Review of Don Rowland, *Demographic Methods and Concepts*
Katharine Betts

Are you longing for a demography text that is amusing, literate and comprehensive? Do you want a CD with wonderfully constructed graphs that run the demographic transition through before your very eyes for the country of your choice, that let you build population pyramids, that project populations with different mortality, fertility and migration assumptions, that illustrate the stages of the epidemiologic transition and much more? If yes, your wishes can now be fulfilled.

Australian demographers who have watched Don Rowland present conference papers on teaching demography know that we have a skilled communicator in the profession. Now some of the fruits of his work in the lecture theatre and computer lab have been distilled and presented to a wider audience. This book has been a massive undertaking. It covers population dynamics, period and cohort perspectives, techniques for comparing rates (especially standardisation), models (including life tables), spatial patterns and processes, and applied demography. It even has a section on how to write demographic papers.

The text is designed to work for people who are complete beginners but it never patronises and a student who conscientiously worked through the thirteen chapters would have acquired a sound understanding of demography. Examples and data from all over the world are provided, together with a host of useful web links. The CD contains files written in Excel and the text provides plenty of help for those unfamiliar with the package.

The book could serve as a self-education package for students unable to enroll in a formal course. But it will be invaluable for teachers in all branches of the social sciences, especially those who would like to teach more demography but who have been looking for an appropriate text book.