



NEWS RELEASE
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Does population growth equal economic growth for South Australia?

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) hosted a luncheon to discuss the potential benefits of reforming selected policies to address South Australia's growth needs.

A discussion panel with Senator Nick Xenophon, Deputy State Liberal Leader Vickie Chapman, Director of SA Centre for Economic Studies Michael O'Neil and Mark Glazbrook from Migration Solutions discussed our State's population growth.

Recent population data shows that SA has now fallen to only 0.5% population growth – 9,300 people against the national average of 1.4%. This is a decline since 2009 when population growth was higher and unemployment was lower.

The UDIA Chief Executive Officer Pat Gerace said falling population growth remains a massive issue for our future economic prosperity.

“The UDIA knows more people means more jobs and this has to be a major focus for our State. South Australia is still publishing a State Population target of two million by 2027 which is commendable, but with the associated ‘Primary Goal’ only to have a sustainable population we need bolder and clearer strategies to deliver that,” said Mr Gerace.

“No one argues that we shouldn't be doing all we can to attract things like new defence contracts and capitalising on South Australia's assets like clean food and wine, and revitalising the city laneways - but we need more.”

Mr Gerace added that the property development and construction sector would welcome more active promotion of Adelaide to international investors and markets.

“The UDIA believes that we can't just focus on a few areas to grow the South Australian economy.” Mr Gerace said.

“The Government needs to consider taxation inducements to attract and retain new migrants, as well as investing in core infrastructure, public amenities and community and social services. We need to ensure South Australia provides an attractive and vibrant living environment that people want to live in as well as a great place to invest.”

ABOUT THE UDIA - Established in 1971, the UDIA (SA) represents the interests of the development industry in South Australia in collaboration with all levels of government. It represents all sections of the urban development sector, including developers, councils and service providers such as engineers, planners and surveyors.

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