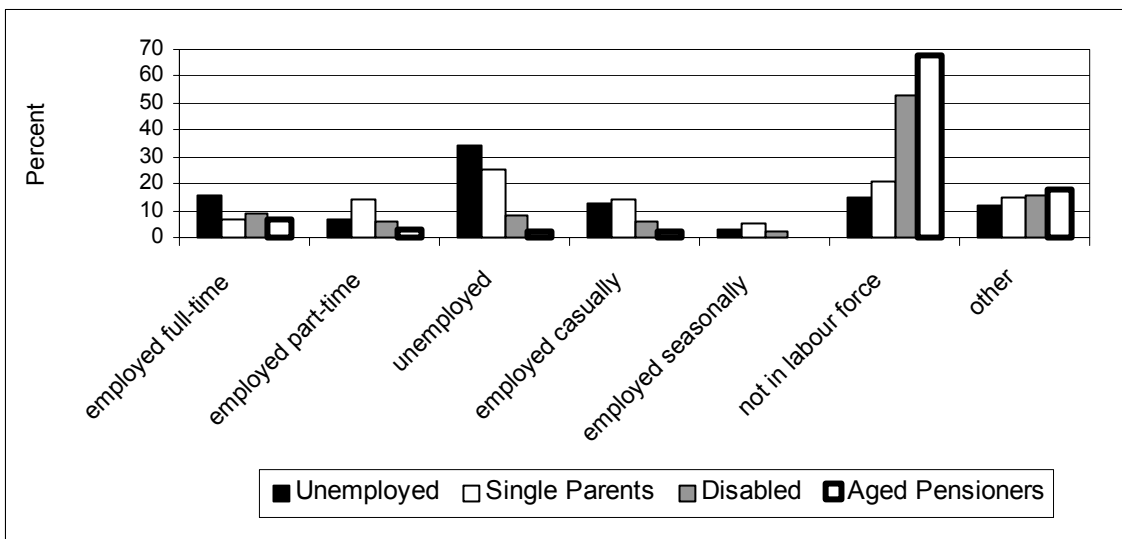
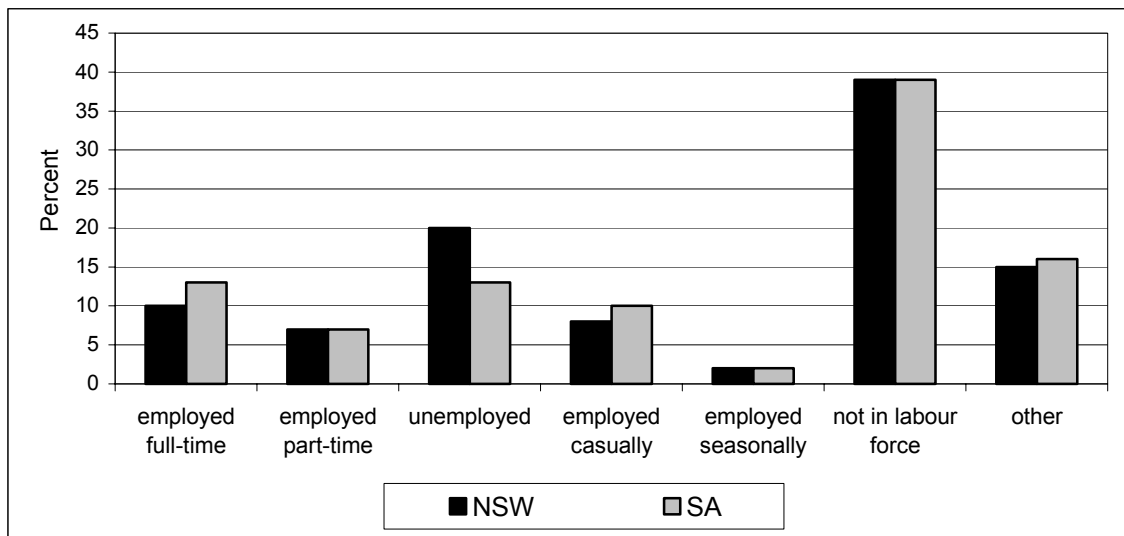


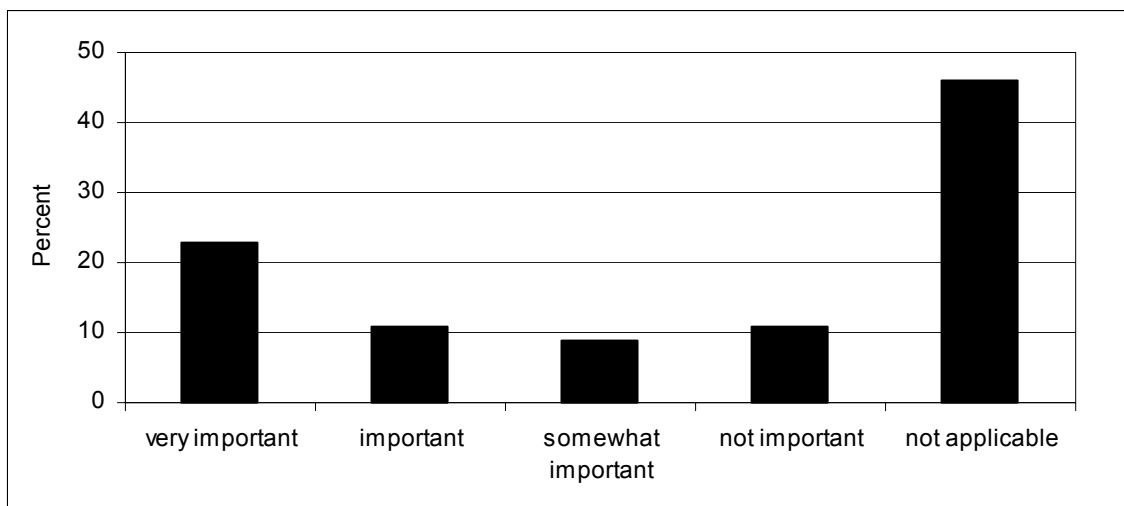
Figure 17 indicates the employment tenure for each income-support category before they moved into the city. Not surprisingly, recipients of the Unemployment benefit schemes indicated they were unemployed, as did many Single Parents. Single Parents picked up the most part-time, casual and seasonal employment in the non-metropolitan areas. Again, not surprisingly, 68% of the Aged Pensioners and 53% of the Disabled were not at all in the labour force nor were they actively looking for work.

Figure 18: Employment Tenure Before Moving to the City by State



The relationship between employment tenure and State as depicted in Figure 18 was statistically significant ($p < 0.020$). Employment tenure by State indicates that a slightly higher percentage of South Australians than NSW respondents were employed full-time, or casually, before moving into Adelaide. Surprisingly, considering the robustness of the NSW economy compared to that of SA, a higher percentage of NSW movers – 20% (compared to SA movers – 13%) were unemployed, but actively looking for work. Both States had equal percentages of those employed part-time (7%), employed seasonally (2%) and those not in the labour force at all (39%).

Figure 19: Change in Employment Situation as a Relocation Factor – Aggregate



N=968

As shown in Figure 19, aggregately, 23% of respondents who responded to the relocation decision factor ‘change in employment situation’ indicated that this was a very important consideration in their decision to move to Sydney or Adelaide. When combined with the ‘important’ value, just more than one-third (34%) noted that a change in their employment situation was a considerable factor in their decision to move.

Figure 20: Change in Employment Situation as a Relocation Factor by Income-Support Category

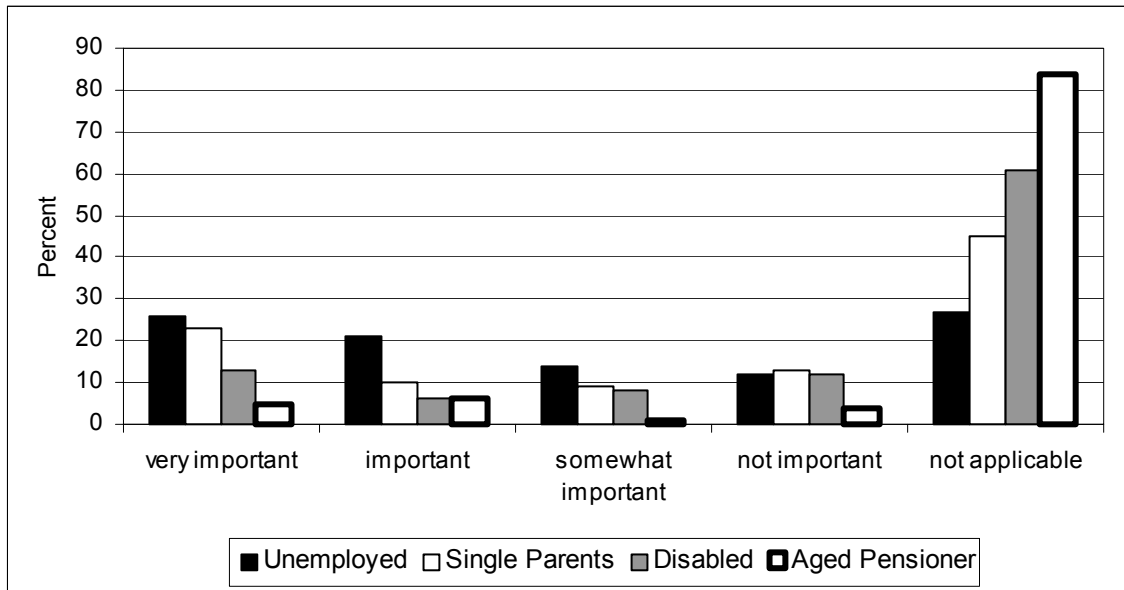


Figure 20 indicates the importance of a change in an income-support recipient's employment status in their decision to move into the city. Not surprisingly, for nearly half (47%) of the Unemployed who responded to this question, this was a very important or important consideration in their moving into Sydney or Adelaide. Eleven percent (11%) indicated this was not an important relocation factor. Comparatively, for the other potentially work-ready group, one-third (33%) of Single Parents suggested this was a very important or important consideration in their moving. Predictably, a change in their employment situation was not applicable to most Disabled or Aged Pensioners. This is consistent with the theory that suggests it is of the 'older-elderly' who are moving into the cities, not the recently retired Aged Pensioners.

No figure depicting the differences between the States regarding change in employment status as a relocation factor is presented. The differences were negligible, although NSW respondents overall indicated this factor to be slightly more important in their decision to move into Sydney than did SA respondents in their decision to move into Adelaide.

No aggregate figure on employment opportunities is presented, as it did not depict the story as accurately as when this relocation factor is analysed by category of income-support received and by State below, i.e. the Aged Pensioners skew the aggregate results.

Figure 21: Employment Opportunities as Relocation Factor by Income-Support Category

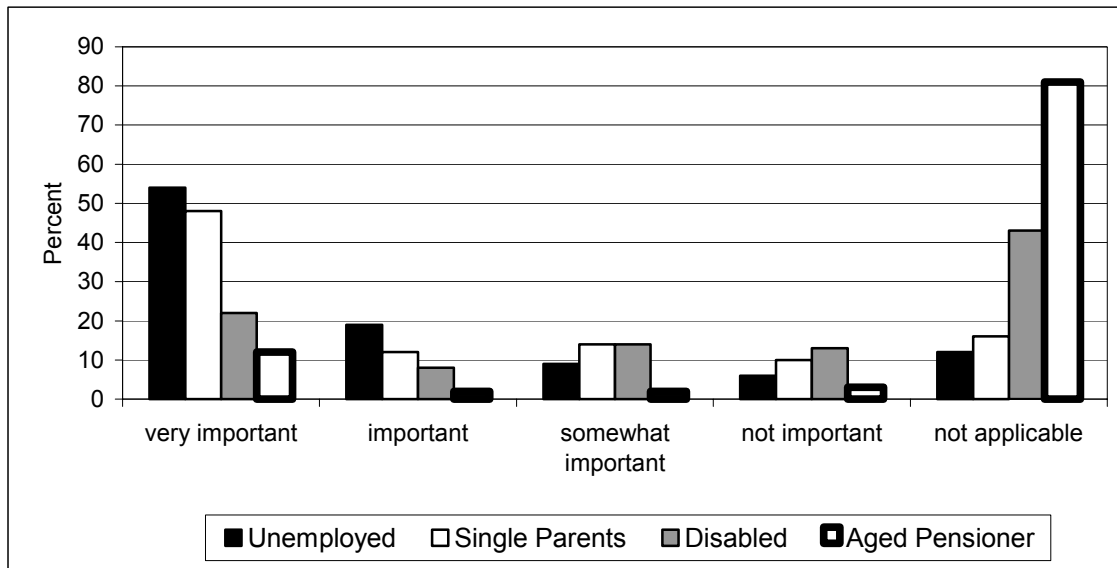
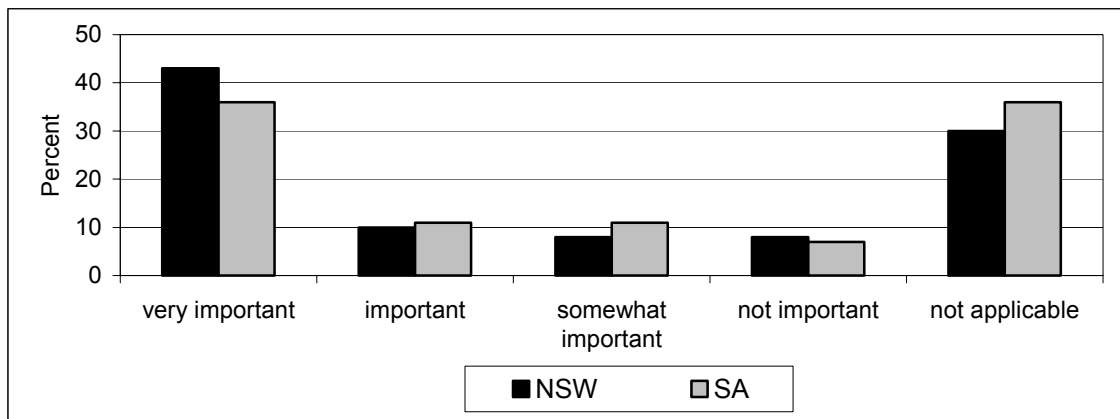


Figure 21 indicates the importance of employment opportunities in the income-support recipients' decisions to move. Not surprisingly, for more than half (54%) of the Unemployed who responded to this question, job opportunities were a very important consideration in their moving into Sydney or Adelaide. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of the Unemployed considered this relocation to be 'very important' or 'important'. As such, approximately one-quarter of the Unemployed moved for reasons which were equally or more important to them. As mentioned in Figure 2, other important relocation considerations for the Unemployed were health, relationship changes, distance to family and friends, education facilities and public transport. Just 6% indicated that the opportunity to find employment was not an important relocation factor. Comparatively, the Single Parent category had similar percentages. Almost half (48%) of the Single Parents who responded to this question considered this factor to be very important in their decision to move. Only 10% suggested this was not an important relocation factor for them. Interestingly, 22% of the Disabled suggested that a job opportunity in the city was very important to them. However, 43% indicated that this consideration was not applicable to them. Surprisingly (because one might believe all Aged Pensioners are completely retired, i.e., not looking for work at all), 12% of the Aged Pensioners, who answered this question indicated that job opportunities were a very important relocation consideration. At the other end of the spectrum, 81% indicated that this factor was not applicable for them.

Figure 22: Employment Opportunities as a Relocation Factor by State



Between the States, the difference in the relative importance of employment opportunities as a relocation factor was negligible, although a slightly higher percentage of NSW respondents believed that employment opportunities were very important and a slightly higher percentage of SA respondents suggested that this factor was not applicable to them.

No aggregate numbers on 'distance to work' as a relocation factor are presented. A more complete picture is depicted when this consideration for moving is analysed by income-support category and by State. Nothing remarkable showed with the crosstabulation between income-support category and state and hence no figures are presented. Generally however, 'distance to work' was the most important for Single Parents with one-quarter (25%) indicating this was a very important relocation factor or 42% indicating this was a 'very important' or 'important' factor (compared to 40% for the Unemployed). There was nothing noteworthy about the Disabled recipients' or Aged Pensioners' responses to this relocation factor. Again, the differences between the States regarding this relocation factor was negligible, although NSW respondents indicated distance to work to be a slightly more important factor in their decision to move into Sydney than did SA respondents and their decision to move into Adelaide.

WELFARE OUTCOMES OF RELOCATION

Aim: to assess the extent to which movers perceive themselves to be 'better off' or 'worse off' after moving.

Summary:

The notion of welfare is a multidimensional concept that incorporates all factors that influence an individual's sense of well-being. It includes economic capacity (income and assets), health, social opportunities, environmental context and so forth. It is a nebulous notion and difficult to measure. The notion of 'better off' was not defined for respondents so they implicitly answered the question in terms of how they regarded the notion. Nevertheless, individuals are generally able to assess their levels of satisfaction with different aspects of their life circumstances.

Fifty-nine percent of all movers believed they were better off in the city than they were in non-metropolitan NSW or SA. Twenty percent felt they were better off before moving, that is, in the country. Sixty-three percent of Single Parents believed they were better off since moving, the most positive of all income-support groups. The other support categories also generally viewed their move positively with 59% of the Unemployed, 53% of Aged Pensioners and 53% of the Disabled believing they were now better off in Sydney or Adelaide. However, the Disabled and Single Parents were the most polarised groups with regard to their perceptions of their welfare as a result of their move.

When asked what their likelihood was of moving within the next 12 months back to non-metropolitan NSW or SA, approximately half stated that it was very unlikely. The Aged Pensioners most strongly indicated that they were very unlikely to move back. The Unemployed indicated they were the most likely to move back to the country or were unsure of their moves in the next 12 months. The South Australians were slightly more positive about moving into the city than were those from NSW. Twenty-one percent believed they were better off before moving.

Generally, both the cities and the non-metropolitan areas received positive comments, although the non-metropolitan communities from which the respondents recently moved were rated just slightly more positively than Sydney or Adelaide. In total, 73% of all respondents rated their old non-metropolitan community positively, compared to 70% rating Sydney and Adelaide positively suggesting people are not actively moving away from country areas because they do not enjoy living there. Generally, neither the cities nor the country were not seen in a negative light as places in which to reside. The Disabled rated both the cities and the non-metro areas the least favourably compared to the other income-support categories and the Aged Pensioners rated both localities most positively. From a State perspective, Adelaide was rated more positively as compared to Sydney. Eighty-five percent rated that city positively compared to 63% rating Sydney positively.

Although the non-metro communities were rated more positively than the cities, most movers indicated they were unlikely to move back to the country. Facilities, amenities and services were seen to be much better in the cities when compared to those in the non-metropolitan areas – transportation services and costs, shopping facilities and commercial services, restaurants/clubs and health services were particularly noted. Only one 'place satisfaction' indicator was seen to be better in the non-metro areas: community spirit. By State, the level of satisfaction of income-support recipients who

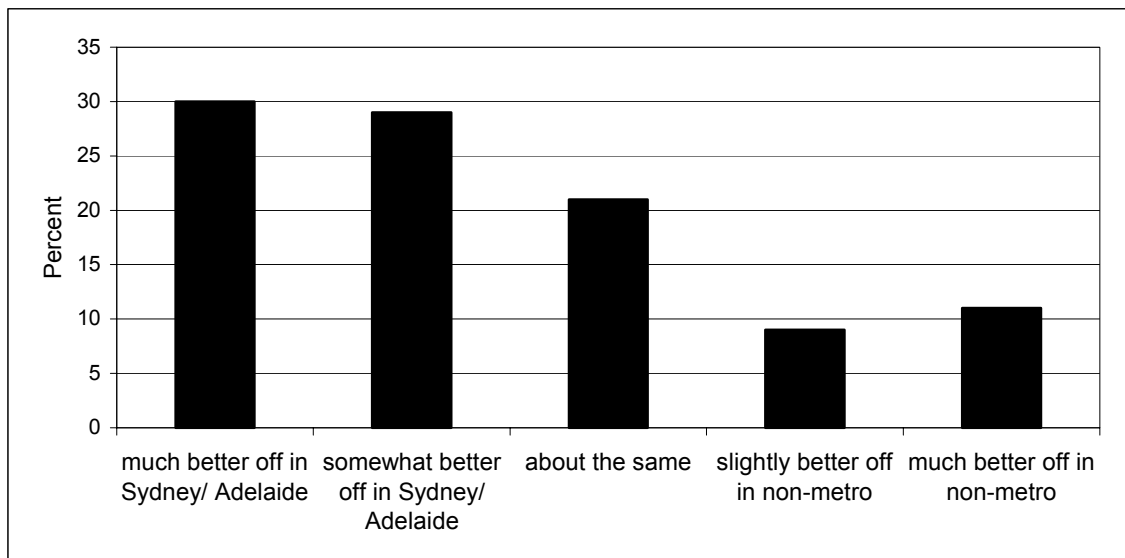
moved from non-metro SA into Adelaide was greater than those who moved from country NSW into Sydney.

All lifestyle adjustments were rated very satisfactorily by the movers. The most satisfying adjustment was maintaining family ties which was mentioned by 89% of all respondents. Aged Pensioners were the most consistent and positive in their adjustment to the cities. Ninety-five percent of Aged Pensioners were satisfied with maintaining family ties in their new community and 93% with accessing community services. The least satisfying adjustment for the Unemployed was finding paid work (mentioned by 45% of them) – for Single Parents it was getting involved in the community. Generally, SA respondents were slightly more satisfied with making lifestyle adjustments than were their NSW counterparts.

The study’s approach to ‘overall welfare’ eschewed complex measurements. First, people were asked directly to assess the degree to which they believed they were better off as a result of moving into Sydney or Adelaide. Sets of questions were devised to assess relative satisfaction with aspects of housing, community, place, and lifestyle adjustments – all of which constituted important dimensions of personal welfare. Overall welfare results are presented in detail below, followed by community ratings, and aspects of place and lifestyle satisfaction.

Aggregate Welfare Before and After Relocation –Perceptions of Being Better Off

Figure 23: Perceptions of Being Better off After Moving – Aggregate



N=1177

Figure 23 shows that 59% of all movers believed they were better off in the city than they were in non-metropolitan NSW or SA. Twenty percent (20%) felt they were better off before moving, that is, in the country. *“If by ‘better off’ you mean economically, then selling a home in the country to buy a city property is a form of economic suicide” (Respondent 4216).*

Figure 24: Perceptions of Being Better off After Moving by Income-Support Category

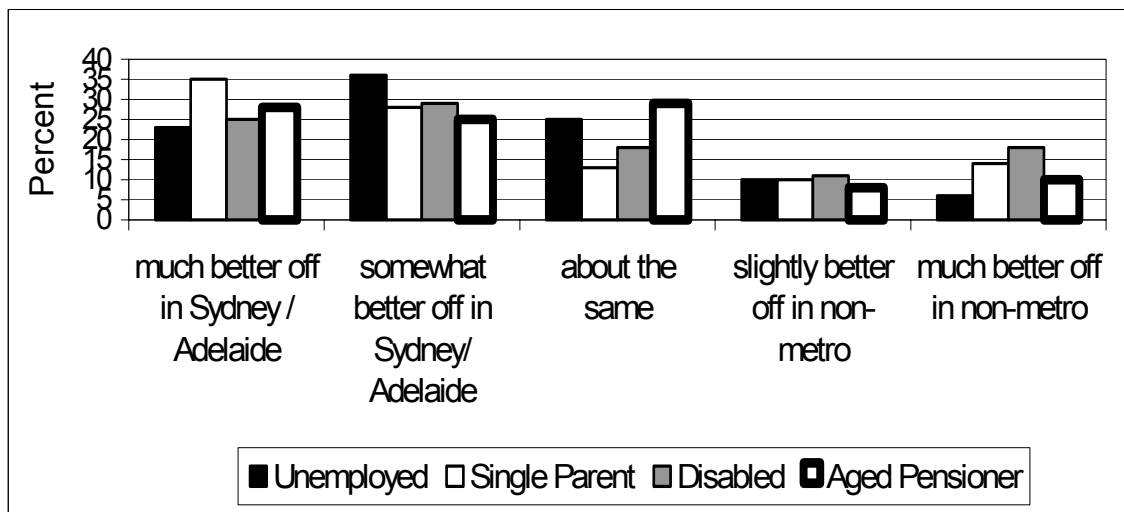
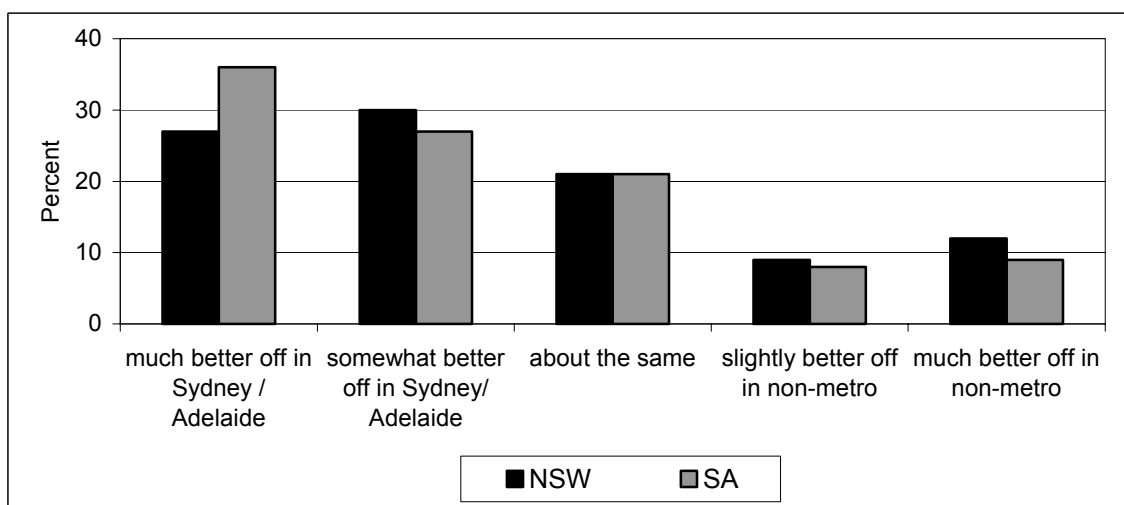


Figure 24 indicates the extent to which the different income-support recipients' last moves resulted in them being better off. The relationship between the perception of being better off and income-support category was statistically very significant at the level of 0.000. Combining totals of 'being much better off' plus 'being somewhat better off' indicates that 63% of all Single Parent movers believed they were better off in the cities than they were in the non-metropolitan areas, the most positive of all income-support groups. The other support categories also generally viewed their move positively with 59% of the Unemployed, 53% of Aged Pensioners and 53% of the Disabled believing they were now better off in Sydney or Adelaide than they were before moving. "Country living was boring" (Respondent 4500). However, the Disabled and Single Parents were the most polarised groups with 28% and 24% respectively, believing they were better off before they moved. "Life in the country is the best you can get" (Respondent 4723). Eighteen percent (18%) of Aged Pensioners and 16% of the Unemployed believed they were better off in the non-metro areas.

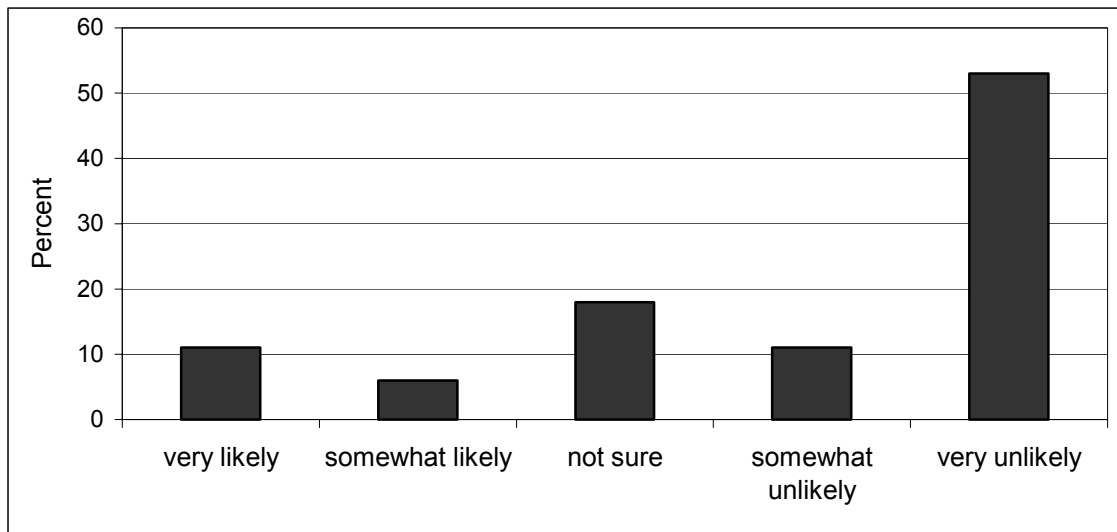
Figure 25: Perceptions of Being Better off After Moving by State



A key question about the overall perceptions of being better off did indicate a state-based difference. Figure 25 indicates, by State, the extent to which the respondents' moves to either Sydney or Adelaide resulted in them being better off. Sixty-three percent (63%) of SA movers believed they were better off in Adelaide than in non-metropolitan SA. Only 16% believed they were better off before they moved. The South Australians were slightly more positive about moving into the city than were those from NSW. Fifty-seven (57%) of all NSW movers believed they were better off in Sydney than in non-metro areas. Twenty-one (21%) believed they were better off before moving.

Aggregate Welfare Before and After Relocation – Intentions to Return to the City

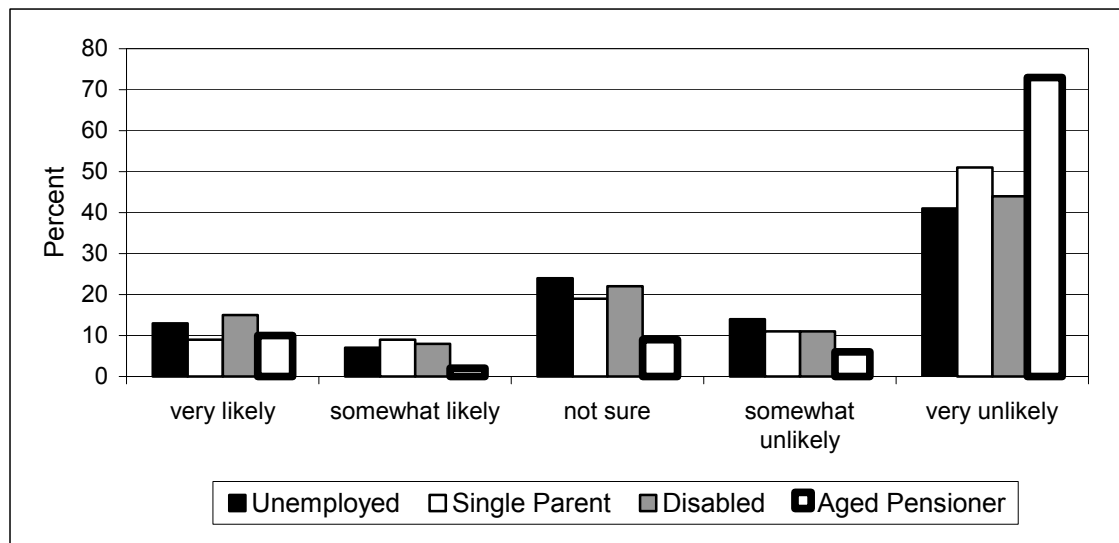
Figure 26: Likelihood of Moving Back to Non-Metropolitan NSW or SA – Aggregate



N=1199

When asked to assess the likelihood of them moving back to Sydney or Adelaide within the next 12 months, approximately half (53%) of all respondents stated that it was very unlikely to happen. Eleven percent (11%) suggested that it was very likely that they would return to the non-metropolitan region. Disaggregation by income-support category and State in the figures below indicate similar patterns.

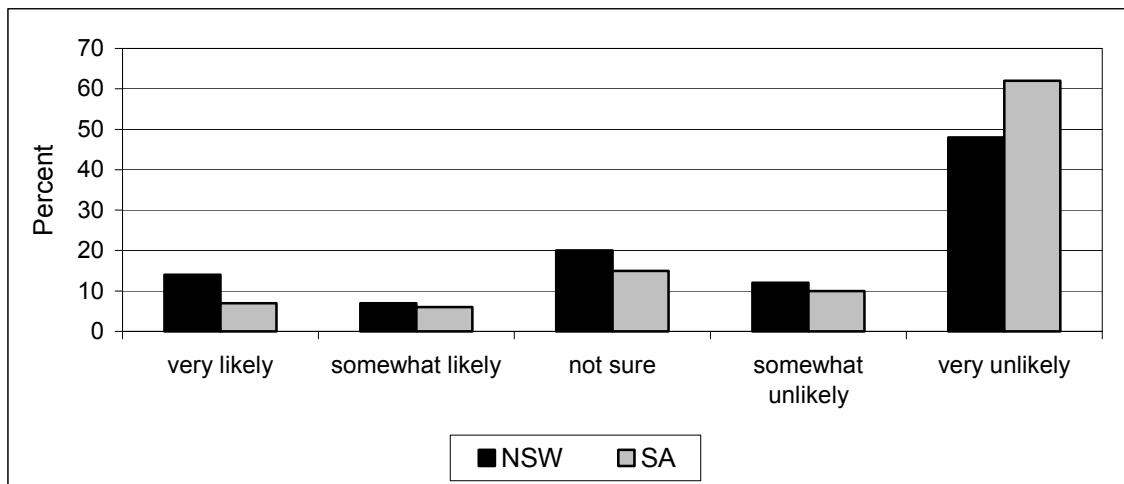
Figure 27: Likelihood of Moving Back to Non-Metropolitan NSW or SA by Income-Support Category



Looking at the likelihood of the income-support recipients moving back to non-metropolitan areas, an overwhelming 79% of all Aged Pensioners thought that it was unlikely that they would move back in the next 12 months. *“Family ties govern your place of living” (Respondent 6199)*. Sixty-three percent (63%) of Single Parents and 59% of the Disabled believed it was unlikely they would move back to the country. *“It’s still good to go back and visit the country but I wouldn’t move back” (Respondents 6286)*. Curiously, the Unemployed had the lowest percentage of respondents who believed they would not move back to the non-metropolitan area (55%) and the highest percentage of being unsure of whether they would move back to a non-metropolitan area. Approximately one-fifth of both the Disabled and the Unemployed believed it was likely that they would move back to a country area in NSW or SA. *“I loved the country, one day I will return” (Respondent 6157)*.

A Pearson Chi-Square test on the likelihood of moving back to the country crosstabulated with income-support categories indicated a statistically significant relationship at the level of 0.000. Mobility expectations of all income-support recipients was not high although there was the most uncertainty with the Unemployed and the Disabled, which was surprising given that employment opportunities are, generally, more likely to be found in the cities. However, it must be remembered that the Unemployed who answered this question were still unemployed after moving and could have been disenchanted with their move and employment expectations that had not yet come to fruition.

Figure 28: Likelihood of Moving Back to Non-Metropolitan NSW or SA by State



Whilst it is not very likely that respondents from either State will move back to non-metropolitan areas, South Australians were less likely to think they would move back to a country area than were income-support recipients in NSW. Using the combined numbers, 73% of SA respondents did not believe they would move back to non-metro SA in the next year compared to 60% of NSW respondents. On the other hand, 20% of all NSW respondents (compared to 13% of SA respondents) believed that it was likely they would move back to non-metro NSW. *“Community spirit is so important in the country and makes up for a lot of shortfalls in the country. I will probably return to the country in a few years” (Respondent 4736).*

The next section indicates respondents’ ratings of their new city and their previous non-metropolitan area. In this project, it is perceptions of being better or worse off that indicate aggregate welfare – community ratings and place satisfaction indicators help analyse this complex welfare concept. These are detailed below.

Community Ratings Before and After Relocation

Generally, both the cities and the non-metropolitan areas received positive comments as shown in the figures below. *“Both good places to live depending on what stage at your life you are at” (Respondent 6243).*

Figure 29: Overall Community Ratings – Aggregate

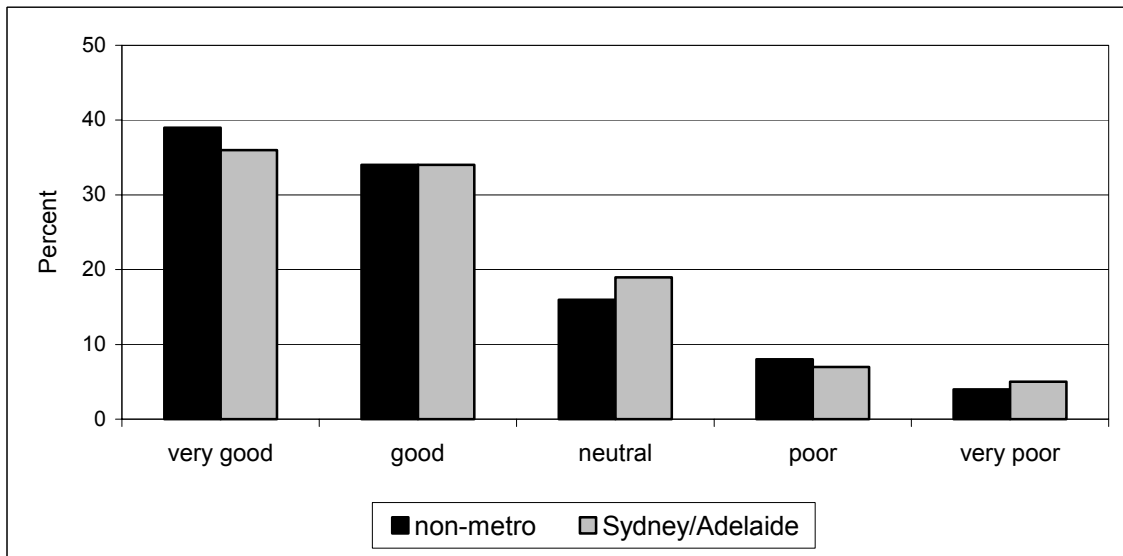
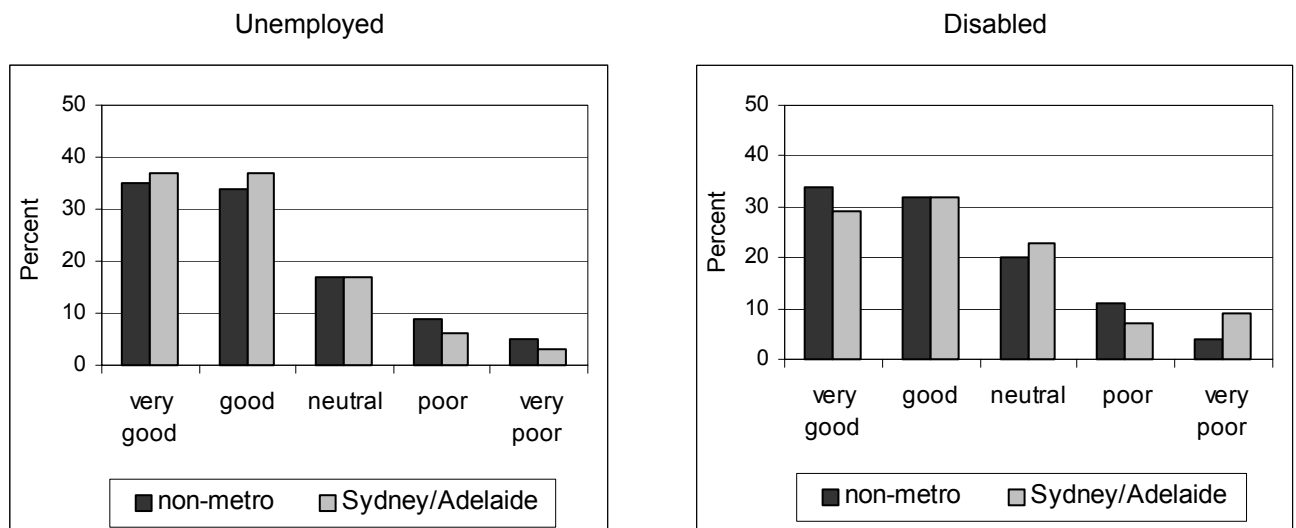
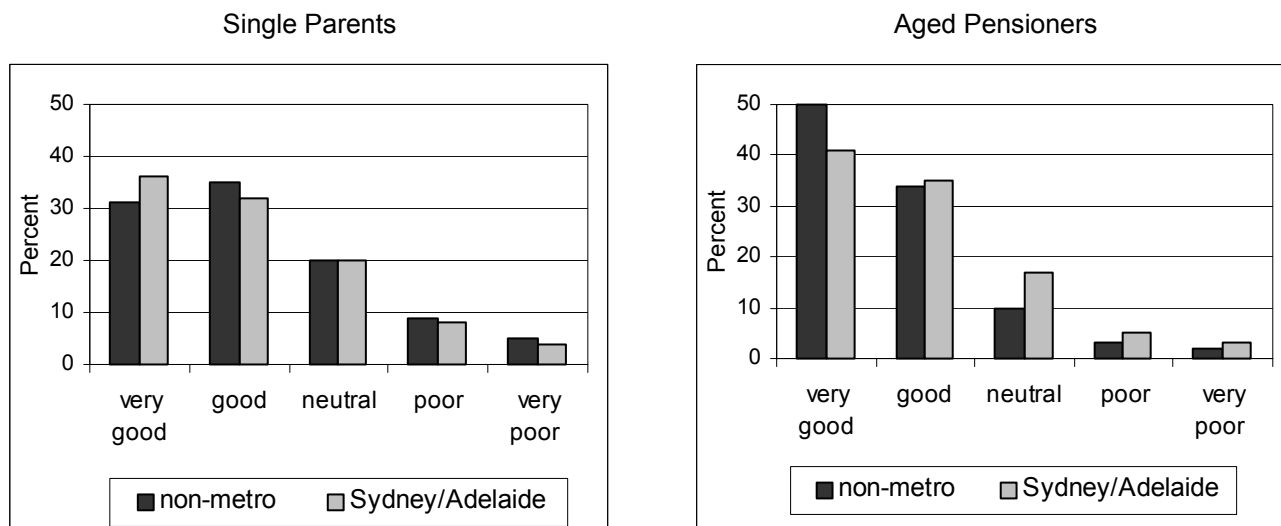


Figure 29 shows overall, the non-metropolitan communities from which the respondents recently moved were rated just slightly more positively than Sydney or Adelaide, although both locations were rated positively overall. In total, 73% of all respondents rated their previous non-metropolitan community positively compared to 70% rating Sydney and Adelaide positively. Sydney and Adelaide were seen by 11% as poor places to live, versus 10% suggesting the non-metro areas were poor places in which to reside. Respondents were more neutral about the cities than the country. *“There is no comparison as one was a holiday resort and Sydney is city living” (Respondent 4553).*

Figure 30: Overall Community Ratings by Income-Support Category

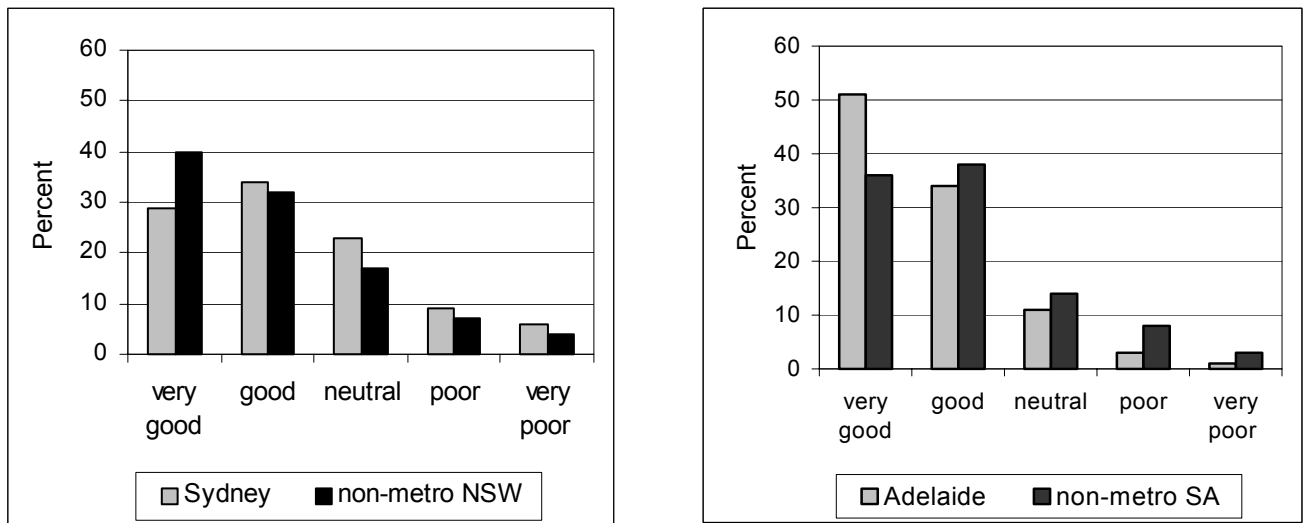




Overall community ratings by income-support categories are displayed in Figure 30. In sum, the work-ready population (Unemployed and Single Parents) rated cities slightly better than the Disabled and Aged Pensioners who rated the non-metro areas more positively than the either Sydney or Adelaide. The relationship between the perceptions of the cities and income-support category was statistically significant (0.007) whereby the figures suggest that the majority of movers had been very satisfied living in the country, especially the Aged Pensioners. At the level of detail, the Disabled rated both the cities and the non-metro areas the least favourably compared to the other income-support categories. The Disabled also recorded the highest neutral ratings for both localities. *“Even though Sydney is a large place it is also a lonely place” (Respondent 4473)*. The Aged Pensioners rated both the cities and the country areas most positively. Generally, neither the cities nor the non-metro areas were not seen in a negative light as places in which to reside. *“Everything is the same when you are not working and you are old” (Respondent 4619)*.

Sydney and Adelaide were rated positively by 62% of the Disabled compared to 76% of Aged Pensioners. Non-metropolitan areas were rated positively by 66% of the Disabled compared to 84% of Aged Pensioners. The cities were rated poorly by 16% of the Disabled compared to just 8% of Aged Pensioners. Country areas were rated poorly by 15% of the Disabled compared to just 5% of Aged Pensioners. The Unemployed and Single Parent positive ratings were in between these positive and negative percentages. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of the Unemployed rated the cities positively – just 9% of them rated the cities negatively. *“There is more life in the cities” (Respondent 4670)*. Over two-thirds (68%) of Single Parents rated the cities positively and 12% negatively.

Figure 31: Overall Community Ratings by State



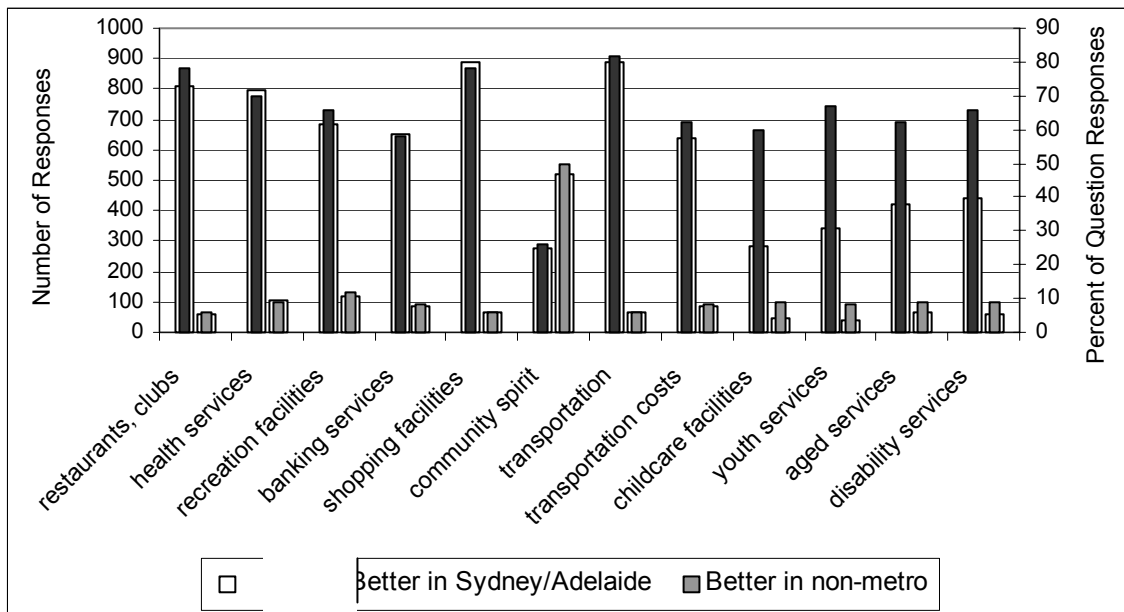
Of those who moved to Sydney, 63% rated the city positively, however, 72% of this same group more positively rated non-metropolitan NSW. *“The move has helped us although I aim to return one day to a more rural based environment as the quality of life can be so much richer in simpler ways” (Respondent 4787)*. Sydney was rated as a poor location in which to live by 15% of NSW respondents. Rural NSW was rated poorly by 11%.

Adelaide rated more positively as a city compared to Sydney. Eighty-five percent (85%) rated that city positively – only 4% rated Adelaide as a poor city in which to live. *“Adelaide is the place to be!” (Respondent 6012)*. Alternatively, 74% also rated non-metropolitan positively with 12% rating non-metropolitan SA poorly. *The best part about Adelaide is when you leave the city limits” (Respondent 6011)*. The relationship between the perceptions of the cities and State was statistically significant (0.000) whereby the figures indicated that Adelaide rated much better as a city in which to move versus Sydney. This coincided with the numbers presented in Figures 25 and 28 that suggested NSW recipients were more satisfied living in a country area and were more likely to move back to there than were their SA counterparts.

Place Satisfaction

The next two sections further analyse the concept of welfare. Firstly, they report on the respondents’ detailed views of Sydney and Adelaide compared to their previous non-metro localities with respect to social and commercial facilities and services and the spirit of the community. The order of the place indicators are consistent across all of the figures in this section to allow for comparison between aggregate, income-support category and State percentages. Secondly, the level of satisfaction of making various social and work adjustments after relocating are considered. Again, the order in which the lifestyle adjustments are presented on the graphs are consistent across all of the figures to allow for comparison.

Figure 32: Place Satisfaction After Moving – Aggregate

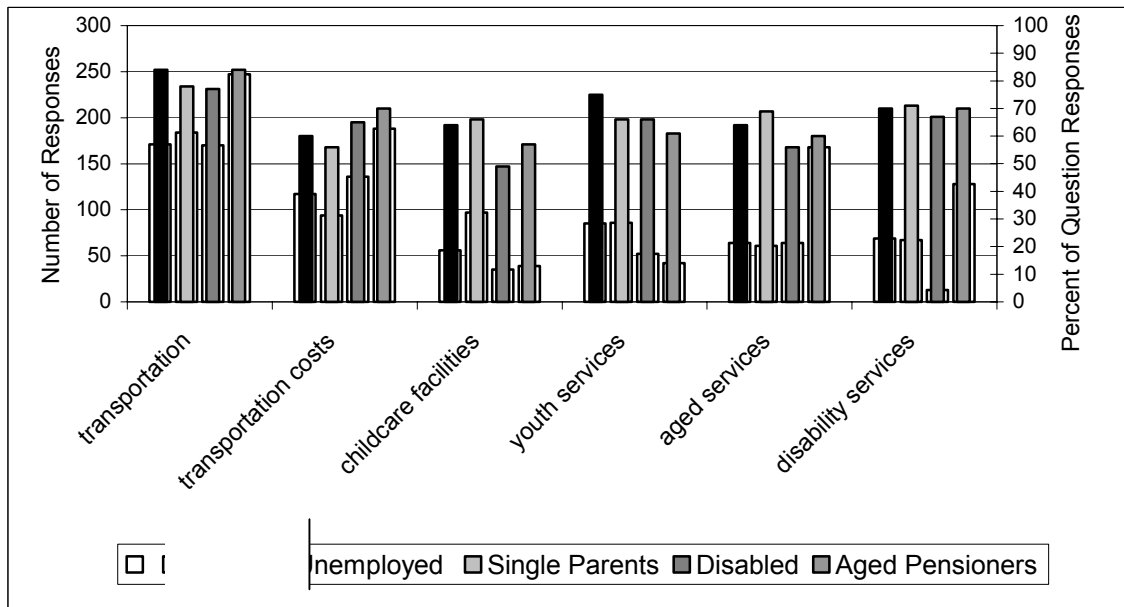
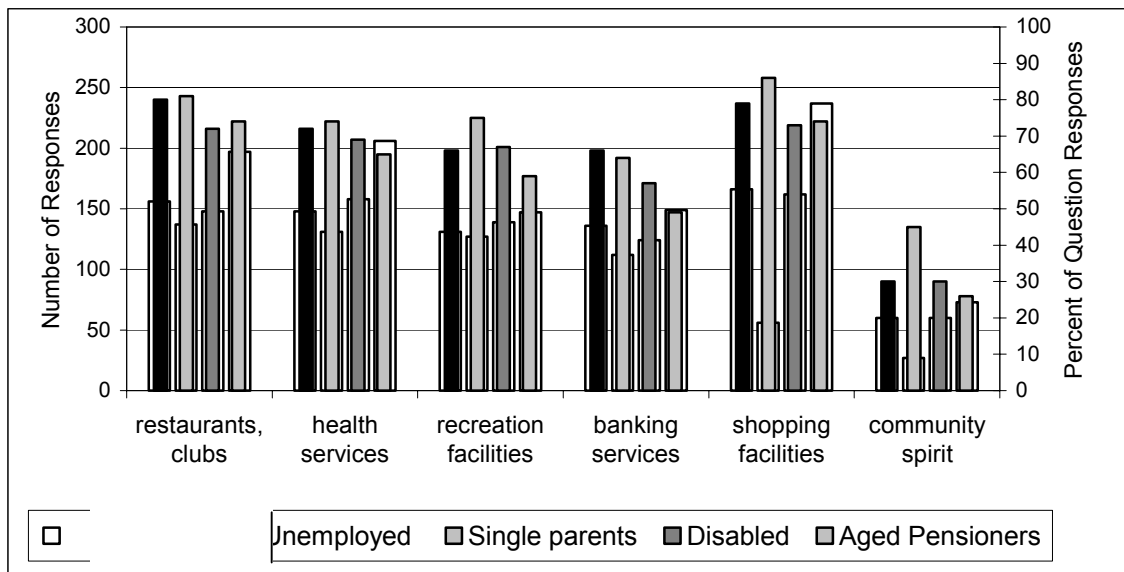


Note on interpretation: This chart represents data from a question format that allowed respondents to answer the question, leave any question blank or indicate that it did not apply to them. ‘Non-responses’ and ‘not applicable’ answers were excluded from percentage calculations. The shaded bars represent percentages of those who rated an item. The ‘open’ bars show the number of respondents who rated each item. In general, questions that were rated by the largest number of respondents should be given most weight in interpreting survey results.

Clearly, facilities and services were seen to be much better in the cities when compared to those in the non-metropolitan areas. *“Being a single mum I would have to travel 36k, through dirt roads to the nearest kindie... The city is lot easier to live for a young single mother” (Respondent 6423)*. Transportation services, shopping facilities, restaurants/clubs and health services were noted to be particularly better in Sydney and Adelaide. Transportation costs and banking/commercial services were also noteworthy for being better in the cities than country areas.

However, one place satisfaction indicator was seen to be better in the non-metro areas: community spirit. *“The loss of community spirit was a big blow.” (Respondent 6027)*. Half (50%) of all respondents to this question suggested community spirit was better in their previous non-metro community than it was in Sydney or Adelaide, although 26% disagreed and believed it was, in fact, better in the cities.

Figure 33: Place Satisfaction After Moving by Income-Support Category



Note on interpretation: This chart represents data from a question format that allowed respondents to answer the question, leave any question blank or indicate that it did not apply to them. ‘Non-responses’ and ‘not applicable’ answers were excluded from percentage calculations. The shaded bars represent percentages of those who rated an item. The ‘open’ bars show the number of respondents who rated each item. In general, questions that were rated by the largest number of respondents should be given most weight in interpreting survey results. These numbers and percentages represents the ‘much better here’ and ‘somewhat better here’ categories combined together.

Figure 33 indicates how the different income-support groups rated their level of satisfaction with city community amenities and services. It will be remembered that in total, only community spirit was seen to be better in the non-metro areas. *“Where I previously lived I felt a real belonging both with people and surrounding, in Sydney I feel as an outsider and see money as the only possible way to find my place in this community” (Respondent 4682).*

Single Parents, compared to the other income-support groups, led the positive ratings in eight of the 12 factors – that is, across the board they rated the city services and facilities more positively than the other groups. They also rated community spirit in the cities the highest amongst the income-support categories. Table 10 presents the services that were rated the highest in city areas compared to the same set of services and facilities in the country.

Table 10: Highest Percentage Rated Amenity/Service in the Cities by Income-Support Category

	Highest Rated Service/Amenity	2nd Highest Rated Service/Amenity	3rd Highest Rated Service/Amenity
Unemployed	transportation	restaurants/clubs	shopping facilities
Single Parents	shopping facilities	restaurants/clubs	transportation
Disabled	transportation	shopping facilities	restaurants/clubs
Aged Pensioners	transportation	shopping facilities	restaurants/clubs

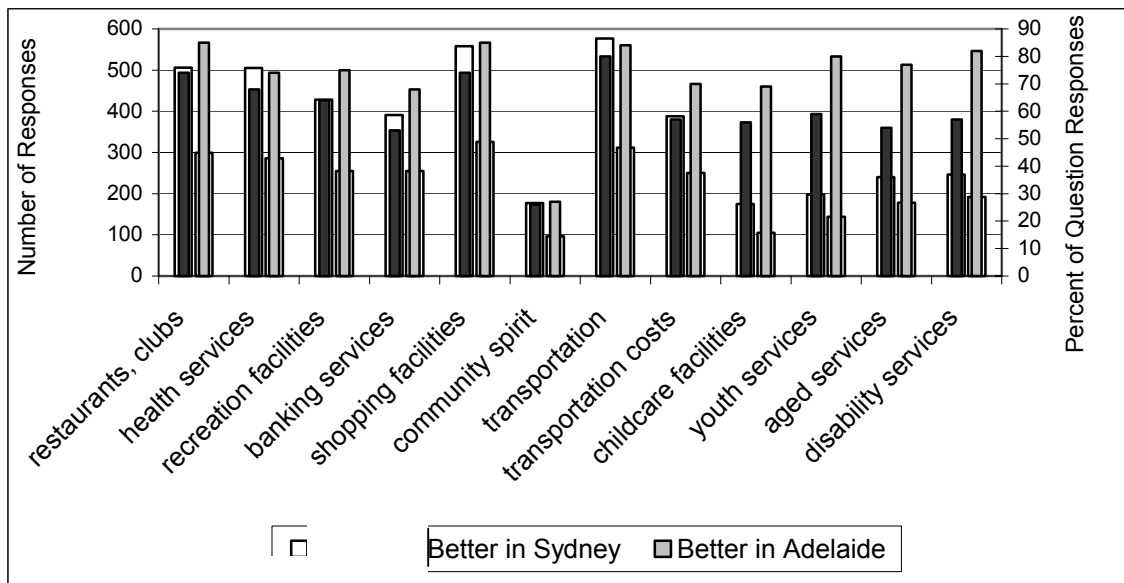
Note: For the Single Parents, whilst the factor of 'shopping facilities' had a high percentage as noted in Figure 33, this factor was mentioned by relatively few respondents, which somewhat discounts its relative importance.

Transportation services, shopping facilities, and restaurants/clubs were the most highly rated facilities and services in the cities versus the country areas across all income-support categories. Eighty-four percent (84%) of the Unemployed indicated that transportation was better in the metro area. *“My main reason for moving from the country is lack of public transport and health care” (Respondent 6178)*. The Unemployed and Single Parents were the most positive overall about the amenities and services in cities. Shopping facilities were rated very poorly in the non-metro areas by the Single Parents, with just 14% suggesting they were better there than in Sydney or Adelaide. *“The cost of rentals and house prices in Sydney is astronomical and I would prefer to live in country but public transport and amenities are zero, especially concerning education and childcare” (Respondent 4588)*.

The Disabled and Aged Pensioners rated the same three amenities and services as being better in the cities as opposed to those in the non-metropolitan areas. Eighty-four percent (84%) of Aged Pensioners indicated that transportation was better in the metro area. Their second highest rated amenity was the shopping facilities.

The relationships between income-support category and the following factors were significant to the levels stated: restaurants and clubs (.050), recreation facilities (.008), banking and commercial services (0.000), shopping facilities (.028), transportation (.015), transportation costs (.003) and disability services (.044). Collectively these figures support the a priori hypothesis that most services and facilities in the cities were better than those in the country. This is supported by the migration literature noted in Section 2.0 of this Report. That is, the social and physical infrastructure has been reduced in some country areas and whilst these inconveniences and fewer opportunities may not drive a person out of a country area, they are definitely noticeable when comparing them with the same services and facilities in a city and a factor in someone's sense of well-being.

Figure 34: Place Satisfaction After Moving by State



Note on interpretation: This chart represents data from a question format that allowed respondents to answer the question, leave any question blank or indicate that it did not apply to them. ‘Non-responses’ and ‘not applicable’ answers were excluded from percentage calculations. The shaded bars represent percentages of those who rated an item. The ‘open’ bars show the number of respondents who rated each item. In general, questions that were rated by the largest number of respondents should be given most weight in interpreting survey results. These numbers and percentages represents the ‘much better here’ and ‘somewhat better here’ categories combined together.

Figure 34 compares NSW and SA respondents’ levels of satisfaction regarding community amenities and services. Some felt it hard to compare the two localities: “I think it’s a bit silly to compare city and country as they are entirely two different set ups. It’s simply obvious – city living is more expensive but provides more opportunities and the country is a relaxed, community lifestyle. It’s always been that way and probably always will be” (Respondent 4531).

Other comments do reveal the level of satisfaction of income-support movers. “Have never looked back. City offers so much more for country kids starting out” (Respondent 6353). Satisfaction by those who moved from non-metro SA into Adelaide was greater than those who moved from country NSW into Sydney – this was based on the percentage of respondents in each State. Adelaide respondents rated their satisfaction of all amenities and services higher than their Sydney counterparts.

The following factors are worth noting as having a great number of respondents and a relatively high percentage of satisfaction in Sydney: transportation, shopping facilities, restaurants/clubs, health services and transportation costs. The factors in Adelaide that had the highest percentage of satisfaction were restaurants/clubs and shopping facilities and transportation. Adelaide residents were also relatively satisfied with disability, youth and aged services. Still, both States’ respondents equally felt community spirit was much better in the country. “Pity there’s not a greater community spirit being revived in the city, gone are the days of mateship” (Respondent 4370).

The relationships between State and the following factors were all significant at the level of 0.000: restaurants and clubs, banking and commercial services, shopping facilities, transportation costs, and youth, aged and disability services. Also significant

were recreation facilities (0.006), and childcare facilities (0.029). For each of these services or facilities, Adelaide rated higher than Sydney in their provision. Youth services, aged services and disability services were rated *much* better in Adelaide than in Sydney. This detailed information supports the finding in Figure 31 whereby Adelaide was rated higher as a place to live, generally, as compared to Sydney, apparently based on these particular services and amenities.

Lifestyle Adjustment Satisfaction

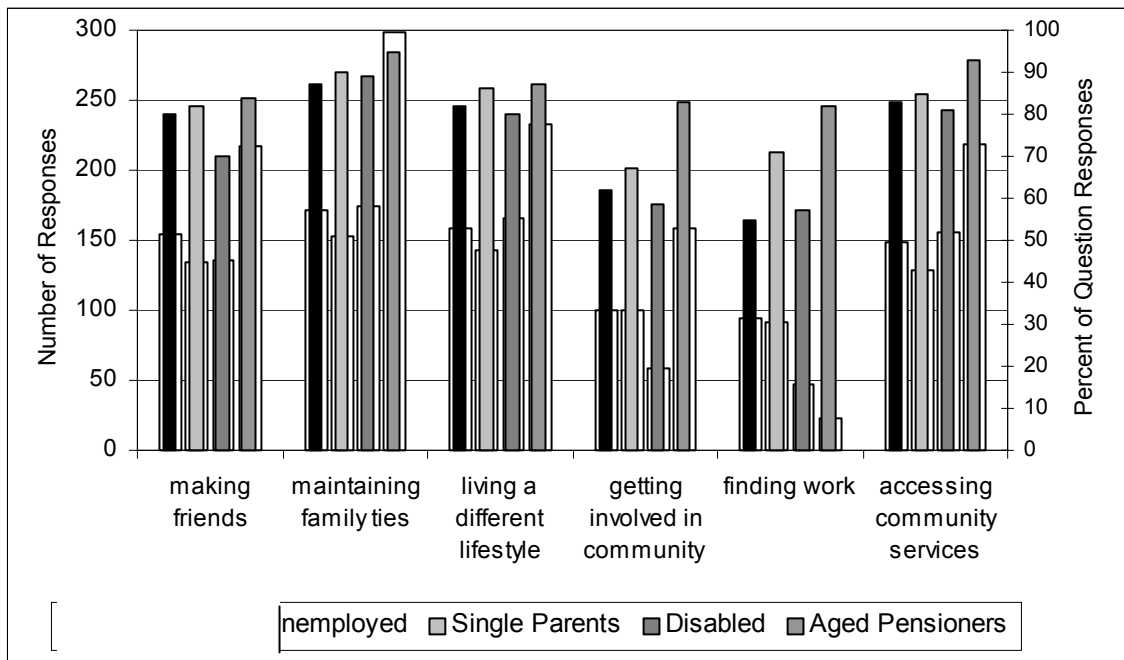
Figure 35: Lifestyle Adjustment Satisfaction – Aggregate



Note on interpretation: This chart represents data from a question format that allowed respondents to answer the question, leave any question blank or indicate that it did not apply to them. ‘Non-responses’ and ‘not applicable’ answers were excluded from percentage calculations. The shaded bars represent percentages of those who rated an item. The ‘open’ bars show the number of respondents who rated each item. In general, questions that were rated by the largest number of respondents should be given most weight in interpreting survey results.

Clearly, Figure 35 indicates that the survey respondents were very satisfied with making certain lifestyle adjustments after moving to the city. The most satisfying personal adjustment was maintaining family ties which was mentioned by 89% of all respondents to this question, followed by accessing community services, which was mentioned by 86% of respondents. The least satisfying personal adjustment respondents had to make was trying to get involved in the community.

Figure 36: Lifestyle Adjustment Satisfaction by Income-Support Category



Note on interpretation: This chart represents data from a question format that allowed respondents to answer the question, leave any question blank or indicate that it did not apply to them. ‘Non-responses’ and ‘not applicable’ answers were excluded from percentage calculations. The shaded bars represent percentages of those who rated an item. The ‘open’ bars show the number of respondents who rated each item. In general, questions that were rated by the largest number of respondents should be given most weight in interpreting survey results. These numbers and percentages represents the ‘very satisfactory’ and ‘satisfactory’ categories combined together.

A Pearson Chi-Square test shows the relationships between income-support recipient and the following adjustments presented in Figure 36 to be statistically significant: getting involved in the community (0.000), making new friends (.002), finding paid work (.003), accessing community services (.002), and maintaining family ties (.010). Explanation is detailed below.

When the income-support recipients’ lifestyle adjustments were compared with each other, Aged Pensioners were the most consistent and positive in their adjustment to the cities, with having the highest satisfaction percentage in five of the six adjustments. Ninety-five percent (95%) of Aged Pensioners were satisfied with maintaining family ties in their new community and 93% with accessing community services. It is recalled from Figure 2 that ‘distance to family and friends’ was the most important factor for Aged Pensioners in their decision to move to the city, which was obviously satisfied by their moving. Although still very positive, the least satisfying adjustments for the Aged were getting involved in the community and making new friends. *“I’m now out of isolation, close to all facilities (Respondent 6115).* For the Disabled respondents who wanted to get involved in the community, this was a very dissatisfying adjustment for them. However, more (numbers of) Disabled wanted to maintain family ties and were satisfied doing so. For those Disabled who wanted to have paid work, the city was dissatisfying to find such employment. The Disabled were the least able to make new friends – nearly one-third found this to be unsatisfactory.

For the Unemployed the most satisfying adjustment was maintaining family ties. The least satisfying adjustment for them was finding paid work – this was mentioned by 45% of this income-support category. “*Work opportunities is not as good as I thought it would be*” (Respondent 4096). For Single Parents, like the Unemployed, the most satisfying adjustment was maintaining family ties. The least satisfying adjustment Single Parents were making was getting involved in the community – 33% of respondents were dissatisfied with this adjustment. “*Socially I prefer the country ... city people are always in a hurry and if you say hello they give you strange looks*” (Respondent 6312).

Figure 37: Lifestyle Adjustment Satisfaction by State



Note on interpretation: This chart represents data from a question format that allowed respondents to answer the question, leave any question blank or indicate that it did not apply to them. ‘Non-responses’ and ‘not applicable’ answers were excluded from percentage calculations. The shaded bars represent percentages of those who rated an item. The ‘open’ bars show the number of respondents who rated each item. In general, questions that were rated by the largest number of respondents should be given most weight in interpreting survey results. These numbers and percentages represents the ‘very satisfactory’ and ‘satisfactory’ categories combined together.

A Pearson Chi-Square test shows the relationships between between State and making new friends, living a different lifestyle, and accessing community services were all significant ($p < 0.002$). The relationships between State and the adjustments of maintaining family ties and getting involved in the community were also significant, ($p < .040$). In all these relationships it was the State of South Australia that had a higher satisfied percentage of respondents. That is, compared to NSW movers those who lived in SA, and hence moved into Adelaide, were happier with their lifestyle adjustments than those who moved into Sydney.

Over 85% of respondents in both States found maintaining family ties to be quite satisfactory. Generally, SA respondents were slightly more satisfied with making lifestyle adjustments than were their NSW counterparts in all categories but ‘finding paid work.’ More than one-quarter in each State (28% in NSW and 29% in SA) found the experience of finding paid work to be an unsatisfactory adjustment after moving into

Sydney and Adelaide. For all factors but getting involved in the community, more than 70% of both States' income-support recipients were satisfied with adjustments they had to make while settling into city life.

Although 63% of NSW respondents and 70% of SA respondents found getting involved in the community to be a satisfactory adjustment, it had the lowest level of personal satisfaction compared to the other factors. This thereby had the highest unsatisfactory percentage. *“When you leave an area after 25 years you leave behind people and memories have to satisfy you until you adjust again. It is like cutting your life into two and you commence a different type of life” Respondent 4118).*

WORK OUTCOMES OF RELOCATION

Aim: to determine the impact of relocation on 'work-ready' income-support recipients.

Summary:

The work-ready population in this study includes all Unemployed and some Single Parents income-support recipients – that is, they were still unemployed or under-employed (and receiving a benefit payment) – as they filled out the questionnaire and thus dissatisfied with finding gainful employment. Again, the reader is reminded that the 'work-ready' population excludes those who were 'not receiving any benefits at this time,' who were 'not sure' of which type of benefit they were on or did not answer the income-support identifying question. Insights into this key aim are gleaned from charts and figures in previous sections of the report and the following section.

Job opportunities in the city were the single most important factor for the work-ready population in their decision to leave non-metropolitan regions for the cities – this was mentioned by 62% of the Unemployed and 56% of Single Parents. After these, the reasons why the Unemployed and Single Parents move were quite different as were their circumstances and levels of satisfaction with their move.

Unlike the other income-support groups, the work-ready population rated the cities more positively than their previous, non-metropolitan communities. This group identified transportation services, shopping facilities, and restaurants/clubs to be much better in the cities as compared to the same amenities in the country areas.

After moving, 21% of all Unemployed and 31% of Single Parent respondents indicated they had some paid employment in the city, although 71% of the Unemployed and 38% of Single Parents indicated that they would like to work more hours than they currently do. By State, the NSW's work-ready respondents were much less satisfied with finding paid work in Sydney as compared to their SA counterparts finding work in Adelaide.

Only 20% of the Unemployed in Sydney believed they were 'much' better off after moving there. However, this same group of Unemployed were more likely than the other income-support categories of believing they were 'somewhat' better off after moving (41%). The Unemployed in both States were more neutral about their well-being after moving than were the Single Parents.

The Unemployed in Sydney were the most likely group to move back to country areas in the next 12 months, followed by the Sydney Single Parents. Single Parents in Adelaide were the least likely move back with two-thirds believing it was very unlikely they would move back to country SA.

Work-Ready Respondent Characteristics

- The work-ready population consisted of 412 (Unemployed and Single Parents) respondents.
- Sixty-one percent of the work-ready population were from NSW and 39% from SA.
- The Unemployed gender split was 45% female, 55% male. The Single Parent split was 91% female, 9% male.
- Twenty-nine percent of the Unemployed and 22% of Single Parents were under the age of 25.
- Fifty-three percent of the Unemployed and 56% of Single Parents were under 35 years of age.
- Eighty-one percent of the work-ready population were born in Australia. Of those not born in Australia, 71% had lived here for more than 20 years.
- After moving into the cities, 29% of the Unemployed were part of households consisting of a group of unrelated adults. This was up by 13% from their non-metro situations. After moving, consistent with relationship breakdowns, many more Single Parents were a lone parent and no longer part of a couple with one or more dependent children.
- Thirty-seven percent of the Unemployed and 38% of Single Parents moved into the cities from small towns. Just 13% and 12% of these groups, respectively moved from rural areas. Only 3% of the Unemployed moved as a result of the recent drought conditions.
- Housing tenure changed for the work-ready population, post-relocation. In the metro areas, substantially more were renting and receiving Centrelink assistance than in the non-metro areas. Fewer Unemployed were renting privately or boarding with family/friends. Very few Single Parents owned outright or were purchasing their housing.

Relocation Factors

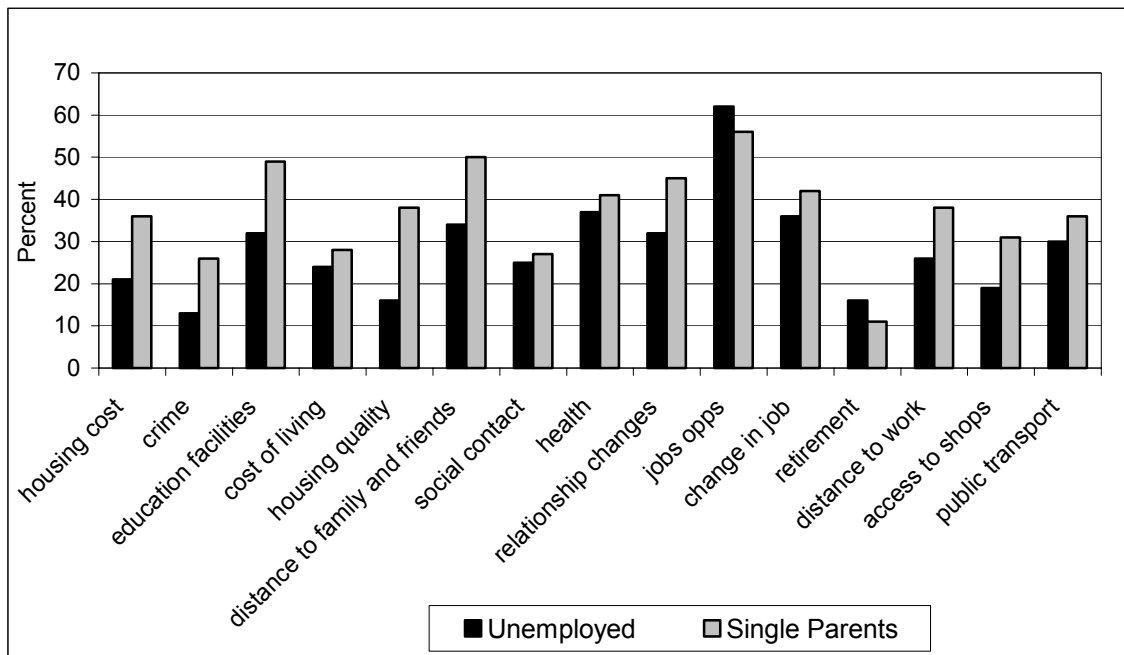
Fifteen factors were listed on the questionnaire whereby respondents were asked to comment on the importance of each in their decision to move to a metropolitan area. Table 11 shows that, for the Unemployed, job opportunities and their own health or that of a family member were the most important factors for moving into the metropolitan areas. *“Financially the city is a great option for jobs but terrible for value for money” (Respondent 4091)*. Distance to work was not listed to be all that important by the Unemployed. Housing costs and quality rated even lower. For Single Parents, the most important factor in moving to the cities was also job opportunities, followed by the desire to be closer to family and friends.

Table 11 lists in rank order from the highest to lowest, ‘very important’ (percentages) considerations for the Unemployed and Single Parents in their decision to move out of non-metro areas into the city, presented graphically in Figure 38. The ‘other’ category (not listed in this Table) had the highest percentage of very important responses for both groups which included lifestyle change and access to medical facilities.

Table 11: Very Important Relocation Factors for the Work-Ready Population

Unemployed	Single Parents
job opportunities	job opportunities
their own health or that of a family member	to be closer to family and friends
a change in their employment situation	education facilities
to be closer to family and friends	a change in their relationship status
education facilities	a change in their employment situation
a change in their relationship status	their own health or that of a family member
amount of public transport	housing quality
the distance to work	the distance to work
amount of meaningful social contact	amount of public transport
cost of living	housing cost
housing cost	access to shops and commercial services
access to shops and commercial services	cost of living
housing quality	amount of meaningful social contact
retirement opportunities	crime levels
crime levels	retirement opportunities

Figure 38: Work-Ready Population – Very Important Relocation Factors



As can be seen in Figure 38, job opportunities in the city were the single most important factor in the work-ready population’s decisions to move out of the non-metropolitan areas – this was mentioned by 62% of the Unemployed and 56% of Single Parents. After these, the reasons why the Unemployed and Single Parents move were quite different. The second most important consideration for the Unemployed was their own health or that of a family member (this mentioned by more than a third – 37% of Unemployed respondents). The second most important reason for Single Parents moving was to be closer to family and friends (50%). The third most important

consideration in moving for the Unemployed was a change in their employment situation (36%) and for Single Parents, was education facilities (49%) and a change in their relationship status (45%). *“I don't think I would have moved back to Sydney if my marriage didn't break down” (Respondent 4758)*. The least important relocation factors for both the 'work-ready' populations were retirement opportunities and crime levels.

Overall Satisfaction of Sydney and Adelaide

Unlike the other two income-support groups, the work-ready population rated the cities more positively than their previous, non-metropolitan communities. *“Any place to live is made ‘much’ easier if you have a job” (Respondent 4809)*. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of the Unemployed rated the cities positively – just 9% of them rated them negatively. Just over two-thirds (68%) of Single Parents rated the cities positively and 12% negatively.

Comparatively, 69% of the Unemployed rated their old community positively with another 14% rating the non-metro areas negatively. Sixty-six percent (66%) of Single Parents rated their previous non-metropolitan area positively – 14% rated them negatively. *“It is better to live in the country, however employment is better in the city” (Respondent 4418)*.

Not unlike the Aged Pensioners and Disabled, the Unemployed and Single Parents indicated that transportation services, shopping facilities, and restaurants/clubs were much better in the cities as compared to the same amenities in the non-metropolitan areas.

Satisfaction with Current Paid Employment

Twenty-one percent (21%) of all Unemployed and 31% of Single Parent respondents indicated they currently had some paid employment in the city. Of these Unemployed 70% worked less than 20 hours/week – 36% worked 0-10 hours/week. Of these Single Parents 34% worked less than 20 hours/week – 34% worked less than 10 hours/week. This is further analysed by State below.

Figure 39: Work-Ready's Current Engagement in Paid Employment

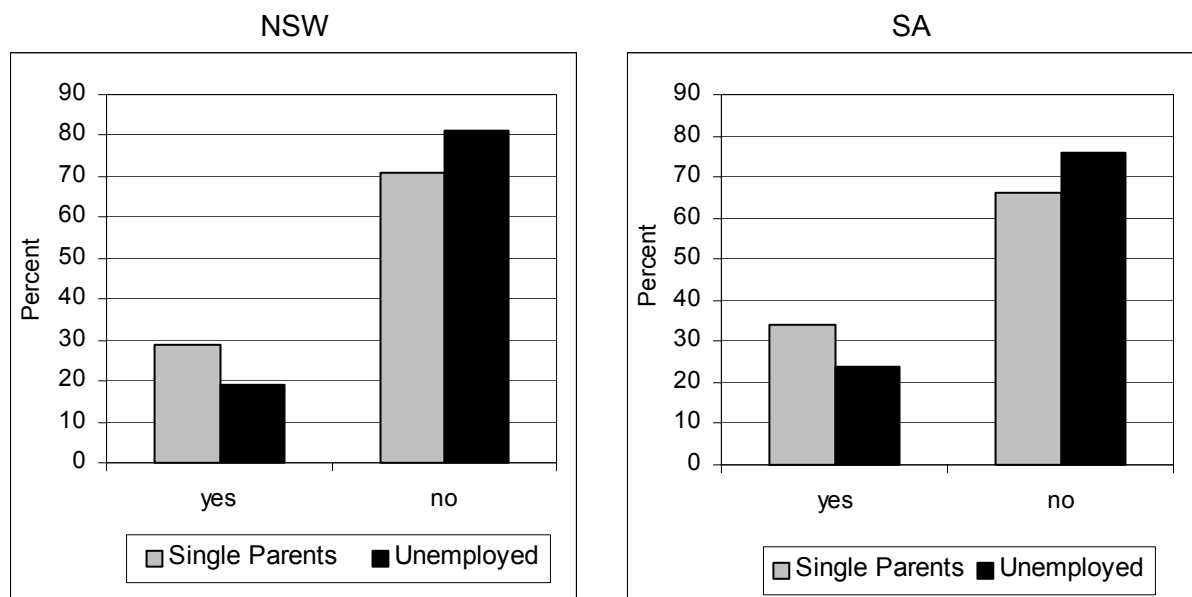
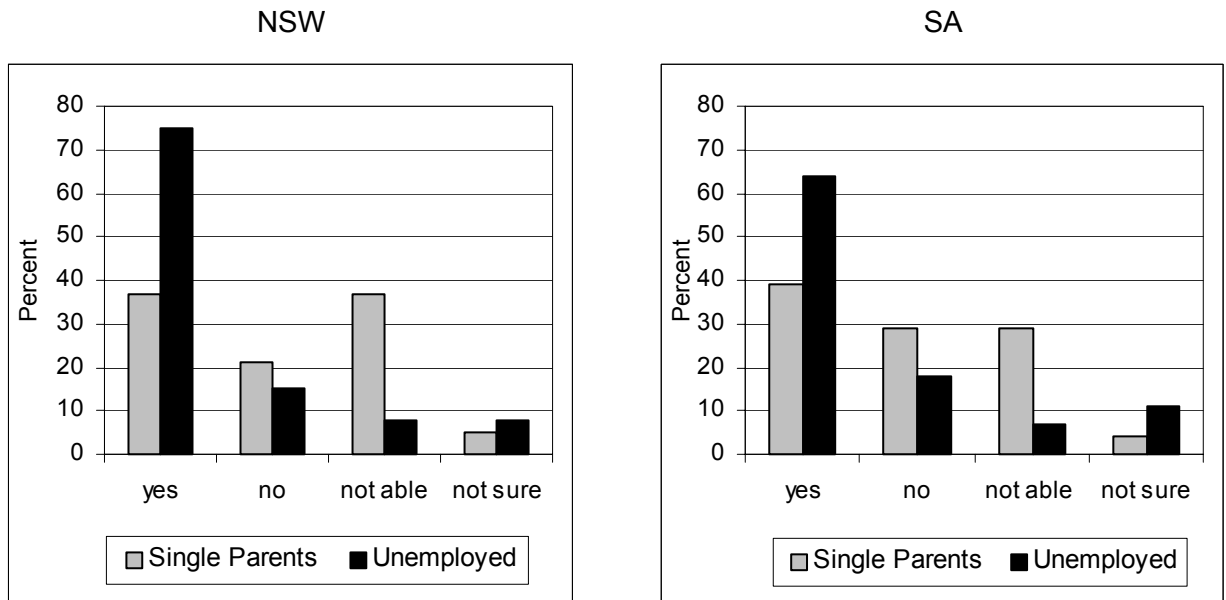


Figure 39 indicates that a slightly smaller percentage of Single Parents have some paid employment in Sydney as compared to Adelaide, being 29% and 34%, respectively. There is also a lower percentage of the Unemployed who have some work in Sydney (19%) compared to Adelaide (24%). In sum, fewer of the work-ready population in Sydney than in Adelaide were engaged in any paid employment.

Willingness to Work More

Of all Unemployed, 55% of them were the main income earner in the household in the cities – this was up marginally (by 5%) from their situation in the country. Of all Single Parents, 86% were the main income earner in the household in the city – this was up substantially (by 22%) from the non-metro situation and is likely in response to a change in their relationship status from one location to the other. Aggregately, 71% of the Unemployed and 38% of Single Parents indicated that they would like to work more hours than they currently do. Thirty-four percent (34%) of the Single Parents suggested that they were not able to work more hours due to their own personal circumstances. The following figure analyses the story from a State perspective.

Figure 40: Work-Ready’s Willingness to Work More by State



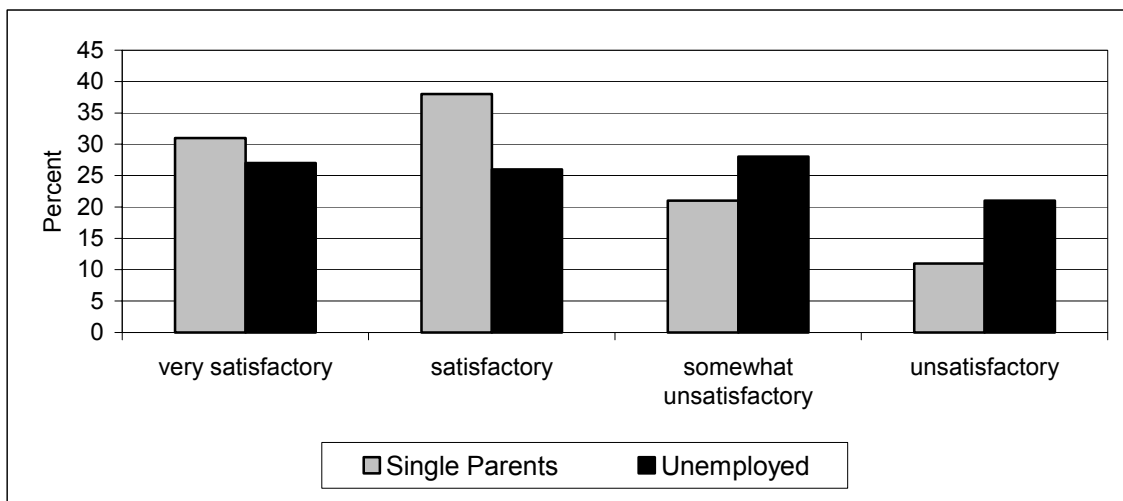
Seventy-five percent (75%) of all NSW Unemployed would like to work more hours than they were currently engaged with in Sydney. Comparatively, 64% of Adelaide Unemployed recipients wanted to work more than they currently do. The NSW and SA Single Parents were similar, whereby 37% and 39% of this group respectively, would like to work more than they currently do. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of Sydney’s Single Parents indicated that they were not able to work more – 29% of Adelaide’s Single Parents indicated they were not able to work more in paid employment than they currently do. *“The extra city expenses and hours of work detract from my parenting energy” (Respondent 4209).*

Satisfaction With Employment in the Cities

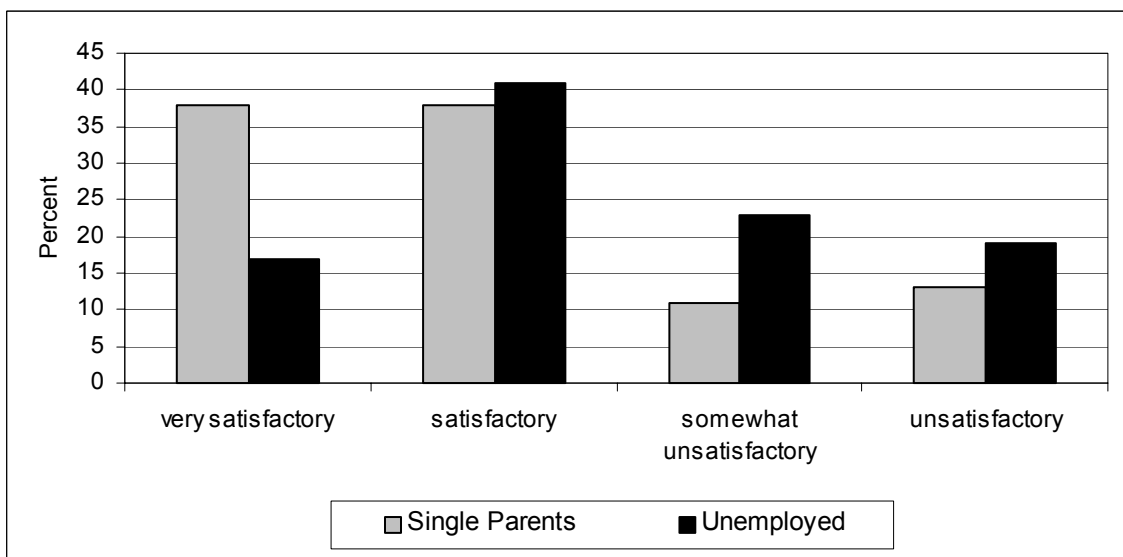
As mentioned in the first section of this chapter, for the Unemployed, the least satisfying adjustment after moving to the cities was finding paid work. Just over half (55%) of the Unemployed were satisfied with finding paid work in the cities. Single Parents were much more satisfied in this respect with 71% indicating so. These figures correspond with the numbers above whereby 71% of the Unemployed and 38% of Single Parents indicated that they would like to have more paid work than they currently had. The following figure analyses this level of post-relocation satisfaction in further detail. This section indicates that Single Parents are moving and obtaining part-time work – which they feel is a good employment outcome. The Unemployed, on the other hand, are not as satisfied because they have yet to secure full-time employment.

Figure 41: Work-Ready’s Satisfaction with Finding Paid Work by State

NSW



SA



As shown in Figure 41, overall, NSW respondents were less satisfied with finding paid work in Sydney as compared to their SA counterparts finding work in Adelaide. Nearly half (49%) of all Unemployed in Sydney were dissatisfied with finding paid work after moving. This compared to one-third of the Unemployed in Adelaide being dissatisfied with finding employment. *“Being a country person by heart, having to move into a city is very hard. But I, like many, have been forced to give up a life I have in order to survive. As an aboriginal woman I find my situation difficult, with ‘good’ jobs hard to find...”* (Respondent 6163). Generally, Single Parents were more satisfied with finding paid employment in the cities, and again, SA movers were more satisfied than their NSW counterparts. One-third (33%) of Single Parents were dissatisfied with finding work in NSW compared to one-quarter (24%) of the same income-support group in SA.

Figure 42: Work-Ready’s Satisfaction with Housing Location in Relation to Work

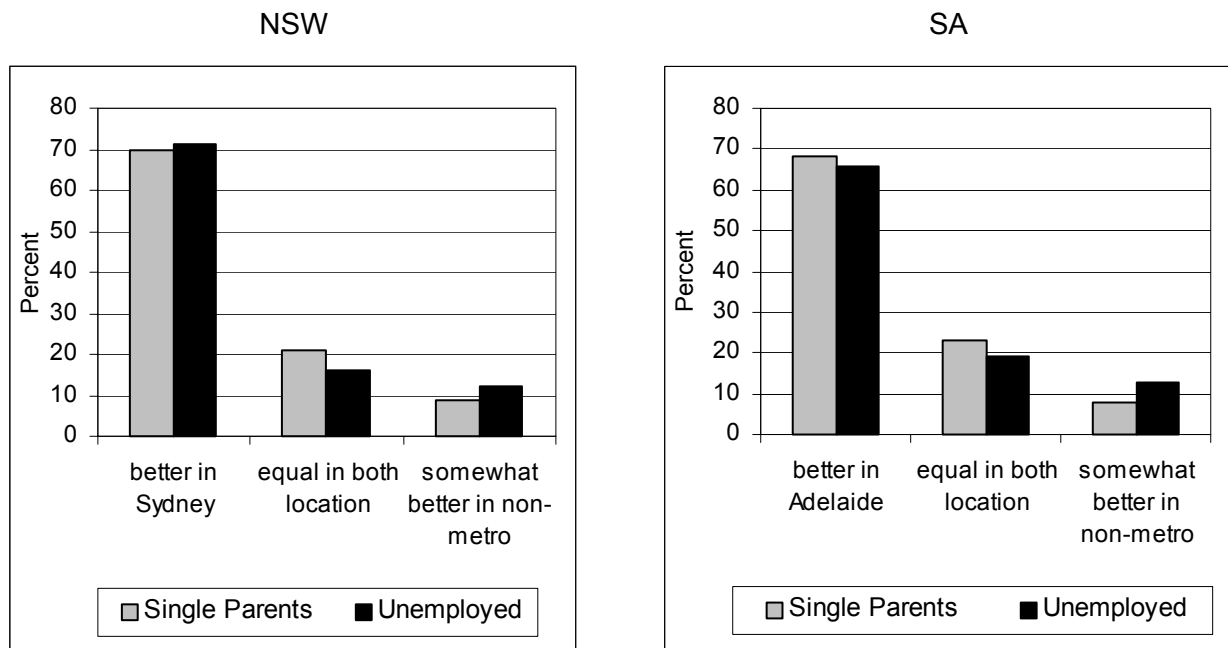
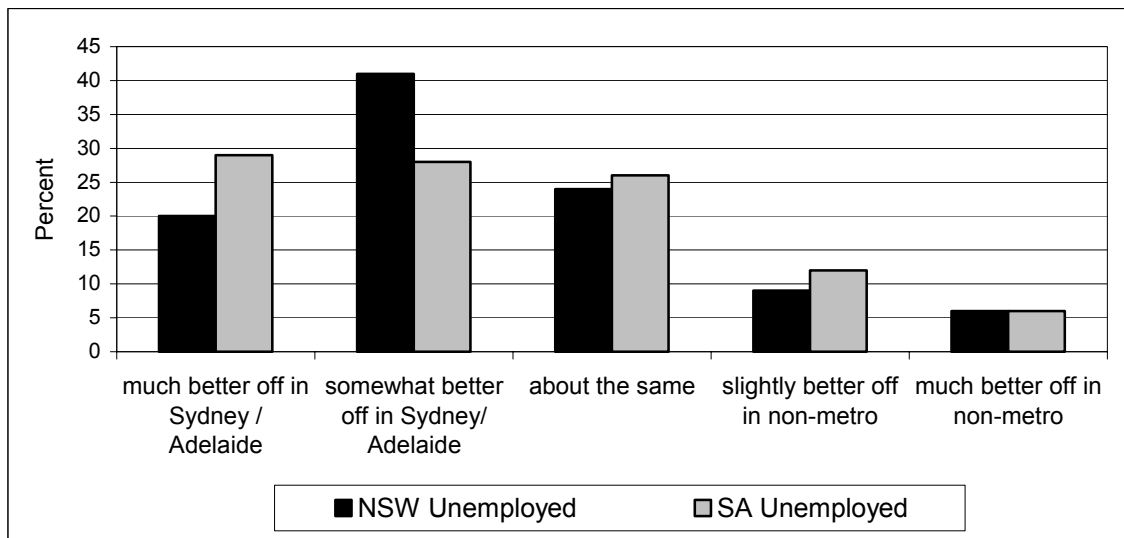


Figure 42 charts perceptions of housing location in relation to employment opportunities. Not surprisingly, more than 70% of both the Unemployed and Single Parents believed that the location of their housing in relation to work opportunities was better in Sydney than non-metro NSW. Percentages were slightly lower for SA with 66% of the Unemployed and 68% of Single Parents indicating that housing in relation to work was better in Adelaide than country SA, although the differences were not significant. That is, overwhelming, more than two-thirds of all work-ready respondents believed they were better off in this respect after moving into the cities. Those who moved into Sydney’s inner city area were slightly more positive with this employment aspect than were those who moved to the outer western suburbs. Regardless of where respondents moved to in Adelaide, they all had about the same relative level of satisfaction of their housing being closer to work.

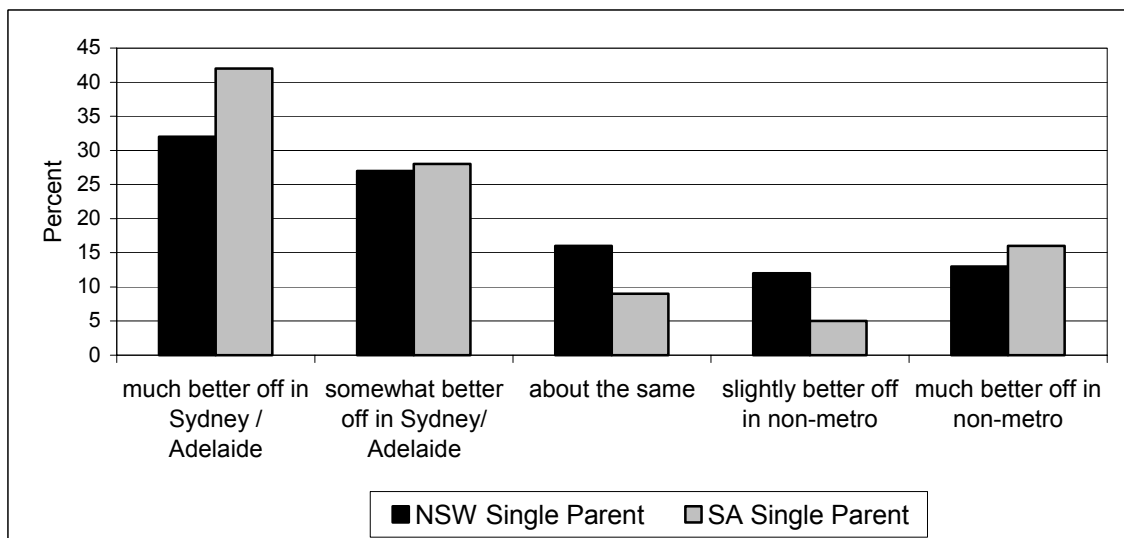
Welfare of the Work Ready Population

Figure 43: Work-Ready's Overall Perceptions of Being Better off After Moving

Unemployed



Single Parents



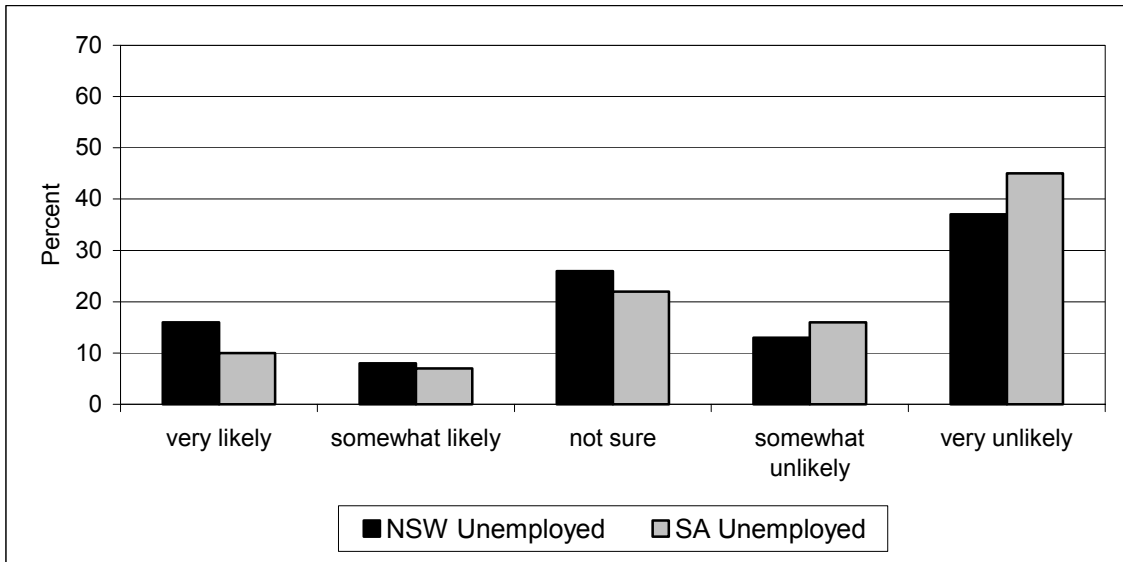
This Figure indicates the work-ready's perceptions of their overall well-being after moving into the cities. The first graph represents the Unemployed, the second, Single Parents. They can be read as two, comparing the Unemployed and then the Single Parents between the States or together comparing the Unemployed to the Single Parents. Together, they indicate that in both States, Single Parents believed they were 'much' better off in the cities compared to the Unemployed. In detail, SA Unemployed and Single Parents suggested they were 'much' better off after their move compared to those in NSW. However, more Unemployed in Sydney thought they were 'somewhat' better off than those in Adelaide (41% versus 28%). The Single Parents in Adelaide had the highest perceptions of being 'much better off' after moving – they also had the highest percentage (16%) of respondent who felt they were much better off in the country. Only 20% of the Unemployed in Sydney believed they were much better off

after moving there. The Unemployed in both States were more neutral about their well-being after moving than the Single Parents. *“Job opportunities were irrelevant as a lot of opportunity is up to the individual” (Respondent 6191).*

Likelihood of the Returning to the Country

Figure 44: Work-Ready’s Likelihood of Returning to the Country

Unemployed



Single Parents

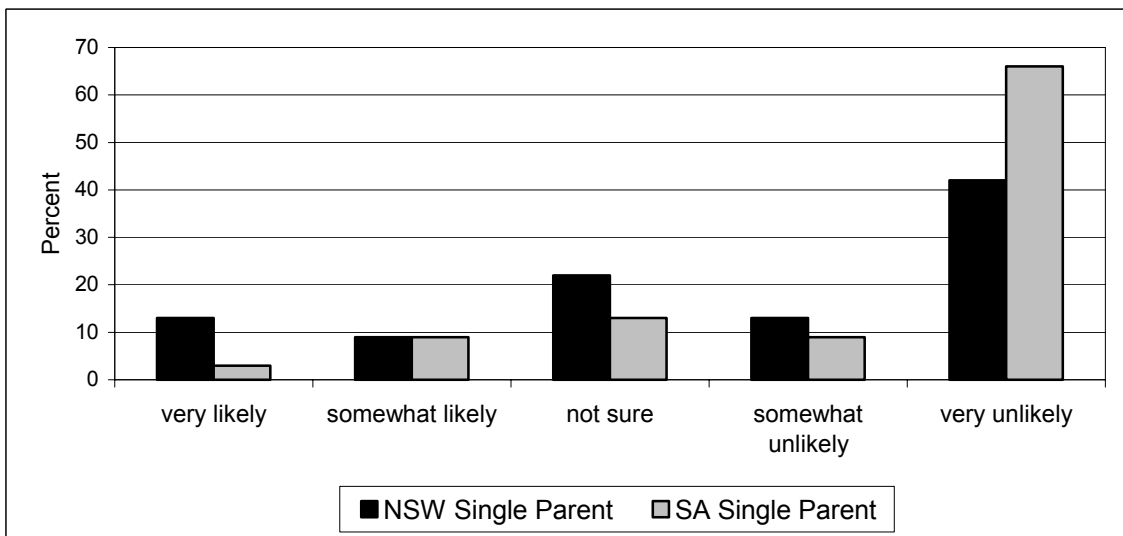


Figure 44 indicates the work-ready’s likelihood of moving back to non-metropolitan areas within the next 12 months. Again, the first graph represents the Unemployed, the second, Single Parents. They can be read as two, comparing the Unemployed and then the Single Parents between the States or together comparing the Unemployed to the Single Parents. Overwhelmingly, this figure indicates that in both States, the work-ready population is very unlikely to move back to the country. However, it is remembered from previous data in this chapter that the Unemployed registered as the group most likely to move back to the non-metro areas. When further analysed, it is noted that the

Unemployed in Sydney believed they were the most likely to move back, followed by the Sydney Single Parents. Single Parents in Adelaide were the least likely move back with two-thirds (66%) believing it was very unlikely they would move back to country SA. *“I think the country has more offer but it doesn't pay the bills” (Respondent 4761).*

5 MIGRATION TO AND FROM THE CITIES

As noted earlier in the report, this study parallels prior research on income-support recipients who moved from metropolitan Sydney and Adelaide to the non-metropolitan parts of the NSW and SA respectively. Although a detailed comparison of results from the two studies was not part of the proposal for the present study some exploratory work has been undertaken. Some of the more interesting results are briefly reported here. The first study is referred to below as 'Moves out of the city' whilst the second is termed 'Moves into the city'.

5.1 Migration Factors

Moves out of the city: Housing affordability was a major factor in the decision by income-support recipients to relocate from metropolitan cities to non-metropolitan areas. There were some variations between income-support categories and between NSW and SA but only at the margin.

Moves into the city: Whilst a search for more affordable housing was, unsurprisingly, an unimportant consideration in the decision to move into Sydney or Adelaide, it had a negative impact on movers post-relocation, especially for Single Parents and least so for Aged Pensioners. Fifty percent of movers paid more for their housing after relocation and were generally dissatisfied with the affordability of housing after moving.

Moves out of the city: Lifestyle factors and personal circumstances were very influential in relocation decisions. They included the desire for a better place in which to raise a family, the perception of increasing crime levels in the city, and other personal or health reasons. Circumstances that influenced relocation also included changes in relationships, employment status, financial stability and household structure. Many income-support recipients actually wanted to move out of the cities. They were able to make those moves and achieve their desired lifestyle goals as a result of housing being more affordable, appropriate and available in non-metro areas. For the Unemployed, housing and cost of living considerations were the most important relocation factors. For Single Parents, wanting a better place in which to raise a family and housing costs were most important. Most influential for the Disabled were the desire to live outside the city and housing costs, whilst for Aged Pensioners it was relationship changes (likely the death of a spouse) and wanting to own their own homes that rated highest.

Moves into the city: The main reasons for moving varied by category of income-support recipient. For the Unemployed, job opportunity was by far the most important relocation factor with 60% indicating so. For Single Parents the most important factor was also job opportunities, although other important factors included being closer to family and education facilities. The most important relocation factor for the Disabled was access to health services. The key consideration for Aged Pensioners was proximity to family and friends, with 72% indicating that this was a very important consideration in moving.

5.2 Welfare Outcomes of Relocation

Moves out of the city: Seventy-two percent of movers believed they were better off in their non-metropolitan communities than they had been in Sydney or Adelaide. Just 12% felt they had been better off prior to relocating. Eighty-two percent of Single Parents believed they were better off after moving, the most positive assessment of the income-support groups. NSW movers were slightly more positive about the outcomes of

their moves than the South Australians. The conjecture is that this results from the greater advantage to be gained in housing affordability by moving from Sydney.

Moves into the city: Fifty-nine percent movers believed they were better off after moving to the city. This figure is markedly lower than the rating given by those who had moved away from the cities. It suggests that, on balance, a much higher percentage of people perceived they were better off moving away from the cities than moving into them. This conjecture is supported by the net gains to non-metropolitan areas of income-support recipients demonstrated in the LDS data. Single Parents were the most positive about the outcome whilst the Disabled were the least satisfied.

Moves out of the city: Two-thirds of movers stated that it was very unlikely that they would move back to the cities. Only 7% suggested it was very likely. The Unemployed were the most likely to move back and Aged Pensioners the least. A higher percentage of SA movers believed they would move back to Adelaide than NSW respondents to Sydney.

Moves into the city: Approximately half the respondents stated that it was very unlikely that they would move back to non-metropolitan areas. Aged Pensioners most clear about this whilst the Unemployed were most likely to move back. The South Australians were slightly more positive about moving into Adelaide than were those from non-metropolitan NSW respondents about moving into Sydney. One-in-five respondents believed they were better off before in the country.

5.3 Relative Community Ratings

Moves out of the city: Overall, non-metro areas were rated very positively as places in which to live. Eighty-five percent of movers rated their new community positively, compared to half who rated Sydney and Adelaide positively. A mere 4% suggested that their non-metro community was a poor place to live. In contrast, one-quarter of respondents rated metro areas as poor places to live. The Unemployed rated their new community less favorably than the other income-support categories whilst Aged Pensioners rated their new community most positively. The Unemployed had the most positive ratings for Sydney and Adelaide. In comparing amenities and services between metro and non-metro areas, all but two factors – community spirit and aged services – were seen to be better in the cities. Community spirit was regarded as being better in non-metro areas by 71% of all respondents. Rated poorest in non-metro communities, relative to the cities, were transportation, shopping facilities and restaurants/clubs. NSW non-metro amenities were seen to be slightly better, across the board, than those in non-metro SA. The most satisfying adjustment was ‘living a different lifestyle.’ The least satisfying was ‘finding work’ which was noted by two-thirds of all respondents to be easier in the cities.

Moves into the city: Both the cities and the non-metropolitan areas were perceived as positive places in which to live, although the non-metro communities from which the respondents recently moved were rated just slightly more positively than Sydney or Adelaide. From a State perspective, Adelaide was rated more positively than Sydney. Facilities, amenities and services were seen to be much better in the cities than in the non-metropolitan areas. Transportation services and costs, shopping facilities and commercial services, restaurants/clubs and health services were particularly noted. Only one ‘place satisfaction’ indicator, ‘community spirit’, was seen to be better in the non-metro areas. The most satisfying lifestyle adjustment made by movers was maintaining family ties which was mentioned by 89% of all respondents. Aged

Pensioners were the most consistent and positive in their adjustment to the cities. Generally, SA respondents were slightly more satisfied with making lifestyle adjustments than were their NSW counterparts.

5.4 Implications of Relocation for ‘Work-Ready’ Income-Support Recipients (Unemployed and Single Parents)

Moves out of the city: Survey data indicates that there is a negative effect, especially for the Unemployed, on the capacity of ‘work-ready’ income-support recipients to obtain employment in the non-metropolitan areas. The Unemployed, like other movers, were influenced in their relocation decisions by a range of factors other than employment. Circumstances such as personal or health factors, lifestyle choices, wanting access to different services and amenities, housing costs, the location as a place to raise a family and cost of living were the most important factors that the work-ready population considered in their decisions to move. Employment related factors were not the most important factors considered.

Moves into the city: Not surprisingly, the potential job opportunities in the city were the single most important factor for the ‘work-ready’ population in their decision to leave non-metropolitan regions for the cities – this was mentioned by 62% of the Unemployed and 56% of Single Parents. After these, the reasons why the Unemployed and Single Parents moved were quite different as were their circumstances and levels of satisfaction with their moves. After moving, the Unemployed were not as enthusiastic as one might have thought. Full-time employment did not eventuate for this group. As a reminder, however, respondents had to have been receiving an Unemployment benefit both before and after moving (although this condition did not preclude those who had gone off the scheme and back onto it within a one year period). The Unemployed were the more neutral about their well-being after moving and seemingly the most unsettled, being the most likely group to move back to the country areas in the next 12 months.

6 POLICY RELEVANCE

The broad policy context for this study lies within the frameworks of the Australian Government Departments of Family and Community Services and Employment and Workplace Relations, and State government agencies charged with housing support and human services generally.

The academic literature and analysis of existing data sets, such as the LDS, only go so far in explaining the importance of different factors in income-support recipients' decisions to move, their self-assessment of their aggregate welfare levels before and after moving from non-metropolitan to city areas and the specific positive and negative welfare implications of moving to certain destinations.

Policy fields that may be more effectively addressed by better understanding of these issues include: access to services, promotion of family support networks, housing support and workforce training and placement.

More specifically, possible policy implications of knowing more about the factors influencing low-income in- migration to the cities include:

1. If there are significant numbers of people whose net well-being is being reduced due to relocation to metropolitan areas, then there is an argument for higher levels of adjustment assistance. This may mean higher income-support costs in the short run but savings in the long run if the adjustment process enables people to reduce or eliminate their dependence on income-support payments. Most Unemployed and many Single Parents are moving to the cities for employment prospects. The Disabled are moving for health reasons and access to medical facilities. The Aged Pensioners are moving for (familial) support networks. Employment initiatives and improved social and commercial infrastructure and services would likely retain many potential movers. Many of those individuals who did move to the cities did not believe they were overwhelming better off in the cities but were there not by choice but for pragmatic reasons.
2. If net welfare loss is experienced after moving to the cities, due to less than expected employment opportunities or under-employment, then there is support for higher levels of government efforts towards labour market assistance such as retraining, skill development and employment programs for job seekers. Housing affordability is also an issue that would have to be addressed for all low-income earners to stay in the metropolitan areas. Again, the Unemployed respondents are clearly in search of employment when they relocate to the city. Government employment support could be addressed in non-metro areas to facilitate this group from having to move there in the first instance.
3. From the results of the research, the perceived overall welfare of the income-support groups varies. Aged Pensioners, for example, were quite satisfied with their moves, albeit couched within pragmatic resolve. The Unemployed were the least settled and satisfied with their move. If overall welfare is not drastically reduced for these movers, are the known issues in the metro areas (or in the origin, country localities) a problem for government and other agencies to address? If government decides unemployment is an issue then it would require further policy intervention providing support and programs, most effectively in metro and non-metro areas. Additionally, to allow for more residential choices for low-income earners, services, infrastructure and social systems could be encouraged, again in both city and non-metropolitan areas.

The findings of this research have broad-brush policy implications for social support systems administered by Federal, State and Local agencies dealing with housing, employment and other welfare services although these will be dictated by political agendas and administrative determinism. Policy-makers must decide if there is a public interest issue that needs attention with regard to the depopulation of the country areas and what services and facilities would retain potential movers, the capacity of a work-ready population to find paid employment and affordable housing in the areas and the overall welfare of low-income movers as a result of moving to city regions.

7 CONCLUDING REMARKS

This study with its literature review, analysis of Family and Community Services Longitudinal Data Set, and survey data responds to research gaps that currently exist in the migration literature vis-à-vis reasons for relocation, and the welfare implications of moves, from country areas to large cities in Australia, especially amongst low-income movers. The project mirrors a prior study, by the same research team, that examined why income-support recipients move out of the cities to non-metropolitan areas and their resulting well-being. These two projects provide a unique and comprehensive understanding of low-income migration flows in Australia and the social, economic and environmental factors that are most significant to this population group.

In Australia, the phenomenon of migration flows of low-income earners, including income-support recipients, is bound up in broader debates about the welfare-polarising effects of economic restructuring and immigration. Sydney has been the particular focus of those debates but flows of low-income earners into and out of all main cities have been noted albeit with lesser force.

Three key aims framed the research: (1) to determine the factors, and the relative importance of those factors, that influence decisions by income-support recipients to move from non-metropolitan regions to cities, with particular reference to housing and employment considerations, (2) to assess the extent to which movers perceive themselves to be 'better off' or 'worse off' after moving; and (3) to determine the implications for employment prospects of relocation on 'work-ready' income-support recipients.

Not surprisingly, the main reasons for moving varied by category of income-support received. For the Unemployed and Single Parents, the opportunity of securing paid employment was by far the most important consideration. For Single Parents, employment for themselves, and circumstances that would improve the welfare of their child(ren), was also critical. This included being closer to support networks and better education facilities. The most important relocation factor for the Disabled was health-related. The most important consideration for Aged Pensioners was proximity to family and friends. Retirement opportunities were relatively unimportant to this group, supporting the a priori thought that seniors were moving for pragmatic, often health- and family-related reasons, rather than for 'opportunities'.

Housing cost was not a particularly important consideration in the decision to move into Sydney or Adelaide, although relatively high housing costs had an impact on the movers after relocation. Approximately 50% of all respondents paid more for their housing after relocation and, as a result, were generally dissatisfied with the affordability of housing in the city.

Rationally, people would not knowingly move to an area where their overall welfare would be reduced. In fact, 59% of movers believed they were better off in the city than they were in non-metropolitan NSW or SA. One-in-five respondents, on the other hand, believed they were better off before relocating. In aggregate, Single Parents were the most positive about their overall welfare after moving. The Disabled were the least positive. Approximately half of all respondents did not believe it was likely that they would move back to non-metropolitan NSW or SA within a year of participating in the social survey. Aged Pensioners most strongly indicated that they were very unlikely to

move back. The Unemployed, in contrast, were most likely to move back to the country or were unsure of their moves in the next 12 months.

Generally though, both the cities and the non-metropolitan areas received positive comments, although the non-metropolitan communities from which the respondents recently moved were rated just slightly more positively than Sydney or Adelaide. From a State perspective, Adelaide was rated more positively than Sydney. Although the non-metro communities were rated more positively than the cities, facilities, amenities and services were seen to be much better in the cities when compared to those in the non-metropolitan areas. Transportation services and costs, shopping facilities and commercial services, restaurants/clubs and health services were particularly noted. Only one 'place satisfaction' indicator was seen to be better in the non-metro areas: community spirit.

Unlike Aged and Disability pensioners, the work-ready population rated the cities more positively than their previous, non-metropolitan communities, although both settings were rated very highly as places in which to live. Not surprisingly, the potential job opportunities in the city were the single most important factor for the 'work-ready' in their decision to abandon non-metropolitan areas – this was mentioned by 62% of the Unemployed and 56% of Single Parents. After these, the reasons why the Unemployed and Single Parents moved were quite different as were their circumstances and levels of satisfaction with their move.

After moving, the Unemployed were not as enthusiastic as might have been expected. Moving to the cities did not result in full-time employment for this group. Largely for this reason, it may be conjectured, only 20% of the Unemployed in Sydney believed they were 'much' better off after moving there. However, this same group of Unemployed had a much higher percentage than the other income-support categories believing they were 'somewhat' better off after moving. The Unemployed in both States were more neutral about their well being after moving than were the Single Parents. As a result, the Unemployed (especially those in Sydney) believed they were the most likely group to move back to country areas in the next 12 months, followed by the Sydney Single Parents. Single Parents in Adelaide were the least likely move back to country SA.

By way of final conclusion, migration is a very complex phenomenon. As uncovered through a study of migration theory and from the results of the large social survey conducted, the push and pull factors for different income-support groups moving from country localities to cities are quite diverse. The Unemployed and Single Parents moved to the cities in hope of paid work and other personal circumstances. The Disabled typically moved for health reasons and access to medical facilities. Finally, the Aged Pensioners, who were typically the 'older-elderly' moved to be closer to the support of carers such as family and friends.

Both the cities and the country areas were seen as good places in which to live. The cities were favoured for their facilities and services and the non-metro areas won with atmosphere, 'a country way of life' and community spirit. For those who were really country-folk at heart, (and many of the movers were) pragmatic reasons took them into the city. For those few who were not, they were always going to end up living in the cities anyways – because of their job potential, urban facilities and services and the 'city way of life'.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. The Questionnaire

The Adelaide/SA version of the questionnaire is attached – the NSW/Sydney questionnaire is identical, except for what identifies the different study location found in the Instructions and Questions 17 and 20.

Appendix 2. Department of Family and Community Services Terminology

Appendix 3. Questionnaire Results: Frequency Counts

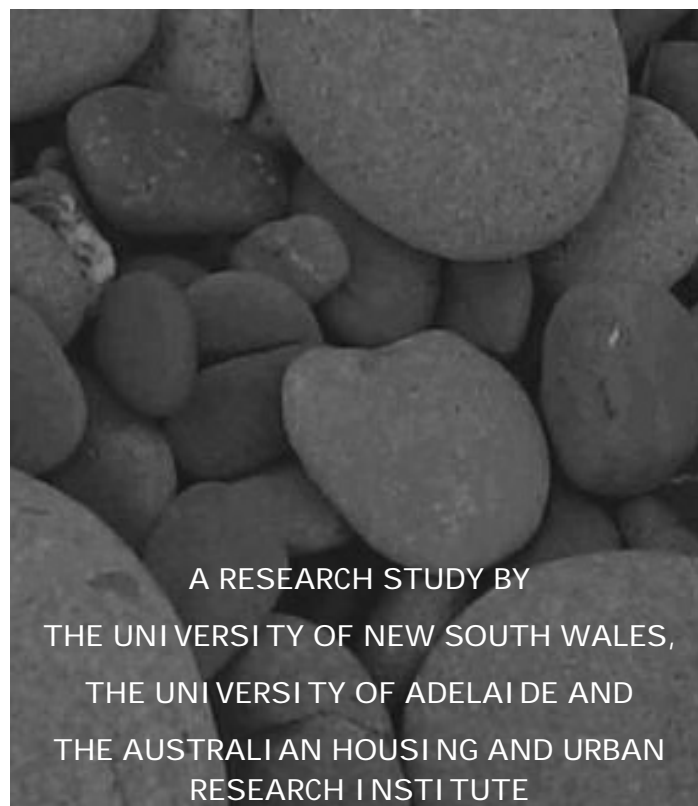
Appendix 4. Survey Respondent Characteristics

Appendix 5. Postcodes Used for Defining Survey Boundaries

APPENDIX 1: THE QUESTIONNAIRE

A RESEARCH STUDY BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
AND THE AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND
URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Movement of People From Country Areas to Large Cities in Australia



January/February

2003



Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services

facs making a difference

AHURi
Australian Housing
and Urban Research Institute

UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ADELAIDE
AUSTRALIA

Survey Prize

When you have completed the questionnaire simply return it in the addressed, prepaid envelope provided. All respondents are eligible to enter a draw to win one of five \$100 gift vouchers from the store of their choice. If you want to be in the prize draw, please fill in your name and address below. Names will be removed from the survey so that no one can link you to your survey answers. Your Centrelink payment will NOT be affected if you win the prize. The prizes will be drawn on February 28, 2003. The winners will be contacted by mail.

Entry form for Prize Draw (OPTIONAL)

Name: -----Address:-----

Survey Instructions

Our study is trying to understand why people have moved into Adelaide from smaller towns and rural parts of South Australia and what effect that has on them. Many of the questions you will be answering have to do with where you currently live and your situation when you last lived in Adelaide.

For our research purposes, country SA is seen as being outside the boundaries of Gawler, Mount Barker, and Noarlunga.

For most questions, you are asked to circle the number or letter of your response. For example, for the first question, "In which state do you live?" you would circle the letter B.

In which state do you currently live?

A. NSW

B. South Australia

For some questions, you are asked to simply write in your answer. For example,

What is your current postcode? 3000

Finally, for other questions, you are asked to consider your answers on a scale. For example,

How important were the following considerations for you in deciding to move out of Adelaide?

	very important	important	somewhat important	not important	not applicable	
job opportunities	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1		2	3	4	5
cost of living	1		2	3	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 4	5
housing costs	1		2	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 3	4	5

Personal Details:

1. In which state do you currently live?

1. NSW
2. South Australia

2. Are you male or female?

1. Male
2. Female

3a. What is your current postcode? _____

3b. What is the name of the place where you now live? _____

4. What was your postcode when you last lived in country SA? _____

5. Please indicate which type of benefit or pension you currently receive.

1. not receiving any benefits at this time
2. Newstart Allowance (unemployed and over 21 years)
3. Youth Allowance (unemployed and under 21 years)
4. Mature Age Allowance (60+ years but not on the Age Pension)
5. Disability Support Pension
6. Sole Parenting Payment
7. Age Pension
8. not sure

6. What is your age? _____

7. In which country were you born?

1. born in Australia (go to Question 9)
2. born outside of Australia (complete Questions 8a and 8b)

8a. How long have you lived in Australia?

1. less than 5 years
2. 5-9 years
3. 10-19 years
4. 20 or more years

8b. Are you an Australian citizen?

1. yes
2. no

9. Which of the following best describes the current makeup of your household?

1. only yourself
2. couple (or partners) with no dependent children at home
3. couple with one or more dependent children at home
4. a parent with one or more dependent children at home
5. group of adults to whom you are not related
6. group of adults to whom you are related
7. other (please describe)

10. Which of the following best describes the makeup of your household when you last lived in country SA?

1. only yourself
2. couple (or partners) with no dependent children at home
3. couple with one or more dependent children at home
4. a parent with one or more dependent children at home
5. group of adults to whom you are not related
6. group of adults to whom you are related
7. other (please describe)

Employment:

11. Do you currently have any paid employment?

1. yes (go to Question 12a and 12b)
2. no (go to Question 13)

12a. On average, approximately how many hours per week do you currently work in paid employment?

1. 0-10 hours/week
2. 11-20 hours/week
3. 21-30 hours/week
4. 31-40 hours/week
5. 41+ hours/week

12b. Would you like to work more hours than you currently do?

1. yes
2. no
3. not able to due to circumstance
4. not sure

13. The main income earner currently in your household is?

1. you
2. your partner
3. your parent
4. your child
5. other (please describe)

14. The main income earner in your household when you last lived in country SA was?

1. you
2. your partner
3. your parent
4. your child
5. other (please describe)

15. When you last lived in country SA were you personally....

1. employed full-time (working 30 hours or more per week)
2. employed part-time
3. unemployed (not working but actively looking for work)
4. employed casually
5. employed seasonally
6. not in the labour force
7. other (please describe)

16. Which of the following best describes the immediate area where you last lived in country SA?

1. village (less than 500 population)
2. small town (less than 10,000 population)
3. large town (more than 10,000 population)
4. regional city
5. rural area
6. other (please describe)

17. Which of the following best describes the immediate area in which you currently live?

1. central/main business district
2. inner city
3. northeastern suburbs
4. outer northern suburbs
5. outer southern suburbs

18. How many times have you moved from the country to the city, or vice versa, throughout your life?

1. 1
2. 2-4
3. 5-7
4. 8-10
5. more than 10

19. Have you lived in Adelaide previously?

1. yes When was that? (From what year to what year) _____
2. no

20. Where did you spend most of your childhood up to the age of 16? (choose only one)

1. the country area where you last lived
2. Adelaide (within the boundaries of Gawler, Mount Barker and Noarlunga)
3. another Australian city
4. rural district or country town in Australia
5. another country

21. When did you last live in country SA?

1. less than 6 months ago
2. 6-9 months ago
3. 9-12 months ago
4. more than 1 year ago

22. How long did you live in country SA when you last lived there?

1. less than 6 months
2. 6 months - 1 year

3. 1-3 years
4. 3-9 years
5. more than 10 years

23a. Were you directly or indirectly influenced in your decision to move because of the recent drought?

1. yes (go to Q23b)
2. no (go to Q24)

23b. If yes, how did the drought influence your decision to move?

Social and economic change:

- ◆ *How important were the following considerations for you in deciding to move out of country SA?*

	very important	important	somewhat important	not important	not applicable
24. job opportunities	1	2	3	4	9
25. retirement opportunities	1	2	3	4	9
26. change in marital or relationship status	1	2	3	4	9
27. distance to work	1	2	3	4	9
28. education facilities	1	2	3	4	9
29. housing quality	1	2	3	4	9
30. housing costs	1	2	3	4	9
31. access to commercial/shopping services	1	2	3	4	9
32. crime levels	1	2	3	4	9
33. to be closer to family and friends	1	2	3	4	9
34. change in employment situation	1	2	3	4	9
35. amount of meaningful social contact	1	2	3	4	9
36. cost of living	1	2	3	4	9
37. your health or that of a family member	1	2	3	4	9
38. amount of public transport	1	2	3	4	9
39. other (specify) _____	1	2	3	4	9

40. Overall, what was the main reason for your move to Adelaide? (give one only)

Housing indicators:

41. Which one of the following best describes your present housing situation?

1. own outright
 2. purchasing
 3. renting privately
 4. renting and receiving Centrelink rent assistance
 5. renting public housing
 6. boarding/lodging with family or friends
 7. other (please describe)
-

42. Which one of the following best describes your housing situation when you last lived in country SA?

1. own outright
 2. purchasing
 3. renting privately
 4. renting and receiving Centrelink rent assistance
 5. renting public housing
 6. boarding/lodging with family or friends
 7. other (please describe)
-

43. How much do you spend on your housing now as compared to when you last lived in country SA?

- | | | | | | |
|---------------|------|-------------------|------|------------|--|
| a lot
more | more | about the
same | less | a lot less | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |

44. Which one of the following best describes the type of dwelling you presently live in?

1. house
 2. flat/home unit
 3. boarding house
 4. townhouse, villa, semi-detached
 5. caravan park
 6. retirement village
 7. nursing home
 8. other (please describe)
-

45. Which one of the following best describes the type of dwelling you had when you last lived in country SA?

1. house
 2. flat/home unit
 3. boarding house
 4. townhouse, villa, semi-detached
 5. caravan park
 6. retirement village
 7. nursing home
 8. other (please describe)
-

◆ *How would you rate your current housing situation as compared to when you last lived in country SA?*

	much better here	somewhat better here	equal in both locations	somewhat better there	much better there
46. quality of housing	1	2	3	4	5
47. size of housing	1	2	3	4	5
48. affordability of housing	1	2	3	4	5
49. location of housing in relation to work opportunities	1	2	3	4	5

Place satisfaction:

50. Overall, how do you rate Adelaide as a place to live, for you?

very good	good	neutral	poor	very poor
1	2	3	4	5

◆ *How would you rate the following community amenities and services where you live now as compared to where you last lived in country SA?*

	much better here	somewhat better here	equal in both locations	somewhat better there	much better there	not applicable
51. restaurants and clubs	1	2	3	4	5	9
52. health services	1	2	3	4	5	9

53.	recreation facilities	1	2	3	4	5	9
54.	banking/commercial services	1	2	3	4	5	9
55.	shopping facilities	1	2	3	4	5	9
56.	community spirit	1	2	3	4	5	9
57.	transportation	1	2	3	4	5	9
58.	transportation costs	1	2	3	4	5	9
59.	childcare facilities	1	2	3	4	5	9
60.	youth services	1	2	3	4	5	9
61.	aged services	1	2	3	4	5	9
62.	disability services	1	2	3	4	5	9

◆ *From your own experience, how satisfactory has it been to make the following lifestyle adjustments since moving to Adelaide?*

	very satisfactory	satisfactory	somewhat unsatisfactory	unsatisfactory	not applicable
63. making new friends	1	2	3	4	9
64. maintaining family ties	1	2	3	4	9
65. living a different lifestyle	1	2	3	4	9
66. getting involved in the community	1	2	3	4	9
67. finding paid work	1	2	3	4	9
68. accessing community services	1	2	3	4	9

69. Overall, how do you rate your previous community, the country area you moved from, as a place to live?

very good	good	neutral	poor	very poor
1	2	3	4	5

70a. To what extent has your last move from the country resulted in you being 'better off' than you were before you moved?

much better off after the move	somewhat better off after the move	about the same	slightly better off before the move	much better off before the move
1	2	3	4	5

70b. What is the main reason for you giving this answer? (give one only)

71. What is the likelihood of you moving within the next 12 months back to country SA?

very likely	somewhat likely	not sure	somewhat unlikely	very unlikely
1	2	3	4	5

72. Do you have any other comments you would like to make regarding the difference between where you live now and where you lived previously?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Please return it in the prepaid reply envelope provided.

Alternatively, please mail to: Nancy Marshall
Faculty of the Built
Environment
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APPENDIX 2: INCOME-SUPPORT CATEGORY TERMINOLOGY

This Appendix has been copied verbatim from Centrelink's (2003) *A Guide to Commonwealth Government Payments* on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and the Department of Education, Science and Training. It presents, for each of the income support categories studied, the basic conditions of eligibility and residential qualifications required for payment. Whilst these payment criteria are determined by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, the actual income support payment system is administered by Centrelink offices.

Newstart Allowance (Unemployment Income Support)

Basic Conditions of Eligibility:

- Must be unemployed, and capable of undertaking, available for and actively seeking work or temporarily incapacitated for work.
- Aged 21 or over but under Age Pension age and registered as unemployed.
- May do training and voluntary work with approval.
- Willing to enter into a Preparing for Work Agreement if required, allowing participation in a broad range of activities.
- NSA recipients incapacitated for work remain on NSA, subject to medical certificates.

Residential Qualifications:

- Must be an Australian resident.
- Available to newly arrived migrants after 104 weeks as an Australian resident in Australia (some exemptions may apply).
- If exempt from activity test may be paid for up to 26 weeks of temporary overseas absence in certain circumstances.

Youth Allowance (Youth Unemployment)*

*Whilst this income support category can include full-time students, our study does not. Students have been delineated out of the sample by FaCS criteria.

Basic Conditions of Eligibility:

- Full-time students aged 16 to 24 years, or temporarily incapacitated for study;
 - - 16 and 17 year olds must generally be in full-time study;
 - - Students aged 25 years and over, getting Youth Allowance immediately before turning 25 AND remaining in the same course.
- Unemployed aged under 21 years, looking for work or combining part-time study with job search, or undertaking any other approved activity, or temporarily incapacitated for work.
- Independent, aged 15 and above the school leaving age (e.g. homeless) who are in full-time study or undertaking a combination of approved activities.

Residential Qualifications:

- Must be an Australian resident.
- Available to newly arrived migrants after 104 weeks as an Australian resident in Australia (some exemptions may apply).
- If exempt from activity test may be paid for up to 26 weeks of temporary overseas absence in certain circumstances. Different rules apply to full-time students.

Mature Age Allowance (Unemployment Income Support)

Basic Conditions of Eligibility:

- Unemployed.
- Aged 60 and over but less than Age Pension age.
- In receipt of the FaCS or Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) income support payment for the preceding 12 months.
- Registered with an employment agency in an unemployed category for the past 12 months.
- No new grants from 1 July 1996.

Residential qualifications:

- See Aged Pension.
- May be paid for up to 26 weeks of temporary overseas absence.

Parenting Payment (Single Parent Benefit Scheme)

Basic Conditions of Eligibility:

- Can be paid to only one member of a couple.

Residential Qualifications:

- Australian resident for 104 weeks (not including absences), or a refugee, or became a sole parent while an Australian resident, or has a qualifying residence exemption.
- Can be paid for up to 26 weeks for temporary overseas absences.
- Different rules apply if person is covered by an International Social Security Agreement.

Aged Pension

Basic Conditions of Eligibility:

- Men aged 65 or over OR women age increasing (see table below).

Women born between at Age	Eligible for Age Pension
1 July 1935 and 31 Dec. 1936	60 1/2
1 Jan. 1937 and 30 June 1938	61
1 July 1938 and 31 Dec. 1939	61 1/2

1 Jan. 1940 and 30 June 1941	62
1 July 1941 and 31 Dec. 1942	62 1/2
1 Jan. 1943 and 30 June 1944	63
1 July 1944 and 31 Dec. 1945	63 1/2
1 Jan. 1946 and 30 June 1947	64
1 July 1947 and 31 Dec. 1948	64 1/2
1 Jan. 1949 and later	65

Residential Qualifications:

- Must be an Australian resident and in Australia on the day the claim is lodged, unless claiming under an International Social Security Agreement.
- Must have been an Australian resident for a total of at least 10 years, at least five of these years in one period; OR
- Residence in certain countries with which Australia has an International Social Security Agreement may count towards Australian residence; OR
- May have a qualifying residence exemption (arrived as refugee or under special humanitarian program); OR
- A woman who is widowed in Australia, when both she and her late partner were Australian residents and who has 104 weeks residence immediately prior to claim; OR
- Was in receipt of Widow B Pension, Widow Allowance, Mature Age Allowance or Partner Allowance immediately before turning Age Pension age.
- Can be paid overseas indefinitely (rate may change after 26 weeks).

Note: Special rules in the case of New Zealand.

Disability Support Pension

Basic Conditions of Eligibility:

- Aged 16 or more but under Age Pension age at date of claim lodgement; AND
- Must have a physical, intellectual, or psychiatric impairment assessed at 20 points or more; AND
- Inability to work for at least the next two years as a result of impairment; AND
- Inability, as a result of impairment, to undertake educational or vocational training which would equip the person for work within the next two years; OR
- Aged 16 or more but under Age Pension age at date of claim lodgement; AND
- Be permanently blind.

Residential Qualifications:

- Must be an Australian resident and in Australia on the day the claim is lodged, unless claiming under an International Social Security Agreement.
- Must have been an Australian resident for a total of at least 10 years, at least five of these years in one period; OR

- Residence in certain countries with which Australia has an International Social Security Agreement may count towards Australian residence; OR
- May have a qualifying residence exemption (arrived as refugee or under special humanitarian program); OR
- Immediately eligible if inability to work occurred while an Australian resident or during temporary absence.
- May be paid for up to 26 weeks of temporary overseas absence or indefinitely if severely disabled.

APPENDIX 3. QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS: FREQUENCY COUNTS

Personal Details:

1. In which state do you currently live?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	NSW	814	65.4	65.6	65.6
	SA	426	34.2	34.4	100.0
	Total	1240	99.6	100.0	
Missing	not stated	5	.4		
Total		1245	100.0		

2. Are you male or female?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	male	510	41.0	41.4	41.4
	female	722	58.0	58.6	100.0
	Total	1232	99.0	100.0	
Missing	not stated	13	1.0		
Total		1245	100.0		

3a. What is your current postcode?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	response	1232	99.0	100.0	100.0
Missing	not stated	13	1.0		
Total		1245	100.0		

3b. What is the name of the place where you live?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	response	1233	99.0	100.0	100.0
Missing	not stated	12	1.0		
Total		1245	100.0		

4. What was your postcode when you last lived in country NSW?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	response	1105	88.8	100.0	100.0
Missing	not stated	140	11.2		
Total		1245	100.0		

5. Please indicate which type of income support payment you currently receive.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	not receiving any benefits at this time	181	14.5	14.8	14.8
	newstart allowance	177	14.2	14.5	29.3
	youth allowance	26	2.1	2.1	31.4
	Mature Age allowance	23	1.8	1.9	33.3
	Disability Support Pension	245	19.7	20.0	53.4
	Sole Parenting Payment	186	14.9	15.2	68.6
	Age Pension	364	29.2	29.8	98.4
	not sure	20	1.6	1.6	100.0
	Total	1222	98.2	100.0	
Missing	not stated	23	1.8		
Total		1245	100.0		

6. What is your age?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	15-24	183	14.7	14.9	14.9
	25-34	222	17.8	18.0	32.9
	35-44	206	16.5	16.7	49.6
	45-54	140	11.2	11.4	61.0
	55-64	137	11.0	11.1	72.1
	65+	342	27.5	27.8	99.8
	64	1	.1	.1	99.9
	65	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	1232	99.0	100.0	
Missing	not stated	13	1.0		
Total		1245	100.0		

7. In which country were you born?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	born in Australia	907	72.9	76.4	76.4
	born outside of Australia	280	22.5	23.6	100.0
	Total	1187	95.3	100.0	
Missing	not stated	58	4.7		
Total		1245	100.0		

8a. How long have you lived in Australia?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 5 years	13	1.0	3.2	3.2
	5-9 years	11	.9	2.7	5.9
	10-19 years	53	4.3	13.0	18.9
	20 or more years	330	26.5	81.1	100.0
	Total	407	32.7	100.0	
Missing	not stated	838	67.3		
Total		1245	100.0		

8b. Are you an Australian citizen?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	393	31.6	83.4	83.4
	no	78	6.3	16.6	100.0
	Total	471	37.8	100.0	
Missing	not stated	774	62.2		
Total		1245	100.0		

9. Which of the following best describes the current makeup of your household?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	only yourself	289	23.2	23.4	23.4
	couple with no dependent children	276	22.2	22.3	45.7
	couple with one or more dependent children	83	6.7	6.7	52.4
	a parent with one or more dependent children	201	16.1	16.3	68.7
	group of adults to whom you are not related	172	13.8	13.9	82.6
	group of adult to whom you are related	153	12.3	12.4	95.0
	other	4	.3	.3	95.3
	group of related family members	31	2.5	2.5	97.8
	group of related and unrelated adults	7	.6	.6	98.4
	group of related and unrelated adults, and children	20	1.6	1.6	100.0
	Total	1236	99.3	100.0	
Missing	not stated	9	.7		
Total		1245	100.0		

10. Which of the following best describes the makeup of your household when you last lived in country?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	only yourself	247	19.8	20.4	20.4
	couple with no dependent children	294	23.6	24.3	44.8
	couple with one or more dependent children	175	14.1	14.5	59.3
	a parent with one or more dependent children	187	15.0	15.5	74.8
	group of adults to whom you are not related	91	7.3	7.5	82.3
	group of adult to whom you are related	160	12.9	13.2	95.5
	other	22	1.8	1.8	97.4
	group of related family members	17	1.4	1.4	98.8
	group of related and unrelated adults	6	.5	.5	99.3
	group of related and unrelated adults, and children	9	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	1208	97.0	100.0	
Missing	not stated	37	3.0		
Total		1245	100.0		

Employment:

11. Do you currently have any paid employment?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	306	24.6	25.1	25.1
	no	912	73.3	74.9	100.0
	Total	1218	97.8	100.0	
Missing	not stated	27	2.2		
Total		1245	100.0		

12a. On average, approximately how many hours per week do you work in paid employment?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0-10 hours/week	95	7.6	26.5	26.5
	11-20 hours/week	60	4.8	16.8	43.3
	21-30 hours/week	65	5.2	18.2	61.5
	31-40 hours/week	87	7.0	24.3	85.8
	41+ hours/week	51	4.1	14.2	100.0
	Total	358	28.8	100.0	
Missing	not stated	887	71.2		
Total		1245	100.0		

12b. Would you like to work more than you currently do?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	158	12.7	38.5	38.5
	no	145	11.6	35.4	73.9
	not able to due to circumstance	84	6.7	20.5	94.4
	not sure	23	1.8	5.6	100.0
	Total	410	32.9	100.0	
Missing	not stated	835	67.1		
Total		1245	100.0		

13. The main income earner currently in your household is?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	you	669	53.7	57.0	57.0
	your partner	98	7.9	8.3	65.3
	your parent	46	3.7	3.9	69.3
	your child	38	3.1	3.2	72.5
	other	97	7.8	8.3	80.7
	you and your partner	52	4.2	4.4	85.2
	you and anyone else	49	3.9	4.2	89.4
	on pension(s)	125	10.0	10.6	100.0
	Total	1174	94.3	100.0	
Missing	not stated	71	5.7		
Total		1245	100.0		

14. The main income earner in your household when you last lived in country NSW was?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	you	605	48.6	51.3	51.3
	your partner	133	10.7	11.3	62.6
	your parent	142	11.4	12.0	74.6
	your child	20	1.6	1.7	76.3
	other	78	6.3	6.6	83.0
	you and your partner	57	4.6	4.8	87.8
	you and anyone else	37	3.0	3.1	90.9
	on pension(s)	107	8.6	9.1	100.0
	Total	1179	94.7	100.0	
Missing	not stated	66	5.3		
Total		1245	100.0		

15. When you last lived in country NSW were you personally....

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	employed full-time	129	10.4	10.8	10.8
	employed part-time	83	6.7	6.9	17.7
	unemployed	206	16.5	17.2	34.9
	employed casually	106	8.5	8.9	43.8
	employed seasonally	27	2.2	2.3	46.1
	not in the labour force	464	37.3	38.8	84.9
	other	55	4.4	4.6	89.5
	on pension	67	5.4	5.6	95.1
	student	41	3.3	3.4	98.5
	self-employed	18	1.4	1.5	100.0
	Total	1196	96.1	100.0	
Missing	not stated	49	3.9		
Total		1245	100.0		

Residential Location History:

16. Which of the following best describes the immediate area where you last lived in country NSW?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	village	141	11.3	11.8	11.8
	small town	458	36.8	38.2	50.0
	large town	248	19.9	20.7	70.6
	regional city	178	14.3	14.8	85.5
	rural area	146	11.7	12.2	97.7
	other	28	2.2	2.3	100.0
	Total	1199	96.3	100.0	
Missing	not stated	46	3.7		
Total		1245	100.0		

17. Which of the following best describes the immediate area in which you currently live?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	central/main business district	69	5.5	5.8	5.8
	inner city	221	17.8	18.7	24.5
	outer western/northeastern suburbs	429	34.5	36.2	60.7
	northern/outer northern suburbs	217	17.4	18.3	79.1
	outer southern suburbs	221	17.8	18.7	97.7
	eastern suburbs/western suburbs	11	.9	.9	98.6
	other	16	1.3	1.4	100.0
	Total	1184	95.1	100.0	
Missing	not stated	61	4.9		
Total		1245	100.0		

18. How many times have you moved from the country to the city, or vice versa, throughout your life?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	other	8	.6	.7	.7
	1	422	33.9	35.1	35.8
	2-4	568	45.6	47.3	83.1
	5-7	116	9.3	9.7	92.8
	8-10	35	2.8	2.9	95.7
	more than 10	52	4.2	4.3	100.0
	Total	1201	96.5	100.0	
Missing	not stated	44	3.5		
Total		1245	100.0		

19. Have you lived in Sydney previously?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	943	75.7	77.7	77.7
	no	270	21.7	22.3	100.0
	Total	1213	97.4	100.0	
Missing	not stated	32	2.6		
Total		1245	100.0		

20. Where did you spend most of your childhood up to the age of 16? (choose only one)

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	the country area where you last lived	212	17.0	17.4	17.4
	Sydney/Adelaide	477	38.3	39.2	56.6
	another Australian city	96	7.7	7.9	64.4
	rural district or country town	205	16.5	16.8	81.3
	another country	228	18.3	18.7	100.0
	Total	1218	97.8	100.0	
Missing	not stated	27	2.2		
Total		1245	100.0		

21. When did you last live in country NSW?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 6 months ago	293	23.5	24.7	26.2
	6-9 months ago	232	18.6	19.6	45.8
	9-12 months ago	233	18.7	19.7	65.5
	more than 1 year ago	409	32.9	34.5	100.0
	other	18	1.4	1.5	1.5
	Total	1185	95.2	100.0	
Missing	not stated	60	4.8		
Total		1245	100.0		

22. How long did you live in country NSW, when you last lived there?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 6 month	97	7.8	8.1	9.1
	6 months -1 year	154	12.4	12.9	22.0
	1-3 years	206	16.5	17.2	39.2
	3-9 years	288	23.1	24.1	63.3
	more than 10 years	439	35.3	36.7	100.0
	other	12	1.0	1.0	1.0
	Total	1196	96.1	100.0	
Missing	not stated	49	3.9		
Total		1245	100.0		

23a. Were you directly or indirectly influenced in your decision to move because of the recent drought?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	40	3.2	3.4	3.9
	no	1145	92.0	96.1	100.0
	other	7	.6	.6	.6
	Total	1192	95.7	100.0	
Missing	not stated	53	4.3		
Total		1245	100.0		

23b. If yes, how did the drought influence your decision to move?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	response	43	3.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	not stated	1202	96.5		
Total		1245	100.0		

Social and Economic Change:

24 – 39. How important were the following considerations for you in deciding to move out of country NSW?

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>
Q24 Job opportunities	very important	392	31.5
	important	102	8.2
	somewhat important	87	7.0
	not important	73	5.9
	N/A	314	25.2
	not stated	277	22.2
	Q25 Retirement opportunities	very important	65
important		50	4.0
somewhat important		66	5.3
not important		175	14.1
N/A		589	47.3
not stated		300	24.1
Q26 Change in marital or relationship status		very important	190
	important	80	6.4
	somewhat important	66	5.3

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>
Q27 Distance to work	not important	120	9.6	12.6
	N/A	494	39.7	52.0
	not stated	295	23.7	
	very important	166	13.3	17.8
	important	122	9.8	13.0
	somewhat important	72	5.8	7.7
	not important	130	10.4	40.5
Q28 Education facilities	N/A	445	35.7	10.5
	not stated	310	24.9	
	very important	220	17.7	9.0
	important	119	9.6	7.5
	somewhat important	113	9.1	32.4
	not important	116	9.3	6.9
	N/A	365	29.3	5.3
Q29 Housing quality	not stated	312	25.1	
	very important	158	12.7	7.0
	important	165	13.3	18.5
	somewhat important	173	13.9	62.3
	not important	173	13.9	20.0
	N/A	270	21.7	8.4
	not stated	306	24.6	
Q30 Housing costs	very important	176	14.1	6.9
	important	143	11.5	12.6
	somewhat important	181	14.5	52.0
	not important	180	14.5	17.8
	N/A	255	20.5	13.0
	not stated	310	24.9	
	Q31 access to commercial/shopping services	very important	199	16.0
important		200	16.1	13.9
somewhat important		202	16.2	47.6

		<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>
Q32 Crime levels	not important	188	15.1	23.6
	N/A	167	13.4	12.8
	not stated	289	23.2	
	very important	121	9.7	12.1
	important	112	9.0	12.4
	somewhat important	122	9.8	39.1
	not important	303	24.3	32.5
Q33 To be closer to family and friends	N/A	274	22.0	29.4
	not stated	313	25.1	
	very important	419	33.7	40.2
	important	176	14.1	16.9
	somewhat important	164	13.2	15.7
	not important	124	10.0	11.9
	N/A	159	12.8	15.3
Q34 Change in employment situation	not stated	203	16.3	
	very important	217	17.4	23.4
	important	106	8.5	11.4
	somewhat important	82	6.6	8.8
	not important	99	8.0	10.7
	N/A	424	34.1	45.7
	not stated	317	25.5	
Q35 Amount of meaningful social contact	very important	199	16.0	21.0
	important	199	16.0	21.0
	somewhat important	203	16.3	21.5
	not important	159	12.8	16.8
	N/A	186	14.9	19.7
	not stated	299	24.0	
	very important	189	15.2	20.1
Q36 Cost of living	important	181	14.5	19.3
	somewhat important	182	14.6	19.4

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Valid Percent</i>
Q37 your health or that of a family member	not important	195	15.7
	N/A	193	15.5
	not stated	305	24.5
	very important	354	28.4
	important	144	11.6
	somewhat important	102	8.2
	not important	159	12.8
Q38 Amount of public transport	N/A	243	19.5
	not stated	243	19.5
	very important	258	20.7
	somewhat important	185	14.9
	not important	138	11.1
	N/A	173	13.9
	not stated	201	16.1
Q39 Other		290	23.3
	important	115	9.2
	somewhat important	18	1.4
	not important	8	.6
	N/A	14	1.1
	not stated	1090	87.6

40. Overall, what was the main reason for your move to Sydney?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid response	1091	87.6	100.0	100.0
Missing System	154	12.4		
Total	1245	100.0		

Housing Indicators:

41. Which one of the following best describes your present housing situation?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	own outright	195	15.7	15.9	15.9
	purchasing	68	5.5	5.5	21.4
	renting privately	231	18.6	18.8	40.3
	renting and receiving centrelink ren assistance	349	28.0	28.4	68.7
	renting public housing	87	7.0	7.1	75.8
	boarding/lodging with family or friends	232	18.6	18.9	94.7
	other	14	1.1	1.1	95.8
	service housing	17	1.4	1.4	97.2
	retirement village	19	1.5	1.5	98.8
	joint ownership	15	1.2	1.2	100.0
	Total	1227	98.6	100.0	
Missing	System	18	1.4		
Total		1245	100.0		

42. Which one of the following best describes your housing situation when you last lived in country NSW?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	own outright	341	27.4	28.3	28.3
	purchasing	82	6.6	6.8	35.2
	renting privately	185	14.9	15.4	50.5
	renting and receiving centrelink ren assistance	213	17.1	17.7	68.2
	renting public housing	73	5.9	6.1	74.3
	boarding/lodging with family or friends	265	21.3	22.0	96.3
	other	34	2.7	2.8	99.2
	service housing	5	.4	.4	99.6
	retirement village	2	.2	.2	99.8
	joint ownership	3	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	1203	96.6	100.0	
Missing	System	42	3.4		
Total		1245	100.0		

43. How much do you spend on your housing now as compared to when you last lived in country NSW?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	a lot more	377	30.3	32.2	32.2
	more	257	20.6	22.0	54.2
	about the same	317	25.5	27.1	81.4
	less	143	11.5	12.2	93.6
	a lot less	67	5.4	5.7	99.3
	N/A	8	.6	.7	100.0
	Total	1169	93.9	100.0	
Missing	System	76	6.1		
Total		1245	100.0		

44. Which one of the following best describes the type of dwelling you presently live in?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	house	628	50.4	50.9	50.9
	flat/home unit	324	26.0	26.3	77.1
	boarding house	30	2.4	2.4	79.6
	townhouse, villa, semi-detached	127	10.2	10.3	89.9
	caravan park	24	1.9	1.9	91.8
	retirement village	55	4.4	4.5	96.3
	nursing home	2	.2	.2	96.4
	other	25	2.0	2.0	98.5
	granny flat	19	1.5	1.5	100.0
	Total	1234	99.1	100.0	
Missing	System	11	.9		
Total		1245	100.0		

45. Which one of the following best describes the type of dwelling you had when you last lived in country NSW?

Q45.Type of Dwelling in the Country

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	house	918	73.7	75.7	75.7
	flat/home unit	125	10.0	10.3	86.1
	boarding house	15	1.2	1.2	87.3
	townhouse, villa, semi-detached	66	5.3	5.4	92.7
	caravan park	41	3.3	3.4	96.1
	retirement village	8	.6	.7	96.8
	nursing home	0	.0	.0	96.8
	granny flat	9	.7	.7	99.3
	other	30	2.4	2.5	100.0
	Total	1212	97.3	100.0	
Missing	not stated	33	2.7		
Total		1245	100.0		

Q46 – 49. How would you rate your current housing situation as compared to when you last lived in Sydney?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Q46 Quality of housing	much better here	229	20.4	20
	somewhat better here	190	16.9	17
	equal in both locations	321	28.5	29
	somewhat better there	186	16.5	17
	much better there	193	17.2	17
	N/A	6	.5	
Q47 Size of housing	much better here	175	17.3	17
	somewhat better here	118	11.7	12
	equal in both locations	212	20.9	21
	somewhat better there	218	21.5	22
	much better there	281	27.8	28
	N/A	8	.8	
Q48 Affordability of housing	much better here	107	10.9	11
	somewhat better here	111	11.3	11
	equal in both locations	208	21.1	21
	somewhat better there	218	22.1	22

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	much better there	334	33.9	34
	N/A	7	.7	
Q49 Location of housing in relation to work opportunities	much better here	424	47.7	49
	somewhat better here	146	16.4	17
	equal in both locations	173	19.5	20
	somewhat better there	51	5.7	6
	much better there	64	7.2	7
	N/A	31	3.5	

50. Overall, how do you rate Sydney as a place for you to live?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	very good	437	35.1	36.4	36.4
	good	407	32.7	33.9	70.4
	neutral	222	17.8	18.5	88.9
	poor	79	6.3	6.6	95.5
	very poor	54	4.3	4.5	100.0
	Total	1199	96.3	100.0	
Missing	not stated	46	3.7		
Total		1245	100.0		

51 – 62. How would you rate the following community amenities and services where you live now as compared to where you last lived in country NSW?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Q51 Restaurants and clubs	much better here	614	49.3	54.3
	somewhat better here	194	15.6	17.2
	equal in both locations	172	13.8	15.2
	somewhat better there	37	3.0	3.3
	much better there	23	1.8	2.0
	N/A	90	7.2	8.0
	not stated	115	9.2	
Q52 Health services	much better here	551	44.3	47.5
	somewhat better here	243	19.5	20.9

	equal in both locations	238	19.1	20.5
	somewhat better there	54	4.3	4.7
	much better there	51	4.1	4.4
	N/A	24	1.9	2.1
	not stated	84	6.7	
Q53 Recreation facilities	much better here	430	34.5	38.6
	somewhat better here	255	20.5	22.9
	equal in both locations	226	18.2	20.3
	somewhat better there	71	5.7	6.4
	much better there	49	3.9	4.4
	N/A	84	6.7	7.5
	not stated	130	10.4	
Q54 Banking/commercial services	much better here	450	36.1	39.4
	somewhat better here	199	16.0	17.4
	equal in both locations	379	30.4	33.2
	somewhat better there	44	3.5	3.8
	much better there	40	3.2	3.5
	N/A	31	2.5	2.7
	not stated	102	8.2	
Q55 Shopping facilities	much better here	667	53.6	57.4
	somewhat better here	220	17.7	18.9
	equal in both locations	189	15.2	16.3
	somewhat better there	20	1.6	1.7
	much better there	43	3.5	3.7
	N/A	23	1.8	2.0
	not stated	83	6.7	
Q56 Community spirit	much better here	155	12.4	13.9
	somewhat better here	119	9.6	10.7
	equal in both locations	251	20.2	22.5
	somewhat better there	239	19.2	21.4
	much better there	284	22.8	25.4

	N/A	68	5.5	6.
	not stated	129	10.4	
Q57 Transportation	much better here	695	55.8	60.9
	somewhat better here	196	15.7	17.2
	equal in both locations	136	10.9	11.9
	somewhat better there	27	2.2	2.4
	much better there	37	3.0	3.2
	N/A	50	4.0	4.4
	not stated	104	8.4	
Q58 Transportation costs	much better here	459	36.9	40.8
	somewhat better here	179	14.4	15.9
	equal in both locations	312	25.1	27.8
	somewhat better there	42	3.4	3.7
	much better there	43	3.5	3.8
	N/A	89	7.1	7.
	not stated	121	9.7	
Q59 Childcare facilities	much better here	204	16.4	19.7
	somewhat better here	77	6.2	7.4
	equal in both locations	141	11.3	13.6
	somewhat better there	18	1.4	1.7
	much better there	25	2.0	2.4
	N/A	571	45.9	55.1
	not stated	209	16.8	
Q60 Youth services	much better here	203	16.3	19.6
	somewhat better here	141	11.3	13.6
	equal in both locations	133	10.7	12.9
	somewhat better there	21	1.7	2.0
	much better there	18	1.4	1.7
	N/A	519	41.7	50.1
	not stated	210	16.9	

Q61 Aged services	much better here	270	21.7	24.2
	somewhat better here	148	11.9	13.3
	equal in both locations	196	15.7	17.6
	somewhat better there	35	2.8	3.1
	much better there	29	2.3	2.6
	N/A	436	35.0	39.1
	not stated	131	10.5	
Q62 Disability services	much better here	285	22.9	26.3
	somewhat better here	153	12.3	14.1
	equal in both locations	168	13.5	15.5
	somewhat better there	26	2.1	2.4
	much better there	33	2.7	3.0
	N/A	420	33.7	38.7
	not stated	160	12.9	

63 – 68. From your own experience, how satisfactory has it been to make the following lifestyle adjustments since moving to this area?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Q63 Making new friends	very satisfactory	290	23.3	25.5
	satisfactory	506	40.6	44.4
	somewhat unsatisfactory	114	9.2	10.0
	unsatisfactory	96	7.7	8.4
	N/A	133	10.7	11.7
	not stated	106	8.5	
Q64 Maintaining family ties	very satisfactory	562	45.1	48.4
	satisfactory	397	31.9	34.2
	somewhat unsatisfactory	80	6.4	6.9
	unsatisfactory	41	3.3	3.5
	N/A	80	6.4	6.9
	not stated	85	6.8	
Q65 Living a different lifestyle	very satisfactory	562	45.1	32.6
	satisfactory	397	31.9	44.2
	somewhat unsatisfactory	80	6.4	9.7

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	unsatisfactory	41	3.3	5.6
	N/A	80	6.4	8.0
	not stated	85	6.8	
Q66 Getting involved in the community	very satisfactory	147	11.8	13.4
	satisfactory	392	31.5	35.8
	somewhat unsatisfactory	172	13.8	15.7
	unsatisfactory	111	8.9	10.1
	N/A	274	22.0	25.0
	not stated	149	12.0	
Q67 Finding a paid work	very satisfactory	219	17.6	20.7
	satisfactory	209	16.8	19.7
	somewhat unsatisfactory	94	7.6	8.9
	unsatisfactory	78	6.3	7.4
	N/A	460	36.9	43.4
	not stated	185	14.9	
Q68 Accessing community services	very satisfactory	281	22.6	25.6
	satisfactory	501	40.2	45.7
	somewhat unsatisfactory	90	7.2	8.2
	unsatisfactory	49	3.9	4.5
	N/A	176	14.1	16.0
	not stated	148	11.9	

69. Overall, how do you rate your previous community, the country area you moved from, as a place to live?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	very good	461	37.0	38.6	38.6
	good	405	32.5	33.9	72.5
	neutral	189	15.2	15.8	88.4
	poor	90	7.2	7.5	95.9
	very poor	46	3.7	3.9	99.7
	N/A	3	.2	.3	100.0
	Total	1194	95.9	100.0	
Missing	not stated	51	4.1		
Total		1245	100.0		

70a. To what extent has your last move out of Sydney resulted in you being 'better off' than you were before you moved?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	much better off after the move	354	28.4	30.1	30.1
	somewhat better off after the move	341	27.4	29.0	59.0
	about the same	246	19.8	20.9	79.9
	slightly better off before the move	103	8.3	8.8	88.7
	much better off before the move	128	10.3	10.9	99.6
	N/A	5	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	1177	94.5	100.0	
Missing	not stated	68	5.5		
Total		1245	100.0		

70b. What is the main reason for giving this answer?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	response	1036	83.2	99.9	100.0
	Total	1037	83.3	100.0	
Missing	not stated	208	16.7		
Total		1245	100.0		

71. What is the likelihood of you moving within the next 12 months back to country NSW?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	very likely	137	11.0	11.4	11.4
	somewhat likely	75	6.0	6.3	17.7
	not sure	215	17.3	17.9	35.6
	somewhat unlikely	134	10.8	11.2	46.8
	very unlikely	635	51.0	53.0	99.7
	N/A	3	.2	.3	100.0
	Total	1199	96.3	100.0	
Missing	not stated	46	3.7		
Total		1245	100.0		

72. Do you have any other comments you would like to make regarding the difference between where you live now and where you lived previously?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid response	686	55.1	100.0	100.0
Missing not stated	559	44.9		
Total	1245	100.0		

APPENDIX 4. DETAILED SURVEY RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

This Appendix presents descriptive data on the respondents by aggregate, income-support category and State. It indicates who the respondents were according to personal details pre-and post-move, household composition, employment status and residential location history. Highlights from this Appendix are found throughout the report.

Aggregate Respondent Characteristics

Of the 4900 questionnaires dispatched to NSW residents, 803 were returned for a response rate of 16%. Of the 2100 questionnaires sent to SA residents, 419 were returned for a response rate of 18%. Overall, the combined survey response rate was 20%.

Actual Numbers of Questionnaires Dispatched by State and Income-Support Category

	NSW Questionnaires sent out	NSW Returns	SA Questionnaires sent out	SA Returns
Unemployed	1914	133	877	93
Disabled	941	158	415	87
Single Parent	1013	118	436	68
Aged Pension	1032	245	372	119
Subtotal	4900	654	2100	367
Not receiving any benefits		134		47
Not sure		15		5
Not stated				
Total	4900	803	2100	419

From Centrelink data (2001), in NSW plus SA, 1,519,997 income-support recipients (Unemployed, excluding full-time students, Disabled, Single Parents and Aged Pensioners) were receiving a Commonwealth Government payment, as determined by Family and Community Services and administered by Centrelink offices. This research surveyed .5% of all income-support recipients in the States of NSW and SA. Using FaCS' LDS as a basis for more accurate information, (see Table 3) approximately 17,672 income-support recipients move from non-metro NSW and SA to Sydney and Adelaide, respectively in a 12-month period. This research surveyed 4900 in NSW or 42% of all income-support movers into Sydney. Approximately 6,134 income-support recipients move from non-metro SA annually into Adelaide, of which 2100 were surveyed – 34% of all income-support movers.

Some respondents stated they were not receiving any benefits at the time of the survey. As explained by Centrelink staff (Centrelink 2002), these cases could be the result of recent changes in the status of these clients i.e., these clients had stopped receiving a payment between the time the sample was drawn in December, 2002 and the time clients answered the questionnaire (sometime between January-March, 2003),

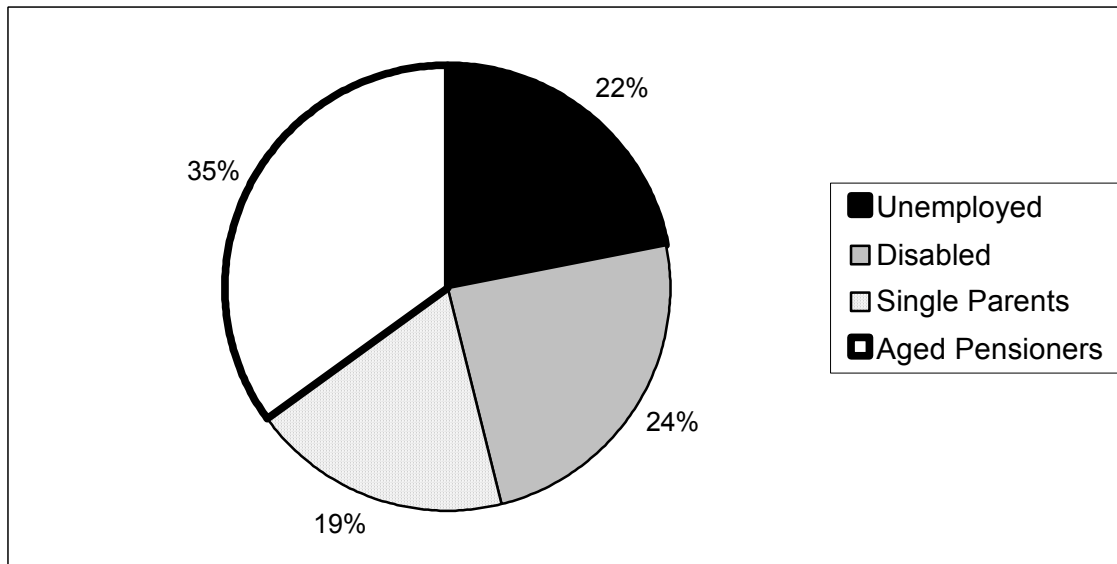
the lag time some clients take in reporting their status changes and Centrelink's response to making changes to its client database.

Respondent Characteristics: State and Gender Representations



In aggregate, two-thirds of the 1222 respondents were from NSW and one-third from SA. Of the respondents 59% were female and 41% male.

Respondent Characteristics: Income-Support Category Representation



The aggregate split of income-support recipients who responded to the questionnaire is represented in the figure above. For each income-support category, the split between NSW and SA was fairly close to the state split of NSW 66% and SA 34%. For example, 67% of all Aged Pensioners were from NSW and 33% from SA. The Unemployed were, however, slightly under-represented in NSW and hence over-represented in SA. The only significant point in the gender split by income-support category although not surprising, was that 91% of all Single Parents were female. Of all Single Parents, 22% were aged between 15-24 years, with 56% of all Single Parents under the age of 34 years. Other specific percentages are shown below.

Income-Support Recipient Characteristics

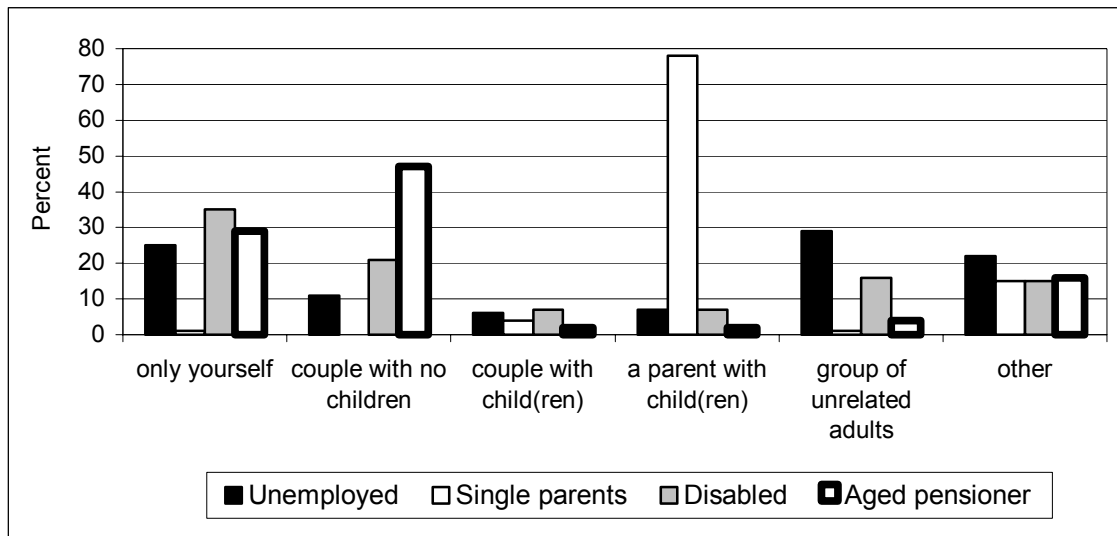
Percentages of Survey Respondent Characteristics by Income-Support Category

Characteristic	Percent Unemployed	Percent Disabled	Percent Single Parent	Percent Aged Pensioner
State				
NSW	59	64	63	67
SA	41	36	37	33
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>
Gender				
Male	55	57	9	43
Female	45	43	91	57
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>
Age				
15-24	29	7	22	0
25-34	24	13	34	0
35-44	15	24	37	0
45-54	15	29	6	0
55-64	12	26	1	11
65+	5	1	0	89
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

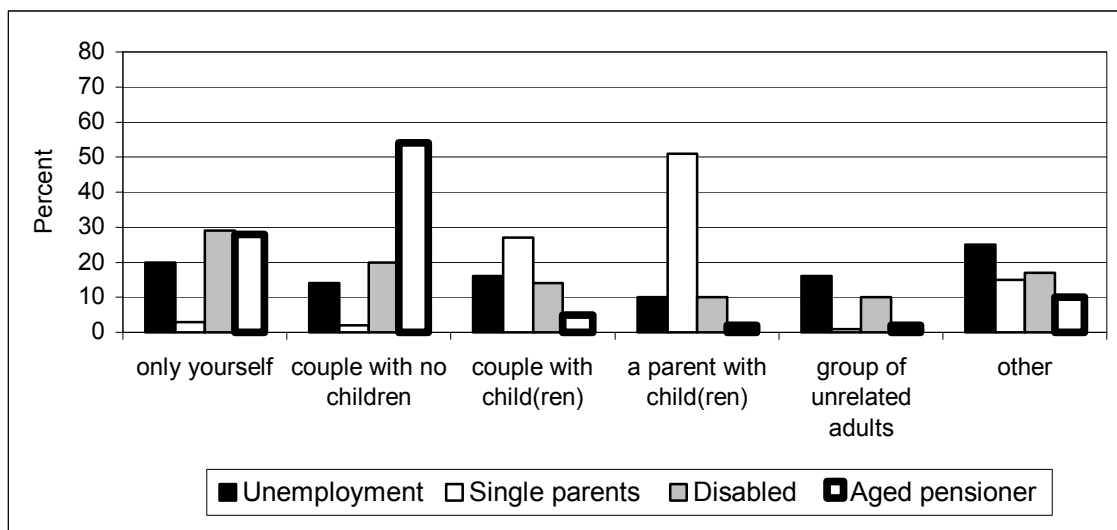
The income-support group with the highest percentage of respondents 'born in Australia' was the Single Parents group at 84%. Twenty-one percent (21%) of the Unemployed were not born in Australia. The Aged Pensioner group had the lowest percentage of individuals born in Australia at 64%. Whilst nearly two-thirds of all Aged Pensioners were not born in Australia, 88% of this group had lived in Australia for 20+ years.

Household Make-up Before and After Moving by Income-Support Category

After the Move – In Sydney/Adelaide

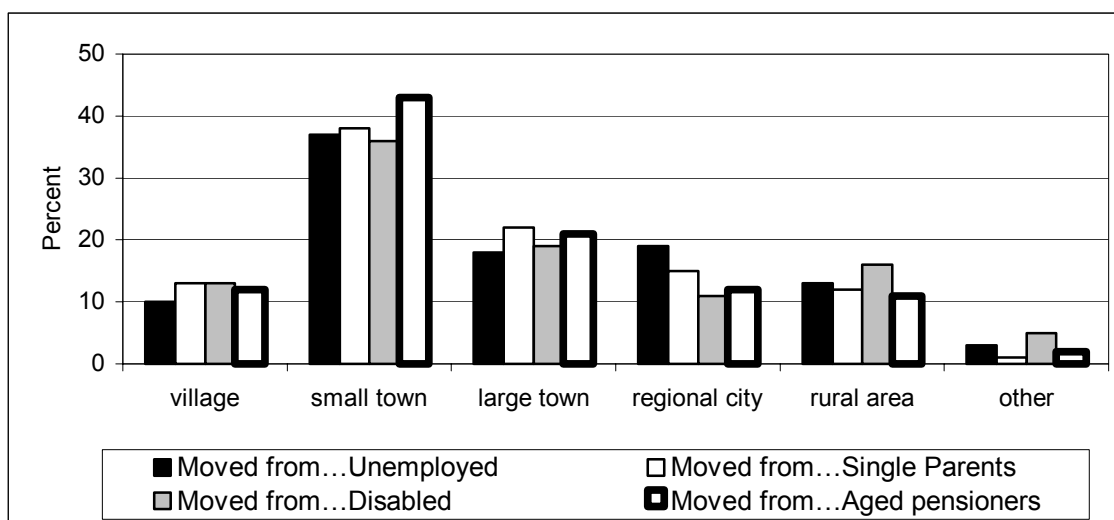


Prior to the Move – In the Non-Metropolitan Areas



Significant changes in income-support category household composition, before and after moving are noted in the figure above. The most significant changes seen after moving were in the Single Parent group, with a decrease (by 23%) in the number of individuals who were part of a couple with a dependent child or children and an increase by 27% of a household becoming defined as a sole parent with dependent child(ren). The other noticeable difference in household makeup was the increase, by 13%, of the Unemployed who lived with a group of unrelated adults after moving into Sydney and Adelaide.

Where Respondents Moved from by Income-Support Category



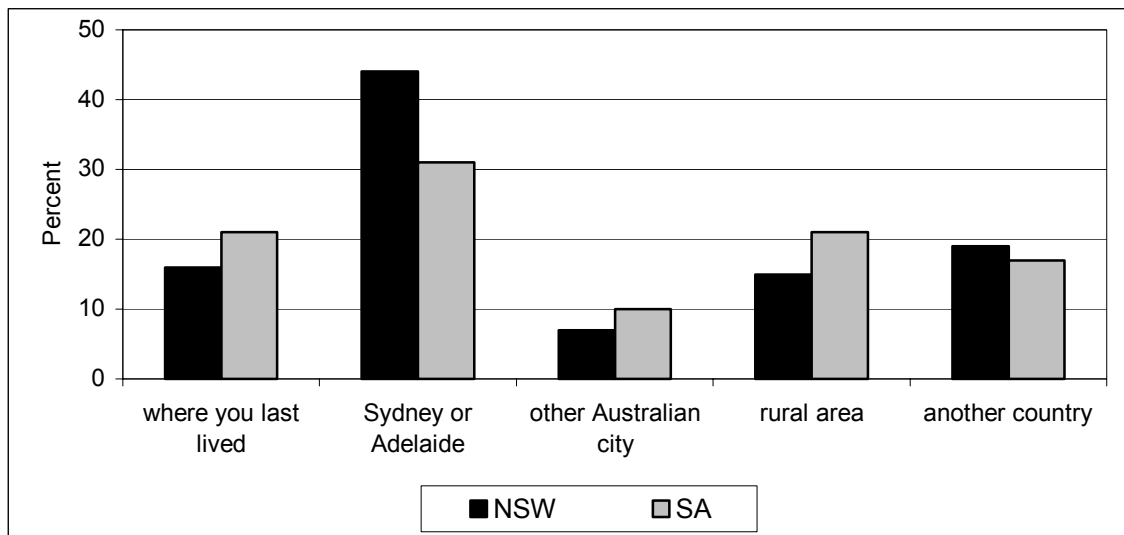
For all income-support categories, more than one-third of all respondents moved from a small town (defined as having a population of less than 10,000) - the highest percentage leaving these towns were the Aged Pensioners at 43%. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of all Unemployed were leaving large towns (more than 10,000 population) and regional cities, where one might have thought the employment opportunities were greater than in other non-metropolitan localities. Similar but low percentages of each income-support group were leaving villages (less than 500 population) and rural districts. When asked if they had lived in Sydney or Adelaide previously, a minimum of three-quarters of each income-support category indicated they had – the lowest percentage was 76% for the Unemployed, the highest was 82% for Aged Pensioners. The Unemployed, Disabled and Single Parents each had 21% of their population moving between country and the city more than five times. The Aged Pensioners were the least serial in their moving. Only 9% had moved between non-metro and metro areas more than five times in their lifetime.

Length of Time When Last Lived in Country NSW or SA by Income-Support Category

	Percent Unemployed	Percent Disabled	Percent Single Parent	Percent Aged Pensioner
< 6 months	12	8	4	3
6 months - 1 year	16	15	18	4
1-3 years	21	20	26	11
3-9 years	22	25	25	25
10+ years	28	30	26	57
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>99%</i>	<i>99%</i>	<i>99%</i>

This table shows the length of time respondents had lived in the country when they last lived there. The Unemployed were the movers who had spent the least amount of time in these non-metropolitan localities, with 26% of them having lived there less than one year. The Aged Pensioners had the highest percentage of them living in the country areas for more than 10 years. Aggregately, one-fifth (21%) of all respondents had lived in the non-metro area for less than one year when they last lived there. Thirty-seven percent (37%) had been very stable residents of a non-metropolitan area, having lived there for more than 10 years.

Childhood Location by Income-Support Category



When asked where they spent most of their childhood, 39% of respondents noted Sydney or Adelaide - the highest percentage was in the Single Parent category (50%). Comparatively, the Unemployed had the highest percentage of respondents spending their childhood where they last lived in a rural area (24%). More than one-third (34%) of all Aged Pensioners had spent their childhoods in a country other than Australia, the highest of all income-support categories.

State Respondent Characteristics

Percentages of Survey Respondent Characteristics by State

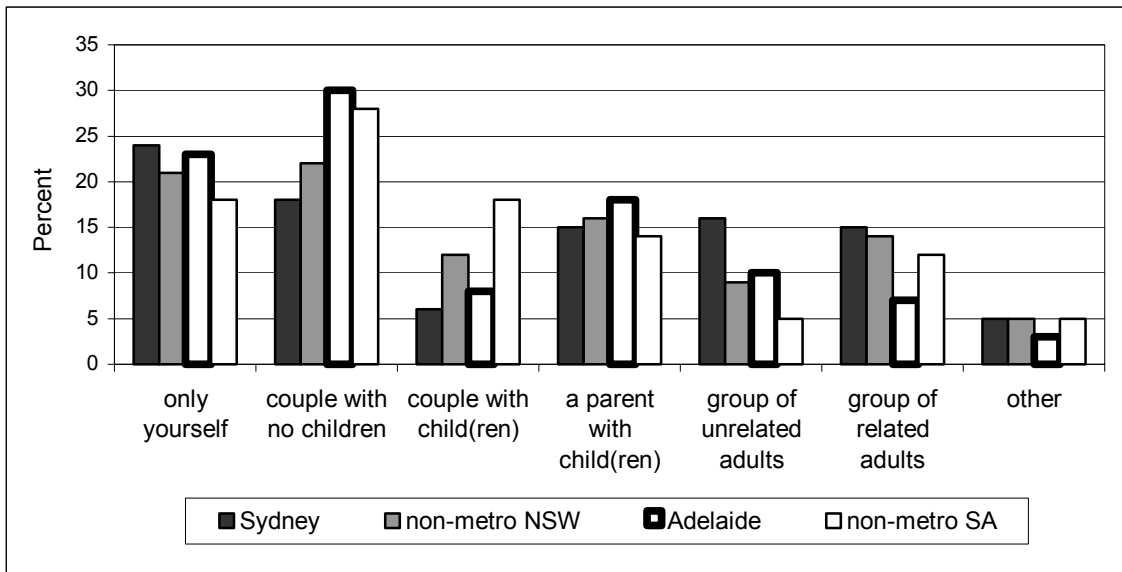
Characteristic	Percent NSW	Percent SA
Gender		
Male	40	44
Female	60	56
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>
Income-support Category		
Unemployed	15	20
Youth Unemployed	2	2
Disabled	22	21

Characteristic	Percent NSW	Percent SA
Single Parent	15	16
Aged Pensioner	31	28
Not Receiving Benefits	17	11
Other	2	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>
Age		
15-24	14	16
25-34	20	14
35-44	15	20
45-54	11	12
55-64	11	12
65+	29	26
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

Between the States, the same gender split percentages were similar as were the percentages to the income-support categories, although SA had a slightly higher percentage of Unemployed who returned the questionnaire, and a slightly lower percentage by those not receiving any benefits at the time of completing the questionnaire. The age categories were also similar in relative percentages between the two States except NSW had a slightly higher relative percentage for those in the 25-34 age cohort – SA had a slightly higher relative percentage for those aged 35-44 years.

Both NSW and SA had approximately the same percentages of individuals who were born in Australia (76% and 77% respectively). SA only had 1% of its survey respondents living in Australia for less than 10 years – NSW had 9%. There was no difference between the States in citizenship status responses.

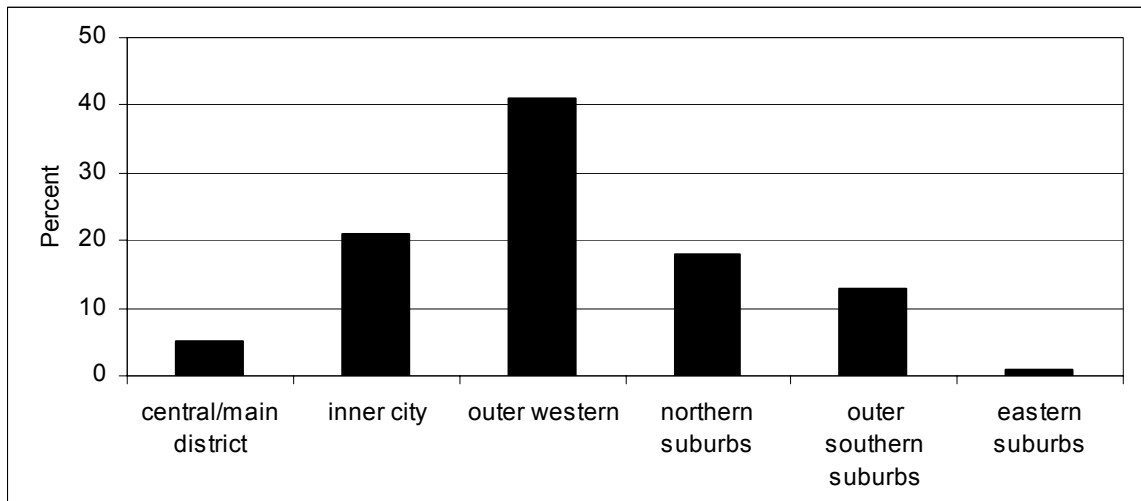
Household Make-up Before and After Moving by State



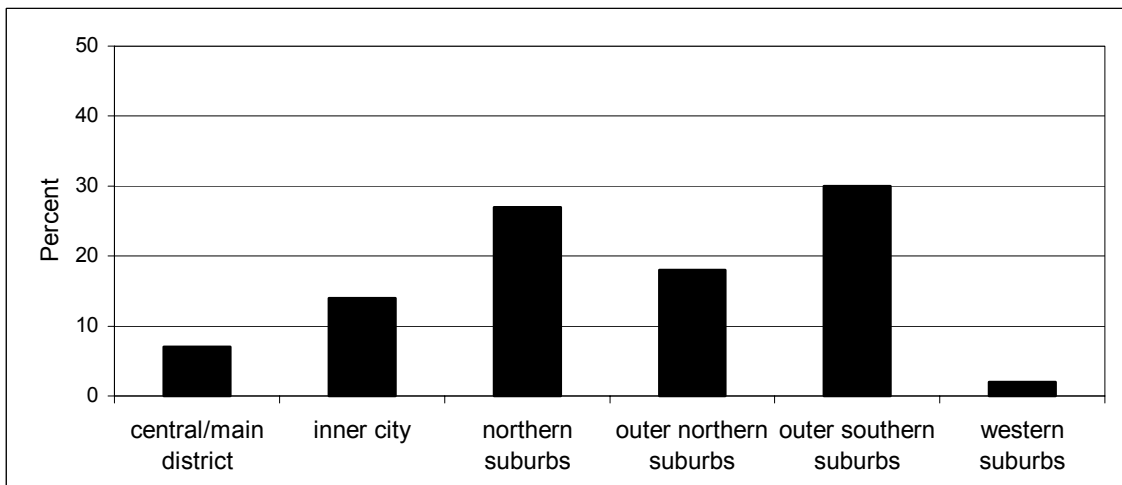
Significant changes in household composition were noted after moving into Sydney and Adelaide as shown in the figure above. A significant change was seen in both States where more individuals lived with a group of unrelated adults in the cities, than did in the country areas. Also, fewer individuals (in both States) identified themselves as being part of a couple with child(ren) than did in the non-metro areas and slightly more respondents indicated their household makeup included only themselves after moving into the metropolitan areas. Two differences between the States were noted: in SA, there was a slight increase in the percentage of individuals who had become part of a couple with no dependent child(ren) after moving into Adelaide – NSW had a decrease; whilst NSW had about equal the percentages of people living with a group of related adults before and after the move, SA had fewer after moving into Adelaide. This data supports the idea that relationship changes may often be the impetus for moving.

Where Respondents Moved to by State

NSW

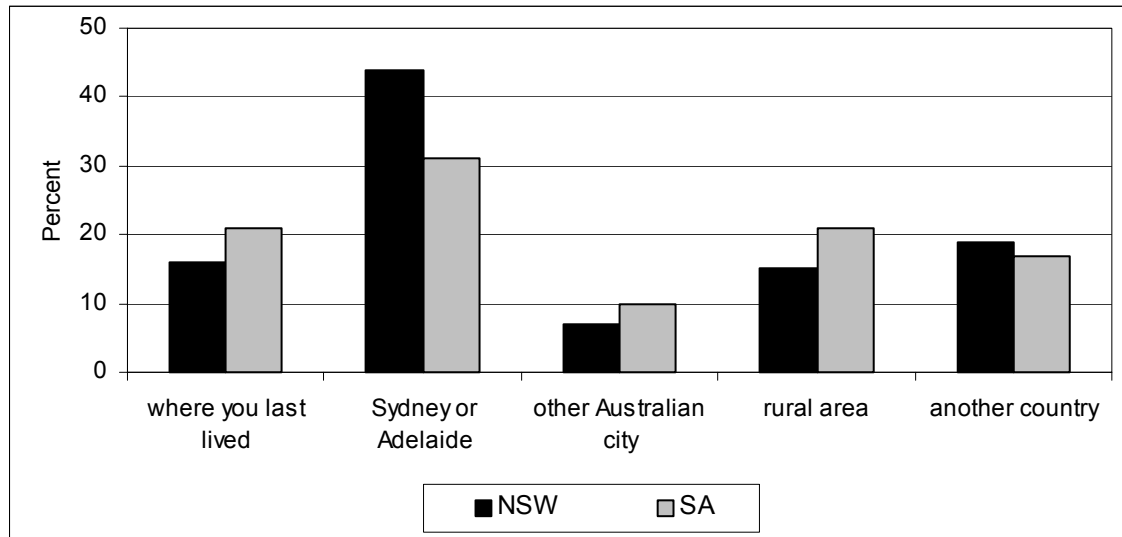


SA



For those who moved into Sydney, 5% moved to the Central Business District, 21% to the inner city, 41% to the outer western suburbs, 18% to the northern suburbs, 13% to the outer southern suburbs and 2% to 'other' regions within the Sydney metro area. For those who moved into Adelaide, 7% moved to the Central Business District, 14% to the inner city, 27% to the north-eastern suburbs, 18% to the outer northern suburbs, 30% to the outer southern suburbs and 4% to 'other' regions within the Adelaide metro area.

Childhood Location by State



When asked where they spent most of their childhood 44% of NSW respondents noted Sydney, and 31% of all SA respondents noted Adelaide. Sixteen percent (16%) of NSW and 21% of SA movers had spent their childhoods in the non-metro area from which they had just moved. Compared to NSW, greater percentages of SA movers spent their childhoods in other Australian cities or in a rural area. Nineteen and 17% percent of NSW and SA respondents respectively, spent their childhoods in a country other than Australia.

Length of Time When Last Lived in Country NSW or SA by State

Time in Sydney or Adelaide	Percent NSW	Percent SA
< 6 months	9	6
6 months - 1 year	13	13
1-3 years	20	13
3-9 years	26	20
10+ years	31	48
<i>Total</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>100</i>

This table shows the length of time income-support recipients had lived in country NSW or SA, when they had last lived there. Of note, nearly half (48%) of SA respondents had lived in that State's non-metro area for more than 10 years – the same figure for NSW was 31%. NSW movers were slightly more mobile than SA movers as 42% had lived in their last country locality less than 3 years, compared to 32% of SA movers. Both States had approximately one fifth or their respondents living in the non-metropolitan regions prior to their last move for less than 1 year.

APPENDIX 5: POSTCODES USED TO DEFINE SURVEY BOUNDARIES

The Sydney and Adelaide metropolitan regions have been specifically defined for purposes of this research. The definitions generally represent the outer limits of contiguous urban development within the respective cities. Whilst they are not a technical definition, they do articulate the boundaries in order to give the questionnaire respondent more than an 'intuitive sense' of the city region.

- *Sydney* has been defined as the area within the boundaries of Penrith, Campbelltown, Sutherland and Hornsby.
- *Adelaide* is seen as being within the boundaries of Gawler, Mount Barker, and Noarlunga.

The following postcodes defined the metro and non-metropolitan areas for the survey. Canberra (so as not to be mixed in with NSW) postcodes were excluded from the survey as were the following Newcastle (north of Sydney) and Wollongong (south of Sydney) postcodes, which were viewed to be part of the Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong metropolitan conurbation.

Postcodes Included	Postcodes Excluded
<u>Sydney metropolitan area</u>	<u>Newcastle metropolitan postcodes</u>
1000 – 1920	2280
2000 – 2082	2285
2084 – 2155	2289 – 2308
2158	2310
2160 – 2170	<u>Wollongong metropolitan postcodes</u>
2173 – 2177	1925 – 1928
2190 – 2234	2500
2558	2502
2560	2505 – 2506
2564 – 2566	2517 – 2520
2750 – 2751	2522
2760 – 2761	2525 – 2526
2763	<u>Canberra Metropolitan Postcodes</u>
2766 – 2768	200
2770	221
	291 – 299
	2600 – 2607
	2612 – 2617
	2900 – 2906
	2911 – 2914

Postcodes Included	Postcodes Excluded
<u>Adelaide metropolitan postcodes</u> 5000 – 5001 5005 – 5025 5031 – 5035 5037 – 5052 5061 5063 5065 – 5070 5073 – 5075 5081 – 5088 5090 – 5098 5106 – 5109 5111 – 5113 5127 5158 – 5159 5161 – 5162 5164 – 5168	

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