

# **Migration: Benefiting Australia**

**Conference proceedings  
Sydney 7-8 May 2002**



These conference proceedings were prepared by :

The Research Section  
Migration Branch  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

The Department's website at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) contains this publication as well as a wide variety of information on Departmental activities.

© Commonwealth of Australia, May 2002

**ISSN 0 642 26068 0**

This work is copyright. Apart from any use permitted under the *Copyright act, 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Requests and inquiries for information should be addressed to -

The Director  
Research Section  
DIMIA  
PO Box 25  
Belconnen ACT 2616

## Foreword



Migration has contributed enormously to the society we are today. It has provided us with very significant economic benefits and has given us an Australia that is a vibrant, harmonious and culturally diverse place to live.

But migration today has many complex parts -

- As a result of increasing globalisation, we are living in a world where we must compete as never before with other nations for skilled migrants and temporary entrants.
- As a part of the global community we have very important humanitarian obligations.
- As a government we have to respond to community needs and maintain a strong commitment to family migration.
- In population terms we face a number of issues related to an ageing population, the environment and increasing emigration of skilled Australians.

It is the complex and dynamic nature of these migration issues that make it so important that we have conferences like *Migration : Benefiting Australia*. They allow people the opportunity to listen to the informed views of others and also offer people the opportunity to put forward new and challenging ideas. These ideas can in turn have a strong influence on migration policy, not just for today, but for the years ahead.

These proceedings are the definitive record of what was a very successful conference.

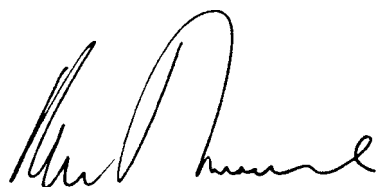
Within these pages you will find the views of international authorities on migration as well as our own Australian experts on our population future, the economic and social

---

effects of migration and humanitarian resettlement. Also, because migration is something that affects the wider society, some of Australia's leading business and community leaders offer their own perspectives.

Finally, in the interests of a vigorous and healthy debate, I am happy to say that these proceedings include an address to the conference on the subject of population policy, by Julia Gillard MP, Shadow Minister for Population and Immigration.

In these proceedings you will find a wealth of ideas. While you might not agree with everything that has been written, I am sure you will be stimulated and challenged by it. I therefore commend these proceedings to you, not only as a reminder of a very successful conference but as a useful information resource for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Ruddock', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Philip Ruddock

---

# Contents

Foreword	iii
----------	-----

## Part 1 : Population

1	Australia's population futures <i>Professor Peter McDonald</i>	3
2	Ageing in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century : Implications for public policy <i>Professor Steve Dowrick</i>	33
3	Emigration of skilled Australians: Patterns, trends and issues <i>Professor Graeme Hugo</i>	49

## Part 2 : Economic /budgetary impact of migration

4	The economics of migration <i>Mr Chris Richardson</i>	113
---	--	-----

## Part 3 : Social and economic participation of migrants

5	Immigration : Who wins and who loses <i>Professor Ross Garnaut</i>	131
6	The migrant perspective <i>Professor Sue Richardson</i>	165
7	Global competition for skills : An evaluation of policies <i>Professor John Salt</i>	201

## **Part 4 : International asylum and humanitarian migration**

8	Humanitarian flows and the international system of protection <i>Dr Alexander Casella</i>	247
---	--	-----

## **Part 5 : Panel discussions**

	Migration and population <i>Chair : Mr Andrew Bolt</i>	257
	Judging the success of immigration policy - social, economic and international issues <i>Chair : Ms Pru Goward</i>	265

## **Part 6 : Conference speeches**

	Opening speech to the conference <i>The Hon Philip Ruddock MP, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs</i>	273
	Bridging the divide : A population policy to benefit all Australians <i>Julia Gillard MP, Shadow Minister for Population and Immigration</i>	291
	Multiculturalism : Sustaining a vital Australia <i>Mr Benjamin Chow, Chairman Council for Multicultural Australia</i>	301
	How many people doing what? <i>Mr Michael Krockenberger, Australian Conservation Foundation</i>	313
	The case for a higher population <i>Mr Bert Dennis, Australian Population Institute</i>	325

---

Closing speech to the conference	337
<i>The Hon Philip Ruddock MP, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs</i>	

## **Part 7 : Appendices**

A	Media releases for the 2002-2003 Migration Program	347
B	Charts showing key influences and aspects for the Migration Program	369