

OVERVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

I. THE MARKET

A. Population

Australia is a country of some 7.7 million square kilometres - approximately four-fifths the size of Canada - occupied by a population approaching 17 million people.

Seventy-seven percent of its total population reside along the eastern seaboard, which encompasses the three major states of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. The population distribution across all states and territories is outlined in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: AUSTRALIA: DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AS AT 30/12/1989

<u>STATE</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>
New South Wales	5.761m	34.7
Victoria	4.315m	26.1
Queensland	2.838m	16.2
South Australia	1.423m	8.6
Western Australia	1.591m	9.0
Tasmania	0.451m	2.8
Northern Territory	0.156m	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	0.277m	1.7
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>16.800m</u>	<u>100.0</u>

For reasons of historical, climatic and economic foundation, Australia's population is concentrated in state capital cities and other major cities in the south east quadrant. Some 85% of the total population live in these urban centres.