

Migrant selection documents held in Adelaide

Postwar migration policies

Following World War II, Australia took advantage of the instability and insecurity in Europe, to encourage refugees and displaced persons to migrate to Australia. Using the catchcry of 'populate or perish', the Australian Government launched an immigration program in 1947. It was designed to increase the population by one per cent each year through migration from the United Kingdom and Europe.

Applicants were attracted by offers of assisted passage and accommodation for sponsored migrants. Between 1947 and 1983, nearly 3 million people – including 260,000 refugees and displaced persons – migrated to Australia. Over one third were from the United Kingdom.

The Department of Immigration was responsible for approving the entry of individuals and recording their arrival. Prospective applicants applied for assisted passage (producing what are known as migrant selection documents) and completed medical examination forms. They lodged their applications with the Chief Migration Officer in the capital city of their country of residence. Documents for migrants destined for the state of South Australia were then forwarded to the Adelaide office of the Department of Immigration.

Contents of migrant selection documents

Personal information in migrant selection documents usually consists of the migrants name, nationality, date and place of birth, spouse and children, and employment details. Many include passport-sized photographs. On some documents, names of next-of-kin or parents are included. Other information available in migrant selection documents concerns travel and accommodation arrangements and medical reports.

Migrant selection documents are arranged by the date of arrival and by the name of the ship or aircraft flight number.

Migrant selection documents held in Adelaide

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
Personal documents of British migrants (including ex-service)	1952–55	AP67/1

Ships nominal rolls and personal documents of assisted British migrants	1955–58	AP120/1
Personal documents – British assisted migrants	1957–62	AP306/1
Personal documents – British assisted migrants	1958–59	AP175/1
Personal documents of British migrants	1963–65	AP366/1
Personal documents of British migrants	1965	AP320/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants	1965–66	AP381/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants	1966–67	AP457/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants	1967–68	AP504/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants (correspondence files re British Citizens' assisted passages to Australia)	1967–69	AP576/1
Personal documents – British assisted migrants	1968–69	AP529/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants (correspondence files re British Citizens' assisted passages to Australia)	1969	AP551/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants (correspondence files re British Citizens' assisted passages to Australia)	1969–70	AP591/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants (correspondence files re British Citizens' assisted passages to Australia)	1969–70	AP598/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants	1970–71	AP671/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants (correspondence files re British Citizens' assisted passages to Australia)	1970	AP629/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants (correspondence files re British Citizens' assisted passages to Australia)	1970	AP645/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants	1971	AP688/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants	1971	AP718/1
Personal documents for British assisted migrants	1971	AP702/1
British selection documents	1971–72	AP786/1
British selection documents	1971–72	AP727/1
British selection documents	1972	AP754/1
British selection documents	1972–73	AP838/1
British selection documents	1973	AP873/1
British selection documents	1973–74	AP912/1
British selection documents	1975–77	AP1121/3
Selection documents	1977–81	D3079
Application forms, medical examination documents and related papers of British and non-British migrants	1947–54	D1989

Forms 47A (medical examinations), landing and re-entry permits for migrants (assisted or otherwise)	1951–59	D4879
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Further information

Other sources of information about migrants can be found in alien registration documents and naturalisation case files. See *Fact sheet 87 - Family history sources held in Adelaide*.

For further information about migrant arrival records held by the National Archives, see the following sources:

- *Fact sheet 66 - Migrant selection documents held in Canberra*
- *Fact sheet 185 - Migrant selection documents held in Perth*
- the National Archives' research guide, [Good British Stock: Child and Youth Migration to Australia](#), by Barry Coldrey
- the National Archives' guide to family history sources, [Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists](#), by Margaret Chambers.