

Planting New Roots: Taiwanese-Chinese Immigrants Embedding and Adapting to Life in Australia.

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Taiwanese migrants, mainly from business backgrounds, have settled in Australia for almost three decades. This period, however, has been marked by changing trends in their total numbers, geographical distribution and the extent of their social and economic assimilation into Australian life. In this paper we re-examine the primary and secondary data, including census data, survey data, and in-depth interview data, collected by the two authors over the last ten years to identify the socio-economic characteristics of Taiwanese immigrants to Australia and relate them to those of immigrants from Hongkong and Mainland China. We then discuss the growth trends, taking note of recent reverse migration tendencies and their gradual concentration in the city centres of the three metropolitan areas of Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne due to ethnic clustering and a tendency to pursue similar living patterns. Qualitative data are then used as the basis for further discussion on three specific aspects of Taiwanese immigrants' cultural adaptation: children's education, the phenomenon of astronaut families and the establishment of businesses and employment for those who choose to stay.