



MEASURING COMMUNITY STRENGTH

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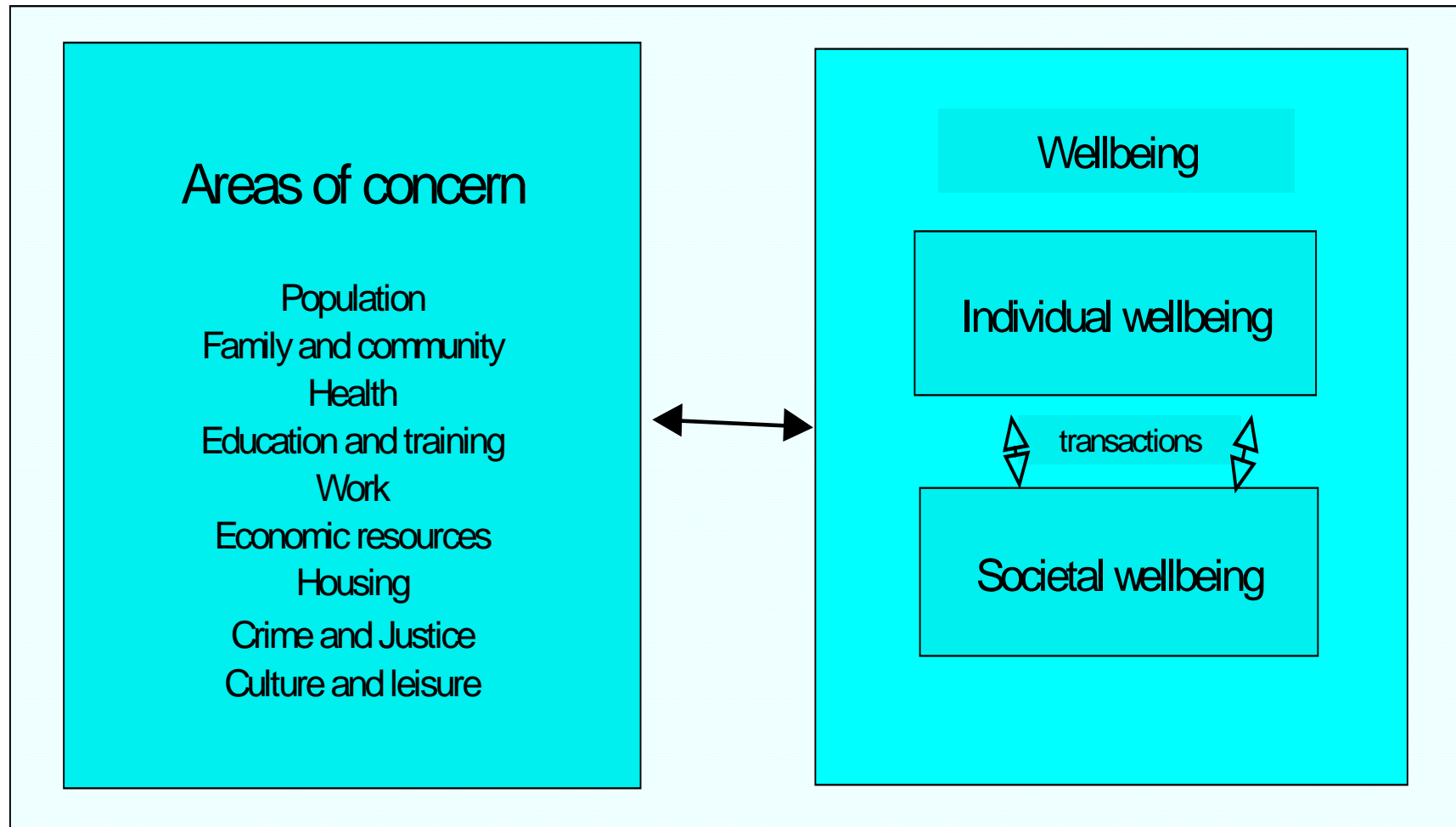
Australian Bureau of Statistics

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION



- **Describe ABS and non-ABS work relevant to measuring community strength**
- **Describe some international work**
- **Focus on statistical results**
- **Discuss the future**

A FRAMEWORK FOR MEASURING WELLBEING



ABS WORK ON MEASURING COMMUNITY STRENGTH



- **Social Capital and Social Well-being
(Discussion Paper)**
- **Framework and Indicators (Information Paper)**
- **General Social Survey 2002 – Questions on
Social Capital**
- **Indigenous General Social Survey 2003 – Questions on
Social Capital**

ABS WORK ON MEASURING COMMUNITY STRENGTH Cont'd



- **2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS) – conducted in collaboration with ATSIIC**
- **Population Censuses (community profiles)**
- **Various ABS surveys on volunteerism and participation**

POPULATION CENSUS



- **2006 Population Census will collect data on volunteerism and carers**

- **More flexibility in defining communities (mesh blocks) and linking with other data sets (mesh block coders)**

- **Socio-economic indexes for areas (SEIFA)**
 - **Index of Disadvantage and Advantage**
 - **Index of Comparative Disadvantage**

NON-ABS WORK ON MEASURING COMMUNITY STRENGTH



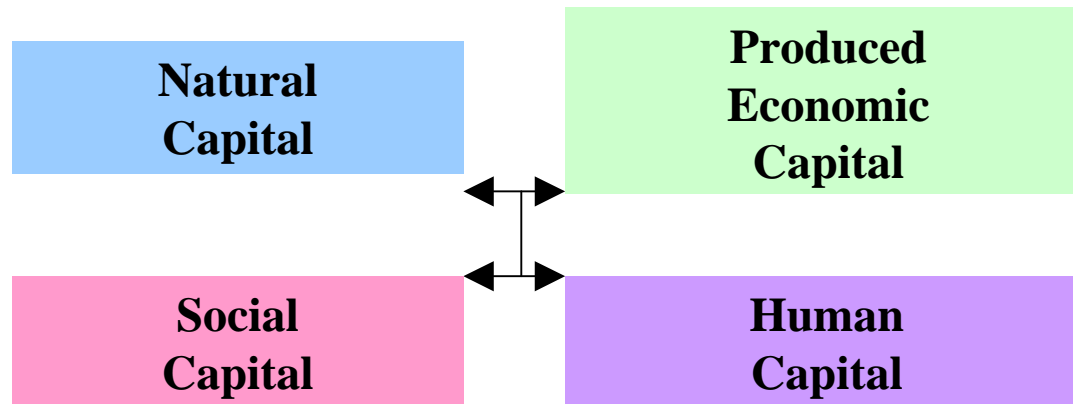
- **Victorian Community Survey (Indicators of Community Strength)**
- **Tasmania Together**
- **Social capital enquiries associated with State based Health Surveys**

ABS SOCIAL CAPITAL FRAMEWORK



- **Development of ABS Social Capital Framework has been in wide consultation with policy makers, researchers, and community service practitioners.**
- **The framework is based on presenting the concept of social capital as attributes of networks.**
- **Framework and possible indicators presented in the *Information Paper: Measuring Social Capital: An Australian Framework and Indicators* (cat. no 1378.0).**

RESOURCES AND OUTCOMES

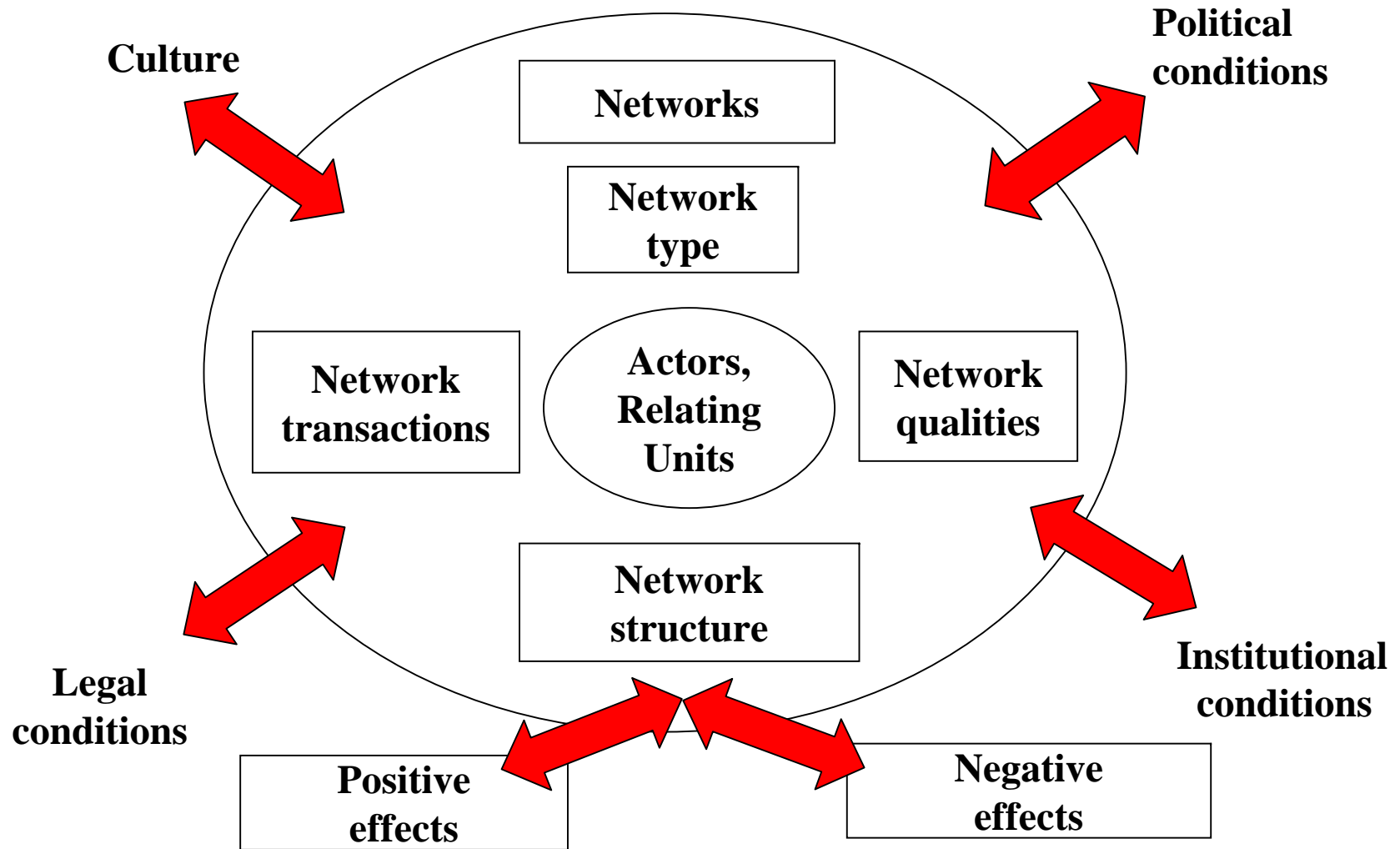


Culture, and political, legal and institutional context

Positive and/or  negative effects on

Areas of individual and community wellbeing

**SOCIAL CAPITAL, in the context of
CULTURE AND POLITICAL, LEGAL AND
INSTITUTIONAL CONDITIONS**



NETWORK QUALITIES



▪ Norms	▪ Common Purpose
● Trust/Trustworthiness	● Social participation
● Reciprocity	● *Civic participation
● Sense of efficacy	● *Community support
● Cooperation	● Friendship
● Acceptance of diversity	● Economic participation
● Inclusiveness	● * Certain activities in both Civic participation and Community support are done as voluntary work

INTERNATIONAL WORK ON SOCIAL CAPITAL



- **Canada – Community Engagement Survey**

- **UK**
 - **Neighbourhood Perceptions as part of General Household Survey**
 - **Neighbourhood Statistics**

- **Consortium of Universities in Europe – annual survey on social cohesion and values**

UK NEIGHBOURHOOD STATISTICS

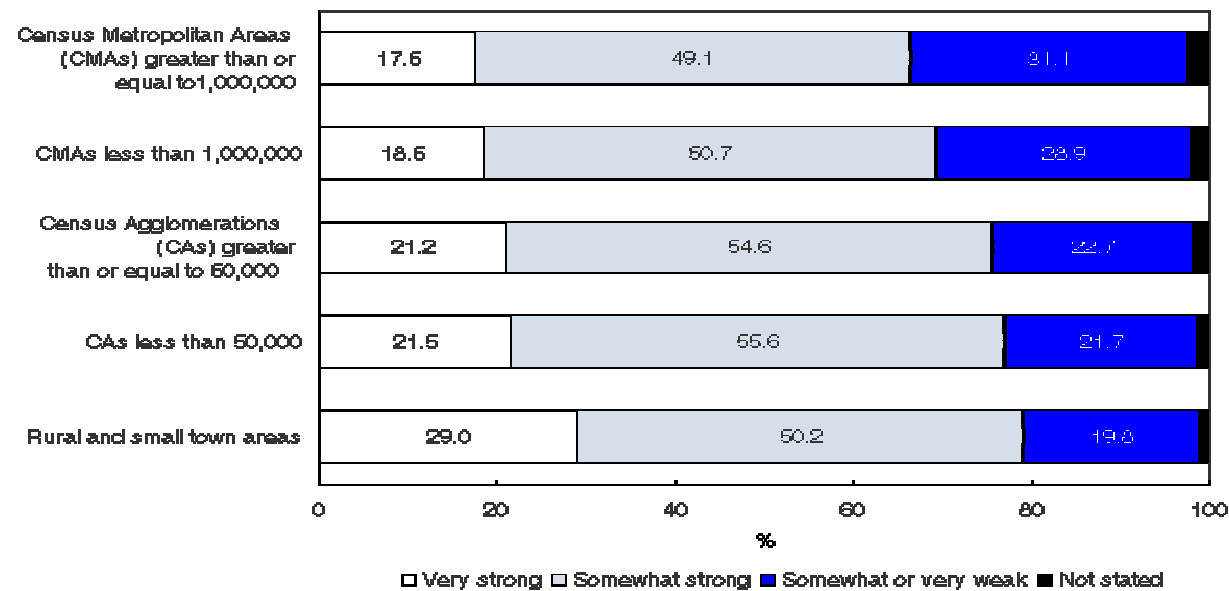


- **UK Government initiative to supply information needs for national strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal**
- **Need good quality information at a small area level to enable a better understanding of local problems and more effective targeting of solutions**
- **Data base of small area data supported by analytic and presentation tools**
- **Required partnerships with other data providers**

DATA FROM CANADA



Chart 10. How Canadians describe their sense of belonging to their local community, by urban size, 2003 (Resided in their area for 5 years or more)



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2003.

INDICATORS OF COMMUNITY STRENGTH - VICTORIA



- **Striking differences between rural and metropolitan LGAs**
- **Rural areas score much higher on community strength**
- **Examples**
 - **% who say they feel valued by society**
 - **% who say they feel there are opportunities to have a say on issues that are important**
 - **% who volunteer**
 - **% who participate in decision making boards or committees**
 - **% who say they can get help from family and friends**



GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY DATA

- **Smaller communities have stronger feelings of safety**
- **More in Sydney/Melbourne feel they can't ask for help or small favours**

This is strongest in smaller communities

- **Highest proportion of those reporting they could not raise \$2000 was in urban (not capital cities, major urban or smaller communities)**

DATA FROM UK



Well informed about local affairs – 59%

Communities could influence decisions – 56%

Personally could influence decisions – 26%

Felt civically engaged* - 18%

*** Yes to above three questions**

NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION (1996-2001)



	Capital City No.	Balance of State No.
New South Wales	-60,628	747
Victoria	10,852	-4,061
Queensland	50,200	30,264
Western Australia	9,065	-6,643
South Australia	-3,709	-6,510
Tasmania	-2,398	10,193
Northern Territory	834	-5,571
ACT	-2,075	-15

- (i) Note: Population decline (including births, deaths and international migration) is in the extensive grazing areas.
- (ii) Population increase is in areas closest to the coast.

SEACHANGE



Where new residents moved from

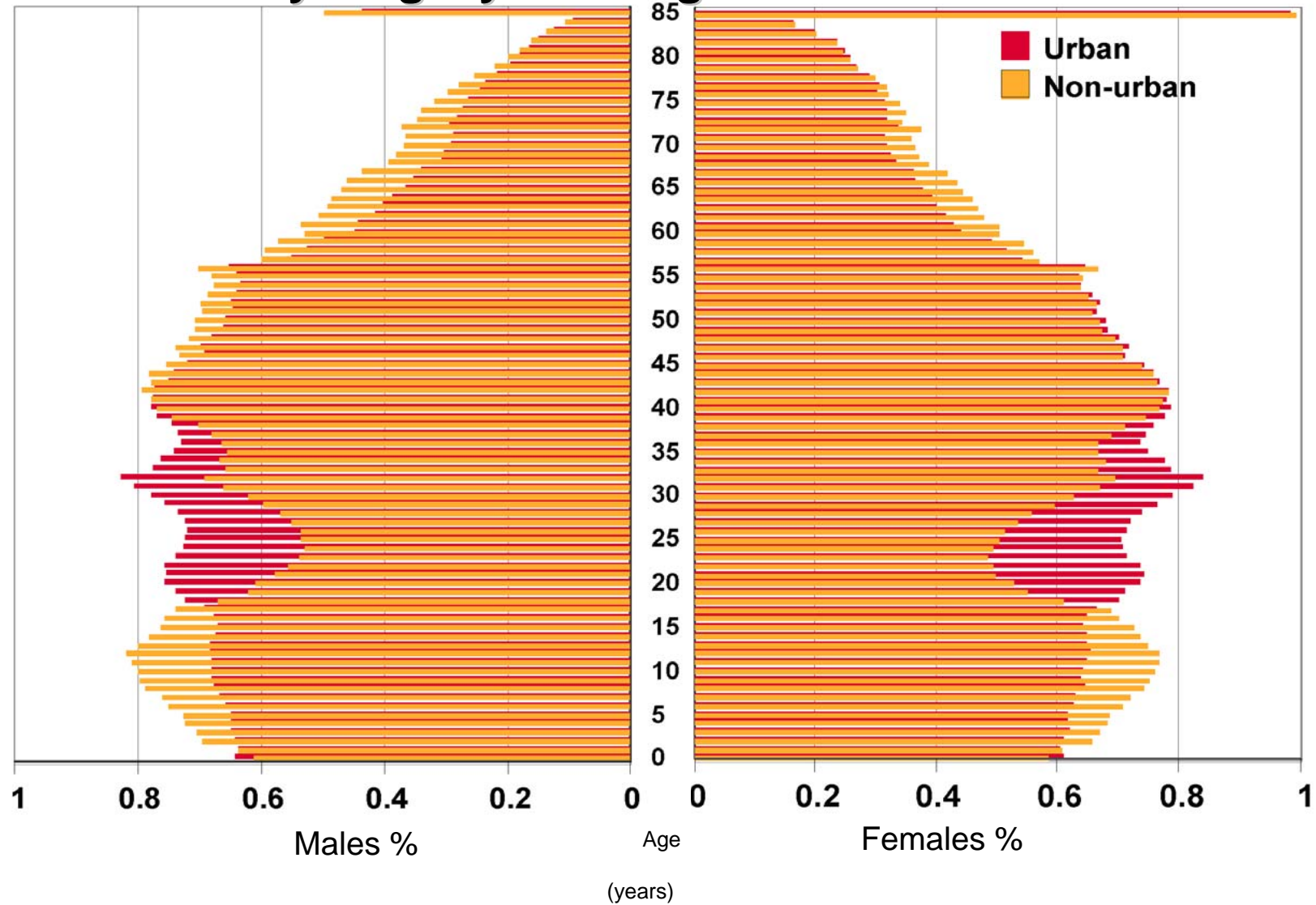
Age

	25-54 %	55-64 %	65 and over %
Capital Cities	32	44	39
Large Population Centres (greater than 25,000)	43	32	34
Country Areas	25	24	26

- New residents tend to be younger.
- New residents are less likely to be a couple family.
- New residents are more likely to be employed.
- New residents are less likely to be born overseas.

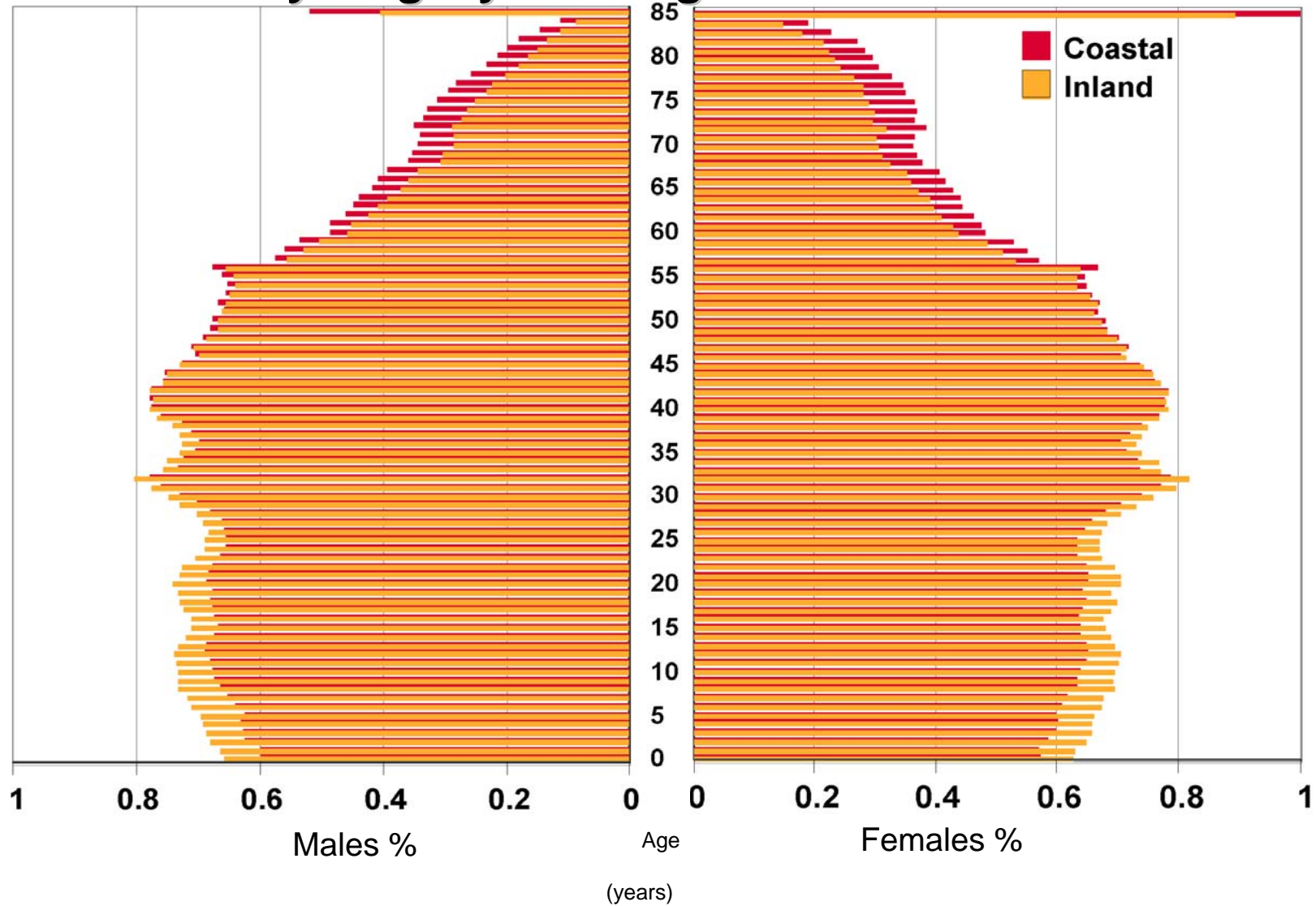
Australia - Urban vs Non-urban

2003 by single year of age



Australia - Coastal vs Inland

2003 by single year of age



GSS 2002 DATA ITEMS RELATED TO SOCIAL CAPITAL



Data items	Framework element
Feelings of safety alone at home during the day; after dark	Trust
Ability to ask for small favours	Reciprocity
Type of social activity in last three months	Social participation
Perceived level of difficulty with transport	Social participation
Type of unpaid voluntary work in last 12 months	Community support
Labour force participation rate	Economic participation
Frequency of face to face contact with family/friends	Frequency, mode of contact
Frequency of telephone, email and mail contact with family and friends	Frequency, mode of contact

GSS 2002 DATA ITEMS RELATED TO SOCIAL CAPITAL Cont'd



Data items	Framework element
Frequency and purpose of internet use at home	Frequency, mode of contact
Whether support in time of crisis, and source of support	Sharing support
Support for own or partner's children in another household	Sharing support
Support for other relatives in another household	Sharing support
Ability to raise \$2,000 within a week	Sharing support



**SOME OF THE MORE INTERESTING RESULTS
FROM THE 2002 GSS**

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT



	%
Able to get support in times of crisis from persons living outside the household (a)	94.0
Source of support	
- Friend (d)	66.1
- Neighbour	34.1
- Family member	82.4
- Work colleague (d)	21.5
- Community, charity or religious organisation (b) (c)	13.9
- Local Council or other government services (b) (c)	7.7
- Health, legal or financial professional	13.3

Notes:

- (a) Older people rely relatively more on family and neighbours whereas younger people rely on family and friends
- (b) No strong correlation with age
- (c) Stronger source outside major cities particularly for females
- (d) Lowest income quintile much less reliant on friends and work colleagues

VOLUNTARY WORK



	Had undertaken voluntary work in the last 12 months (a) %	Welfare/community(a) %
18-24 years	28.1 (b)	7.9
25-34 years	28.8 (b)	6.9
35-44 years	42.0 (b)	10.0
45-54 years	39.2 (b)	12.1
55-64 years	38.0	16.5
65-74 years	32.0	18.1
75 years or over	23.6	12.4
All Persons	34.4	11.2

Notes:

- (a) Stronger outside capital cities; some correlation with income.
- (b) Sport and recreation voluntary work is highest for these age classes.

SOME STATISTICAL CONCLUSIONS



- **Social capital is much stronger for communities outside capital cities**
- **People believe communities can have an influence**
- **Seachange is real, although the “movers” are different to many perceptions**
- **Seachange may be contributing to the weakening of rural communities**
- **Most people feel they could get support in time of crisis from persons living outside the household (family/friends are most important). “Safety net” can be focused on relatively small numbers.**

HOW CAN ABS HELP MEASURE COMMUNITY STRENGTH?



- **Extending the available information (2006 Population Census, 2006 General Social Survey)**
- **Provide benchmark data**
- **Provide survey models that can be used by communities**
- **Provide data to analyse the link between the strength communities and economic/social/environmental outcomes (which data?)**