

Beyond Periphery?

a symposium on population and regional development in sparsely populated areas.

PART ONE: Darwin, 26-28 October 2010
PART TWO: Whyalla, 2-4 November 2010

Presented by:

The Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University

Centre for Regional Engagement and Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia

AIMS OF THE SYMPOSIUM

- ▶ To investigate new ways of dealing with regional development challenge in sparsely populated areas;
- ▶ To hear from prominent researchers and practitioners from around the World who will present case examples of the important demographic, social, and economic issues;
- ▶ To actively workshop strategies and policies for addressing the challenges to effective regional development.

The symposium will include an opening plenary in each location and a set of workshops around particular regional development issues.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Symposium is aimed at policy makers, programme managers, community leaders, funding agencies, community organisations and academic researchers. The opening plenaries in both Darwin and Whyalla will be open to the public. Delegate numbers for the subsequent workshop sessions will be limited to ensure active participation. Delegates can choose to enrol for the entire event or for one of the Parts.

WHO WILL LEAD THE DISCUSSIONS?

Discussion leaders will include academics and policy makers with experience in remote Australia, Canada, Alaska, and Europe. The focus will be on active discussion of experiences from around the World, with short presentations and facilitated workshops dominating the program.

WHAT ISSUES WILL BE CONSIDERED?

Populations in sparsely populated areas of developed nations are fundamentally different. From Whitehorse to Nome to Nuuk to Lulea to Borroloola to Oodnadatta, the seven 'D's mean that many of the standard regional development and analytical models applied are poorly suited to explaining the histories, forces for change and potential of remote areas:

- ▶ Different – change occurs in fundamentally different ways because of isolation from core-periphery structures;
- ▶ Diverse – with high representations of Indigenous, short-term and mobile populations, settlement patterns are difficult to predict and generalisations rarely apply;
- ▶ Dynamic – internal and external forces and the small size of settlements means that change can be dramatic and immediate and predicting policy outcomes is difficult;
- ▶ Distant – isolation is the key attribute of remote areas across the World and the most significant barrier to implementing standardised solutions to regional development challenges;
- ▶ Dependent – traditionally dependent on extractive industries and government investments, the fragility of remote populations and economies continue to be major policy issues;
- ▶ Delicate – politically, socially and economically, remote settlements attract disproportionate policy focus;
- ▶ Detailed – small changes in conditions can have large impacts, meaning that a detailed knowledge of the histories and aspirations of remote populations is essentially to planning for their futures.

DRAFT PROGRAM

Symposium sessions will include:

- ▶ Future scenarios for demographic change and economic development;
- ▶ Workforce recruitment and retention;
- ▶ Indigenous development policy;
- ▶ Transport and infrastructure;
- ▶ Mining towns and fly-in/ fly-out labour;
- ▶ Urbanisation and housing;
- ▶ Wellbeing;
- ▶ Measuring and monitoring change;
- ▶ Economic development strategies;
- ▶ Industry futures – mining, tourism, agriculture/pastoralism, services;
- ▶ Connecting research and policy making.

WHY TWO PARTS AND HOW WILL IT WORK?

The idea of a two Part Symposium spread across the width of Australia's 'Middle Dirt' is a novel one. The two Part approach -

- ▶ Provides more access for more people (delegates and discussion leaders);
- ▶ Allows exploration of a range of regional development contexts in context;
- ▶ Stimulates better collaboration between people who might otherwise view the barrier of distance as an insurmountable one.

The Symposium is a collaboration between regionally focused organisations - engaging research institutions, regional development institutions and sponsors across the Northern Territory and South Australia (and beyond). The close historical links between South Australia and the Northern Territory, continue to exert a strong influence on both jurisdictions, and in their regional development futures continue to be closely linked.

Many delegates will choose to engage in person in one Part only, but can still benefit from the two Part structure through a series of publications based on Symposium sessions, and material captured for Charles Darwin University's postgraduate education unit *Topics in Human Geography: a remote perspective*.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As a sponsor of the Symposium, you have the opportunity to -

- ▶ Contribute to a unique international event, targeted specifically at the challenges facing sparsely populated areas;
- ▶ Raise the profile of your organisation as a leader in the process of addressing these challenges;
- ▶ Network with key figures in the research, community, government and industrial sectors;
- ▶ Make an important contribution to the learnings of researchers and practitioners at the Symposium and beyond.

Sponsorship packages are available for specific components of the Symposium (social functions, workshops), for international speakers, and for the event as a whole.

PRESENTERS

Programme updates and presenter profiles will be provided through the Symposium website (access via www.cdu.edu.au/population or www.unisa.edu.au/cre) from late July. The organising committee welcomes proposals for papers which fit the Symposium themes. Presenters are invited to submit 3 000 – 5 000 word papers for publication in special issues of academic journals and a research book.

REGISTRATIONS

Delegates will be able to register for the Symposium via the website from late August. Registration costs will be in the order of AUS\$600 per Part, with a discount for those attending both Parts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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DRAFT PROGRAM

DARWIN

Tuesday 26 October
Commencing 4.30pm

▶ Registrations and welcoming reception: *Why a 'beyond periphery' symposium?* Hosted by The Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University

Wednesday 27 October

▶ *Demographic change and economic development in remote areas – where the future lies;*

▶ *Economic Development Policy – The future for small settlements.* Sponsored by Northern Territory Treasury;

▶ *Workforce Recruitment and Retention – Managing mobility;*

▶ *The Gender Challenge;*

▶ *A Focus on Transport.*

Thursday 28 October

▶ *Indigenous Development Policy;*

▶ *A Focus on Wellbeing;*

▶ *Urban Growth Challenges – Planning for Darwin's New Satellite City of Weddell.* Sponsored by Northern Territory Department of Lands and Planning;

▶ *Grow Your Own – Innovative approaches to skills development;*

▶ *Measurement and Monitoring – Getting the data right;*

▶ *Connecting Research and Practice – synthesis session.*

WHYALLA

Tuesday 2 November
Commencing 4.30pm

▶ Registrations and welcoming reception: *Research, policy and inclusive remote societies.* Hosted by Hawke Research Institute, University of South Australia

Wednesday 3 November

▶ *Demographic change and economic development in remote areas – where the future lies;*

▶ *Economic Development Policy – The importance of history and society;*

▶ *Workforce Recruitment and Retention – Policy approaches to meeting skills shortages;*

▶ *Indigenous Populations in Transition;*

▶ *A Focus on Water and Changing Climates.*

Thursday 4 November

▶ *The Future of Mining Towns;*

▶ *Making Tourism Work;*

▶ *The Challenge of Leadership – understanding remote development processes;*

▶ *Grow Your Own – Higher Education and Research Beyond Periphery;*

▶ *Measurement and Monitoring – Using the data well;*

▶ *Connecting Research and Practice – synthesis session.*