



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and  
Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

## The changing face of immigration

In 1901 the new Federal Parliament put in place immigration laws to restrict the entry of most people who did not come from a British or European country.

This policy was progressively dismantled after World War Two, beginning in 1949, with the decision to allow Japanese war brides and 800 non-European refugees to stay.

Now, migrants come from all around the world. Australia's migration program does not discriminate against people because of their ethnic origin or culture.

## Classroom activities

- 1 Obtain a map of the world. Pin-point where you live and where parents and grandparents have lived. Discuss any patterns that the map shows.
- 2 How has migration changed over time? What impact has migration had on Australia and Australians?
- 3 Visit specialised migration museums, either as a class, or through their websites. Go to [amol.org.au](http://amol.org.au) for more information about museums in Australia.
- 4 Look through current newspapers and magazines for stories on people migrating to Australia. Find out why they want to live in Australia.

# Migration



Migration involves people moving from one country to another. This may be voluntary, as migrants, or involuntary as displaced people or refugees. Some people decide to migrate to seek a better life for their children, better job opportunities or to be reunited with families who have migrated in earlier years.

Australia is one of a handful of countries which operates a planned annual migration program.

The program welcomes people of all backgrounds and represents a balance between Australia's national interest and international responsibilities.

## Migrants come in waves

Australia has a long history as an immigrant nation, starting with the first Australians, the Indigenous people, who probably came here through Asia about 40 000 to 60 000 years ago.

Waves of migration have significantly changed the character of Australia in the past two centuries.

The arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 brought mostly convicts and troopers from the UK.

Migration peaked again during the 1850s goldrush when people from the UK, America, China and Europe flocked to Australia, hoping to make their fortune.

Since the 1950s, economic and humanitarian events have influenced migration patterns, with people coming from places as diverse as Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Chile, Indochina, Poland, the Middle East and Africa.

## The future

Because of Australia's ageing society and low birth rate, it is possible that immigration may be the only source of population growth by 2030.

