



# Media release

## Senator Chris Evans

Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

30 June 2010

### **Net overseas migration on track to fall by 20 per cent**

The latest statistics confirm Australia's net overseas migration (NOM) level is on track to drop by about 20 per cent by the end of the financial year in response to government reforms to temporary and permanent migration and economic conditions, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Chris Evans, said today.

Preliminary estimates released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) 'Social Trends' series show the level of NOM in 2008 was 301 200 people and fell to 277 700 people in 2009.

"Based on current visa application numbers, the level of NOM is on track to drop to between 230 000 and 250 000 people by the end of the financial year," Senator Evans said.

"This confirms that record high population growth has been fuelled by growth in temporary long-stay migrants, especially students, as a result of the policies of the previous coalition government."

Senator Evans said net overseas migration began to climb and get out of control under the previous government, as a result of its decision to open up pathways for temporary residents — particularly students — to remain in Australia permanently.

In response to the ABS report's findings, Senator Evans said the level of NOM — which includes both permanent migrants and long-term temporary migrants, including students — had peaked and was clearly on the way down.

"The government is committed to ongoing forward-planning and reform to ensure immigration levels are guided by Australia's needs and not by the desire of prospective migrants to come to Australia," Senator Evans said.

"Prime Minister Gillard has already articulated her vision for a sustainable population - one that supports our environment and our renewable resources and that is in turn supported by proper resources and infrastructure."

"The Government will develop policies to ensure all Australians benefit from our strong and growing economy."

The ABS' quarterly 'Social Trends' release is available at:

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/LookupAttach/4102.0Publication30.06.102/\\$File/41020\\_PopulationGrowth.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/LookupAttach/4102.0Publication30.06.102/$File/41020_PopulationGrowth.pdf)

*Australian Demographic Statistics, December Quarter 2009* is also available from the ABS website at <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS>

**Media contact: Karen Brown 0413 080 956**

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