

## The Immigration Photographic Archive

After World War II, the Australian Government began an immigration program designed to provide the population and labour force needed to equip the country for postwar development. Migrants came to Australia from the United Kingdom and southern and western Europe, including from refugee camps. Most immigrants arrived on assisted passages or resettlement programs, as child and youth migrants and through employment and family reunion programs. From the 1960s immigration schemes saw migrants from Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and Africa settle in Australia.

The Department of Immigration was responsible for implementing Australia's postwar immigration programs. From its creation in 1945, the department employed photographers to record the arrival and resettlement of migrants and their integration into the Australian community. Their photographs were used to advertise and promote Australia to potential migrants, to illustrate reports and other publications, and as a resource for research into immigration.

The National Archives holds this collection of images as the Immigration Photographic Archive (series A12111). The collection comprises 36,000 black and white and colour images and is catalogued with the subject and a consecutive number with a year prefix. For example, a photograph relating to 'Bring Out a Briton (BOAB) Scheme' taken in 1958 could be identified as '1/1958/7/1'. Colour images have a 'C' prefix.

### Access to the Immigration Photographic Archive

More than 10,000 images from the Immigration Photographic Archive have been digitised and can be accessed through [PhotoSearch](#). Search for 'A12111' as the series number, and then refine the search using keywords.

Captions for all photographs in the Immigration Photographic Archive are listed on our [collection database](#). Undertake an Advanced search – Items with 'A12111' as the series number and any keywords.

## Examples from Immigration Photographic Archive (A12111)

### Arrivals

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>MacKeon family of 13 arrives from Ireland</u>	1957	A12111, 57/4/6
<u>The Aurelia brings Hungarian refugees</u>	1957	A12111, 57/5/32
<u>Thirty Danish migrants aboard the Castel Felice</u>	1958	A12111, 58/4/8
<u>The Orsova – Rotary ship of ‘Bring Out a Briton’ arrivals</u>	1958	A12111, 58/7/3

### Hostels and reception centres

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>Meal time for families at Bonegilla</u>	1949	A12111, 49/22/9
<u>Bathurst reception centre</u>	1951	A12111, 51/22/31
<u>Greta migrant centre – children’s story group</u>	1955	A12111, C55/22A/1

### Citizenship

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>Arthur Calwell at naturalisation ceremony in the Great Hall, Melbourne University</u>	1949	A12111, 49/12A/2
<u>Athletes naturalised before going to Rome Olympics</u>	1960	A12111, 60/12/10

### Settling in

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>New Settlers League – meeting – Sydney, New South Wales</u>	1953	A12111, 53/19/3
<u>Good Neighbour Council of Victoria – International cookery contest</u>	1954	A12111, 54/19/25
<u>‘Tea and sugar’ train carries Good Neighbour to the outback</u>	1969	A12111, 69/19/24

### Employment

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>Civil engineering – Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme</u>	1960	A12111, 60/16/62
<u>Building contractor – Steven Bolding from Winterswyk, Holland</u>	1961	A12111, 61/16/19
<u>Migrants in employment – self-employed – fruit and vegetable shop in Adelaide</u>	1965	A12111, 65/16/253
<u>Migrants in employment – steel industry – Spaniards at Port Kembla</u>	1965	A12111, 65/16/255

### At home

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<u>Dutch family at home near Sydney</u>	1960	A12111, 60/21/2

<a href="#">Estonian Senior Citizens Home – Thirlmere, New South Wales</a>	1961	A12111, 61/13/22
<a href="#">Suburban homes for British migrants in Frankston, Victoria</a>	1972	A12111, 72/21/10

## Child and youth migrants

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<a href="#">St Vincent’s Foundling Home – Leederville, Western Australia</a>	1948	A12111, 48/8A/12
<a href="#">Children have a lesson in the Bonegilla school</a>	1955	A12111, 55/22/82
<a href="#">Fairbridge Society home in Tasmania</a>	1958	A12111, 58/8/3
<a href="#">Promotion for youth – Dutch farm boys’ visit</a>	1960	A12111, 60/34/1

## Events and festivals

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<a href="#">Coronation celebrations – Enoggera Centre, Brisbane</a>	1953	A12111, 53/17/22
<a href="#">Tenth festival of Latvian music and arts</a>	1960	A12111, 60/17/51
<a href="#">Ukrainians celebrate Christmas – Canberra</a>	1962	A12111, 62/17/6
<a href="#">Greek National Day in Adelaide</a>	1963	A12111, 63/17/1
<a href="#">Finnish National Festival – Melbourne</a>	1963	A12111, 63/17/11

## Ministers for Immigration

Title or description of record	Date range	Series, item number
<a href="#">Minister for Immigration, Alexander Downer, with Arthur Calwell at farewell for Tasman HE Heyes</a>	1961	A12111, 61/28/2A
<a href="#">Minister for Immigration, Hubert Opperman, in Malta</a>	1965	A12111, 65/25/126
<a href="#">Minister for Immigration, Al Grassby, announces new selection procedure</a>	1973	A12111, 73/25/71

## Further information about immigration to Australia

Our *Fact sheet 227 - Immigration records* contains an overview of records relating to the arrival and resettlement of migrants, and includes a list of other fact sheets about immigration to Australia. We also have information on [migration and citizenship](#), and you can [search our collection](#) using NameSearch to find records about individuals.

[Destination: Australia](#) features more than 20,000 photographs of migrants who arrived in Australia from all over the world after World War II. Visit us to share your migration story.