

Sub-replacement Fertility: Is this an Issue for New Zealand?

Wellington 2006

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Population Ageing: 4 dimensions

- Numerical Ageing
 - Increase in *numbers* of elderly (primarily caused by increased life expectancy)
- Structural ageing
 - Increase in *proportions* of elderly (primarily caused by low/falling birth rates) * *
- Natural decline
 - More elderly than children > > more deaths than births
- Absolute decline
 - Inability of replacement migration to replace the 'lost' births and inc'd deaths

Have you seen this man?



Are they getting the message?!!

WHY WE NEED MORE
BABIES

Australia's low birth rate cannot be solved by immigration, say experts, who warn we are not producing babies fast enough for our future wellbeing, writes *Greg Callaghan*

This week we celebrate the birth of a nation. Now we need births to save our nation.

AN ALARMING DECLINE

Australia is suffering an alarming decline in our birth rate. The current birth rate is only 1.76 per fertile female. Just to maintain our present population this needs to go up to 2.1. The difference between 1.76 and 2.1 is 25,000 (approx) fewer Australians every year. In other words we are losing the equivalent of more than all Australians killed in World War Two every year!

THE LIFE WE TAKE FOR GRANTED

This week we rightly celebrate the remembrance of the Australians who fought and died to secure the way of life we so routinely take for granted.

STATISTICALLY

It is impossible to estimate how many more Australians we would have today if all those soldiers somehow survived, came home and had families. It could possibly be up to half a million.

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM

Is this you? You are a couple in a stable relationship. You have had your kids. They are no longer babies and are all going to school, probably late primary or secondary. Your job/s is/are secure and your mortgage is fairly under control. There is little evidence for an interest rate blow-

out or recession coming. Comfort zone stuff. You may even believe that you have already done your bit for this country's population.

ANOTHER CHILD

While you are still young and fertile why not think about having another child? A child for your country, it is a positive contribution that you can make and be very proud of. At present the current birth-rate is 1.76 per female. To just maintain our current population this has to go up to 2.1 per female. Just think, 2.1 = Two up. Why not say Two up?

CONSIDER THIS

So please consider putting on your McVansion or your home cinema or your holiday, and do something that will help underpin the nation of which we are so proud. You will be blessed with a bundle of joy who will contribute to the future prosperity of this great country. Whatever the child may be - plumber, hairdresser, pilot or brain surgeon - it doesn't really matter. If enough people get in to this spirit, we can rejuvenate our population.

The future of our country is really in our hands. We can make a difference if enough of us do this.



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The call

- *Is this you? You are a couple in a stable relationship. You have had your kids ... Your job/s is/are secure and your mortgage fairly under control .. You may even believe that you have already done your bit for this country's population.*
- *While you are still young and fertile why not think about having another child? A child for your country .. Why not play Two Up?*

Other general proposals

- Paid maternity/paternity leave
 - Institutionally supported
 - Superannuation Contributions while on leave
- Income Tax splitting
- HECS payments
- *Most proposals ignore opportunity costs*

Government policies on fertility 2005 (1996) - World

% of countries	Raise	Maintain	Lower	No int'v	TOTAL (N)
WORLD	20 (14)	16 (10)	40 (42)	24 (34)	194 countries
MDCs	50 (33)	17 (8)	0 (2)	33 (56)	48
LDCs	10 (8)	16 (10)	53 (56)	21 (26)	146

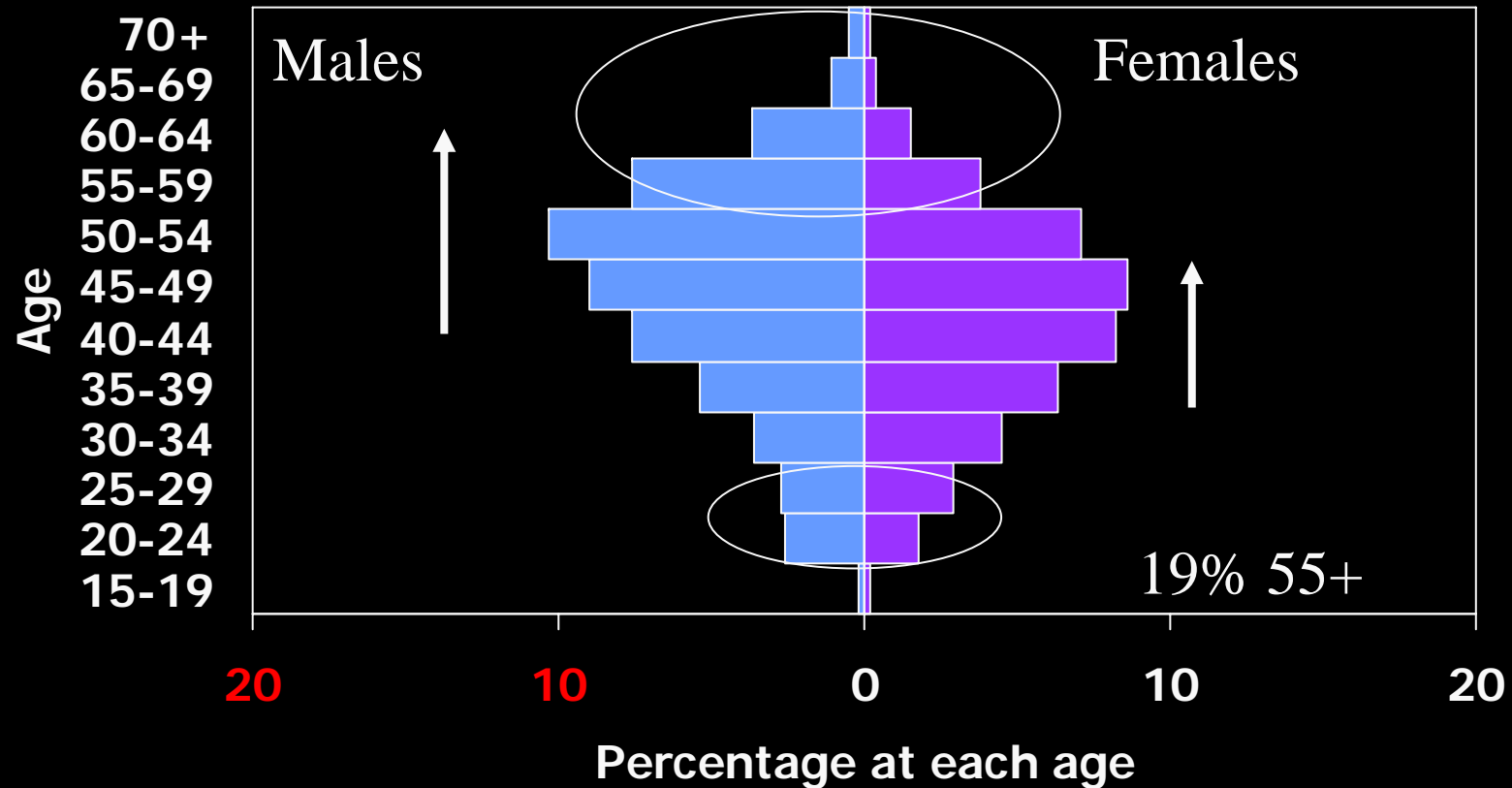
<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/WPP2005/wpp2005.htm>

Towards a critical analysis

- High birth rates equated with high death rates (esp. infant deaths)
 - Declining infant mortality and declining birth rates reinforce each other; remove need for high births
- Reproductive efficiency
 - The *work associated with reproducing the species* has decreased, freeing women, their energy and resources for other forms of production
- The reproductive revolution is one of the pillars of modernity
 - Can't hold back the one while forging ahead with the rest

University and Vocational Teachers

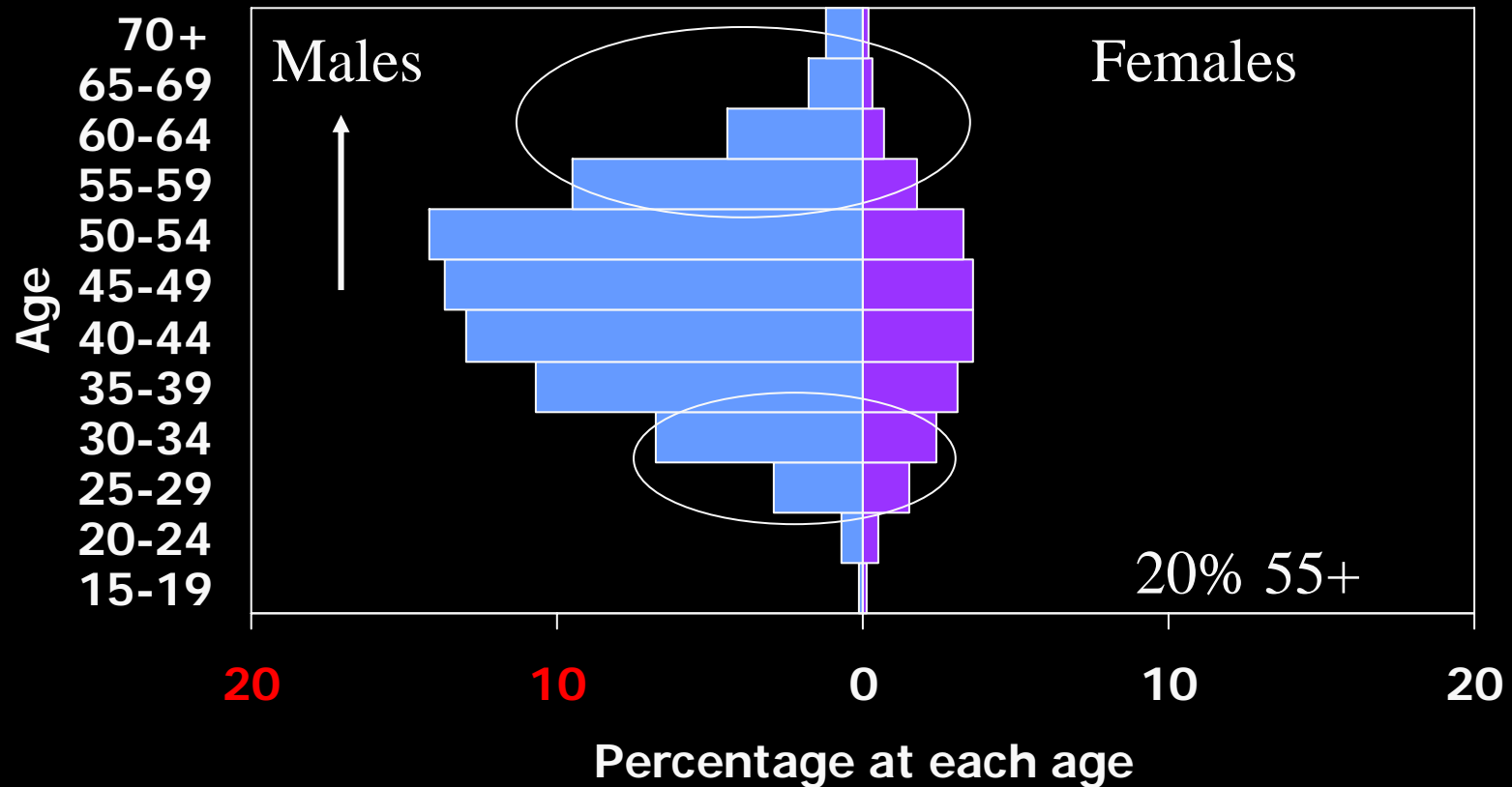
Size #57; Ageing #5 (E/E = 0.5)



E:E: 20-29: 55+ years

Managers and Administrators

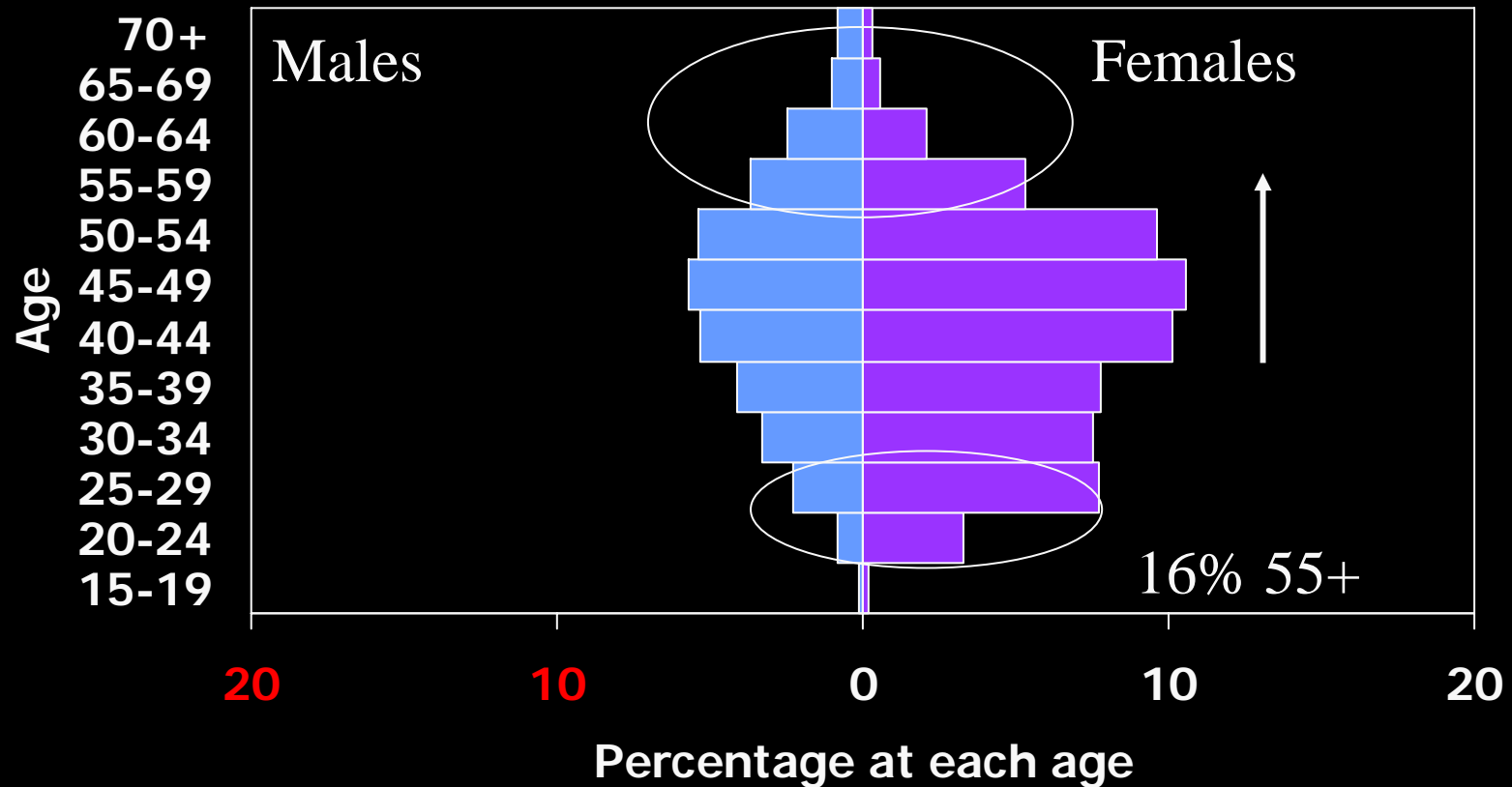
Size #37; Ageing #3 (E/E = 0.3)



E:E: 20-29: 55+ years

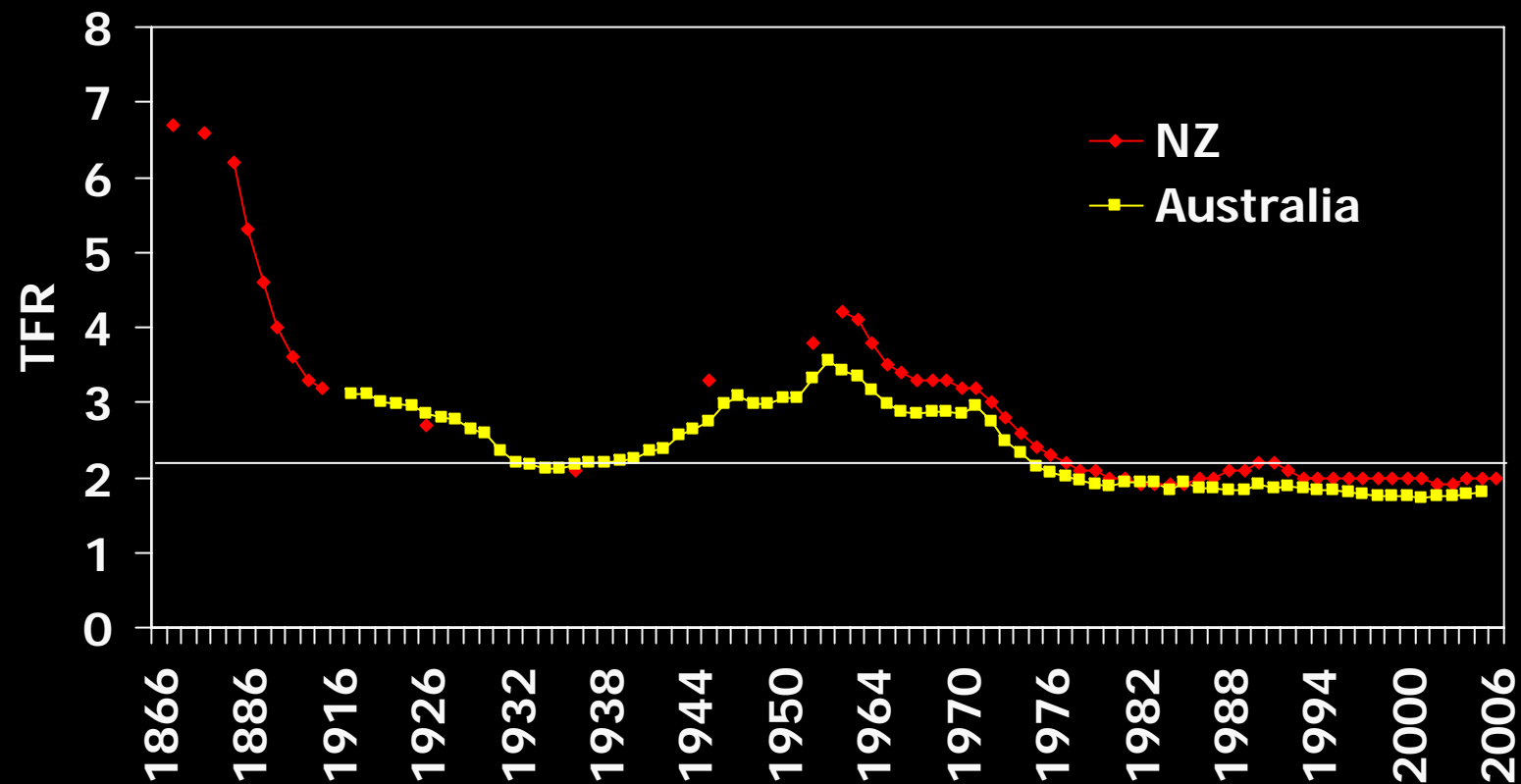
Social Welfare Professionals

Size #47; Ageing #11 (E/E = 0.9)

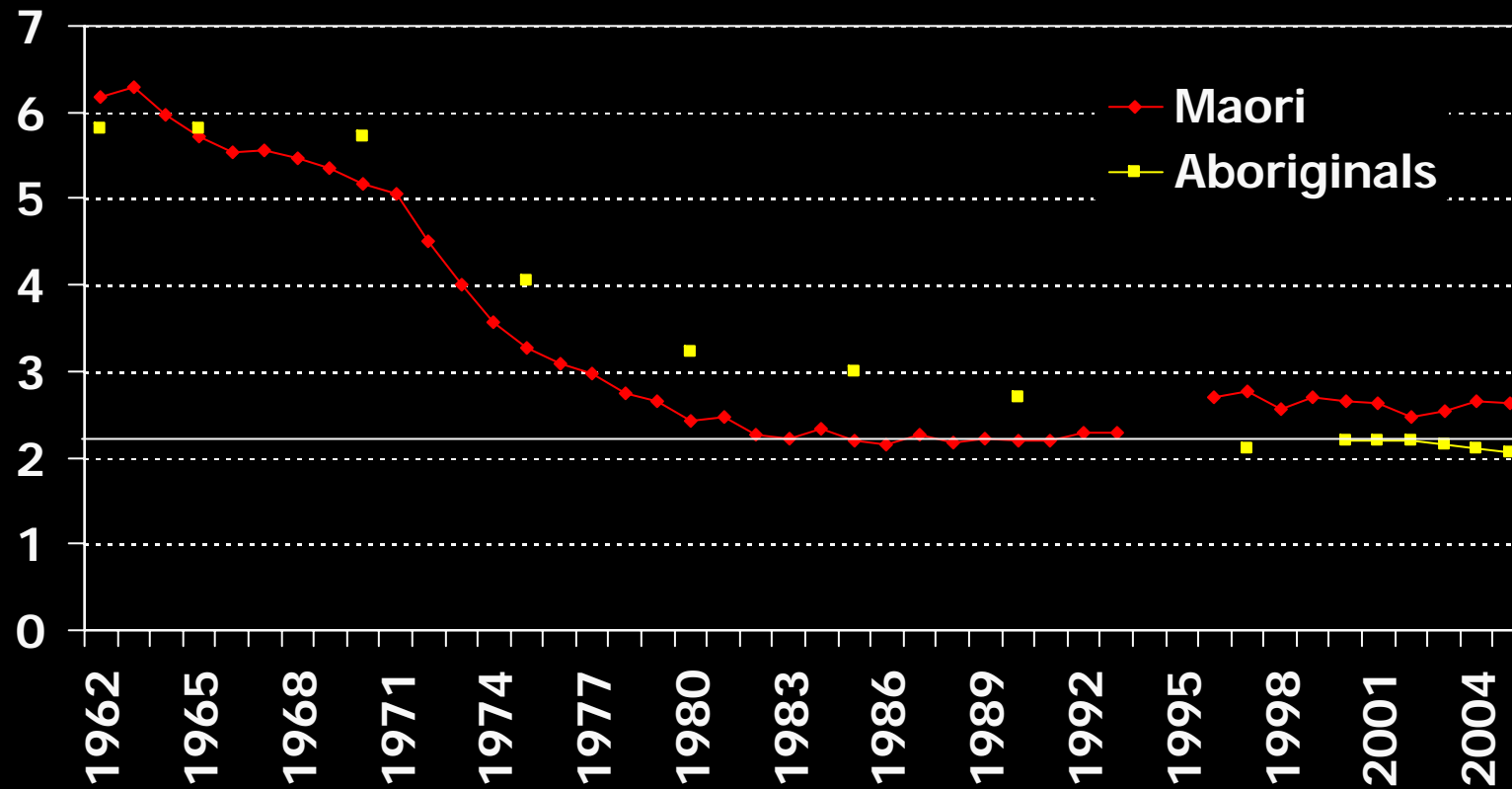


E:E: 20-29: 55+ years

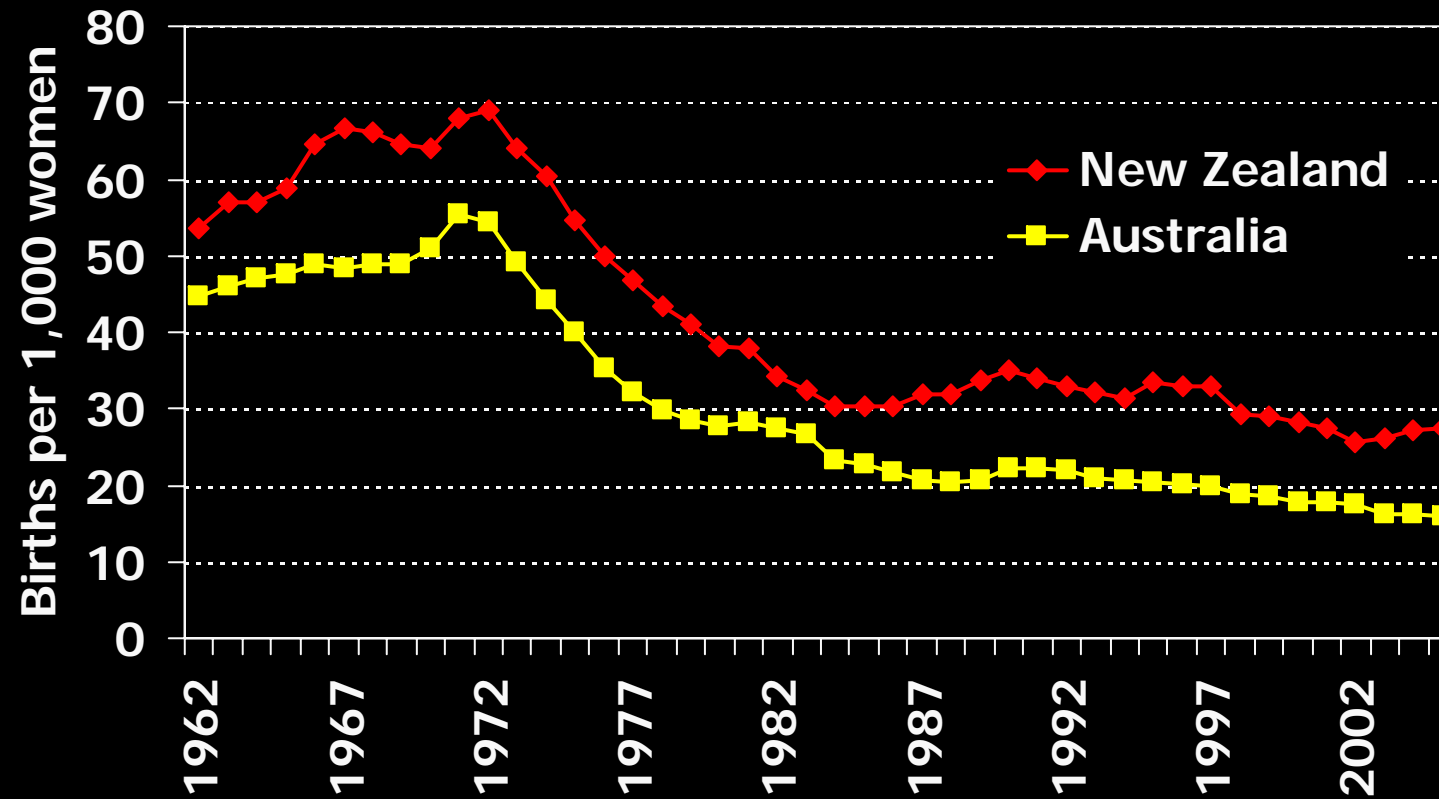
TFR: Australia and New Zealand



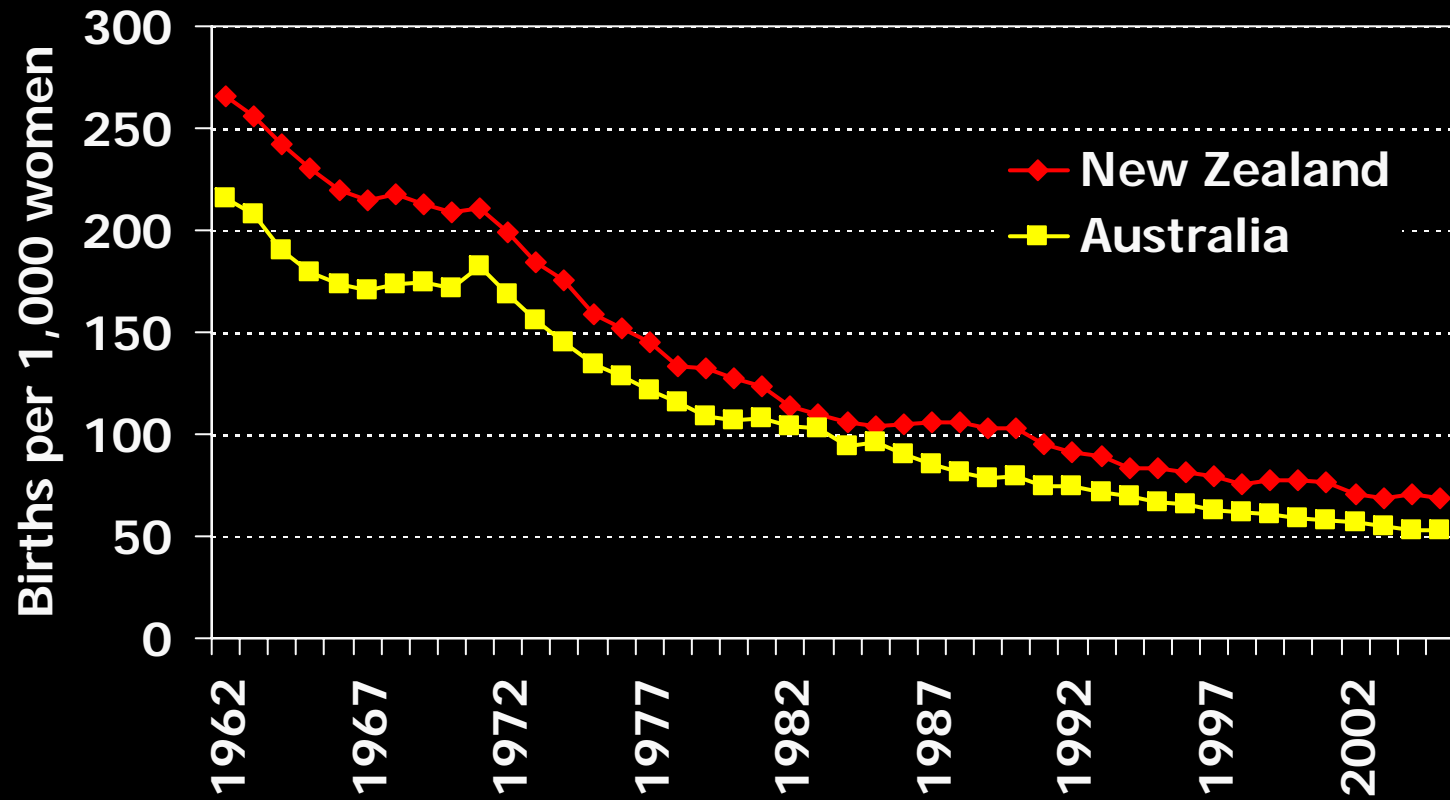
TFR: Maori and Aboriginals



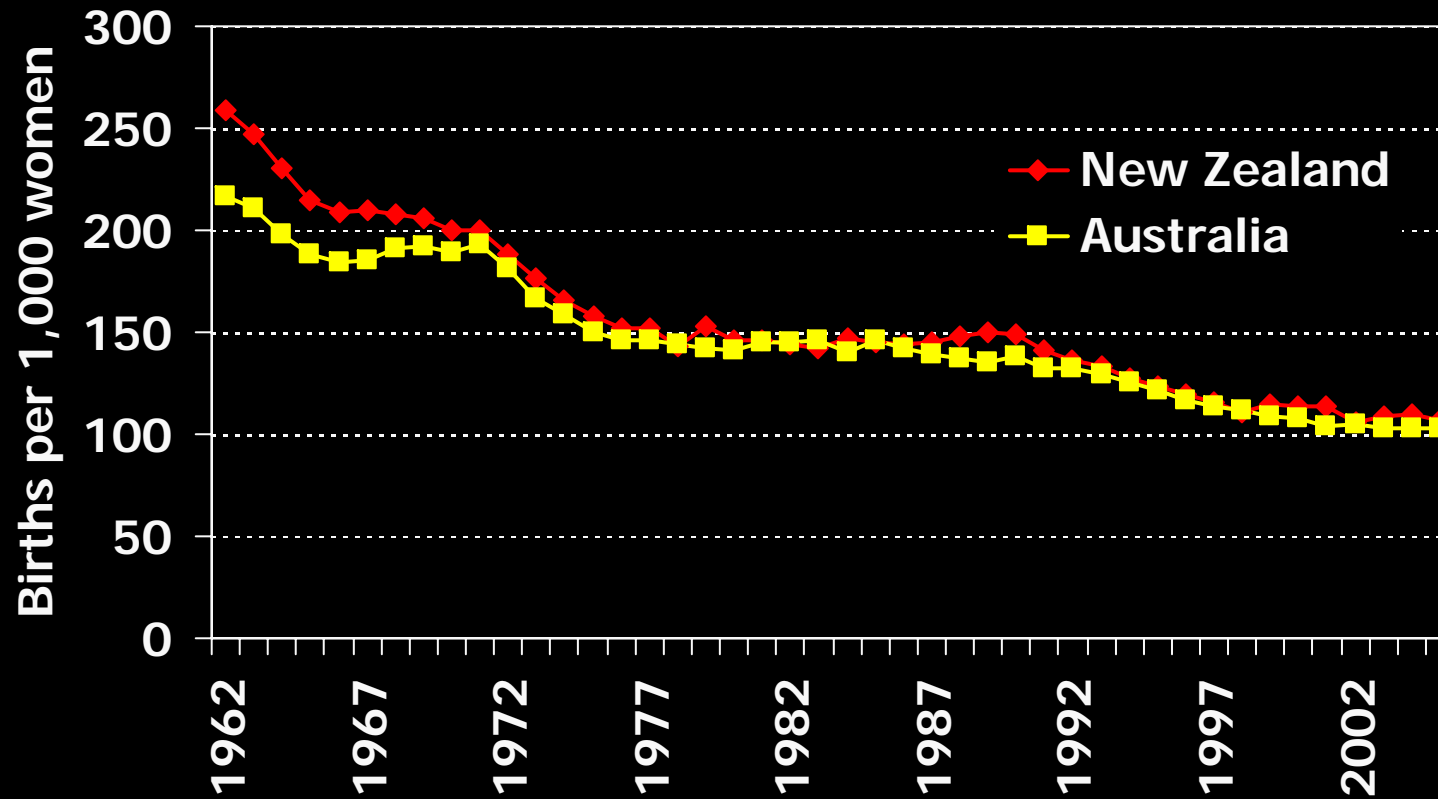
15-19 Years



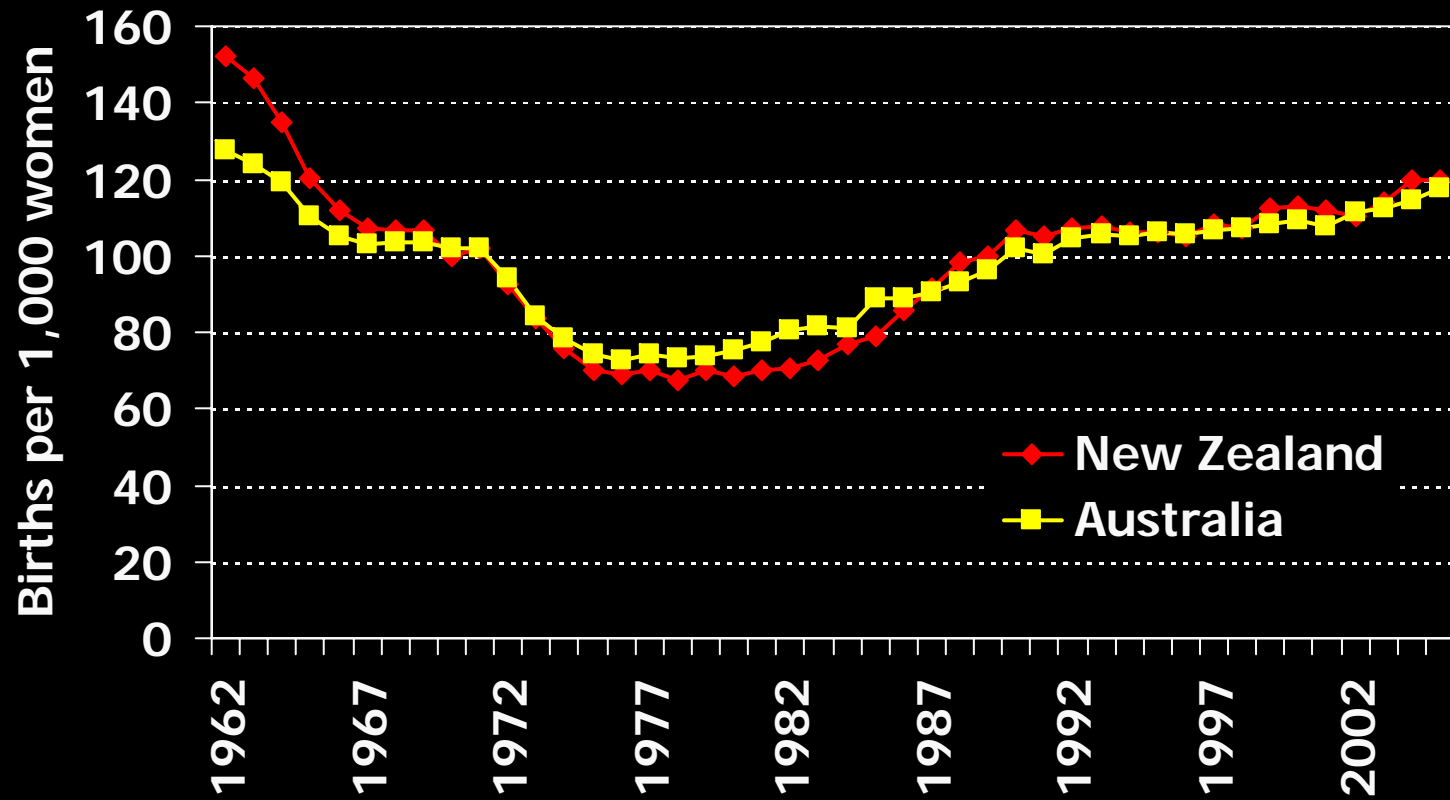
20-24 Years



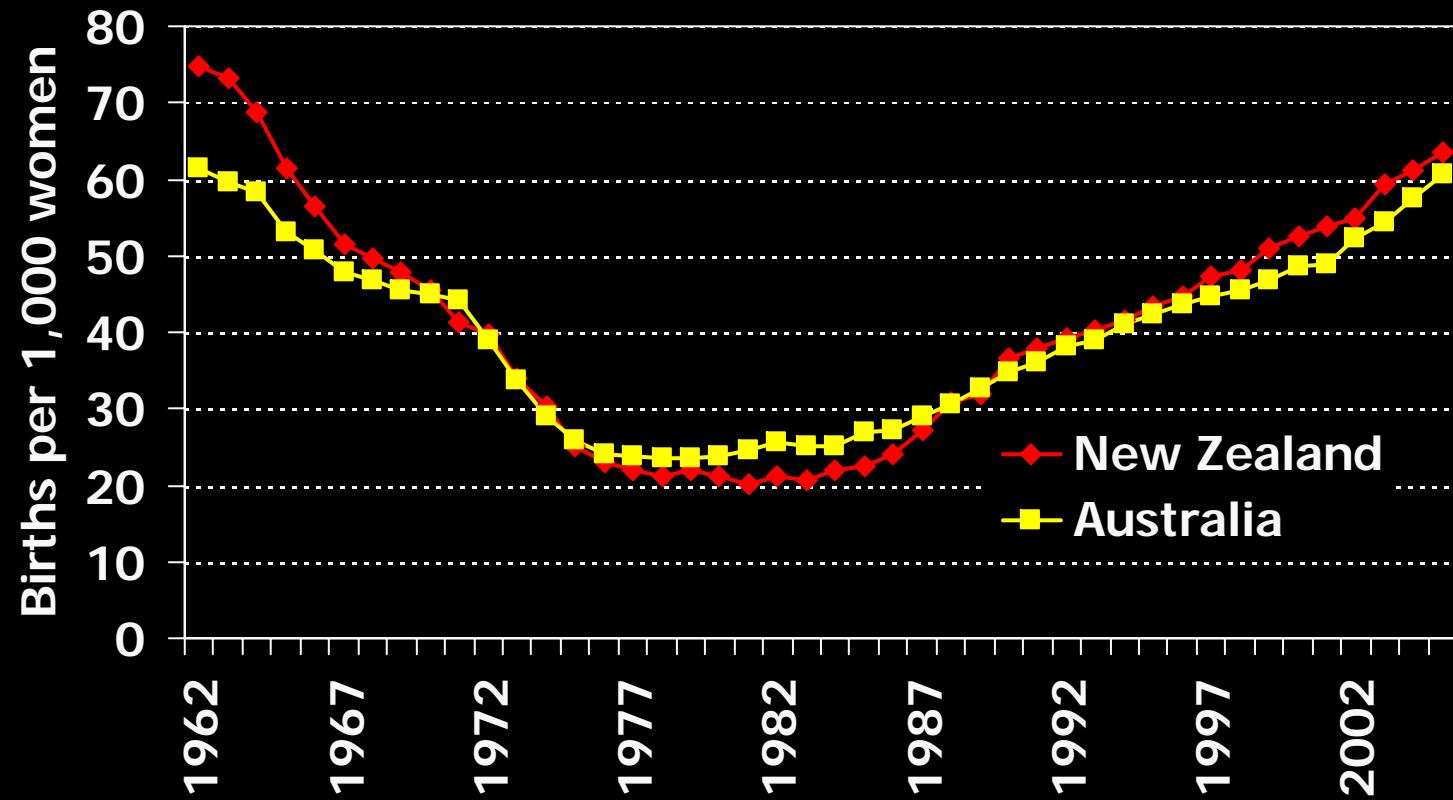
25-29 Years



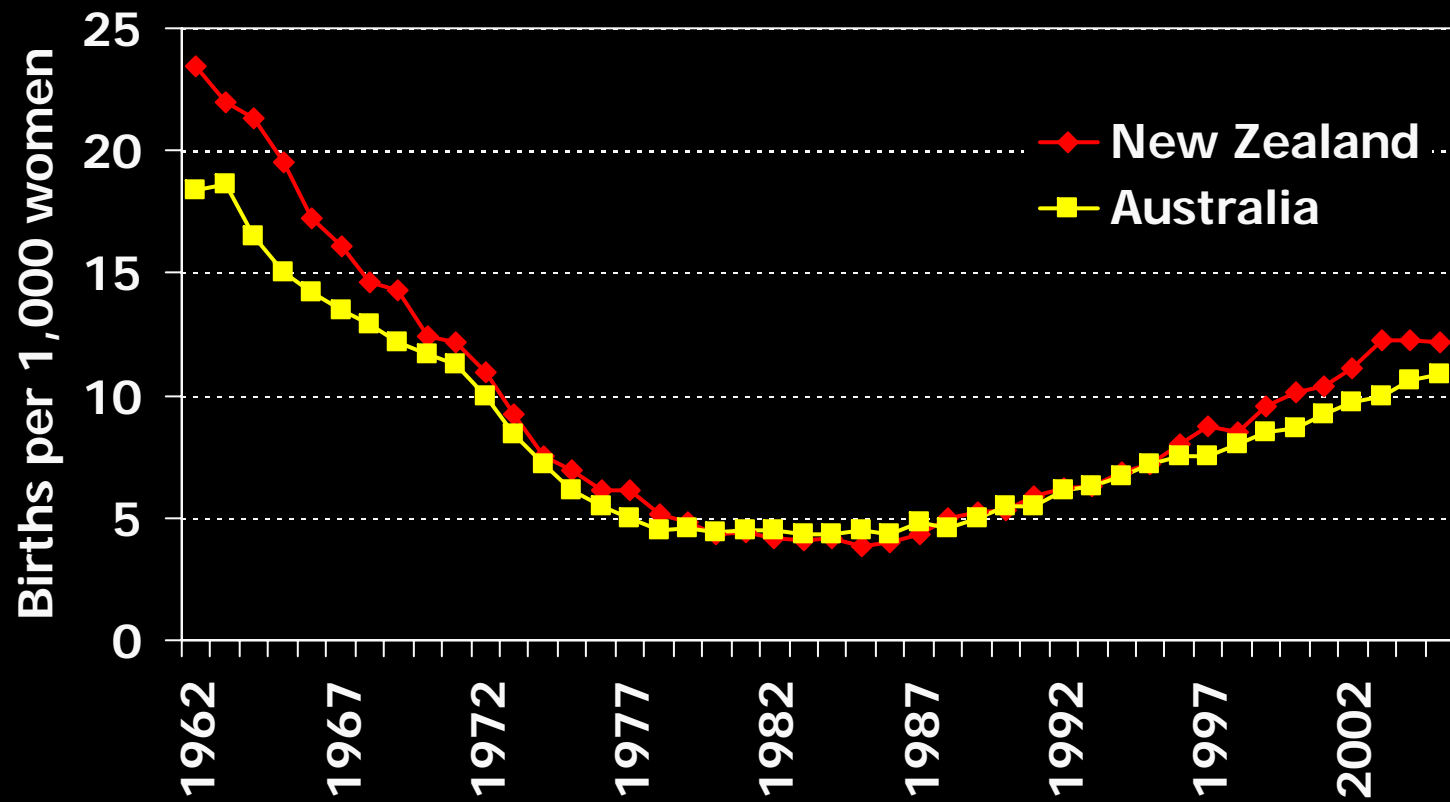
30-34 Years



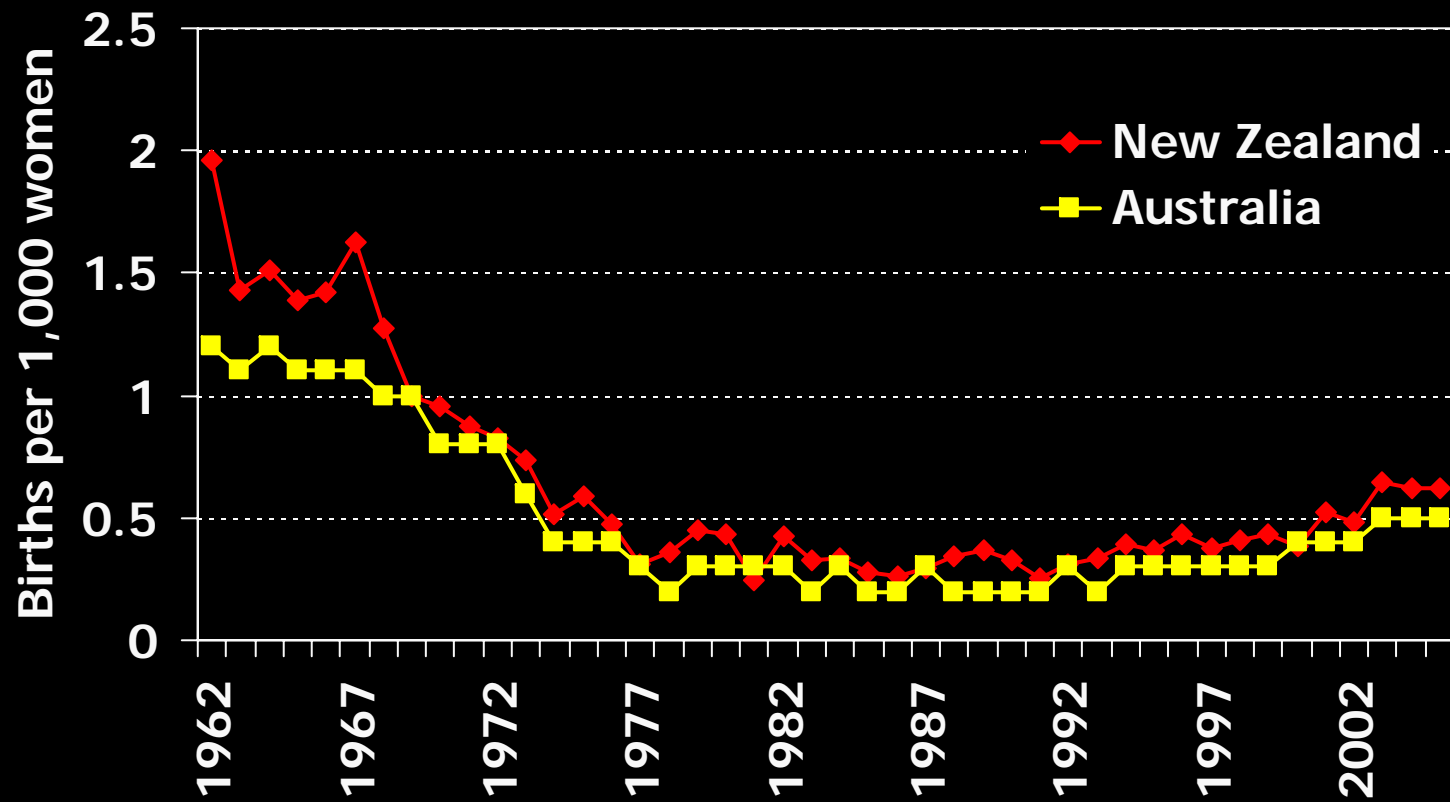
35-39 Years



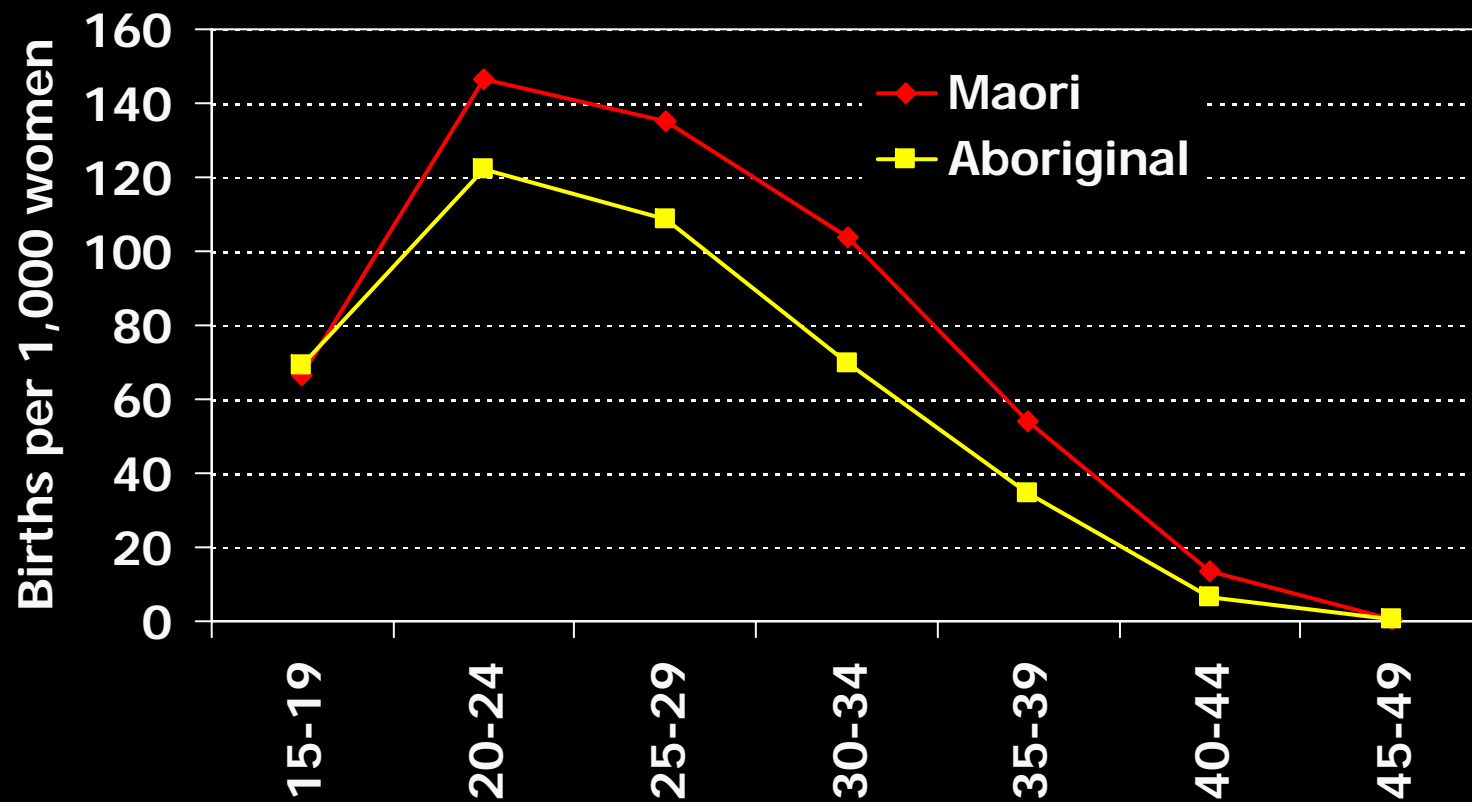
40-44 Years



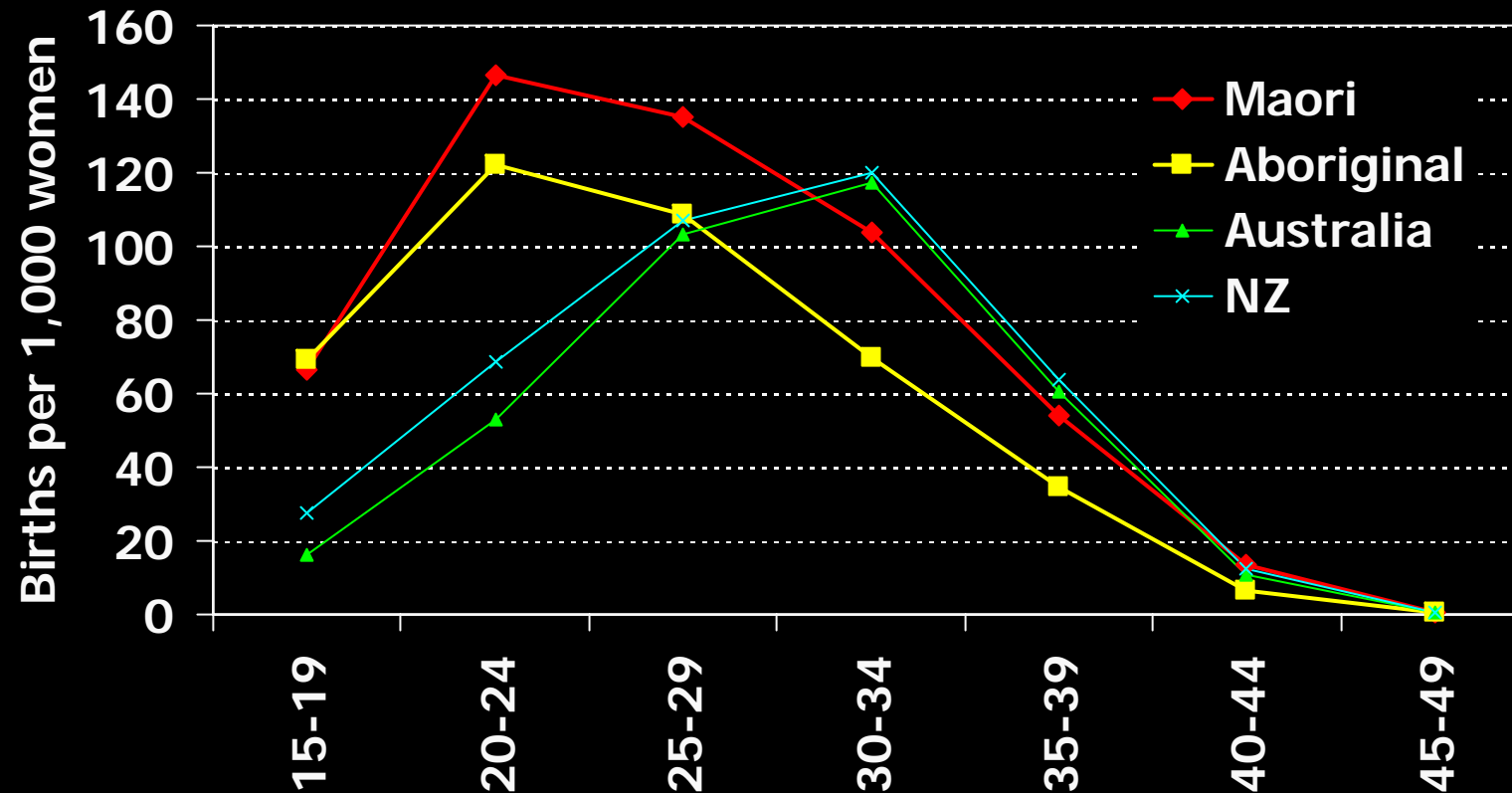
45-49/50 Years



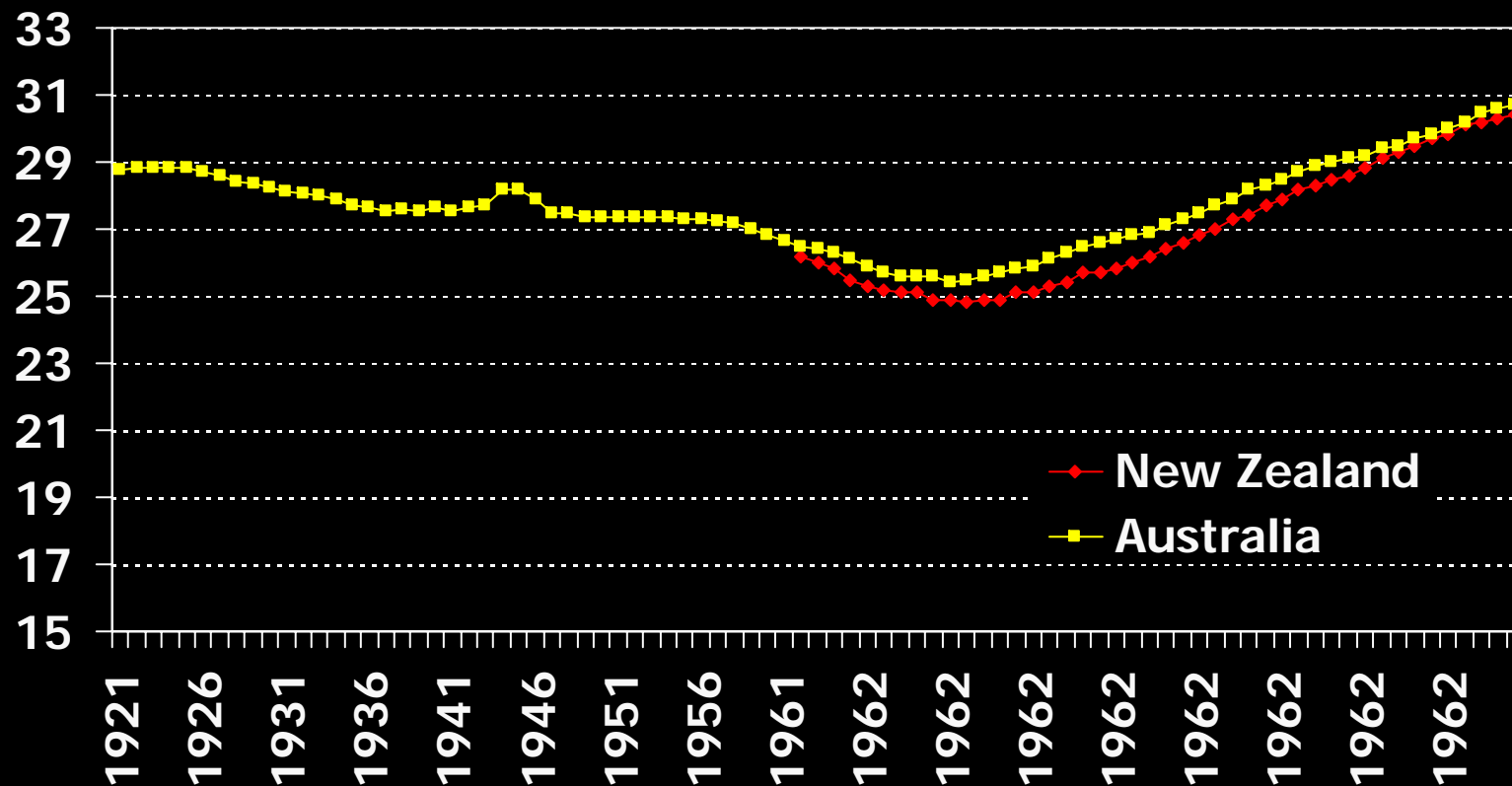
Maori and Aboriginal ASFRs 2005



Indigenous and Non-Indigenous ASFRs 2005

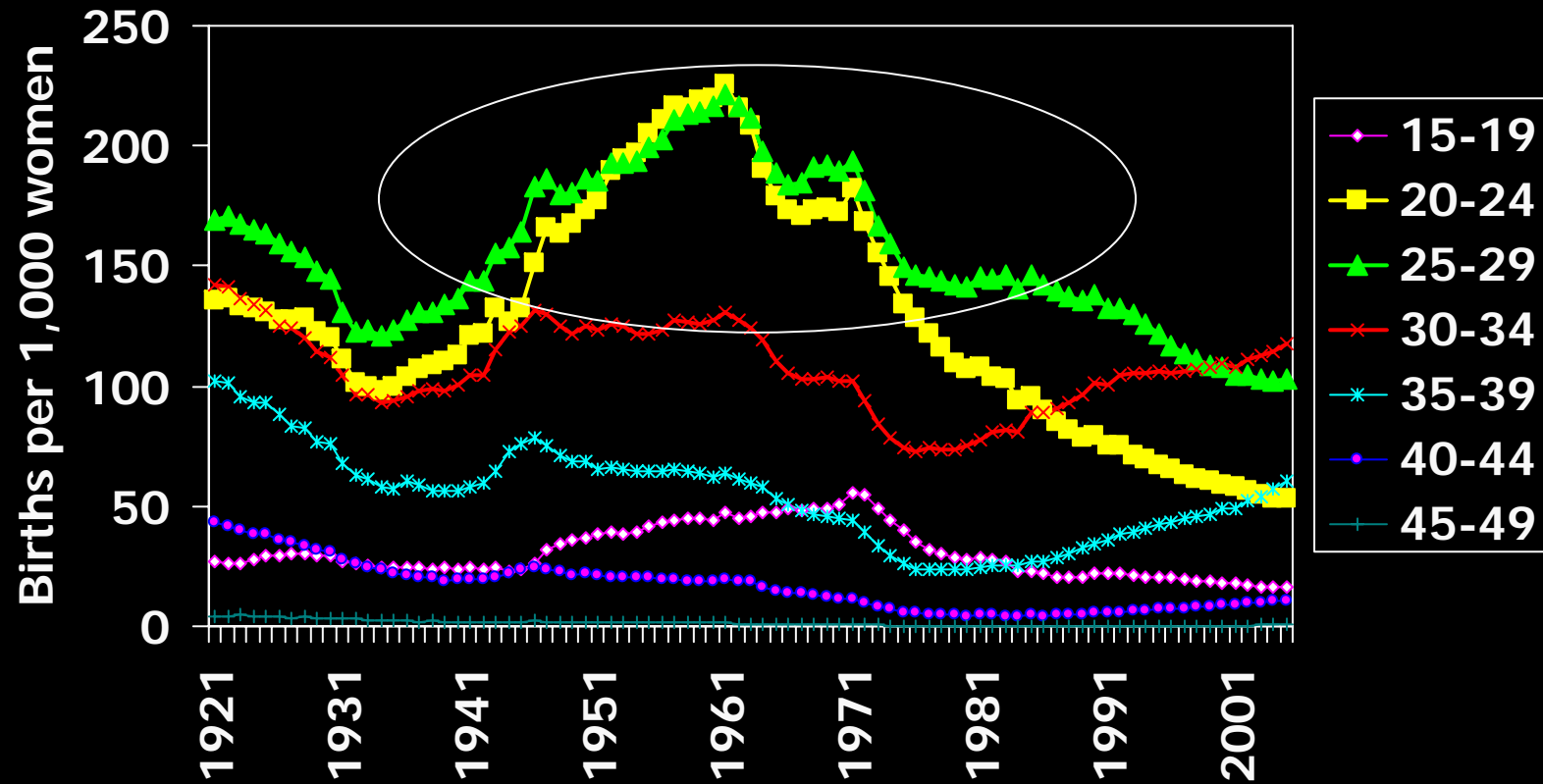


Median Age (all confinements)



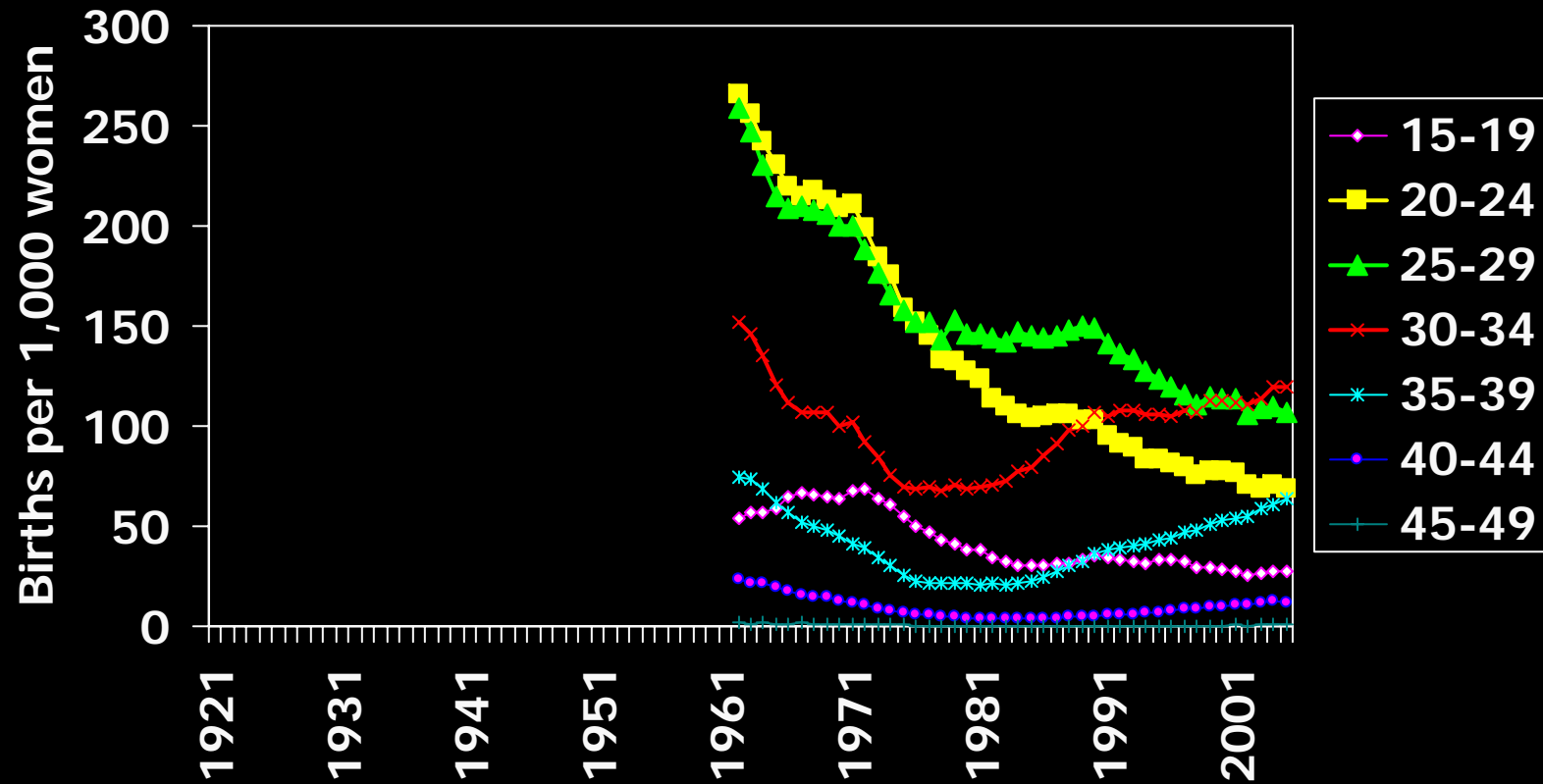
ASFRs Australia 1921-2005

(or how to have a baby boom..)

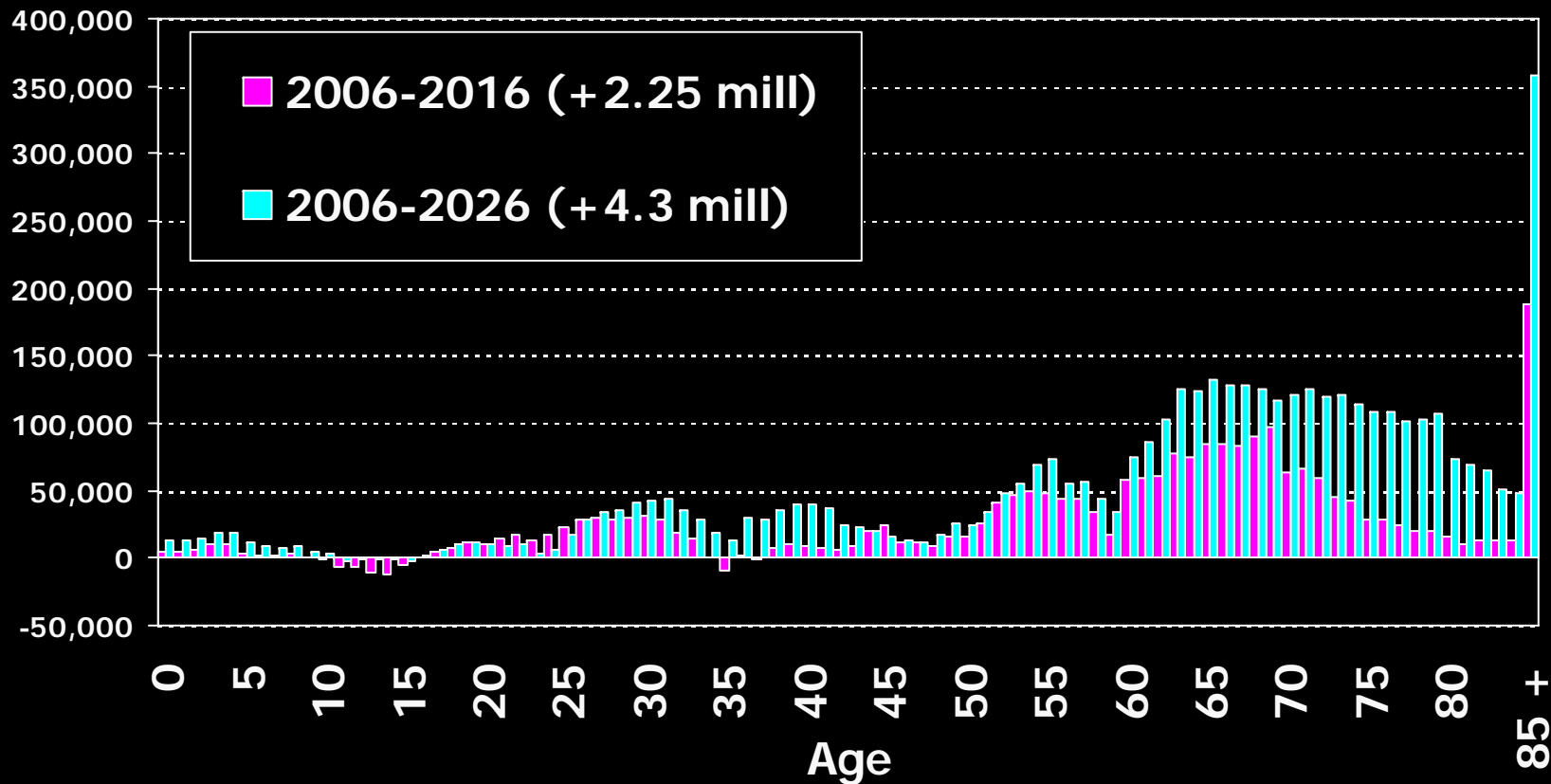


ASFRs New Zealand 1962-2006

(or how to have a baby boom..)

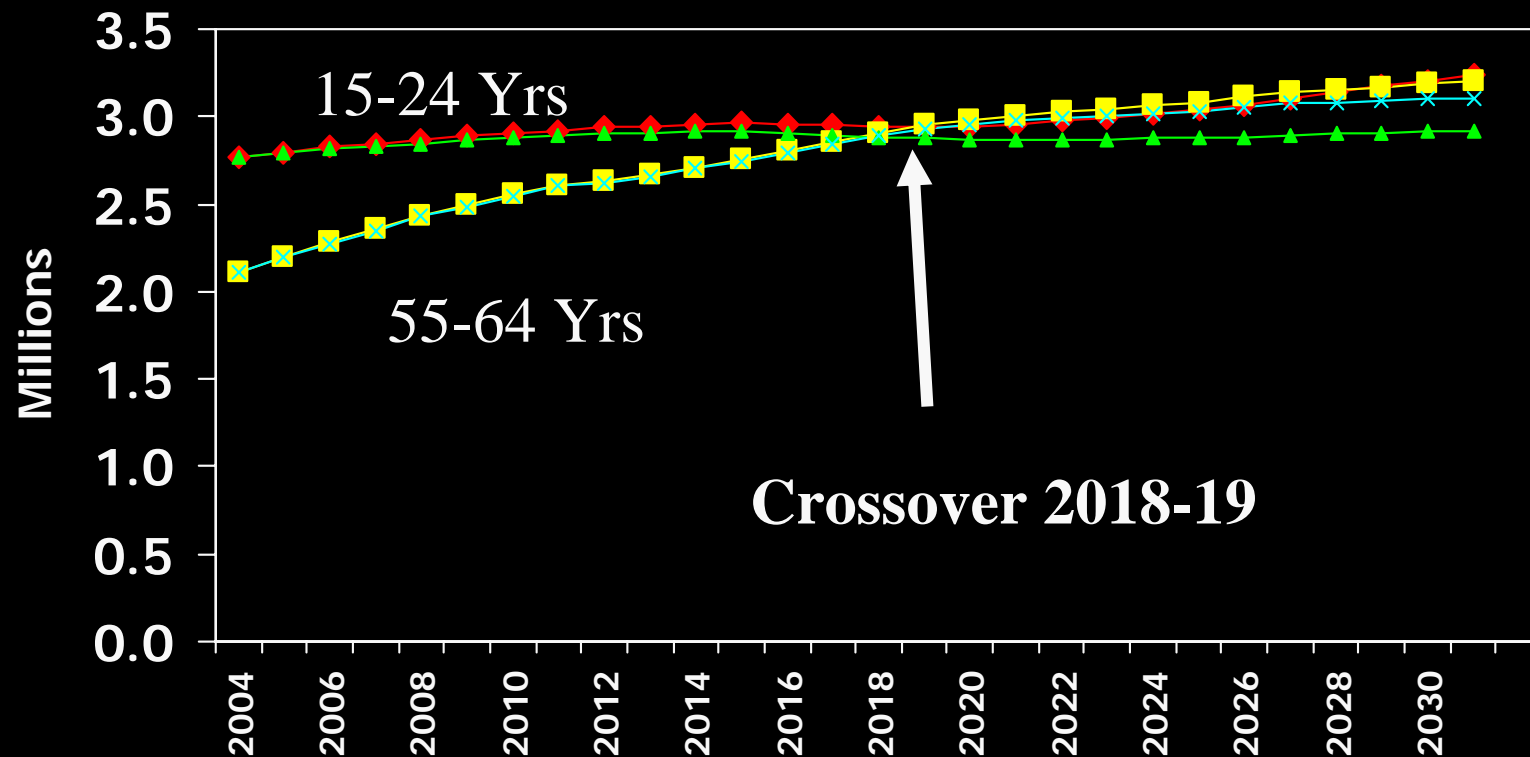


Australia: Projected change by age: 2006-2016; 2006-2026



Source: ABS 2005 Series B
(Australia)

Labour Market Entrants/Exits

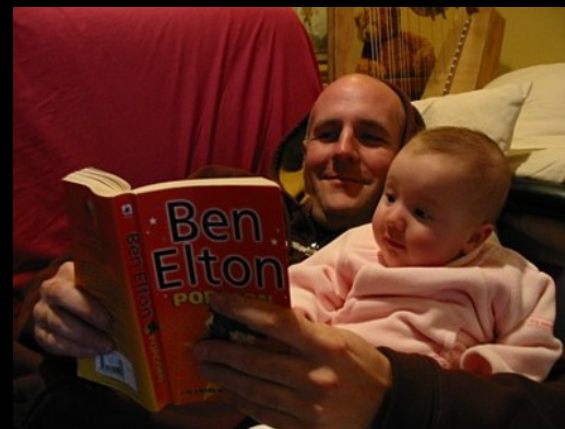


Source: ABS 2005 (Series A and B)
Australia

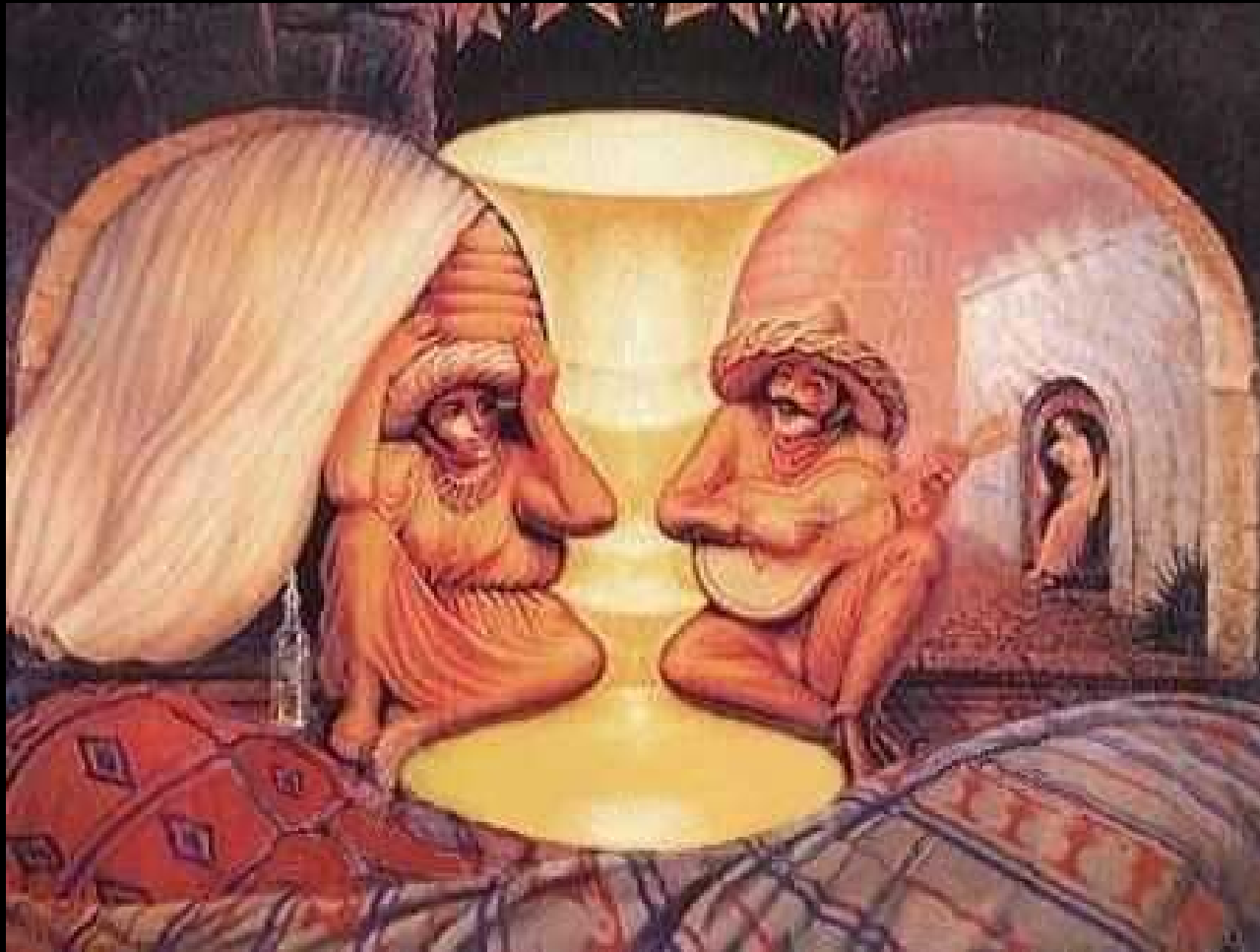
Entry/Exit Crossovers by State

	2005	Negative
Tas.	1.13	2010
SA	1.18	2012
NSW	1.26	2017
Vic.	1.3	2019
QLD	1.3	2022
WA	1.36	2020
ACT	1.54	...
NT	1.87	...

One little Kiwi-Croatian-Australian



There is more to population ageing than meets the eye



Source: unknown but much appreciated

Thankyou

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