

# On the rise: Pacific Islanders in Australia

Jonathan Pryke  
*Development Policy Centre*

# Questions

- What can the 2011 Census tell us about Pacific migration?
- Is the growth of Pacific Islanders in Australia accelerating? From which countries and through which routes?
- How educated are Pacific migrants? What does this mean for risks of brain drain?

# Ancestry or country of birth?

	Birth	Ancestry	%
Cook Islands	6092	16191	266%
Fiji	56979	39979	70%
French Polynesia	398	714	179%
Kiribati	499	671	134%
Nauru	514	410	80%
Papua New Guinea	26788	15462	58%
Samoa	19093	55846	292%
Solomon Islands	1758	1401	80%
Tonga	9210	25095	272%
Vanuatu	1107	706	64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>125506</b>	<b>166272</b>	<b>132%</b>

# Pacific Islanders in Australia today

**166,272**

- Melanesia: 35%
- Polynesia: 64%
- Micronesia: 1%

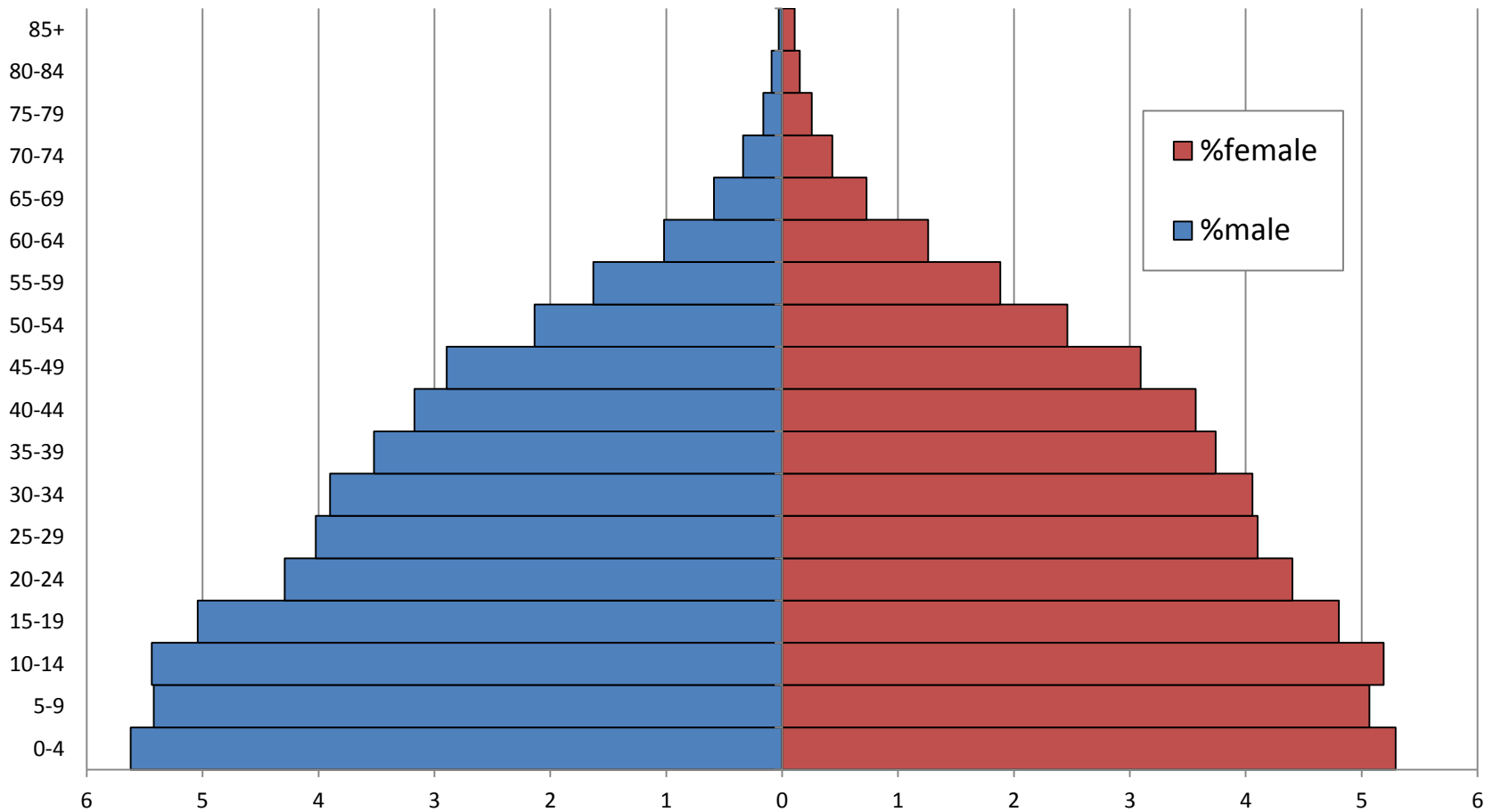
# Largest 5 Pacific Island groupings in Australia

Samoaan	55,846
Fijian	39,979
Tongan	25,095
Cook Islander	16,191
Papua New Guinean	15,462

# Sub-regional breakdown

	Australian born	NZ born	Non-NZ migrant	Total stock
Melanesian	37%	3%	61%	58,938
Micronesian	38%	4%	58%	1,315
Polynesian	36%	32%	32%	106,019
Pacific Islander total	37%	21%	42%	166,272

# Population pyramid for people in Australia with Pacific ancestry



# Growth rate of Pacific Islanders by place of birth, 2006-2011

	Australian born	NZ born	Non-NZ migrant	Total
Growth	16,424	11,125	10,372	37,921
Growth rate	41%	46%	22%	34%



# Growth of Pacific Islanders in Australia

	2006	2011	Growth
Fijian	19171	23768	24%
New Caledonian	246	208	-15%
Ni-Vanuatu	515	706	37%
Papua New Guinean	12550	15462	23%
Solomon Islander	1118	1401	25%
Melanesian and Papuan, not further defined	821	1182	44%
<b>Melanesia Total</b>	<b>34421</b>	<b>42727</b>	<b>24%</b>
I-Kiribati	482	671	39%
Nauruan	233	410	76%
Micronesian, not further defined	391	234	-40%
<b>Micronesia Total</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>1315</b>	<b>19%</b>
Cook Islander	11399	16191	42%
Niuean	2182	3149	44%
Samoan	39996	55846	40%
Tongan	18427	25095	36%
Hawaiian	276	327	18%
Tahitian	685	714	4%
Tokelauan	1139	1653	45%
Tuvaluan	334	433	30%
Polynesian, not further defined	778	583	-25%
<b>Polynesia Total</b>	<b>75216</b>	<b>103991</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>112140</b>	<b>150061</b>	<b>34%</b>

# Select countries growth rates from 2001

	2001	2006		2011	
			Growth		Growth
PNG	9441	12550	33%	15462	23%
Samoa	28091	39996	42%	55846	40%
Solomon Islands	769	1118	45%	1401	25%
Tonga	14889	18427	24%	25095	36%

# Post-secondary education rates of Pacific Islanders (15-64 y/o)

	University degree	Vocational training	Unspecified	% of total population
Australian born	14%	17%	6%	37%
NZ born	12%	18%	8%	38%
Non-NZ migrant	21%	17%	9%	48%

	% of migrants	% of all post-secondary education
Australia born	37%	18%
New Zealand born	21%	20%
Non-MZ migrant	42%	62%

	University degree	Vocational training	Unspecified	Total	%
Fiji	8764	5930	2086	16780	59%
New Caledonian	53	34	10	97	58%
Ni-Vanuatu	94	101	37	232	51%
Papua New Guinean	2263	2021	708	4992	48%
Solomon Islander	222	182	86	490	51%
Melanesia other	247	159	63	469	59%
<b><i>Melanesia total</i></b>	<b><i>11643</i></b>	<b><i>8427</i></b>	<b><i>2990</i></b>	<b><i>23060</i></b>	<b><i>56%</i></b>
I-Kiribati	141	62	30	233	50%
Nauruan	35	58	12	105	41%
Micronesia other	32	43	20	95	56%
<b><i>Micronesia total</i></b>	<b><i>208</i></b>	<b><i>163</i></b>	<b><i>62</i></b>	<b><i>433</i></b>	<b><i>48%</i></b>
Cook Islander	833	1638	953	3424	34%
Niuean	250	387	173	810	46%
Samoan	3657	5520	3295	12472	36%
Tongan	1956	2332	1415	5703	37%
Hawaiian	72	49	21	142	55%
Tahitian	144	116	44	304	54%
Tokelauan	84	156	102	342	12%
Tuvaluan	64	45	13	122	47%
Polynesia other	421	424	115	960	52%
<b><i>Polynesia total</i></b>	<b><i>7481</i></b>	<b><i>10667</i></b>	<b><i>6131</i></b>	<b><i>24279</i></b>	<b><i>37%</i></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19332</b>	<b>19257</b>	<b>9183</b>	<b>47772</b>	<b>44%</b>

# Conclusion

- Pacific population still small but growing rapidly. If this growth continued for 30 years, Pacific population will be close to 3% Australia's total population, compared to under 1% today.
- Although all groups are growing rapidly, Polynesian domination of the Pacific migrants' profile continues to grow because of the ease of access through NZ and rapid in-country population growth rates.
- Growth in migration from PNG and Solomon Islands has actually fallen in the last five years; not so for Samoa and Tonga.
- The Melanesian population in Australia is more skilled than Polynesian, the opposite of the domestic profile.
- Not only does Australia provide very few immigration opportunities for Melanesia, but those it does are associated with the risk of brain drain.