

Chinese at centre of Vic exodus

THE exodus of Victorian residents to overseas destinations was dominated by Chinese people during the pandemic, a new report says.

Victoria had a net loss of 56,000 migrants in 2020-21, easily the most of any Australian state, as people living here returned to their homelands or other nations as Covid hit.

Chinese-born people topped the list with a net overseas migration (NOM) figure of minus 21,000, according to the ABS report Overseas Migration 2020-21.

The NOM for Chinese people has been falling for four years, plunging from 17,850 in 2016-17 to minus 4970 in 2019-20 as the pandemic hit.

After the Chinese, the next biggest outflow of migrants from Victoria last year was among Indian-born people with a NOM of minus 7130.

JOHN MASANAUSKAS