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Getting it Right: Transition to Residence Policy

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A new migration era?

- **The UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**
- **A plethora of national reviews of immigration policy and systems**
- **A surge in interest in “regional consultation processes”**
- **An imperative for greater co-operation**

A holistic approach to international mobility?

- **Recognising links between temporary and permanent migration**
- **Acknowledging the reality of transitions to residence from study and temporary work**
- **Designing systems to cope with circulation of migrants**

A national context

- **NZ has the highest per capita rate of immigration in the OECD**
- **NZ has the highest rate per capita rate of emigration in the OECD**
- **NZ has the largest diaspora per person in the resident population in the OECD**

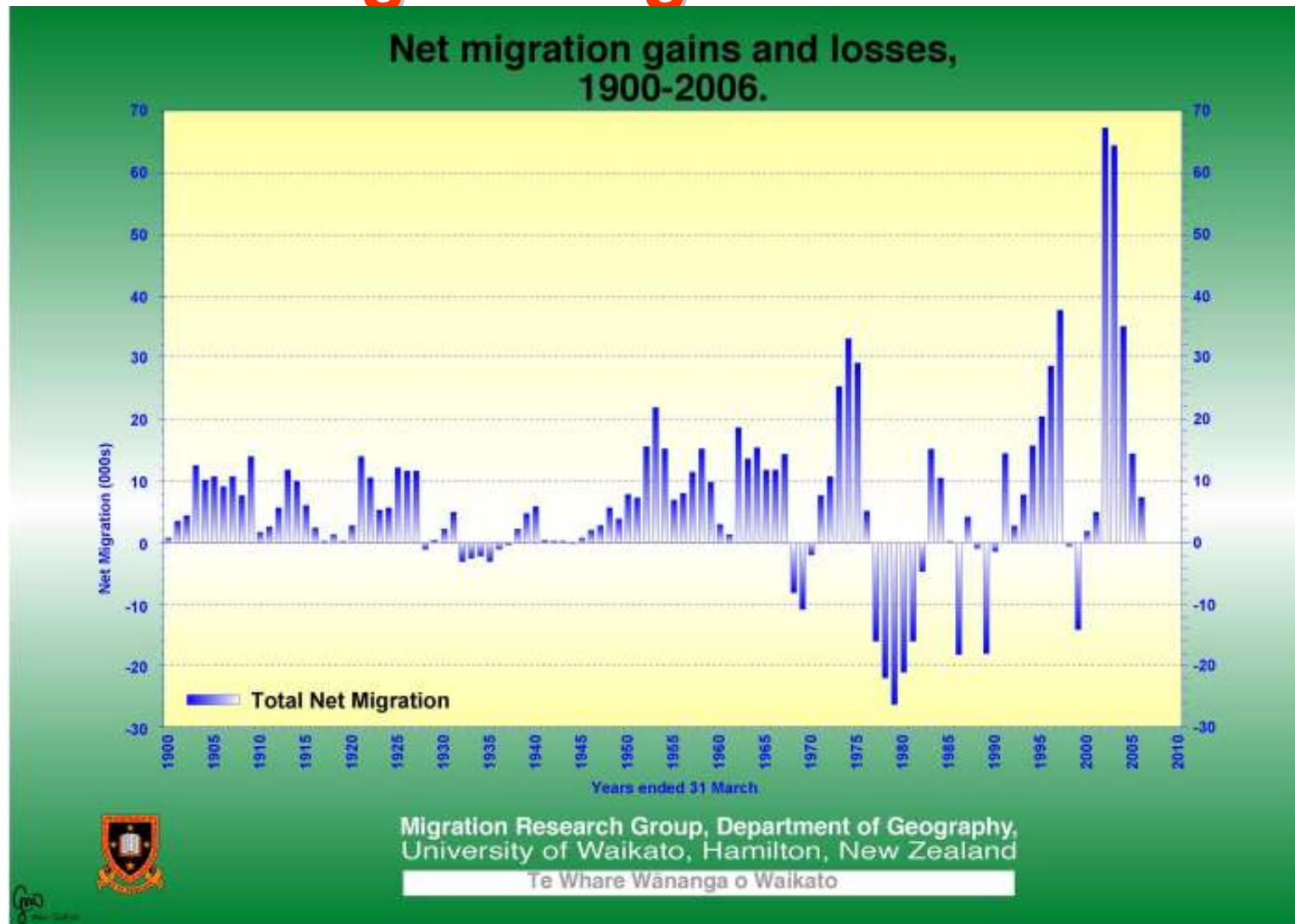
A national context cont.

- **NZ has an indigenous Polynesian population (the Maori – 15% of pop)**
- **NZ citizenship has been extended to inhabitants of some Pacific countries**
- **NZ citizens have access to work and residence in Australia**

A national context cont.

- **NZ has a pro-active immigration policy for around 150 years**
- **The NZ government has developed a pro-active policy for engaging with the diaspora**
- **NZ's migration system, as reflected in net gains/losses is extremely volatile**

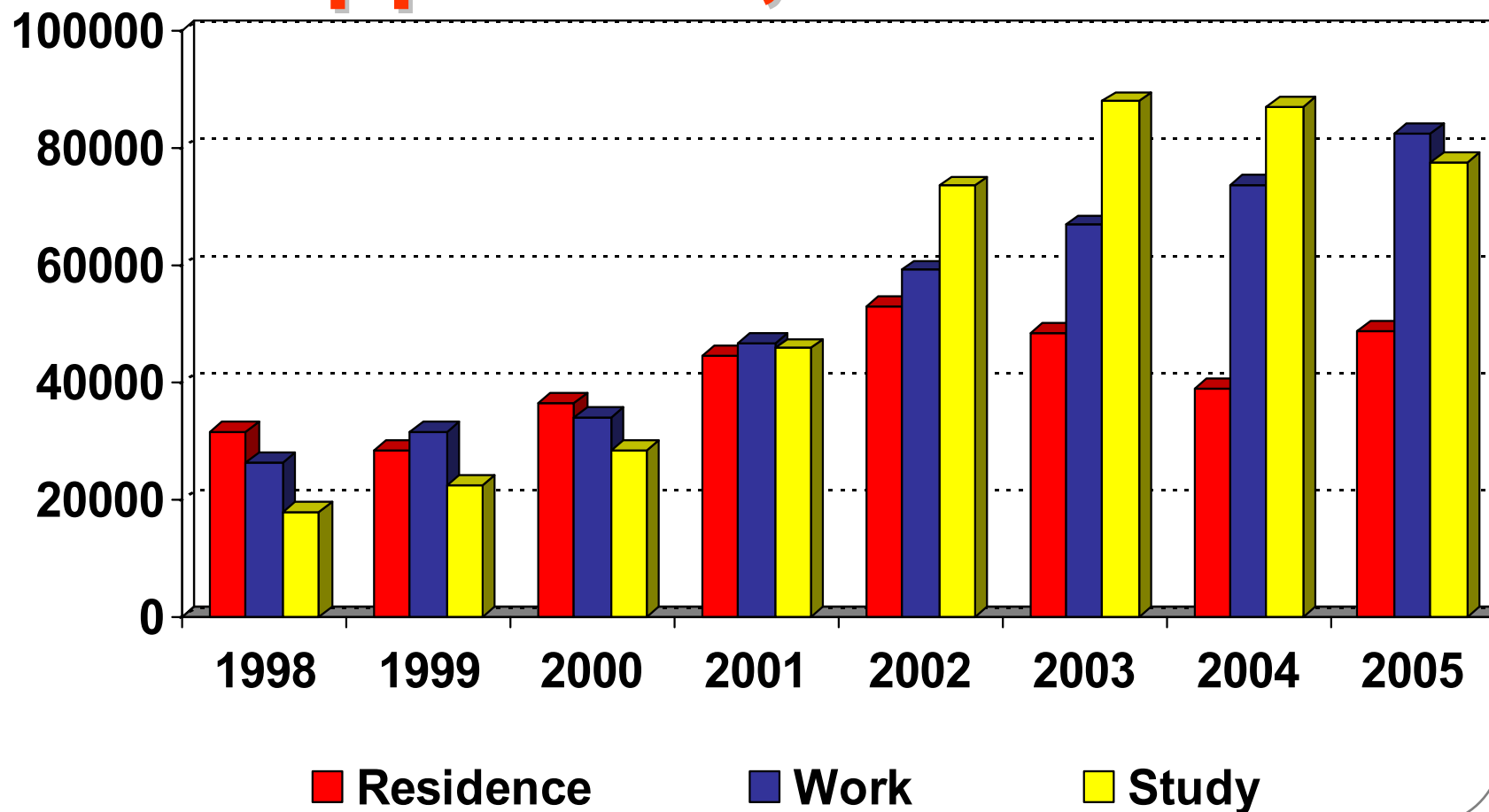
Net migration gains and losses



Recent policy shifts

- **Recognising the outflows as well as the inflows (the early-1990s)**
- **Acknowledging a shift towards on-shore applications for residence (late 1990s)**
- **Appreciating the growing significance of temporary worker and student flows**

Residence, Work & Study approvals, 1998-2005



Approvals, 2005/06

- residence approvals: 51,236 (23%)
- approvals for work: 99,674 (45%)
- approvals for study: 69,223 (32%)
- total approvals (excl. tourists)
220,133

Residence approvals, 2005/06

- **Skilled/business: 31,870 (62%)**
- **Family sponsorship: 14,967 (29%)**
- **Internat/humanitarian: 4,399 (9%)**
- **total residence approvals: 51,236**

Pathways to residence

- **Residence policy**
- **Work to residence policy**
- **Study to residence policy**
- **Refugee/asylum seeker policy**

From work to residence

- **A fifth of all first-time work permit approvals between July 1997 and June 2005 have been approved for residence**
- **Much bigger shares for Sth Africans (55%), Indians (37%) and PRC Chinese (31%) than others**

Routes to residence

- **Skilled migrants: Sth Africans (84%), UK (67%), Indians (61%)**
- **Business migrants: Sth Korea (43%), China (23%)**
- **Family sponsorship: USA (54%), Canada (51%), Japan (50%)**

From study to residence

- **13% of all first-time student permit approvals between July 1997 and June 2005 have been approved for residence**
- **Much bigger shares for Sth Africans (66%), British (45%) and Indians (26%) than others**

Routes to residence

- **Skilled migrants: Sth Af (91%), UK (86%), India (76%), PRC (61%)**
- **Business migrants: Sth Korea (34%), Taiwan (34%)**
- **Family sponsorship: Thailand (70%), Japan (40%), USA (38%)**

A powerful connection

- **92% of PAs in skilled/business stream in 2004/05 had held work, study or visitor permits**
- **80% of these had held a work permit and 50% a labour market tested work permit since 1997**

Mobility after residence

- **The 257,230 migrants approved for residence between 1998 and 2004 had made 1.43 million moves in and out of NZ since taking up residence**
- **Only 1.6% had made no subsequent moves**

Concluding comments

Links between temporary and permanent movement are inextricably interwoven in the lives of those approved for residence. Policy makers and researchers concerned about settlement and labour market experiences need to be aware of the interconnectedness between forms of movement that tend to get treated separately for policy purposes.

Concluding comments

As Kofi Annan has noted, the stage within which national policy and debate relating to international migration is taking place has taken on new regional and global dimensions in recent years. International migration remains a very fertile and productive area for research, especially as many countries, including NZ, are amending policies and laws to cope better with the competition for migrants.