

## **LONGITUDINAL SURVEY OF IMMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Bureau of Immigration Research (BIR) is designing and testing a longitudinal survey of immigrants to Australia by conducting a prototype survey in late 1991. The main purpose of the longitudinal survey is to gather information on the performance of Government policies, programs and services that affect immigrants and on the settlement experiences of recent immigrants.

A full-scale longitudinal survey requires considerable financial and other resource input making the design stage one of major importance. Issues to be addressed include defining survey objectives, locating the population, selecting a sampling strategy, identifying data items, formulating a questionnaire, designing tracking and follow-up mechanisms, deciding on data collection and coding methods, and anticipating analytic techniques.

In the early stages of design the question of analytic techniques seems remote. However, it is exactly at this stage that many potential analytical problems can be either exacerbated or reduced.

The BIR is canvassing widely views on the structure and methodology for the longitudinal survey. As part of the consultative process a series of working papers is being produced: *Literature Review, Topics and Issues, Outline of Proposed Methodology, Survey Procedures and Operations, Questionnaire Specifications, Data Analysis, and Outcomes and Recommendations.*