

Migrant selection documents held in Perth

Post-World War II migration policies

Following the end of World War II, Australia took advantage of the instability and insecurity in Europe and parts of Asia, to encourage refugees and displaced persons to migrate to Australia. This led the Australian Government to launch an immigration program designed to increase the population by one percent each year through immigration. Believing it was possible to combine large-scale immigration with full employment, the government funded a program that included assisted passages, and special hostel and other accommodation for sponsored migrants.

Under the policy announced by Immigration Minister Arthur Calwell in 1947, the target population growth by net migration was set at 70,000 per year, mainly from the United Kingdom and Europe and with two thirds being assisted migrants. By the early 1950s this had peaked at 150,000 a year. The migrant intake remained high for much of the ensuing decade, peaking again in the late 1960s at 130,000 arrivals. Most migrants were of British, Dutch, German, Italian, Greek, Polish or Yugoslav descent.

During this period a number of schemes targeting child migrants from England and Malta were also approved. Between 1947 and 1953 over 3200 unaccompanied children were received into Australia. The children were placed in homes run by religious institutions and welfare bodies such as the Christian Brothers, Barnardos and the Fairbridge movement.

Contents of migrant selection documents

The Department of Immigration was responsible for approving the entry of individuals and recording their arrival in Australia.

Migrant selection documents, which include applications for assisted passage and medical reports, were completed by the applicant and returned to the Chief Migration Officer in the capital city of the country in which the applicant was living. These documents were then forwarded to the state office of the Department of Immigration in the Australian state which the migrant intended to settle.

Migrant selection documents contain personal information including name, nationality, date and place of birth, names of spouse and details of children (where applicable), and employment details.

Other types of documents that can be found include medical reports, travel documents, and passport-sized photographs of the applicant(s).

Generally, migrant selection documents are held in the National Archives office corresponding to the state in Australia the person first arrived. The table below lists the records held in the Perth Office.

Migrant selection documents held in Perth

British, Irish and Maltese

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Eire migrant selection documents</u>	1948–49	PP93/9
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1948–56	PP4/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1957–59	PP93/8
<u>British, Irish and Maltese selection documents</u>	1960	PP110/6
<u>British, Irish and Maltese selection documents</u>	1961	PP132/5
<u>British, Irish and Maltese selection documents</u>	1962	PP147/1
<u>British, Irish and Maltese selection documents</u>	1963	PP181/2
<u>British, Irish and Maltese selection documents</u>	1964	PP202/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1965	PP222/6
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1966	PP276/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1967	PP316/3
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1968	PP316/4
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1969	PP341/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1970	PP383/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1971	PP424/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1972	PP500/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1973	PP534/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1974	PP542/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1975	PP579/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1976	PP594/1
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1977	PP640/2
<u>British migrant selection documents</u>	1978	PP704/1

Non-British

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Medical examination forms (Form 47A)</u>	1951–52	PP9/5
<u>Medical examination forms (Form 47A)</u>	1953	PP19/2
<u>Medical examination forms (Form 47A)</u>	1954	PP50/4

Medical examination forms (Form 47A)	1955	PP110/3
Medical examination forms (Form 47A)	1956	PP132/2
Medical examination forms (Form 47A)	1957	PP132/3
Medical examination forms (Form 47A)	1958	PP135/2
Medical examination forms (Form 47A)	1959	PP139/2

Child migration

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
British child migrant selection documents	1947–59	PP93/10
Maltese child migrant selection documents	1947–59	PP93/11

For more information

Fact sheets:

- *Fact sheet 66 - Migrant selection documents in Canberra*
- *Fact sheet 124 - Child migration to Australia*
- *Fact sheet 147 - Child migrant records held in Sydney*

Research guides:

- [Good British Stock: Child and Youth Migration to Australia](#)
- [Finding Families: the guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists](#), chapter 1.