

More people imperative

Immigration to Australia 1901–1939



This guide lists and describes records in the National Archives of Australia collection on Commonwealth immigration policies from 1901 to 1939, including both those that encouraged and those that restricted immigration. Records of early policies on migration of white aliens (non-British Europeans), females, juveniles and people of various ethnic and religious groups are listed, together with those reflecting public attitudes to immigration. This guide is a useful resource for anyone searching for immigration records.

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First published online 1999

ISSN 1326-7078

Published by the National Archives of Australia
02 6212 3600
archives@naa.gov.au
naa.gov.au

This publication is also available [at naa.gov.au](http://naa.gov.au)

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Introduction

The National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia ensures that full and accurate records documenting Commonwealth Government activities are created and kept. From this massive body of information, the Archives selects, cares for and makes available to all those records of continuing value. This collection constitutes the archives of the Commonwealth Government – a vast and rich resource for the study of Australian history, Australian society and the Australian people.

The collection spans almost 200 years of Australian history. The main focus of the collection is material which documents Federal Government activities since Federation in 1901. There are also significant holdings of nineteenth-century records which relate to functions transferred by the colonies to the Commonwealth Government at the time of Federation and subsequently. The records described in this guide are a small but significant part of the collection.

Access to the National Archives collection is provided free of charge in public reading rooms located in each capital city. Researchers are assisted by specialist reference staff and are provided with reference tools to help them identify and use the records in the collection. These reference tools include the RecordSearch and PhotoSearch databases, guides, publications and fact sheets. Researchers unable to visit a reading room may seek information and help by telephone, mail, facsimile or email.

RecordSearch and PhotoSearch provide information about agencies, persons and series as well as descriptions of over two million individual records. They are available for online searching in reading rooms located in all offices of the National Archives, at the Australian War Memorial and on the National Archives website.

The National Archives website provides more information about the Archives, its collection and the services it offers. A visit to the site will help you determine whether the Archives holds records relevant to your research. Fact sheets on various topics are also available on the Archives website.

About this Guide

The scope of the Guide

Particular archival record series are rarely devoted entirely to immigration issues. On the other hand, there are at least 3 500 items listed on the Archives item database for the period 1901–39 which relate specifically to immigration. The database is available on the Archives website.

In view of the sheer volume of relevant records held, it has not been possible in this Guide to describe them all at item level. Rather, the Guide aims to provide an indication of fruitful areas of research, with a description of a random selection of files under broad subject areas in order to illustrate the range, nature and richness of the collection. The selection has been made as a result of extensive use of the National Archives collection by the author.

Individual cases files themselves are not dealt with in this Guide. For details of where to find records dealing with individual cases see *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*.

The structure of the Guide

This Guide is concerned not so much with prohibited immigrants to Australia, although these records are listed, but with those who actually arrived and settled in the country from 1901 to 1939. Immigrants who were encouraged and assisted during these years were mostly British, although on rare occasions, Northern Europeans such as Scandinavians, Dutch and Swiss were assisted and skilled irrigators from France and Northern Italy were actively sought. Land settlers, farm labourers and domestic servants were most favoured, especially experienced farmers with capital. The various states and the Commonwealth government were all involved in immigration encouragement as were several non-government organisations.

The Guide is arranged into 12 chapters and 9 appendixes. Chapters 1 to 11 describe records which reflect the major policy preoccupations and themes of the period 1901–39. The series and items described are held largely, but not exclusively, in the National Archives in Canberra. Chapter 12 lists records held by the National Archives in cities other than Canberra, which deal primarily with the operation of the *Immigration Restriction Act* and with genealogical and shipping records, rather than with the broad outlines of policy.

The main debates over immigration from 1901–39 revolved around issues such as who should be prohibited from entry to Australia, who should be allowed entry, how many immigrants should come, and who should receive government assistance. Each chapter contains its own brief explanatory introduction in order to provide a historical context for the section. Records have been placed in chapters according to the subject which they predominantly address, although there is obviously some overlap, for example between juvenile immigration and voluntary organisations, and between female and vocational immigration. Where possible in these cases, cross references have been given. It should be noted that descriptions do not cover every item in a series or every page within a single file but an attempt has been made to give a general indication of the scope and nature of the collections.

Description of the records

❶	MISCELLANY, 1880-1925	MP56/12
❷	Recorded by: 1916-25: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office, Records and Passports Branch (CA 15)	
❸	Melbourne	0.18 metres
❹	This series contains files and individual papers created by the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Home and Territories (policy departments) and the Customs and Excise Office of the Department of Trade and Customs. They were originally withdrawn from the culling of early records and may be all that has survived of records of the period.	
❺	<i>Immigration Restriction Act; Index to Register of Naturalisation Certificates</i> [35 pages, no date]	
		MP56/12, 3
❻	This file consists of a book listing Naturalisation Certificates and their numbers in the Register.	

Key

- ❶ This is the **series title** and the date range of the records that make up the series. The **series number** is shown on the right-hand side.
- ❷ This is the **person** or **government agency that created the series**. It also shows the date range during which each series was created or recorded. This date range does not necessarily correspond to the contents date range of the records which appears in the series title. The CP (Commonwealth person) and the CA (Commonwealth agency) numbers are a unique identifier allocated by the National Archives to each person or agency. These numbers can be used to retrieve more information about the person or agency, and the records they created, from the National Archives' online database, RecordSearch.
- ❸ This is the **total volume of records** in the series and the **location** where the series is held. If copies of records are held in other locations, this is indicated here.
- ❹ This is a brief **description of the series**.
- ❺ This is **the title given to the item by the person or agency** that created it. The dates of the earliest and latest document on the file are shown. The **item's identifying number** appears on the right-hand side. This number must be quoted when requesting a copy of the record or access to it.
- ❻ This **describes the main contents of an item**. Note that it does not describe every document on the file.

How the records are described

The records described in the guide include the original item number allocated by the creating agency together with the series number, and these must be cited in any inquiry about the records. Together the series and item numbers provide a useful shorthand way of referring to a specific record item. Details about how to cite the records described in this guide are given under Citing the records.

Individual files can be located electronically by file number or by keyword-in-title searches using the RecordSearch database, which is available in all Archives reading rooms, at the Australian War Memorial, and on the Archives website.

Access to the records

Descriptive information about government agencies or departments and the records which they created is available at series level on the Archives database, which is also available in reading rooms and on the Archives website. RecordSearch can be searched by function or more directly by agency control numbers.

Subject guides and Fact Sheets on various topics are also available in reading rooms and on the Archives website.

Researchers are welcome to visit the National Archives reading rooms and examine the records described in this guide. Before you visit, please make sure that the record is held by the reading room you plan to visit. There is no equivalent of the inter-library loan system for archives. To safeguard the records, they are not moved between the Archives offices and to see the records you will need to visit the reading room in the city shown as the location of the records.

In addition, given that the reading rooms of some of the Archives offices are separate from the main repository area, it may also be beneficial to pre-order any material you wish to see to ensure that it is ready upon your arrival. The turnaround time for the issue of records in each reading room is given in Fact Sheet 20 (Standards of Service). To pre-order records please telephone, write to or email the reading room listed as holding them. Contact details of all offices of the National Archives are given in Fact Sheet 1.

If you cannot visit a reading room you may arrange for a representative to do so on your behalf (see Fact Sheets 40–45 – Research Agents), or alternatively you may wish to obtain a photocopy of the record. To obtain a copy you may telephone, write to or email the relevant reading room. Staff are happy to give photocopy quotes for specific items, but please be sure you have the specific series and item numbers for the records you wish to have copied.

Charges

No charges apply to the services described above unless photocopies of records are requested. Copy charges are set out in Fact Sheet 51.

Citing the records

The correct citation of archival records is important both when requesting them from the Archives and when referring to them in written or published works. The correct method of citation will not only help staff of the Archives to more readily

locate the records you are seeking, but will also help other researchers to find the material you have used if they wish to examine it for themselves.

The correct form of citation for records held by the National Archives is expressed as follows: the name *National Archives of Australia* followed by a colon, the *series number* followed by a comma, and then the *item number*. An example is:

National Archives of Australia: A461, C349/1/8

The name *National Archives of Australia* may be abbreviated to 'NAA' provided the full name has been used in the first citation.

Where to obtain more information

If you are unsure about how to request access to any of the records described in this Guide, or if you have any other questions, please contact the reading room in your State or Territory by mail, telephone, facsimile or email.

All contact numbers and addresses are given in Fact Sheets 1 and 2.

1 Immigration 1901–39: An Overview

Immigration has been a vital feature of Australia's history and identity. The nation today is composed not only of its own indigenous peoples but a wide variety of ethnic and cultural groups. Although Australia has always been multicultural, for at least a century and a half after European settlement, the British predominated. This was especially so in the period from Federation until World War II, the period covered by this Guide.

Federation in 1901 was closely followed by the passing of two restrictive immigration Acts which prohibited non-European immigration to Australia for more than sixty years and had a profound influence on the shape of the nation. These acts were the *Immigration Restriction Act* and the *Pacific Island Labourers Act*. A *Contract Immigrants Act* was passed in 1905. At the same time, the encouragement of immigration was particularly selective, driven by economic and political imperatives and based on a firmly established racial hierarchy.

With Federation, immigration restriction came under the jurisdiction of the Federal government, while the practical responsibility for immigration and its encouragement passed from the colonies to the state governments and remained under state control until the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme of 1921. The role of the Commonwealth government in immigration up to that time was to use its constitutional powers to control prohibited immigration, monitor illegal immigrants, and advertise overseas the nation's resources in general terms. A dictation test could be given to prohibit entry to undesirable immigrants, not only to non-Europeans but also to those who had contagious diseases or criminal records, were believed to be morally weak or unable to support themselves. The test could also be applied to contract labourers who were thought to be taking jobs from Australians. It consisted of writing out fifty words in a European language, (after 1905, any prescribed language) dictated by an immigration officer. The choice of the language used was at the discretion of the officer and the aim of the test was to fail those to whom it was administered. If by chance the undesired immigrant passed the test, it could be repeated using different languages until the object of failure was achieved.

In their promotion of immigration before 1921, the states had no common policy and often acted in direct competition with one another. Throughout the nineteenth century, the various Australian colonies had imposed their own prohibitive legislation, specifically against the Chinese, and had also offered incentives to favoured immigrants in various forms: passage assistance, land grants and free travel to inspect farming blocks. While such schemes were suspended for the most part during the 1890s depression and in the early years of the twentieth century, they were reintroduced and extended during the pre-World War I period and in the 1920s. The revival of immigration in the early years of the century was closely linked with the desire to increase the population. Fears of a decline in the birth rate and a sense of vulnerability after the Russo-Japanese War of 1905 led to

a renewed emphasis on immigration. Some 150 000 state assisted settlers were introduced between 1906 and the outbreak of World War I. The aims of policy-makers were to people the country's 'empty spaces' for reasons of defence and to boost the population for the purpose of national growth and development. Immigration in this period was inextricably linked with more intensive settlement of the land.

A short-lived immigration boom occurred in Australia from 1910 to 1913, interrupted by the outbreak of World War I in August 1914. This virtually suspended all immigration until shipping once again became available in 1919. The war period, however, served to reinforce previously-held views on the size, composition and distribution of Australia's future population: that it should be predominantly British, that non-Europeans should be denied entry, and that immigrants should be directed to rural rather than urban areas. The war also strengthened British Imperial ties and led to plans to redistribute the population of the Empire through a variety of immigration and development projects after the war.

During the 1920s, there were new immigration agreements between state and Commonwealth governments within Australia, between the British and Australian governments, and between government and non-government organisations. The Commonwealth took over the role of recruitment of immigrants receiving requisitions from state governments, private employers and community organisations. It also took responsibility for the medical examination of immigrants, a change initiated in 1912 and continued after the war. The Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme of 1921 and the *Empire Settlement Act 1922* were landmarks in the history of Australian immigration. The £34 million agreement of 1925, and the setting up of the Development and Migration Commission the following year, were also particularly significant. Approximately 221 000 new settlers received passage assistance to Australia between 1921 and 1929, the majority going to New South Wales and Victoria, and a considerable number to Western Australia. Another 100 000 arrived under their own auspices.

While on the one hand, there was a burgeoning of schemes to further the aims of British Empire migration and land settlement, on the other there was an extension of Australia's restrictive legislation to include certain European nationalities. The proportion of British to European arrivals in the 1920s was approximately four to one. The *Enemy Aliens Act 1920* prohibited the entry of Australia's former enemies during World War I (Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians and Turks) for the next five years. At the same time, restrictions on Southern and Eastern European immigration to the United States in 1921 and 1924 led to fears that large numbers would arrive in Australia and numerical limits were imposed. In 1924 and 1925, restrictions such as visas and landing-money requirements were also applied to Europeans; these became more rigid over the following years. Thus the inter-war period witnessed a hardening of attitudes towards non-British (especially Italian) immigrants in Australia rather than a relaxation of racial immigration laws over time.

These developments were partly due to a downturn in the economy from 1928 onwards in Australia. Immigration declined as a result of government action in the

post-1924 measures described above, and also because of the winding down in the latter half of the 1920s of over-ambitious land settlement schemes which had been of limited success. Government assistance to immigrants was discontinued in 1930 except for special cases (such as children for the Fairbridge Farm School in Western Australia), and further disincentives were applied to Europeans. Immigration to Australia then virtually came to an end for more than half a decade. The depression itself deterred many from venturing to new horizons far from family support and local informal welfare networks in Great Britain and Europe. As in the early years of the twentieth century, the depression of the early 1930s resulted in more people leaving Australia than arriving; many who had been assisted to come in the 1920s returned home in the thirties.

By the mid-1930s, there was a slight improvement in economic conditions but a real revival of immigration was not seen until 1938. At this time there was a re-evaluation of policy. Assistance schemes were resumed on a much smaller scale than previously and without the requirement to settle or work on the land. It was gradually and somewhat reluctantly acknowledged that Australia could not support the tens of millions of people the 'boosters' of the 1920s had claimed it could. At the same time, however, there was a widespread concern about the slow rate of growth of the Australian population which had increased from three and three-quarter million in 1901 to only seven million in 1939. Although the British seemed unwilling to come to Australia in large numbers, government immigration policies in the late thirties remained conservative and British-oriented.

Ironically, some 100 000 Europeans settled in Australia between the two World Wars and, throughout the 1930s, the balance between British and non-British immigrants was slowly becoming more equal, foreshadowing changes which occurred after World War II in the late 1940s and 1950s. Initially, this was not the result of any deliberate government initiative. Immigration encouragement policies did not change radically in the thirties until an international crisis and community pressure forced some modification of existing practice. As a result, a decision was made in 1938 to admit 15 000 Jewish refugees from Europe over the following three years. Little more than half of these arrived before the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, together with some 3 500 assisted British settlers in 1938–39. As with World War I, however, almost all immigration ceased until well after the end of hostilities in 1945.

Throughout the period from 1901–39, Australian immigration policy was governed by fixed notions of the preferred ethnic origins of prospective immigrants, the dictates of the labour market, and the perceived need to settle people in rural areas rather than in the cities. To some, Australia could never have enough immigrants; to others, immigration was the principal cause of unemployment and social unrest.

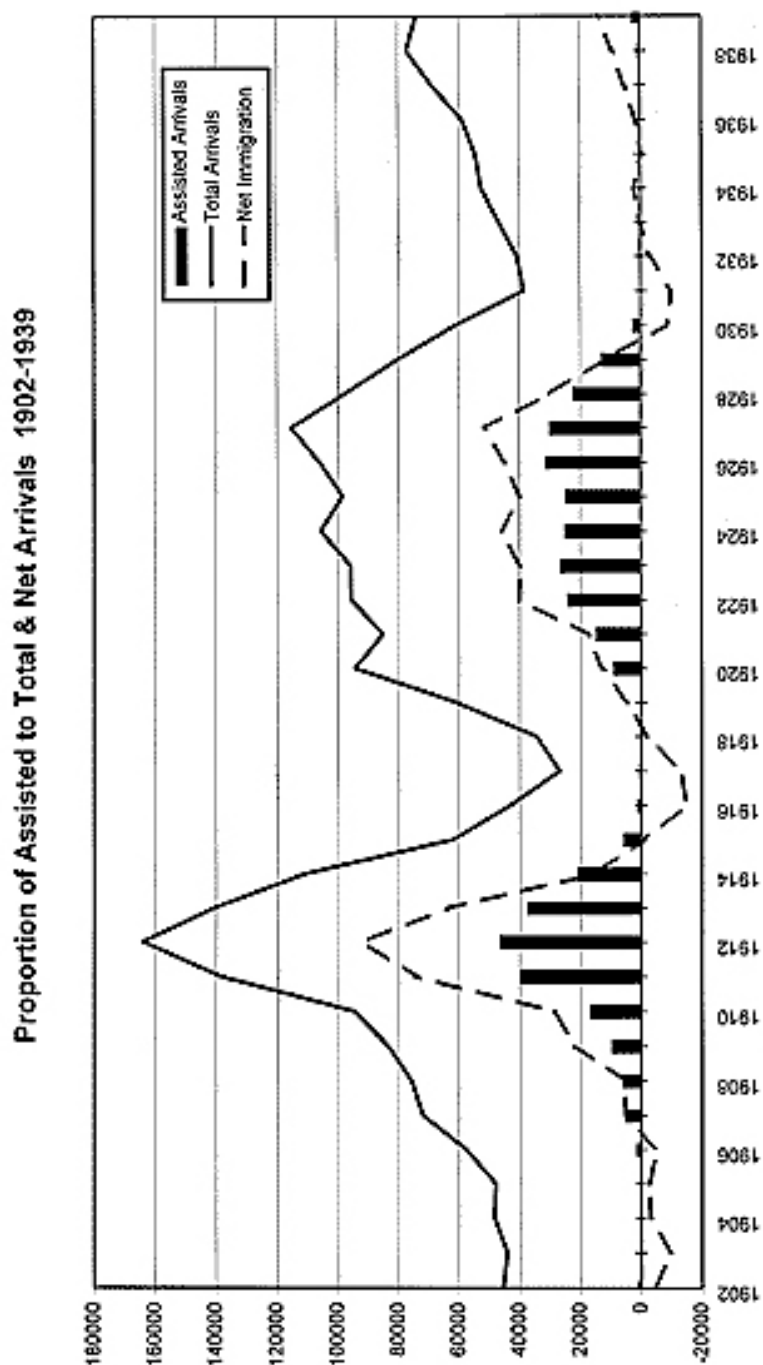
It is important to note that a large proportion of potential immigrants to Australia did not fit into either category of restricted immigrants or those who were actively encouraged. Many thousands were allowed to come to Australia under the legislation but were not assisted in doing so in any way by governments or private organisations. They were generally ordinary working-class people who were migrating to better their lives and provide greater opportunities for their children.

Both British and European, they usually ended up in the cities working in factories or the service industry, in mines or on northern plantations. Several opened and managed their own business enterprises. It is these unassisted immigrants, who paid their own passages to Australia, who are least visible in the public records. Because they were not sponsored, there is little official documentation about them or their migration and settlement experiences. They were not favoured by governments or trade unions, often because they were city dwellers, competitors on the labour market, or simply poor.

Pattern of immigration

The pattern of Australian immigration from 1901 to 1939 was characterised by a series of peaks and troughs, in accordance with the 'boa-constrictor' image. Like the boa constrictor, 'we were in the habit of bolting our immigrants and then resting until we had digested them' (Wickens, 1930: 54). The peak periods were in the three or four years before World War I and in the mid-1920s, which corresponded with years of relative prosperity in Australia. In terms of the sheer volume of immigration, the largest five-year period between Federation and World War II was 1921 to 1925, although the largest single year was 1912 which had a net immigration of some 90 000. The troughs occurred during the early years of the century in the aftermath of the 1890s depression, during World War I, and during the 1930s depression. The adjacent graph shows the proportion of assisted to total and net arrivals in the period 1902–39.

Economic conditions are a major influence on the size of the immigrant intake at any one time but it is important to recognise an additional factor in Australia's immigration history. Owing to the distance and cost of migration from traditional source countries such as Great Britain and Europe, the activities of governments in encouraging immigration over the years have been particularly significant. The influence of Australian and British government policy is clearly evident not only in the fluctuations in the volume of immigration but also in the type and class of immigrant arriving in this period. Through advertising, and more importantly in the provision of assisted passages, governments, both state and Federal, were able to exert considerable control over immigration. While the existence and level of assistance were closely related to other factors, such as the state of the economy and the degree of public acceptance, the role of governments was crucial. The collection of the National Archives is especially valuable in documenting this activity.



The pattern of immigration to Australia 1901-39. (Sources: Official Year Books of the Commonwealth of Australia; A G Butler, *Official History, Australian Army Medical Services, 1914-18*, Vol III, 1943; NAA: A571, 1930/1584)

Records held by the National Archives and their creators

The records in the National Archives contain important information at the level of policy development and government decision-making. To some extent, the public response can also be ascertained, either directly through deputations and correspondence addressed to various Ministers, or indirectly through the changes in policies and reactions from official quarters which any criticism inevitably influenced.

Official records reflect the two broad areas of policy in this period: immigration restriction and immigration encouragement. The departments which created the records were generally involved in one of these two areas. Records concerning restricted immigration refer to prohibited immigrants under *the Immigration Restriction Act 1901* and its subsequent amendments. They include registers of prosecutions under the Immigration Restriction Act, entry and re-entry permits, information on deportation, internments and repatriation, lists of deserters from ships' crews, 'alien' registration documents maintained under the War Precautions Regulations (1916–20), registers of visas and passports issued, applications for naturalisation, book butts of Certificates of Domicile and Exemption from the Dictation Test as well as some Certificates themselves, applications for admission of friends and relatives to Australia, hand and thumb prints of Asians arriving in Australia, and book butts of landing permits. Naturalisation procedures are divided into two categories: those of the colonies prior to 1903, and those administered by the Commonwealth thereafter. The National Archives holds the records for the colonies of Victoria, South Australia and of the Commonwealth; those of the other colonies are held by the relevant state archival institution (see Appendix 9 for details).

The records of the National Archives are immensely rich in providing the political context of immigration, and illuminating the processes of government decision-making and administrative practice. They consist mainly of general policy and correspondence files and refer to the everyday implementation of Commonwealth immigration policy. The experiences of the migrants themselves are much less accessible. Immigrant voices are occasionally heard through complaints about their treatment on the journey or after arrival in Australia. In order to gain insights into the more positive individual experiences, other sources, such as private papers, letters, and oral testimonies need to be utilised in addition to official records created by government departments.

Between 1901 and 1939 immigration records were created and kept by the following Commonwealth government departments:

- Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne, 1901–16 (CA 7)
- Department of Home and Territories, Central Office, 1916–28 (CA 15)
- Department of Home Affairs [II], Central Office, 1928–32 (CA 24)
- Department of the Interior [I], Central Administration, from 1932–39 (CA 27)

In 1945, the newly created Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51), took over the control of all immigration matters, although records were also kept in

the Department of the Interior [II], Central Office (CA 31), 1939–72. The table above gives an overview of the administrative history of the migration function.

Exhibit 94/1 **TABLE No. 1—THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MIGRATION FUNCTIONS BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENTS 1901 TO 1945**

Year	Assisted Migration	Immigration Regulations, etc.	Passports	Aliens, Naturalisation
1901 .				
1902 .				
1903 .		Department of External Affairs	Department of External Affairs	
1904 .				
1905 .				Department of External Affairs
1906 .				
1907 .				
1908 .				
1909 .				
1910 .	Department of External Affairs			
1911 .				
1912 .				
1913 .				
1914 .				
1915 .				
1916 .	Prime Minister and External Affairs Department	Department of Home and Territories	Prime Minister and External Affairs Department	Department of Home and Territories
1917 .			Department of Home and Territories	
1918 .				
1919 .				
1920 .				
1921 .				
1922 .				
1923 .				
1924 .	Markets and Migration			
1925 .				
1926 .				
1927 .	Prime Minister's Department			
1928 .		Department of Home Affairs	Department of Home Affairs	Department of Home Affairs
1929 .				
1930 .				
1931 .				
1932 .				
1933 .		Department of the Interior	Department of the Interior	Department of the Interior
1934 .				
1935 .				
1936 .				
1937 .	Department of the Interior			
1938 .				
1939 .				
1940 .				
1941 .				
1942 .				
1943 .				
1944 .				
1945 .	Department of Immigration	Department of Immigration	Department of Immigration	Department of Immigration

Other agencies of relevance are:

- Governor-General's Office, 1901– (CA 1)
- Attorney General's Department, 1929– (CA 5)
- Department of Trade and Customs, Central Office 1901–56 (CA 10)
- Department of the Treasury, 1901–76 (CA 11)
- Prime Minister's Department, 1911–71 (CA 12)
- Department of Health (CA 17) which contains information about immigrant health requirements and quarantine arrangements. Related to this are the Quarantine Station records, Victoria, 1921–47 (CA 3168).
- Department of External Affairs [II], 1921–70 (CA 18)
- Department of Markets and Migration, Central Administration, 1925–28 (CA 20)
- High Commissioner's Office, London (CA 241)
- Development and Migration Commission, 1926–30 (CA 243)
- Department of Markets [I], Central Office, 1928 (CA 21)
- Special Intelligence Bureau, Melbourne, 1916 (CA 746). This passed to Investigation Branch, Central in 1919 (CA 747) and to Commonwealth Investigation Service, Canberra (CA 650) in 1944.
- Collector of Customs, State Offices (for example, CA 802 – Adelaide, CA 785 – Sydney, CA 789 – Melbourne, CA 792 – Brisbane, CA 808 – Perth, CA 816 – Hobart) and Sub-Collector of Customs, Townsville (CA 801)
- Development Branch, Prime Minister's Department, 1930–37 (CA 837)
- Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)
- Immigration and Passports Office (Section), Victoria, 1938–45 (CA 972)
- 1930 Cabinet papers, National Archives, Canberra
- Aliens Committee, 1918 (CA 2082)
- Commonwealth Immigration Office, Melbourne, 1920–25 (CA 2583)

Cabinet throughout the period also played a key role in the formulation of policy in all areas. Individual departmental files frequently contain a trail of memoranda and background papers going to and from Cabinet on which members could base their decisions. In addition, departmental records contain important correspondence with non-government organisations involved in related work, for example, philanthropic organisations and church groups sponsoring juvenile or vocational migration, or people of particular religions. Also useful are records kept by the various State Departments, such as the Special Intelligence Bureau in New South Wales (CA 909) and Victoria (CA 746), the Premiers' Departments, the Department of Labour and Industry, NSW, and the Department of Land and Surveys, Perth.

One other major strength of the National Archives collection in the field of immigration lies in the area of family history. Shipping records include extensive nineteenth century material in some of the Archives state offices as well as more recent material. Ships' passenger lists (inwards and outwards), passenger cards, registers of arrivals and departures of ships and crew lists contain information such as each immigrant's name, age, nationality, port and date of embarkation and disembarkation and mode of transport. A separate guide, entitled *Finding Families:*

The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists, has been published by the Archives, and for this reason detailed genealogical information is not included in this Guide in any detail.

2 Immigration Restriction Policy

The most important legislative developments concerning immigration between Federation and World War II were the Immigration Restriction Act 1901 and its subsequent amendments. Thus for the whole of the period under review, 1901–39, the 'white Australia' policy was in operation, preventing non-Europeans and other immigrants considered at the time as undesirable, from permanent entry. The 1901 Act also prohibited contract workers but from 1905 the Contract Immigrants' Act allowed immigrants to enter Australia under contract, provided that approval was given by the Minister for External Affairs. Such approval was generally granted if the immigrants did not threaten the jobs of Australian workers, if current wages were paid and the immigrants were not used to break strikes. Other relevant Acts were the Pacific Island Labourers Act 1901, the Naturalisation Act 1903, the War Precautions Act 1914 and 1915 (repealed in 1920), the Aliens Registration Act 1920, and the Enemy Aliens Act 1920, repealed (with the exception of Turks) in 1925. These Acts are briefly described in the Chronology in Appendix 2.

Through various amendments during these years this restrictive legislation was tightened up and in some cases extended: in 1905 the provisions regarding the application of the Dictation Test were revised (allowing the language used in the test to be 'any prescribed language' rather than a European language); in 1912, more stringent health provisions for immigrants were introduced; in 1924–25, substantive regulations regarding the entry of Europeans were adopted (see Chapter 4 on 'White Alien' Immigration Policy). These acts reflected the desire to preserve not just the 'white' but also the British predominance within the Australian population.

REGISTER OF EXEMPTIONS UNDER IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT, 1925–31 A260

Recorded by:

**1925–28: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)
1928–31: Department of Home Affairs, Central Office (CA 24)**

Canberra 0.09 metres

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

MISCELLANY, 1880–1925**MP56/12****Recorded by:****1916–25: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office, Records and Passports Branch (CA 15)****Melbourne 0.18 metres**

This series contains files and individual papers created by the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Home and Territories (policy departments) and the Customs and Excise Office of the Department of Trade and Customs. They were originally withdrawn from the culling of early records and may be all that has survived of records of the period.

Immigration Restriction Act; Index to Register of Naturalisation Certificates'
[35 pages, no date] MP56/12, 3

This file consists of a book listing Naturalisation Certificates and their numbers in the Register.

1903.

Naturalization.

No. 11.

91

NATURALIZATION.

No. 11 of 1903.

An Act relating to Naturalization.

[Assented to 13th October, 1903.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Naturalization Act 1903*. Short title.
2. This Act shall commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation.* Commencement.
3. In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears— Definition.
 - "British subject" means a natural-born British subject or a naturalized person.
 - "Certificate of naturalization" means a certificate of naturalization granted under this Act, and being, at the time when it is relied upon in connexion with any provision of this Act, unrevoked.
 - "Justice of the Peace" means a Justice of the Peace of the Commonwealth, or of a State.
 - "Naturalized" means naturalized under this Act.
 - "Statutory declaration" means a statutory declaration within the meaning of any law of the Commonwealth, or of the State in which the declaration is made, relating to statutory declarations.
 - "The Minister" means the Minister for External Affairs.
4. A person who has before the passing of this Act obtained in a State or in a colony which has become a State a certificate of naturalization or letters of naturalization shall be deemed to be naturalized. Person naturalized in a State deemed to be naturalized.
5. A person resident in the Commonwealth, not being a British subject, and not being an aboriginal native of Asia, Africa, or the Islands of the Pacific, excepting New Zealand, who intends to settle in the Commonwealth, and who— Persons who may apply for certificate of naturalization.
Cf. U.K., Natur. Act 1870, s. 7.
N.S.W., 1898, No. 21, ss. 5, 9.
Vic. No. 1063, ss. 5, 9; No. 1462, s. 6.
S.A. 1884, No. 5, ss. 7, 12.
W.A. 35 Vic., No. 2, s. 4.
 - (a) has resided in Australia continuously for two years immediately preceding the application; or
 - (b) has obtained in the United Kingdom a certificate of naturalization or letters of naturalization,

may apply to the Governor-General for a certificate of naturalization.

* Proclaimed to commence 1st January, 1904. See *Gazette*, 14th November, 1903.

The first certificate of naturalisation issued under the Commonwealth government's new Naturalisation Act was dated 6 February 1904. Sections 4 and 5 of the Act provide an indication of the restrictions on who could apply for a certificate of naturalisation.

Various documents relating to late 1880 to early 1900 migrants; eg samples of certificates of character, reports of immigration officers, passports, etc. [1 cm, late 1880s to 1910] MP56/12, 6

On the cover of this file there is a note, viz. 'Various documents relating to late 1880 to early 1900 migrants. May be of interest to some antiquarian in about 50–100 years time'. It contains various notes and letters, character reports, applications for Certificates of Exemption from the Chinese Act, Certificates of Naturalisation, applications for hawker licenses and Certificates of Domicile relating to non-Europeans (Chinese and Indian) from 1900 to 1913. A number of the documents concern Poon Gooey, market gardener of Horsham, who applied for permission to bring his wife, Ham See, to Victoria in 1900. Extracts from the Commonwealth Gazette and the Victoria Government Gazette are included.



Poon Gooey, a market gardener of Horsham, who applied for permission to bring his wife, Ham See, to Victoria. c. 1910

NAA: B5656, 25



FROM...

E. & J. BerryGeneral Ironmongers &
Commission Agents :: ::

...HORSHAM...

Horsfield 12 May 1911

To Commissioners of Customs

Melbourne

AGENTS FOR

H. V. McKay's
Sunshine Harvester
and farm machineryA.N.A. Sewing
Machines

Racer Saws

O.K. Washer

Leather and Chain
Belting

Pure Neatsfoot Oil

Harvest Oil

Chaff Knives and
FilesCarpenters' Tools,
Etc.Western Fire
Assurance Co.

Benard's Manures

STAR PRINT.

Dear Sir We understand from Mr Poon Gooy.
of this town. that he is applying to you
for a permit. to enable him to visit China
and return again to this state.

I have very much pleasure in testifying to
Mr Poon Gooy's character. as I have known
him personally for about twelve years.
during the latter three years he has conducted
his business in a shop adjoining mine.
He is I consider in every way a desirable
citizen and an upright honorable man.

Yours truly

James Berry

Ironmonger
Horsham

Form sent
photos attached for
COTR
17/1/11

COTR

This character reference helped Poon Gooy obtain permission to return to China and re-enter Australia with his wife, who was granted permission to stay for six months in 1911. With extensions, she stayed for two and a half years, during which she gave birth to two children. When her request to stay permanently was refused there was public outcry, but the government refused to reverse its decision, arguing that the principle of the 'white Australia' policy was at stake. The case ended with the quiet departure of the whole Poon Gooy family for China in 1913.

NAA: B5656, 24

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, METHODS AND PRINCIPLES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1899–1956 PP95/1**Recorded by:**

1899–1956: Colonial Secretary's Office from 1926, Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1256)

Perth 13.4 metres

These files show the methods and principles to be used in continuing statistical activity in Western Australia and the general administrative procedures to be followed.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 'Statistics and legislation regarding immigration since 1884' [14 pages, 1884–1905] PP95/1, 1900/114

This is a small file concerning a query (in French), forwarded from the Government Statistician in June 1905, from the International Institute of Statisticians in Rome, relating to details about immigration and emigration to WA, in particular which colonial laws had been superseded by Commonwealth Acts. The reply is enclosed. [Related files with particulars on immigration to and emigration from WA are: PP131/1, 1904/139 (1904); PP131/1, 1906/154 (1904–5); and PP131/1, 1908/116 (1908). PP131/1, 1903/106 gives details on assisted immigration for 1902. Again the correspondence is mostly in French.]

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, METHODS AND PRINCIPLES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1898–1960 PP131/1**Recorded by:**

1899–1956: Colonial Secretary's Office. From 1926, Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1256)

Perth 12.6 metres

These files show the methods and principles to be used in continuing statistical activity in Western Australia and the general administrative procedures to be followed.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 'Extract from *The West Australian* of 11 February 1903' [6 pages, 1903] PP131/1, 1903/69

This refers to a complaint by Messrs G F Pearce and H de Largie, Western Australian representatives in the Federal Senate, over the numbers of Asians admitted to WA in 1902 and 1903. A *West Australian* cutting on the subject is included. Correspondence from the government statistician to the resident Magistrate, Broome, relates to investigations of the figures.

GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1902– B13**Recorded by:**

1902–85: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Melbourne 54.9 metres

This is the main correspondence series of the Collector of Customs in Melbourne. The annual single number registration was prefixed until 1962, by 'C' and 'E' (common to all regions) and since then by 'V' (for Victoria). This series probably began in 1902, after the Immigration Restriction Act was assented to on 23 December 1901. The variations in the subjects dealt with reflects the changing functions of the Departments of Trade and Customs, and Customs and Excise. In general, functions shown are immigration restrictions, tariff classifications, excise, prohibited literature, administration, smuggling, prosecutions, shipping, exports and

imports. Because of extensive culling by the Department the extant files up to the 1930's relate almost exclusively to immigration restriction. This function was carried out by the Collector of Customs in association with the Department of External Affairs and its successors. There is very little correspondence with the Central Office of Trade and Customs on this subject. No early control records have survived; the earliest date found in subject and name index cards held by the Department is 9 April 1923.

Department of External Affairs, 'Return required under Sect. 17 of *Immigration Act* to include all persons to whom educational test is not applied' [2 pages, 1902] B13, 1902/1515

This contains a letter from Atlee Hunt, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, to the Collector of Customs, Melbourne, in 1902 regarding Section 17 of the Immigration Restriction Act which required that returns be furnished by the Minister to Parliament for all prohibited immigrants whether the education test was applied or not.

Department of External Affairs, '12 copies of the Regulations under the Immigration Restriction Act' [1 page, 1902] B13, 1902/1189

Only one short letter dated January 1902, advising of the forwarding of copies of the Immigration Restriction Act and the Regulations from the Department of External Affairs to the Collector of Customs. [Another file of the same series and item number contains a reply from Atlee Hunt, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, and 8 copies of the Regulations.]

Department of Trade and Customs, 'Immigration Restriction Act. Re Chinese passing from one State to another' [3 pages, 1902] B13, 1902/464

This contains a request from the Shipping Exchange, Melbourne, in January 1902 on advice regarding Chinese travelling by ship between states. Hand written replies are included.

Collector of Customs, 'Extract from Argus re Immigration Act – Copy of Act & Regulations [8 pages, 1902] B13, 1902/212

This contains a copy of the Immigration Restriction Act and Regulations of 1901, and two extracts from the Argus on the administration of the Act and a protest from Calcutta.

Department of Trade and Customs, 'Daniel Wong requests copy of Immigration Restriction Act' [2 pages, 1902] B13, 1902/2815

This contains only one short letter from Daniel Wong, Missionary to the Chinese in New Zealand, March 1902, requesting a copy of the Chinese Restriction Act of the Commonwealth in Victoria.

Customs and Excise Office, Melbourne, 'Educational Test under Immigration Act' [3 pages, 1903] B13, 1903/6513

This contains a letter from Atlee Hunt, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, to the Collector of Customs in 1903, regarding the passing of the Dictation Test by two Indians. As they were only staying temporarily, they should have been issued with Exemption Certificates. The point was made, however, that when a coloured person sought admission to Australia, the test, if administered in English, should be put in such a form and with such stringency as to place its sufficiency beyond doubt. Officers were free to select a passage from any European language and the services of an interpreter could be employed for the dictation of the passage in the language selected.

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No. 17.

Immigration Restriction.

1901.

IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION.

No. 17 of 1901.

An Act to place certain restrictions on Immigration and to provide for the removal from the Commonwealth of prohibited Immigrants.

[Assented to 23rd December, 1901.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia as follows :—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*.

Definition.

2. In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears,—

“Officer” means any officer appointed under this Act, or any Officer of Customs;

“The Minister” means the Minister for External Affairs.

Prohibited
Immigrants.
See Natal Act
1897, No. 1, s. 3.
W.A. 1897,
No. 13, s. 2.
N.S.W. 1898,
No. 2, s. 3.

3. The immigration into the Commonwealth of the persons described in any of the following paragraphs of this section (hereinafter called “prohibited immigrants”) is prohibited, namely :—

- (a) Any person who when asked to do so by an officer fails to write out at dictation and sign in the presence of the officer a passage of fifty words in length in an European language directed by the officer ;
- (b) any person likely in the opinion of the Minister or of an officer to become a charge upon the public or upon any public or charitable institution ;
- (c) any idiot or insane person ;
- (d) any person suffering from an infectious or contagious disease of a loathsome or dangerous character ;
- (e) any person who has within three years been convicted of an offence, not being a mere political offence, and has been sentenced to imprisonment for one year or longer therefor, and has not received a pardon ;
- (f) any prostitute or person living on the prostitution of others ;
- (g) any persons under a contract or agreement to perform manual labour within the Commonwealth : Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to workmen exempted by the Minister for special skill required in Australia or to persons under contract or agreement to serve as part of the crew of a vessel engaged in the coasting trade in Australian waters if the rates of wages specified therein are not lower than the rates ruling in the Commonwealth.

Under section 3 of the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* immigrants who were unable to pass the ‘dictation test’ were prescribed ‘prohibited immigrants’. The remainder of the Act is reproduced on the next two pages.

[illegible]

[illegible]

... and pages 4 and 5.

Customs and Excise Office, Melbourne, 'Tests Under Immigration Restriction Acts para 'a' Sect. 3, applicant required to write out and sign passage dictated' [2 pages, 1905] B13, 1905/3195

The Supreme Courts of Western Australia and Victoria held the view that it was insufficient merely to ask an immigrant to write out the prescribed passage – the passage must also be signed. The file contains a letter from Atlee Hunt, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, to the Collector of Customs in 1905, issuing these instructions.

Collector of Customs, 'Cutting from Sydney Herald re efforts to circumvent Alien Immigration Act' [2 pages, 1905] B13, 1905/1680

This contains a newspaper cutting from the Sydney Herald, 16 February 1905, headed 'Alien Immigration Act. Chinese Wives to Circumvent it' which was sent to the Collector of Customs by Atlee Hunt, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, for the perusal of officers who dealt with the examination of Chinese.

Collector of Customs, 'Secretary, Department of External Affairs, re Amendments to Immigration Restriction Act. Shipping firms to be notified' [8 pages, 1906] B13, 1906/559

This refers to amendments to the Immigration Restriction Act applying to the interests of shipping companies doing business between Australia and the rest of the world. There was no longer any provision for the admission of coloured wives and families of persons residing in Australia. The right of persons who had left Australia without procuring papers necessary for their readmission to re-enter, was also removed. A fine of £100 was payable by the masters, owners, agents or charterers of ships who also had to return a prohibited migrant to the port of embarkation and pay maintenance in the interim.

Collector of Customs, 'Breach of Immigration and Customs Act' [9 pages, 1907] B13, 1907/7386

This refers to the conviction and fining in 1907 of a Chinese man trading in Little Bourke Street, for having prohibited imports in his possession. The master of the SS Pocahontas was also prosecuted for a breach of the Immigration Act in respect of the desertion of the same man from his ship's crew.

Collector of Customs, 'Ah Bing applies for Certificate under Section 4B of the Immigration Act' [7 pages, 1909] B13, 1909/16634

This contains an application for a Certificate of Exemption from the Dictation Test under section 4B of the Immigration Restriction Act. The applicant was a Chinese laundryman who had resided in Australia for 10 years and was leaving temporarily. The application was approved provided he returned within three years. The certificate contained two photographs, one front view, one profile, and contained a handprint on the reverse side.

Collector of Customs, ' External Affairs – Evasion of Immigration Restriction Act – Dictation Test' [2 pages, 1912] B13, 1912/17990

This contains a letter, dated 1912, to the Collector of Customs from Atlee Hunt, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, urging the utmost care in dealing with applications for Certificates for Exemption from the Dictation Test. This was in the light of an attempted evasion of the Immigration Restriction Act by a Chinese youth who had been admitted to Australia for educational purposes and attempted by false statements to obtain a Certificate allowing him to return permanently.

TEST PASSAGES

From 1st July to 31st December, 1932.

From 1st to 15th July, 1932.

(No. 32/13.)

The tiger is sleeker, and so lithe and graceful that he does not show to the same appalling advantage as his cousin, the lion, with the roar that shakes the earth. Both are cats, cousins of our amiable purring friend of the hearthrug, but the tiger is king of the family.

From 16th to 31st July, 1932.

(No. 32/14.)

Ice and snow cover the Poles, which are not farther from the sun than we are, but the sun's rays reach them slantwise, and are stopped by such a thickness of air that not enough of them reaches the surface of the earth at the Poles to keep them warm.

From 1st to 15th August, 1932.

(No. 32/15.)

The hairy adornment of the lion renders him more formidable in appearance. But the plain fact is that the tiger's head and jaws are more solid, heavy and powerful than the lion's. We can only tell the difference when examining the skeleton's of the two animals with a skilled anatomist.

From 16th to 31st August, 1932.

(No. 32/16.)

We have no reason to suppose that the ice-caps will alter in our favour. On the contrary, the sun and the earth are slowly cooling. In ages to come the course of things would apparently have to be that the ice-caps slowly extended from either Pole, and crowded man towards the tropics.

From 1st to 15th September, 1932.

(No. 32/17.)

We have absolute evidence that the ice-caps around our Poles once extended farther than now. On mountain heights to-day we may see the marks and scratches on exposed rock, and the student of the rocks will tell us that over them an ice-river slid, and made its mark as it went.

From 16th to 30th September, 1932.

(No. 32/18.)

Perhaps the native will one day show fight, and endeavour to deprive his terrible enemy of its prey. Then the tiger, in rage or self-defence, attacks him, and the spell is broken. The flesh-eater finds that there is no magic protecting the guardian of the cattle, and thenceforth becomes a man-slayer.

From 1st to 15th October, 1932.

(No. 32/19.)

Tigers have been known to depopulate villages. One was known to exist in this way for several years, taking eighty human lives a year before it was hunted down and slain. When matters become too terrible to be borne, the natives pack up and move to another part of the country.

An example of the types of passages used in the dictation test. New passages were supplied six-monthly to Collectors of Customs, who were responsible for administering the tests.

NAA: A1, 1935/704

Department of External Affairs, 'Report of Inspector Gabriel on Immigration Work' [11 pages, 1916] B13, 1916/24825

This contains a memorandum from the Department of External Affairs relating to an inspection of Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDTs) issued under the Immigration Act at the Customs House, Melbourne, from 1913 to 1916. A list of errors and omissions is attached, together with other related correspondence.

Department of External Affairs, 'External Affairs – authority for Chinese etc. to remain in Australia may be taken as authority to cover refund of deposits under Section 6 of Immigration Act' [2 pages, 1916] B13, 1916/19343

This contains a short letter from Atlee Hunt, July 1916, regarding deposits lodged at the office of the Collector of Customs under Section 6 of the Immigration Act in connection with the readmission of Chinese. Where authority was given for such persons to remain in Australia, such authority was also taken to cover the refund of deposit, unless otherwise advised by the Department of External Affairs.

Collector of Customs, 'Passengers Under Immigration Act landed from Cephee' [15 pages, 1922–26] B13, 1926/5846

This contains landing permits and information on passengers (Syrians, Russians, Indians, Greeks and Poles) who arrived on the SS Cepheefrom Antwerp via Fremantle and Adelaide in 1926 and came under notice in connection with the Immigration Restriction Act.

Collector of Customs, 'Passengers under Immigration Act ex Cephee, 23.10.1926' [55 pages, 1925–26] B13, 1926/23059

This contains further information and landing permits of passengers from the SS Cephee above.

Collector of Customs, 'Immigration Act 1901–25, Dictation Test' [10 pages, 1927] B13, 1927/5347

This contains a circular from the Home and Territories Department to the Collector of Customs, 1927, regarding directions which should be observed in connection with the application of the Dictation Test so that it was an absolute bar to entry. Acknowledgments of the receipt of the circular in various Victorian ports are included.

Collector of Customs, 'Passengers Under Immigration Act ex 'Citta di Genova' January 1928' [21 pages, 1928–29] B13, 1928/1546

This refers to three passengers, one Italian who was blind, and two Yugoslavs, who came under notice in connection with the Immigration Act and Regulations. They arrived on the Citta di Genova which landed in Fremantle in January 1928. The passports and applications for certificates of exemption for the two Yugoslavs who arrived a month earlier than their visas stipulated, are included. They were first restricted but later allowed to land on the security of the shipping agent for one month.

Administration of Immigration Act' [5 pages, 1929] B13, 1929/2486

This contains a circular from the Department of Home Affairs in 1929 about new quarantine orders affecting the administration of the Immigration Act.

Customs and Excise Office, Melbourne, 'Italian Immigration: Re-admission of former residents of Commonwealth and of their families' [8 pages, 1930] B13, 1930/3211

This refers to the conditions of re-entry of Italians, formerly domiciled in Australia, but who had left prior to the introduction of the Re-Entry Permit System, and the entry of their wives and families if they married while abroad.

Collector of Customs, 'Department of Home Affairs – Alien Immigration 1931' [21 pages, 1930–31] B13, 1931/3596

This contains circular letters, dated 1930, to Customs and Excise, Victoria, from A R Peters, Department of Home Affairs, on the Immigration of Aliens of European race or descent to Australia during 1931.

Department of Home Affairs, 'Broken Hill Pty Co Ltd – Restriction of Immigration of Aliens into Australia' [6 pages, 1931] B13, 1931/3467

This contains correspondence from the Manager of the Broken Hill Coy, Ltd to the Collector of Customs in March 1931 regarding the nations comprising the non-Quota nationalities and, in the case of desertions, which nations rendered the company liable for penalties under the Act. The reply notified the company that, owing to the level of unemployment, all 'aliens' excepting wives and minor children of those already domiciled in Australia or those with landing permits or special authority from the Department of Home Affairs, were restricted. It also related to desertions and the paying off of 'alien' members of crews.

Department of Home Affairs, 'Alien Immigration 1931: Circular of 1.4.1931' [7 pages, 1931] B13, 1931/5023

This contains a Department of Home Affairs circular from A R Peters, April 1931, relating to the conditions under which 'white aliens' could land in Australia. 'Aliens' were generally restricted if not in possession of special authority or were otherwise eligible to land. The circular indicated that discretion could be used in regard to both temporary and permanent entry of 'aliens' of 'special standing or position' or 'apparently good standing'.

Department of the Interior, 'Request for a new Register of Certificates Exempting from the Dictation Test under the Immigration Act' [3 pages, 1933] B13, 1933/2008

This contains a letter from the Collector of Customs, Victoria, in February 1933, to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, raising the question of the need for a new Register of Certificates Exempting from Dictation Test, Melbourne. The reply is included.

Customs and Excise Office, Victoria, 'Immigration Report, S.S. 'Moreton Bay', Oct.' [3 pages, 1937] B13, 1937/16492

This refers to passengers disembarking at Melbourne who came under notice in connection with the Immigration Act and Regulations. Two required guaranteed maintenance, one had lost the Landing Permit.

**REGISTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1901–42
PP4/4****Recorded by:****1901–42: Collector of Customs, Western Australia (CA 808)****Perth 0.54 metres**

This series contains registers of correspondence on the following subjects: Coloured Persons Leaving Australia, 1903–28; Immigrants Rejected or Landed on Certificates, 1902–13; Arrival of Immigrants, 1901–11; Certificates of Exemption, 1920–42; Seamen for the Pearling Industry, 1917–28; Persons Landed in Western Australia, 1919–24; and Prohibited Persons, 1914–21. The registers give a precis of the subject of the correspondence and quote the file number.

Collector of Customs, 'Immigration Restriction Act – Register of Immigrants with Lost Certificates' (Exemption from Dictation Test and domicile) [1 cm ledger, 1902–19 PP4/4, Book 1

The ledger contains details such as Certificate Number, Description of Certificate, Subject (the most detailed section), Period, Name of Vessel and Date of Arrival, Departure, and Remarks.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38**A1****Recorded by:****1903–16: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)****1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)****1928–32: Department of Home and Territories (CA 24)****1932–38: Department of the Interior (CA 27)****Canberra 184.92 metres**

This series was the main correspondence file system of the agencies shown above. The subject matter includes administrative and personal matters as well as the following functions administered by the agencies from time to time: immigration and emigration, 'aliens' registration, naturalisation, passports (except 1916–18), influx of criminals, indentured coloured labour, people of races for whom special laws were thought necessary, external affairs (1903–16), Pacific islands (1903–16) as well as other matters not relevant to this Guide.

'Queensland Government Writing re Pacific Island Immigration and Requesting Monetary Assistance in Carrying out Polynesian Acts, 1902–05' [32 pages plus booklets, 1904–05] A1, 1904/9617

This contains a booklet on Imperial and Colonial Acts relating to the Recruiting, etc. of Pacific Island Labourers, Queensland 1892, press cuttings from 1905 on the cost their repatriation, Immigration Agent's Annual Reports for 1902 to 1904 on Pacific Island Immigration, and requests to the Prime Minister for financial assistance in administering the Queensland Polynesian Acts. Some 6 000 islanders had to be deported. Replies and notes are attached.

Department of External Affairs, File of Papers, 'Amendments of the Immigration Restriction Acts' [33 pages, 1909–10] A1, 1910/6415

This contains copies of various draft amendments and amendments to the Immigration Restriction Act, letters and memoranda. Notes and extracts from *Hansard* for the period 1908–10 are included.

Home and Territories Department, 'Immigration. Unsuitable Immigrants'
[8 pages, 1922–23] A1, 1923/3669

This concerns a suggestion by the Commonwealth Immigration Office in 1922 that action be taken to invest the Director of Migration or the Chief Medical Officer with authority to refuse admission to unsuitable or undesirable immigrants, with the provision that the decision could be varied if it were later ascertained that the rejected person would not be a menace to the community and that adequate guarantees for maintenance could be attained. Correspondence relates to the appointment of the Director of Migration and the Chief Medical Officer as 'Officers' under the *Immigration Act* 1901–20, authorised to refuse permission for intending migrants who were medically unfit.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

IN REPLY
PLEASE QUOTE

8/11139

Melbourne, 27th October, 1908.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that a Chinese named Kang Yu Wei contemplates visiting Australia shortly. He was formerly a man of considerable standing in China but is now exiled from that country. It is understood that he is at present in Ceylon. For various reasons some of which have regard to his moral reputation the Government have refused permission for him to land in Australia. I shall be glad, therefore, if you will issue instructions that in the event of this man arriving at Fremantle he is to be subjected to the dictation test which should be applied in such a manner as to ensure its efficiency. It is probable that Kang Yu Wei understands English. Inquiries should be made on that point, and your officers should be in readiness to apply the test say in Spanish or Italian.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Collector of Customs,

FREMANTLE.

Secretary.

An illustration of how the dictation test was applied in practice to ensure the exclusion of unwanted persons.

NAA: PP4/4, Book 1

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

TELEPHONE
No. 5374. EK.IN REPLY
PLEASE QUOTE

No. 27/5286.

HOME AND TERRITORIES DEPARTMENT.

61 SPRING STREET.

MELBOURNE 4th March, 1927.

CIRCULAR:The Collector of Customs,
PERMANTLE.
-----IMMIGRATION ACT 1901-1925.
DICTATION TEST.

Re I.A.I.'s 52-56:

The following directions should be observed in connection with the application of the dictation test:

(a) Test, when applied, to be effective: As indicated in I.A.I. 56, the test when applied to an immigrant, is intended to serve as an absolute bar to such person's entry into Australia, or as a means of depriving him of the right to remain in the Commonwealth if he has landed. The test should therefore be applied in a language with which the immigrant is not sufficiently acquainted to be able to write out at dictation.

(b) Languages: Section 3, paragraph (a), of the Act requires that the test applied shall consist of not less than fifty words in any prescribed language. ^{No} languages have yet been specially prescribed by Regulation, but the Act permits of any European language being used, as authorised by Section 3 of the Principal Act - see footnote (b) under Section 3 of the Consolidated Act 1901-1925. In ordinary circumstances, the tests furnished from this Department should be used.

NOTE: The question has been raised as to whether it would be allowable to abandon the application of a dictation test before completing the fifty words and to choose a fresh passage in another language, in any case where an immigrant, after admitting his inability to write in the language first chosen, commences to write in such a manner as to indicate the likelihood of his passing the test. The Crown Law authorities, however, definitely advise that once the test has been started it should be gone on with and carried to completion. It is therefore desirable that every possible precaution should be taken beforehand in doubtful cases to ascertain whether the person concerned is likely to be able to write in the language chosen.

(c) Method of application: Various Court cases have been lost through evidence being furnished that the test had not been correctly applied. The main point to remember is that, although a language may be chosen with which the immigrant is not acquainted, the test should be applied in such a way that he would be afforded a reasonable opportunity to write the passage out if he were literate and knew the language. The following precautions

Ref
13.1
14 MAR 1927

This instruction made clear to officials the importance of applying the dictation

- 2 -

should therefore be taken, viz:-

- (i) Pencil and paper should be handed to the person to be tested.
- (ii) It should be clearly explained to him what he is required to do, viz: to write out the passage dictated to him (if necessary, an interpreter should be employed to explain the requirement).
- (iii) The whole passage should be read over once to indicate what the passage is, and then repeated more slowly as the actual test, a few words at a time, right to the end of the passage, whether the person attempts to write or not.
- (iv) If the Officer has good reason to believe that the person to be tested could write in English, a passage of not less than fifty words in some other European language may be selected. If an Officer is not available to read the passage correctly in the language chosen, a person acquainted with the language may be authorised in writing by an Officer to dictate the passage, see paragraph (a), Section 3, of the Act.


Assistant Secretary

test in a language not well known to the applicant.

NAA: PP6/1, 1927/H/427

Home Affairs Department, File of Papers, 'Immigration Act 1930. Amending Section 5' [24 pages, 1930] A1, 1930/10827

This contains a memorandum on the *Immigration Act* 1901–25, Proposed Amendment of Section 5. The amendment was to overcome a technical defect in the 1924 Act and to provide that the onus of proving that he [sic] had not entered Australia illegally was cast on the immigrant himself [sic]. [It is interesting to note here that all linguistic references assume that the subject is male.] It was to apply to those who had evaded officers or otherwise entered the country illegally since 1901. Correspondence, *Hansard* extracts and other inclusions deal with the new provision.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1904–20

A2

Recorded by:

1904-11: Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)

1911–20: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 20.32 metres

This series covers a wide range of subjects dealt with by the Prime Minister. The registry practice is at first haphazard but becomes increasingly formalised. A number of files were converted after 1917 into the first and thereafter into the second Secret and Confidential series of the Prime Minister's Department.

Prime Minister's Department, File of Papers, 'Immigration' [29 pages, 1914–16] A2, 1916/3742

The contents relate to a request from John Sanderson & Company to transport 42 Germans and 39 persons of other nationalities to Australia in September 1914. As the Germans were considered enemy subjects, they were unable to land. There is also a request to the Secretary of State for the Colonies from the British Immigration League of Australia concerning the numbers of Germans arriving in Australia as a result of the war. The Prime Minister asked State Premiers for the numbers of Germans and Austrians induced to the States over the previous five years. The same question was asked of the Prime Minister by the Premier of WA in relation to the Commonwealth. The file contains replies and related correspondence on this issue, letters on the possible immigration of British children orphaned by the war and of Syrian refugees and their families, and also a Salvation Army pamphlet and letter on the immigration of widows.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restriction – Demented Female Stowaway on RMS *Medina*' [6 pages, 1915] A2, 1915/267

This refers to a female stowaway with an illegitimate child, discovered on board the RMS *Medina* which arrived in Hobart from Sydney in 1915. She was destitute and described as 'mentally defective' and the question was raised as to the statutory power which existed to prevent her landing. The *Immigration Restriction Act* 1901, which provided for such cases, referred only to immigrants from overseas not interstate. The use of Section 3 of the *Tasmanian Passengers Act* 1885 was then considered. This stated that if the Collector of Customs certified that a passenger was likely to become a public charge, he could require the master, etc. of the ship to furnish a bond of £100. W M Hughes, however, ruled in a letter dated 16 November 1915, that the 1885 Act was of doubtful validity and the Collector of Customs could not be called upon to perform such functions.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restriction' [8 pages, 1916] A2, 1917/1542

This is a small file containing correspondence which deals with an error by the New Zealand Steamship Company in 1916 in treating an Australian-born woman returning from the Argentine, as an immigrant. As a third class passenger to

Australia, she was required to pay a deposit of £20, or supply a guarantee of a known local firm or person, to cover the return fare in the event that she was not allowed to land. This is significant because it relates to the practice adopted by shipping companies as a result of the clauses of the *Immigration Restriction Act* 1901. First and second class passengers were not required to give a deposit or guarantee since it was assumed that they had sufficient funds to pay the cost of the return journey and would not become a charge upon the shipping company if prohibited from landing.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1934–50**A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres**

This series consists of general correspondence files which cover the wide range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention. Many earlier papers from the previous general correspondence of the Department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. German and Ex-enemy Aliens, 1919–48' [3 cm, 1919–48] A461, K349/3/5

The contents of this file cover the period from 1919 to 1939 with one page only on 1948. The file concerns the restriction of 'enemy aliens' after World War I, rights of entry and return for particular cases, the legislation enacted in 1920, and related correspondence. The Enemy Aliens Act prohibited the entry and residence of Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians and Turks for five years from 2 December 1920, and thereafter until the Governor-General by proclamation determined otherwise. The removal of the prohibition in 1925, with the exception of Turks, is also covered in various communications and press cuttings. The question of the entry of ex-enemy 'aliens' into the Territories of Papua, New Guinea and Norfolk Island is the subject of much of the correspondence.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Visual standard' [83 pages, 1922–29] A461, C349/1/10

Although headed 'Immigration Encouragement', this file concerns restrictions on the visually impaired. It contains a cable from Percy Hunter, Director of the Migration and Settlement Office in London, to the Prime Minister's Department, 1922, regarding the frequency of one-eyed people being nominated as immigrants and asking whether he was on safe ground in accepting them. The attitude of the Home and Territories Department, which administered the Immigration Act, was that if immigrants were otherwise healthy, able to earn their own living and not likely to become a charge on the public, there was no objection. Subsequently, however, the Commonwealth Immigration Office recommended that the views of State Premiers be ascertained, at the same time calling for sympathetic consideration in the case of ex-soldiers. The replies from the states are included. The Queensland, NSW and South Australian Premiers agreed to accept one-eyed nominees but only if they were ex-soldiers. Premier Lawson of Victoria maintained that 'maimed men, generally speaking, should not be eligible for subsidised passages' and that 'loss of an eye is a loss of efficiency, and is a bar against entry into many occupations'. He stated that assistance would not be withheld where it would inflict hardship in the reuniting of families but pointed out that many persons were 'medically advised in Great Britain to come to this country for health reasons. In spite of precautions, such persons fasten themselves onto the Immigration system, to its disadvantage and discredit'. Premier Colebatch of WA felt that it was undesirable to accept any immigrants, nominated or otherwise, who suffered from any form of incapacity. The Tasmanian Premier's view was that each case should be judged on its own merits according to the occupation of the intending immigrant. In 1926, the

Ophthalmological Section of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association, advised that the object of the regulations was to prevent the admission of those who had grossly defective vision and who might, as a result, become burdens to the Commonwealth Government. Suggestions for the improvement of the present optical examinations were offered and these, together with previous correspondence, were sent to the Sir Neville House, Minister for Health, who had examined the whole system of medical examination in the UK during 1923. Sir James W Barrett in a letter of 1925, queried the rejection of an immigrant solely because he wore glasses and requested a copy of the regulations governing the visual standard observed by the Migration and Settlement Office. The regulations included non-approval [for assisted passages] of anyone wearing glasses for general purposes. Deputy Director Hurley, in reply to Barrett, pointed out that lads placed in remote rural areas sometimes lost or broke their glasses and were unable to work until they were repaired. In some cases, boys with defective vision had also been adversely affected by the strong Australian light and had to be repatriated. He added that, apart from the standard, state governments with agricultural schemes for juvenile migration had stipulated that boys wearing glasses should not be approved. Regulations on the visual standards for assisted migrants were subsequently published in the *Argus* in 1926 and at a special meeting of the Eye and Ear Section of the British Medical Association, a resolution was adopted for their amendment, though not accepted in full by the Commonwealth. The issue of visual standards for migrants, particularly blindness, was raised again in 1928 and 1929. The whole file is significant for the light it throws on attitudes of the time and the extent of the restrictive legislation and practice.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Return of Unsuitable and Unfit Immigrants Part 1' [5 cm, 1929–35] A461, C349/1/8
PART 1**

This file concerns the repatriation of migrants, both voluntary and involuntary, during the late 1920s and the early 1930s and is largely made up of individual case studies. The first case in the file deals with a boy farm learner who arrived in Australia in 1925 suffering from poor eyesight. He was hospitalised for treatment in 1928, his doctor stating that he would eventually become blind as a result of hereditary syphilis. He was repatriated at the joint expense of the Commonwealth and Queensland governments. Further cases reveal that ill-health, physical and intellectual disabilities, moral turpitude, criminal offences, and the inability to earn a living for one reason or another, were the most common reasons for repatriation by governments. Cases for forced repatriation fall loosely into categories of the unfit and the unsuitable, the assisted and the unassisted. Issues of responsibility and accountability, of who should pay, and the adverse effects on settlers and on public opinion were raised. The question of the responsibility for the repatriation of unsuitable migrants was discussed at a conference between Commonwealth and State Immigration Authorities in 1924. It was agreed that the Commonwealth would cover the cost of repatriation if the case was reported within one year of arrival and if there was evidence that the disability (if medical) should have been detected by the Commonwealth Medical Referee in the UK. In this context, the discussion focused on when a person ceased to be 'a migrant' (to be repatriated if unsuitable) and becomes the responsibility of the host government in terms of the provision of welfare benefits. Much of the file consists of the personal histories of individual indigent families from group settlement schemes in WA repatriated at their own request during the depression years. Their financial liabilities were written off by the State. Correspondence reveals the gradual development of policies on deportation, repatriation and citizenship. Extracts from a report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-departmental Committee on Migration Policy in 1934 are included. The issues raised in this file have important implications for the efficacy of immigration policy in this period and the grounds upon which certain immigrants should be repatriated.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929**A432****Recorded by:****1929–58: Attorney General's Department (CA 5)****Canberra 2329.2 metres**

This series consists of the main correspondence file series of the Attorney-General's Department. The series commenced in 1929, replacing the existing systems and contains material top-numbered from those series, including papers back to 1901.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Immigration. American Legislation, 1921–24' [44 pages plus booklet, 1921–24] A432, 1929/4141 part 1

This file relates to the revision of the United States Immigration laws, 1921–4, which had a number of implications for Australian immigration policy in the same period. In particular, correspondence refers to the admission of bona fide students to the United States in excess of the numbers admissible under the United States Immigration Act of May 1921. This Act limited the admission of 'aliens' into the United States. The United States government in July 1922 resolved to permit certain 'aliens', admitted temporarily under bond in excess of quotas, to remain within the United States. The file also contains notification to the Australian government that an Immigration Bill (the Johnson Bill) had passed Congress in 1924 limiting the quota to 100 plus 2% of the number of foreign born individuals of each nationality resident in the United States according to the 1890 census. Under that measure the Australian quota was 219. A copy of the Act itself and other letters on its passing and possible effects are included.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Egon Erwin Kirsch and Gerald Griffin, Delegates to the Anti-War Conference – Action under *Immigration Act* 1901–33 on Charges of being a Prohibited Person, October and November 1934', Part 1 [26 pages, 1934] A432, 1934/1736 PART 1

This file and the one below relate to a rare but notable incidence in this period of the use of the Immigration Restriction legislation to exclude people from Australia for political reasons. One folder contains a letter from W H Nugent, in June 1934 requesting the use of rooms in the St Kilda City Hall for the purpose of holding the Second National Congress Against War from 10–14 November. Councillors subsequently became alarmed upon reading resolutions passed at a conference of the Victorian Council Against War, published in the *Argus*, and a full list of names and addresses of members was obtained. The Town Clerk in September requested the Chief of Commonwealth Police to ascertain 'whether the organisation under notice is bone fide and single-minded in its campaign against war as such; or whether it is covertly using an appeal to the humanitarianism to propagate Communistic or revolutionary ideals'. He was sent a history of the movement and it was expected that his Council would withdraw the permission to occupy the rooms. A second folder relates to reports of Egon Kisch, a Czechoslovak nationalist and delegate from World Committee against War and Fascism, who was proceeding to Australia for the conference 'with literature'. This and other information (included) was relayed to the government with the result that the Director of the Attorney-General's Department, Investigation Branch, H E Jones, instructed that, if Communist literature was found in his possession, thus providing definite proof of his activities and his undesirability, he should not be allowed into Australia. Following further investigations about Kisch and the fact that he had already been declared a prohibited immigrant to the UK, he was declared an undesirable immigrant and prohibited from landing.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Egon Erwin Kirsch and Gerald Griffin, Delegates to the Anti-War Conference – Action under *Immigration Act* 1901–33 on Charges of being a Prohibited Person, October and November 1934', Part 2 [50 pages, 1934] A432, 1934/1736 part 2

This file continues on from that above and contains notes from a deputation from the Trades Hall Council which waited upon the Federal Attorney General, R G Menzies, on 9 November 1934 to protest against the action of the Commonwealth Government in prohibiting Egon Kisch and Gerald Griffin from landing in Australia owing to their anti-war sentiments, which amounted to 'a deliberate and unworthy appeal to fear and prejudice for political purposes and also represents a gross abuse of its powers under the *Immigration Act*'. The deputation called for the ban to be lifted. Menzies quoted the part of the Act under which the two were excluded: viz, 'anyone who advocates the overthrow by force or violence of the established government of the Commonwealth or of any State or any other civilised country or of all forms of law, or who advocates or teaches the unlawful destruction of property, or who is a member of or affiliated with any organisation which entertains and teaches any of the doctrines and practices specified in this paragraph'... or... 'any person declared by the Minister to be... undesirable as an inhabitant or as a visitor...'. He supplied information on Griffin, said to be a 'very vigorous Unionist propagandist' who had spent a considerable time in Russia. Griffin was subjected to the Dictation Test and failed. Further notes on the two cases are included.

Attorney-General's Department, '*Immigration Act* 1912–35, procedure re undesirable immigrants. Reports by Ministers 1938' [1 page, 1938] A432, 1938/1209

This concerns procedures to be adopted for the restriction into Australia of new classes of immigrants. The classes included a) people holding extreme political views, such as Communists, Nazis, Fascists, etc; b) people known or believed to hold strong anti-British views; c) cases where action taken by the Department of the Interior may have been of major political consequence or may have affected relations with other countries; and d) cases in which the Defence department was likely to be especially interested.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1924–62 B741

Recorded by:

1927–46: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA907)
1946–60: Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 916)
1960–62: Commonwealth Police Force (CA 955)

Melbourne 29.88 metres

The series comprises files relating to the investigation of all criminal offenses committed against the Commonwealth, the contravention of Commonwealth Acts or of State Acts committed on Commonwealth property; the pursuit of recalcitrant debtors to the Commonwealth; and inquiry into the whereabouts of persons requested to be traced by government departments, organisations such as the Red Cross, International Tracing Service, Australia House, private persons or by diplomatic or consular representation. Investigations carried out at the request of government departments include areas such as impersonation, ships' deserters, enemy 'aliens' in wartime, prohibited immigrants and naturalisation, among others. In most cases a separate file was raised for each particular case requested to be investigated.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Immigration Act, 1921–24' [9 pages (plus Statutory Rules), 1923–24] B741, V/374

This contains a circular on the Appointment of Officers under the *Immigration Act* 1901–20, copies of the provisions of the *Immigration Act* 1901–24, Statutory Rules, 1913, No. 307 and Statutory Rules 1923, No. 56.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34

A458

Recorded by:

1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 49.77 metres

This series precedes series A461 (described earlier in this chapter) and contains general correspondence files covering the range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention in this period.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Particular Classes and Nations. Miscellaneous' [16 pages, 1923–35] A458, L156/2

The file includes a press report and letter relating to the possible arrival of refugees in 1923, *Hansard* extracts, and various cables relating to immigration restrictions.

Prime Minister's Department, Correspondence Files, Multi-number series, 'Immigration Restrictions. Australian Policy – Correspondence with States' [1.5 cm, 1924–27] A458, B156/1 part 1

This contains a Report of Debates from a Conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers, 1927, to consider 1. Financial Relations between the States and the Commonwealth and 2. Child Endowment; and *Hansard* extracts relating to European migration, 1927. Correspondence from State Premiers of NSW, South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria principally deals with the increased level of European migration to Australia in 1924–5 (statistics for the period 1 July 1924 to 31 December 1925 are included) and the measures taken to regulate it. Sir George Fuller, Premier of NSW, referred to the increase in Southern European migration as a 'threatened invasion' (27 November 1924). A number of destitute Albanians and Yugoslavs stranded in Western Australia and New South Wales raised concerns and a police report followed. State Premiers suggested various means of control: establishing a quota system, more stringent medical examinations, the extension of the use of the dictation test to include Europeans, and repatriation. Measures adopted in 1924 included special arrangements with the Maltese and Italian governments and numerical limits of 100 per month placed on Albanian, Greek and Yugoslavs. The question of the establishment of foreign schools in Australia and the medium of instruction was also raised and a short report from B McKenna, Secretary, Department of Public Instruction is included on Children of Foreign Extraction in North Queensland. In 1925, more formal restrictions were imposed. Section 3, paragraph f) of the Immigration Act was amended to include amongst the classes of prohibited immigrants anyone who was likely to become a charge upon the public by reason of infirmity of mind or body, insufficiency of means to support himself or any other cause. Foreign migrants were required, in addition to the usual requirements regarding health, character and passports, to possess £40 landing money after 1 April 1925, unless maintenance was guaranteed by an Australian resident or special authorisation was obtained from the government. Shipping companies were otherwise liable to provide return passages.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'H' INFIX,
1926–50 PP6/1****Recorded by:****1926–45: Collector of Customs, WA, (from 1985) Australian Customs Service,
WA (CA 808)****1945–50: Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch (CA 962)****Perth 20.16 metres**

This series contains general records of functions in connection with migration, covering reports by the Boarding Branch, Customs Department, in respect of all vessels, showing persons coming under notice through the provisions of the Immigration Act; details of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch; applications for naturalisation; applications for Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test; applications for admission to Australia as a migrant; nominal rolls of migrants supplied by overseas posts on the departure of vessels; reports on unsuitable migrants and action taken in respect of deportees; general correspondence; reports on immigration centres, Northam and Cunderdin; and applications for permanent residence by persons who have entered the country illegally. From May 1926 to May 1946 all immigration work was carried out by the Customs Department and records were maintained by them. With the establishment of the Immigration Department in Perth in May 1946, all files were transferred from Customs to Immigration. Files prior to 1926 are believed to have been destroyed.

**Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, General
Correspondence File, 'Merchant Shipping Act – Effect on deportation of
prohibited immigrants under Immigration Act' [5 pages, 1926] PP6/1,
1926/H/130**

This file deals with suggestions for ensuring that deportees under the *Immigration Act*, by reason of their health or mental condition, do not endanger others on board ships.

**Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, General
Correspondence File, 'Deportation of assisted migrants under the provisions
of the *Immigration Act*' [3 pages, 1927] PP6/1, 1927/H/364**

This file contains a letter from Assistant Secretary, Home and Territories Department, February 1927, requesting that for any deportations of assisted migrants reference should be made to the Department, and that it be definitely ascertained in each case whether the person concerned arrived as an assisted migrant or not.

**Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, General
Correspondence File, '*Immigration Act* 1901–25. Dictation Test' [5 pages, 1927]
PP6/1, 1927/H/427**

This contains a circular of March 1927 on the *Immigration Act* 1901–25, Dictation Test, to the Collector of Customs from the Home and Territories Department giving directions for applying the Test. It makes clear that, when applied to an immigrant, it was intended to serve as an absolute bar to that person's entry into Australia, or as a means of depriving him of the right to remain in Australia if he had already landed. The Test therefore had to be applied in a language with which the immigrant was not sufficiently acquainted to be able to write out at dictation. Tests were furnished by the Department.

**Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, General
Correspondence File, 'Fee collected under *Immigration Act*' [1 cm, 1930–34]
PP6/1, 1930/H/3007**

This file contains weekly returns from Clerk, Passports to the Boarding Inspector, for passports issued, passports awaiting issue, fresh applications received, re-entry permits issued, permits to travel, visas, renewals and endorsements for the period 1931 to 1933 and related correspondence on the remittance of fees.

**Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch General
Correspondence File, 'Deportation orders under Section 8 of *Immigration Act* –
maintenance of deportees' [13 pages, 1931] PP6/1, 1931/H/332**

This file concerns several copies of circulars from the Department of Home Affairs to the Collector of Customs concerning the question of Shipping Companies in the various states providing passages and maintenance expenses pending deportation for deportees under Section 13A of the Immigration Act. It also covers the extent of the liability of Shipping Companies if the deportee became unfit to travel.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68
A445**

Recorded by:

1951–55: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra 22.50 metres

This series consists of Immigration policy files relating to the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. The file subjects include Acts relating to immigration, migrant organisations, transport, sponsorship schemes, housing and accommodation, conferences, child-youth migration, refugees and restricted immigration policy.

**Department of Immigration, 'Immigration Regulations – Amendments to' [2.5
pages, 1932–51] A445, 103/6/9**

This includes Regulations under the *Immigration Act* 1925, a Memorandum on White Alien Crews 1932, Consolidation of Regulations under the *Immigration Act* 1901–32, Statutory Rules, 1932 and 1933, and correspondence covering a number of areas: proposed amendments to passport regulations, naturalisation regulations and immigration regulations, increases in fees for passports, landing money and re-entry permits for 'aliens' for the period 1932–40, and passenger cards after the war.

IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT PRECEDENT BOOK, 1902–11

A20

Recorded by:

1902–11: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)

Canberra 0.065 metres

This file has an alphabetical index.

REGISTER OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ACT, 1902–30

A19

Recorded by:

1902–16: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)

1916–28: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)

1928–30: Department of Home Affairs, (Central Office) (CA 24)

Canberra 0.025 metres

1 Volume

**OUTWARD LETTER BOOK CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO IMMIGRATION
RESTRICTION, 1909 A61****Recorded by:****1909: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)****Canberra 0.02 metres****REGISTER OF EXEMPTIONS UNDER IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION ACT, 1925–31
A260****Recorded by:****1925–28: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)****1928–31: Department of Home Affairs, Central Office (CA 24)****Canberra 0.09 metres****REGISTER UNDER THE CONTRACT IMMIGRATION ACT, 1902–40 A22****Recorded by:****1902–16: Department of External Affairs Melbourne (CA 7)****1916–28: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)****1928–32: Department of Home Affairs, Central Office (CA 24)****1932–39: Department of the Interior, Central Administration (CA 27)****1939–40: Department of the Interior, Central Office (CA 31)****Canberra 0.04 metres**

Individual Cases

A number of individual cases occur in the files described in this chapter. They involve unaccepted nominations, deportations, repatriations, intellectual and physical disabilities (such as visual and hearing impairments), destitution and unsuitability for admission on other grounds.

As mentioned in the Introduction, individual cases files themselves are not dealt with in this guide. For details of where to find records dealing with individual cases see *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*.

3 Immigration Encouragement Policy

The development of policies for the encouragement of immigration to Australia were slow to emerge after Federation in 1901 owing to the aftermath of the 1890s depression and prolonged unemployment. This was despite a widespread concern at the time over the decline in the birth rate common to all Western nations, and the slow growth of the Australian population, a concern which resulted in a NSW Royal Commission in 1904.

Alfred Deakin, three times Prime Minister in the first decade of the twentieth century, did much to stimulate interest in immigration. As economic conditions improved, the Australian state governments gradually reintroduced assistance schemes: New South Wales in 1906, Victoria in 1907, South Australia in 1911, and Tasmania in 1912. These schemes offered not only reduced fares but also grants of land and other concessions. (Western Australia and Queensland had not discontinued assistance during the depression years of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries although the numbers of immigrants taking up the opportunity were low.) A High Commissioner was appointed in 1909; his role was partly to advertise Australia abroad. The immediate pre-World War I years witnessed comparatively high immigration levels with the active involvement of governments and voluntary organisations.



An example of the type of information published by the Million Farms Campaign Committee.
NAA: A457, 1400/5 Part 2

The advertising associated with assistance schemes to bring out British farmers, young rural labourers and domestic servants (the 'preferred' immigrants) inevitably encouraged others. State departments and 'intelligence bureaux' were set up in the capital cities to receive and advise new settlers. Assisted immigrants made up about half the total arrivals in the pre-war years, some selected by state governments and non-government organisations, some nominated by relatives and friends already in Australia.

Not all experienced the prosperity they had hoped for. Several disillusioned land settlers who came out under organised schemes claimed compensation from governments in later years. Many of the unassisted who settled in urban areas found jobs difficult to obtain. The outbreak of war in 1914 led to many joining up, some for the higher wages this alternative offered them. While the first years of the war witnessed the arrival of a limited number of immigrants whose passages were already booked, there was no further encouragement of immigration in general until after the soldier settlement schemes of the post-war years. Nevertheless, the war provided an opportunity for a reassessment of past policies, although this led to little change in direction, and resulted in a heightened commitment to Britain and the needs of the Empire.

The immediate post-war period was notable for schemes initially to resettle ex-soldiers (both Australian and British) on the land in Australia, and subsequently to redistribute the population of the Empire from overcrowded Britain to the more spacious Dominions. While these schemes were designed to benefit the Empire as a whole, the British government, and Australian Federal and state governments, all acted largely in their own interests. On the surface there was co-operation; beneath there was considerable conflict, especially over the types of immigrants Britain wished to send and those Australia (and the other Dominions) were anxious to receive. Britain was concerned to alleviate the problem of high urban unemployment; Australia wanted to settle her sparsely populated rural areas with young, able farmers with capital, just those people whom Britain wished to retain. As before the war, many of those who did come under assistance schemes in the 1920s were disappointed; often they were unsuitable and inexperienced and much of the land allocated them was marginal farming country. State governments, in particular Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales later paid the price for over-ambitious and ill-prepared plans in an era often referred to as 'Australia Unlimited'.

At the same time as British immigrants were being encouraged and assisted to settle Australia's 'empty spaces', non-British Europeans were arriving in increasing numbers, especially between 1925 and 1928. The statutory measures adopted to control a perceived 'influx' of Southern and Eastern Europeans and to preserve the British predominance are explained in Chapter 4 on 'White Alien' Immigration Policy.

The encouragement of all immigration declined as Australia began to feel the effects of another depression in the late 1920s. All government assistance virtually ceased in 1930, except for special cases of close dependent relatives and children for the Fairbridge Farm School in Western Australia. Limited assistance was reintroduced in 1936 and in a more positive way in 1938, although little was

achieved before the outbreak of war in September 1939. Again the depression years saw a protracted population debate in academic journals and the press; negative net migration combined with a declining birth rate rang alarm bells for many in the community.

Over these four decades, immigration debates focused on who to allow in, who to encourage and assist, and what the balance between the various nationalities should be. The records in the National Archives contain important information concerning these broad policy areas, focusing largely on the introduction, consequences and cessation of assistance schemes; where finance was involved, so was accountability.

The majority of Commonwealth government policy records are held in the Archives in Canberra but some are also located in the Archives' Melbourne office, since policy matters were decided in Melbourne until the Commonwealth Parliament was transferred to Canberra in 1927 and the major Public Service Departments moved their headquarters to Canberra in the 1950s.

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, '1901 – IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION AT ALL PORTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA' [1.5 CM, 1901] PP131/1

Recorded by:

1899–1956: Colonial Secretary's Office: from 1926, Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1256)

Perth 12.6 metres

These are monthly lists of immigrants arriving at and leaving all ports in Western Australia for 1901, divided into Europeans and Chinese, adults and children, male and female, and showing the excess of arrivals over departures. There are similar files for 1902 (PP131/1, 1902/45), 1903 (PP131/1, 1903/59), 1904 (PP131/1, 1904/41), and 1905 (PP131/1, 1905/48). In 1904, the sub-headings European and Chinese disappeared, replaced simply by Arrivals and Departures.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1904–20

A2

Recorded by:

1904–11: Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)

1911–20: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 20.32 metres

This series covers a wide range of subjects dealt with by the Prime Minister. The registry practice is at first haphazard but becomes increasingly formalised. A number of files were converted after 1917 into the first and thereafter into the second Secret and Confidential series of the Prime Minister's Department.

Prime Minister's Department, File of Papers, 'Re Agents-General advising as to the best means of encouraging desirable immigration to Australia' [146 pages, 1905] A2, 1906/4977

This file contains a parliamentary paper entitled 'Immigration (Correspondence in regard to Communications between the Commonwealth and the Agents-General for the States on the subject of Immigration); and letter from Prime Minister to the Chairman of the Agents-General, September 1905'. Correspondence between the Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin, the Agents-General and the Premiers, relate to 'the best and most economical means of encouraging desirable immigration'. A series of letters from Premier Carruthers, NSW, to Deakin, however, reveals his resentment over the Commonwealth moving into an area which had been traditionally under State control. Under the Constitution (Sub-section 27 of Section 51) the Commonwealth had the powers to make laws relating to immigration and emigration but selection of immigrants, land settlement and employment were State concerns. Other related 1905 parliamentary papers and an *Argus* cutting on Immigration to NSW are also included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Premier – Western Australia – re Immigration' [32 pages, 1906] A2, 1906/1220

This concerns the views of C H Rason, the Western Australian Premier, on immigration and the role of the Commonwealth Government in 1906. Rason was unable to attend a forthcoming conference of Premiers on the subject but expressed his views in writing to Prime Minister Alfred Deakin. Deakin's letter inviting him to do so and giving his own ideas on immigration encouragement and the division of responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the States, is enclosed.

Prime Minister's Department, File of Papers, 'Immigration' [21 pages, 1912–15] A2, 1914/466/2

This file contains various press cuttings on immigration to Australia between 1912 and 1914, on government expenditure, shipping and other difficulties, the division of powers between Commonwealth and State, settling the North, and comparisons with other immigrant destinations. There is also correspondence on the role of the Commonwealth government in immigration and a copy of resolutions on the subject agreed to at the Interstate Conference of 1914 and the Premiers' Conference in Sydney in 1915. The war interrupted further plans for immigration.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Conference Immigration Officers' [20 pages, 1920] A2, 1920/3893

This file relates to a conference in December 1920 between H S Gullett, Superintendent of Immigration in Australia, and the State Officer-in-Charge of Immigration in each state to discuss means of securing the most efficient cooperation between State and Commonwealth staffs in all stages of the work of immigration.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES FIRST SYSTEM, 1915–23
A457**

Recorded by:

1915–23: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 18.27 metres

This series consists of correspondence files covering a wide range of subjects which were submitted to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement, bonus system', 1920–5 [60 pages, 1919–23] A457, B400/2

This contains a report of the Oversea Settlement Committee, 1919, with a resolution on the proposed abolition of bonus payments (sometimes as much as £3–5 per head) to third parties [agents] in connection with the recruitment of immigrants. This did not include the payment by shipping companies of commissions to local agents for the booking of passages. Correspondence deals with inter-governmental and interdepartmental responses.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Information. Consul-General for France' [2 pages, 1920–21] A457, C400/8/19

This contains a request for information on immigration from the French Resident General in Morocco through the French Consul-General in Sydney in December 1920 and the replies.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Conference convened by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne' [15 pages, 1921] A457, D400/1

This file relates to a conference to stimulate interest in immigration convened by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and held at the Town Hall, March 1921, and attended by the Prime Minister and other interested parties. It contains the agenda, resolutions and press cuttings.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Western Australian pastoral Development Scheme' [26 pages, 1921] A457, H400/8/27

This concerns a North Australian Railway and Development League proposal to form a company to develop the northern pastoral areas of Western Australia. The scheme was to operate on the same system as the Australian Farms Limited, whereby land was subdivided and sold to settlers who would work under the supervision of the company's managers for three years. Maps were exhibited in Sydney by Sir Joseph Carruthers and used in connection with an address entitled 'A Great National Objective' which he believed might become the programme for a Progressive Australia Party. Press cuttings and a report of the League for 1920, are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Gullett's visit to Tasmania' [2 pages, 1921] A457, H400/9

This includes only two short telegrams relating to the visit of H S Gullett, Commonwealth Superintendent of Immigration, to Hobart and the reply from the Tasmanian Premier.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Information. Enquiry by Empire Development Parliamentary Committee' [17 pages, 1921–22] A457, C400/8/3

A committee in the House of Commons, called the Empire Development Parliamentary Committee, consisting of 208 members, formed to further the interests of the Empire, acted in 1921 on a recommendation of the previous Imperial Conference to move in the direction of overseas settlement of the Dominions. A letter to the Premier of NSW in January 1922 (forwarded through the Prime Minister to the Commonwealth Immigration Office) suggested legislation on land settlement, ex-soldier settlement, immigration and the formulation of definite plans for development schemes, land grants and assistance. The reply explained the agreements so far reached between the Commonwealth and States and the proposed role of the British government.

EM.

SECRET



Secret.

Decypher of cablegram received by the Acting Prime Minister from the Rt. Hon. W.M. Hughes, dated London, 5th November, 1918, 6-30 p.m.

Secret. Emigration. If we are to hold Australia and develop its tremendous resources we must have numerous population. The time is rapidly approaching - it is indeed at hand - when demobilization of British Army will offer unique opportunity of securing right type of immigrant. The glorious exploits of our soldiers have given Australia magnificent and priceless advertisement. Tens of thousands of men in prime of life, who would make most desirable settlers on soil, and who will be disinclined to remain in Britain, will be soon released from army. Question is - Are we going to try to get fair proportion of these or let Canada have all? If we want to get men we must bestir ourselves immediately. What is wanted is concerted action, unified control this end, proper handling by States in Australia, and shipping facilities.

As things are, there is no effective organization: for all practical purposes there is none. Each State does something which amounts to nothing.

As the matter is one of vital importance, I suggest that you approach States, call conference to state definitely and in detail what they are prepared to do towards finding land farms for British soldiers; of course care Australian soldier being our first and sacred duty. Commonwealth has already declared it will welcome British soldiers.

? Cont

Get something definite. Get States hand matter over to Commonwealth. It cannot be done with six feeble and competing organisations. There must be one authority here: this can be easily arranged if States are agreeable. I could, if States gave us authority, call conference High Commissioner, Agents-General, get first-class plan organisation agreed upon and set it in motion. It would involve great deal preparatory work. Shipping would be great problem but this must be faced, and the sooner the better else Australia will be left out in the cold. Realising urgency of matter, I have arranged for use greater part ground floor Australia House and shop windows being converted into effective advertisement and am arranging for displays our products and issue of literature. This will not, of course, interfere with States at all and will be first-class advertisement for Australia. It will cost a little money but it will be money well spent. If Cabinet approves, scheme can be greatly extended, but without co-operation of States it cannot hope to be complete. Yet we must get men of right type and get them on the land and not in the great cities.

Hughes.

Copy sent to Senate Hillen 5.1.19.

Cabinet

This cablegram from Prime Minister Hughes in London led to the convening of a conference between the Commonwealth and State governments in January 1919 to discuss his proposals. After the conference Acting Prime Minister Watt advised Hughes by cablegram 'regret to advise that funk [fear] of State Governments over [world influenza epidemic] and quarantine led to rapid stampede from Premiers' Conference in January; consequently matter was not brought to finality.' NAA: A3934, SC23 1

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. New Settlers League. Requirements for Conferences' [20 pages, 1921–23] A457, E400/4

This relates to the deliberations on the organisation of New Settlers' League conferences, for example, the printing of reports, expenses, hiring of shorthand writers, etc.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Immigration. Co-operation of States' [45 pages plus a magazine, 1921–23] A457, A532/3

This refers to a publicity campaign by the Commonwealth Government in relation to immigration and plans in 1921 to inaugurate a weekly news service. The Prime Minister requested from the states 'appropriate news items' of 'satisfactory reception and employment of large numbers of immigrants'. A number of new pamphlets were to be prepared and the States were asked to supply information and also to forward copies of all relevant state publications. Replies from State Premiers are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Accommodation Requirements etc. for NSW. Immigration Office' [51 pages, 1921–23] A457, D400/9

This deals with the provision of office accommodation in Sydney in connection with the appointment of Brigadier General Herring as Commonwealth Immigration Officer for New South Wales.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. New Settlers League Queensland Branch' [7 pages, 1921–23] A457, G400/4

Correspondence concerns the formation of the New Settlers' League in Queensland in 1921 and its annual conferences in 1922 and 1923.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Information. Enquiries from Java and Straits Settlement' [38 pages, 1921–23] A457, C400/8/2

This file relates to an enquiry in 1921 from the Department of Commerce in Batavia, Java, to the Governor-General, in regard to the immigration of skilled artisans and factory employees and their rates of pay. The reply outlines the arrangements between the Commonwealth and states and the policy on immigration encouragement for land settlers, farm labourers, lads for farm work and domestic servants and explains that no encouragement was being given to skilled workers. The file includes further inquiries in 1921 (from L N Guillemard, Governor of the Straits Settlements, Singapore, re Joseph Carruthers' scheme for the settlement of white men in Australia, and from an accountant in Singapore inquiring about the immigration of European land settlers with capital). The replies contain information on Australian policy and conditions.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Migrants from Cornwall and Devon' [49 pages, 1921–23] A457, E400/5

This contains correspondence between the Western Australian Cornish Association, immigration officials and members of parliament relating to cooperation on immigration matters. There are also notes by a Colonel S F Newcombe who visited Australia in 1923 on an immigration mission based on county organisation in Great Britain.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Government Schemes. Napier Broome Bay Land Settlement Scheme Sydney' [6 pages, 1921–23] A457, R400/10

This includes a proposal to settle the land in and around Napier Broome Bay in Western Australia with 500 married British ex-soldiers. The men would come first to clear the land, build fences and houses, and the families would follow. After 14 months the farms would be subject to ballot and after five years the farmers would begin to repay the money advanced by the Western Australian government at a rate of £50 per annum. An extract from a report on the North Kimberley District of Western Australia by William R Easton is included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Hepburn Geo. Horan AA.' [10 pages, 1922] A457, C400/8/42

This file consists of correspondence between individuals interested in immigration schemes and government departments. One concerned a Commonwealth appointment in connection with immigration, another asked about possible financial assistance for land settlers moving from one state to another.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Policies – Consultative Committee [15 pages, 1922] A457, L400/2

This file relates to a proposal in 1922 for the constitution of a Consultative Committee between the High Commissioner and the Agents-General in London with regard to immigration. The file contains varied responses from the Prime Minister, the State Premiers and immigration officials revealing Commonwealth-State rivalries. The question was left for discussion at the next Premiers' Conference.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Armlets for Officers engaged in the Reception of Immigrants' [2 pages, 1922] A457, K400/1/60

This relates to the suggestion and approval of the purchase of armbands for identification purposes for use by Immigration Officers and officials of the New Settlers' League whilst boarding ships arriving in Australia to receive and welcome immigrants.

Prime Minister's Department, Immigration Encouragement. The Imperial Merchant Service Guild' [20 pages, 1922] A457, Y400/5

This relates to an announcement by the Prime Minister in 1922 that the Commonwealth would welcome 2 000 retired army officers from India, and his request from the States for full particulars of available land. The Imperial Merchant Service Guild, Liverpool, in a letter of June 1922, sought similar assurances in relation to unemployed Masters and Navigating Officers who were without pensions or retired allowances. A positive reply was sent from the Commonwealth Immigration Office indicating that Australia was anxious to settle ex-servicemen of all types. Correspondence from state Premiers on the subject is included, the Tasmanian Premier pointing out that the ex-officers from India would have retiring allowances and pensions enabling them to undertake probationary work without pay for a period, whereas this would not be the case with the Mercantile Marine Officers who would neither be able to undertake training nor purchase properties. No special encouragement was given by the States; the Commonwealth government advised that the Secretary of the Guild contact Australia House where suitable persons were being recruited for land development schemes.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Immigration Publicity campaign through the Religious press of the United Kingdom' [10 pages, 1922] A457, M532/3

This contains a letter from Mrs Annie R Osborn, 1922, a writer for the Women's Column in the Melbourne Age, offering her services to conduct a publicity campaign in the religious journals of England and Scotland in order to attract immigrants to Australia. The proposal was forwarded to the Director of Migration and Settlement in London but was not taken up.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Pamphlets etc. Irrigation and Immigration' [16 pages, 1922] A457, J532/5

This contains a letter to the Prime Minister from Ambrose Pratt, in 1922, concerning a publication called 'Irrigation and Immigration' by the Industrial Australian and Mining Standard, which especially related to the Murray River waters. Pratt asked for Commonwealth cooperation in its production and requested orders. The response was favourable but the proprietors did not proceed.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Immigration. H J Rumsey book. "Pommies"' [5 pages, 1922–23] A457, N532/3

This contains a letter to E K Bowden, MP, from Herbert J Rumsey, 1922, on his book, 'The Pommies' or New Chums in Australia, written to give intending immigrants in Great Britain a knowledge of Australian conditions, and suggesting that the Commonwealth government publish it as immigration propaganda. The reply from the Commonwealth Immigration Office is included; the suggestion was not taken up.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Information. Danish Consul General [26 pages, 1922–23] A457, C400/8/62

This contains a request from the Danish Consul-General in 1922 for information regarding the agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the government of NSW on land development and settlement and the emigration of persons of British race. Copies of the agreement, dated 14 November 1922, are included although the agreement at that stage had not been ratified by the British Government.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Information – British Consul-General Batavia' [21 pages, 1922–23] A457, C400/8/54

This contains a request to the Australian authorities for information from A W Robertson, British Vice-Consul, Sourabaya, through the Consul General, Batavia, as to whether the government of Australia assisted colonists with farmland and finance, to what extent and under what conditions. The file consists of the accompanying letter from the Consul General, Batavia, requesting copies of the latest immigration regulations and the replies from Australia, giving information on the admission and restriction of certain nationalities, particularly Dutchmen and Russians. Further requests for pamphlets and the addresses of official Immigration Bureaux from the same source, and the replies, are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Nominated and Assisted Passages. Restrictions on non-British migrants. Returns' [26 pages, 1922–23] A457, P400/1

This relates to nominated passages for non-British immigrants and how the system operated in 1922, and queries from the Prime Minister as to the numbers (both assisted and unassisted) of various European nationalities arriving under the Commonwealth Immigration Scheme.

Prime Minister's Department. 'Immigration Encouragement. Maintenance Pending Repatriation' [5 pages, 1922–23] A457, R400/6

This file concerns the temporary maintenance of assisted immigrants whose repatriation was in question, owing to their being unable to secure agricultural employment as a result of being physically unfit, generally because of war wounds.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Arrangements on behalf of Immigrants. Fremantle Immigrants Home' [26 pages, 1922–23] A457, L400/1

This contains correspondence between H P Colebatch, Acting Premier of Western Australia, and James Mitchell, Premier, and the Prime Minister in relation to temporary extensions made to the Fremantle Immigrants Home by the Commonwealth during the period of its use as a hospital. Colebatch argued that the additional buildings should be retained and handed to the state free of charge for immigration work. Some of the buildings were handed over gratis, other buildings and plant were sold, most at 'break up value'. The file also contains correspondence with other parties interested in the buildings, for example, the Ugly Men's Association, a subsidiary of which was the New Settlers' League of Western Australia.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Reply Paid Cables' [32 pages, 1922–23] A457, Q400/6

This relates to the financial adjustment between offices of pre-paid cables for the period from February 1922 to July 1923.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Financial. State Advanced passage System' [6 pages, 1922–23] A457, U400/6

This file concerns the recovery of the Commonwealth contribution to the passages of persons booked to Western Australia under the State Advanced Passage Scheme. The usual £12 Commonwealth contribution for adults was inadvertently credited to such persons when it was intended to cover cases which fell outside the scope of the assisted passage scheme, and was especially intended for the repatriation of previous residents of Australia.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Unofficial Suggestions' [86 pages, 1922–28] A457, D400/8

This file contains suggestions for immigration and settlement schemes from various individuals and associations, for example the Cooktown and District Progress Association, various divisions of the New Settlers' League, the British Service Association and the Mappin Mass Migration League, together with the replies. Also mentioned in the correspondence are the work and ideas of W E Vincent, journalist with Austral Press and Advertising Ltd., in connection with possible future Commonwealth advertising.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Information. Consul-General for Peru' [2 pages, 1923] A457, C400/8/99

This contains a request in 1923 for information on recent Australian immigration laws from the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Lima, and the reply.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Immigration. 'Letters from Daisy' ' [5 pages, 1923] A457, R532/3

This file contains a letter from Thomas Sidney, May 1922, regarding the suggested purchase by the Commonwealth government for immigration propaganda purposes,

of his manuscript, 'Letters from Daisy'. The replies reveal that the government did not take any action in the matter. This indicates, as with other such offers, that the Commonwealth preferred to use its own publications.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Immigration. Photographic Accounts for Immigration Dept.' [11 pages, 1923] A457, T532/3

This refers to charges for work done for the War Museum by the Photographic Branch of the Commonwealth Immigration Office.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Information. Government of Ceylon' [3 pages, 1922-23] A457, C400/8/69

This contains a request in 1922 for information on the latest Australian immigration regulations from the Officer Administering the Government, Colombo, and the reply.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Information. Jewish Correspondence Bureau' [7 pages, 1922-23] A457, C400/8/64

This contains a request in 1922 from the Director of the Jewish Correspondence Bureau for statistics on immigration and emigration for the previous year and to be included on the mailing list for any publications or press releases produced by the Commonwealth Immigration Office. Correspondence from the Official Secretary to the Commissioner of Australia in New York raises the question of the official attitude towards the immigration of Jewish farmers from Southern European countries. Replies to each are included.

Prime Minister's Department. 'Immigration Encouragement. Government Schemes. Western District (of Victoria) Group Settlement Scheme' [35 pages plus an envelope of news cuttings, 1923] A457, P400/10

This refers to a group settlement of 20 ex-British Officers of the India Army at Kongbool, Balmoral, initiated by Australian Farms Ltd, in conjunction with the Victorian government. Letters to Major Currie contain generally favourable impressions of the scheme from settlers, indicating that stock was placed on the land before they arrived and farms were paying their way within one year though no profits were expected for three. A similar group settlement scheme for overseas and local men by the Australian Farms Ltd is detailed under which 90 ex-India Army Officers and others were settled in the Camperdown and Hamilton Districts in Victoria. Other estates are referred to. An outline of the Scheme in Victoria as a whole is included. An invitation was extended to the Commonwealth government in 1923 to nominate a representative to the Board of Directors of the company but was declined on the grounds that land settlement was a state function.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Particular Classes. Inmates of Workhouses' [27 pages, 1923] A457, AH400/5

This contains advice from the Deputy Director, Migration and Settlement Office, to the Superintendent, Commonwealth Immigration Bureau in 1923 that it had been decided to accept certain cases of immigrants submitted by the Poor Law Guardians. Correspondence relates mainly to financial arrangements. The decision led to expressions of concern from the states, in parliament and in the press about 'pauper migration' and denials by the Commonwealth Immigration Representative, London, that inmates of poor houses were being accepted. He argued that the cases submitted were similar in every respect to other migrants accepted by the Migration Authorities except in relation to the fare, part of which was covered by the Poor Law Guardians (from a fund established by the workhouse authorities to assist cases of distress owing to unemployment in the United Kingdom) rather than by the Commonwealth, and that additional safeguards for such migrants were now in place.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Group Settlement – NSW' [3 pages, 1923] A457, O400/10

This contains a letter from Premier George Fuller of New South Wales, to the Prime Minister in August 1923, referring to a proposed meeting of church bodies and other organisations at which the Minister for Labor and Industry would explain the scope of a New South Wales scheme to increase the population by actively encouraging nominations of British families by such groups. This resulted from a resolution at the Premiers' Conference of May–June 1923, extracts from which are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Loans – Irrecoverable on account of Migrants who have Defaulted in Repayments' [10 pages, 1923] A457, Z400/6

This file concerns loans made to assisted immigrants, domestic servants and Dreadnought Boys under the Assisted Immigration Deferred Payments Scheme and the question of writing off those thought irrecoverable. The file is of particular interest in relation to the individual case information.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Financial. London Budget Extracts – Migrants not Proceeding' [5 pages, 1923] A457, W400/6

This file deals with the recovery by the Commonwealth government of loans to would-be assisted immigrants who cancelled their applications. It leads to intriguing questions as to why they did not proceed.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration' [5 pages, 1923] A457, H400/2

This contains a statement for use in a speech by the Prime Minister by M Farrands, for the Deputy Director of Immigration, July 1923, on the progress made since 1921 with the policy of State aided Empire Settlement and plans for the future, especially regarding selection and training of intending settlers before migration, and their reception, training and distribution on arrival.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Immigration. "Times of India", Advertising in' [7 pages, 1923] A457, U532/3

This contains a letter to Sir George Fuller from W T Coulton in June 1923, on the subject of retiring Anglo-Indians, who had been emigrating to Tasmania and Western Australia since 1910. He suggested that New South Wales should advertise in *The Times of India*. The letter was forwarded to the Commonwealth Immigration Office, where it was felt that the pamphlet 'Australia, its Opportunities and Attractions' met existing requirements.

Prime Minister's Department. 'Immigration Publicity. Pamphlets. ABC Book for British Children' [4 pages, 1923] A457, Q532/5

This concerns an advertising proposition in 1923 by a printing firm for the use of an ABC children's booklet either at the British Empire Exhibition or as supplementary material to the ordinary immigration propaganda. The response was that the booklets were unsuitable.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Information. Consul-General for Belgium' [8 pages, 1923] A457, C400/8/92

This contains an inquiry from the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Brussels about the various measures adopted by the Commonwealth Government to promote the immigration of settlers. The information was required for the Belgian Congo to serve as a direction for the settlement of agricultural colonists. The reply outlined the operations under the Joint Commonwealth and State Scheme.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Immigration pamphlets. J Gavan Riley's Scheme' [9 pages, 1923] A457, R532/5

This contains a suggestion to the Prime Minister by J Gavan Reilly for advertising Australia in Great Britain by the issue of 1 000 000 medallions. The responses, largely negative, are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Resolutions by the RSSILA re Immigration Publicity' [8 pages, 1923–24] A457, 547/1/147

This contains two resolutions passed by the RSSILA in 1923, the first advocating the use throughout the United Kingdom of exhibits from the British Empire Exhibition in order to increase immigration; the second criticising films used for propaganda purposes which showed bush life as romantic. Replies are included.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34

A458

Recorded by:

1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 49.77 metres

This series precedes series A461 (described earlier in this research guide) and contains general correspondence files covering the range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention in this period.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration encouragement. Main Policy File, 1919–24, Part 1' [4 cm, 1919–24] A458, G154/7 PART 1

This is a large and important file on the evolution of policy for the encouragement of immigration after World War I. It contains various booklets, reports, information, press cuttings, *Hansard* extracts, policy papers, notes and resolutions from successive Premiers' conferences, cables and memoranda on immigration encouragement for the period from 1919 to 1924. It covers the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers in July 1920 when it was agreed that the Commonwealth would assume financial responsibility for the recruitment and transport of immigrants to Australia and the inauguration of the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme the following year, the appointment of key personnel, the move to create a favourable public opinion, the early battles over the division of power and control, the provisions of the *Empire Settlement Act* 1922, early proposals under the Act from Western Australia, NSW and Victoria and schemes for the emigration of Fairbridge children and ex-army officers from India. Various viewpoints on the strengths and problems of the policies are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Immigration Encouragement. Immigrants. Educational Facilities for' [60 pages, 1920–24] A458, B154/1

A number of letters were received in the early 1920s drawing attention to the lack of educational facilities on board ship and calling for lectures on Australia, books, outings at ports of call and ways to meet the social needs of immigrants during their long voyage to Australia. Action was taken in this regard: arrangements were made with newspaper proprietors and with state governments for the supply to the major Shipping companies of various publications, including Year Books, Statistical registers, souvenir books, state handbooks, Chamber of Commerce Reports, agricultural journals, various pamphlets and reference books and copies of *Australia Unlimited*, *Australia, its Opportunities and Attractions*, *Australia for the Tourist*, and *Something About Australia*

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Commonwealth Immigration Office. Main File' [1 cm, 1920–25] (See also Photographic Branch A458, B154/19) A458, A154/19

This relates to office accommodation for Commonwealth immigration staff in Australia temporarily on the 8th floor of Collins House, Melbourne, and from 1922 in Brook's Buildings, 65 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. The Melbourne Office was known as the Commonwealth Immigration Office, while the London Office was called the Commonwealth Migration and Settlement Office. Correspondence relates to upkeep, fittings and lease arrangements. The Photographic Branch was located at 501 Swanston Street, Melbourne. In 1925 the Commonwealth Immigration Office moved once again to the Victorian Cricket Association's building on the corner of Flinders Street and Collins Place, Melbourne.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Publicity. Photographs' [60 pages, 1920–31] A458, F392/1

This relates to photographs desired for exhibitions and publicity work in Great Britain and elsewhere in relation to immigration.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Director Immigration Branch Movements' [3 pages, 1921] A458, G154/19

This refers to the visit by H S Gullett, Superintendent of Immigration, to Sydney in March 1921 to interview applicants for the position of Commonwealth Immigration Officer and to take initial steps for the launching of the New South Wales Branch of the New Settlers' League.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Advice of Sailings. Cables prior to 1924' [2 cm, 1921–23] A458, A154/2 PART 1

This contains advices regarding the numbers and classes of assisted immigrants to each state in Australia from the High Commissioner's Office, where the Commonwealth Director of Immigration had his headquarters, to the State Immigration Offices and to the Prime Minister's Office between 1921 and 1924.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. NEI Photographic Branch' [82 pages, 1921–24] A458, B154/19

This refers to the acquisition, costs and setting up of premises in Melbourne for the Cinematographic and Photographic Branch of the Commonwealth Immigration Office.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Financial. Immigration Accounts System' [34 pages, 1921–24] A458, F154/5

This has to do with the accounting system for the various governments and departments concerned with immigration from 1921 to 1924. The moneys, apart from administrative expenses, were classified under various categories: passage money; immigrants' moneys deposited with the High Commissioner for payment in Australia to or on behalf of immigrants; landing money; moneys deposited in Australia for payment in England on behalf of immigrants; deposits lodged in England to cover reply-paid cablegrams on account of immigrants; medical fees and other miscellaneous items.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. New Settlers League Policy' [2 cm, 1921–25] A458, A154/18

This file contains press cuttings from 1921 on the New Settlers' League (NSL) and Australia's need of population. A letter from H S Gullett, Superintendent of

Immigration, to the Premiers in January 1921, explains the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme and proposes the setting up of an Honorary Auxiliary Immigration Organisation to supplement the work of governments. Its role would be to promote a public opinion favourable to immigration and to assist in the nomination, reception, care and placing in employment, of immigrants. A permanent paid executive was suggested, a conference of all interested organisations and individuals and the formation of committees with clearly defined responsibilities. Correspondence deals with responses from the States: the Acting Premier of New South Wales was unwilling to engage in propaganda to encourage immigrants owing to the current unemployment; Premier H N Barwell of South Australia and James Mitchell, Premier of Western Australia, argued that the committees be left in the hands of the state governments. Barwell, and his Minister in Charge of Immigration, Mr Laffer, opposed the appointment of a Federal Immigration Officer in Adelaide as 'an unwarrantable intrusion upon State rights'. Branches of the NSL were formed in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia (the latter affiliated with the Ugly Men's Association). Other correspondence deals with the first interstate conference of the League in Melbourne in October 1921, its aims and the resolutions adopted, notes from deputations to the Prime Minister, financial support from the Commonwealth and details of later conferences and the motions carried.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity, Immigration. Photographic Branch'
[1.5 cm, 1921–28] A458, H392/1

This contains cables, job orders, requisitions, and information on publicity, premises, the accounting system, and other matters relevant to the Photographic Branch.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity – Immigration. Lantern Slides'
[30 pages, 1921–29] A458, E392/1

This contains correspondence and quotations relating to lantern slides and their containers for the Commonwealth Immigration Department. Lantern lectures formed an important part of the work of the Publicity Branch of the Department.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Information – Miscellaneous'
[42 pages plus booklets, 1922–32] A458, H154/19 PART 1

This contains copies of the *Australian Passage Agreement 1925*, between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Commonwealth Government made for the Federal Capital Commission, several miscellaneous items on migration, for example, letters of enquiry on immigrants and immigration regulations and practices, press extracts from British Columbian newspapers and from the *Daily Mail*, and transactions of the Commonwealth Club of California, which were referred to the Prime Minister's Department for information.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Information. British Consul General at Manila' [10 pages, 1922–24] A458, H154/19 PART 2

This contains a letter from the British Consul-General in Manila in 1922 to the Governor-General which was forwarded to the Commonwealth Immigration Office. It concerned applications from American soldiers stationed in the Philippines about to retire from the United States army, for visas to go to Australia in search of employment. He asked what advice should be given to the men. The reply explained that only farmers, farm workers and domestics from the United Kingdom were being encouraged; that married men with families and without experience would have difficulties; and that there were few employment possibilities in the cities. A supply of pamphlets was sent to help in answering queries. A further letter in 1924 asked for more copies.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Nominated and Assisted Passengers' [36 pages, 1922–29] A458, A154/6

This contains a circular from the Prime Minister in 1922 suggesting a modification of the system of nomination. The changes suggested were that nominations received through the local branches of the New Settlers' League, need not include names and addresses of nominees and that the legal undertaking to provide maintenance on arrival could be replaced by a moral one. The suggestions were not favourably received by most of the State Premiers who wished to maintain tight control of assisted immigration. George Fuller, Premier of New South Wales, suggested that the former system of selection be reintroduced, especially for rural workers, as soon as the rural basic wage question was resolved. The file consists of subsequent correspondence.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Films. Part 1. Later Papers in Action' [1.5 cm, 1922–28 A458, B392/1

This concerns various cinematograph films on Australian life, some of which were used for propaganda purposes in Great Britain. In the House of Representatives in May 1924, Frank Anstey criticised one film on the Western Australian Group Settlement Scheme for describing the climate as 'as mild as a mother's kiss' and the soil 'as kindly as God's love' (a variation on comments made by P O'Loghlen, MLA, in 1921). Criticism of film propaganda was also made by F W Teesdale, MLA, in 1928 and was published in the press. Other correspondence relates to the cinema industry in Australia, 1922–28, expenditure and distribution.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Monaro Scheme' [23 pages plus booklets, 1923–24] A458, J154/16

This concerns representations by residents of Eden in New South Wales to the Minister for Trade and Customs in 1923 for the opening up to immigrants of the Monaro Tableland. In reply, the system of state requisitions under the Empire Settlement Scheme was outlined. The New South Wales government then submitted a proposal for the development and settlement of the area, but with the requirement that settlers possess sufficient capital as state assistance to establish settlers on their holdings would not be given. Correspondence relates to this proposal.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Agents Abroad. Misleading Statements' [26 pages, 1923–24] Part 2 A458, F154/17 PART 1

This principally concerns a question in the House of Representatives by Frank Anstey on 27 July 1923 regarding an advertisement for group settlement in Western Australia placed in *The Stamford Mercury* by a shipping agent. The advertisement stated that the land and a house were provided free. Correspondence in the file deals with investigations into the accuracy of the statements and the origin of the information. There are other letters reporting damaging or misleading statements on migration and some press cuttings.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Land Available for Settlement in the Various States' [21 pages, 1923–25] A458, B154/16

This contains a request to the States from the Migration and Settlement Office, London, 1923, for regular information on land availability for settlement and the replies from the state Premiers. James Mitchell pointed out that the Western Australian officials at Australia House had up-to-date knowledge of the information required and that land for group settlement was fixed in the Immigration Agreement. The file includes a further request from the Oversea Settlement Committee in 1925 for publications issued by the Departments of Agriculture and Lands in the various

states in order to keep in touch with developments in connection with the settlement of migrants on farms in Australia.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Shipping Accounts' [53 pages, 1924–25] A458, D154/2

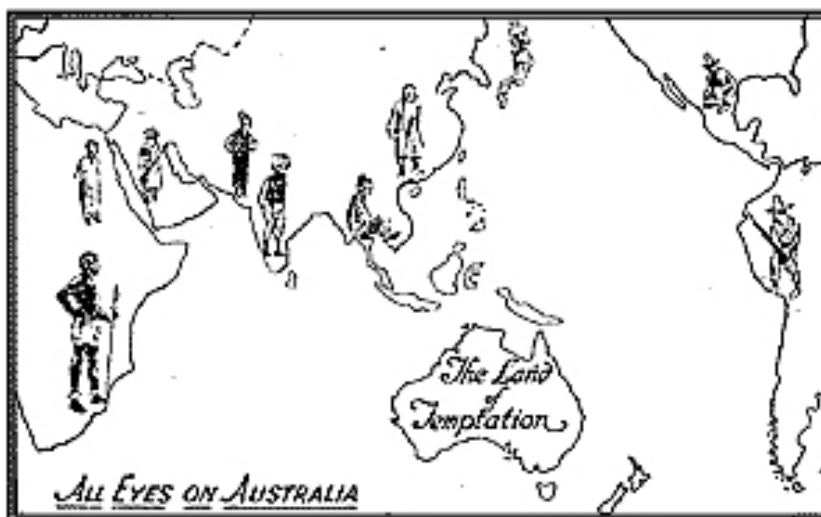
This consists of shipping statements relative to migrants shipped to Australia for the period 1924–25. They include the name of the ship, the date of sailing, the state and the amount involved.

Keep Australia White

The Menace of an Empty Continent.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

	Area. (Sq. Miles)	Population.
Great Britain	88,745	43,318,500
Victoria	87,884	1,639,704
United States	2,973,774	107,833,284
Australia	2,974,581	5,803,590



5,800,000 WHITE AUSTRALIANS ENCIRCLED BY 1,100,000,000
COLORED PEOPLE.

NEW POPULATION, JULY, 1923, TO JUNE, 1924.

	Victoria.	Australia.
Excess of Births over Deaths	18,811	76,814
Excess of Immigration over Emigration	13,507	38,684
Total Increased Population	32,318	115,498

At the present rate of increase, Australia's population will reach twenty millions in 62 years, while it will take 145 years to equal America's 1921 figures.

**IN THE INTERESTS OF DEFENCE AND THE MAINTENANCE
OF A WHITE AUSTRALIA, CAN WE AFFORD TO WAIT
SIXTY-TWO YEARS TO REACH TWENTY MILLIONS,
WHICH IS THE BAREST MARGIN OF SAFETY?**

From a brochure published by the New Settlers League urging an increase in immigration, particularly from the United Kingdom.

NAA: A458, P156/1 Part 2

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Financial. Collection by States'. Transmission Moneys' [27 pages, 1924–25] A458, C154/4

This consists of monthly statements of total transmission moneys received and paid, particulars of Savings Bank Deposits, and Landing Money Accounts and Loans by state, from the Official Secretary, Australia House, to the Prime Minister's Department for the period 1924–25.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Immigration. Financial' [11 pages, 1924–25] A458, D392/1

This concerns the printing of a series of pamphlets for the Director of Migration and Settlement in 1924–25. The emphases in the publicity programme can be gauged from the titles: *Wheat and Sheep Farming*, *Dairying*, *Tropical Agriculture*, *Pastoral*, *Fruit Growing*, *Minor Agricultural Industries*, *Farm Boy*, *Domestic Girl*, *Farm Labourer*, *Best of all countries*, *Resources and Production*, *Australia as a Home*, *Something about Australia* (album), *Letters from Successful Settlers*, and *Industrial Conditions*. Further editions were also printed of *Australia, its Opportunities and Attractions* and *Australia for the Tourist*. Another pamphlet entitled *Hints to New Settlers Coming to Australia* was also reprinted.

Prime Minister's Department, Publicity. Immigration. The 'Our Colonies' Film-Travel Coy, Ltd' [14 pages, 1924] A458, I392/1

This relates to the 'Our Colonies' Film Company which was undertaking an expedition to the overseas Dominions in 1924 in order to make a complete film and colour record to show in the United Kingdom. Certain concessions were requested from the Australian government but no decision was made until further information on the release and circulation of the film was supplied. No further action was taken.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Advices of Booking' [84 pages, 1924–26] A458, B154/2

These are advices of bookings relating to migrants shipped to Australia between March 1924 and April 1926.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Advice of Sailings' [1.5 cm, 1924–27] A458, A154/2 PART 2

This contains cablegrams and other correspondence between the High Commissioner's Office and the Prime Minister's Department on the numbers of assisted immigrants (together with their occupations, amount of capital and in some cases, other information such as age and experience) to each state on each ship for the period 1924–27.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity. Immigration. Sydney Mail Annual' [5 pages, 1926] A458, S392/1

This refers to a publication by the *Sydney Mail* in October 1926, devoted to illustrating the pastoral, rural and other activities of Australia. Parts of this publicity material were offered to the Commonwealth for migration purposes but the offer was not taken up.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Mornington Peninsula – Suggested Community Settlement' [11 pages, 1927] A458, M154/16

This contains a letter to the Prime Minister from F M Linley in 1927 concerning the suggested establishment of a community on the Mornington Peninsula for military,

naval and civil pensioners from Great Britain. The reply explained that it was open to the State government to submit such a plan.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Report on Immigration with Regard to Racial Health' [47 pages, 1927] A458, S154/17

This contains a Report on Immigration (as affecting Racial Values and Public Health in New South Wales) and a Report of the Advisory Board of the Racial Hygiene Centre of New South Wales, forwarded to the Prime Minister by the Centre in 1927. The reply from the Director General of Health is included. There is also a letter to Sir Neville Howse, Department of Health, from L E Goodisson on the same subject and urging that an Australian woman doctor be appointed to examine women immigrants.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Requisitions from States. General' [25 pages, 1927–29] A458, V154/13

This has to do with difficulties caused by irregularities in requisitions for migrants from the states, especially farm workers from Victoria. Cables emphasised the need for ample notice. The problem of placement of migrants for New South Wales as unemployment worsened in 1929, is also raised.

Prime Minister 's Department, 'Immigration. Publicity. Greater Australia' [8 pages, 1928] A458, U392/1

This relates to a publication called *Greater Australia* edited by Wallace Nelson produced for use by a Scottish Delegation which sailed for Melbourne in April 1928 and of which Nelson was a member. Letters in the file are presumably a response to approaches to the Development and Migration Commission to purchase copies of the publication. Since the Commission had made available to the delegation several pamphlets and a booklet prepared especially for them entitled 'Migration Facts', H W Gepp considered that the expense could not be justified.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration – Cables', [2 cm, 1928–32] A458, 1000/6

This contains decodes of cablegrams sent from the Prime Minister's Department to the High Commissioner's Office, the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of the Interior, and various British Consuls between 1928 and 1932 on various immigration matters.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Release of Immigration Films' [1.5 cm, 1928–30] A458, V392/1

This file contains correspondence between the Development and Migration Commission and British Dominions Films Ltd in 1928 regarding the release in Australia and elsewhere of a series of moving pictures produced by the Commonwealth Government, entitled *Know Your Own Country*. British Dominions Films Ltd disputed the awarding of the contract to the all-American Company, Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer. Further correspondence deals with other films, for example, *Australia Day by Day*, Ministry of Labour training farm films, *Sons of the Surf* and *Sanctuary of the Untamed*. The file contains a report on the Distribution of Motion Pictures in Great Britain and the Continent, and an evaluation of the various films being circulated by H C Smart. With the abolition of the Development and Migration Commission, the function of the administration of Commonwealth cinematograph films was taken over by the Department of Markets.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1934–50**A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres**

This series consists of general correspondence files which cover the wide range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention. Many earlier papers from the previous general correspondence of the Department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Correspondence with States. Western Australia' [91 pages, 1920–22] A461, T349/1/5

This file concerns the early operation of the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme, 1920–22, and the interests of Western Australia in particular. In response to Commonwealth proposals regarding immigration in 1920, the Premier, James Mitchell put forward particular conditions: that his state, through the Agent-General, had the right to approve immigrants in conjunction with the Commonwealth representative, and to conduct propaganda work; that someone, such as Mr Taylor, Western Australia's immigration officer in London, who had an intimate knowledge of the state, be appointed to the London office; and that where the cost of shipping immigrants was not a charge against the Commonwealth under the Oversea Settlement Scheme, the Agent-General should control policy. The reply and other correspondence outlined the division of responsibilities and arrangements under the Joint Scheme; subsequently there was some modification of Mitchell's requests. Matters such as the financial contributions of the various governments, the issue of loans to immigrants, the use of the Quarantine Station at Albany for immigrant accommodation, proposals for a scheme of immigration to Western Australia under the Joint Scheme, on the basis of group land settlements, 1921, and the appointment of a Commonwealth Immigration Officer to Western Australia, are also dealt with.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. State Schemes Prior to £34 000 000 Agreement. Correspondence with NSW Government' [57 pages, 1920–22] A461, E349/1/5

This file includes correspondence between the Commonwealth and State governments on the division of powers over, and arrangements for, immigration. The Prime Minister invited the states to supply information on the numbers of ex-soldiers and assisted immigrants they were prepared to take, their intentions regarding nominated immigration, arrangements for reception, particulars of land available, and training farms, if any. Proceedings of a Conference between the Commonwealth Superintendent of Immigration and the State Immigration officers in December 1920, and a letter to the State Premiers asking their views on the resolutions are included. Letters from the Commonwealth deals with fares, government subsidies for the various categories of immigrants, loans, conditions, selection policy, landing money and administration. Replies from New South Wales are included, indicating some friction over the division of expenditure in the initial stages. A Cabinet committee to deal with proposals for land settlement and development was set up in New South Wales and a press statement was issued by the Premier in 1922.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement – Early Schemes. Correspondence with States – Queensland' [52 pages, 1920–22] A461, N349/1/5

This contains notification to the State Premiers by the Prime Minister in October 1920 of the appointment of Percy Hunter as Commonwealth Director of Immigration and the steps taken by the Commonwealth to give effect to decisions regarding migration made at the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers in July

1920. The response of the Premier of Queensland, E G Theodore, is included. Correspondence deals with the division of responsibilities between Commonwealth and State, procedures to be adopted and a request for the numbers of assisted immigrants the state could absorb. Notes of the Premiers' Conference of November 1920, and Queensland's proposal for the closer settlement of the Upper Burnett, Callide Valley and Prairie Lands, involving a loan of £2 million by the Commonwealth, 1921, are included. By 1922, no financial assistance had been received, the Prime Minister claiming that this was because the proposal did not give the particulars required on exactly how the money would be spent. There are also 3 pages related to a request from the Home and Territories Department re employment for unemployed settlers from the Argentine.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Early Schemes – Correspondence with States – Tasmania' [56 pages, 1920–23] A461, Y349/1/5

This contains correspondence from the Commonwealth government to the State Premiers in late 1920 on the appointment of Percy Hunter as Director of Immigration and requesting cooperation in relation to the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme. Information regarding the division of responsibilities was also supplied. A letter from W L Lee, Premier of Tasmania, in early 1921 pointed out that assistance was limited to nominated immigrants and highlighted the difficulties of Tasmania, with its small population, in relation to housing and employment. Other correspondence relates to the numbers of immigrants, particularly domestic servants which could be absorbed by Tasmania. Lee objected to the fact that, since ships did not always call at Tasmania, the cost of their temporary accommodation in Melbourne and their transfer to Launceston had to be borne by Tasmania. In July 1921, the Commonwealth agreed to bear this extra cost, especially since numbers were comparatively small. Tasmania was asked to provide free rail travel for immigrants to their first place of employment. In February 1923, the Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Immigration Office requested that Tasmania submit a definite immigration scheme.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Correspondence with States. South Australia. Settlement 6 000 Boys' [63 pages, 1920–25] A461, Q349/1/5

This contains a letter from the Prime Minister in October 1920 to all State Premiers outlining the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme, the division of government powers and administrative duties and the information he required from the States. The reply from the Premier of South Australia, H N Barwell, outlined the classes of immigrants for nomination and selection and the conditions under which they would be accepted. Other correspondence relates to the early operation of the Joint Scheme as it affected South Australia, especially the rates and arrangements for nominated and assisted passages. South Australia was slow to supply the Commonwealth with the information required and to make requisitions. Brief details only of the boy migration scheme are included here. (See also A461, P349/1/5 in Chapter 7 on Juvenile Migration.)

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration British Ex-Servicemen' [1 cm, 1920–49] A461, A349/1/6

This file relates to the reception and employment in Australia of ex-servicemen on their return to or arrival in Australia. The first items are communications in 1920 re ex-servicemen who were musicians. The Musicians' Union of Australia claimed that there were no openings for them. Correspondence in 1920 from Captain E J Radford, Secretary, Imperial Service Men's Association, Sydney, and Arthur Rickard concerns a number of destitute ex-servicemen in New South Wales. This prompted H S Gullett, Superintendent of Immigration, to offer the New South Wales government a pound for pound scheme of relief for the sake of the future of the

immigration movement and requested that the New South Wales Agent-General be requested not to send ex-servicemen who were in poor health or for whom work was unavailable. Investigations revealed that many had not come under government schemes thus the state would not take responsibility. The position was aggravated by abnormal economic conditions. Captain Radford again pressed for financial assistance in 1921. Aid was provided by the Red Cross Society and the Church Social Campaign and a relief committee was formed. Concern over ex-servicemen with tuberculosis was also expressed. Records from 1922–26 cover the settling of ex-servicemen on the land and the repatriation of some who had, for health reasons, proved unsuitable. The question of using the clauses of the Immigration Act for the purposes of deportation was raised. This particularly concerned those who, within three years of their arrival, became inmates of a charitable institution or who suffered from a specified prohibitory disease or disability at the time of their arrival. The question of capitalising war pensions payable to ex-servicemen for the purpose of paying their passage money to Australia was taken up in 1929–30 by the Australian Legion of Ex-Service Clubs. The last items in the file relating to the pre-1939 period concern a 1935 RSSILA resolution, viz. 'that in the event of the re-introduction of immigration, due preference be given to Imperial ex-servicemen'.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Financial. Claims for Reimbursement of Expenditure Prior to 1 March 1921 by NSW and Victoria' [30 pages, 1921] A461, G349/1/4

This relates to a request by the New South Wales and Victorian governments in 1921 that the Commonwealth become financially responsible for the contributions of their states towards the assisted passages of immigrants for some time prior to the Commonwealth taking over recruiting and shipping. Superintendent H S Gullett at first recommended that in the case of those two states the request be granted since they were amenable to, and had facilitated, the hand-over of recruiting machinery to the Commonwealth. Since Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia had obstructed the transfer, he recommended that the concessions not be extended to those states. (Tasmania had not actively engaged in migration work.) Senator Millen, Minister for Repatriation, was not wholly in accord with Gullett's views, and the Premiers were informed that there were no funds to meet the expenditure involved. Further representations resulted but the Commonwealth refused to assume liability.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement – early Government Schemes – Upper Burnett and Callide Railway Proposal – Queensland' [2 cm, 1921–14] A461, M349/1/5

This contains a copy of the resolutions passed at the Premiers' Conference of May 1920 and correspondence relating to a scheme by the Queensland government for a Commonwealth loan of £2 million for the opening up of the Northern Burnett and Callide Valley districts by railway and road construction for the settlement of migrants (A parliamentary paper on the proposed loan for the scheme, May 1921, is included). Much of the file deals with the visit of the Superintendent of Immigration, H S Gullett, to inspect the areas in early 1921. Gullett's report on the scheme and his recommendations, which are relatively favourable, are included. The Commonwealth was not at the time able to comply with the request owing to the size of the project, the lack of details on employment and subsequent settlement on farms of immigrants introduced and the unavailability of funds. Premier Theodore replied that as soon as money was available work would begin. Correspondence reflects some public criticism of the scheme (particularly from J S P Bourne, ex-Land Commissioner of Queensland), opposition to the new railway lines which it was said did not serve the whole community, and rival land settlement policies for local and overseas settlers. There are also press reports and *Hansard* extracts on the scheme. A request was made by Captain E J Radford, Secretary of the Imperial Service Men's Association, Sydney, to visit the Burnett country to view the facilities offered for the settlement of ex-servicemen. Edmund Jowett, representative of the

Royal Colonial Institute, was also interested in the development of the Upper Burnett and Dawson River Crown lands for the settlement of British and Australian soldiers, through a loan from the British government to the Queensland government. The file also contains resolutions carried at the first interstate conference of the New Settlers' League, notes of a deputation of the League to the Prime Minister (both in October 1921), and the objectives of the 'Million Farms for a Million Farmers' scheme. A revised scheme was submitted to the British government in 1924.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Early Schemes – Tasmania. Policy' [47 pages plus leaflets, 1921–25] A461, X349/1/5

This contains two letters from the Prime Minister in late 1921 to the Premier of Tasmania reminding him of the terms of the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme and asking for information regarding what scheme Tasmania proposed, the numbers of immigrants to be absorbed, and the land to be made available. In late 1923, a committee was set up in Hobart to consider development schemes with a view to increasing immigration. A conference was convened on 7 December 1923 on the question of promoting land settlement and increasing production. Letters from Premier Joseph Lyons in 1924 outline the Forest Plantation Homes Scheme for Tasmania which involved the employment of boy migrants between the ages of 10 and 18. There is further correspondence relating to a visit to Hobart by Senator R V Wilson to discuss the details of the scheme. A proposal for flax growing and manufacturing was also put forward. Some press cuttings are included. The situation of domestic servants to the state was also discussed; Tasmania's requisition for domestics was cancelled in 1924 owing to competition with the mainland states.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration – Encouragement Scheme by Western Australia 1923 – Agreement' [3 cm, 1921–26] A461, S349/1/5

This contains a letter to the Prime Minister from the Premier of Western Australia, James Mitchell, in June 1921, in relation to Western Australia's entry into the Joint Commonwealth and State Scheme. Only men for rural settlement and labour were required. Correspondence relates to the details of the Western Australian government's plans for group land settlements, with maps, conditions and forms included, and the responses from the Commonwealth. The scheme aimed to settle 75 000 migrants, of whom 6 000 would be provided with farms over five years involving a cost of £6 million. A report by Senator P J Lynch and the Hon. H Gregory, March 1922, on the possibilities for settling immigrants on Western Australia lands is included. (See also A461, U349/1/5.) Cables between the various governments indicate considerable conflict before an agreement under the *Empire Settlement Act 1922* (a copy of which is included) was signed by the Imperial, Commonwealth and Western Australian governments. The first land to be settled was in the South-West between Pemberton and Denmark. A letter from the Agent-General of Western Australia to the Prime Minister in January 1923 claimed that the New South Wales and Victorian agreements were more favourable to those States than that of Western Australia and further exchanges deal with the question of bringing them all into line. A new Migration Agreement was drafted in 1924. Correspondence also concerns ex-servicemen trained in farm work, and their families who were included in the requisitions for the group settlements. The issue of consultation with Western Australia was a delicate one. A proposed scheme of public works, to provide employment for migrants under the Migration Agreement in 1926, superseded the earlier scheme of land settlement.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. State Settlement Schemes – 1923 Agreement – NSW' [4.5 cm, 1921–28] (See also the Monaro Scheme, A458, J154/16) A461, D349/1/5 PART 1

This is a very large file on the New South Wales land settlement schemes under the *Empire Settlement Act 1922*. It contains papers and reports on Land Development and Settlement, New South Wales, a schedule of land available for

Extract Prime Minister's Policy Speech

26. 10. 22.

IMMIGRATION.

THE NEED FOR POPULATION.

It has long been recognised by all but a short-sighted minority that the first need of Australia is population. Important as this was before the war, the need has now become imperative and urgent.

Before the war Australia went her way unheeding the world and by the world unhedged; but now the nations watch us more closely. We are no longer free to do as we like. World opinion has to be taken into account. The days of the careless irresponsibility of youth are gone; we have to weigh our words and consider well our every act. The responsibilities of nationhood must be borne—our obligations as a partner of the British Empire fulfilled.

It is obvious that an Australia amenable to world opinion, unable to avoid its responsibilities and its duties as a nation towards other nations, cannot escape the world's condemnation if, having a land capable of supporting anything from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000, it insists upon maintaining a "dog in the manger" policy, and neither will bring in those in whom its laws approve, nor amend its laws to allow all who wish to share in developing its resources. This attitude will not be tolerated by world opinion.

Put in plain words: our position is not as some would have us believe. We have not the option of keeping out all would-be immigrants—some by our laws, others by passive resistance. One choice, and one only, is given to us. We can bring in without delay our kinsmen from Britain, and, if the numbers of these be insufficient, such other white races as will assimilate with our own. Or we can live for a short season in a paradise of fools, and then see the doors of our house forced, and streams of people from lands where there is hardly standing room, pour in and submerge us. That is the position which confronts us.

In view of the short-sighted policy of a certain section in our midst, who believe, or affect to believe, that more people mean less work, it is necessary to emphasise what everyone ought to know—that in new countries like Australia, with vast undeveloped resources, progress and population walk hand in hand. And all other things being equal, the more people, the wider the avenues of profitable employment for all.

The effect of the great influx of population as a result of the discovery of gold was greatly to increase opportunities for employment, and vastly improve conditions of labor and rates of wages. It brought in hundreds of thousands of new people; a veritable stream of new life poured into the veins of the young community, inspiring everyone with confidence in the future of the country. It was this feeling of confidence in the future, this belief, this faith in Australia, that was, along with the increased population, the greatest benefit that flowed from the discovery of gold—not the gold itself, but the spirit kindled in the hearts of the people, manifesting itself in a wonderful and sustained policy of public and private enterprise.

BELIEVING IN AUSTRALIA.

Men believed in the future of their country; they saw something of its greatness, of its possibilities; saw that, in order to develop its wonderful resources, the country needed opening up, railways built, land settled, industries established.

Whatever we have achieved—and our achievements are many and great—has come because we have believed in Australia, in ourselves, in our race. It is this spirit which enabled us to fight—doggedly, if you like, but determinedly—Nature in her sternest moods, to endure and emerge triumphant from droughts, floods, and other evils that have beset us.

The war, which took from us 60,000 of our young men and put another 40,000 out of the industrial battle line, has imposed on us great obligations, and a grievously heavy burden of debt.

Our population, although increasing at a much greater rate than is generally recognised (as a matter of fact, at a rate greater than any country in the world except Canada), is so inadequate to the task of developing this great country that no one ventures to dispute the fact.

THE GOLDEN KEY.

Here, as in America, we have seen this so-called desert pushed back and back, waving fields of wheat now are seen where 30 or 40 years ago it was generally accepted cereals would never grow. And what is the name of the magician that has worked these wonderful changes? Here, as in America, it is "Population." As the people advance, the desert recedes.

Population is the golden key which will unlock all doors, sweep aside all obstacles. When we number 50,000,000 instead of 5,500,000, we can undertake tasks now far beyond our immature strength. What the man on the land wants is profitable markets, good roads and railways, education for his children, society for his wife and himself. All this and much more will flow if we but strike the rock with this wand. Population will give us national safety, lighten the burdens of taxation, develop our wonderful resources, ensure employment to the workers, and an almost limitless field for enterprise.

It is, therefore, most satisfactory to the Government of the Commonwealth that for the first time in the history of the Empire we are able to say that the question of migration is being treated as Imperial in policy.

At the average rate of increase for the past 16 years our population will double itself in 30 years. This may be well enough for other countries, but we must move much faster. If we wish to double our population in 20 years, we must increase the influx from overseas by over 100,000 per annum. This number can be obtained without difficulty, and, given a policy which provides suitable land upon which they can be settled, is well within our capacity to absorb. The settlement of migrants upon the lands must be emphasised.

IMMIGRANTS FOR LAND SETTLEMENT.

The Government sets its face resolutely against flooding our already

overcrowded cities with new arrivals from overseas. Upon the foundations of land settlement and upon that foundation only, can a comprehensive and vigorous immigration policy suited to our circumstances rest. It is on this solid and enduring foundation that the Nationalist Government bases its immigration policy. Under it £36,000,000 is made available on loan at the rate of £2,000,000 per State per annum.

Agreements with Britain and the States of Western Australia and Victoria have already been completed. Under these two agreements 27,000 migrants yearly are provided for; every settler—of whom W.A. is to take 6000, Victoria 2000 per annum—is guaranteed twelve months' employment on the land, and a block of land at the expiry of that period. The Commonwealth pays one-third interest for a period of five years on the money advanced to the States, on a basis of £1000 for each settler placed on the land. Under the W.A. agreement the British Government pays one-third interest for the same period, and under the Victorian agreement advances a lump sum of £300 per settler. Owing to the cost of securing suitable land in the State of Victoria, the Victorian Government is providing an additional amount of £500 per settler, for which it is, of course, responsible.

We hope to make similar arrangements with other States. Negotiations are proceeding, and we hope will soon be completed with the State of New South Wales. If all the States agreed to make provision for a number proportionate to that covered by the average of the two agreements already completed, the rate of increase of population would be sufficient to double the population in 20 years.

TO ENCOURAGE THE MAN ON THE LAND.

We can only hope to check the drift towards the great cities—manifested throughout the world—which here has gone much farther than is safe, if we make life on the land profitable and attractive. The wonderful discoveries of applied science, and their application to industry; the marvellous improvements that have been made in transport and communications by railways, motor transport, telegraph and telephone and wireless, have placed at our disposal means by which life in the country can be made as attractive, as comfortable, and as profitable as in the great cities. I have already dealt with some of the ways in which the Nationalist Government is helping to do this. I now propose to indicate other measures upon which the Government has decided.

TRAINING FARMS.

First, recognising, as we do, that in order to give new settlers on the land a reasonable chance of success, preliminary training is necessary, the Nationalist Government is prepared to co-operate with the States in the establishment and maintenance of training farms, in which youths from overseas, and our own young men who decide to go upon the land, may have opportunities of acquiring practical knowledge. The policy of the Government in this, as in other matters now under the control of the States, is not to establish training farms of its own, but to assist the States to assist intending settler to fit themselves for work on the land.

LIGHT DEVELOPMENTAL RAILWAYS.

In order to make land available for successful land settlement, the country not now served must be opened up by means of roads and railways. Railways and roads are to the primary producer what the arteries and veins are to the physical body. One of the chief causes of the amazing progress made by Australia since it was first settled has been a vigorous, reproductive public works policy, which has enabled the almost limitless resources of the country to be developed. Nearly £200,000,000 has been spent on railways. We have more miles of railways per head than any other country in the world. By far the greater part of the States' Public Debt has been incurred in building railways, and the expenditure has been the most profitable investment Australia has ever made. But so vast is this country that, although much has been done, very much more remains to do.

In pursuance of the policy of the Government to promote Closer Settlement and to assist the States to settle Australian citizens on the land, the Commonwealth Government is prepared to assist the States in building light developmental railways, and will pay one-third of the interest on the cost of construction—or bear one-half of the losses during a similar period—on approved lines and roads which provide for the establishment of a definite number of new settlers, on conditions to be mutually agreed upon between the States and the Commonwealth.

IMPROVING OUR HERDS.

We are a very rich pastoral and dairying country. We have more sheep than any other country in the world; and there, thanks to the enterprise, foresight, and patriotism of those engaged in the industry, produce the best merino wool in the world. We have more cattle per head than any other country; but, although a great deal of money has been spent in improving our herds, it can hardly be said that we have yet reached a satisfactory standard.

That is true both of beef and dairy cattle. For example, while the yield per dairy cow in Denmark is 600 gallons per annum, it is 300 in Australia; or, in other words, one cow in Denmark gives as good a return as two here. And, of course, as good cows cost no more to feed—frequently less—than indifferent or poor ones, the advantage of the dairyman in Denmark over his competitor in Australia is still greater than the milk and butter fat returns indicate. And, to a lesser degree, perhaps, what is true of dairy cows is true of beef cattle.

We ought not to be satisfied with anything but the best; indeed, if we are going to hold our own in the world's markets, we cannot afford to keep inferior stock. There is only one way of improving our flocks and herds—by breeding from high-priced animals in overseas countries and importing them here. The initial financial outlay, the cost of transport and quarantine, have no doubt deterred men from doing very much. In some States, the Government has taken the matter up, but much remains to be done. The Nationalist Government will introduce legislation designed to assist the producers by defraying the cost of transportation, and quarantine of stud stock.

applicants and lands already taken up in the Yanco and Mirrool districts of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, letters to the Premiers from Prime Minister W M Hughes requesting their proposals for land settlement, 1921, press statements and cuttings from early 1922, and *Hansard* extracts. Proposals were drawn up for the Murrumbidgee, Murray, Burrinjuck and Clarence Rivers, and the Northern Tablelands and Coast, and an Advisory Board was set up for their implementation. Overall plans included the settlement of ex-Imperial Indian Army officers and boy migration. In the correspondence between the Premier's Department and the Prime Minister's Department, the provision of railways and the unification of gauges, improved telephone and telegraph facilities, aid in breaking up large estates, the conditions for loans and financial arrangements between governments were discussed. The Western Australian Agreement was held up as an example for New South Wales. Drafts and the Final Agreement of 1922 between the Commonwealth and New South Wales are included. The 1923 correspondence, cables and press cuttings deal mainly with the Agreement of June that year which incorporated the British government (copies included), and its provisions to settle 6 000 immigrants on farms in the state, their training, the responsibilities of each signatory, subsequent requisitions, recruitment and advances to settlers. After August 1925, NSW cancelled its requisitions of farm settlers and farm workers under the 1923 Agreement and for youth under the Juvenile Migrants' Apprentice Scheme and approved only Dreadnought boys, Little Brothers, domestic servants and nominations. A report on the working of the Scheme of Land Settlement from its inception to 30 June 1927 is the last addition to the file.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. State Government Scheme. Victoria' [3 cm, 1921–28] A461, I349/1/5 PART 1

This contains a copy of a letter to the Premiers from the Prime Minister inviting them to present definite schemes under the Joint Commonwealth and State Scheme. In June 1922, the Victorian Government submitted a plan for the settlement of 2 000 farms, and ultimately 10 000, involving the resumption of land for settlement. The file consists of exchanges between the Commonwealth and State governments in relation to the plan, the extent of Commonwealth assistance, and various drafts of the terms of Agreements between Victoria and the Commonwealth (September 1922), and the Commonwealth and the British Governments (November 1923), under the Empire Settlement Act. Also included are press cuttings and a booklet on the Victorian Mallee. Other correspondence deals with requisitions under the scheme from May 1923, the selection of settlers, and the question of the possession of capital. New agreements were signed under the £34 million Agreement in 1925, and in 1926 the first agreement of September 1922 was cancelled. To this point only 214 migrants had been allotted farms. The Development and Migration Commission set out the position of Victoria and its 'absorption responsibilities' under the 'Old' and 'New' Agreements in 1928.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Policy. Empire Settlement Scheme' [88 pages plus booklets, 1921–35] A461, A349/1/3 PART 3

This contains a Summary of Proceedings and Documents from the Conference of Prime Ministers and Representatives of the UK, the Dominions and India 1921. Correspondence concerns a notification from Lord Milner of the extension of one year of the Government scheme for free passages for ex-servicemen up to 31 December 1922, the Imperial Government's proposal to cooperate with the Dominions on large scale policy of State-aided immigration within the Empire, and a conference at the Colonial Office, London, on the subject in January–February 1922. The minutes, Record of Proceedings and resolutions of the conference, and a Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee, 1921, are included. The file then jumps to 1927 with letters and cables referring to a House of Commons debate on a motion relating to the Empire Settlement Amendment Act and statements by Colonel Amery that the Commonwealth was arranging developmental programmes in the

states under the £34 million Agreement within the next few months. A memorandum on Migration and Oversea Settlement by Brigadier M L Hornby, Sir Henry Croft's speech to the Council and Parliamentary Committee of the Empire Industries Association, a speech by the Earl of Mansfield on Imperial and Colonial Development in the House of Commons, all of 1935, are other contents of the file.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement – Inspection of Murray and Murrumbidgee Lands' [1 cm, 1922–23] A461, F349/1/5

This file relates to an investigation conducted jointly by the New South Wales and Victorian governments, of the suitability for the settlement of immigrants of certain dry farming areas of the Murray River hinterland as well as irrigation areas on the Murray and Murrumbidgee. A training farm on dry farming methods was proposed; there was already one on irrigation methods at Yanco. Press cuttings on the development of the Riverina are included as well as *Hansard* extracts, inter-governmental correspondence on various aspects of the investigation, and the report on the Murray Lands Inspection, 1922. The services of Professor Elwood Mead of the University of California were sought in relation to the Murrumbidgee and similar lands, and his report of 1923 is also in the file. (See also A461, I349/1/5 Part 2 'Immigration – State government schemes prior to £34 million Agreement, Victoria.)

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Overseas Settlement Delegation' [2 cm plus reports, 1922–24] A461, D349/1/3

This file contains a report of the Oversea Settlement Committee for the year ended 31 December 1923, and correspondence relating to a 1923 migration delegation to Australia of representatives of the Oversea Settlement Committee. The delegation included Sir William Windham in charge, Miss Gladys Pott, who dealt with female immigration, J Wignall MP, Captain E B (and Mrs) Somervell, and Professor F B Smith, an agricultural expert. The purpose of the visit was to gain first-hand knowledge of conditions under which immigrants who arrived under the Agreement with the British government were received and settled. The terms of reference, arrangements, costs and itinerary are included, as well as the published report of the delegation.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Loans for States' [1.5 cm, 1922–25] A461, A349/1/5

This contains a request by the Prime Minister in October 1922 for estimates of the amounts required by Victoria and Western Australia under the Immigration Agreement in order to present a Bill to authorise the raising of the loans. In subsequent years, similar estimates were required by these and other states, such as New South Wales which had entered into such Agreements. Correspondence in the file relates to the loan arrangements with the states for immigration, conditions of payment and reimbursement, interest payable, and replies and returns from the states.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. WA lands. Senators' report: Lynch and Gregory' [74 pages, 1922–28] A461, U349/1/5

The file contains a report by Senator P J Lynch and the Hon. H Gregory, March 1922, on the possibilities for settling immigrants on certain lands in Western Australia as submitted by Sir James Mitchell in his immigration scheme. Correspondence concerns the arrangements made for the inspection of the lands, an account of time spent, payment, and the printing and dissemination of the report itself.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Agreements under the *Empire Settlement Act 1922*, Part 1' [3 cm, 1922–31] A461, B349/1/3 PART 1

This contains copies of agreements under the Empire Settlement scheme of 1922 and some correspondence relating to their distribution from 1927 to 1931.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Correspondence with States. Victoria' [86 pages, 1922–27] A461, J349/1/5

This contains a notification by the Prime Minister in October 1920 to the Premier of Victoria, of the appointment of Percy Hunter as Commonwealth Director of Immigration and the steps taken by the Commonwealth government to give effect to the agreements made at the Premiers' Conferences in July 1920 and December 1920 with regard to migration. The Prime Minister also requested that the Premier acquaint his Agent-General with the details of the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme and assist Senator Millen in the establishment of the Commonwealth organisation in London. A series of letters on aspects of the Joint Scheme are included, for example, Commonwealth contributions, rates for assisted and nominated immigrants, loans, landing money and other financial responsibilities, and issues of concern to the Victorian Premier (travelling concessions, employment guarantees and reception). The States were requested to put forward definite schemes for land settlement and immigration and the details of the Western Australian Scheme were sent to the Premier of Victoria in 1922. Correspondence in the file then jumps to 1926 and concerns disappointment expressed by immigrants to Victoria, aspects of the Elcho Training Farm, difficulties with regard to settlement, capital requirements, delays under the State Migration Agreement and requisitions.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Oversea Settlement. Pt 1' [1 cm, 1923] A461, A349/1/3 PART

This contains extracts from the Record of Proceedings and Documents from the Imperial Economic Conference of 1923, particularly from the Report of the Committee on Oversea Settlement.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Oversea Settlement. Returns from States' [1.5 cm, 1923–30] A461, B349/1/5

The Oversea Settlement Committee (OSC) in December 1923 requested that Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales supply returns which the Land Settlement Agreements prescribed, as well as estimates of anticipated expenditure for the following year, in order to prepare its own financial estimates. The OSC suggested that the States prepare quarterly lists with particulars of all settlers from the United Kingdom approved for state schemes. The file contains correspondence and returns relating to these requests.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. State Settlement Schemes 1923 Agreement NSW Part 2' [1.5 cm plus booklet, 1924–34] A461, D349/1/5 PART 2

Correspondence concerns the bringing of the New South Wales scheme of migrant land settlement, arranged under the 1923 Agreement of the British and Commonwealth governments, under the terms of the £34 million Agreement of 1925. Copies of the Agreements are included. A report of the Development and Migration Commission on the circumstances of migrant settlers under the old scheme indicated that their financial position was unsatisfactory. The liquidation of the old scheme necessitated the determination of liabilities of the various governments. The file deals with the claim made by New South Wales against the Commonwealth and British governments for the repayment of a portion of the interest on the expenditure incurred in carrying out the 1923 Agreement. In connection with the claim, inspections of the Ben Lomond Estate were made and

settlers interviewed; reports are included. There is also a booklet on Policy of Land Development and Settlement, New South Wales.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Films Part II. Earlier Papers in Action' [60 pages, 1928–35] A461, L301/1/3 PART 2

This file follows 'Immigration Films. Part I. Later Papers in Action', A458, B392/1. It concerns the increasing use of film for the purposes of advertising Australia. With the advent of the 16 millimetre film and its wider possibilities, the question of the reduction of the Commonwealth films Australia Day By Day and Know Your Own Country to 16 millimetre size was raised. Correspondence relating to the purchase of particular equipment by the Cinema and Photographic Branch of the Commonwealth Government, approaches by film companies, and the use of 'talking films' by 1936 is also included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration . Policy. Part 1' [1 cm, 1933–35] (See also General Representations, B349/1/2; Nomination of Migrants – Policy, E349/1/2; and Nomination of Migrants, General Representations, F349/1/2) A461, A349/1/2 PART 1

This is one of four files on immigration policy with the same item number. It covers the years 1933–35 and indicates that, as in the past, periods of cessation of, low or negative migration often lead to the re-examination of immigration policy in general. This file contains a press cutting on Empire Settlement from 1933 and correspondence on a motion on overseas settlement in the House of Commons in 1934 in relation to 'a scheme for voluntary redistribution of the white people of the Empire and the stimulation of shipping and trading under the Flag'. A report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy, 1934, is included, the main points of which are as follows: migration should only be encouraged by the United Kingdom when economic conditions are favourable and the Dominions anxious to receive additional population; while the majority of migrants would pay their own way, a system of reduced passages and nominations was envisaged; the cost of land settlement schemes in comparison with the numbers dealt with was excessive; special arrangements were needed for families, single women, children, juveniles and single men; the establishment of farm schools along the lines of Fairbridge was favoured; too much government intervention induced the wrong mentality in migrants which militated against success, thus more use should be made of voluntary organisations; the cost should be shared by the two countries involved. Much of the file deals with responses to the Report, discussions, departmental observations and further recommendations over the following year. *Hansard* extracts and press cuttings from 1935 on the resumption of migration are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration . Policy. Part 2' [2 cm, 1936–37] A461, A349/1/2 PART 2

This file contains letters from the Prime Minister to state Premiers in September 1936 asking whether they would favour a resumption of assisted migration. The replies from most state governments were cautious. There is a House of Commons extract, December 1935, on a motion relating to the redistribution of the population of the Empire, *Hansard* extracts especially from late 1936, press cuttings, and a cable dated February 1936, giving notice that the Oversea Settlement Board was being reconstituted. A paper for submission to Cabinet on the 'Redistribution of Empire Population' by Senator A J McLachlan, January 1936, a memorandum prepared by the Prime Minister's Department on 'Development and Migration', and other information papers are included. The Premier of New South Wales submitted a plan for Australian Development to the Oversea Settlement Board in July 1936. The New Settlers' League in October 1936 welcomed the resumption of the immigration of lads and the continuation of the nomination system. The operation of the *Empire Settlement Act* was extended for 15 years from 1937.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Policy. Part 3 [2 cm, 1937–38]
A461, A349/1/2 PART 3**

Some of the early 1937 material from A461, A349/1/2, Part 2 is duplicated here, but the bulk of the file covers material on the resumption of assisted migration in 1938. It contains a policy speech entitled 'More People Imperative' by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons in September, 1937. South Australia in January 1938 was willing to accept domestic servants and the Premier recommended that preliminary selection be made by the Girl Guides Association and the Victoria League. New South Wales was prepared to resume assisted migration in a limited way for approved juveniles, farm lads, domestics and individual nominations involving family reunion. Some replies from other states are included. Also in the file are copies of a Department of the Interior memorandum for Cabinet on 'Assisted Migration', February 1938, communications to the states setting out the categories to be assisted, and a public statement by the Prime Minister entitled 'To Restore British Migration', of March 1938. Statements were also circulated to Cabinet on 'Assisted Migration from the United Kingdom', 'Maltese Migration', and 'White Alien Immigration'. In the same month, Cabinet approved the resumption of assistance for persons resident in the United Kingdom nominated by individuals or approved organisations; migrants specially requisitioned by any state; married men with £300 capital, or a pension or other income of over £100 per annum; and single men with not less than £50 capital. The Minister of the Interior then reviewed migration questions generally, especially in relation to closer 'alien' supervision, Jewish groups, British groups sponsored by Fairbridge, Barnardo and Roman Catholic organisations, and the eligibility of those from the Irish Free State. Requisitions from some of the states and the Salvation Army followed. There are several *Hansard* extracts and other correspondence relating to the categories of assisted migrants and the financial assistance available, especially from South Australia in mid to late 1938.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration . Policy. Part 4' [2 cm, 1938–44]
A461, A349/1/2 PART 4**

As a result of the outbreak of war in September 1939, the United Kingdom and Commonwealth governments terminated financial assistance to immigrants, except for exceptionally hard cases of family reunion. Some maintenance grants for children in Farm Schools and the subsidy to the British Settlers' Welfare Committee were continued. Most of this file is outside the chronological boundaries of this Guide.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Schemes.
Australian Development and Defence League' [12 pages, 1936] A461,
T349/1/2**

This file contains letters to the Prime Minister from the Australian Development and Defence League, 1936, in response to a *Sydney Morning Herald* article, 20 June 1936, (extract enclosed). The letters drew attention to the 'Greater Australia Plan' of the League, a plan for Empire development and settlement (a detailed outline of which is included), particularly in the Port Stephens area, and requested an interview. The Prime Minister declined since the plan involved a drastic readjustment of the monetary system and a Royal Commission on the Monetary and Banking system was then in progress. It was pointed out by the Secretary, Department of the Interior, that schemes involving the settlement of migrants from the United Kingdom on land in Australia had not been a success and that it would be more appropriate if the plan were forwarded to the New South Wales government.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Capacity of Australia to Absorb
Migrants' [25 pages, 1936] A461, O349/1/2**

This contains certain observations and suggestions regarding Australia's capacity to absorb migrants about which an investigation was conducted at the instigation of the

Prime Minister in 1936. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and in particular, Sir David Rivett, and Professor Macdonald Holmes of the University of Sydney, were involved in this.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1924–62
B741**

Recorded by:

1927–46: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)
1946–60: Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 916)
1960–62: Commonwealth Police Force (CA 955)

Melbourne 29.88 metres

The series comprises files relating to the investigation of all criminal offences committed against the Commonwealth, the contravention of Commonwealth Acts or of State Acts committed on Commonwealth property; the pursuit of recalcitrant debtors to the Commonwealth; and inquiry into the whereabouts of persons requested to be traced by government departments, organisations such as the Red Cross, International Tracing Service, Australia House, private persons or by diplomatic or consular representation. Investigations carried out at the request of government departments include areas such as impersonation, ships' deserters, enemy 'aliens' in wartime, prohibited immigrants and naturalisation, among others. In most cases a separate file was raised for each particular case requested to be investigated.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Photographic Branch of Commonwealth Immigration Office' [3 pages, 1924] B741, V/762

This contains a circular from the Prime Minister's Department advising that the Photographic Branch of the Commonwealth Immigration Office had run at a loss for the financial year 1923–24. As a consequence, charges were revised and an amended price list attached.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1921–51

A436

Recorded by:

1945–45: Department of the Interior, Central Office (CA 31)

Canberra 5.04 metres

This series consists of folders of general correspondence, decisions and policy relating to organisations interested in the migration of British subjects, nominations, training schemes, housing difficulties, statistical aspects of the future population, and individual case files. It represents one of seven classes of correspondence files maintained by the Department of Immigration and its predecessors during the years 1939–50 or for a portion of those years. The seven classes are as follows:

- General, passports;
- Restricted immigration;
- European migrants;
- Naturalisation;
- British migrants;
- Aliens Registration;
- General administration.

Department of the Interior, 'Immigration Policy' [3 cm, 1920–21] A436, 1946/5/17

This contains the recommendations adopted at the Conference of Premiers and State Ministers of May 1920 and the proposals relating to immigration, the steps taken by the Commonwealth, the work and staff necessary, and appointments made in relation to the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme. Correspondence between the Prime Minister and State Premiers and between the Australian and British ends of the immigration operations for the period 1920 to 1921 make up most of the file. Notes from the subsequent conferences in July and November 1920 are included. Issues discussed are particulars of possible land to be made available and immigrants to be absorbed by the States, shipping arrangements, Commonwealth contributions to passage rates for various classes of assisted immigrants, loans for immigrants, the recruiting organisation in London, relations between the Commonwealth and States in relation to the hand-over of control, the division of responsibilities, incentives and concessions offered by the states, reception, and aftercare. There are statements for Cabinet on immigration, Minutes of the Conference held in London between Commonwealth and State representatives concerned with immigration in January 1921, and a pamphlet on Oversea Settlement within the Empire.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38**A1****Recorded by:**

1903–16: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)
1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
1928–32: Department of Home and Territories (CA 24)
1932–38: Department of the Interior (CA 27)

Canberra 184.92 metres

This series was the main correspondence file system of the agencies shown above. The subject matter includes administrative and personal matters as well as the following functions administered by the agencies from time to time: immigration and emigration, 'aliens' registration, naturalisation, passports (except 1916–18), influx of criminals, indentured coloured labour, people of races for whom special laws were thought necessary, external affairs (1903–16), Pacific islands (1903–16) as well as other matters not relevant to this Guide.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Financial Arrangements with States' [1 cm, 1921–30] A1, 1932/7768

This file predominantly relates to the period from 1921–23, with only one page dated 1930. It refers to the financial arrangements under the Joint Commonwealth and States Immigration Scheme. While the Commonwealth booked all nominated and assisted passages, deposits from persons applying to bring in relatives and friends under the nomination system had to be lodged with State Immigration Officers. Loans to certain classes of assisted and nominated passengers, and their repayment, were also dealt with through the state offices. Deposits of all landing money and loans to assisted immigrants were taken care of in London, the landing money refunded on arrival in Australia and later reimbursed by the Commonwealth through monthly claims by the States. Correspondence relates to the carrying out of these arrangements, the method of financial adjustment between governments, and the system of accounting.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Canadian Immigration' [1 cm, 1929–32] A1, 1932/7386

This file consists largely of press extracts, letters and reports on Canadian immigration, probably kept by the Department of the Interior for information and comparative purposes.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929**A432****Recorded by:****1929–58: Attorney General's Department (CA 5)****Canberra 2329.2 metres**

This series consists of the main correspondence file series of the Attorney-General's Department. The series commenced in 1929, replacing the existing systems and contains material top-numbered from those series, including papers back to 1901.

Attorney-Generals Department, 'Encouragement of Immigration to Australia'
[10 pages, 1921–24] A432, 1929/4140

This contains a request for advice in May 1921, to the Attorney-General's Department from Superintendent, H S Gullett, relating to a draft form for Nominated Passages in connection with the Joint Commonwealth and States Immigration Scheme. The new form was being introduced to bring about uniformity between the States which had previously utilised a variety of forms of application. Conditions of nomination and the liability of the various governments are discussed in the correspondence. Further letters, dated 1924, relate to the absconding of a juvenile immigrant from his employer and the action to be taken.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–50**K1184****Recorded by:****1923–50: Public Service Inspector, Western Australia (CA 872)****Perth 18.36 metres**

This series comprises the agency's first main correspondence file series which operated from 1923 to 1950. It consists of correspondence files dealing principally with organisation and establishment matters relating to Commonwealth government departments and agencies in Western Australia.

Public Service Commission, 'Immigration – Loans due to Commonwealth by Migrants' [16 pages, 1932–33] K1184, 330/1

This file refers to the recovery of outstanding loans owed to the Commonwealth by assisted migrants in Western Australia. Collections of interest on loans from group settlers were taken over by the State Agricultural Bank in 1927. Issues discussed in the correspondence are the Commonwealth/State responsibility, where the files should be housed, the determination of future policy, and the capacity of the migrants, especially group settlers, to pay. The view of the Public Service Inspector was that the recovery of money was 'an almost hopeless proposition' and the employment of an officer to visit migrants would cost more than the amounts recovered. A memorandum to the Secretary, Public Service Board, Canberra, enclosed a press cutting from *The West Australian*, 28 September 1932, dealing with a discussion at the Soldier Settlers' Conference on the report of the Royal Commission into Dairying in the South-West, which had an important bearing on the ability of group settlers to repay government loans in 1932–33.

SUBJECT INDEX CARDS TO MATTERS RELATING TO IMMIGRATION FROM 'IMMIGRATION CABINET', ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1911–56 A71**Recorded by:**

1911–16 Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)
1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
1928–32 Department of Home Affairs (CA 24)
1932–39 Department of the Interior (CA 27)
1939–45 Department of the Interior (CA 31)
1945–56 Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra 12.6 metres

This series is a subject index to immigration matters in series A1 for the period 1911–38 and to all the immigration file series in the years 1939–56.

IMMIGRATION BRANCH – BOOK OF PRECEDENTS (2) RECORD OF PASSPORTS ISSUED IN CANBERRA, 1912–33 A1823**Recorded by:**

1912–16: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)
1916–28: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)
1928–32: Department of Home Affairs, Central Office (CA 24)
1932–33: Department of the Interior, Central Administration (CA 27)

Canberra 0.03 metres

1 Volume

BOOK OF CIRCULARS UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ACT 1912, WITH INDEX, 1913–28 A1824**Recorded by:**

1913–16: Department of External Affairs (CA 7)
1916–28: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)

Canberra 0.09 metres

1 Volume

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'B' [GENERAL, QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA] SERIES, 1925 A569**Recorded by:**

1925: Lands and Survey Branch (CA 737)

Canberra 0.03 metres

This relates to staff and general matters concerning the Lands and Survey branch and surveys and property transactions concerning Commonwealth lands in Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.

Individual Cases

A number of individual cases occur in the files described in this chapter. Some are the subjects of complaints by others. They also involve individual queries addressed to government departments. Several relate to assisted immigrants who made up a large proportion of net immigration for this period and on whom considerable funds were expended by governments. The case records are freely

available for research use and shed light on the operation and application of immigration regulations at this time.

As mentioned in the Introduction, individual cases themselves are not dealt with in this guide. For details of where to find records dealing with individual cases see *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*.

4 'White Alien' (non-British European) Immigration Policy

The term 'white alien' was widely used in the period from 1901 to 1939 to describe non-British Europeans and was particularly directed towards Italians, Greeks, Yugoslavs and Poles. Before World War I there was no specific legislation which prohibited or restricted European immigrants and the numbers wishing to settle in Australia were comparatively small. Nor were Europeans encouraged. World War I and its aftermath, however, resulted in the limitation and prohibition of specific European nationalities for particular periods. It is for this reason that they are considered here under a separate policy category.

Maltese and Greeks, sometimes seen as 'semi-coloured', were prohibited from 1916 until 1920. This occurred as a result of the arrival of some 214 Maltese on the eve of the first conscription referendum in 1916 and a number of Kastellorizans during the war, all of whom were thought to be a threat to the jobs of Australian soldiers fighting abroad. After 1920, the numbers of Maltese and Greeks (along with certain other Europeans such as Albanians and Yugoslavs) were strictly limited to a certain maximum number each year. Control was exercised through the granting of visas, a system which was gradually phased out over the 1920s. In addition, the *Enemy Aliens Act 1920* prohibited, for a period of five years, all subjects of countries against whom the Allies had fought. This included Germans, Austrians, Bulgarians, Hungarians and Turks. Legislation adopted in the United States in 1921 and 1924 to restrict entry to certain southern and eastern Europeans, led to fears that many would turn instead to Australia. A variety of measures was adopted to counteract this, including numerical limits (or quotas) and landing-money requirements. Regulations were adopted in 1924 and 1925 which required all 'alien' migrants to possess £40 landing money or hold landing permits issued as a result of their maintenance or employment being guaranteed by relatives or friends in Australia.

Despite these measures, there was a general increase in the number of 'white aliens' arriving as the 1920s progressed. This led the Queensland government to appoint a Royal Commission in 1925, chaired by T A Ferry, on the social and economic effects of European migration. Also in 1925, the Governor-General was given wide powers to prohibit 'aliens' on the grounds of economic, industrial or other conditions in Australia, if they were unsuitable, or unlikely to assimilate and become responsible citizens.

Italians, who made up the largest numbers of 'alien' immigrants to Australia in the 1920s, occupied a slightly different position from other Europeans by virtue of the existence of a Treaty of Commerce signed by Italy and Great Britain in 1883. This allowed each signatory full liberty for its subjects to enter, travel or reside in the territories of the other. Britain's territories included Australia. As a result, the Commonwealth government reached an agreement with the Italian government in 1923 which limited the issue of passports to those Italians who could support themselves or had guarantors in Australia. In 1927, entry was further restricted to

those nominated by close relatives or who had definite employment prospects, with a suggested ceiling of 3 000 per year.

Quotas for all European groups were reduced in the late 1920s and finally gave way to more rigid forms of control as the effects of the Depression made themselves felt. From 1930, landing permits were only issued to 'white aliens' who were close dependent relatives of Australian residents. The landing-money requirement increased and served as a disincentive to European immigration. These provisions remained in force until economic conditions improved in the second half of the 1930s. The balance between British and European immigration, however, was changing and this, for many conservative British-oriented Australians, was a cause for concern. A major preoccupation of policy-makers at this time was the establishment of 'alien enclaves'. Government enquiries by the Commonwealth Investigation Branch in the late 1930s attempted to monitor areas of high European concentration.

Many of the Europeans who arrived in the 1930s were forced exiles from Nazi Germany whose numbers increased markedly in 1938 and 1939 as Australia, together with many other nations, agreed to admit a limited number of European refugees. Although Australia as a destination was not always their first choice, these new immigrants were in desperate need of new homes and a future they were denied in their own countries. (See Chapter 9 on Refugees.)

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38

A1

Recorded by:

1903–16: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)**1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)****1928–32: Department of Home and Territories (CA 24)****1932–38: Department of the Interior (CA 27)****Canberra 184.92 metres**

This series was the main correspondence file system of the agencies shown above. The subject matter includes administrative and personal matters as well as the following functions administered by the agencies from time to time: immigration and emigration, 'aliens' registration, naturalisation, passports (except 1916–18), influx of criminals, indentured coloured labour, people of races for whom special laws were thought necessary, external affairs (1903–16), Pacific islands (1903–16) as well as other matters not relevant to this Guide.

Department of the Interior, Department of Markets and Migration, 'Immigration from countries other than the United Kingdom' [4 cm, 1921–25] A1, 1936/13639

This file contains press cuttings on European immigration and correspondence from 1921 on the extension of the nomination system to close relatives in the other British

Dominions and selected European countries (France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Italy, Poland and Finland, and then for agriculturalists from Czechoslovakia, Estonia and Dalmatia). Representations for an extension to other countries followed, some of which were refused, for example, Greece and Malta, and led to memoranda on the relative desirability of certain European nationalities as immigrants. Some statistics on arrivals and population by birthplace are included. Protests about foreign immigration came from various groups, such as the Australian Natives' Association, and an extract from the NSW Parliamentary Debates from 1924 is enclosed. Government communications from 1924 discuss the possibility of introducing a quota. Special conditions for certain Europeans in relation to permits and visas, landing money, guarantors and quotas (for Yugoslavs, Greeks and Albanians) were introduced in 1925 and assistance was thereafter confined to British subjects. A special agreement to control numbers and distribution of Italian migrants was made in 1927. Communications with the Governor of Cyprus, 1928, and on nominations (of Britons) from foreign countries, 1928–29, make up the rest of the file.

Home and Territories Department, General Correspondence File, 'Victorian Protestant Federation. Deputation re Restriction on Alien Immigration, 1925' [22 pages, 1925] A1, 1925/15492

This file contains a Home and Territories note on the Oath of Allegiance, which British subjects arriving in Australia were required to take, and a copy of a declaration form which Europeans wishing to enter Australia were required to complete which included an undertaking that they would obey the laws of the country. Notes on 'alien' immigration and the question of introducing a quota system and two short letters are included. This information was supplied to the Minister in preparation for a deputation from the Victorian Protestant Federation. The detailed notes on the Deputation record certain resolutions passed by the Federation in favour of restricting the entry of 'aliens' into Australia.

Home and Territories Department, Correspondence File, 'Alien Immigration into Western Australia, 1925–27' [55 pages, 1925–28] A1, 1927/15940

Contains letters from Premier P Collier, Western Australia, to the Prime Minister's Department, 1926–27, stating that foreign migrants, particularly Southern Europeans, were arriving in the state in increasing numbers and under contract, contrary to the *Contract Immigrants Act* 1905 and asking whether steps had been taken to prevent any 'undue influx'. Collier called for restrictions on 'alien' arrivals to be introduced. Particulars on 'alien' immigration, 1924–25, were supplied and government policy on 'aliens' outlined in the replies to Collier. Extracts from *Hansard*, press cuttings, correspondence and a report in the file all relate to 'alien' immigration to WA and questions of contract labour and award wages. Police Department investigations in September 1927 disproved the allegations of contract labour but revealed that some foreigners were prepared to work for nominal wages and food. Most of these men had arrived in 1924, however, before landing money requirements had been imposed.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Alien Immigration. Relaxation of Restrictions' [19 pages, 1933–34] A1, 1933/9940

This contains press reports and correspondence relating to clarification of a statement made by J A Perkins, Minister for the Interior, in November 1933, that restrictions on foreign immigrants would be eased when economic conditions allowed. At the time, landing permits for 'aliens' were restricted to close dependent relatives of those already settled in Australia and those with at least £500 in capital.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES FIRST SYSTEM, 1915–23
A457****Recorded by:****1915–23: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 18.27 metres**

This series consists of correspondence files covering a wide range of subjects which were submitted to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement – Absorption of Continental Peoples – 1922' [11 pages, 1922] A457, K400/2

Relates to the encouragement of Europeans and their relative desirability as immigrants. The United States Immigration Authorities were approached to gain their views and an account of an interview between the Official Secretary to the Commissioner for Australia in the United States and Mr W W Husband, Commissioner General of Immigration in the United States, on the subject is included.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50
A433****Recorded by:****1939: Department of the Interior, Central Administration (CA 27)****1939–45: Department of the Interior, Central Office (CA 31)****Canberra 8 metres**

These files relate to restricted immigration to Australia. Files may contain reports, correspondence, articles, cables, news cuttings, passports, proposed amendments to the Immigration Act, departmental despatches, authorities for admission under exemption (form 32) and deportation orders (form 43B). Restricted immigration covers things such as admission of Asians, coloured persons, business visits, deserters, deportees and undesirables. Files from these series may be top-numbered into series A446, as well as into the subsequent series, A445 and A2998.

Department of Immigration, File of Papers, ;Aliens, registration of. Also appointment of officers, Investigation Branch as officers under *Immigration Act* [2 cm, 1922–47] A433, 1942/2/2815

The first 3 pages, dated 1922, cover the issue of the repeal of the Aliens Registration Act (suspended from January 1922), recommendations by the Director, Investigation Branch, for subsequent amendments to the *Immigration Act*, and reasons given by the Acting Minister as to why such a course should not be followed. The rest of the file covers the appointment of individual officers of the Investigation Branch, Attorney-General's Department under the Immigration Act from 1923 to 1947.

Department of the Interior, ;Refugees Jewish and Others. General Policy File' [3 cm, 1938–44] A433, 1943/2/46

This file is more relevant to refugees and is discussed in Chapter 9, but it also contains an outline of the policy with regard to Europeans wishing to migrate to Australia in the late 1930s. The policy on refugees in late 1938 was developed in conformity with the existing policy on 'white aliens'. Projections were made on the intake of 'white aliens' acceptable each year.

Department of the Interior, 'Statements re white Alien Immigration for Australian Legation at Washington' [16 pages, 1939–40 A433, 1943/2/5228

This contains a request in 1940 from the Department of External Affairs to the Department of the Interior, for a statement setting out the conditions of entry of 'white aliens' into Australia and a short review of the results of immigration over the past ten years, along with any general statements of policy for the use of the Australian Legation in the USA and the High Commissioner's Office in Canada. Memoranda on immigration generally, 1936, White Alien Immigration, Jewish Immigration, 1939, and new policy since the outbreak of war are enclosed together with an application form for a permit to enter Australia.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL (EXCLUDING WAR FILES, 1912–27 CP78/22

Recorded by:

1912–27: Governor General (CA 1)

Canberra 28.98 metres

This series consists of the full range of correspondence of the Governor-General.

Governor-General's Office, General Correspondence, 'Immigration Alien, 1924–27' [152 pages, 1924–27] CP78/22, 1926/25 part 2

The file focuses on certain restrictions on Southern European and other 'alien' immigration to Australia in the mid-1920s. It contains a confidential letter to the British Consuls-General at Canton, Shanghai, Hankow and Tientsin and the British Consul at Harbin, China, December 1925, advising that the migration of Russians should be discouraged and that all applications should go through the Consulates with careful scrutiny, owing to government information about activities of communists and Soviet agents in Australia. Correspondence also relates to applications from Russians and former Russians through other countries, such as Hong Kong, Egypt, France, Palestine, the Philippines and Singapore. There is also a memorandum for the Governor-General from the Prime Minister's Department removing the entry restriction on persons of German, Austro-German, Bulgarian and Hungarian parentage and nationality (former 'enemy aliens'). Thereafter, these national groups came under the same conditions as European 'aliens' generally. Other issues treated in the file refer to the restriction of Greeks, Yugoslavs and Albanians to 100 per month (the reasons given being their destitution in Australia), the alleged ill-treatment of Yugoslavs, 1925, the introduction of the £40 landing money requirement for 'alien' migrants generally, the destination of Yugoslav migrants in 1924, the question of the admission of bona fide merchants from Hong Kong in 1927, and a request for entry of the family of a Chinese man with an Australian passport.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1924–62 B741

Recorded by:

1927–46: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)

1946–60: Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 916)

1960–62: Commonwealth Police Force (CA 955)

Melbourne 29.88 metres

The series comprises files relating to the investigation of all criminal offences committed against the Commonwealth, the contravention of Commonwealth Acts or of State Acts committed on Commonwealth property; the pursuit of recalcitrant debtors to the Commonwealth; and inquiry into the whereabouts of persons requested to be traced by government departments, organisations such as the Red Cross, International Tracing Service, Australia House, private persons or by

diplomatic or consular representation. Investigations carried out at the request of government departments include areas such as impersonation, ships' deserters, enemy 'aliens' in wartime, prohibited immigrants and naturalisation, among others. In most cases a separate file was raised for each particular case requested to be investigated.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Aliens. Immigration of, Press clippings and General Enquiries', etc. [0.5–1 cm, 1925–32] B741, V/398

This file contains press clippings on 'alien' immigration from Melbourne newspapers (*the Herald, the Argus, the Evening Sun, and the Age*) particularly for 1925 and 1926. They focus on Southern Europeans and reflect contemporary attitudes of the press and the public, including reactions to immigration quotas in the United States and to criticisms by Commissioner Ferry contained in the Royal Commission into the increase of 'aliens' in the North held in 1925. A copy of the Commonwealth Immigration Acts and Regulations 1901–24 and 1901–25 which contained clauses relating to 'white aliens' and the removal of restrictions on 'enemy aliens', application forms and letters for admission of relatives or friends to Australia, lists of passports collected and interpreters, declarations of persons seeking to enter Australia, and other correspondence relating to the 1924–25 regulations and 'aliens' in general, are included.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Misuse of Letters of Recall. Italian Immigration' [14 pages, 1927] B741, V/4249

This item contains a letter from the Inspector, Investigation Branch, Melbourne, November 1927, regarding two cases illustrating that, in his opinion, some local supervision of applications for the admission of 'aliens' under the Letter of Call system (*Atto di Chiamata*) was needed. (The *Atti di Chiamata* – or letter of call was a nomination system whereby Italians residing in Australia could apply for the admission of a countryman through the Italian Consul-General, who if satisfied, issued a paper to approved applicants bearing an endorsement of the landing permit). Certain criticisms of this system in relation to Southern Italians are made. The letter cites incidences where large and various amounts were paid for the *Atti di Chiamata* and that one immigrant had not met his guarantor either before or since he had emigrated. Related notes on the traffic in Letters of Call and an article from *Truth*, 22 October 1927, headed 'Italians fight death duel with hooks' relating to an alleged murder case involving southern Italians are included.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Alien Immigration Reports' [21 pages, 1927] B741, V/4192

This contains reports for the Commonwealth Investigation Branch by William Weale to Inspector R S Browne, on 'alien immigrants' arriving in Melbourne by German, Italian and French vessels in 1927. One refers to the migrants who arrived on the *Re d'Italia* in 1927 as 'of a most undesirable nature as far as physique, stature and general appearance go. They appeared to be mostly undersized dark southern Italians, and one can safely state the scum of Southern Italian ports.' The report draws attention to the extreme poverty of the immigrants and the apparent guarded nature of the Italian officials of the ship. Other descriptions of a more favourable nature – women and children coming to join their husbands and fathers, Polish and Palestine Jews, Yugoslavs, Czechs and Northern Europeans, boys and girls brought out by the Salvation Army ship *Vedic*. The reports also contained comments on the accommodation, conditions, general cleanliness of the vessels and the events of the journeys as reported by the ships' officers.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53 A367**Recorded by:**

**1916–19: Special Intelligence Bureau, (Central Office) Melbourne (CA 746)
1919–46: Investigation Branch, Central Office, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)**

Canberra 64.08 metres

This series consists of bundles of general correspondence, reports, copies of forms, dossiers, history sheets etc. all of which reflect the activities of the former Commonwealth Investigation Service in respect of inquiries into applications for naturalisation, the admission into Australia of friends and relatives, visitors, substitutes for businessmen (Chinese), claims relating to National Security (War Damage and Property) Regulations. In most cases these investigations conform with the terms of the *Nationality Act* 1920–36. The series contains policy and precedent, as well as main case files, the majority of which were retained by the agency for future reference.

Attorney-General's Department, Investigation Branch, File of papers, 'Alien Immigration' [24 pages, 1927–37] A367, C3075AK

This file concerns the careful monitoring of European immigration during the late 1920s and early 1930s. It contains immigration regulations issued by the Home and Territories Department relating to 'aliens', a circular to shipping companies concerning the personal statements required by 'alien' passengers (Form A, No. 42), a copy of the *Amending Immigration Act* 1932, ministerial directions on the categories of 'aliens' who were eligible for admission, particularly for Italians in relation to the *Atti di Chiamata* (the letter of call, or nomination system – see Glossary at Appendix 1) and related correspondence. It also contains the form of report to be used concerning applications for readmission of former residents, the employment of 'alien' nominees and their effect on local workers.

Attorney-General's Department, Investigation Branch, File of Papers, 'Alien Immigration. Italians – Admission to Australia', [48 pages, 1927–38] A367, C3075AB

This file contains press cuttings on the 1927 agreement to limit, through the Italian Consulate, the number of Italians coming to Australia in 1927, calls for more local supervision of applicants for the admission of 'aliens' under the 'Letter of Call' system (explained in the previous file), information on Italian immigrants arriving in Australia and their conditions of entry, a memorandum on the admission of Italians without direct supervision or report from Local Commonwealth Services, allegations of discrimination in the way the *Atti* were approved, and a 1936 memorandum from the Department of the Interior on Italian immigration to Australia. The file also includes the particular case of A Pandolfini, (called by H E Jones 'a flagrant case of official persecution'), leading to a review of conditions under which Italian immigration was conducted. Figures showing Italian arrivals to Queensland and to Australia in 1936, a Department of the Interior circular about the use of Form A. 42 of July 1937, a Department of the Interior request for figures of Northern and Southern Italians during the previous ten years, dated October 1937, and further press reports are among other contents of the file.

Attorney-General's Department, File of Papers, 'Alien Immigration – 1. Passports and Laws Governing Admission, 2. Statistics, 3. Landing Permits' [63 pages, 1928–37] A367, C3075C

There is a letter from the Assistant Secretary, Home and Territories Department to the Director, Investigation Branch, July 1928, advising of an agreement with the British authorities to limit the issue of visas to Australia to an average of 50 per

month for Greeks, Yugoslavs and Albanians, and 25 per month for Poles, Czechoslovakians and Estonians. Particulars relating to these migrants were requested. The file also contains various correspondence relating to permit applications, passports, the numbers of Europeans eligible for admission, 'alien' registration, quota restrictions, visa requirements, employment contracts, re-entry, deportation and naturalisation issues, and some individual case material.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Alien Immigration. Absorption in Industry in the Commonwealth' [157 pages, 1937–41] A367, C3075B

This file refers to representations by the NSW Premier in 1937 for inquiries into labour market conditions before applications for the admission of 'aliens' into particular areas were approved. This led to an investigation by the Department of the Interior into the economic effects of the settlement of 'white aliens' to see whether their entry was detrimental to Australian workers or Australian living standards. Correspondence relates to foreign shopkeepers paying below award wages and prosecutions, 'alien' café proprietors, workers in the furniture trade, the clothing trade, particularly female machinists, and the employment of foreign doctors, journeymen tailors, commercial artists, engravers, leather manufacturers, workers in the motor, tobacco and glassware industries, watchmakers, jewellers and goldsmiths, musicians and conductors, domestic workers and others. Information on individual cases is included. Questions of displacement of Australian workers, particularly by German Jews, and whether certain industries gave preference to 'alien' labour were taken up.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1927–42

A981

Recorded by:

1927–42: Department of External Affairs, Central Office (CA 18)

Canberra 145.8 metres

This was the main correspondence file series from 1927 to 1942, with contents on files dating from 1901. Most of the early portion of the series to about 1934 was created while External Affairs activities were conducted by a semi-autonomous branch of the Prime Minister's Department. However, some of the pre-1925 material may have originated in the Department of Home Affairs which handled External Affairs from 1916–21. In 1935, the Department of External Affairs was separated administratively from the Prime Minister's Department, and the series continued unchanged until 1942.

Department of External Affairs, 'Immigration Restrictions – Admission of Southern Europeans. Australian Policy' [34 pages, 1928–29] A981, MIG 55

This file contains extracts from Hansard from the first half of 1928 on the subject of restrictions on 'foreigners' and 'aliens' and the effect of Southern European migration on the labour market, press cuttings on white Australia and related correspondence. A Hansard extract for March 1939 on Italian immigration, a cablegram to the Dominions Office giving the number of visas to be issued to Southern and Central Europeans in 1930, a letter of confirmation and a general outline of policy on 'white alien' Immigration are also included.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'H' INFIX, 1926–50 PP6/1

Recorded by:

1926–45: Collector of Customs, WA, (from 1985) Australian Customs Service, WA (CA 808)

1945–50: Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch (CA 962)

Perth 20.16 metres

This series contains general records of functions in connection with migration, covering reports by the Boarding Branch, Customs Department, in respect of all vessels, showing persons coming under notice through the provisions of the Immigration Act; details of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch; applications for naturalisation; applications for Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test; applications for admission to Australia as a migrant; nominal rolls of migrants supplied by overseas posts on the departure of vessels; reports on unsuitable migrants and action taken in respect of deportees; general correspondence; reports on immigration centres, Northam and Cunderdin; and applications for permanent residence by persons who have entered the country illegally. From May 1926 to May 1946 all immigration work was carried out by the Customs Department and records were maintained by them. With the establishment of the Immigration Department in Perth in May 1946, all files were transferred from Customs to Immigration. Files prior to 1926 are believed to have been destroyed.

Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, General correspondence file, 'Immigration Act Instructions, book of.' [2 cm, 1929–31] PP6/1, 1930/H/3224

Contains monthly returns of Greeks, Yugoslavs, Albanians, Czechoslovaks, Poles and Estonians arriving at Fremantle from 1929 to 1931 in relation to the immigration quotas, especially for Albanians, operating at the time. Also some press extracts and correspondence on 'alien' immigration policy from *The West Australian*, 1930.

Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, 'Lists of Immigration Clearances issued 1/9/1930 to 30/6/1933' [2.5 cm, 1930–33] PP6/1, 1933/H/591

This file contains monthly lists of assisted immigrants to whom passport clearances were issued, prepared for the Passports Officer, Customs Department, Fremantle, by the Department of the Interior, Immigration Section, 1930–33.

Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, 'White Alien Immigration' [2 pages, 1935] PP6/1, 1935/H/939

Contains a circular to the Collector of Customs, May 1935, on White Alien Immigration: Persons holding executive positions in Australian branches of established overseas firms of superior standing. No restrictions were placed on the landing of these executives and their families. Firms named were Vacuum Oil Company, Goodyear Tyre Company, Messageries Maritimes, German-Australian S S Company. A handwritten action sheet is included.

Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, 'Immigration Act returns – monthly' [3 manilla folders, 2.5 cm, 1938] PP6/1, 1938/H/337

One folder contains correspondence and forms relating to the visit in 1938 of Albert Neufeld, an Austrian businessman, and his request to remain in Australia and bring in his wife. The other two folders contain Immigration Act monthly returns under the following categories: Persons Landing Without Passing Test; Immigration Passengers Passed the Test; Immigration Passengers Rejected; Coloured Persons Leaving the State; Returned Seamen ex-Pearling Industry and Indentured Seamen for Pearling Industry.

Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, 'Austrian and German visas' [26 pages, 1938–39] PP6/1, 1950/H/2808

This file contains a circular from the Foreign Office, concerning the denouncing by the British government from May 1938, of reciprocal arrangements for the abolition of passport visa requirements: Germany and Austria. Henceforth, holders of German passports were required to apply for requisite visas from British consular or Passport

Control Officers. Since Austria was no longer an independent state, the provisions of agreement with Austria were regarded as no longer in force. A circular from the Department of the Interior to the Collector of Customs, on Australia's position (and that of other British Dominions), May 1938, is included: holders of German passports would not need to obtain British visas for Australia; holders of unexpired Austrian passports who also held landing permits would not require British visas but British visas were necessary on certificates of identity held by former Austrian subjects. Australia then denounced the visa abolition agreement with Germany, as from 1 January 1939.

'Alien Immigration/Conditions of entry' [3 pages, 1939–40] PP6/1, 1940/H/29

Contains a letter, 1939, from the Department of the Interior to the offices of the principal shipping companies in Australia requesting them not to book passages for wives and families of 'aliens' if not accompanied by the husband or father. This may have occurred through death since the permit was granted but the concern was for the maintenance of the family in Australia.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50
A434**

Recorded by:

1939: Department of the Interior, Central Administration (CA 27)

1939–45: Department of the Interior, Central Office (CA 31)

Canberra 12.27 metres

These are general correspondence files containing policy decisions, form 40 (application for admission of relative or friend to Australia), form 47 (application to enter Australia), form 47A (medical examination), passport and personal particulars relating to individual cases of non-British European migrants.

Department of Immigration, File of Papers, 'Alien Immigration 1936 Cabinet Decisions' [3 cm, 1932–38] A434, 1949/3/29456

This is a large file, part of which contains correspondence from the Church of England Immigration Council, 1932–33, urging a more liberal immigration policy during the depression and from the New Settlers' League, 1933, that restrictions on assisted British migration should be relaxed, together with associated memoranda and replies. There is a list of rejected nominations from mid-1931 to mid-1933, a policy statement on assisted migration since 1929, a copy of an Australian Passage Agreement 1931–32, extracts from the press and from *Hansard*, and other relevant correspondence. The other part of the file deals with 'alien' immigration policy. It contains a list of British and Europeans entering and leaving Australia, memoranda, press statements and circulars on 'alien' immigration and on the quota system, landing permits issued in 1934, general immigration regulations, Cabinet papers, memoranda and letters on the admission of Jews, and *Hansard* extracts. Details of changes in policy relating to the relaxation of restrictions and the monitoring of the distribution and economic effects of the settlement of Europeans, brought in from July 1936, are included. The file also contains regulations for 'alien' tourists and visitors, the procedure to be followed in connection with applications for admission of 'white aliens', the distinction between the various categories and the visa and landing money requirements, communications between the Department of the Interior and a number of shipping companies, a review of government policy on 'white alien' immigration into the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, November 1937, conducted by T H Garrett and J Horgan, and a report of investigations in 1938 into concentrations of Europeans and Jews in certain areas. (See also A433, 1945/2/3758, discussed in Chapter 11 – Public Attitudes to Immigration).

Form No. 47.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO ENTER AUSTRALIA.

(Immigration Act 1901-1935.)

NOTE.—This Application must be filled up in the English language.

TO THE SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
CANBERRA,
AUSTRALIA.

I, of
do hereby make application for
permission to enter Australia, and in support of the same submit the following particulars:—

- (1) Full name.....
(2) Nationality..... Race.....
(3) I was born at..... on the.....
day of....., 19.....
Marital status (single, married, widowed or divorced).....
(4) I shall be accompanied by the following members of my family:—

If accompanied
by wife
and children
state—
Unclassified
person.

	Name.	Sex.	Age Next Birthday.	Birthplace.
Wife				
Children				

- (5) My last place of permanent residence was.....
(6) My present occupation is.....
(7) My proposed occupation in Australia is.....
(8) The amount of money in English currency which I undertake to bring with me to
Australia is.....
(9) I attach a certificate by a qualified medical practitioner as to the mental and physical
health of myself and the members of my family.
(10) Neither I nor any member of my family has ever been in prison or in a mental hospital.
(To be supported by a certificate from a police officer or other public official.)
(11) The European languages in which I can read and write fluently are.....
(12) The names and addresses of friends and/or relatives in Australia are:—

Full Name.	Address.	Relationship.

- (13) My intended place of residence in Australia is (if known).....
(14) I attach two photographs of myself and the members of my family who will accompany
me.

Signature of Applicant.....

Dated at..... day of....., 19.....

WARNING.—Any person whose admission has been authorized may be prevented from landing on arrival
if it is found that he has given misleading information in his application.

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By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

NAA: A461, P349/3/5

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1934–50**A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres**

This series consists of general correspondence files which cover the wide range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention. Many earlier papers from the previous general correspondence of the Department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Landing Money' [21 pages, 1933–38] A461, G349/1/2

This contains various queries and the replies concerning landing money in the 1930s. Memoranda on 'white alien' immigration and the landing money requirements, 1938, are included, revealing the discretionary powers of the Minister of the Interior and commenting on recent press reports (extracts included) on alleged penniless Southern and Central European immigrants. There is also a press statement by the assistant Minister relating to allegations by the Queensland Premier that landing-money requirements in connection with the admission of 'white aliens' were being abused.

GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1902– B13**Recorded by:****1902–85: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)****Melbourne 54.90 metres**

This is the main correspondence series of the Collector of Customs in Melbourne. The annual single number registration was prefixed until 1962, by 'C' and 'E' (common to all regions) and since then by 'V' (for Victoria). This series probably began in 1902, after the Immigration Restriction Act was assented to on 23 December 1901. The variations in the subjects dealt with reflects the changing functions of the Departments of Trade and Customs, and Customs and Excise. In general, functions shown are immigration restrictions, tariff classifications, excise, prohibited literature, administration, smuggling, prosecutions, shipping, exports and imports. Because of extensive culling by the Department the extant files up to the 1930's relate almost exclusively to immigration restriction. This function was carried out by the Collector of Customs in association with the Department of External Affairs and its successors. There is very little correspondence with the Central Office of Trade and Customs on this subject. No early control records have survived; the earliest date found in subject and name index cards held by the Department is 9 April 1923.

Customs and Excise Office, Victoria, 'Monthly Return of Finnish subjects arriving at the Port of Melbourne' [52 pages, 1934–38] B13, 1937/1417

This file contains monthly returns from the Department of the Interior, Immigration and Passports Branch, to the Consul of Finland, of people of Finnish nationality arriving at the port of Melbourne for the period from February 1934 to March 1938. Two arrived in 1934, seven in 1935, five in 1936 and none between January 1937 and March 1938.

Customs and Exercise Office, Victoria, 'White Alien Immigration' [3 pages, 1936] B13, 1936/17126

This refers to the landing money requirement of £50 for 'alien' immigrants and whether it could be deposited on behalf of the nominee, either in a Bank or with the

Customs authorities or Department of the Interior rather than requiring the immigrant to be in possession of the money on arrival. The Minister did not approve this but raised no objection to the money being forwarded by the guarantor to the nominee in the form of a bank draft or other available means so that the latter would have it on arrival.

Customs and Exercise Office, Victoria, 'Immigration of Aliens of European Race or Descent to Australia' [1 page, 1936] B13, 1936/29040

This contains only one letter referring to the continuance of the system of collection of landing money required by 'alien' passengers by the Orient Steam Navigation Company at their overseas office to be handed to the Purser of ships on which the immigrants sailed for safe keeping and production on arrival.

Customs and Exercise Office, Victoria, 'Memorandum respecting Immigration into Australia' [3 pages, 1936] B13, 1936/27965

This contains a letter to the Collector of Customs, December 1936, forwarding a copy of a Memorandum respecting Immigration into Australia, Re-admission of Former Residents, circulated to British Consular and Passport Control Officers and to representatives of the Commonwealth abroad.

Customs and Exercise Office, Victoria, 'Interest on Immigration Deposits' [2 pages, 1936] B13, 1936/13622

This relates to a suggestion that, where a deposit was lodged as security under the Immigration Act and was held for more than six months, the Collector of Customs could, at his discretion, place the amount in a Commonwealth Savings Bank Account so that interest could be earned by the depositor. The provisions for this were set out, but it was noted that the occurrence was very rare.

Custom and Exercise Office, Victoria, 'White Alien Immigration' [2 pages, 1937] B13, 1937/4091

This file relates to the admission of a Polish immigrant in 1937, and the payment for him of £50 landing money, which all 'alien' immigrants at that time were required to possess, by his brother in Australia.

Customs and Excise, Victoria, 'Alien Immigration – Landing Money Requirements' [2 pages, 1937] B13, 1937/5375

This contains two copies of a circular dated 2 April 1937, relating to the approval by the Minister of the Interior that the production by an immigrant at the first port of call in Australia of a Savings Bank Pass Book showing that a sum equal to the amount stipulated on his landing permit or letter of authority had been deposited in the immigrant's name in a Savings Bank in Australia could be accepted as complying with departmental requirements regarding the possession of landing money on arrival.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929 A432

Recorded by:

1929–58: Attorney General's Department (CA 5)

Canberra 2329.2 metres

This series consists of the main correspondence file series of the Attorney-General's Department. The series commenced in 1929, replacing the existing systems and contains material top-numbered from those series, including papers back to 1901.

Attorney-General's Department, File of Papers, 'White Alien Immigration, 1937'
[19 pages, 1937] A432, 1938/390

This contains a Department of the Interior Memorandum on Immigration – Review of the Government's Policy on White Alien Immigration during the year ended 30 June 1937, together with graphs giving particulars of landing permits granted during the same year and 3 maps showing the states and districts in which 'white aliens' settled. The maps are labelled a) White Alien; b) Italians; and c) Greeks, Yugoslavs and Poles.

Attorney-General's Department, File of Papers, 'Immigration Act 1901–35 – Form 40 Applications for Permission to introduce aliens into Australia – re bond of Guarantee for good Behaviour' [25 pages, 1937] A432, 1937/869

Contains memoranda on the subject of an amendment of the undertaking on the form of application for permission for 'aliens' to be introduced into Australia. The revised undertaking provided for the payment of a specified sum by the guarantor, if the 'alien' introduced were convicted of a criminal offence within five years of arrival, and for maintenance should the 'alien' become a charge upon the state or upon a public or charitable institution. A copy of the application (Form No. 40) is enclosed.

Attorney-General's Department, File of Papers, 'Anglo-Italian Treaty 1883: Question of effect restricting alien immigration into Australia' [44 pages, 1938–46] A432, 1938/1047

Article 13 of the Treaty of Commerce between Great Britain and Italy of 15 June 1883, which was binding on the Commonwealth, provided that subjects of the Contracting Parties should obey the laws and have full liberty, with their families, to enter, travel or reside in any part of the dominions and possessions of the other Contracting Party. This file concerns the implications of this agreement for Australia's immigration laws, especially in relation to restrictions on Italians. The Home Office view was that appeal should not be made to the terms of a commercial treaty against immigration control provided that it was applied to 'aliens' of all nationalities alike. Concessions to Northern Europeans in the late thirties were thus at issue.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1918–59

PP302/1

Recorded by:

1919–46: Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)

1946–59: Commonwealth Investigation Service, WA (CA 917)

Perth 23.76 metres

This series contains numerous applications from Europeans for the admission of friends or relatives into Australia. Individual case files relate to the operation of the policy on European immigration in this period. They include details about the applicant and the nominee, questionnaires and letters sent to the applicant and to his employer, and a copy of the completed Form 40. Information was particularly sought on the financial state of the applicant, whether he could support the nominee, whether the nominee could speak English, whether employment was ensured and if that employment would displace Australian workers. Correspondence indicates whether the application was successful and the reasons for objections where they occurred. The series also includes applications from Europeans for naturalisation and applications under National Security (Land Transfer) Regulations. The files may contain information about loyalty, political activities and affiliations of the individuals concerned.

5 Ethnic and Religious Groups

This chapter focuses on the various ethnic and religious groups migrating to Australia between 1901 and 1939. It is important to remember that during this period the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* and its subsequent amendments prohibited all non-Europeans from entry. Thus the ethnic and religious groups in question are essentially of European background. This is not to say that there were no non-Europeans living in Australia. Under the *Immigration Restriction Act*, a limited number of non-Europeans were given exemptions to remain in Australia after 1901 depending on their length of previous residence but they were usually denied the citizenship and other rights (such as free choice of occupation and property ownership) enjoyed by 'white' Australians.

Those who did come included the British who were by far the most numerous, for example, English, Scots, Welsh and Irish. Other ethnic groups were also British subjects, such as the Maltese, Anglo-Indians and various other members of the British Commonwealth. European immigrants consisted of Italians, Germans, Greeks, Austrians, Yugoslavs, Poles, Estonians, Czechoslovaks, Albanians, Bulgarians, Scandinavians, Finns, Dutch, Swiss and Jews (seen as a specific group). A number of other groups are prominent in the records held by the National Archives if, for one reason or another, they came under official notice. European immigrants were often considered by governments as less 'desirable' than the British and special legislation was enacted from time to time to restrict their entry or limit their numbers. Europeans were referred to in official documents as 'foreign' migrants or 'white aliens' (see Chapter 4 on 'White Alien' Immigration Policy). Although the aim of policy-makers in this period was to preserve a predominantly British Australia, the reality was that the nation was never monocultural as illustrated by the variety of ethnic groups listed below.

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

In this chapter, record descriptions are organised under particular ethnic groups. Items are then organised under series and within that, in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

Full descriptions of the series to which the items described in this chapter belong may be found on the database or in the relevant earlier chapter, as follows:

- Series A1, A2, A432, A445, A458, A461 and PP6/1 – Chapter 2
- Series A457 – Chapter 3; and
- Series CP78/22, A367, A433 and A434 – Chapter 4

Albanians

Information on restrictions on Albanians in the mid-1920s.

Governor-General's Office, General Correspondence, 'Immigration Alien, 1924–27' [152 pages, 1924–27] CP78/22, 1926/25 part 2

The file focuses on certain restrictions on Southern European and other 'alien' immigration to Australia in the mid-1920s. It contains a confidential letter to the British Consuls-General at Canton, Shanghai, Hankow and Tientsin and the British Consul at Harbin, China, December 1925, advising that the migration of Russians should be discouraged and that all applications should go through the Consulates with careful scrutiny, owing to government information about activities of communists and Soviet agents in Australia. Correspondence also relates to applications from Russians and former Russians through other countries, such as Hong Kong, Egypt, France, Palestine, the Philippines and Singapore. There is also a memorandum for the Governor-General from the Prime Minister's Department removing the entry restriction on persons of German, Austro-German, Bulgarian and Hungarian parentage and nationality (former 'enemy aliens'). Thereafter, these national groups came under the same conditions as European 'aliens' generally. Other issues treated in the file refer to the restriction of Greeks, Yugoslavs and Albanians to 100 per month (the reasons given being their destitution in Australia), the alleged ill-treatment of Yugoslavs, 1925, the introduction of the £40 landing money requirement for 'alien' migrants generally, the destination of Yugoslav migrants in 1924, the question of the admission of bona fide merchants from Hong Kong in 1927, and a request for entry of the family of a Chinese man with an Australian passport.

Americans

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration from the USA' [9 pages, 1917–18] A2, 1917/3423

This contains correspondence relating to a plan to bring settlers from the agricultural districts of the United States to Australia by Mr J Roland Kay, an Englishman, in 1917. The proposal was communicated to the States but, owing to the repatriation of troops, no action was taken.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Migrants from the United States of America' [30 pages, 1924–33] A458, O154/17

This contains correspondence from the Official Secretary to the Commissioner for Australia in the United States for emigration forms which could be sent for approval to Australia House, London, and for information about requirements in relation to landing money. Owing to many inquiries about emigration to Australia, some of which are enclosed, he also asked whether any encouragement was given to British subjects in the United States to emigrate to Australia, under what conditions they could emigrate, and what action his office might take. In the replies, the system of nomination was explained, the only financial concession granted to migrants from the USA. They made clear that no propaganda should be used or encouragement given, and supplied information from which unsolicited queries could be answered.

Home and Territories Department, File of Papers, 'Immigration of Americans to Australia' [12 pages, 1925–30] A1, 1930/6203

This contains a request for information to the Prime Minister from the Commissioner for Australia in New York in 1925, on how to answer queries about migration to Australia, and the replies. The file also contains correspondence from Violet Ray

relating to alleged attempts to smuggle undesirable immigrants into Australia and the responses to this.

Anglo-Indians

Prime Minister's Department, File of Papers, 'Immigration of British Soldiers, India' [16 pages, 1913–17] A2, 1917/3072

This file refers mainly to representations by the Rev. John Nelson for the introduction of ex-soldiers from India and the children of soldiers serving in India, to South Australia. Views of the Premiers were sought on the question in general. The majority of the proposed immigrants were Eurasians, excluded in Australia. No action was taken.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Anglo-Indian Settlers for Australia' [2.5 cm, 1921–27] B349/1/6 PART 3

This contains three separate folders. The main file, headed 'Anglo-Indian Settlers for Australia – General', covers the period from 1921 to 1927 and gives the background to the desire of many retired Anglo-Indian civil servants to migrate to Australia. It contains a letter of June 1921 requesting a tour for the purpose of advertising Australia, various migration proposals, requests for information, individual applications, offers by would-be agents and correspondence from the Commonwealth Immigration Office to the States to urge action in the matter, and offer land for settlement and other concessions. The second folder, entitled 'Anglo-Indian Army Officers. Correspondence with States', focuses on 1922 and contains a letter from General Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief in India, in May 1922 and a memorandum on the subject of settling Indian officers on land in Australia. Letters from state Premiers on the land available and possibilities for settling the officers are included. Victoria sent its own representative Major H A Currie, a Director of Australian Farms Ltd, to India in order to supply information. The third folder is entitled 'Mesopotamian Officers and Visit of Major Boyd' and covers the period from 1922 to 1923. The Commonwealth government, through Mr E D A Bagot of the Mesopotamian Trading and Agency Company, invited two officers, acting on behalf of prospective Anglo-Indian settlers from Mesopotamia to Australia to inspect suitable country. The file concerns the visit of Major H S Boyd in this connection, his investigations into a group or community scheme, and his expenses. A report on his visit to Western Australia is included. [See also Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Anglo-Indian Army Officers', A461, B349/1/6 Part 1]

Armenians

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restriction. Armenians' [26 pages, 1922–28] A457, X401/2

This contains a letter from Dr L L Wirt, Commissioner, Near East Relief, 1922, to the Prime Minister, with a proposal for the immigration of selected Armenian orphan boys (14 to 20 years of age, described as sons of farmers, white and Christian). The reply from the Assistant Director, Commonwealth Immigration Office, indicated that there was already a sufficient supply of British lads and that it would be undesirable to offer any attraction for the settlement in Australia of Armenians or other people of the Near East. Further correspondence is included from the Rev. J E Cresswell, National Secretary of the Australasian Armenian Relief Fund, on the same subject, and from Marshall W Fox of the Friends' Foreign Mission Association, for the immigration of Armenian refugees in 1923. They received a similar response.

Austrians

Note: The term 'Austrians', like 'Jugoslavs' in this period, is somewhat problematic, encompassing a number of groups who may not have identified themselves as such but were classified under these general headings in the official records.

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF INTERNMENTS, REPATRIATIONS, AFFILIATIONS AND GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1915–20 PP14/1

Recorded by:

1915–19: Headquarters, 5 Military District, Commonwealth Military Forces (CA 4811)

1919–20: Investigation Branch, Western Australia (CA 908)

Perth 6.48 metres

This series is valuable in documenting contemporary attitudes to immigrants. It contains reports of investigations made by the Western Australian Police force, at the request of Military Intelligence, into the activities, movements and statements of 'aliens'; copies of letters intercepted by the Military Censor and handed to Intelligence for investigation (with details of subsequent action taken); recommendations re internment or arrest of 'enemy aliens' following investigation into their activities and statements; and reports of investigations made into the activities of organisations thought to be opposed to the allied cause. Amongst the latter were the Anti-Conscription League, the International Workers of the World (IWW) and various 'alien' societies. The records contain the results of investigations made following receipt of information from numbers of individuals who reported supposed enemy activities in Australia.

Department of the Army, General Staff, Intelligence Section, 'List of Germans and Austrians' [15 pages, 1914–15] PP14/1, 4/1/2

This file contains lists of names of persons of German and Austrian origin in Western Australia who had applied for naturalisation since 4 July 1914. The information was required by the Commandant, 5th Military District in July 1915.

Department of the Army, General Staff, Intelligence Section, Intelligence reports: 'Austrians and Italians at Bullfinch – possible trouble', 1916 [14 pages, 1916] PP14/1, 4/3/126

This relates to job competition in the wood-cutting industry and antagonism between Italians and 'Austrian Slavs' at Bullfinch, Western Australia.

Department of the Army, General Staff, Intelligence Section; Intelligence reports – First World War, 'Serious disturbances – Austrians and Slavs at Boulder' [15 pages, 1915–16] PP14/1, 4/3/127

This refers to disturbances between Austrians and 'Slavonians' near Boulder, Western Australia in December 1915 and a subsequent police enquiry.

Department of the Army, General Staff, Intelligence Section, 'Austrians at Osborne Park' [11 pages, 1918] PP14/1, 4/3/542

This file, like others on enemy subjects during the war, reflects hostile attitudes towards Austrians in relation to questions of loyalty and job competition. This one deals with the increasing numbers of Austrians at Osborne Park, the main vegetable growing centre of Perth at the time and support for some families from the Military and State Charities Department.

'Balts'

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restriction. 'Balts' Admission' [6 pages, 1920] A457, B401/2

This file contains a query to the Foreign Office, London, from the British Commissioner for the Baltic Provinces in June 1920 about the possibility of arranging for the emigration of 'Balts' from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to a British Dominion. Information about the history of the provinces and their communities is provided. The Home and Territories Department had no objection to their admission to Australia provided they were of sound health and had passports visaed by the British consular authorities. A note from the Prime Minister's Department however, stated that the Commonwealth Government was not favourable to the immigration of 'this class of immigrant to Australia'.

Belgians

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration from Belgium' [4 pages, 1904] A2, 1904/1765

This contains a request from the Consulat General de Belgique en Australasie, 1904, requesting information on Australian immigration for the writing of a report for the benefit of Belgians wishing to emigrate.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration of Belgians. Admission of' [20 pages, 1920–49] A461, E349/3/5

This relates to three Belgians stranded at Colombo, Ceylon, on voyage to Australia in 1920. There are also requests for the admission of individual Belgians.

Bulgarians

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restriction. Bulgarians' [8 pages, 1927] A458, V156/1/278

This contains a letter from the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires, in October 1927, regarding the desire of the Bulgarian Ministry for Interior Affairs to be supplied with certain information on Bulgarian immigrants to Australia. The information concerned numbers, distribution, occupations, rates of wages, costs of board and lodging, the conditions under which they could migrate, and the demand for certain types of labour in Australia. Replies are included.

Cypriots

Department of Home and Territories, 'Immigration from Cyprus' [1916] A1, 1916/27825

This contains a letter to the High Commissioner of Australia, London, from a firm Caruana Fils, of Nicosie, Cyprus, 24 September 1916 which refers to a notice on 'Australia and Immigrants – a Maximum of Welcome and a Minimum of Restriction' in a publication *Directory of Australian Exporters*. The file is relevant for attitudes to non-British immigrants, as it contains a request for the same concessions as British immigrants, viz., greatly reduced fares, surety of good wages, reception, free visits of inspection and financial assistance to approved settlers. The letter states that most emigrants are of white race, from the Greek Orthodox Church, working class, farmers and artisans. The reply from Atlee Hunt, (Official Secretary of the Commonwealth of Australia in London), 4 November 1916, defers consideration until after the war.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restriction. Cypriots'
[11 pages, 1927–30] A458, W156/1/279

This contains letters in 1927 and 1928 to authorities in Cyprus outlining the conditions under which non-British migrants were admitted to Australia. Several dozen Cypriots were said to have arrived in late 1928 without landing permits or money. Since they could not speak English and were regarded as of Greek race, and limitations had already been placed on the numbers of Greek immigrants, a request was made to limit the issue of passports to Cypriots who had close relatives in Australia and held landing permits; exceptional cases of Cypriots 'of superior standing' would be considered.

Czechs

See Poles and Yugoslavs

Danes

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Dutch' [1.5 cm, 1935–39] A461, P349/3/5

This file relates to negotiations on Dutch migration to Australia between the Consul-General of The Netherlands and the Commonwealth Government from 1937 to 1939, given a spur through a visit by the Minister for Commerce, Dr Earle Page in 1938. The views of the Dutch government are set out in two memoranda which emphasise that the migration movement would be small and gradual, consisting of selected migrants. The Netherlands government asked whether the normal landing money for 'aliens' could be reduced from £200 to £50 if guarantees were given by the Netherlands Emigration Foundation (a semi-official body). Cabinet approval was sought and the encouragement of Dutch migrants was agreed upon on 8 April 1938 under certain conditions. The Salvation Army was also permitted to introduce migrants from Holland for farm or domestic work, the Army to be responsible for their reception, placement and aftercare, and for the repatriation of unsuitable migrants. Concern was expressed that the reduced landing money concessions given to Dutch and Danish immigrants might be claimed by Italy, in view of the 1883 commercial treaty between Great Britain and Italy which was binding on the Commonwealth. (A draft circular for Cabinet on White Alien Immigration, Landing Money Requirements, 1938, is included.) The ACTU (Australian Council of Trade Unions) in July 1938 questioned the encouragement of Dutch agricultural workers and skilled artisans, including metal workers of all classes, and a deputation followed. With the approval of the Dutch government, A AW Fransen Van de Putte was sent to Australia by the Netherlands Emigration Foundation in October 1938 to investigate the possibilities for the absorption of Dutch migrants in Australia. The Foundation agreed to select farmers and farm labourers, and later skilled artisans, according to moral character, physical fitness and suitability for life in Australia. Jews would not be accepted. Steps were then taken to establish an organisation in Australia to find employment and accommodation for Dutch migrants, give maintenance guarantees and repatriate unsuitable settlers within one year. Several letters in the file refer to a proposal to settle Dutch people on the Struan Estate in the South-East of South Australia. There is also a proposal from P R Jackson, Secretary, St. Mary's Cathedral, Perth, dated December 1938, to settle a number of Dutch Catholic families, with capital of at least £600 per family, on swampy areas adjoining Perth. Jackson argued that any problems of assimilation would be overcome since the settlement would not be isolated but close to a large centre of population. Letters from and about individual Dutch migrants, press cuttings, and Hansard extracts are also included in the file.

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Egyptians

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restriction, Admission of Egyptians' [11 pages, 1917] A2, 1917/511

This file contains a request for admission to Australia to study at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College by a young Egyptian together with related correspondence. While permanent entry was refused, one year's temporary residence was allowed.



A new arrival at North Head Quarantine Station, Sydney, early 1900s.
NAA: C1134, 5-53

Estonians [Esthonians]

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Estonians' [6 pages, 1928] A458, X156/1

This concerns the number of visas to be granted for Estonians for 1929. Visas could only be issued to holders of landing permits.

French

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. French Nationals' [51 pages, 1933–48] A461, I349/3/5

This contains a number of letters and information regarding the admission of individual French citizens and a circular on the conditions pertaining to the entry of foreign nationals entering Australia, Papua or New Guinea.

Germans

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. German and Ex-Enemy Aliens, 1919–48' [3 cm, 1919–48] A461, K349/3/5

The contents of this file cover the period from 1919 to 1939 with one page only on 1948. The file concerns the restriction of 'enemy aliens' after World War I, rights of entry and return for particular cases, the legislation enacted in 1920, and related correspondence. The Enemy Aliens Act prohibited the entry and residence of Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians and Turks for five years from 2 December 1920, and thereafter until the Governor-General by proclamation determined otherwise. The removal of the prohibition in 1925, with the exception of Turks, is also covered in various communications and press cuttings. The question of the entry of ex-enemy 'aliens' into the Territories of Papua, New Guinea and Norfolk Island is the subject of much of the correspondence.

Department of the Army, General Staff, Intelligence Section, 'German subjects in Australia' [8 pages, 1915] PP14/1, 4/10/10

This refers to an enquiry from the Department of Defence to the Commandant, 5th Military District regarding certain German subjects supposed to be in Australia, July 1915, and forms relating thereto.

See also PP14/1, 4/1/2 under Austrians

Greeks

Governor-General's Office, General Correspondence, 'Immigration Alien, 1924–27' [152 pages, 1924–27] CP78/22, 1926/25 part 2

The file focuses on certain restrictions on Southern European and other 'alien' immigration to Australia in the mid-1920s. It contains a confidential letter to the British Consuls-General at Canton, Shanghai, Hankow and Tientsin and the British Consul at Harbin, China, December 1925, advising that the migration of Russians should be discouraged and that all applications should go through the Consulates with careful scrutiny, owing to government information about activities of communists and Soviet agents in Australia. Correspondence also relates to applications from Russians and former Russians through other countries, such as Hong Kong, Egypt, France, Palestine, the Philippines and Singapore. There is also a memorandum for the Governor-General from the Prime Minister's Department removing the entry restriction on persons of German, Austro-German, Bulgarian and Hungarian parentage and nationality (former 'enemy aliens'). Thereafter, these national groups came under the same conditions as European 'aliens' generally. Other issues treated in the file refer to the restriction of Greeks, Yugoslavs and Albanians to 100 per month (the reasons given being their destitution in Australia), the alleged ill-treatment of Yugoslavs, 1925, the introduction of the £40 landing money requirement for 'alien' migrants generally, the destination of Yugoslav migrants in 1924, the question of the admission of bona fide merchants from Hong Kong in 1927, and a request for entry of the family of a Chinese man with an Australian passport.

Indians

Department of Home and Territories, 'Indian Immigration Fiji' [13 pages, 1919–20] A1, 1920/12012

This contains copies of Fiji Legislative Council papers (Nos. 112 of 1918 and 46 of 1919) which deal with the subject of Indian immigration. These were obtained as a result of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the supply of certain official publications to the Commonwealth Government in 1919.

Irish

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Migrants from Ireland' [80 pages, 1922–24] A458, H134/16

This file raises the question of the acceptance of migrants from Ireland to Australia under the Empire Settlement Scheme. Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, was officially eligible for financial assistance from the British government for migrants proceeding to the Dominions, whereas Southern Ireland, by that time a Free State with the status of a Dominion itself, was not. Despite this, and pressure from the Ministry of Labour in Ireland (which attested to 46 000 applicants in early 1923), the Director of the Commonwealth Immigration Office, Percy Hunter, was unwilling to extend recruiting operations to Northern Ireland, owing to disturbed conditions there. *The Age* on 23 June 1923 recorded a cabled complaint from

London that the Commonwealth was excluding Irish immigrants which was followed by an explanation from the Prime Minister. The *Daily Telegraph* later reported alleged restrictions on Irish immigrants (press extracts enclosed). Letters to the Prime Minister and a deputation to the New South Wales Premier on behalf of the Irish Loyalist Migration Committee brought their work to the attention of the government. Nominations for residents of Southern Ireland for assisted passages followed and the Commonwealth at first agreed to a rebate of only half that allowed to nominated immigrants (close relatives) from the United States, Canada, South Africa and other British dominions; the question of equity was therefore raised. The Commonwealth later agreed that equivalent rebates would apply.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Irish Free State' [2 pages, 1938–48]
A461, F349/1/3**

This relates to an inquiry, subsequent to the resumption of assisted migration in March 1938, concerning the eligibility of persons in the Irish Free State with limited capital and without guarantors in Australia for the grant of assisted passages. Approval was given in August 1938 to extend the Commonwealth's contribution towards assisted passages to residents of the Irish Free State.

Italians

Department of External Affairs, 'Immigration to Australia of a Number of Italian Agricultural Labourers' [8 pages, 1911] A1, 1911/10765

This relates to representations made to the Minister on behalf of the McArthur Shipping and Agency Company, Sydney, regarding the immigration to Australia of a number of Italian agricultural labourers in 1911. There was no objection provided that they were not likely to become a burden on the State and were not under contract.

Prime Minister File of Papers, 'Immigration of Italian Colonists from Argentina to Australia' [13 pages, 1915–16] A2, 1916/171

This file contains correspondence from Francisco Netri in April, concerning an Italian colony of agriculturalists in Rosario, Argentina, who were involved in a strike in 1913, had since formed a Federation of Agricultural Workers numbering some 5–6 000 people, were without land or support from the government, and desired to emigrate to Australia. Investigations into Dr Netri and his plans were carried out through Reginald Tower, the British Consul at Buenos Aires, whose report was unfavourable. Criticism by the Argentine government in the Buenos Aires press on the departure to Australia of some 200 colonists from the Territory of Chubut was noted.

Department of the Army, General Staff, Intelligence Section, 'Italian Aliens on the Kalgoorlie Goldfields' [14 pages, 1919] PP14/1, 16/1/290

Through press cuttings, telegrams and correspondence, this file records aspects of industrial unrest in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia in 1919 and a struggle between the Australian Workers' Union (AWU) and the 'Nationalists' in which returned soldiers were active participants. Following an incident on 12 August 1919 when a returned soldier was fatally stabbed by an Italian, hostile demonstrations occurred against Italians and the Returned Soldiers' Association called for their expulsion from the goldfields. A letter from a barrister and solicitor, R D Lane, October 1919 to the Military Department asks about possible repatriation for destitute Italians. The file is useful in relation to the position of Italians on the goldfields and attitudes to recent Italian immigrants in the post-World War I period in Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.

Home and Territories Department, File of Papers, 'Immigration of Italians to Australia' [34 pages, 1920–26] A1, 1926/9494

This file contains correspondence from Major General G Ramaciotti to the Prime Minister's Department in 1920 regarding his efforts to induce the Italian government to look more favourably upon emigration to Australia. The Commonwealth's policy was to offer a general welcome, particularly to agriculturalists, while not actively encouraging Italians. Extracts from Ramaciotti's Quarterly Reports on the Development of Trade between Australia and Italy, 1923 and 1924, a report on Italian emigration, and correspondence on Italian immigration to Brazil are included.

Department of Home and Territories, 'Orient SS Coy., Italian Immigration, 1926' [15 pages, 1926] A1, 1926/4331

This refers more to Italian emigration than immigration, concerning a fine imposed by the Italian Government on the SS *Orama* for landing more than 50 Italian third class passengers at Naples and not complying with the provisions of the Italian Emigration Act. Since no such restrictions were imposed by the Australian government, it resulted in a protest to the British government and representations being made to the Italian government. The Minister argued that the incident would provide a suitable opportunity of pointing out to the Italian government that the Commonwealth authorities would, in the future, have to enforce strictly the requirements of the Navigation Act respecting the surveying of all Italian passenger vessels coming to Australia.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Italian missionaries' [3 pages, 1927] A458, P156/2

Provincial Salesians requested permission in 1927 for the entry of 11 Italian members of the order without landing money requirements. This was approved.

Attorney-General's Department, 'Proposed Proclamation under section 3K of Immigration Act 1930–31. Question as to whether Article 13 of Anglo-Italian Treaty of 1883 would be affected' [30 pages, 1930] A432, 1930/2393

This file refers to the question in 1930 of whether there would be any breach of Article 13 of the Anglo-Italian Treaty of 1883 if a proclamation were made prohibiting the entry into Australia of persons of any European nationality, including Italians. The treaty, signed between Great Britain and Italy in 1883, guaranteed full liberty, with their families, to enter, travel, or reside in any part of the dominions and possessions of the other contracting party. This therefore included Australia. The Acting Solicitor-General advised that the unqualified prohibition of the entry of Italians into Australia would amount to a breach of the article. However, since entry was conditional on the subjects of each contracting party conforming to the laws of the country concerned, and the laws of Australia included immigration laws, Italians would be bound by those laws. The proclamation was therefore made, viz. that on account of the unemployment conditions then existing in the Commonwealth, the landing in Australia of 'alien' immigrants of any European nationality was prohibited from 1 April 1931, and until otherwise ordered, with the exception of any person holding a permit to enter or re-enter Australia issued under the authority of the Minister for Home Affairs. The exclusion of non-European races was not affected.

Department of Immigration, Correspondence file class 3 (non-British European migrant), 'Immigration of Italians to Australia', Part 2 [2 cm, 1930–41] A434, 1949/3/29453

This contains a policy statement on Italian Migrants in 1930, reducing the quota to 1 500 per year and confining passports to those with close relatives in Australia. Questions in the House of Representatives, press cuttings, correspondence and cables focus on the approved categories of Italian immigrants and the arrival of

some who fell outside the categories. Owing to increasing unemployment, a reminder of the regulations was sent to the Italian government in August 1930 and the Italian Consul-General, Comm. Grossardi, was interviewed on the matter in November. The arrival in late 1930 of 4 ships carrying 200 Italians outside the approved categories prompted government action; customs authorities at Fremantle declared those from the Orford and the Otranto prohibited immigrants, applied the dictation test and prevented them from landing. Despite possible trade repercussions and representations from the Italian Consul-General, Archbishop Duhig and the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, the decision was not altered and a proclamation was issued prohibiting the entry of all 'alien' immigrants with the exception of those who obtained permits from the Department of External Affairs. This was not seen as discriminating against Italians under the Treaty of 1883 which accorded them most favoured nation treatment (see A432, 1930/2393 above). The regulations applying landing permits to Italians, in addition to Italian nomination papers (Atti di Chiamata), were formally introduced in 1932, just when M A Ferrante took over as Consul-General. As a result of a strong appeal by Ferrante, a compromise in working arrangements was reached, commencing from 1 December 1933. Further correspondence relating to Italian immigration in the 1930s, including several memoranda on the subject, are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration of Italians to Australia, Part 4' [1.5 cm, 1934–38] A445, 211/1/3

This contains a memorandum on Italian Immigration, 1934, and the question of the modification of the restrictions which had already occurred in the case of Maltese. Correspondence between the Italian Consul-General, A Ferrante, and Australian Immigration authorities regarding landing permits and procedures to be adopted in particular cases is included. By 1936, the abolition of the Atti di Chiamata was under discussion owing to the belief that discriminatory action was being taken against naturalised British subjects of Italian origin, who wished to nominate relatives to come to Australia. Other correspondence deals with alleged complications arising since the Abyssinian War regarding wives and children of naturalised British subjects of Italian origin in obtaining British passports in Italy. There are further memoranda in 1936 and 1937 on Italian immigration and the system of nomination, correspondence relating to Italians seeking relief in Queensland, and a letter objecting to the formation of Italian colonies in Australia.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Deputation by Italians at Ingham re Immigration and Naturalisation' [10 pages, 1938] A1, 1938/21774

This file contains notes from a deputation to the Minister for Repatriation, Senator H S Foll, at Ingham, Queensland, in July 1938, calling for a relaxation of conditions of migration of relatives of Italians naturalised in Australia, and the necessity for Italians to have an adequate knowledge of English before applying for naturalisation. A memorandum and other notes on these issues are included. The reply referred to a Department of the Interior investigation conducted in 1937 which revealed high unemployment in the canefields area and recommended that no landing permits for those likely to take up employment in that industry be issued. It was also argued that the English language requirement was crucial in order that migrants assimilate, especially where there were large concentrations of 'aliens'.

On Italians, see also the following files described in Chapter 4 on 'White Alien' Immigration Policy: A367, C3075AB; A432, 1938/1047 and A367, C3075 AK.)

Jews

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Jews' [2 pages, 1925] A458, N156/2

This contains a letter from F C Derbyshire, Passport Control Officer, Warsaw, 1925, requesting information about the immigration of Jews to Australia to supply to Jewish Societies in Poland. The letter concerns his views on the value of Jewish emigrants from Poland, in relation to their physique and political views.

See Chapter 6 on Female Immigration and Chapter 9 on Refugees for examples of other records.

Information about other records on Jewish immigration is provided in Guide No. 12 – *Safe Haven: Records of the Jewish Experience in Australia*.

Latvians

See Poles

Maltese

Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, General Correspondence File, 'Maltese Immigrants and Stowaways' [8 pages, 1927–34] PP6/1, 1927/H/427

This contains a circular from the Home and Territories Department to the Collector of Customs concerning information from the Director of Emigration, Malta, August 1927, about some Maltese, not passed as suitable immigrants, who had succeeded in obtaining passports elsewhere and were proceeding to Australia as stowaways. The conditions for Maltese immigration are set out with a request that all Maltese arriving are scrutinised, stowaways prohibited from landing, and information supplied to the Department. Other correspondence concerning Maltese immigration in 1934 is also included.

Prime Minister's department, 'Immigration Policy. Admission of Maltese' [75 pages, 1926–27] A458, G156/2 part 3

This contains a letter of June 1926 to J T Barnes, Deputy Director, Migration and Settlement Office, London, from Henry Casolani, Superintendent of Emigration, Malta, suggesting that an arrangement be made between the Commonwealth and Maltese governments for the migration to Australia of Maltese youths. The proposal was put before the State Premiers who responded unfavourably. Further representations followed from Senator Samut, Maltese Representative, Empire Parliamentary Delegation in October 1926 to extend the nomination system to Maltese in Australia, from the Premier of Malta, Ugo Mifsud, for sympathetic treatment, and from Colonel L S Amery for a review of the quota of 100 a month then operating. The reply pointed out that despite the quota, Maltese were granted a concession of only £10 landing money rather than the £40 required of all other 'aliens'; however, nominations as requested were agreed to. There was concern over unemployment levels however, and numbers were still limited to 20 per month per state. In 1927 the Maltese government called for the abolition of the quota since its existence classed the Maltese who were 'British subjects of white race' as 'aliens'; an assurance was given that numbers permitted under the quota would not be exceeded as a result. This proposal was subsequently adopted. A memorandum on Maltese Migration, giving the history during the 1920s is included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions Policy. Admission of Maltese' [5 cm, 1917–30] A458, G156/2 part 1

This is a very large file on Maltese immigration from 1917 to 1930. One section contains correspondence dealing with the abolition in 1923 of the quota of 260 Maltese per annum and the requirements for Maltese immigration, copies of *The Maltese Migrant in Australia* reprinted from the *Fortnightly Review* of 1929, a booklet entitled *Awake Malta or the Hard Lesson of Emigration*, press extracts and a report on Emigration from Malta, 1922–23. Another section covers repercussions of the detention of 214 Maltese who arrived in 1916 on the SS *Gange*, expenses incurred by the shipping company for losses, maintenance and return passages for 6 Maltese suffering from trachoma, and the exclusion of Maltese from August 1917 to 1920. The file includes correspondence on the nature of and reasons for the restrictions, (with comparisons made with Italian immigration and much discussion over whether the restrictions were imposed because Maltese were regarded as 'coloured'), the agreement with the Maltese government in 1920 to admit Maltese, provided numbers did not exceed 260 per annum (based on the average yearly numbers for 1912 to 1914). Questions arose in 1922 as to whether the concessions given to certain European nationalities in connection with nominated passages could be applied to Maltese, and in 1923 in regard to Maltese immigration into the Kimberley district of Western Australia. The file also covers the modifications to the quota system in 1923, calls from the Premier of New South Wales to stop all Maltese migration and many letters and press reports on the subject expressing individual opinions. The file jumps from 1924 to 1928, the last sections focussing on unemployment and distress amongst Maltese immigrants in the late 1920s.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Maltese. Part 1' [2 cm, 1931–44] A461, K349/1/6 part 1

This contains correspondence relating to a census of the population of Malta and Maltese living abroad in April 1931, requesting numbers of Maltese living in the various states. Other correspondence in 1931 deals with the position of Maltese in North Queensland. At the time non-British cane cutters were being excluded from selection for employment. The Commissioner for Malta, F J Corder, visited North Queensland to obtain the recognition of Maltese as British, and requested assistance from the Commonwealth government. In 1934, a suggestion was made by Major Charles Mattei for a Maltese cotton-growing settlement in the Dawson Valley, near Rockhampton, Queensland. The following year, proposals for Maltese settlement in Australia came from Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Commissioner for Malta set out some relevant facts on immigration from Malta in the form of a memorandum to the Prime Minister in 1936. He argued that Maltese ought not to be subjected to restrictions that were not imposed on other British subjects and that landing permits ought to be more freely granted to extended family members of those Maltese already in Australia. Some concessions were made as a result. Correspondence in 1937 relates to the 1928 Agreement between the South Johnstone Mill Suppliers and the Australian Workers' Union which provided that not less than 70% (subsequently 75%) of employees in the area should be reserved for British cutters and the fact that the term 'British' was interpreted by some to exclude Maltese. The High Commissioner requested that the Commonwealth Government recognise that, in terms of national status, there was no distinction between a British subject from Malta and a British subject from the United Kingdom or from any other part of His Majesty's dominions. While the government recognised that a 'natural-born British subject' included any person born within His Majesty's Dominions and allegiance, it did not concede that there were no distinctions between those subjects in relation to immigration restrictions. In 1937, the Commissioner for Malta inquired whether the immigration of a limited number of children from Malta might be admitted on the same basis as Fairbridge children but this was refused on the grounds of the preference being given to migrants from the United Kingdom. In the same year, Charles Bonham Carter, Governor of Malta, urged that Maltese immigrants be received on the same terms as those from the

United Kingdom. As a result of these representations, a Department of the Interior Memorandum for Cabinet on Maltese Migration followed in 1938. Although conditions under which Maltese were able to enter Australia were modified, there was no press publicity given to the new arrangements in order to avoid political repercussions. Other contents of the file include letters in 1938 from Spiro Sceriha, of Kuttambul, via Mackay, on Maltese migration and the replies; letters in 1939 on the issue of the eligibility of British and 'alien' migrants for social welfare; and booklets entitled *British Orphans Adoption Society* and *Orphans of the War* by E D Darby.

Maoris

Department of External Affairs, 'Instructions to all Collectors of Customs that Maoris are not to be tested under par (a), Sec (3) of I.R. Act' [3 pages, 1905] A1, 1905/1456

This contains instructions that Maoris were not to be subjected to the dictation test under paragraph (a), section 3, of the Immigration Restriction Act, but were to be admitted without restriction. Paragraphs (b) and (g), however, were to be observed as in the case of white races.

'Nordic Races'

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Migration Nordic Races' [2 pages, 1930] A458, S156/2

This contains a resolution from the RSSILA in 1930, that Nordic people with capital should be encouraged to migrate to Australia without government assistance.

Paraguay, Immigration From

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration from Paraguay' [39 pages, 1916–18] A2, 1918/449

Many of those referred to in this file were not strictly immigrants but Australians who had gone to Paraguay from Australia or Great Britain to join William Lane's co-operative enterprise, the 'New Australia' and 'Cosme' settlements. In 1916, they desired to migrate or return to Australia, if possible with assisted passages. This information was sent to the states and the file contains the replies, which on the whole were reserved, owing to lack of detailed information and the numbers returning from the war. Other statements on the group and related correspondence are included.

Patagonians

See also Welsh.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Admission of Patagonians' [3 pages, 1923] A457, V401/2/72

This contains a letter to Mr Deane from Norman Makin, MP, February 1923, asking whether it was a fact that during the war 300 Patagonians were brought to the Northern Territory and if so, at what cost and what became of them. Deane's reply, given on the advice of the Home and Territories Department, stated that in April 1913, authority was given under the Fisher government for the admission into the Territory of a number of Welsh colonists or residents of Welsh extraction from Patagonia. In July 1915, under the second Fisher government, 220 arrived, but it was found that they consisted partly of other European nationalities, but no native Patagonians. Fares were paid by the Commonwealth at a total cost of between

£6,000–7 000. Practically all had been absorbed by other states, with very few remaining in the Territory.

Poles (Czechs and Yugoslavs)

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Poles, Czechs and Yugoslavs' [67 pages, 1919–31] A458, D156/3

This contains applications for entry by four Latvians (Lettish citizens) in 1919 and from Poles, Czechs and others in 1920 and later. The file focuses on the granting of visas for Australia to Poles and other ex-Russians who had become citizens of friendly republics. No objection was raised in regard to those in sound health, of good character, who were anti-Bolshevist in sympathy and who had £40 landing money unless an official letter could be produced by the applicant to show that permission to land had been granted as a result of nomination by a resident in Australia, responsible for maintenance on arrival. The question of evasion of these requirements was raised in correspondence between 1925 and 1927. As a result further safeguards were imposed, for example, that the landing money should be personal property, not a loan, and that if any statements were discovered to be incorrect, the immigrant would be prohibited from landing. Other correspondence relative to Czech, Polish and Yugoslav immigration in 1927–28 is included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration – Roumanians' [23 pages, 1925–41] A461, O349/3/5

This contains various requests for information by Roumanians on possible migration to Australia. Two were interested in working in the textile industry while another asked about the possible migration together of 20–80 families (or 100–500 people). The reply to the latter outlined the conditions governing immigration and stated that the 'mass migration of aliens' was not encouraged.

Russians

Department of Home and Territories, 'A Barding. Immigration of Russians' [1919] A1, 1919/6897

This is a small file relating to a particular case and includes a secret intelligence report.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration – Admission (Russians)' [17 pages, 1920] A2, 1920/509/266

The file relates to correspondence sent from the Colonial Office in 1920 on the question of relief to fugitives of Russian armies driven from Karelia into Finland. It was suggested that they might emigrate to the British Dominions. The reply from the Home and Territories Department, however, was that they could not be admitted. (Much the same material is found in A1, 1922/956, described in Chapter 9 on Refugees).

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Russians' [2 cm, 1920–35] A458, C156/3

This contains various requests concerning Russian immigration to Australia. Included is a letter from the British High Commissioner, Constantinople, to Earl Curzon of Kedleston in 1920 on the proposed settlement, as a small self-contained colony, of Russian refugees who required assistance in the initial stages. Other correspondence refers to the arrival in Australia in 1920 of Russians previously residing in China. The government sent instructions to the British ambassador in Peking not to issue passports to Russians to enter Australia without special authority

from the Home and Territories Department. The policy at the time was to prohibit the entry of Russians except in special cases. Various other applications from or on behalf of Russians were received: from the Agricultural Ossinsk Labour Commune for financial assistance to allow some of its members to emigrate to Australia; from 66 Russians known as the Tolstov Group in 1923; from the British Consuls-General at Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Harbin, Yokohama and Manila; and from Rear Admiral Starck (who commanded the former Russian Far Eastern squadron), among others. In all cases, the government was unwilling to grant approval. Individual applications could be granted if the applicant was healthy, of good character and anti-Bolshevist in sympathies, could speak English sufficiently to make himself understood, could pay his own passage and possessed £10 landing money. After 1925, the landing money was increased to £40 and a guarantee from an Australian relative or friend was required. Official correspondence in 1925 stressed that the immigration of Russians was discouraged on the grounds of increased communist activity within Australia. Russians wishing to enter Australia were requested to apply through their nearest British Consul or British authority and to submit references from reputable persons, preferably British, residing in the same district. Satisfactory evidence was required that the person did not hold 'dangerous or extreme political views'. In 1927, a circular was produced by the Passport Control Department with regard to the procedure to be adopted in connection with applications by Russians and ex-Russians for visas to enter Australia. There are also *Hansard* extracts and letters relating to visits to Australia of individual Russians for the purpose of wool buying, 1927–29.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Particular Classes – Baby Immigration' [54 pages, 1922–23] A457, X400/5

This file concerns child migration and a full description is provided in Chapter 7 on Juvenile Migration but it contains a query in a letter from a Mrs J M Nankivill, of Widok 26, Warsaw, of 12 December 1923, about the immigration of ex-officers of the Russian Army. The reply from the Commonwealth Immigration Office pointed out that no encouragement or assistance was granted to Russians. Additional records on Russian immigration are described in Chapter 4 (see CP 78, 1926/25, Part 2) and Chapter 9 (see A1, 1916/10708; A2, 1917/3354; A457, H400/5; A1, 1922/956; A1, 1928/45; A1, 1935/9072; and A1, 1936/2513). See also 'Immigration of Russians' –A8, 1901/281/1, available on microfilm.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Scottish Ex-servicemen' [2 pages, 1927] A458, U154/17

This contains a letter to the Prime Minister in 1927 from Lieut. Colonel C B Vandeleur, relating to a scheme for the migration to Australia of ex-soldiers and their wives from various Scottish regiments organised by the War Office and the YMCA. Of 140 applications only 4 were selected by the Dominion authorities. Information was sought on how to assist these ex-soldiers overseas.

Spaniards

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration – Spaniards stranded at Newcastle' [5 pages, 1916] A2, 1916/325

This file more correctly relates to immigrants from Argentina who arrived in Australia in 1915. It contains a letter from the J H Cann, Acting Premier of NSW, to G F Pearce, the Acting Prime Minister, May 1916, referring to a police report on 3 members of a large party of Spaniards recently imported from Spain by the Commonwealth government to work at railway construction at Port Darwin, Northern Territory, who became dissatisfied with the conditions there and went to Newcastle, where they were found stranded in the streets. They were unable to speak English, and although willing to do any kind of labouring work, could not find employment and had no means of support. The matter was brought to the attention of the Vice

Consul for Spain at Newcastle but he was unable to give any assistance. Cann asked 'whether any arrangements [could] be made for the disposal of these men'. In reply, Pearce stated that the three men were members of a party of immigrants brought by the Commonwealth Government from South America to settle in the Northern Territory. The local authorities gave them employment on their arrival in the Territory, in accordance with their engagement, and had fulfilled their obligations. The Commonwealth was not disposed to look after them any further unless they returned to the Territory, which they would have to do at their own expense. A subsequent letter (July 1916) conveyed that the men had no intention of returning to the Territory as they had since found employment in Newcastle.

Swedish

Department of External Affairs, File of Papers, 'Swedish Immigration' [25 pages, 1914] A1, 1914/10339

The file refers to discussions between the Consul-General for Sweden and the Department of External Affairs in May 1914 on Swedish immigration and contains information forwarded by the High Commissioner to the Department of External Affairs on emigration to Australia from the Scandinavian countries. The views ascertained were communicated to State Premiers and some of the responses are enclosed. The reply from Premier Scaddan outlined the procedure on the reception of immigrants to Western Australia and included a brochure issued to immigrants during their voyage on things they should know and a sample admission card with information on the Immigrants' Home.

Tongans

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Tongans' [4 pages, 1927–28] A458, Q156/2

This contains a request for information from the Premier of Tonga in 1927 on the question of guarantees for maintenance, quarantine fees, etc. for Tongans who wished to reside temporarily in Australia as pupils to attend school or government servants on leave of absence. Replies are included.

Welsh

Prime Minister's Department, File of Papers, 'Immigration (Welsh Community in Chubut to Australia)' [3 pages, 1915] A2, 1915/2250

This contains two letters from Andrew Bonar Law, referring to a despatch from the British Minister at Buenos Aires in April 1915, in relation to a scheme for the migration of members of the Welsh community in Chubut (Patagonia, Argentina) to Australia and a copy of a question asked in the House of Representatives on 8 September 1915 in regard to the ships on which 220 immigrants from South America arrived in 1915. The reply was that they travelled by the SS *Valdivia* from Port Madryn to Talcahuano, then came on the *Kwanto Maru* to Darwin.

Yugoslavs

Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, General Correspondence File, 'Italians and Yugoslavs – Departure of' [4 pages, 1931] PP6/1, 1931/H/446

This contains a request from the Attorney General's Department, September 1931, to the Collector of Customs for the numbers of Italians and Yugoslavs leaving Fremantle for Europe over the previous three months and the reply.

For information on general restrictions on certain Europeans in the mid-1920s see Chapter 4 (CP78/22, 1926/25 part 2).

Additional records include: A981, MIG 82, 'Migration Restriction – Yugoslavia, 1939; A461, F349/3/5, 'Immigration Restrictions. Slavs', date range 1937; and A1, 1923/15046, 'Admission of Yugoslavs', 1920–23.

6 Female Immigration

Although women and children are covered by the general legislation and included in immigration records as wives and families, they are rarely referred to specifically. For the purposes of this Guide, female immigration refers to the immigration of women who migrated alone in the period from 1901 to 1939, unaccompanied by either husbands or families.

Women, especially domestic servants who were much coveted owing to the high demand for them in Australia, were often sponsored by governments or voluntary organisations both in Australia and Great Britain. Non-government organisations included the Church of England Society for Empire Settlement, the Church of England Migration Council, the Church Army, the Domestic Immigration Society, the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women (SOSBW), and the Salvation Army. Female migration was conducted under special safeguards and conditions, often with a matron traveling with groups of single women. Great emphasis was placed upon their care, protection and control before, during and after their journey to Australia. Hostels were established in Great Britain for their training and accommodation before embarkation.

Prior to World War I, a Mrs Bingham welcomed unaccompanied women and helped place them in employment on behalf of the Victorian government. After the war, the Women's Employment Agency of the Department of Labor and Industry in New South Wales helped place women immigrants as did similar sub-sections of the Department in other states. Voluntary associations also took part in the reception of female immigrants. These included the government-supported New Settlers' League, Women's Branches in Victoria and New South Wales. The New Settlers' League often worked in association with other voluntary organisations such as the Women's Immigration Auxiliary Council in Western Australia, the Domestic Immigration Society, Sydney, and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Some of these organisations set up low cost hostels in the major cities to which the women could go on arrival and return between situations.



Female immigrants at North Head Quarantine Station, Sydney, early 1900s.

NAA: C1134, 5-56

Immigration policy was, and in many cases still is, gendered; with regard to married couples and families, the principal applicant in these years was always the male, with little attention paid to the role of wives and daughters in the records, except to register their presence, important in realising the aim of a higher population for Australia. Single women were encouraged to immigrate in order to satisfy perceived needs in relation to Australia's future population, both in terms of its quantity and quality. Domestic servants would release middle-class women for their primary role in society as bearers and nurturers of children; they would help overcome the isolation of wives of rural settlers and, not least, they would become future wives and mothers themselves. Their character, youth and experience were therefore important criteria in selection. Factory work was an area of employment which was becoming increasingly common for women in these years, yet it was not seen as desirable to encourage this class of worker, partly because it would boost urban settlement rather than rural.

Records discussing refugee women are included in Chapter 9 on Refugees.

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1904–20

A2

Recorded by:

1904–11: Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)

1911–20: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 20.32 metres

This series covers a wide range of subjects dealt with by the Prime Minister. The registry practice is at first haphazard but becomes increasingly formalised. A number of files were converted after 1917 into the first and thereafter into the second Secret and Confidential series of the Prime Minister's Department.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Hostels in Australia for Girls' [12 pages, 1919–20] A2, 1920/541

This file concerns the establishment by the Young Women's Christian Association of a privately financed chain of hostels in Australia for the accommodation of girls coming to Australia from England after the war. Co-operation from the Federal government and contributions towards the upkeep of the hostels was sought. Communications were sent to State Premiers, who at the time were unwilling to assist financially.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES FIRST SYSTEM, 1915–23
A457****Recorded by:****Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 18.27 metres**

This series consists of correspondence files covering a wide range of subjects which were submitted to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Women. Unmarried Mothers Policy' [22 pages, 1920–21] A457, 400/46

This contains a letter dated February 1920, from the Australian Natives' Association, referring to a protest from one of its branches against the 'importation of unmarried mothers to Australia'. The Department of Home and Territories denied any knowledge of the matter. Other inclusions attest to a report from the commandant, Australian Imperial Force (AIF) headquarters in London, of unmarried mothers (many of whom were domestic servants or waitresses) in the United Kingdom and Ireland, whose children were fathered by soldiers in the AIF during the war. A draft by the Commonwealth asked the State governments whether they would consider including such mothers and children in their assisted immigration schemes. The Minister for Defence considered the proposals worthy of consideration but Superintendent Gullett's recommendation was that no action be taken 'owing to the difficulties involved'. Subsequently, the Commonwealth decided to take the matter up when it took over immigration in 1921 but to exercise special care that employment for the women was available and to enlist the help of charitable organisations. A report on the Administration of the General Officer Commanding Australian Imperial Forces Fund (GOC Fund), 1919, is included.

Prime Minister's department, 'Widows with more than one child' [11 pages, 1921] A457, L400/5

This refers to applications from widows of ex-servicemen with more than one child for assisted passages, and correspondence in 1921 from the Director of Migration and Settlement, London, to the state Premiers, through the Prime Minister, inquiring as to whether they would accept them. The responses from the States, which were mostly unfavourable, are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Reception of Immigrants by Mrs S E Downes' [2 pages, 1922] A457, J400/1/56

This contains a memorandum for the Prime Minister in 1922 from the Commonwealth Immigration Office, relating to the question of reimbursing the out-of-pocket expenses of a Mrs Downes, a voluntary representative of the New Settlers' League, who regularly met and advised young female immigrants on arrival in Sydney.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34**A458****Recorded by:****1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 49.77 metres**

This series precedes series A461 (described earlier in this chapter) and contains general correspondence files covering the range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention in this period.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Women – Domestic Immigration Society' [86 pages, 1923–24] A458, A154/14

This contains correspondence between Mrs Beatrice McDonald, Secretary, Domestic Immigration Society, and the Graziers' Association of New South Wales in 1923 in relation to a scheme to bring in British girls, 14 to 19, suitable for domestic training who were required in rural areas of the state. The cause was taken up by the Producers' Associations' Central Council which included not only the Graziers' but the Stockowners', Sheepbreeders' and Farmers' and Settlers' Associations, as

Page 5 of a booklet published in England in 1929 by the Migration and Settlement Department of

AUSTRALIA CALLS FOR WOMEN

LARGE numbers of young women are wanted for domestic situations in Australia, experienced or inexperienced, it matters not which. Each application will be dealt with on its merits. Good character and adaptability are essential. Willingness will open the door of opportunity on the island continent. We are making special arrangements on board the *Vedic* for the comfort of young women, and it is anticipated the accommodation will soon be filled. It is necessary to apply now to sail in October.

The Army guarantees to find situations in Australia for domestic servants and domesticated women sailing under Army auspices, generally speaking, at any time, and can arrange for two or three sisters or friends to be placed in the same neighbourhood. Any girl who finds her first situation undesirable, or is in any difficulty, should at once refer to the nearest Army Officer, who will see that every help is given to her.

Women going to Australia are classified in two classes:

- (1) Those to whom **FREE PASSAGES** are granted.
- (2) Those to whom **NOMINATED (and assisted) PASSAGES** are granted.

In both classes women must be of good character, physically and mentally fit, and prepared on arrival to engage in household service. **FREE PASSAGES** are usually granted to women who have had actual paid experience as domestic servants. **NOMINATED (ASSISTED) PASSAGES** are given to domesticated women who may never have been engaged as domestic servants but who can nevertheless do housework. If you are not accepted for the free passage you might be approved for the nominated passage, for which the rate is £16 10s.

The Army is prepared to nominate suitable women, secure the Government of Australia's approval of the applicant, and arrange an advance of part or, if necessary, the whole of the £16 10s., which would be repayable by monthly instalments

out of wages. Any payment made before sailing reduces the amount to repay when overseas. Women are urged to pay as much as possible before sailing, for the less there is to repay the stronger the position will be in the new country.

PROSPECTS OF HOME-BUILDING

News has recently been received from Officers in Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, and New South Wales intimating that within comparatively recent dates 93 young women who emigrated under Army auspices have married. Our Officers know and affirm that the prospects of home-building were never brighter than at the present time in Australia.

WIDOWS, FAMILIES, AND MEN

All classes of persons, widows with children, and families who have friends in Australia who will nominate them, and ordinary passengers may apply. Single men, and men with families, willing to undertake farm work on arrival in Australia, and who are eligible under the reduced passage rates printed on page 15, are also invited to make immediate application. The Army is able to find work for, and can effect the nomination of, **experienced farm workers** who have no friends in Australia. Accommodation may not be available on the *Vedic* for all who apply, but The Army will later have personally conducted parties.

PENSIONS

Imperial war pensions can be transferred and made payable in any part of Australia. Arrangements for transfer must be made before sailing through the Pensions Issue Office.

VACCINATION

In New South Wales there is no statutory provision generally in force for compulsory vaccination, though such exists in all the other States of the Commonwealth. There are, in the case of South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania, conscientious objection clauses. With the exception of Victoria, the Vaccination Acts are, however, not generally enforced.



Mrs. Commissioner LAMB, J.P., who accompanied Commissioner Lamb on his latest tour of the King's Overseas Dominions. Mrs. Lamb was one of the first women to be appointed a Justice of the Peace, and is well known as an experienced social worker and a keen observer. Her investigations overseas were those of a mother as well as an official investigator

[5]

BOYS!
SEE PAGE 10

the Salvation Army providing information for prospective migrants.
NAA: A1, 1932/7662

'ONE OF THE FAMILY'

WOMEN'S WORK IN A SUNNY CLIME

THERE is no limit to the Australian call for single women and widows without children, up to forty years of age, as household workers. Widows with children are also welcome, well-paid daily work being available.

In the large towns and cities of Australia work is very similar to that in English cities and towns. Generally speaking, however, the work is carried out under easier conditions, for the houses are modern and are fitted with electric light, gas, water, baths, and all the latest labour-saving devices. Basements are practically unknown, and stairs are few. Every necessity for the bodily comfort of the domestics is provided, including good food and a private bedroom. A liberal allowance of 'time off' is usual. The chief attractiveness of the climate of Australia is that it makes outdoor sports and pastimes constantly possible.

Service in the country towns and suburbs is preferred by many new arrivals in Australia to that in the cities. Experience of household employment in Australia, especially in the country districts, will be found to be of immense value to women when they undertake similar work in homes of their own.

HEALTHY, OPEN, AND FREE

Those who go farther afield, as large numbers do, to take employment on farms or on 'stations,' find mistresses anxious to make the life of their domestics as congenial as possible. In the large homes of the stations (the homes, that is, of the owners of great country estates), conditions of service are attractive to those who like a country life. On the smaller farms those conditions are different. Some of the work is rough, but the life is healthy, open, and free, and the girl frequently works as one of the family. Those employed in the country have also an additional advantage in that they are able to save a large proportion of their wages.

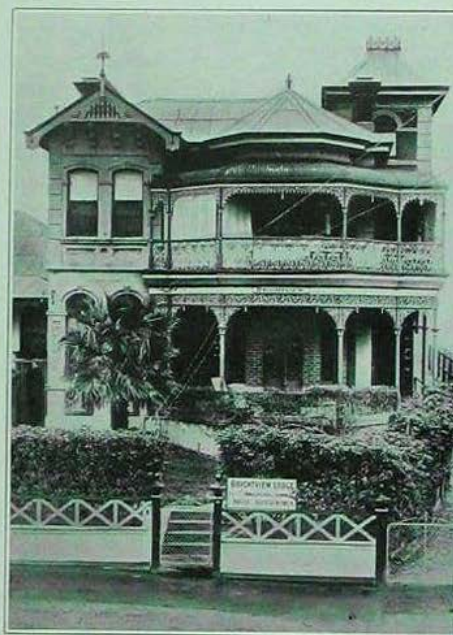
It must be remembered that in the majority of Australian houses every one works, and where a big staff is not kept every member of the household takes a share in the daily routine, thereby entailing no drudgery upon any one person. The cook may have to put the baby to bed when the housemaid is out, or the latter may have to boil the potatoes when the cook is out; there is little specialization of duties. A knowledge of cooking and laundry work is invaluable for those who are taking up general duties. One field of labour which is rapidly becoming popular and which can with advantage be undertaken by an educated woman (after learning local conditions by accepting a post as domestic help) is that of cooking for, superintending, and waiting at dinner parties. Once a clientele is established the work is remunerative and opens up great possibilities.

READ ABOUT
THE PICNIC. PAGE 13

FOOD AND RENT IN AUSTRALIA

The retail prices of food quoted below are the latest available and represent approximately the average prices prevailing in September, 1928:

Commodity.	Retail price.	
	s.	d.
Bacon, per lb.	1	3½
Beef, per lb.	1	3½
Bread, per 2 lb. loaf	0	5½
Butter, per lb.	1	11½
Cheese, per lb.	1	3
Eggs, per doz.	1	4½
Flour, per 25 lb.	4	7
Milk, per quart	0	8
Potatoes, per 14 lb.	1	2½
Sugar, per lb.	0	4½
Tea, per lb.	2	2½



Brightview Lodge, Perth, Western Australia, exclusively devoted to the service of women immigrants

Average weekly rentals of four or five roomed houses in capital towns in September, 1928, were:

	£	s.	d.
Sydney	1	3	2
Melbourne	1	2	0
Brisbane	16	11	
Adelaide	1	0	9
Perth	19	1	
Hobart	18	10	

[6]

well as the Primary Producers' Union. It was later also endorsed by the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board. The history of the Society, its objects, names of women on the Executive Council, and 'Salient Points' of the Scheme are included. Following approval of the scheme by the Oversea Settlement Committee in London in 1923, resolutions on female domestic immigration (concerning publicity, advertising at the Empire Exhibition and elsewhere, the appointment and duties of a matron, interchange of officials, a training hostel and aftercare) were adopted. The scheme was then communicated to the State, Federal and British authorities by the President, Constance Sly, and Secretary, Beatrice McDonald, a government subsidy applied for and subscriptions called for. Free passages for the girls and £1 500 for the Society to get established were requested. Widowed mothers of the younger girls were later included. Australian girls could also attend the training hostel, with preference given to daughters of ex-soldiers and sailors. As with child migration, the Federal authorities saw this as a form of social welfare and therefore a State responsibility. The state government subsequently offered a £1 000 subsidy, a decision at first opposed by the Commonwealth Immigration Office. Although a free passage was provided for a representative to supervise recruitment in the United Kingdom, the last letter in the file indicates that promised funds from non-government sources at the Australian end did not materialise and the booking was cancelled.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Women's Auxiliary Council West Australia' [13 pages, 1927] A458, G154/14

This file contains a letter to the Prime Minister from the Women's Immigration Auxiliary Council referring to its work in Western Australia. The Council was formed in 1919 and was officially recognised by the government. Its work was similar to that being done by the New Settlers' League, Women's Branch, in Victoria and New South Wales.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1934–50

A461

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

This series consists of general correspondence files which cover the wide range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention. Many earlier papers from the previous general correspondence of the Department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Women Immigrants. General' [2 cm, 1918–37] A461, G349/1/6

This is a large and important file on government policy on female migration to Australia in the inter-war period. It contains a Report of the Oversea Settlement Committee of the Delegates Appointed to Enquire as to Openings in Australia for Women from the United Kingdom, 1920, (also a similar report for Canada, 1919); a memorandum on the Emigration of Women from the United Kingdom to the Dominions; an accompanying letter from Lord Milner, June 1920 and various press cuttings. It also contains a 1918 letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the question of opportunities for British women, especially those who had worked in munitions factories or been engaged in rural work during the war. Replies from state Premiers indicate that, in their view, the major opportunities were in domestic service. Much correspondence relates to the preparation for the Delegation and its activities. A response to the report of the Delegation from the Australian Government was drafted by H S Gullett, Superintendent of the Commonwealth Immigration Office, who was requested to provide periodic reports on the working of the arrangements for the absorption and welcome of female immigrants. The rest of the file contains correspondence relating to a deputation in 1923 from the New Settlers'

League, Victorian Division, on the selection and training of women migrants in the United Kingdom and the appointment of matrons on ships carrying female migrants; resolutions of the National Council of Women of Queensland, 1923, and the Queensland Women's Electoral League, 1924, relating to the selection of girl migrants by Australian women; a resolution adopted at the Imperial Economic Conference of 1923 that an additional woman be included with any nominated family; a resolution by the Women's Service Guild of Western Australia in 1929 that women be appointed to all special commissions arising out of the Migration and Development Commission which affected women migrants; and an article by Florence Borradaile, 1937, on the Redistribution (within the Empire) of Educated Girls

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Domestic Servants – General, Part 1' [1920–38] A461, H349/1/6 part 1

This is a large file, covering a variety of matters concerning the immigration of domestic servants in the inter-war period. Correspondence relates to domestic servants and the Contract Immigrants' Act, requisitions for servants from the states, passage rates and assistance, 'lady helps' for Queensland, training, reception, after-care, wages, alleged competition with Australian girls, problems of recruitment and publicity, Schemes and Agreements under the Empire Settlement Act, the Market Harborough Training Centre for Domestic in England, demand and supply issues, the resumption of migration in 1936 and its relation to domestic workers, various suggestions, resolutions and representations from individuals and associations, the possible extension of assistance schemes to Northern Europe, and departmental memoranda.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration: Training of Women. Domestic Duties [68 pages, 1927–30] A461, H349/1/6

This contains correspondence and information on the Domestic Training Hostel at Market Harborough, England, and government support, the training of women for domestic service, the notice of a resolution from the Australian Women's National League to extend the assisted passage scheme for domestic servants in existence in Britain to young women from Northern Europe, a copy of the assisted passage agreement, the suggestion by the Prime Minister that training centres for women in Australia be established along the lines of Market Harborough to relieve unemployment amongst women, and replies from state Premiers.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Domestic Servants – General. Part 2' [24 pages, 1938–40] A461, H349/1/6 part 2

This file contains individual applications, and various correspondence relating to a Church of England Council nomination for 10 domestic servants per month to Western Australia, a query about the number of domestics amongst refugees, and a proposed reduction of passage rates for household workers.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38

A1

Recorded by:

**1903–16 Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)
1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
1928–32 Department of Home and Territories (CA 24)
1932–38 Department of the Interior (CA 27)**

Canberra 184.92 metres

This series was the main correspondence file system of the agencies shown above. The subject matter includes administrative and personal matters as well as the following functions administered by the agencies from time to time: immigration and emigration, 'aliens' registration, naturalisation, passports (except 1916–18), influx of

criminals, indentured coloured labour, people of races for whom special laws were thought necessary, external affairs (1903–16), Pacific islands (1903–16) as well as other matters not relevant to this Guide.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Women's Immigration Advisory Council' [8 pages plus booklets, 1929–32] A1, 1932/7507

This contains two booklets on the Women's Immigration Advisory Council, its constitution, a letter referring to an address given to the Council's monthly meeting in July 1929 by E G Mulvany, a member of the Development and Migration Commission, and various press cuttings.

7 Juvenile Immigration

In the period between Federation and World War II, children were seen as 'ideal immigrants'. They were malleable, controllable and adaptable to new conditions. Unlike other migrants, especially during periods of economic recession, they did not invoke the opposition of trade unionists since they were not competitors on the labour market. Child migration was regarded by governments as a form of social welfare, and also as a means of overcoming the decline in the birth-rate (a particular preoccupation of the early years of the twentieth century and of the 1930s) through the introduction of British youth. Governments, British and Australian, both state and Federal, private institutions, philanthropic associations, and the Churches all, from time to time, sponsored child migration. Governments subsidised non-government organisations working in this area between 1921 and 1930 and, in special cases such as the Fairbridge Farm Schools and Dr Barnardo's Homes, during the 1930s depression years also. Once in Australia, the children were generally brought up to perform manual labour, the girls as domestic servants (referred to in the later part of this period as household workers) and the boys as farm labourers. Children were brought to Australia under a variety of schemes at various ages, some very young.

The records in the National Archives particularly relate to Commonwealth and state policy regarding juvenile migration schemes and relations between government and non-government voluntary organisations and institutions in both Great Britain and Australia. One of the best known government schemes, begun before World War I, was that of Premier Barwell of South Australia from 1922–24. Non-government organisations involved in child migration included:

- The Big Brother Movement which sponsored juvenile male migrants, 15–18 years of age;
- The Child Emigration Society, London, in conjunction with the Children's Farm School Immigration Society of Western Australia, the Trustees of the Lady Northcote Bequest in Victoria and a Committee of Rhodes Scholars in New South Wales which conducted the Fairbridge Farm Schools and brought out children of both sexes;
- Dr Barnardo's Homes which brought out Protestant youth of both sexes;
- The Dreadnought Trustees who sponsored British boys;
- The Roman Catholic Church which included the Catholic Emigration Association, London, the Christian Brothers' schemes, and the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, Perth;
- The Church of England, including the Church of England Immigration Council and the work of Rev. R C Nichols known as 'Brother Bill' of St Mark's Church Fitzroy, Victoria;
- The Salvation Army;
- The Presbyterian and other Churches;
- The YMCA;
- The Boy Scouts' Association;
- The Young Australia League of Western Australia;
- The British Orphans Adoption Society.

A list, and where possible a brief explanation of the migration work, of these non-government organisations is provided in Appendix 3. Most, but not all, concentrated on boys. Some, like the Fairbridge Farm Schools, were regarded by state authorities principally as child welfare movements and were dealt with by the Child Welfare Department rather than the State Migration Office. As with single female migration, issues of protection and control, and at times exploitation, permeate the records; there is also discussion of the role of juvenile migrants in, and contribution to, Australian society. The class dimension is ever present; many child migrants came from institutions in Great Britain and there is evidence of some opposition in Australia to the immigration of the lower classes, the poor, the orphans and the illegitimate. Fears of 'pauper migration' were common in the nineteenth century and remained throughout this part of the twentieth.

Of relevance here is the New South Wales Juvenile Migrants' Apprentice Act 1924. (South Australia had similar legislation.) It required guardianship for juvenile migrants until they turned 21 and concerned those who were brought to Australia for apprenticeships under sponsoring schemes such as young farm labourers and domestic servants. The Act is mentioned in file A461, G349/1/7, discussed below in relation to Dreadnought boys, and in file A458, A154/14 (see Chapter 6 on Female Immigration).

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38 A1

Recorded by:

1903–16: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)
1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
1928–32: Department of Home and Territories (CA 24)
1932–38: Department of the Interior (CA 27)

Canberra 184.92 metres

This series was the main correspondence file system of the agencies shown above. The subject matter includes administrative and personal matters as well as the following functions administered by the agencies from time to time: immigration and emigration, 'aliens' registration, naturalisation, passports (except 1916–18), influx of criminals, indentured coloured labour, people of races for whom special laws were thought necessary, external affairs (1903–16), Pacific islands (1903–16) as well as other matters not relevant to this Guide.

Department of External Affairs, 1903–38, '(Child Emigration) Child Migration from the UK' [36 pages, 1912–14] A1, 1914/5736

This file relates to an inquiry in 1912 from T E Sedgwick to the High Commissioner, London, on the eligibility for migration of juveniles from reformatories, Industrial Schools, voluntary homes and orphanages. It also contains a 1912 Royal Colonial Institute Report on Child Emigration to Australia and New Zealand through approved emigration societies of orphan, deserted and adopted children, then under the control of Poor Law Guardians, and a report by Sedgwick on the first year's results of Town Lads on Colonial Farms in New Zealand. Press cuttings on 'Sedgwick'

boys, Fairbridge and the farm school system and child migration generally, and information on a scheme to introduce apprentice farmers to South Australia initiated by F W Young, MP, in 1913 are also included. Some clue to the attitudes to this form of immigration from official sources can be ascertained.

**Home and Territories Department/Department of External Affairs: 'Fairbridge Farm School. Immigration of British Orphan Children' [10 pages, 1917–18]
A1, 1918/2799**

This contains a letter dated November 1917 from the founder of the Fairbridge Farm School, Kingsley Fairbridge, to Prime Minister Hughes requesting passages for parties of about 24 children under supervision on transports and for government assistance, a memorandum on the School and associated internal correspondence. The advice was to apply to the Ministry of Shipping in London as no suitable transports were available and no assistance could be given. A 1919 press cutting on the school and its founder is also included.

**Department of External Affairs/Home and Territories Department: 'Fairbridge Farm School. Immigration of British Orphan Children, 1917–18'
[10 pages, 1917–19] A1, 1918/2799**

This contains a press report on the Child Emigration Society and correspondence relating to possible assistance between Kingsley Fairbridge and the Prime Minister through the Home and Territories Department which administered immigration at this time.

Department of External Affairs, 'Publicity, New Australian Big Brother Magazine' [44 pages, 1929] A1, 1932/7662

This contains correspondence relating to the Big Brother Movement publication *The New Australian* and publicity material by the Salvation Army.

**Department of the Interior, 'Child Migration within the Empire' [8 pages, 1930]
A1, 1932/7707**

This contains correspondence during 1930 between the Department of Labour and Industry and Dr Barnardo's Homes with statistics on the numbers of boys and girls received, the extent and nature of training and degree of success of particular children. These particulars were for use at the forthcoming Imperial Conference.

**Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Child Migration from Malta'
[15 pages, 1935–37] A1, 1937/10182**

This deals with an enquiry by the Commissioner for Malta to the Department of the Interior regarding assisted immigration of Maltese orphan children on the same basis as Fairbridge children. As financial assistance to immigrants at the time was confined to the United Kingdom, the proposal was not favourably considered.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1904–20

A461

Recorded by:

Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

This series consists of general correspondence files which cover the wide range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention. Many earlier papers from the previous general correspondence of the Department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Fairbridge Farm School, Part 1' [283 pages, 1921–28] A461, C349/1/7 part 1

This relates to financial arrangements between the Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra, Western Australia, and the State and Federal governments.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Barnardo Boys' [173 pages, 1921–44] A461, H349/1/7

This contains copies of agreements with governments, *Hansard* extracts, letters on maintenance subsidies by the Commonwealth for Barnardo children and group nominations for boys going to the Training Home at Mowbray Park, Picton, New South Wales. Correspondence involves the Prime Minister's Department, the High Commission, the Commonwealth Immigration Office, the Development and Migration Commission, the Department of Labour and Industry, the Department of Transport and the New South Wales Premier's Department. Material is also included on the withdrawal of assistance during the depression years and the resumption of migration of Barnardo children in October 1936. The standard of physical and mental fitness of children was brought into question with a small number repatriated. New standards of intelligence levels and adaptability were imposed. (The same issue arose in the case of some Fairbridge children. See A436, 1946/5/597 described later in this chapter).

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. New South Wales. Dreadnought Boys' [3 cm, 1921–45] A461, G349/1/7

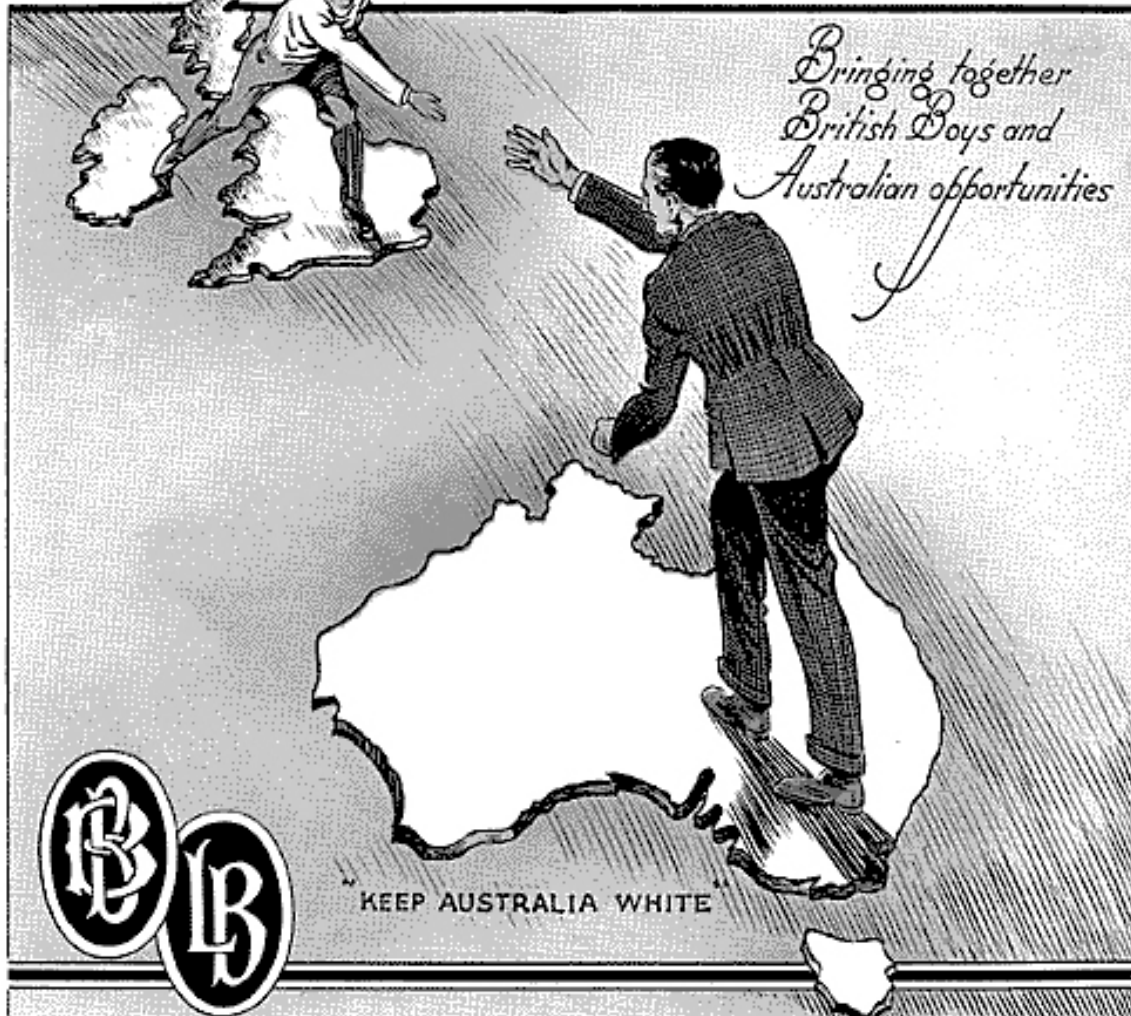
The Dreadnought Scheme originated before World War I in a New South Wales bid to raise money towards the gift of a Dreadnought [battleship] to Great Britain and was later devoted to assisting British boys to emigrate. The file contains correspondence, cablegrams and press cuttings from 1921 relating to requisitions by New South Wales, financial arrangements and terms and conditions under which Dreadnought boys were brought to Australia. The Dreadnought Trustees paid £8 towards each fare; the Commonwealth government made a free grant of £12. The Trustees also provided free of charge, 3 months' training at the government training farm at Scheyville or twelve months' at one of several Apprentice Farm Schools under the direction of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture. Each boy had to deposit £2 which he could collect on arrival and, for those engaged in the longer training, a further £5 was made available. On completion of the training boys were guaranteed positions on farms; until then they were trainees. There are some criticisms of the Scheme and the government responses. Other correspondence relates to the inclusion of the Dreadnought Scheme within the New South Wales Immigration and Land Settlement Agreement (signed in June 1923) which led to a new set of conditions. From that time the Overseas Settlement Committee required regular lists and particulars of boys accepted, of which several are included in the file. The Trustees ceased maintenance contributions in June 1924 and the advantages derived by Dreadnought boys from the 1923 Agreement in regard to the acquisition of farms on special terms, ceased to operate in 1926. A further agreement was made between the British Government and the Dreadnought Trustees in 1926 (copy enclosed). By 1927, difficulty was being experienced in obtaining boys. An uneasy relationship between the ANZAC Fellowship of Women, Sydney, and the New Settlers' League, both of which concerned themselves with the reception and welfare of Dreadnought boys, is revealed in a letter from Dr Mary Booth in 1928.

PRICE, ONE SHILLING

Vol. I.—No. 10.
JAN., 1929.

The New Australian

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE BIG BROTHER MOVEMENT



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Cover of The New Australian, the magazine of the Big Brother Movement.

NAA: A1, 1932/7662

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Government Schemes South Australia. Settlement of 6 000 Boys' [2 cm, 1922–24] A461, P349/1/5

This file contains correspondence between the Prime Minister's Department, the Commonwealth Immigration Office, and the Premier's Department, South Australia, relating to the scheme to introduce 6 000 British lads for farm work (2 000 per year) beginning in 1922. Two trial batches of 50 were sent a month apart, then monthly quotas as arranged, with a minimum age of 15. Press statements, cables and letters reveal some early friction between Prime Minister W M Hughes and Premier Henry Barwell in the working out of the details of the scheme. Information is provided on financial arrangements between governments, the terms of agreement, loans and wages for the boys, conditions of their apprenticeship and monthly requisitions. Although early shipments of boys were well received, there were some complaints over the selection process by 1924.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Clontarf Orphanage' [46 pages, 1928–30] A461, I349/1/7

This file is linked to both A445, 133/2/8 and A436, 1949/5/1220 (described later in this chapter) and relates to the immigration of poor and orphaned boys to Catholic Institutions in Western Australia. It contains a request by the Clontarf Orphanage, a Roman Catholic orphanage near Perth, Western Australia, run by the Christian Brothers, for government assistance similar to that given to the Fairbridge Farm School.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Fairbridge Farm School. Part 2. Extension of Scheme to States' [413 pages, 1928–41] A461, C349/1/7 PART 1

This file contains requisitions, advice of approvals for the introduction of children and correspondence relating to the payment of government subsidies for the maintenance of children at the Fairbridge Farm Schools. There are also press cuttings, extracts from *Hansard*, copies of agreements with governments, various other letters, some regarding the loan of equipment from the Military Department, and memoranda relating to the schools.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Control by States' [21 pages, 1929] A461, C349/1/1

This contains letters from Canon David J Garland of the Church of England Immigration Council, 1929, expressing his concerns to the government about the suspension of assisted migration especially where it concerned juvenile farm learners for Queensland. Replies are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration – Child Migration– General, Part 1' [145 pages, 1932–44] A461, A349/1/7 part 1

Information from both before and after World War II is included in this file. There are proposals for the migration of war orphans, including refugee and displaced children, from Europe after World War II. The Commonwealth Government worked in association with the Inter-Governmental Committee, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association, and the British Orphans Adoption Society. The file also contains correspondence with the Australian Jewish Welfare Society regarding the immigration and adoption of refugee children before the war and a proposal by the Marsden Home for Boys, Kallangur, to bring boys from England to Queensland and various press cuttings and letters revealing both official and unofficial attitudes to child migration. Part 2 of this file (156 pages) deals with similar information from 1944–45.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration – Minors. Big Brothers'
[145 pages, 1933–45] A461, J349/1/7

This file contains correspondence and press cuttings relating to continued government contributions to the Big Brother Movement during the 1930s, the resumption of passage assistance for 'little brothers' in 1937 after its cessation in 1930, and subsequent nominations and arrangements for transporting the boys. Information on the history of the Movement can be gleaned from Cabinet memoranda, two annual reports and various letters. Also included is correspondence between the Movement and the Prime Minister regarding the relationship between the government's extended child migration scheme after World War II and the work of approved voluntary organisations.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Fairbridge's Farm School. Extension to States other than Western Australia' [47 pages, 1935–40] A461, K349/1/7

This contains an advertising poster and a resolution in 1935 by the Association of Rhodes Scholars to establish institutions similar to the Fairbridge Farm School of Western Australia in other parts of Australia as a means of solving the juvenile unemployment problem. Correspondence and memoranda involve the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Minister for the Interior and the Federal Taxation Office and mainly relate to subsidies. Extracts from *Hansard*, a Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy on Fairbridge, references to support for Barnardo children, and material on farm schools in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Child migration to Catholic Institutions, Western Australia' [196 pages, 1937–45] A461, M349/1/7

This file contains letters regarding government financial support for Roman Catholic institutions in Western Australia involved with child migrants from England, specifically the Christian Brothers Agricultural School at Tardun. Details on other Christian Brothers institutions and on aid to Fairbridge is included. Other support was requested: extension of maintenance subsidies to girls, boys over 14 and children from Ireland, for accommodation extensions, and exemption from customs duties for equipment.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES FIRST SYSTEM, 1915–23
A457

Recorded by:

1915-23: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 18.27 metres

This series consists of correspondence files covering a wide range of subjects which were submitted to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Particular Classes – Burnside Boys' [2 pages, 1922] A457, Z400/5

This contains a cablegram to the Prime Minister from the High Commissioner's Office relating to a paragraph in *The Times* about the destruction by rebels in Ireland of an orphanage and asking someone to take the 33 boys it contained. Sir James Burns had offered to take them to the Burnside Homes in Australia provided they passed medical and other requirements. The Prime Minister's reply stressed that none could be sent unless requisitioned under the existing agreement.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Particular Classes – Baby Immigration' [54 pages, 1922–23] A457, X400/5

This concerns a proposal addressed to Dame Mary Hughes by Mrs Joice Nankivill, of the Lyceum Club, Piccadilly, London, on the question of child emigration from the United Kingdom to Australia dealing particularly with the adoption of 'war babies'. This was forwarded to the States and the replies were in the main unfavourable. Articles in *The Sydney Morning Herald* in August 1922 and a letter to the Prime Minister by E Marie Irvine also dealt with the subject of the adoption by Australian women of British infants then under the care of the National Children's Adoption Association. The matter was again referred to the States and an attempt was made to gauge the attitude of the public. The Premier of New South Wales, George Fuller, referred the matter to his Minister of Education, under whose control the State Children Relief Board was placed. He raised the following issues: the number of foster parents available, what the Commonwealth would do in the way of assisted passages, and whether the State Children's Department would assume a beneficent wardship over the children. The Premier of South Australia asked about the costs to the state for each child brought out; other Premiers were unwilling to support such a scheme.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Tasmanian Boys' [13 pages, 1922–23] A457, N400/10

This refers to requisitions from Queensland for 50 farm lads monthly and from Tasmania for 12 monthly in 1922 and the question of absorbing 200 Boy Scouts in Victoria and Western Australia. A complaint from Charles Bill Elliot and a *Hansard* extract of August 1923 indicate dissatisfaction with boy migrants sent to Tasmania. Correspondence relates to subsequent investigations; the shipment of further parties of boys was discontinued.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1939–50
A659**

Recorded by:

1939: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)

Canberra 101.25 metres

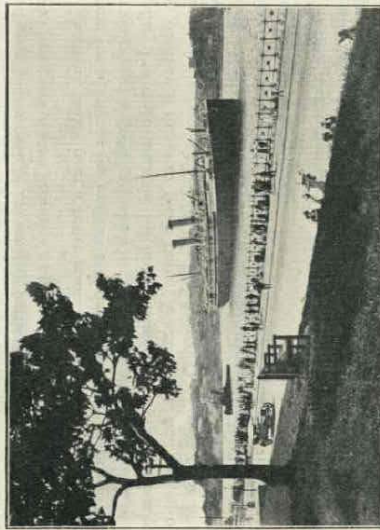
The description of this series will extend beyond 1939 because of its potential interest to immigration researchers. It contains the general correspondence files of the Department of the Interior [II] until late 1945, and from mid-1945 the miscellaneous and passport files of the then newly-created Department of Immigration. From 1930 to 1945, the series covers a wide range of subjects including assisted migration and naturalisations (until 31 December 1943). Naturalisation applications reached a peak during 1941. With the establishment of the Department of Immigration in July 1945, the series was recorded jointly by Interior and Immigration for the rest of that year. From 1946, the series relates exclusively to Immigration matters as that Department took over several functions previously administered by the Department of the Interior. General subjects included: the internal organisation of the Department; details of organisations such as the International Refugee Organisation, United Nations Organisation and immigration bodies; the administration of the Children's Overseas Reception Board; whereabouts cases, general control of passports and grants of travel facilities to certain areas and miscellaneous subjects.

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother Movement. Proposed Financial Arrangements, NSW' [388 pages, 1937–40] A659, 1939/1/8431

This contains details of government subsidies, expenses, statements of accounts, annual reports, the constitution and press cuttings of the Big Brother Movement.

Australia's Offer to British Boys.

This is no experiment. The scheme is an old one. It was tried with such success before the War that now that the world is seriously seeking down to business again Australia is renewing her invitation to British boys to settle upon and develop her spacious, sunny, and fertile lands. Before the War thousands of youngsters gladly accepted the chance of bettering themselves. A large number of them are no longer farm-labourers. They are already settled upon farms of their own. Those boys came out just as you are now invited to do. They came out to farms and orchards where there was work awaiting them; they learned their business and got paid while they were learning it; they put their savings into banks, and then



BIG "LINERS" MAKE THE VOYAGE A PLEASURE.

struck out for themselves. The fine record of these boys, most of whom had very little to hope for in earlier years, is most creditable and inspiring to themselves, but creditable also to the new country which gave them the opportunities to stretch themselves and prove their mettle.

So, if you should happen to be finding yourselves so placed in the somewhat crowded Old Land that your prospects in life are not very good, and you feel that you would like to try your luck "where the world is wide," let us see if what we can tell you briefly about life and opportunities in Australia will stimulate you to follow the lead of the youngsters of whom we have been speaking.

AUSTRALIA'S OFFER TO BRITISH BOYS

Boys! Australia makes you an attractive offer. She places before you an opportunity of coming to a new land, a rich land, and a healthy land: and upon your arrival, of immediately putting you in the way of earning a good living and of soon becoming a prosperous citizen.

Australia to-day is in a better position than any other country in the world for advancing the interests and the welfare of the farmer. She has an abundance of good land which is capable of producing all kinds of food-stuffs. For many years she has been sending to the principal markets of the world such things as Wool, Butter, Wheat, Fruit, &c., and no matter how keen the competition may become, Australia's overseas trade in these commodities must expand enormously. You can participate in the prosperity which awaits every young man who seriously applies himself to the rural development of this country, and the sooner you start the sooner will you gain your independence.

If you accept this offer you will be given a passage to Australia at greatly reduced rates, and guaranteed a commencing wage of not less than 10s. per week, with board and lodging, with an approved farmer. You will gradually learn how to till the soil, how to handle live stock, and how to perform the numerous and varied duties which life on an Australian farm demands. The quicker you learn the sooner will your wages advance, but with average intelligence and industry, it will not be long before you are on a weekly wage of from 30s. to 50s. with keep. If your fancy leads you to specialize in any particular branch of farm industry which requires special experience and aptitude, you will then be able to earn the higher wages which such skill commands. But, far greater than any such immediate advantage, you will have started off on the high road to success. You will be in a fair way to becoming your own "boss." If you save hard, you should, within a few years, have enough money in the bank to avail yourself of the easy terms of acquiring land either from the Government or from private individuals.

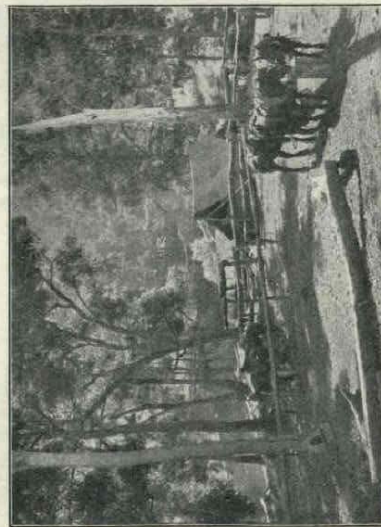
C.3485

Extracts from *Australia's Offer to the British Boy*, a booklet published in 1921 by the Commonwealth Immigration Office in Melbourne for distribution in Britain.
NAA: A461, G349/1/7

*Australia's Offer to British Boys.***Something About Australia**

Quite apart from the many things you could be told about Australia which might interest you greatly as boys, there is the central fact that Australia is in the wake of the Flag—of that flag which guarantees to you a British citizenship. The Britisher—boy or girl, man or woman—who, leaving the Old Land, still follows the Flag is not lost to Britain, as has been proved by the war and in a hundred other ways. He is not lost; he has simply moved.

Australia, however, differs from other countries of the Empire—with the exception of her southern sister and near neighbour, New Zealand—in being almost exclusively of British race. There are fewer foreigners in



A TEANSTER'S CAMP BY A RIVER.

Australia, in proportion to the population, than in the United Kingdom itself. The speech of Australia from sea to sea is the English speech, and this fact alone gives to the newcomer from the Old Land the sense of being at once at home.

Doubtless it would be more stirring to the imagination of boys were they told that Australia abounds in native tribes to be warred and wrestled with, and finally vanquished, of course, after the valiant manner of so many of those rollicking stories of life in new lands. True, there used to be some

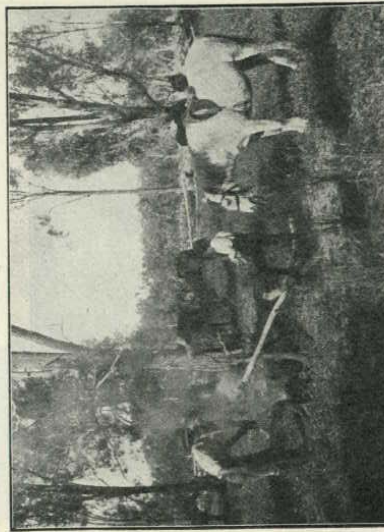
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Australia's Offer to British Boys.

of this in Australia in times gone by, but to-day the few thousand aboriginal blacks remaining are confined to the practically unsettled regions of the far north of the continent, and the average Australian hardly knows that they exist. And much better so, as it is this absence of hostile peoples which leaves the Australian free to exploit the riches of his immense continent without let or hindrance.

Sport and Adventure

Nevertheless, there are plentiful opportunities for sport and adventure as well as hard work in Australia. If there is no "big game"—no lions and tigers and elephants and what not such as inhabit the African and



THE MID-DAY MEAL.

Indian jungles—there is any amount of little game—kangaroos and wallabys, rabbits and hares, possums and little bears, and birds and fishes—some or all of which offer the average boy whose life is spent in the country parts much better, if more modest, chances to try his own hand with rod or gun: not to speak of the pulse-quickenng interest which is so often felt in working amongst stock and of giving his head to a good horse!

Whatever else Australia may not be, a land of sport and of sportsmen she certainly is. Your elders might be inclined to say, sometimes, that she is too much so. For quite apart from the opportunities for sport and

4

Department of the Interior [II], Central Office, File of Papers, 'Big Brother Movement NSW Nominations' [40 pages, 1938–42] A659, 1942/1/3374

This contains lists of 'little brothers' from ships' Boarding Officers' reports of 1939, documents and press cuttings relating to those and other arrivals of 'little brothers' and correspondence between the Big Brother Movement and the Department of Labour and Industry, New South Wales, and the Department of the Interior.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68
A445**

Recorded by:

1951–55: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra 22.50 metres

This series consists of Immigration policy files relating to the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. The file subjects include Acts relating to immigration, migrant organisations, transport, sponsorship schemes, housing and accommodation, conferences, child-youth migration, refugees and restricted immigration policy.

Department of Immigration, Central Office, 'Dr Barnardo Children's Homes, NSW' [186 pages, 1938–48] A445, 133/2/115

Only a small section of this file covers the pre-World War II period. It relates to notice of termination of passage assistance for Barnardo children although maintenance grants to those up to 14 years old already in Australia continued. Some press cuttings on the Homes, details of maintenance payments for 1938, and a copy of the Supplementary *Empire Settlement Act* 1937 Agreement are included.

Department of the Interior/Department of Immigration. 'Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, Perth' [75 pages, 1938–50] A445, 133/2/8

Most of this file covers the period 1946–50, but it does contain some material relating to migrant children and their admission to Catholic institutions in Western Australia immediately before World War II.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1921–51

A436

Recorded by:

1945–45: Department of the Interior, Central Office (CA 31)

Canberra 5.04 metres

This series consists of folders of general correspondence, decisions and policy relating to organisations interested in the migration of British subjects, nominations, training schemes, housing difficulties, statistical aspects of the future population, and individual case files. It represents one of seven classes of correspondence files maintained by the Department of Immigration and its predecessors during the years 1939–50 or for a portion of those years. The seven classes are as follows:

- General, passports;
- Restricted immigration;
- European migrants;
- Naturalisation;
- British migrants;
- Aliens Registration;
- General administration.

Department of the Interior: 'Fairbridge Farm School. Maintenance of Children. Claim for Commonwealth Portion, 1932–36' [1 page, 1921] A436, 1946/5/1831

There is only one page in this file consisting of 8 photos on housing at the Pinjarra School and groups of Fairbridge children from the *Western Mail*, 8 September 1921. Both the title and the date of this file are misleading.

Department of the Interior/Home and Territories Department, 'Fairbridge Farm School Pt 1' [263 pages in first folder, 345 in second, 1921–28] A436, 1946/5/597 part 1

This file contains press cuttings, photographs, notes, *Hansard* extracts, and letters to the Prime Minister, the Commonwealth Superintendent of Immigration, the Director of the Commonwealth Immigration Office, the Governor-General, the Development and Migration Commission, and members of parliament, on the history, development and work of the Fairbridge Farm School and the Child Emigration Society, in particular the question of government contributions, together with various replies. Also included are details of subsidy payments, expenditure, ministerial memoranda, resolutions and notes of deputations in support of the Farm Schools, copies of agreements with Federal and state governments, and a 1928 report by T H Garrett on the Child Emigration Society and the Children's Farm School Immigration Society of Western Australia. A 1926 statement from the Child Immigration Society of Western Australia to the Minister for Migration requesting a variation in the agreement includes extracts from letters of employers of Fairbridge youth.

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother Scheme' [475 pages, 1924–28] A436, 1945/5/2217

This is a very large file on the Big Brother Scheme from its inception in 1924. It contains details of its launching at the Millions Club in April 1925, aims and outline of the scheme, activities of the London committee, press cuttings, a large poster, progress reports on the Movement, application forms, booklets, pamphlets, relations with New Settlers' League (NSL), the Ugly Men's Voluntary Workers' Association, and the Dreadnought Scheme, notes from a New Settlers' League Conference in 1924, an extract from *Hansard*, 1924, of a speech by the Minister for Lands regarding group settlement and migration generally, draft pamphlets, notes and background information on assisted migration for use by the founder, Richard Linton, and members of Parliament, G F Pearce and E R Farrar in 1925. Minutes and notes of meetings, conferences and deputations, letters of introduction for Linton, and correspondence with Prime Ministers Hughes and Bruce, the Commonwealth Immigration Office and the Development and Migration Commission regarding nominations and requisitions, reception of boys, training farms, aftercare and welfare and accommodation at Australia House are also included. Concern was expressed at the Migration and Settlement Office over possible competition with State schemes sponsoring boys owing to guarantee of parental guidance. The question of financial assistance is also raised.

Department of the Interior [II], Central Office, 'Big Brothers (Association) 1928 General File' [260 pages, 1926–28] A436, 1945/5/2223

Correspondence relates to the early progress of the Movement in Australia. States participating were New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia; in New South Wales, however, the boys were all Dreadnought boys who had asked to have Big Brothers. Questions of financial aid were raised with the Oversea Settlement Department and the Development and Migration Commission. Correspondence also covers the selection process, possible cancellation of requisitions of 'Little Brothers' to Victoria in 1928 owing to employment difficulties, the liability of the London Committee, office accommodation in Victoria, and the appointment of a country

welfare inspector. Annual Reports for 1927 and 1928, a booklet on the Movement, conference notes and press cuttings are also included.

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother (Association) London Organisation, 1927' [19 pages, 1927] A436, 1945/5/2219

This relates to accommodation for the Committee of the Big Brother Movement at Australia House in London. It includes notes of a meeting of the Committee with the Development and Migration Commission on the work of the Movement.

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brothers (Association), 1927 General File' [113 pages, 1927] A436, 1945/5/2221

This contains an extract on the Big Brother Movement from the Migration and Settlement Office Monthly Report on Australian migration activities in Britain and Ireland, December 1927, some history of the Movement and its relationship with Dreadnought boys, activities of the Committee in London, notes of meetings with the Development and Migration Commission, the Annual Report for 1927, press cuttings, impressions of Reg C Jordan, a pioneer of the Movement, and correspondence on requisitions and the acquisition of a training farm.

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother Requisitions'. [8 pages, 1927] A436, 1945/5/2220

This includes correspondence between the Big Brother Movement and the Development and Migration Commission regarding requisitions for 1927 and prospects of securing a training farm.

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother Movement, South Australia, 1927–28' [36 pages, 1927–28] A436, 1945/5/4

This relates to the establishment of a division of the Big Brother Movement in South Australia in 1927. Boy migrants were selected through the Big Brother organisation in London in conjunction with the Migration and Settlement Office and a subsidy was payable in 1928. The file includes press extracts, recommendations for the South Australian division and forms prepared in conjunction with the Movement (for example, membership, objects, responsibilities of Big Brothers etc.)

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother (Old Melbourne File 1929–33)' [130 pages, 1929–33] A436, 1946/5/3

This contains requisitions, requests for an additional photograph for each 'little brother' during 1929 and the notice of a reduction and then the cancellation of the quota of boy migrants in 1930 owing to the depression. It includes some 1925 material, correspondence relating to the financial situation during the early 1930s, minutes of executive committee meetings and annual meetings, reports and balance sheets for 1931 and 1932.

Home and Territories Department/Department of Immigration, 'Fairbridge Farm School, Part 2, 1929–35' [283 pages, 1929–35] A436, 1946/5/597

This is a large file focussing on 1929–31 containing correspondence with the Premier's Department, the Prime Minister, the Department of Land and Surveys and the Development and Migration Commission regarding Commonwealth and State accounts and subsidies, annual reports (1928, 1929), agreements between the Child Emigration Society and the British Government, minutes of relevant Development and Migration Commission meetings, balance sheets, copies of ministerial memoranda, notes of meetings and discussions, requisitions and nominations, details of accommodation and individual children at the Farm Schools (including

questions on the intellectual capacity of some), press cuttings and photographs of arrivals of child migrants.

**Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother Movement'[46 pages, 1932–36]
A436, 1945/5/2225**

This contains Annual Reports for 1932 and 1936, notes of a committee meeting in 1933, correspondence on the possible sponsorship of English public and secondary school boys to Australia to undertake an Agricultural Diploma course in Victoria or New South Wales, a summary of activities of the Movement for 1925–35, the question of government subsidies in 1935 and 1936, and various press cuttings.

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother Movement, Victoria. Question of Government Financial Assistance' [333 pages, 1934–41] A436, 1945/5/88

This file relates to the question of subsidies (from the Commonwealth and British governments and, for a limited period, the Victorian government) to the Big Brother Movement (established in Victoria in 1925) between 1934 until World War II. The migration of boys occurred under its auspices from 1925 to 1930 but thereafter the Movement was concerned solely with aftercare. The file has implications for the whole question of financial assistance to voluntary migration organisations in the depressed 1930s. Some history of the Movement and its activities is included, together with an annual report (1935), press cuttings, and conditions for the reintroduction of assisted migration with the easing of the depression from 1936 and for 'little brothers' in the late 1930s. Minutes of a Council meeting in 1941 record the disbanding of the Victorian Branch of the Movement and the passing of its remaining funds to the Boy Scouts' Association.

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother Movement, Vic.' [374 pages, late 1937–39] A436, 1946/5/2

This file relates to government funding of the Big Brother Movement, Victoria, in the late 1930s, particularly the continuation of a subsidy of £500 per annum granted to the Movement in 1936 by the Commonwealth and United Kingdom governments for aftercare until migration could be resumed. The file contains correspondence relating to financial matters, a nomination for 60 boys made in October 1937 (but left in abeyance owing to financial uncertainty), the Movement's registration as a company in July 1938, and its amalgamation with the Boy Scouts' Association early in 1939. One group of 'Little Brothers' arrived in August 1939 as a result of a revised nomination but further requisitions were cancelled with the outbreak of World War II. Subsidies were then discontinued.

Department of the Interior, 'Big Brother Movement London Organisation Financial Arrangements' [53 pages, 1937–40] A436, 1946/5/5

This contains a request from the Big Brother Movement for financial help for the London Office of the organisation, 1937, and other correspondence with the Department of the Interior on landing money and supervision for boys. Until the suspended requisitions for 1937 were renewed and active recruiting recommenced, no consideration was given to the requests. Memoranda, notes of meetings, and letters from 1938 on the question of payment of government subsidies are included. The subsidies ceased in September 1939.

TELEGRAPHIC AND CABLE ADDRESS:
BIGBROTHER MELBOURNE

Tel. MU 4228



OBJECTIVE

- To promote the immigration of selected boys.
- To provide for each a Big Brother, who will take the place of absent parents and friends.
- To endeavour to ensure that each new arrival will become an effective Australian citizen.

SECRETARY:

MAJOR W. G. M. CLARIDGE

"Herald" Melbourne
8th August, 1939

BRITISH BOYS FOR LAND

Premier's Attitude Criticised

Surprise at the attitude of the Premier (Mr Dunstan) to the proposal to bring 20 British boys to Australia each month under the auspices of the Big Brother Movement, in conjunction with the Boy Scouts' Association, was expressed today by the president of the Movement (Sir George Fairbairn) and the general secretary of the Boy Scouts' Association (Mr Sanders).

Mr Dunstan said last night that it was rather paradoxical that some people should be talking of bringing out boys to place them on the land while the heads of the nation were advocating restriction of primary production.

"Being a Country Party man, Mr Dunstan should think of the value of these lads to the man on the land who cannot get Australian youths to work for him," said Sir George.

"Our organisation tried recently to place 100 boys on the roll of the Legacy Club, but only one would accept a position in the country."

"The 600 boys brought out under the care of the Movement in past years

have proved satisfactory, and many are now doing well."

Pointing out that Mr Dunstan had expressed no opinion regarding the "invasion of aliens," Mr Sanders said he was amazed to hear of the Premier's objection to the scheme, which would bring out migrants of British stock and of a carefully selected type."

The Big Brother Movement

(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)

STATE PATRON:
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
LORD HUNTINGFIELD, K.C.M.G.

PRESIDENT:
SIR GEORGE FAIRBAIRN, K.T.

CHAIRMAN:
SIR RICHARD LINTON, K.T.

BROKEN HILL CHAMBERS
(5TH FLOOR)

31 QUEEN ST., MELBOURNE, C.1.
VICTORIA

"Herald" Melbourne
8th August, 1939

MY AIN FOLK.



Extracts from the Melbourne Herald, 8 August 1939.

NAA: A436, 1946/5/2

Department of Immigration, File of Papers, Part 1, 'Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association. Request for Maltese Children from Malta' [249 pages, 1938–50] A436, 1949/5/1220

The information in this file all relates to the post-World War II period (1946–50) except for two items, one giving conditions governing child migration from Malta to Christian Brothers institutions in Western Australia, the other a related letter.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND OTHER RELATED PAPERS, 1915-30

CP211/2

Recorded by:

1926–30: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)

Canberra 23.94 metres

This series consists mainly of correspondence files, but contains a variety of records, including notes, memoranda, statistics, maps, charts, printed books, pamphlets, minutes and other types of papers, covering all aspects of the work of the Commission. Many of the records are of specific investigations conducted by the Commission.

Development and Migration Commission, General Correspondence, 1926–29, 'Investigations – Voluntary organisations. Report by Mr T H Garrett on activities of voluntary organisations in migration in Australia. Fairbridge Farm, Salvation Army, Returned Soldiers League and Welfare Societies in the various States [One box and files of 5 cm (not all relevant to child migration), 1926–30] CP211/2, Bundle 98/NN

This contains reports of relevance to migration generally, for example, that of Senator Pearce on Migration, 1927, and Progress Reports of the Royal Commission on Rural Settlement, South Australia, 1925. On voluntary organisations, there are two folders. One contains 12 pages on the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia mainly related to employment and the work of the League in aftercare for ex-Imperial servicemen from Great Britain and India. The other, of 215 pages are separated into the following sections:

- The Salvation Army whose migration activities were non-sectarian, involved all states except Tasmania and the Northern Territory and included families, domestic servants, farm youth, widows and children, the last two given special attention. Information on the Training farm for boys at Riverview, Queensland and Brightview Lodge in Western Australia, statements of income and expenditure, a copy of the agreement between the British government and the Salvation Army under the Empire Settlement Act 1922, correspondence on government assistance, booklets, application forms and other details of the Salvation Army Immigration, Settlement and Shipping Department are included.
- The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA).
- The 1927 report on voluntary organisations by T H Garrett, which includes information on the New Settlers' League, the Salvation Army, the YMCA, the Church of England Immigration Council, Barnardo Homes (New South Wales), Dreadnought Trustees, Lady Musgrave Lodge (Queensland), the Boy Scouts (Victoria), the Victoria League (Victoria) and the Big Brother Movement. Four booklets produced by the New Settlers' League are also included.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1925–49**A1928****Recorded by:****1925–49 Department of Health, Central Office (CA 17)****Canberra 82.71 metres**

This series comprises standard correspondence files dealing with the administration of the Health Department. The files cover such topics as diseases, quarantine, drugs, epidemics, laboratories, inspections, hygiene and staff matters.

Department of Health, 'Immigration and Immigrants. Request by Children's Farm School Immigration Society of WA for accommodation of children at Woodman's Point Quarantine Station' [12 pages, 1928] A1928, 520/32

Questions of isolation and quarantine for a party of 115 children sailing to Australia on the *Balranald* in 1928 were raised and subsequently withdrawn by the Children's Farm School Immigration Society of Western Australia owing to an outbreak of measles. The file contains a list of infectious diseases occurring on immigrant ships from England, 1927, and a Department of Health report on phases of epidemic incidence amongst child migrants on arrival in Australia.

More detailed information about records held by the National Archives on child and juvenile immigration is provided in Guide No. 11 – *Good British Stock: Child and Youth Migration to Australia, 1901–83*.

8 Vocational Immigration

Immigrants were very often assisted between 1901 and 1939 in order to satisfy particular labour market needs. While unskilled urban workers were rarely encouraged, farm labourers and domestic servants were greatly sought after and therefore assisted. The majority came from England.

Domestic servants, being mainly women, are covered in Chapter 6 on Female Immigration while farm labourers are treated in Chapter 3 under Immigration Encouragement Policy. State governments in the 1920s frequently requisitioned for immigrants who followed these and other vocations thought to be in particular demand.

More particularly, employers could nominate immigrants with particular skills. In accordance with the *Contract Immigrants' Act 1905*, skilled workers could be introduced if they did not threaten the jobs of Australian workers, were paid award wages, and were not used as strike-breakers in industrial disputes. (See Appendix 2 – Chronology – under the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* and the *Contract Immigrants' Act 1905*.) Approval had to be sought and granted from the responsible Minister. This was the Minister for External Affairs from 1901 to 1916, the Minister for Home and Territories from 1916 to 1927, the Minister for Home Affairs from 1927 to 1932, and the Minister for the Interior from 1932 to 1945.



Young immigrants disembarking, 1921. *Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs* photograph 21/4A/1

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1904–20

A2**Recorded by:****1904–11: Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)****1911–20: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 20.32 metres**

This series covers a wide range of subjects dealt with by the Prime Minister. The registry practice is at first haphazard but becomes increasingly formalised. A number of files were converted after 1917 into the first and thereafter into the second Secret and Confidential series of the Prime Minister's Department.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration, Woollen Workers for Tasmania' [8 pages, 1920] A2, 1920/2963

This file concerns a request in 1920 from Kelsall and Kemp Ltd., Rochdale, England, to the Director of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry for free passages to Australia for 15–20 skilled operatives for their new woollen mill in Tasmania. The question of assistance to industrial immigrants nominated by manufacturers for employment in their establishments in Australia was therefore raised. Under the *Contract Immigrants Act* 1905, formal approval was necessary from the Minister for Home and Territories to bring in manual labourers under contract. The matter was referred to the State government to make the necessary requisitions under the new Joint Commonwealth and State Immigration scheme.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES FIRST SYSTEM, 1915–23

A457**Recorded by:****1915–23: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 18.27 metres**

This series consists of correspondence files covering a wide range of subjects which were submitted to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Woollen Workers' [6 pages, 1921] A457, O400/5

This contains a request by the Directors of Stawell Woollen Mills for free or subsidised passages for the immigration of about twenty woollen workers and their families to Victoria and the replies. The use of the nomination system was suggested and the question of the applicability of the *Contract Immigrants' Act* was raised.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement Particular Classes. Boot Operators' [1 pages, 1921] A457, R400/5

This file consists of a telegram from the High Commissioner asking advice from the Prime Minister about a request from McMurtrie & Co., Sydney, for 150 male and female boot operators, and stating that ex-servicemen could be recruited; women would require loans with a firm guarantee of repayment.

Prime Minister's Department, Immigration Encouragement. Cotton Growers' [2 cm, 1922–23] A457, S400/5 part 1

This contains an interstate proposal for a conference on the cotton industry and proposals for the development of the Capella district in Queensland and the assistance of suitable immigrants. There is also an inquiry from Colonel John Leader, press representative and president of a business corporation in the United Kingdom, on the possibilities of cotton growing in Australia; correspondence on the availability of suitable land in various parts of Australia; a booklet on Gossypium Park Estates Company, a cotton plantation near Cairns; and a folder on a scheme for the settlement in two years of 20 000 cotton farmers on Australian lands with a price guarantee by the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation (not including parts of Australia already covered by a Queensland guarantee). The establishment of a cotton industry on a large scale was a subject for discussion at the Premiers' Conference in January 1922 and subsequent correspondence, press cuttings, circulars, *Hansard* extracts and a printed report by the Hon. Crawford Vaughan and H C Armstrong, joint Managing Directors of the Australian Cotton Growers' Association, are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement, Tobacco Growers for Victoria' [2 pages, 1923] A457, AC400/5

This contains correspondence between the Deputy Director, Commonwealth Immigration Office and the Prime Minister's Department, March 1923, relating to the visit by Mr Temple Smith, a tobacco growing expert, to the United States, to recruit 12 tobacco growers for the Victorian government. A rebate on the fares of the men and their families was requested since the assisted passage scheme at the time did not apply to migrants from the United States except to residents nominated by close relatives in Australia. In those cases a rebate of £11 or one third of the minimum third class fare, whichever was the lower, was granted, the cost being borne by the Commonwealth alone and not shared with the British government as was the case with migrants from the United Kingdom. The recommendation was that the request be granted.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Department. Particular Classes. Share Farmers for Mr Charles Binnie' [42 pages, 1923] A457, AI400/5

This contains a letter from Mr Charles Binnie to Percy Hunter, Australia House, in 1923 in relation to his application to the New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry, for indentured share farmers for his dairying and wheat farms near Boggabri. His preference was for Scottish immigrant families and he made an arrangement with Major Cyril Bavin of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Migration Branch, London, to select the farmers. Hunter was diffident since new settlers were invariably advised against entering into such propositions without first seeing the land and had no guarantee against adverse circumstances. He suggested Binnie approach new immigrants to New South Wales already on the spot. Further correspondence indicates, however, that after further investigation of the scheme, Binnie's nomination for suitable families proceeded.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34

A458

Recorded by:

1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 49.77 metres

This series precedes series A461 (described earlier in this chapter) and contains general correspondence files covering the range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention in this period.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Policies. NEI. Lace-Makers' [13 pages, 1923–24] A458, I154/16

This file contains a request from Clyde D Butler, a manufacturer from Nottingham in 1923, to commence a new lace finishing industry in New South Wales and to contract 35 skilled British operatives. The matter came under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Home and Territories who was responsible for the administration of the *Contracts' Immigrants Act* 1905. Questions of assisted passages for the workers, their rates of pay and conditions were raised in correspondence before approval was granted by the Minister.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Morning Post Migration Agreement' [23 pages, 1926] A458, L154/16

This refers to increased applications for assisted passages from miners in 1926, owing to the industrial trouble in the British coal industry. Correspondence relates to pressure on the Migration Department in London to give miners preference over other immigrants when ordinary requisitions favoured agriculturalists. Press cuttings and *Hansard* extracts refer to a committee formed by *The Morning Post* to assist 200 miners to emigrate to Australia, a scheme to which the British government contributed. A copy of the Agreement is included. The Salvation Army also requisitioned for 13 families of miners. Other correspondence relates to the expenses of *The Morning Post's* representative while in Australia.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1934–50

A461

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

This series consists of general correspondence files which cover the wide range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention. Many earlier papers from the previous general correspondence of the Department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Artisans' [1 cm, 1923–47] A461, E349/1/6

This refers to a number of requisitions and nominations for artisans from State governments and firms between 1923 and 1927. It includes a request to the Commonwealth Immigration Office from the South Australian Immigration Department for 200 artisans in 1923 at a time when the declared policy of the Commonwealth government was to develop immigration only in connection with rural industries. The file contains press cuttings on bricklayers from Britain (and Barnardo girls), and correspondence regarding requests in 1923 from Victoria for 800 selected skilled tradesmen for the building industry and 12 plumbers for sewerage work in Bendigo, nominations for 30 furniture manufacturers and a number of bricklayers for South Australia. The conditions under which these artisans emigrated, for example, their marital status, the need for landing money, guarantees of work, etc. are discussed. These requisitions and advertisements in London for boiler-makers by an Australian company in 1926 gave rise to concerns within the State Labour Exchange. Allegations from the Shop Assistants & Warehouse Employees Federation of Australia that shop assistants were being recruited in London in batches of six, brought out as assisted immigrants and employed immediately at Grace Bros. led to enquiries into indented labour in 1927. The shop-assistants, however, were not classed as manual labourers within the meaning of the *Contract Immigrants' Act* 1905. Approval was requested from the responsible Minister for 10 weavers under contract in 1927, 2 skilled potters in 1930, for surgical and dental instrument makers in 1938, and an industrial nomination for 15 female

machinists by David Jones & Co Ltd. [See also British Tube Mills (Australasia) Ltd, A461, P349/1/6].

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Artisans. Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation' [23 pages, 1938] A461, N349/1/6

In January 1938, the Managing Director of General Motors-Holden Ltd wrote to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, pointing out that the aircraft industry was handicapped owing to the lack of skilled tradesmen. He suggested that the assisted passage scheme, the resumption of which was then under consideration, might be utilised to overcome the shortage and, if the operatives were unavailable in Great Britain, Northern Europe might be tried. The Corporation guaranteed 8–12 months' employment although this was considered insufficient to induce skilled men to emigrate with their families. In view of the importance of the aircraft industry to Australia's defence, assisted passages were granted to selected artisans from the United Kingdom; however, since the men were manual labourers coming to Australia under contract, it was necessary that the terms of engagement were acceptable to the Minister for the Interior in accordance with the Contract Immigrants' Act. The Minister required the Corporation to guarantee employment for at least three years at not less than award rates.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Artisans. Davies, Coop & Co. Pty. Ltd' [52 pages, 1938–43] A461, O349/1/6

This contains a request in 1938 from Davies, Coop & Co. Ltd, to import skilled English textile workers from the United Kingdom to set up a tyre and condenser plant for their new mills in Collingwood, Melbourne. As the immigrants would come to Australia under contract to perform manual labour, it was necessary for the employer to comply with the requirements of the *Contract Immigrants' Act* 1905. The Minister for the Interior approved assisted passages for 30 female operatives provided each was guaranteed employment for three years at not less than award rates. The company argued that they did not displace Australian workers since there was no tyre yarn spun in Australia at the time and the skilled staff were required to train others. A further nomination for four male textile operatives (and their families) followed. The same conditions applied. Copies of the agreements between employer ('the company') and employee ('the servant'), the wage conditions and other letters and cables are included.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50
A433**

Recorded by:

1939: Department of the Interior, Central Administration (CA 27)

1939–45: Department of the Interior, Central Office (CA 31)

Canberra 8 metres

These files relate to restricted immigration to Australia. Files may contain reports, correspondence, articles, cables, news cuttings, passports, proposed amendments to the Immigration Act, departmental despatches, authorities for admission under exemption (form 32) and deportation orders (form 43B). Restricted immigration covers things such as admission of Asians, coloured persons, business visits, deserters, deportees and undesirables. Files from these series may be top-numbered into series A446, as well as into the subsequent series, A445 and A2998.

Department of Immigration, 'Contract Immigration. Arrival Returns Presented to Parliament' [51 pages, 1936–44] A433, 1944/2/45

This contains returns under the *Contract Immigrants' Act* 1905, showing the number of contract immigrants admitted to the Commonwealth, their nationality and occupation; the numbers of employers engaging such contract immigrants, and the

number engaged by each employer; the places at which the immigrants worked; the number of contracts disapproved; the number of contract immigrants refused admission and the reasons for such refusal, between 1936 and 1944. A copy of the *Contract Immigrants' Act* 1905 is included.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'H' INFIX,
1926–50 PP6/1**

Recorded by:

**1926–45: Collector of Customs, WA, (from 1985) Australian Customs Service,
WA (CA 808)**

1945–50: Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch (CA 962)

Perth 10.16 metres

This series contains general records of functions in connection with migration, covering reports by the Boarding Branch, Customs Department, in respect of all vessels, showing persons coming under notice through the provisions of the Immigration Act; details of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch; applications for naturalisation; applications for Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test; applications for admission to Australia as a migrant; nominal rolls of migrants supplied by overseas posts on the departure of vessels; reports on unsuitable migrants and action taken in respect of deportees; general correspondence; reports on immigration centres, Northam and Cunderdin; and applications for permanent residence by persons who have entered the country illegally. From May 1926 to May 1946 all immigration work was carried out by the Customs Department and records were maintained by them. With the establishment of the Immigration Department in Perth in May 1946, all files were transferred from Customs to Immigration. Files prior to 1926 are believed to have been destroyed.

**Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, 'Admission to
Australia from England of refugee household workers'. [5 pages, 1939]
PP6/1, 1939/H/98**

This contains a memorandum from the Department of the Interior, January 1939, to the Collector of Customs on non-Aryan Christian Refugees (Domestics) in England. One hundred selected domestics were sponsored by the Church of England Migration Council in Sydney. In conjunction with the Department of Labour and Industry, the Council guaranteed to place them in employment in New South Wales. Landing money of £5 each was required. Other letters referred to the granting of permits for a further 25 domestics for New South Wales under the auspices of the Salvation Army (April 1939) and 20 for Western Australia under the auspices of the Church of England Provincial Immigration Committee (March 1939). This file also relates to other chapters on women (Chapter 6), refugees (Chapter 9) and non-government organisations (Chapter 10).

9 Refugees

In the period from 1901 to 1939, the issue of refugee immigration to Australia did not loom large until the late 1930s when, owing to the policies of the Third Reich, large numbers of refugees in Europe were desperately seeking new homes. There are some records, however, relating to refugees in earlier years such as Russians after World War I and refugees from the Spanish Civil War after 1936. The admission of refugees in the late 1930s conformed to the same principles as those governing the entry of 'white aliens' (non-British European migrants) into Australia where landing permits with various conditions of guarantors, landing money and occupations were required. The Inter-Governmental Conference on Refugees at Evian Les Bains in France in July 1938 was a major international development and refugee immigration to Australia became increasingly regulated over the following months until the outbreak of World War II.

A number of associations were set up to sponsor and assist refugees. The Australian Jewish Welfare Society was established to assist Jewish refugees to come to Australia by giving maintenance guarantees and finding employment. The German Emergency Fellowship Committee, formed by Camilla Wedgwood and Dr Lemberg in February 1937, introduced a small number of non-Aryan Christians (of partial Jewish race) for agricultural work or domestic service under certain conditions. This became the European Emergency Committee in April 1939, its focus, non-Jewish and non-Catholic refugees. International Refugee Emergency Councils were also formed in 1938 in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, to care for refugees who were non-Jewish by religion and non-Catholic, but they had no real ties with the former group. The Inter-Church Committee for non-Aryan Christian Refugees, which began in October 1938, worked in close collaboration with the European Emergency Committee. It consisted of Church representatives (other than the Roman Catholic Church), and representatives of the Salvation Army, the Society of Friends (Quakers), the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, and the National Missionary Council of Australia. The Society of Friends also helped those of no religious persuasion. The Continental Catholic Migrants' Welfare Committee, Sydney, which also began operations in 1938, attended to the reception, settlement and aftercare of Catholic refugees. The Australian German Migration Association also dealt with refugees on a non-denominational basis. Many other organisations were formed in the United Kingdom and Europe and worked closely with Australia House in the selection process.

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38**A1****Recorded by:****1903–16: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)****1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)****1928–32: Department of Home and Territories (CA 24)****1932–38: Department of the Interior (CA 27)****Canberra 184.92 metres**

This series was the main correspondence file system of the agencies shown above. The subject matter includes administrative and personal matters as well as the following functions administered by the agencies from time to time: immigration and emigration, 'aliens' registration, naturalisation, passports (except 1916–18), influx of criminals, indentured coloured labour, people of races for whom special laws were thought necessary, external affairs (1903–16), Pacific islands (1903–16) as well as other matters not relevant to this Guide.

Department of External Affairs, 'Admission of Refugee Russian and Polish Jews' [7 pages, 1916] A1, 1916/10708

This file relates to a movement by wealthy Jews in England and America to obtain land in various parts of the world for the settlement of Russian Jewish refugees. A letter from the President, British Hebrew Congregation, Brisbane, to the Minister of External Affairs in April 1916, requests information on the possibility of settling Russian and Polish Jews on the land in Australia. The reply made clear that no departure could be made from the practice of admitting only immigrants of European race or descent, in sound health and capable of earning their own living.

Home and Territories Department, 'Russian Refugees Constantinople. Admission of' [13 pages, 1920–21] A1, 1922/956

This relates to queries in 1920 from the Russian Embassy about relief to fugitives of Russian armies driven from Karelia into Finland and the question of their admission into British colonies. Information was requested about conditions of land allotments as most were experienced agriculturalists. Further correspondence from the British High Commission, Constantinople (referred to Australia House), mentioned a group of Russian refugees who desired to settle as a self-contained colony but assistance, either financial or by land grants, was needed. The reply was that the Russians could not be admitted. These restrictions had not changed the following year when a similar request came from the International Labour Office, Geneva.

Home and Territories Department, 'Extension to other Categories of refugees of the measures taken to assist Russian and Armenian Refugees' [37 pages, 1927–29] A1, 1928/45

This contains extracts from 1927 and 1928 council meeting minutes of the League of Nations, on the extension of measures to assist Russian and Armenian refugees to other categories of refugees (Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish) and correspondence from the Secretary-General of the League to governments inviting responses. It includes a 1928 League of Nations report on the refugees mentioned above. Australian officials ascertained the view of the British government before responding themselves.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'International Status of Russian and Armenian Refugees – League of Nations Convention' [120 pages plus booklets, 1927–36] A1, 1936/2513

This contains various reports, correspondence, resolutions and recommendations of the League of Nations between 1927 and 1936, sent to the Commonwealth for information and, at times, a response. Reports covered Russian, Armenian,

Assyrian, Assyro-Chaldean and Turkish Refugees between 1927 and 1935, the future organisation of refugee work (1930), the Inter-governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees (1930 and 1935), International Assistance to Refugees (1935, 1936), and the Nansen International Office for Refugees (1934, 1936). The International Conference for Refugees in 1933 adopted a Final Act, and Convention relating to the International Status of Refugees, copies of which are included. The question of whether the Commonwealth should become a party to the convention was the subject of internal memoranda. Although considered of marginal relevance to Australia, there was no objection to its ratification. A memorandum on the attitude of the British government towards the performance of refugee work by the League of Nations, 1926–33, a questionnaire from the Nansen International Office concerning refugee problems, the appointment of a League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his letter of resignation, make up the rest of the file.

Department of the Interior, 'Issue of Travel Documents for Refugees from Germany' [42 pages, 1934] A1, 1934/4275

This refers to travel documents and identity certificates for refugees from Germany who did not possess national papers and contains a list of Home Office documents and principles for their use. It includes recommendations of the High Commissioner for Refugees on facilities for refugees (Jewish and other) from Germany to obtain work, apprenticeships or attend technical schools, and on passports, as well as the views of the British government. Owing to the location of Australia and the very strict control of 'alien immigration', it was considered by the Department of External Affairs that the need to issue such documents would be very small.

Department of the Interior, 'Catholic Refugees from Europe' [40 pages, 1938–39] A1, 1938/25491

This contains a letter and enclosures from Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, London, to Prime Minister Joseph Lyons in May 1938, on the setting up of a Catholic Committee to assist Catholic refugees and inquiring about conditions under which Catholic refugees from Germany and Austria could be admitted to Australia. The file also includes a November 1938 letter from J A Glynn, President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Ireland, who was interested in helping Austrian Catholic refugees migrate to the British Dominions or South America after 12 months' agricultural training in Ireland. Replies to both set out the normal conditions under which foreign migrants were admitted and outlined openings for skilled artisans, farm workers, domestic workers, qualified architects and engineers. It was also suggested that settlement could be facilitated by the setting up of a Catholic Church organisation in the first case, and in the second, by contacting the newly formed Continental Catholic Migrants' Welfare Committee (CCMWC), which would take responsibility for nominations and maintenance after arrival. The question of reduction of landing money was later raised by the CCMWC. Some of the contents of this file are duplicated in A461, R349/3/5.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Council for Civil Liberties Inquiry re Refugees' [66 pages, 1938–39] A1, 1938/32877

This contains a press statement published in the *Melbourne Herald*, 5 October 1938, on the tightening up of Jewish immigration by the Commonwealth, particularly in relation to Jews arriving in Australia as 'tourists' on return tickets and without landing permits (the suggestion being that they were attempting to evade Australian immigration laws). This provoked a response from the Council for Civil Liberties. Correspondence in the file is between the Council and the Minister for the Interior and contains requests for information about criteria for successful applications, the quota system and other related issues. A copy of the statement on 'European Refugees and their Acceptance in Australia', by the Minister for the Interior in the House of Representatives, 1 December 1938 sent to the Council, and a petition sent to the Minister from the Council are enclosed. A letter containing several questions

resulting from the Refugee Immigration Conference of the Council, December 1938, and notification that the Victorian Refugee Immigration Appeals Committee had been set up by the Conference is also included together with a report of the Conference and replies to the questions from the government.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1904–20**A2****Recorded by:****1904–11: Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)****1911–20: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 20.32 metres**

This series covers a wide range of subjects dealt with by the Prime Minister. The registry practice is at first haphazard but becomes increasingly formalised. A number of files were converted after 1917 into the first and thereafter into the second Secret and Confidential series of the Prime Minister's Department.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Russian Refugees' [10 pages, 1917] A2,
1917/3354**

This contains an extract from *The Bulletin* alleging Commonwealth or state assistance for the repatriation of Russian refugees and a request for clarification by the Consul-General for Russia, September 1917. The reply revealed that several State War Councils had taken up collections for the relief of Polish victims of the war and distress among Russian Poles. (The file also contains a seemingly misplaced application of December 1917 from an Indian manufacturer to send an agent to Australia for a certain period in order to introduce manufactured material.)

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES FIRST SYSTEM, 1915–23**457****Recorded by:****1915–23: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 18.27 metres**

This series consists of correspondence files covering a wide range of subjects which were submitted to the Prime Minister.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Immigration of Jewish Refugees'
[14 pages, 1921] A457, H400/5**

This contains a memorandum submitted by a deputation from the Joint Foreign Committee of Jewish Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association forwarded by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in May 1921 regarding facilities for the emigration to the Dominions and elsewhere of Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe, especially Jews escaping from the Ukraine into Poland and adjacent countries. The reply from H S Gullett, Superintendent of Immigration, was that it would be unwise to admit them, owing to the numbers of unemployed already in Australia and the British ex-servicemen to be admitted. Other internal correspondence in the file states more explicitly that government policy did not permit the entry of Russians and that no encouragement could be given.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'H' INFIX,
1926–50 PP6/1****Recorded by:****1926–45: Collector of Customs, WA, (from 1985) Australian Customs Service,
WA (CA 808)****1945–50: Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch (CA 962)****Perth 20.16 metres**

This series contains general records of functions in connection with migration, covering reports by the Boarding Branch, Customs Department, in respect of all vessels, showing persons coming under notice through the provisions of the Immigration Act; details of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch; applications for naturalisation; applications for Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test; applications for admission to Australia as a migrant; nominal rolls of migrants supplied by overseas posts on the departure of vessels; reports on unsuitable migrants and action taken in respect of deportees; general correspondence; reports on immigration centres, Northam and Cunderdin; and applications for permanent residence by persons who have entered the country illegally. From May 1926 to May 1946 all immigration work was carried out by the Customs Department and records were maintained by them. With the establishment of the Immigration Department in Perth in May 1946, all files were transferred from Customs to Immigration. Files prior to 1926 are believed to have been destroyed.

Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, 'Instructions re travel documents for German Refugees' [1 page, 1934] PP6/1, 1934/H/581

This contains a letter to the Collector of Customs, Fremantle, August 1934, requesting that all applications for travel documents from refugees from Germany be referred to the Department of the Interior. It relates to communications included in file A1, 1934/4275, described above.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1934–50**A461****Recorded by:****1934–50 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Perth 143.82 metres**

This series consists of general correspondence files which cover the wide range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention. Many earlier papers from the previous general correspondence of the Department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration from Germany and Austria'
[43 pages, 1938–39] A461, R349/3/5**

This file duplicates some of the material in A1, 1938/25491, for example, a letter from Cardinal Hinsley, to Prime Minister Lyons, May 1938, on the possibility of admitting German and Austrian Catholic refugees to Australia. A memorandum on 'Roman Catholic Refugees from Austria and Germany – Question of Facilities to Migrate to Australia' (August 1938) and the reply to the Cardinal are included. There are also letters from the Duke of Devonshire concerning German Social Democrat refugees from the Sudeten areas and an individual application, information on these refugees, and the attitudes of other governments. There is also correspondence between J A Glynn, President of the Irish Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, and the Prime Minister on Austrian Catholic refugees.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'European Refugees Admission to Australia'
[2 pages – several copies thereof, 1938] A461, Y349/3/5**

This file contains several copies of the one undated 2–page statement on 'European Refugees. Admission to Australia'. Although not explained in this file, it is a statement by the Minister for the Interior, the Hon. John McEwen given in parliament and reproduced in the press, (see *Parliamentary Debates, House of Representatives*, 1 December 1938) on the decision to admit 15 000 refugees over the following three years, the justification for the decision and the conditions under which the refugees were to be admitted.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Proposed Settlement of Jewish Refugees, Kimberley District, WA' [Two folders, one 155 pages, the other 63, 1938–44]
A461, D349/3/5 part 1**

The first folder includes proposals to the Prime Minister for a Jewish Settlement in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia by the Freeland League for Jewish Territorial Colonisation overseas. There is an interim report on the possibilities of the area for closer settlement, various press cuttings, *Hansard* extracts and data on Jewish farmers and land workers. The second folder contains correspondence and press cuttings from 1938 onwards, both supporting and opposing the Jewish settlement of Australia's north-west, presenting arguments on the one hand of helping to solve problems of defence, population distribution and refugees, and on the other of the dangers of forming alien colonies and the limitations of closer settlement in the north. The question of the visit of Isaac Steinberg of the Freeland League in 1939, and responses of the Commonwealth Government (in relation to the Northern Territory) and the Western Australian Government to the settlement are included. The rest of the file concerns the post-1939 period.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Employment of Refugees' [67 pages, 1938–39]
A461, Z349/3/5**

This contains a protest from the Amalgamated Engineering Union, in December 1938, concerning an agreement between the Jewish Association and the Electrical Traders' Association, Western Australia, whereby award wage would be paid but £2 per week refunded to the employer as an incentive to employ Jewish immigrants. Fear was expressed that Jews would displace Australians in industry. The allegation of preferential treatment for Jews was later disproved. Further protests from the Australian Builders Labourers' Federation led to investigations into the employment conditions and wage rates for Jews. The file also contains press extracts and letters on the subject, including one from Dame Mary Gilmore. Concern about the employability of refugees led the New South Wales government in mid-1939 to call for a conference on the whole question of the admission of refugees. Some of this material is also included in A367, C30751, described later in this chapter.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'New Industries. Establishment by Refugees'
[59 pages, 1938–39 (including 6 pages 1946–47)] A461, G353/1/1**

This file refers to an approved application in late 1938 by an Austrian manufacturer with substantial capital to migrate to Tasmania. Correspondence and press cuttings relate to whether governments were prepared to support applications by refugees who would establish new industries in towns wanting to secure such industries. It includes information on the British Committee for Sudeten Refugees and the possibilities of industrial group settlement in New South Wales. A memorandum outlines the position of certain Australian industries which might be affected by the introduction of Czech industries but overall the official response appeared to be favourable.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50
A433****Recorded by:****1939: Department of the Interior, Central Administration (CA 27)****1939–45: Department of the Interior, Central Office (CA 31)****Canberra 8 metres**

These files relate to restricted immigration to Australia. Files may contain reports, correspondence, articles, cables, news cuttings, passports, proposed amendments to the Immigration Act, departmental despatches, authorities for admission under exemption (form 32) and deportation orders (form 43B). Restricted immigration covers things such as admission of Asians, coloured persons, business visits, deserters, deportees and undesirables. Files from these series may be top-numbered into series A446, as well as into the subsequent series, A445 and A2998.

**Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'National Council of Jewish Women of Australia. Information re Jewish Immigration, etc.' [22 pages, 1936–43]
A433, 1943/2/3378**

This contains letters from the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia in April 1936, requesting information from the Minister of the Interior on Jewish immigration and characteristics and distribution of Jews in Australia, and requests for individual permits. Replies from the Department with immigration legislation and information from the 1933 census, are included.

**Department of the Interior. 'R T E Latham. Notes on Refugee problem'
[10 pages, 1938–39] A433, 1939/2/21**

This file consists of notes by R T E Latham dated January 1938 on the situation in Berlin with regard to refugee emigration to Australia. They are concerned partly with the character of the flow of refugees at the time and partly with questions of organisation. They contain several recommendations, notably a reform of the landing money requirement. There is also an accompanying letter to A R Peters.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Jews/Refugees congregating in districts'
[12 pages, 1939] A433, 1939/2/742**

This contains a Department of the Interior memorandum of April 1939 relating to applications from 'aliens' for welfare assistance and the possibility of welfare officers making the information available for use in connection with applications for the admission of friends and relatives where financial guarantees were required. A question was also raised regarding the congregating of Jews in districts such as Bondi, King's Cross, Kirribilli and Neutral Bay and their tendency to form colonies. A further memorandum on government policy of May 1939 stated that they should be distributed as widely as possible. Other correspondence in the file was related to following up these issues.

**Department of the Interior, Society of Friends (Quakers). Admission of youths non-Aryan Christian refugees for farming' [64 pages, 1939] A433,
1944/2/1703**

This file includes a letter from the General Secretary of the Society of Friends (Quakers), Germany Emergency Committee, of March 1939, to Australia House giving background information on the refugee work of the Society, in particular for Christian, non-Aryan refugees or those of no religious persuasion. The letter referred to help given refugee boys of 15 to 18 years of age to work on the land, and a request from Camilla Wedgewood, of the Women's College, Sydney, to the Minister of the Interior in October 1938 as to whether the government could grant facilities for a certain number of refugee boys from Central Europe to be accepted into Australia

for land work. No reply had been received. This letter requested that similar facilities as those granted to the Church of England Advisory Council for the introduction of women for domestic service, including landing money concessions, could be given for some 100 refugee boys. Other letters refer to nominations, landing permits and settlement experience of particular boys who came to Australia under this arrangement. With the outbreak of war, the question of the continuation of the scheme for enemy alien lads was raised since most were German or Austrian.

Department of the Interior, 'Refugees (Jewish and Others). General Policy File' [3 cms, 1938–44] A433, 1943/2/46

This is an important file on the gradual development of policy on refugee immigration to Australia from 1938. As a result of events in Europe, there was an increasing number of applications by 'aliens' to migrate to Australia. The bulk of these were from Jewish refugees. The file contains press cuttings on the proposed Jewish colony in Western Australia, various press statements and cables, departmental memoranda on Jewish immigration, data on applications and quotas, correspondence between the government and the Australian Jewish Welfare Society on their co-operation and relations with the government, a statement by the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (AJWS) in regard to Jewish migration to Australia in October 1938 to correct public misinformation, a general outline of the activities and views of the AJWS, a recommendation by High Commissioner Bruce in November 1938 for Australia to admit 30 000 refugees over three years which was then modified by J A Carrodus to 15 000 (the arrangement to commence in January 1939) and projections on refugee and white alien migration. Policy statements consider the relationships between British and white alien immigration, British immigration with assisted immigration, net white alien immigration with Southern European, and total population increase with natural increase and net migration. They also deal with the question of excluding parents of Jewish refugees from quota restrictions. The file also contains a clarification of the definition of refugee, notes on a deputation to the Minister of the Interior from the AJWS in February 1939, a conference on refugee policy between the government and the AJWS in March 1939, and a memorandum on Jewish Refugee Child Migration in August 1939.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'European Refugees. Views of Public re Admittance' [123 pages, 1938–39] A433, 1943/2/4588

This file contains various letters to the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior on the public response to refugee immigration. (This section of the file is outlined more fully in Chapter 11 on Australian Attitudes to Immigration.) Two 1938 parliamentary statements are included: Minister for the Interior, the Hon. John McEwen's 'European Refugees. Admission to Australia' (Hansard, 1 December 1938) and another on the introduction of 'aliens' (29 November 1938). There is also a cutting from the *West Australian*, 7 June 1939 reporting Hal Colebatch (Agent General for Western Australia) urging an improved method of selection for alien refugees.

Department of Immigration, File of Papers, 'Registration of German and Austrian Refugees' [10 pages, 1939] A433, 1945/2/6057

This contains a copy of a questionnaire which new arrivals had to complete for the German Consul and an announcement in the *Juedische Nachrichtenblatt* of 14 July 1939 suggesting that intending migrants to Australia should report to the German Consulate after arrival in Australia to complete the form. These were extracts from a personal letter dated August 1939, forwarded to the Department of the Interior from the Secretary of the Department of Defence, drawing attention to the comprehensive nature of the questions.

TELEPHONE:
B. 095.
TELEGRAPH:
WUBSIDO, CANBERRA.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.
INVESTIGATION BRANCH.

CANBERRA, 21st October, 1938.
(P.C.T.)

MEMORANDUM for :

The Solicitor-General.

CENTRAL EUROPEAN MIGRANTS.

Following the German occupation of Sudetenland, a considerable number of German and Czecho-Slovak refugees from this area will in all probability be seeking a new country of adoption.

Press comments state that the fund inaugurated by the Lord Mayor of London will be carefully utilised to find new homes for these people. This fund has already reached the sum of £110,000.

The following information which has been obtained by this Branch may be worthy of consideration in connection with the immigration policy of the Government when the quota system is being reviewed.

The German refugees who left Germany in 1933 immediately Hitler came into power settled in Czecho-Slovakia, and numbered between 6,000 and 10,000. The majority of them were Socialists and Communists and they conducted a very active campaign against the Nazi regime in Germany.

The Auslands Organisation in Australia has been most successful in grouping together the post-war German residents in this country, and has formed an alien bloc which can neither be ignored nor treated lightly.

The immigration into Australia of a percentage of refugees from Sudetenland with avowed socialistic views would be of value and act as a balance of power in local German institutions, such as social clubs, some of which are fighting desperately to avoid Nazi (or, more correctly, Auslands) domination through an organisation in Germany known as the Bund der Deutschen.

These refugees would be of even greater assistance in combating German propaganda among people of German descent residing in Australia, and at the same time, Australia would receive a number of settlers of Nordic race, thus counterbalancing the large proportion of Southern European migrants.



H. E. Jones.
DIRECTOR.

The Investigation Branch of the Attorney-General's Department took an active interest in the government's immigration policy and the make-up if the migrant intake.

NAA: A432, 1943/1135

Department of the Interior, 'Premier of New South Wales. Problem of employment of Alien Refugees (inc. Doctors)' [61 pages, 1939] A433, 1939/2/2197

This contains press cuttings from a number of newspapers (*Daily Telegraph*, *Sun*, *Melbourne Herald*, and the *Sydney Morning Herald*) with headlines such as 'Alien Doctors', 'Refugee Doctors', 'Ban colonies of aliens', 'Ban on German doctors', 'No Black Hand in North', 'Alien Migrants' and 'Crisis on Alien Doctors'. A letter from B S B Stevens, Premier of New South Wales, to the Prime Minister on 31 July 1939 expressed concern at competition from refugees, calling for a conference of ministerial and official representatives of New South Wales and the Commonwealth to restrict their entry. He favoured the establishment of new industries by refugees but stressed the need for surveillance of their activities after arrival. Stevens' successor, Alex Mair, wrote again on the same subject in October 1939. The reply made clear that refugee doctors could only practise if registered in one of the Australian states. At the time the Medical Board of New South Wales had the power to register a foreign doctor for practice only in a specified region where doctors were needed.

Department of the Interior, 'Refugees 'G' Acceptance of Landing permits, held by German Jewish refugees, by Shipping Coys' [14 pages, 1939–40] A433, 1939/2/2102

This file relates to a request from the Holland Australia Line, 7 September 1939, as to whether they might still accept German Jewish refugees for Australia, who had landing permits and a British visa, and had already left Germany when war was declared. The reply in the affirmative from the Collector of Customs, Sydney, is included together with further correspondence on this issue during 1940.

Department of the Interior, 'Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees, minutes of Meeting at Washington, 19 October 39' [4 pages plus book, 1939] A433, 1940/2/979

This contains a copy of the official minutes of the meeting of Officers of the Intergovernmental Committee of Political Refugees, held in Washington on 17 October 1939, sent to the Department of the Interior, together with accompanying letters.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Refugees and other aliens – internment during War' [46 pages, 1939–40] A433, 1939/2/2030

Letters from the Commonwealth Council of Refugee Migration Organisations, August 1939, to the Prime Minister, and the Ministers of Defence and of the Interior expressed concern as to the fate of refugees from Germany in the event of war. It was argued that if the government were to class them as enemy 'aliens' they should not be interned (particularly with pro-Nazis) but placed on parole with suitable safeguards and no restrictions placed on their savings. These recommendations were the result of a meeting between representatives of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, the Continental Catholic Migrants' Welfare Committee, the European Emergency Committee (Sydney), the Inter-Church Committee for Non-Aryan Christian Refugees from Germany, and the Victorian International Refugee Emergency Committee. The file contains subsequent interdepartmental correspondence, a summary of the proposed policy of the United Kingdom regarding the treatment of 'enemy aliens', and extracts from the press and *Hansard* on the same subject. Defence authorities suggested that the welfare organisations listed should supply to the Military Commandants in each district full particulars of refugees they considered genuine and for whom they could vouch. Related issues during the war are covered in the rest of the file.

Department of the Interior, 'Australia-Italia shipping Co. – Carriage of Refugees to Australia' [11 pages, 1938] A433, 1940/2/2970

This file contains extracts from *Hansard* on questions relating to 900 Jewish refugees arriving on the Italian liner, *Urania*, and a quota system for 'alien migrants'. A letter from Lloyd Triestino, the Company which owned the ship, indicated that the liner was not destined for Australia and asked whether an annual quota for refugees had been fixed. A ministerial statement on the issue and the reply to the shipping company are included.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Refugee Aid Societies proposed Joint Council' [16 pages, 1939] A433, 1939/2/1511

This file contains memoranda and minutes of meetings concerning the work of a consultative committee (or Council) formed to deal with questions relating to the immigration of refugees. The Committee comprised representatives of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, the Continental Catholic Migrants' Welfare Committee, the European Emergency Committee, and the Inter-Church Committee. It aimed to bring about closer co-operation between themselves and the Department of the Interior, to consider permit applications and make representations concerning them, and discuss problems as they arose.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Spanish Refugees Admission' [69 pages, 1939] A433, 1939/2/174

This contains Department of the Interior memoranda and notes on Spanish Refugees (April to July 1939). Representations were made to the Department by the Spanish Relief Committee, the International Peace Campaign and the Victorian Refugee Immigration Appeals Committee which offered to take care of reception, adult employment and homes for children. Issues raised were whether special facilities, especially landing money concessions, could be given, and whether Spanish refugees could be included in the refugee quota of 15 000. The recommendations from the Department were that each application should be considered on its merits and in conformity with the rules which applied to 'aliens' generally, that Spanish refugees not be included in the overall quota for refugees, and that no special encouragement be given. Conditions for the entry of 'aliens' are included in the file. A R Peters suggested that many could be communists and precautions were needed against admitting political extremists. A letter from the International Office for the respect of Rights of Refuge and Assistance to Political Refugees in Paris (June 1939) regarding 350 000 Spanish refugees on French territory and the possible immigration of some to Australia, together with a list of their professions and trades, is included. Letters requesting financial aid and support for Spanish refugee migration to Australia and other countries continued from Spanish Relief Organisations, branches of the Australian Labor Party and individuals.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Unemployed Refugees – Economic Circumstances' [64 pages, 1939–40] A433, 1940/2/103

This contains notes of a Deputation to the Minister for Labour and Industry and the Minister for Agriculture (February 1939) from the Refugee Emergency Council of New South Wales in relation to migrant employment and notes of an interview between T H Garrett, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, and C J Bellemore, Under Secretary, Department of Labour and Industry, Sydney (March 1939) on refugee unemployment. It also contains press reports on refugee unemployment and letters to the government requesting assistance. Particulars on applicants for assistance to the European Emergency Committee and an economic survey form are included. There is also a 15-page report by A L Nutt on Economic Circumstances of Refugees in Sydney and a summary of the report. This report contains as much information on the welfare organisations, their histories and

financial positions, as on the refugees themselves. It concluded that unemployment was more common amongst non-Jewish, non-Catholic refugees than Jews or Catholics. Following these investigations, the Inter-Church Committee in February 1940 proposed to open a hostel for migrants and refugees of non-Jewish origin.

THE 'SHEDDEN COLLECTION' [RECORDS COLLECTED BY SIR FREDERICK SHEDDEN DURING HIS CAREER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND IN RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE POLICY], TWO NUMBER SERIES, 1901–71

A5954

Recorded by:

1937–39: Department of Defence (CA 19)

Canberra 109.9 metres

This series contains records collected by Sir Frederick Shedden (CP 320) during his career within the Department of Defence. It also contains material collated after his retirement in researching and writing a book on the History of Australian Defence Policy. The manuscript of his book was not published at his death on 8 July 1971. Drafts of his work are held in this series together with copies of departmental correspondence, files, reports and press cuttings. Copies of War Cabinet and Advisory War Council records are also held. This series is the major part of a larger accumulation of records, the remainder of which, including the manuscript of the history, formed part of Sir Frederick Shedden's personal estate.

**Department of Defence, 'The Monthly Summary of the League of Nations, October 1936. Appointment by the Assembly of a Committee to Study the Reform of the Covenant. Assistance to Refugees' [Booklet only, 1939]
A5954, 2374/45**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1939–50

A659

Recorded by:

1939 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)

Canberra 101.25 metres

The description of this series will extend beyond 1939 because of its potential interest to immigration researchers. It contains the general correspondence files of the Department of the Interior [II] until late 1945, and from mid-1945 the miscellaneous and passport files of the then newly-created Department of Immigration. From 1930 to 1945, the series covers a wide range of subjects including assisted migration and naturalisations (until 31 December 1943). Naturalisation applications reached a peak during 1941. With the establishment of the Department of Immigration in July 1945, the series was recorded jointly by Interior and Immigration for the rest of that year. From 1946, the series relates exclusively to Immigration matters as that Department took over several functions previously administered by the Department of the Interior. General subjects included: the internal organisation of the Department; details of organisations such as the International Refugee Organisation, United Nations Organisation and immigration bodies; the administration of the Children's Overseas Reception Board; whereabouts cases, general control of passports and grants of travel facilities to certain areas and miscellaneous subjects.

**Department of Immigration, 'Report and proposals by Mr T H Garrett. Refugees from Europe – Selection of etc. (1939)' [136 pages, 1939] A659,
1947/1/2109**

This is an important policy file containing an interim report on 'White Alien Immigration into Australia from Europe, Establishment of Organisation at Australia House' of June 1939 by T.H. Garrett, Assistant Secretary, Department of the

Interior. This outlines the categories of 'alien migration', and especially refugees, with the conditions for entry into Australia. All applications by 'white aliens' in Europe without guarantors in Australia had to be lodged at Australia House and were divided into refugees and non-refugees. Refugees were then divided into Jews (by religion), Roman Catholics and non-Jewish non Catholics. The file also includes brief notes of a tour of the continent by Garrett and the Chief Migration Officer, Major R H Wheeler, from July to August 1939. Following this trip, Garrett produced a final report on 'Alien Immigration and Organisation at Australia House', dated August 1939. This deals with the effectiveness of refugee organisations in Europe, the extent to which officers at Australia House should deal with selection, and the procedure for processing applications.

Department of the Interior, 'Refugees (Emergency Council) Organisation in NSW for their Absorption [Assimilation?]' [48 pages, 1938–39] A659, 1939/1/4451

This contains press cuttings, an agenda for a public meeting on the setting up of the Refugee Emergency Council, New South Wales, under the League of Nations Union, the First Annual Report of the Emergency Fellowship Committee and related correspondence from Raymond Watt, National Secretary of the Australian League of Nations Union, an article on refugee welfare, reprinted from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 December 1938, minutes of meetings of the Refugees Emergency Council of New South Wales and its sub-committees, a statement made in the House of Representatives by the Minister for the Interior on 1 December 1938 and a memorandum on 'Refugees – organisation in NSW for the purpose of dealing with non-Jewish, Non-Catholic refugees by T H Garrett, April 1939'.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929

A432

Recorded by:

1929–58: Attorney General's Department (CA 5)

Canberra 2329.2 metres

This series consists of the main correspondence file series of the Attorney-General's Department. The series commenced in 1929, replacing the existing systems and contains material top-numbered from those series, including papers back to 1901.

Attorney General's Department, 'Convention concerning the Status of Refugees coming from Germany: Geneva 1938' [19 pages, 1938] A432, 1938/1184

This includes a copy of the Convention concerning the Status of Refugees coming from Germany, dated February 1938, and a draft additional Protocol for advice as to whether the Commonwealth Government should accede to the Convention, together with internal accompanying correspondence. The view was that there was no reason for the Commonwealth to accede and that several Articles dealt with matters more appropriate for the States. No objection was made to the Draft Protocol.

Attorney General's Department, 'Position of Refugees in the Event of War' [4 pages, 1939] A432, 1939/825

This concerns representations to the Prime Minister from the Commonwealth Council of Refugee Migration Organisations on the position of refugees in the event of war. Under the law, they would be classed as 'enemy aliens' and as such, could be detained.

Attorney General's Department, '"The Refugee" (Film): Protest by the German Consul' [7 pages, 1939] A432, 1939/145

Dr. Asmis, the German Consul-General, protested to the Prime Minister in February 1939, to the film 'The March of Time: The Refugee', on the basis that it was strongly anti-German and called for its withdrawal. The file contains a subsequent assessment of the film by H E Jones, Director, Investigation Branch, who concluded that, despite some objectionable features in the film, the government had no power to prohibit it. There was no legal power to prevent the pictorial pro-Nazi propaganda being shown in Australia at the time.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50
A434**

Recorded by:

1939: Department of the Interior, Central Administration (CA 27)

1939–45: Department of the Interior, Central Office (CA 31)

Canberra 12.27 metres

These files relate to restricted immigration to Australia. Files may contain reports, correspondence, articles, cables, news cuttings, passports, proposed amendments to the Immigration Act, departmental despatches, authorities for admission under exemption (form 32) and deportation orders (form 43B). Restricted immigration covers things such as admission of Asians, coloured persons, business visits, deserters, deportees and undesirables. Files from these series may be top-numbered into series A446, as well as into the subsequent series, A445 and A2998.

**Department of Immigration, 'Australian Refugee Immigration Committee.
Policy file' [203 pages, 1938–48] A434, 1949/3/7286**

This contains letters to the League of Nations Union expressing concern over the situation of refugees in Europe in 1938. In co-operation with church leaders, a Committee, called the Victorian International Refugee Emergency Council, representative of various community groups working for both Jewish and non-Jewish refugees, was set up in Victoria in December 1938 to assist in selection, reception and assimilation. Similar moves occurred in other states. The file includes resolutions adopted by the Union urging the Australian government to facilitate the migration of as many refugees as could economically be absorbed, with the Commonwealth government bearing the cost, and to appoint an advisory committee. Correspondence between the Council and government officials involves its work of processing applications for non-Jewish, non-Catholic refugees and the use of Forms 40 and 47. Council pamphlets and the first annual report are also included. More than half of this file covers the post-1939 period.

Department of Immigration, 'AJWS. Australian Jewish Welfare Society Scheme for admission of 300 refugee children', Part 1. (Part II of this file is A434, 1950/3/14.) [301 pages, 1939–46] A434, 1949/3/3

Only a very small portion of this file covers the pre-World War II period. It deals with the provisions for the introduction of refugee children during and after the war under the auspices of the AJWS. A formal application for the admission of a limited number of Jewish refugee orphans was made in a letter to the Department of the Interior, dated February 1939, bringing many of the arguments for child migration and refugee migration together. Approval was given in March 1939 for a special children's quota of 250 per year, to be deducted from the Society's quota of 'transmitted cases'.

**Department of Immigration, File of Papers, 'Refugees from Austria – special committee proposed by USA Government. Evian Conference' [4 cm, 1938–48]
A434, 1950/3/41837**

This is a very large and important file focussing on the international context of refugee immigration to Australia in 1938 and 1939 (with the exception of 5 pages relating to Austrians residing in Shanghai in 1948). It contains reports, statements and notes of meetings of the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees. This Committee was set up at the Evian Conference in July 1938 to facilitate emigration of political refugees from Austria and Germany, a move initiated by the United States. The file includes a summary report by the Australian delegation of the third meeting of the Committee, together with a confidential memorandum by George Rublee, Director of the London Office of the Evian Committee, on his discussions with German authorities in January and February 1939, informing them of the resolutions adopted at Evian. Internal departmental correspondence and memoranda relate to financing the emigration, originally to be undertaken by private organisations but this was proving impossible by 1939 without government assistance. Other contents include correspondence and memoranda dating from April 1938 relating to the setting up of the Committee and the question of Australia's participation (not in chronological order), press and *Hansard* extracts, data on applications, cables, policy statements on Jewish immigration, information on the Evian Conference itself such as the speech by T W White, Minister of Trade and Customs and delegate for Australia, and responses to it, resolutions of the Conference and subsequent correspondence and circulars on the events of 1939 related to refugees and the work of the Committee.

Department of Immigration, File of Papers 'Convention Concerning Status of Refugees from Germany' [3 cm, 1934–45] A434, 1950/3/41340

This contains League of Nations notes on assistance to refugees (September 1935) and an Inter-governmental Conference for the adoption of the Legal Status of Jewish and non-Jewish Refugees coming from Germany (March 1936), correspondence on Australia's possible participation, Provisional Arrangements and Final Act (July 1936 and February 1938), and copies of successive reports. A League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees coming from Germany, later extended to refugees coming from Austria, was subsequently appointed. Correspondence then relates to the adoption of a new standard form of Certificate of Identity for refugees from Germany and the preparations and explanatory notes for an international conference for the adoption of a convention in February 1938 on the legal status of these refugees (copy of the Convention is included in the file). Recognition of the incorporation of Austria into the German Reich by the United Kingdom, the problem of Austrian refugees, a League of Nations plan for the international assistance of refugees, and whether Australia should become a party to the Convention are issues raised in correspondence.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1935–

A425

Recorded by:

1935–56: Department of Trade and Customs (CA 10)

Canberra 2702.24 metres

This was the main correspondence files series for the Department of Trade and Customs and covers a wide range of subjects. It includes records on the censorship of imported goods including printed matter and films.

Department of Trade and Customs, 'Film Censorship. 'March of Time: the Refugee' and others. War horror films – China–Japanese War – comment' [97 pages, 1938–39] A425, 1939/1513

This file focuses on the question of film censorship for political reasons. A number of films are discussed including 'The March of Time: The Refugee'. The protest by the German Consul-General as discussed in A432, 1939/145 above, is also included here, together with a justification for the film's screening by the Chief Censor.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'H' INFIX, 1926–50 PP6/1

Recorded by:

1926–45: Collector of Customs, WA, (from 1985) Australian Customs Service, WA (CA 808)

1945–50: Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch (CA 962)

Perth 20.16 metres

This series contains general records of functions in connection with migration, covering reports by the Boarding Branch, Customs Department, in respect of all vessels, showing persons coming under notice through the provisions of the Immigration Act; details of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch; applications for naturalisation; applications for Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test; applications for admission to Australia as a migrant; nominal rolls of migrants supplied by overseas posts on the departure of vessels; reports on unsuitable migrants and action taken in respect of deportees; general correspondence; reports on immigration centres, Northam and Cunderdin; and applications for permanent residence by persons who have entered the country illegally. From May 1926 to May 1946 all immigration work was carried out by the Customs Department and records were maintained by them. With the establishment of the Immigration Department in Perth in May 1946, all files were transferred from Customs to Immigration. Files prior to 1926 are believed to have been destroyed.

Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, 'Alien Immigration – Refugees etc.' [15 pages, 1939] PP6/1, 1939/H/952

This contains a memorandum from the Department of the Interior to the Collector of Customs, Fremantle, in September 1939 with a copy of statements setting out the policy regarding alien immigration into Australia in relation to refugees.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1930–39

B1535

Recorded by:

1930–39: Army Headquarters, Department of Defence (CA 2671)

Melbourne 30.20 metres

This was the main correspondence series for Army Headquarters and includes correspondence relating to matters within the jurisdiction of the Military Board of Administration. It covers areas such as administration, organisation, staffing, training, ordnance, stores and transport.

Department of the Interior, 'Refugees Holding Landing Permits for Entry into Australia' [20 pages, 1939] B1535, 779/1/172

This contains a statement of September 1939, setting forth the government's policy with regard to alien immigration into Australia, particularly regarding refugees, in view of the international situation. The file also contains recommendations from the High Commissioner in London in regard to the admission of refugees who already held landing permits issued prior to the outbreak of war, and refugees in neutral countries.

**Department of the Interior, 'Position in Australia of Refugees' [21 pages, 1939]
B1535, 867/2/38**

This contains a letter to the Department of the Interior from the Continental Catholic Migrants Welfare Committee (CCMWC) in July 1939, requesting assurances that genuine refugees would not be interned or have their funds confiscated in the event of war. The reply indicated that no such assurances could be given. A further letter to the Minister of Defence of August 1939 on behalf of the Commonwealth Council of Refugee Migration Organisations urged that such refugees not be treated as alien enemies and suggested how they might be treated by the authorities in wartime and how they might serve the country. The greatest fear on the part of the refugees was that they might be interned with pro-Nazi Germans. The reply reiterated that no undertaking could be given that any alien or class of 'aliens' would not be interned, set out the general policy regarding refugees from Germany, and how the CCMWC should act to best safeguard the interests of the refugees.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1939–42

MP508/1

Recorded by:

1939: Army Headquarters, Department of Defence (CA 2671)

Melbourne 144 metres

These files relate to the wartime administration of the military forces of Australia.

Department of Defence, 'German Jewish Refugees Enlistment in Armed Forces' [25 pages, 1938–40] MP508/1, 115/702/20

This contains a letter in September 1938, from W Cahn, an ex-officer of the German Army in World War I, now a German refugee and Secretary of the Victorian Migrants Consultative Committee, offering his services to the Commonwealth Government, particularly regarding the enlistment of 'aliens'. Other correspondence is included relating to the desire of Jewish migrants to enlist in the Australian Armed Forces. The government did not see this as desirable.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53 A367

Recorded by:

1916–19: Special Intelligence Bureau, (Central Office) Melbourne (CA 746)

1919–46: Investigation Branch, Central Office, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)

Canberra 64.08 metres

This series consists of bundles of general correspondence, reports, copies of forms, dossiers, history sheets etc. all of which reflect the activities of the former Commonwealth Investigation Service in respect of inquiries into applications for naturalisation, the admission into Australia of friends and relatives, visitors, substitutes for businessmen (Chinese), claims relating to National Security (War Damage and Property) Regulations. In most cases these investigations conform with the terms of the *Nationality Act* 1920–36. The series contains policy and precedent, as well as main case files, the majority of which were retained by the agency for future reference.

Attorney General's Department, File of Papers, 'Alien Migration, Jews from Central Europe. Central European Migrants (Stateless German Refugee Jews)' [108 pages, 1933–45] A367, C30751

This contains a letter to Major H E Jones in 1933 on the immigration of Jews from Roland Browne, Investigation Branch, Department of the Interior, and a reply, notes on Jewish Immigration from Central Europe, press cuttings from *The Truth*,

Brisbane, 1938, a statement by H E Jones on Alien Migration, examples of Grants of Permit, and correspondence on the migration of Jewish refugees and their distribution in Australia. Following allegations from the Amalgamated Engineering Union, Sydney, that an agreement existed between the 'Jewish Association' and the Traders' Association, Perth, for preferential employment of Jews, the Commonwealth Investigation Branch carried out an investigation. (See A461, Z349/3/5 described earlier in this chapter.) Another investigation was carried out into the economic effect of the settlement of 'white aliens', and particularly Jews in the manufacturing and retail sections of the clothing trade and other secondary industries, and the activities of Italians in Melbourne. (see A433, 1939/2/909, described in Chapter 11). Correspondence is included on the settlement of Jews in Australia and an alleged Anti-Refugee Association in Melbourne. The rest of the file contains information related to the war period and a copy of *The Australian Jewish Review* of September 1945.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89**A1838****Recorded by:****1948–70: Department of External Affairs, Central Office (CA 18)****Canberra 3080.96 metres**

This series comprises the main correspondence file series of the Departments of External Affairs [II] from 1948–70, Foreign Affairs from 1970 to 1987, and Foreign Affairs and Trade from mid-1987 to the end of 1989.

Department of External Affairs, 'Migration Australia. Settlement of European Jews in Australia' [59 pages, 1938–50] A1838, 1531/71/3

This file relates to proposals from Jewish organisations for the Jewish settlement in Australia, firstly of small groups on the land in Southern Australia, and secondly of larger groups in the Kimberleys in Western Australia. Correspondence on the second of these proposals makes up the bulk of the material from the pre World War II period. It includes letters from the 'Freeland' League for Jewish Territorial Colonisation of Western Australia, especially from Dr J Steinberg, a cable from G Miles, MLC, parliamentary extracts on Jewish Migration, and views of the Western Australian government and others on the subject.

DEFENCE ARMY SERIES (401), 1914–17**MP729/6****Recorded by:****1937–39: Department of Defence (CA 19)****1939–45: Department of the Army (CA 36)****Melbourne 26.28 metres**

**Department of Defence, 'Alien Immigration, Refugees, etc.' [2 pages, 1939]
MP729/6, 65/401/12**

This contains a copy of a statement dated September 1939, setting out the policy of the government with regard to alien immigration into Australia, especially in regard to refugees.

**Department of Defence, 'Landing in Australia of German Jewish Refugees'
[6 pages, 1939] MP729/6, 65/401/21**

This contains a cablegram from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Simla, to the Prime Minister's Department, 28 September 1939, proposing that 57 German Jewish refugees, all with visas for Australia granted before the war, be allowed to proceed from Bombay to Australia. Subsequent exchanges are included.

10 The Role of Non-Government Organisations

A vast number of non-government voluntary organisations were involved in immigration to Australia during the period from 1901 to 1939, particularly in the 1920s. Many were financially supported by the British and Commonwealth governments after the Empire Settlement Act in 1922 although this assistance was reduced or curtailed with the onset of the depression. Such organisations included the Sydney-based Million Farms Club, the Salvation Army, the Big Brother Movement, the Dreadnought Trustees, the Country Women's Association, the Child Emigration Society (Fairbridge Farm Schools), Dr Barnardo's homes, the British Women's Overseas League, the Boy Scouts' Association, the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations (YMCA and YWCA), the British Empire Service League and the Young Australia League.

The Protestant churches were also very active in migration work. Prominent amongst church groups were the Catholic Immigration Societies of New South Wales and Queensland, the Church of England Society for Empire Settlement, the Church of England Immigration (Migration) Council (or Committee), and St Vincent de Paul. In 1926, the Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregationalist and Baptist Churches and the Church of Christ together formed the Inter-Church Immigration Committee, coordinating with the YMCA Migration Department. Many of these organisations sponsored juvenile migration and their particular work in this context is treated in Chapter 7. Some Australian associations had parent bodies or branches in Great Britain; others were British associations without branches in Australia, such as the British Dominions Immigration Society, and vice versa.

The New Settlers' League formed in 1921 was one of the best-known organisations in the area of aftercare. Another was the British Settlers' Welfare Committee established in 1931 for the purpose of caring for youth introduced into New South Wales as assisted migrants prior to the depression. These organisations were often supported by the Commonwealth and state governments and by the British government and they nominated immigrants as well as looking after their interests on and after arrival. Several local and occupational bodies had representatives on the New Settlers' League Executive Council, including the Primary Producers' Union, the United British Immigrants' Association, and the West Australian Cornish Association.

In the late 1930s, various voluntary organisations sponsored and assisted refugees. These included the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (Jewish refugees), the Continental Catholic Migrants Welfare Committee (Catholic refugees) and the European Refugee Emergency Committees (non-Aryan Christian refugees), to mention just a few. For more on these organisations, see Chapter 9 on Refugees. All archival records on non-government organisations involved in migration work contain correspondence with various government departments. In the 1920s particularly, this often concerned questions of government funding.

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1904–20

A2

Recorded by:

1904-11: Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)

1911-20: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 20.32 metres

This series covers a wide range of subjects dealt with by the Prime Minister. The registry practice is at first haphazard but becomes increasingly formalised. A number of files were converted after 1917 into the first and thereafter into the second Secret and Confidential series of the Prime Minister's Department.

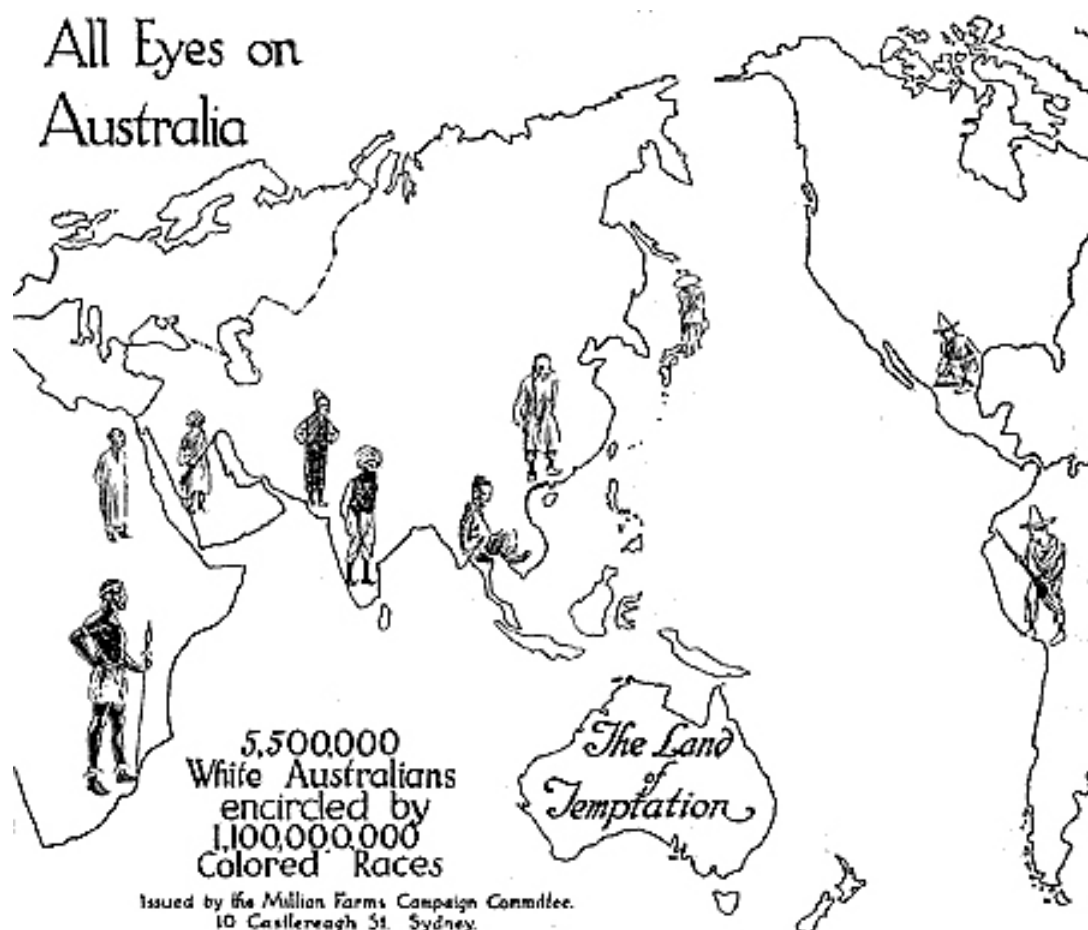
Prime Minister's Department, File of Papers, 'Immigration – Proposals by Millions Club' [16 pages, 1915] A2, 1915/1803

This contains correspondence between the Millions Club and the Prime Minister, the former urging the government to keep the immigration movement alive through advertising, etc.

Shown above and opposite is some of the 'propaganda' material published by the Million Farms Campaign Committee.

NAA: A457, 1400/5 Part 2





**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES FIRST SYSTEM, 1915–23
A457****Recorded by:****1915–23: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 18.27 metres**

This series consists of correspondence files covering a wide range of subjects which were submitted to the Prime Minister.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration encouragement. Pound for Pound subsidy to Approved Private Immigration Schemes, 1921' [3 pages, 1921]
A457, M400/2**

This file relates to a recommendation for a pound for pound subsidy, in addition to the usual contribution to the shipping fares, to all approved immigration schemes conducted by organisations or individuals working outside and independently of government immigration activities, together with the Prime Minister's response.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Million Farms Resolutions.' [243 pages, 1921–22] A457, I400/5 Part 1

This contains resolutions by numerous Shire Councils, Road Boards and agricultural associations endorsing the Million Farms proposals (to put a million farmers on a million farms throughout Australia), copies of which were then forwarded to the Prime Minister. Press cuttings relating to the scheme are also included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Million Farms Campaign – Sir Joseph Carruthers' Scheme' [148 pages, 1921–22] A457, I400/5 Part 2

Correspondence and press cuttings relate to the Million Farms Campaign. Responses from state governments to the scheme are included with the issue of control over land being the most prominent. This file includes maps, booklets, details of Carruthers' plan and notes from a deputation to the Acting Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Publicity Film for Millions Club Committee' [19 pages, 1922] A457, L532/3

This contains correspondence to the Commonwealth Immigration Office from the Million Farms Campaign Committee re films illustrating rural life for propaganda purposes. The films themselves are not included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Primary Producers Union' [11 pages, 1922] A457, U400/5

This contains a letter to the Prime Minister in 1922, from the Primary Producers Union, offering assistance in the settlement of immigrants on the land. The replies advised the Union to co-operate with the New Settlers' League and pointed out that the employment and general welfare of immigrants upon arrival in Australia was a matter for the States.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Lancashire Association of South Australia' [21 pages, 1923] A457, AE400/5

This refers to a request by the Lancashire Association of South Australia in May 1923 to display details of its meetings on noticeboards at the General Post Office and Outer Harbour Post Office in Adelaide. The request was at first refused owing to the precedent it might set. The matter was then raised in the House of Representatives by Mr Yates, Member for Adelaide, (Hansard extract included) and

a noticeboard subsequently provided for information about all societies prepared to welcome and assist new arrivals to South Australia.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration encouragement. Arrangements on behalf of Immigrants. Reception of Catholic Immigrants' [10 pages, 1923] A457, P400/1

This contains correspondence to the Secretary, Department of Home and Territories from L J Dew desiring that St Vincent de Paul be supplied with the names of Catholic immigrants. Replies are enclosed, intimating that such information was not supplied but was available at State Immigration Offices.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34

A458

Recorded by:

1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 49.77 metres

This series precedes series A461 (described earlier in this chapter) and contains general correspondence files covering the range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention in this period.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. New Settlers' League, Victorian Branch' [1 cm, 1921–32] A458, C154/18

This contains a report on the formation of the New Settlers' League, Victorian Branch, in 1921 and an invitation to the Prime Minister to address the Annual Conference of the League. While there are a few records for the years 1921–29, most of the file deals with the question of continued Commonwealth and State financial contributions to the activities of the League (and the Big Brother Movement) in migrant welfare for the period 1930–32. In the context of discussions over the termination of the £34 million Agreement, the issue of aftercare obligations of the Australian governments for assisted migrants was raised. There are also two booklets on the New Settlers' League of Australia, Victorian Division, Constitution, Aims and Objects and the Eighth Annual Report, July 1929.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Miscellaneous Policies. Anglican Church Scheme' [2 pages, 1923] A458, J154/15

This contains a letter from F A Ray in December 1923, to the Governor-General, bringing to his attention the formation of the Church of England Immigration Committee for Victoria. The purpose of the Committee was to facilitate migration to Victoria under the auspices of the Anglican Church and to bring out monthly, 30 lads, 14 to 18 years of age, 20 men, 18 to 20, and 30 domestic servants. The migrants were to be selected in London by the Church Army, acting on behalf of the Committee and would be medically inspected. The lads would be drawn mainly from the Church Army Training Farm and the rural districts of Great Britain, and the women would receive training from the Church Army under their agreement with the Overseas Settlement Department of the Colonial Office. On arrival, the migrants would again be medically examined to ensure fitness for their occupations and the Church of England would provide pastoral care and supervision. The reply is included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Oversea Settlement Scheme. Agreement between British government & YMCA' [12 pages, 1923–24] A458, E154/12

This contains a memorandum of 5 February 1924, on a Proposed Scheme of co-operation between the YMCA in Britain and Overseas Churches and other Organisations interested in Migration within the Empire. A letter of December 1923

refers to an Agreement made under the provisions of the *Empire Settlement Act* 1922, between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the National Council of the YMCA, for the payment for one year of the expenses of two representatives of the Association to organise and develop the 'Collective Nomination' Scheme mentioned in the memorandum. Other letters in the file refer to the carrying out of this work.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Salvation Army – Financial' [44 pages, 1923–27] A458, J154/4

This relates to Commonwealth subsidies towards the migration work of the Salvation Army in 1924. Correspondence concerns a number of proposals submitted by the Army with a view to increasing the number of migrants it sponsored to Australia. These included the collection of passage money loans advanced to migrants travelling under its auspices; the annual subsidy by the Commonwealth Government towards the expenses incurred by the Army; and the contribution towards the cost of the migration to Australia of war widows and families selected and cared for by the Army.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. New Settlers' League. Financial. Part 2.' [2.5 cm, 1923–30] A458, G154/18 part 2

This file relates to the financial arrangements between the state and Federal governments in order to meet expenditure by the New Settlers' League (NSL) in each state for the period 1923 until 1930. It contains information on action taken to recover loans from migrants whose payments were in arrears, copies of reports on Immigration Accounting work and Collection of Loans, South Australia, and Land Settlement Agreement Accounts in Western Australia, and correspondence relating to the Commonwealth subsidy to the state branches of the New Settlers' League and the Ugly Men's Association, Western Australia. In 1927, subsidies to the League were as follows: Victoria £1 500, Western Australia, £1 250, New South Wales and Queensland, £1 000 each, and Tasmania £250. In that year the Development and Migration Commission carried out an investigation into the activities of various auxiliary organisations and the government subsidies they received. A memorandum on the subject is included. As a result of the decline in assisted migration and the difficult financial position generally, the Commonwealth subsidy was reduced in 1929–30. The reduction was common to all auxiliary migration organisations. Representations from the New Settlers' League, Western Australia, and various supporters in parliament and elsewhere followed.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. YAL Albury Branch' [7 pages, 1925] A458, N154/19

This refers to a request for assistance from the Albury branch of the Young Australia League (YAL) for the purchase of a hostel and clubrooms for use as a distributing base for young male immigrants. The reply directed the YAL to the NSW State government.

SPECIAL VEDIC WELCOME NUMBER

**THE
HOMELAND
CLUB REVIEW**

(AN OCCASIONAL JOURNAL OF THE HOMELAND CLUB)

OCTOBER, 1928.

*The Salvation Army in Australia greets you.
We desire you to share in the rich blessings
God so bountifully bestows upon all honest toil.*



ADVANCE AUSTRALIA!



A Salvation Army Migration Scheme pamphlet welcoming new arrivals on the SS *Vedic*, a vessel specially chartered by the Salvation Army.

NAA: A461, F349/1/1

WHAT TO TAKE OVERSEAS

SETTLER families should take all the clothes they possess as well as knives, forks, spoons, bedding, table linen, kitchen utensils, sewing-machines, light tools, and other small articles or ornaments they may have, but not heavy furniture or rough common tools.

If possible, men should take the following outfit for the voyage and subsequent use: two pairs boots, one strong suit, two pairs white or light tweed trousers, and one jacket of similar cool material, one felt hat, one cloth cap, one pair of slippers or canvas shoes, one overcoat, handkerchiefs, four articles of each kind of underclothing, towels, and strong cabin trunk or shallow box. Working men generally wear trousers made of denim or dungaree (cotton materials) and flannel shirts, coats being worn at times only. Those who intend to take up farm work should take a pair of blankets or a good rug.

Women should take: two pairs of strong shoes, one pair house shoes, one or more warm and several cotton or silk dresses, one close-fitting and one broad-brimmed hat, slippers or canvas shoes, one warm and one light coat, macintosh, sewing materials, handkerchiefs, three or four changes of underclothing, towels, rug, cushion, good laundry soap, and cabin trunk or shallow box.

Children require: one warm coat or great-coat, two pairs strong shoes, two warm suits or dresses, and a good supply of each kind of underclothing.

There are opportunities for washing clothes on board ship.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE IN AUSTRALIA

In all the Australian States a second class railway passenger (there is no third class) is allowed 8½ lb. of free luggage. Half this amount is allowed for children under fourteen.

Bona fide immigrants travelling second class on the railways in New South Wales may carry 1½ cwt. of luggage free of charge on production of a certificate obtainable through our Officers.

INSTRUCTIONS TO EMBARK

Embarkation instructions, giving time of train, or time that the boat receives passengers, are sent sufficiently early to enable you to make final arrangements. Railway carriages are specially reserved on all trains leaving London for members of Army conducted parties.

RAILWAY TICKETS

Railway tickets from your home to the port of embarkation should be obtained through The Army.

Friends of passengers wishing to travel to the port of embarkation can usually obtain special cheap return tickets by applying to us.

AUSTRALIAN RAIL FARES

The Army arranges free fares on Australian railways and coastal steamers for assisted migrants proceeding to their first situation or joining their nominators.

Following are the fares for ordinary passengers between the principal stations on the Trans-Australian railway and its connexions:

Between	Miles	Ordinary Single Fare, 1st Class, £ s. d.	Children's Fare (ages 4 to 14), 2nd Class, £ s. d.
Adelaide	1,686	7 19 9	4 16 3
Fremantle (or Perth) to Melbourne	2,169	9 11 0	5 12 6
Sydney	2,761	11 8 3	6 11 9
Brisbane	3,476	13 18 3	7 16 9

These fares include sleeping berths (where provided) and meals between Kalgoorlie and Port Augusta.

The following are the fares between the principal stations on the 'Inter-State' railways:

Between	Miles	Ordinary Single Fare, 2nd Class, £ s. d.
Adelaide to Brisbane	1,791	6 10 0
Adelaide to Melbourne	481½	2 7 0
Adelaide to Sydney	1,075	4 5 0
Brisbane to Melbourne	1,307	5 0 0
Brisbane to Sydney	715	3 1 6
Melbourne to Sydney	591½	2 13 0

These fares do not include sleeping berths or meals.

Children from four to fourteen years of age are generally permitted to travel at half-rate, and those under four travel free, except in Tasmania, where children under three travel free and those from three to twelve at half-rates.

WHERE TO STAY THE LAST NIGHT

Transit Lodge, 115 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, near to the railway termini in Liverpool, offers accommodation to passengers and their friends at moderate terms. Supper, bed, and breakfast can be obtained at an inclusive charge of 6s. Early application should be addressed to The Matron at 115 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, or The Secretary for Migration, Migration House, 3 Upper Thames Street, London, E.C. 4.

GOOD-BYE—WELCOME BADGE

Passengers are supplied with a badge which is useful throughout the journey, but particularly at railway stations, ports of embarkation, and landing. All Army Officers recognize the badge, and it reveals to them that the wearer is travelling under Army auspices, and might require their guidance and advice in any difficulty.



CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND

The Army arranges personally conducted parties to Canada and New Zealand for all classes of migrants, and especially for women (for whom domestic situations are found) and for boys trained in farm work under The Army's Scheme for Boys. Ordinary bookings arranged. Particulars on application.

**DON'T DELAY.
APPLY NOW.**

[16]

Prospective immigrants were given information in booklets such as this, published in England in 1929 by the Migration and Settlement Department of the Salvation Army.

NAA: A1, 1932/7662

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Grants to Voluntary Organisations'
[1 page, 1930] A458, I154/5

This contains a memorandum on the subsidies paid to voluntary organisations for the aftercare of migrants with the information required for a report on the subject.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1934–50

A461

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

This series consists of general correspondence files which cover the wide range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention. Many earlier papers from the previous general correspondence of the Department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Salvation Army' [1.5 cm, 1921–38]
A461, F349/1/1

This file begins with correspondence relating to a Salvation Army scheme for the immigration of widows and children, particularly of ex-service widows with more than one child in 1921. The migration work of the Salvation Army, especially with regard to female domestic servants and farm lads, expanded considerably in the 1920s, in co-operation with the Commonwealth Immigration Office. Major James Imrie was in charge of the Immigration Department of the Army in Australia at this time. Concern was expressed by the New South Wales government in 1922 that this work might conflict with their own. An agreement was reached between the Commonwealth and the Army for the migration and settlement of families in April 1923. Information on requisitions from the Salvation Army and travel arrangements are included and the question of the repatriation of unsuitable immigrants was raised in 1925. Schemes under the Empire Settlement Act for the settlement and training of boys and single women in Canada, New Zealand and Australia by the Salvation Army were approved in 1927 and copies of the agreements are enclosed. The Army took responsibility for employment and welfare for a period of three years (four years for widows) after arrival.

An investigation into the activities of the Salvation Army (as for other organisations) and the question of future government subsidies was undertaken by the Migration and Development Commission in 1928. Further cablegrams and information on migrants sponsored by the Salvation Army and their distribution in Australia for the late 1920s and early 1930s is included. Owing to the cessation of assisted migration, the Central Migration Office of the Army closed in July 1932 and its staff transferred to other departments. The Office had opened in 1927 under the direction of Brigadier H J Wright. There is some correspondence from General Evangeline Booth in 1927. The migration activities of the Army resumed in 1938 with nominations for 120 household workers and 120 farm workers and renewed interest in child migration.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. YMCA. Financial'
[30 pages, 1924–29] A461, D349/1/1

An application was received from the YMCA in 1924 for an annual subsidy of £1 000 towards the cost of developing the Church un-named nomination scheme. The scheme which provided for churches and other approved public bodies in Australia to nominate un-named persons whom the YMCA would select in conjunction with churches and other organisations in England, was adopted by the governments of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The British Government agreed to give an amount commensurate with the Commonwealth contribution, provided families rather than single men were nominated. A *Sydney Morning Herald* report,

27 March 1926, on the development of the scheme is included. In 1927, the YMCA applied to increase the subsidy but owing to a Commonwealth investigation into the activities of the various auxiliary and voluntary organisations interested in overseas settlement, the increase was not granted but the existing subsidy was maintained in view of the work being achieved. The same decision was made in connection with the Salvation Army. The subsidy was, however, reduced in 1928 and terminated at the British end in 1929, a move explained by officials as caused by the decline in the number of assisted immigrants and the onset of the depression. A contribution was still paid to the association for its Australian work.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Unofficial Schemes' [2 cm, 1925–39] A461, D349/1/2 part 2

This file contains a number of proposals for immigration and land settlement by individuals which were considered by the government but seldom acted upon. For example, the Banana Sectional Group Committee, Queensland, criticised agricultural immigration in 1925 and advocated the bringing out of first-class artisans for training; the Town Clerk, Cardwell Shire Council, in 1926 suggested the development of an area near Ravenshoe, North Queensland, for dairying; schemes were proposed to develop 40 000 acres near Bundaberg for tobacco growing, to bring out Irish labourers, Russian peasants, artisans of various kinds, and Jamaican cultivators. There were various plans to settle North-Western and Central Australia by religious groups and Jewish refugees, to establish co-operative farming schemes in North Queensland, and settle Western Australia under a Yampi Sound Development scheme. Several group migration schemes were proposed, one by an agricultural organisation in England called the Land Settlement Association Ltd.; another by a G A Jones outlined in his book *It Can Be Done*. Replies to each are included.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38

A1

Recorded by:

1903–16: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)
1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)
1928–32: Department of Home and Territories (CA 24)
1932–38: Department of the Interior (CA 27)

Canberra 184.92 metres

This series was the main correspondence file system of the agencies shown above. The subject matter includes administrative and personal matters as well as the following functions administered by the agencies from time to time: immigration and emigration, 'aliens' registration, naturalisation, passports (except 1916–18), influx of criminals, indentured coloured labour, people of races for whom special laws were thought necessary, external affairs (1903–16), Pacific islands (1903–16) as well as other matters not relevant to this Guide.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Catholic Immigration Society New South Wales' [123 pages, 1928–30] A1, 1932/7362

This file refers to representations made to the Department of Labour and Industry and to the Development and Migration Commission for the introduction of Catholic migrants (domestics and farm lads) by Father Nicol, Bishop of Lismore, New South Wales. Part of the proposal was that Father Nicol should visit Great Britain to recruit the migrants then return to Australia and ensure their successful reception and employment. The Catholic Emigration Society and the Oversea Settlement Committee deemed this unnecessary when the matter was first taken up with them. The time was also considered inopportune. It was suggested that the Diocese of Lismore submit nominations for domestic servants and establish an organisation for adequate reception and welfare in New South Wales. This suggestion was not taken up but arrangements for the mission to England proceeded with some donations and

government support towards the cost of his passage. The visit, however, was subsequently cancelled.

Department of Home and Territories, 'Catholic Immigration, Queensland'
[28 pages, 1929–30] A1, 1932/7421

The file concerns the reorganisation of the Catholic Immigration Society of Queensland in 1929 and subsequent communications with government departments and other bodies about its future role in migration work. The file contains letters to and from the Department of the Interior, the Development and Migration Commission and the Inter-church Immigration Committee, minutes of meetings of the Society, its draft constitution, the constitution of the New Settlers' League and a conference report on Auxiliary Migration Activities in Victoria from the New Settlers' League.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'British Dominions Immigration Society. Inquiry re Activities, Migration B' [15 pages, 1933] A1, 1938/13788

At a time when migration activities were at a low ebb, the Oversea Settlement Department in London examined various aspects of migration and settlement policy. Future relations with various voluntary organisations was one of these aspects. This file contains opinions from various sources on the activities of the British Dominions Emigration Society in relation to whether its activities should be encouraged in the future. The Society was most involved in the recruitment of boys for South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland before World War I. Replies indicated that little was known in Australia about the Society and that it had confined its activities to the British end.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND OTHER RELATED PAPERS, 1915–30

CP211/2

Recorded by:

1926–30: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)

Canberra 23.94 metres

This series consists mainly of correspondence files, but contains a variety of records, including notes, memoranda, statistics, maps, charts, printed books, pamphlets, minutes and other types of papers, covering all aspects of the work of the Commission. Many of the records are of specific investigations conducted by the Commission.

Development and Migration Commission, 'Voluntary organisations Report by Mr T H Garrett on activities of voluntary organisations in migration in Australia. Fairbridge Farm, Salvation Army, Returned Soldiers League and Welfare Societies in the various States' [One Box and files of 5 cm, 1926–30]
CP211/2, Bundle 98/NN

This contains reports of relevance to migration generally, for example, that of Senator Pearce on Migration, 1927, and Progress Reports of the Royal Commission on Rural Settlement, South Australia, 1925. On voluntary organisations, there are two folders. One contains 12 pages on the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia mainly related to employment and the work of the League in aftercare for ex-Imperial servicemen from Great Britain and India. The other, of 215 pages are separated into the following sections:

- The Salvation Army whose migration activities were non-sectarian, involved all states except Tasmania and the Northern Territory and included families, domestic servants, farm youth, widows and children, the last two given special attention. Information on the Training farm for boys at Riverview, Queensland and Brightview Lodge in Western Australia, statements of

income and expenditure, a copy of the agreement between the British government and the Salvation Army under the Empire Settlement Act 1922, correspondence on government assistance, booklets, application forms and other details of the Salvation Army Immigration, Settlement and Shipping Department are included.

- The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA).
- The 1927 report on voluntary organisations by T H Garrett, which includes information on the New Settlers' League, the Salvation Army, the YMCA, the Church of England Immigration Council, Barnardo Homes (New South Wales), Dreadnought Trustees, Lady Musgrave Lodge (Queensland), the Boy Scouts (Victoria), the Victoria League (Victoria) and the Big Brother Movement. Four booklets produced by the New Settlers' League are also included.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, CLASS 16 (MIGRANTS T-Z),
1951-52 A444**

Recorded by:

1951–52: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra **5.25 metres**

This series consists of individual case files dealing with naturalisation, resettlement, deportation and applications for passports. There are also some general files (for example, reports, building project plans, policy on transit visas, etc).

Department of Immigration, Central Office, 'Millions Club of NSW'
[45 pages, 1939–51] A444, 1951/16/3089

This file contains a notification of the formation in 1939 of a 'Millions for Australia' League by the Millions Club of New South Wales. Memoranda and letters indicate the interest of the Club in helping to foster post-World War II British immigration. There is also a proposal for a Community Settlement Scheme for British Migrants.

11 Public Attitudes to Immigration

Immigration in the period from 1901 to 1939 was rarely a subject which made headline news or one which could make or break governments. The consensus on the desirability of a 'white Australia' was broad and this goal, over time, was being achieved. Hostility which appeared from time to time towards various European groups often depended on their degree of 'whiteness' and their proportion of the immigrant intake as a whole. It also occurred most frequently in localities where particular ethnic groups congregated, as is natural, such as in North Queensland where many Italians and Maltese settled. In these areas, non-British Australians were especially 'visible' and longer-established settlers perceived these newer European communities as a threat to the 'Australian way of life' or to labour market opportunities and working conditions.

Opposition to immigration in general was most apparent during periods of economic recession. Yet societal views were often conflicting. In the 1930s for example, when economic depression coincided with a falling birth rate, some sections of the population were violently opposed to immigration, seeing it as contributing to unemployment, while others regarded it as a means of boosting population growth, important for reasons of national security and strength.

All the records described in this Guide display some indication of attitudes to immigration, if only those of government immigration officials and parliamentarians. Many, however, yield a wide cross section of opinion from people who were interested in the field, had something to contribute, or (more frequently) something about which to complain. Letters are seldom written to governments when things are going well; more often they point to the reverse. The contemporary press is always a fruitful, if not always objective, source to help gauge the public response to official policy. Archival collections in other repositories such as the Australian Workers' Union (AWU), the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), Chambers of Commerce records, and Colonial Sugar Refinery Company records, all held at the Noel Butlin Archives Centre at the Australian National University, as well as collections such as the Returned Soldiers' and Sailors' Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA), later the Returned Servicemen's League (RSL) held in the National Library, Canberra, are useful sources on attitudes to immigration in this period. It must be remembered, however, that what is left to us represents only the articulated views of the time, thus it is difficult to draw any definitive conclusions. Public opinion is not easy to gauge, even today.

Examples of Series and Items

Series descriptions throughout the Guide appear in upper case and in bold type. Note that descriptions of items within particular series are a selection only of what is held in the National Archives. All record descriptions are organised by series; items within series are listed in chronological order of the starting date they cover.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES FIRST SYSTEM, 1915–23
A457****Recorded by:****1915–23: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 18.27 metres**

This series consists of correspondence files covering a wide range of subjects which were submitted to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Building Industry. Builders – Exclusion of' [3 pages, 1921] A457, 400/68

This contains a resolution carried at a meeting of the Building Trades Federation of Victoria in March 1921 urging 'that the Federal and State Governments should exclude from the Immigration Scheme all persons engaged in the building industry until such time as the returned soldiers who are being vocationally trained shall be finalised and absorbed in the industry'. The reply from Superintendent H S Gullett stated that the Commonwealth government under its arrangements with the States on the question of assisted immigration did not contemplate the introduction of any workers whose presence would be detrimental to the interests of returned soldiers or any other Australian workers.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Complaints re Transportation' [90 pages, 1921–25] A457, N400/1

This file contains correspondence, press cuttings and *Hansard* extracts relating to complaints from immigrants regarding accommodation, food and care on various ships. The Statutory Rules and Orders for Merchant Shipping (Emigrant Ships) are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Arrangements on behalf of Immigrants. Protest Against Excessive Charges at Immigration Home' [8 pages, 1922] A457, M400/1

This relates to a petition from immigrants about charges for their maintenance at the Immigration Home in Western Australia. The men, all married with families, had expected employment on arrival; the Commonwealth replied that reception and settlement were the jurisdiction of the State government.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Not elsewhere included. Criticism by Capt. D E Hope' [11 pages, 1922] A457, G400/8/25

This contains a complaint by Captain Douglas E Hope in January 1922 about the treatment of ex-Imperial soldiers in the matters of payment of pension and settlement in Australia. Correspondence relates to the action taken. Replies to Hope emphasised the care exercised in the selection of immigrants and refuted his allegation that opportunities in Australia for ex-servicemen were misrepresented in England.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Nominated and Assisted Passages. Restrictions of Non-British Immigrants. General Papers' [35 pages, 1922] A457, Q400/2

This contains letters and resolutions from 1922 which were forwarded to the Prime Minister's Department, from the Brisbane sub-branch of the RSSILA, relating to the 'influx of non-British immigrants'. Complaints were made particularly against Italians in the sugar growing areas in North Queensland and allegations that they were receiving concessions not available to the British. It was suggested that the numbers

ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS. WEST AUSTRALIAN OBJECTIONS.

PROPOSAL TO PROHIBIT.

PERTH, Friday. — This afternoon a deputation representing the federal and state Labour parties waited upon the Minister of Defence (Senator Playford) and asked him to bring under the notice of the Federal Government a request that the language test provided by the Immigration Restriction Act be applied to all Italians on their arrival in the state, the object being to secure their deportation, as their presence here was considered a menace to the prosperity of Britishers.

Senator Playford admitted that the deputation had made out a prima-facie case, and he would bring the matter under the notice of the Minister controlling the department. It was certainly a suspicious circumstance that Italians moved about so methodically after their arrival, and might be taken to indicate that the men came in under some agreement. He did not see how they could prove that the men came out under contract, and the Federal Government seemed powerless in the matter. The only way to meet the wishes of the deputation would be to prohibit Italians altogether, and, of course, while the Government had power to do that straight away, proper notice must be given that Italians must undergo the language test in future. If the Federal Parliament said this should be done, then it would be, but he could not give them a reply till the whole matter had been discussed by the Cabinet.

The hostility that appeared from time to time towards non-British immigrants is illustrated in this extract from the *Argus* of 6 January 1906.

NAA: A1, 1906/785

of non-British immigrants be limited and that only after five years' residence and naturalisation should they be permitted to own land. Further protests against Italians, Greeks and other 'aliens' were made by the Chambers of Commerce and Progress Associations on the Atherton Tableland and the Council of Eacham District Local Bodies, Yungaburra, Queensland. Correspondence deals with subsequent investigations and replies. A letter from the Northern Tasmanian division of the New Settlers' League alleged that no immigration scheme would be successful until the industrial laws in relation to rural labour were revised. A letter of support for British immigration from the RSSILA (Melbourne branch) is also included.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34

A458

Recorded by:

1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 49.77 metres

This series precedes series A461 (described earlier in this chapter) and contains general correspondence files covering the range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention in this period.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Later Papers in Action' [2 cm, 1920–27] A458, P156/1 part 2

This contains correspondence relating to the Commonwealth of Australia *Immigration Act* 1901–20. There are representations from the RSSILA in 1921 to prohibit absolutely the entry of Asians into Australia and in 1923 to request

that foreigners entering the country be scrutinised with regard to the language and character tests. Other groups protesting against foreign, particularly Southern European, immigration in 1924–25 included the Protestant Federation (Auburn branch), the Australian Builders Labourers' Federation, the Port Pirie Combined Unions' Council, various branches of the Australian Natives' Association, the Twofold Bay Development League, the New Settlers' League of Australia, Victorian Division, the Sailors' and Soldiers' Fathers' Association, Toowoomba, the Australian Workers' Union, the Federated Ironworkers Association of Australia, the Trades Hall Council, Melbourne, various branches of the Australian Labor Party, The Royal Society of St George, and a number of individuals. Replies from the Prime Minister's Department, with information on immigration legislation, are included.

Correspondence also relates to other aspects of immigration restriction and to the application of the Dictation Test. There are press cuttings on European migration 1924–25, a copy of the *War Precautions Act Repeal Act 1920*, *Hansard* extracts, and reports of an attack on a group of Yugoslavs at Railway Town, Broken Hill, on 15 December 1924 and of destitute Albanians in Sydney in January 1925 from the *SS Cephee*. A report of a deputation from the Victorian Trades Hall Council, which waited on the Minister for Home and Territories on 22 January 1925, protesting against 'indiscriminate immigration' is also included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Policies. Criticisms. Statements For and Against' [114 pages, 1922–26] A458, F154/17 part 1

This file contains criticisms of various aspects of immigration from 1922 to 1926 in letters, cablegrams, press cuttings and questions in the House of Representatives. Protesting organisations include the Federated Moulders' Union of New South Wales, the Australian Workers' Union, and the Women's Organising Committee of the Australian Labor Party. Issues included the continued flow of immigrants in times of unemployment, the quality of immigrants being selected by Australia House, the treatment and reception of juvenile immigrants, and shipping difficulties. Press reports focussed on the behaviour of migrants on ships with headlines such as 'Is the Right Class Coming?' (*The Age*, 22 August 1923), 'The Worst Yet! – Latest Immigrants Described as Crime Recruits', (*Sun Pictorial Newspaper*, 3 September 1923) and 'Muddled Emigration' (*Herald*, 24 September 1923). Many criticisms resulted in government investigations. An article by Sir John Ross from *The Empire Review*, London, April 1926, on 'Our Most Vital Problem' is also included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Policy. Resolutions' [118 pages, 1922–30] A458, H154/7

This file contains resolutions relating to immigration carried by a variety of community organisations between 1922 and 1930. The New Settlers' League and the National Federation favoured a broad and comprehensive policy of land development and settlement in connection with immigration. The Synod, Diocese of Gippsland and of Brisbane, supported immigration, the latter suggesting concerted action to bring 'church people' to Australia. The Associated Chambers of Manufactures of Australia resolved that restrictions on skilled labour be removed. There were several resolutions from the RSSILA during 1923, including the better selection and medical examination of migrants and the appointment of returned soldier doctors to the Migration Office, London; the appointment of returned soldiers to all migrant ships in order to give instruction in farming; an end to unrestricted immigration; a reciprocal arrangement with the British Government whereby certain areas of land suitable for fruit culture be granted to British ex-servicemen conditional on the Imperial government granting a preferential tariff on Australian grown fruit. While in favour of judicious immigration, the RSSILA deprecated the bringing of ex-soldiers when no employment existed and urged that foreigners be scrutinised, especially Italians in the Northern cane fields. It also advised greater financial consideration by the Federal government to the States, continued preference to the British, and development of the Northern Territory. The Church Army urged the reduction of fares for farm trainees and domestics in 1923. The Royal Society of St.

George in 1924 recommended increased British immigration and fewer non-British. The Sydney, Melbourne, Townsville and Cairns Chambers of Commerce urged that British immigrants be welcomed and given preliminary training in Australia, while the Innisfail Chamber in 1924 recommended the restriction of foreigners. The Australian Natives' Association, Hobart, also recommended stricter control over the immigration of 'undesirable Southern Europeans'. The Graziers' Association of New South Wales opposed 'the overlapping between the various [auxiliary] organisations' in immigration work. The Women's Christian Temperance Union, Perth, objected in 1925 to immigrants being brought to Australia without adequate provision and asked that women be appointed to travel with and receive female migrants. The National Council of Women of Queensland urged that temporary accommodation be available to migrant families on arrival and that women doctors be on the roster to examine female migrants if particularly requested. Government replies to each organisation are included in the file.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement', N.E.I.
Miscellaneous' [35 pages, 1922–31] A458, J154/19**

This contains a letter of October 1922, forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office by the Hon. Littleton E Groom, MHR, referring to the setting up of the New Settlers' League, Queensland branch, which emphasised that the closer settlement of Northern Australia was 'essential for the maintenance of a white Australia and for national safety'. Responses stressed that it was up to Queensland to requisition settlers. A letter of July 1924 relates to questions in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly in regard to 'undesirable immigrants' and the subsequent investigations. Another letter from the Women's non-Party Association in 1926 urged that, in the drawing up of any migration schemes which involved women, well-qualified women, both salaried and voluntary, should hold positions of responsibility, and that equal representation be allotted to women and men on the governing and subsidiary bodies associated with the question. The replies are included.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. RSSILA'
[14 pages, 1924] A458, P154/17**

This file contains the views of the British Empire Service League (an ex-service organisation) in 1924 and 1925, viz. that there had been a slow development of migration throughout the Empire and similarly, a slow development of resources and that migration would not be successful unless employment was available. Correspondence and resolutions of the League were forwarded to the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) which was a member of the British Empire Service League, and through that body to the Prime Minister. The reply to the RSSILA outlined the Empire Settlement Scheme and its provisions for assisted migration and asked for the co-operation of the Leagues in that work.

**Prime Minister's Department, 'Resolutions: Returned Sailors' and Soldiers'
Imperial League of Australia, 9th Annual congress, Adelaide. Reso 69,
Employment of Disabled Ex-Soldiers. Reso 72, Secondary Industries, Reso 74,
Fulfilment of promises, Reso 87, Ex-soldiers and Immigration'
[21 pages, 1924–25] A458, 745/1/111**

This contains a number of resolutions carried by the RSSILA at its 9th Annual Congress. The following are relevant to immigration: No. 87, 'that such AIF men who took their discharge in Great Britain and have not since returned to Australia be eligible under the assisted immigrants scheme'; No. 89, 'in view of the very large number of undesirable 'alien' immigrants who are arriving in Australia, the Federal government be asked to take such measures as will at least regulate this most serious position, a position that is and will be detrimental to the best interests of Australia'; No. 91, 'that this Congress again draws the attention of the Commonwealth government to the lack of proper medical examination of the

immigrants now arriving in Australia, and asks that the suggestions made previously by the League's Executive be given effect to'. Replies are included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Arrangements on Behalf of Immigrants. Welfare Officers' [18 pages, 1924–29] A458, M154/1

This contains a letter from R J Lynn of Perth in 1924, praising the work of A H Hayes, a welfare officer appointed by the Federal Government to bring Dreadnought boys to Australia. In contrast, another letter from Senator Ogden refers to a complaint by P T Morrisby, accompanied by a press cutting, about a series of shipboard lectures by Thos. Sedgwick which Morrisby alleged demonstrated a lack of knowledge of Tasmania. This became the subject of an inquiry by the Development and Migration Commission as a result of representations made by the Director of Labour and State Immigration, Hobart. Sedgwick's own response is included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Resolutions. Australian Natives' Association, Hobart 1925. Immigration. Internal Loans' [15 pages, 1925] A458, A745/1/152

This contains a letter to the Prime Minister calling his attention to a resolution passed in April 1925 by the Australian Natives' Association, Hobart, requesting an alteration in the immigration laws to provide for a quota on all nationalities other than British, the numbers not to exceed the average annual influx for the ten years prior to 1921. [This included the World War I years when there was almost no immigration.] The reply outlined the reasons why the Australian government had not adopted a quota system similar to that of the United States and the alternative steps taken to control 'alien' immigration. A copy of a further resolution concerning internal loans is also included in the file, with the reply.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Restrictions. Australian policy. General File' [2 cm, 1925–28] A458, P156/1 part 1

This file highlights public attitudes towards non-British European 'aliens' and the restrictions placed upon them in the mid to late 1920s. Correspondence refers to a report in *The Age*, Melbourne, of a statement by the Prime Minister in 1928 of a quota on Yugoslav and Czech immigrants to Australia. Letters from 1925 relate to Yugoslavs and their restricted immigration opportunities. Letters of protest against Southern European immigrants in 1925–27 came from the Sailors' and Soldiers' Fathers' Association (Hobart and Toowoomba branches, the former referring to 'mixed races'), the Australian Labor Party (Oatley and Perth Branches), the Australian Workers' Union, (Queensland and Perth branches), the Townsville Chamber of Commerce, the United Labourers' Protective Society of New South Wales, the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia, Lismore, the citizens of Mildura, the Loyal Orange Lodge, Central Cumberland District, New South Wales, the Queensland Producers' Association, the Australian Natives' Association (various branches), the Bundaberg District Council, a committee representing a number of public bodies in Adelaide, various Senators and members of parliament, a representative of the Combined Sugar Conference, Mackay, the Royal Society of St George, Broken Hill unionists, and a number of Sydney residents in 1925–27. The Australian Natives' Association General Manager related comments between Dr Cumpson, Federal Director of Health, and Dr Home of the Health Commission, which drew a clear distinction between Southern Europeans and 'whites'. The replies to these protests, departmental policy statements, press cuttings, *Hansard* extracts, and notes of deputations are included. Other letters include complaints of penniless Britons, requests from the Hellenic Association of Brisbane for input into an alleged investigation of the condition of Greeks and other foreigners in Queensland following the Ferry Report of 1925 [see Appendix 2, Chronology], various protests from the Australian Boot Trade Employees' Federation

and the Trades and Labour Council of Bundaberg against the passing of the deportation clauses of the *Immigration Act* 1925 and some requests for information.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Resolutions. Central Queensland District Council of Agriculture. (Migration)' [2 pages, 1926] A458, Q745/1/201

This contains a copy of a resolution forwarded to the Prime Minister for his information, protesting against the 'dumping of a rural migrant populace as producers into Queensland'.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Questions re Migration' [20 pages, 1926–29] A458, R154/17

This contains copies of questions raised in the House of Representatives and the Senate concerning immigration between 1926 and 1929 and the responses.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Resolutions: Labour [sic] Women of Western Australia: Maternity Bonus. Child Endowment. Immigration. Commonwealth Shipping Line. Invalid Pensions' [13 pages, 1927–28] A458, 745/1/297

This includes a letter from the Perth Labor Women to Senator Needham, November 1927, concerning motions passed at the Labor Women's Conference. Two of these were related to immigration matters: one asked that strict supervision be exercised over 'alien' immigrants to prevent them immediately sending their landing money back home; the other protested against the influx of foreigners into Australia and the attitude they adopted towards the protest of the Western Australian State Executive of the ALP.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Resolutions. RSSILA. 12th Annual Congress. Resolution 101. Immigration – British and Nordic Stock' [2 pages, 1927] A458, JR745/1/296

This contains a letter to the Prime Minister from the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia, 1927, containing a resolution for his consideration, affirming the principle of increasing the Australian population by encouraging the immigration of people of British stock and Nordic descent to Australia.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration Encouragement. Effect of Industrial Conditions upon Migration' [7 pages, 1928] A458, T154/19

Owing to reports of unemployment in Australia during 1928, the Prime Minister was asked to make a statement on industrial conditions for the Commonwealth Migration and Settlement Office in London. A two-page cablegram in explanation is included.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Resolutions. Protestant party of SA Immigration – Exclusion of Aliens' [2 pages, 1928] A458, 745/1/351

This contains a letter to the Prime Minister from R A Cilento, Chief Organiser and Executive Officer of the Protestant Party of South Australia, with the following resolution carried at a meeting of the Protestant Party of South Australia in July 1928: 'that in order to ensure a loyal white Australia we ask that in future all disloyalists and those who owe allegiance to an Alien Power, be excluded, and that all possible inducement and preference be given to loyal Scots and Britons, to people this, our wonderful land of hope and glory – Australia'.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Resolutions. Tanners' and Leatherdressers' Union. Immigration; Unemployment Dole' [2 pages, 1928] A458, 745/1/336

This contains a resolution passed by the Federated Tanners' and Leather Dressers' Union in 1928 asking for an end to British and 'Alien' immigration when there is no work. The introduction of an unemployment dole was also advocated.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Immigration. Discouragement of Migration by Labour Officials, AWU & Labor Council' [5 pages 1929] A458, AG154/19

This contains communications between the Development and Migration Commission, Melbourne, and the Prime Minister's Department regarding press reports on proposals by the AWU and the Labor Council in 1929 to send delegates to Great Britain to discourage migration.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBERS SERIES, 1903-38

A1

Recorded by:

1903-16: Department of External Affairs, Melbourne (CA 7)

1916-28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

1928-32: Department of Home and Territories (CA 24)

1932-38: Department of the Interior (CA 27)

Canberra 184.92 metres

This series was the main correspondence file system of the agencies shown above. The subject matter includes administrative and personal matters as well as the following functions administered by the agencies from time to time: immigration and emigration, 'aliens' registration, naturalisation, passports (except 1916-18), influx of criminals, indentured coloured labour, people of races for whom special laws were thought necessary, external affairs (1903-16), Pacific islands (1903-16) as well as other matters not relevant to this Guide.

Home and Territories Department, 'Victorian Protestant Federation. Deputation re Restriction on Alien Immigration, 1925' [22 pages, 1925] A1, 1925/15492

The notes on the deputation from the Victorian Protestant Federation included in this file convey attitudes to Europeans and opinions of the Federation about the composition of the future population of Australia. (See also Chapter 5)

Home and Territories Department, 'Western Australia. Statement by Premier' [2 pages, 1926] A1, 1926/20517

This contains a newspaper article from The Age in 1926 and a comment on the attitudes of Labor members of Parliament to migration.

Department of the Interior, File of papers, 'Interviewing of Public re Immigration Matters' [18 pages, 1938] A1, 1938/32939

Owing to the large increase in 'white alien' immigration in the late 1930s, the Department of the Interior appointed a senior officer specifically to deal with applications and personal inquiries. The file contains interdepartmental correspondence on the appointment.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50
A433****Recorded by:****1939: Department of the Interior, Central Administration (CA 27)****1939–45: Department of the Interior, Central Office (CA 31)****Canberra****8 metres**

These files relate to restricted immigration to Australia. Files may contain reports, correspondence, articles, cables, news cuttings, passports, proposed amendments to the Immigration Act, departmental despatches, authorities for admission under exemption (form 32) and deportation orders (form 43B). Restricted immigration covers things such as admission of Asians, coloured persons, business visits, deserters, deportees and undesirables. Files from these series may be top-numbered into series A446, as well as into the subsequent series, A445 and A2998.

Department of the Interior, 'European Refugees. Views of Public re Admittance of' [123 pages, 1938–39] A433, 1943/2/4588

This file contains letters indicating a variety of attitudes to refugees and to Jews in the late 1930s in Australia. Support for refugees came from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Australian Section), the Australian League for Peace and Democracy, Sydney, the Mosman Peace Council, the International Peace Campaign (Townsville Branch and Adelaide Branch, Victorian Executive), the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the Theosophists Peace Group, the Hamilton Branch of the Communist Party, the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Labor Party, a group of 66 citizens of Melbourne who signed a petition, the Queensland Branch of the National Missionary Council, and a meeting of citizens held at the Dacomb College, Presgrave Buildings, Melbourne. The Punchbowl Branch and Broken Hill Section of the Communist Party accused the government of discrimination against working class Jews and anti-fascists, arguing that the restrictions favoured those with professions, qualifications and capital. Opposition to refugee immigration came from the Business Brokers' Association of New South Wales and three manufacturers of artificial flowers who feared competition in their businesses. Opinions were often qualified: one writer denigrated the foreign Jew but allowed the British; several, while claiming to be sympathetic, suggested settlement in overseas or remote areas, such as Australia's mandated territory of New Guinea, the Malay Peninsula or British Borneo, or Australia's sparsely populated north-west. Another suggestion was that all foreigners in Australia be given a licence permitting them to work only at the place and occupation mentioned in the licence in order to avoid displacing Australians. The Congregational Union of Victoria recommended a strict quota and control on arrival, with provisions that all 'aliens' learn English and become naturalised. (See also Chapter 9 on Refugees.)

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'White Alien Immigration (Murrumbidgee Area) Investigation No. 2 by Department Officers' [93 pages, 1937–46] A433, 1945/2/3758

This file focuses on Italians in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) and contains notes on individuals and their suitability as nominators of friends and relatives from Investigation No. 2 into 'White Alien' Immigration in the Murrumbidgee area, carried out by officers of the Department of the Interior in November 1937, together with the report and recommendations. There are press cuttings, extracts from *Hansard*, information about the land titles in the MIA, lists of Italian settlers, and expressions of concern about increased Southern European immigration from the Returned Soldiers' League.

Department of the Interior, 'ANA Annual Conference, Sydney. Resolutions Concerning Immigration' [13 pages, 1939–44] A433, 1944/2/1566

This concerns a resolution adopted at the 1938 Annual Conference of the Australian Natives' Association (ANA), New South Wales, urging the Federal government to ensure that only the best type of migrant be encouraged to Australia, and that more stringent supervision be exercised, particularly with regard to the unemployment situation. A deputation was also requested. The remainder of the file deals with correspondence from the ANA in 1944.

Department of the Interior, File of Papers, 'Backyard Industries and Sweating amongst Refugees' [66 pages, 1939–40] A433, 1939/2/909

This file reveals attitudes to certain classes and nationalities of refugees. It contains a letter from H E Jones, Director, Investigation Branch, Attorney-General's Department, May 1939, referring to a report inspired by statements by Sir Frank Clarke against certain classes of refugee migrants. It discusses the alleged undercutting of wages and prices by Polish, Russian, Lithuanian and Roumanian Jews in Carlton, especially those engaged in the clothing trade. The letter concludes that this led to anti-Semitic attitudes within Melbourne business circles. A distinction was made between Eastern European Jews who, he claimed, had a poor physique as a result of slave-like working conditions, and the German and Austrian Jews who were taller, had a higher standard of living, Western European business morality and had settled in the better suburbs. The Carlton and St Kilda Jewish communities were characterised as Polish-Jewish enclaves and his concluding remarks suggested that it would take two generations to assimilate them. An article from *The Age*, 9 May 1939, (headed 'The Menace of the Refugee Sir F Clarke is outspoken. Social Standards threatened, Immediate Inquiry' reporting on a speech about the type of refugees and 'alien' migrants to be seen around Melbourne by Sir Frank Clarke, President of the Legislative Council, to the AWNL) is included. Sir S Argyle made similar derogatory comments about Southern Europeans. Other press extracts on Premier Dunstan's response, foreign doctors and naturalisation are included. The file contains a memorandum to the Director, Commonwealth Investigation Branch, from the Prime Minister, calling for urgent inquiries into the allegations. *Hansard*, press extracts and internal departmental correspondence relate to subsequent inquiries. Attitudes of the Prime Minister, various parliamentarians and outside organisations and individuals can be ascertained. It was alleged that the same money was used for the admission of more than one migrant. There was doubt about the value of doctors' certificates in support of refugee applications and concern that there were no medical examinations, similar to those required for assisted migrants, for 'aliens'. Several of the reports undertaken are included in the file: one on textile weaving; one by Roland S Browne, Inspector, on Sir Frank's allegations, including an interview with Sir Frank; another on the alleged existence of backyard industries and of sweating amongst refugees; and departmental correspondence about them. The conclusion was drawn that while many refugees and others were engaged in irregular practices, refugees as a body were not endeavouring to contravene Australian industrial standards. (See also A461, AA349/3/5, described later in this chapter.)

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1939–50

A659

Recorded by:

1939: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27); 1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)

Canberra 101.25 metres

The description of this series will extend beyond 1939 because of its potential interest to immigration researchers. It contains the general correspondence files of the Department of the Interior [II] until late 1945, and from mid-1945 the miscellaneous and passport files of the then newly-created Department of Immigration. From 1930 to 1945, the series covers a wide range of subjects including assisted migration and naturalisations (until 31 December 1943). Naturalisation applications reached a peak during 1941. With the establishment of

the Department of Immigration in July 1945, the series was recorded jointly by Interior and Immigration for the rest of that year. From 1946, the series relates exclusively to Immigration matters as that Department took over several functions previously administered by the Department of the Interior. General subjects included: the internal organisation of the Department; details of organisations such as the International Refugee Organisation, United Nations Organisation and immigration bodies; the administration of the Children's Overseas Reception Board; whereabouts cases, general control of passports and grants of travel facilities to certain areas and miscellaneous subjects.

Department of Immigration, 'Report and proposals by Mr T H Garrett. Refugees from Europe – Selection of etc. (1939)' [136 pages, 1939] A659, 1947/1/2109

This file is dealt with more fully in Chapter 9 on Refugees. However, the report by T H Garrett, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, entitled 'Alien Immigration and Organisation at Australia House', August 1939, and accompanying correspondence between Garrett and J A Carrodus, Secretary, Department of the Interior, Canberra, is relevant here also in relation to attitudes to various racial and religious groups.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53 A367

Recorded by:

**1916–19: Special Intelligence Bureau, (Central Office) Melbourne (CA 746)
1919–46: Investigation Branch, Central Office, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)**

Canberra 64.08 metres

This series consists of bundles of general correspondence, reports, copies of forms, dossiers, history sheets etc. all of which reflect the activities of the former Commonwealth Investigation Service in respect of inquiries into applications for naturalisation, the admission into Australia of friends and relatives, visitors, substitutes for businessmen (Chinese), claims relating to National Security (War Damage and Property) Regulations. In most cases these investigations conform with the terms of the Nationality Act 1920–36. The series contains policy and precedent, as well as main case files, the majority of which were retained by the agency for future reference.

Attorney-General's Department, Investigation Branch, 'Resolution passed by Queensland Cane Growers' Council urging controlled British and European Migration' [6 pages plus published report, 1937] A367, C3075H

This file contains a letter to the Commonwealth Investigation Branch from A R Peters of the Department of the Interior, April 1937, drawing attention to a resolution of the Queensland Cane Growers' Council which recommended a vigorous scheme by the Commonwealth Government to control British and European migration. The Director of the Investigation Branch, H E Jones, requested that the Acting Inspector-in-Charge discreetly ascertain the reasons behind the resolution, whether it had any bearing on employment in the sugar-cane industry, and who made up the Council. The reply indicated that the resolution had emanated from cane growers in the Cairns district, who wanted an increase in 'alien' migration in order to keep down labour costs and increase the population of the state, but believed that strict control was necessary to keep out undesirables.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'H' INFIX,
1926–50 PP6/1****Recorded by:****1926–45: Collector of Customs, WA, (from 1985) Australian Customs Service,
WA (CA 808)****1945–50: Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch (CA 962)****Perth 20.16 metres**

This series contains general records of functions in connection with migration, covering reports by the Boarding Branch, Customs Department, in respect of all vessels, showing persons coming under notice through the provisions of the Immigration Act; details of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch; applications for naturalisation; applications for Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test; applications for admission to Australia as a migrant; nominal rolls of migrants supplied by overseas posts on the departure of vessels; reports on unsuitable migrants and action taken in respect of deportees; general correspondence; reports on immigration centres, Northam and Cunderdin; and applications for permanent residence by persons who have entered the country illegally. From May 1926 to May 1946 all immigration work was carried out by the Customs Department and records were maintained by them. With the establishment of the Immigration Department in Perth in May 1946, all files were transferred from Customs to Immigration. Files prior to 1926 are believed to have been destroyed.

**Department of Immigration, Western Australian Branch, General
Correspondence File, 'Furniture workers/Objections to Refugees' [13 pages,
1939] PP6/1, 1939/H/381**

This contains a press cutting headed 'Furniture Workers, Objection to Refugees' in *The West Australian*, 5 April 1939. It concerns a protest from the United Furniture Trades Union to the Minister for the Interior alleging that furniture factories were finding work for unskilled refugees despite unemployment in the trade. Correspondence relating to the inquiries being made, copies of particular applications for admission, a memorandum on Absorption of Refugees in the Furniture Industry to the Detriment of Australian Workers, May 1939, are included.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68
A445****Recorded by:****1951–55: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 22.50 metres**

This series consists of Immigration policy files relating to the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. The file subjects include Acts relating to immigration, migrant organisations, transport, sponsorship schemes, housing and accommodation, conferences, child-youth migration, refugees and restricted immigration policy.

**Department of Immigration, 'Protests re Jewish Immigration' [1 cm, 1938–46]
A445, 235/5/6**

This contains a number of letters from individuals rather than organisations, protesting against Jewish migration and the grounds on which they were admitted to Australia, together with replies explaining the position.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1924–62
B741****Recorded by:**

1927–46: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)
1946–60: Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 916)
1960–62: Commonwealth Police Force (CA 955)

Melbourne 29.88 metres

The series comprises files relating to the investigation of all criminal offences committed against the Commonwealth, the contravention of Commonwealth Acts or of State Acts committed on Commonwealth property; the pursuit of recalcitrant debtors to the Commonwealth; and inquiry into the whereabouts of persons requested to be traced by government departments, organisations such as the Red Cross, International Tracing Service, Australia House, private persons or by diplomatic or consular representation. Investigations carried out at the request of government departments include areas such as impersonation, ships' deserters, enemy 'aliens' in wartime, prohibited immigrants and naturalisation, among others. In most cases a separate file was raised for each particular case requested to be investigated.

Commonwealth Investigation Branch, 'Jewish Immigration and land Settlement Scheme [Press cuttings relating to the proposed Jewish settlement in the Kimberleys area]' [10 pages, 1928–45] B741, V/4901

This file contains a number of press cuttings one from *The Age*, dated 1928, others from *The Jewish Herald*, the *Australian Jewish News*, *The Age* and the *Argus* dated 1944 and 1945, on proposals for Jewish settlement in Australia, particularly in the Kimberleys. A variety of public opinion is reflected in the articles.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1934–50**A461****Recorded by:**

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

This series consists of general correspondence files which cover the wide range of subjects that came to the Prime Minister's attention. Many earlier papers from the previous general correspondence of the Department have been top-numbered into this series. The series also contains constitutional material dating back to 1901.

Prime Minister's Department, 'Refugees. Representations by Sir Frank Clarke' [47 pages, 1939] A461, AA349/3/5

The file relates to allegations made by Sir Frank Clarke regarding the type of 'alien' coming to Australia and the conditions governing their admission. (See also A433, 1939/2/909 described earlier in this chapter.) As a result of the allegations, a government inquiry was conducted. The file includes letters, press cuttings, extracts from *Hansard* and two reports on Clarke's allegations. The first was submitted by the Industrial Registrar, Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, May 1939, requested by the Department on the incidence of 'sweating' and avoidance of awards as a result of refugee immigration. The other was supplied by Roland S Browne, Inspector, Commonwealth Investigation Branch. Notes re Alien Migrants, copies of application forms to enter Australia and to bring in relatives or friends, and a copy of a parliamentary statement by the Minister on the results of the inquiry are included.

12 Records in the National Archives State Offices

While some individual records held in the National Archives state offices are included in the preceding chapters, most are included here, since they vary considerably in type from those held in Canberra.

Collections in the state offices relate less to the encouragement of immigration than to the implementation of the restrictive immigration policies, and individual passenger lists of ships arriving at and departing from the various state ports. The holdings of the Melbourne Office are in some ways an exception to this, as they also contain policy records which date from the time when many Commonwealth Government departments had their head offices in Melbourne.

This chapter provides an introduction to the main types of immigration records held in each of the state offices. It is divided into the following sections:

- Passenger arrival and departure records
- Lists of ship's crew
- Records of non-British migrants
- Passport and identity records
- Aliens Registration records
- Correspondence records
- Miscellaneous records related to immigration

Passenger arrival and departure records

Records of passenger arrivals and departures are held for most Australian ports. Some have been microfilmed, with copies available in all reading rooms. Those not on microfilm will need to be viewed in the office in which they are held.

The collection of passenger lists held by the National Archives generally complements those for the same ports (usually for earlier periods) held by respective state archival institutions.

SYDNEY

Crew and passenger lists, port of Newcastle, inwards and outwards (1865–1935)
C667

Outward registers (coloured crews and passengers), ports of Sydney and Newcastle (1905–37) SP143/3

Inwards crew and passenger lists for Australian ports (1915–23) SP83/11

Passenger lists, inwards ships, Sydney (1923–64) C1115

Passenger Manifests – outward ships and aircraft (1923–64) SP1148/2

Register of inward passenger lists, Sydney, Port Kembla, Newcastle (1924–39)
SP729/12

Register of passenger lists – outward – overseas ships (1924–39) SP729/17

Aircraft Passenger lists, inwards, Mascot and Rose Bay (1936–64) C3458

Boarding Officers' reports on vessels and aircraft arriving Sydney (1936–58)
ST875/2

Advice of departure from Sydney of coloured persons – inwards and outwards
(1937–54) SP343/1

MELBOURNE

Outward passenger lists – Ships (1894–1924) B4398

Ships files relating to the assisted passage scheme (1921–37) B4094

Lists of outgoing passengers (ships) (1922–24) MP127/2

Registers of passenger lists – Overseas ships – Outwards (1924–54) MP128/3

Registers of passenger lists – Overseas ships – Outwards (1924–54) MP128/4

Outward passenger lists (1924–44) MP56/9

Outward passenger lists (1924–44) B4399

Volumes of Inwards passenger lists (1924–64) B4397

Volumes of outward passenger lists – ships, (1945–64) B4400

Name index cards for volumes of inward passenger lists – ships (1962) B4425

Passenger manifests – Melbourne (1965–66) MP905/1

BRISBANE

Ships passenger lists, Brisbane inwards (1852–1964) J715

Ships passenger lists, Brisbane outwards (1859–1964) J716

Ships passenger lists, Townsville inwards (1895–1964) J721

Ships passenger lists, Townsville outwards (1895–1964) J722

Ships passenger lists, Bowen inwards (1897–1964) J723

Ships passenger lists, Bowen outwards (1897–1964) J724

Ships passenger lists, Cairns inwards (1897–1969) J725

Ships passenger lists, Cairns outwards (1897–1964) J726

Ships passenger lists, Rockhampton inwards (1898–1962) J727

Ships passenger lists, Rockhampton outwards (1898–1964) J728

Report of passengers forms (1904–28) BP164/3

Register of inwards and outwards Asian passengers (1918–24) BP749/2

Ships passenger lists, Gladstone inwards (1924–64) J717

Ships passenger lists, Gladstone outwards (1924–64) J718

Ships passenger lists, Thursday Island inwards (1924–64) J719

Ships passenger lists, Thursday Island outwards (1924–64) J720

Ships passenger lists, Mackay inwards (1924–62) J729

Ships passenger lists, Mackay outwards (1924–61) J730

Register of passenger lists outwards (1924–49) BP159/28

Register of passenger lists inwards (1924–47) BP159/29

Register of ships passenger lists inwards – Cairns (1924–52) BP273/3

Register of ships passenger lists outwards – Cairns (1924–52) BP273/4

Arrivals register – coloured persons (1924–59) BP384/10

Departures register – coloured persons (1924–59) BP384/11

Ships passenger lists, Maryborough inwards (1929–62) J731

Ships passenger lists, Maryborough outwards (1929–62) J732

Quarantine reports of passengers (1930–54) BT531/1

Aircraft passenger manifests (1934–ongoing) J922

PERTH

Outward passenger manifests for ships and aircraft departing at Fremantle, Perth Airport and Outports (1898–1978) K1142

Inward passenger manifests for ships and aircraft arriving at Fremantle, Perth Airport and Outports (1898–1978) K269

Passenger inward and outward list indexes (1898–1923) PP281/7

Inward passenger lists, outports (1904–23) PP281/3

Inward passenger/migrant nominal rolls (1918–32) PP444/4

Outward passenger lists, outports (1921–22) PP281/4

Inward passenger lists, outports (1923–35) PP240/3

Registers of passenger lists – Geraldton (1924–52) PP51/1

Registers of passenger lists – Fremantle and Carnarvon (1924–38) PP109/2

Outward passenger lists, outports (1924–38) PP240/4

Nominal rolls and passenger lists (1926–51) PP482/1

ADELAIDE

Monthly immigration returns (includes passenger lists) (1919–46) D1986

Register of passenger lists (inwards), seamen engaged, discharged, deserted or died at Port Pirie (1925–48) D458

Ships passenger lists, inwards (1941–64) D5077

Ships passenger lists, outwards (1941–64) AP473/1

HOBART

Registers of ships arriving at Launceston (1869–1910) P588

Passenger lists and crew lists (outward) – Port of Hobart (1903–51) P2004

Passenger lists and crew lists (inward) – Port of Hobart (1903–51) P2005

Register of passenger lists for overseas departing from Tasmanian ports (1924–63)
P1074

Register of passenger lists for interstate ships arriving at Devonport (1924–58)
P1202

Register of ships arriving at Devonport (1927–50) P1240

Register of ships leaving Launceston (1930–61) P1075

Passenger lists, inwards/outwards, Burnie(1939–ongoing) P2031

DARWIN

Registers of census returns collected by police in Northern Territory (1881–1953)
F108

Volume 1 includes registers of passenger arrivals to Darwin (1872) and departures from Darwin (1873–1875)

Inwards and outwards passenger lists, Darwin 1898–1949 E1019

Lists of ships' crew

Ships docking at Australian ports were required to lodge a list of their crew with local customs authorities. It was not unusual for crew lists to be deposited with passenger lists. The series listed below as 'passenger lists' have lists of ships' crew included with them.

SYDNEY

Crew and passenger lists, port of Newcastle, inwards and outwards (1865–1935)
C667

Outward registers (coloured crews and passengers), ports of Sydney and Newcastle (1905–37) SP143/3

Inwards crew and passenger lists for Australian ports (1915–23) SP83/11

Crew lists (1925–32) SP290/3

Crew lists, arrivals at Sydney (1933–63) SP959/1

Crew lists Newcastle (1936–62) ST2464/4

MELBOURNE

Crew lists, Melbourne (1902–54) MP171/1

Crew lists, Geelong (1927–59) MP689/2

Seamen's register cards (1922–26) MP978/2

Seamen's (native) register cards (1926–67) MP978/3

Seamen's register cards (1927–66) MP978/1

BRISBANE

Ships passenger lists, Brisbane inwards (1852–1964) J715

Ships passenger lists, Brisbane outwards (1859–1964) J716

Ships passenger lists, Bowen inwards (1897–1964) J723

Ships passenger lists, Bowen outwards (1897–1964) J724

Ships passenger lists, Cairns inwards (1897–1969) J725

Ships passenger lists, Cairns outwards (1897–1964) J726

Ships passenger lists, Rockhampton inwards (1898–1962) J727

Ships passenger lists, Rockhampton outwards (1898–1964) J728

Ships and vessel crew lists (Form M & S11) (1924) J943

Ships crew lists, Brisbane (1924–78) BP120/1

Ships crew lists, Cairns (1926–56) BP187/1

PERTH

Crew lists (inward) (1897–1923) K271

Crew lists (outward) (1898–1910) K270

Crew lists of ships arriving at Albany (1905–52) PP42/1

Crew lists of ships entering Western Australian ports (1923–54) PP1/1

ADELAIDE

Crew lists (1907) D3064

HOBART

Passenger lists and crew lists (outward) – Port of Hobart (1903–51) P2004

Passenger lists and crew lists (inward) – Port of Hobart (1903–51) P2005

DARWIN

Inwards and outwards passenger lists, Darwin (1898–1949) E1019

Records of non-British migrants

For the period 1901–39, one of the Commonwealth's most active roles in immigration was in the regulation of non-British arrivals, particularly those of Asian origin.

Matters such as entry permits, certificates of domicile, certificates of exemption and the administration of the dictation test in each port of entry were under the control of the Collector of Customs in each state capital and the sub-Collector in Darwin. Examples of records held are listed below.

SYDNEY

Applications for Certificates of Domicile (1875–1910) SP11/26

Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation test (1901–46) SP11/6

Register of Applications – Certificates of Exemption from Dictation tests (1902–59)
SP726/1

Certificates of Domicile & Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation test (1905–53)
ST84/1

Folders containing Certificates of exemption and related papers for passengers arriving in Australia by ship (1911–43) SP115/1

Exemption from Dictation Test (Form 32) (1911–23) SP115/2

Inward Registers Immigration Act. Persons admitted, persons who passed Dictation test, persons refused permission, prohibited migrants, persons en route (Ports of Sydney & Newcastle) (1913–30) SP143/4

Statistical register of persons admitted under Immigration Act (1919–24)
SP822/7

Prosecution register (1931–49) SP470/1

Permits to enter the Territory of New Guinea (Forms B & C) (1935–40) SP11/24

Register of renewals of visas (1937–50) SP1095/6

Asiatic arrivals index cards (war period) (1939–45) SP343/3

Application for registration – Chinese (1939) SP1732/4

MELBOURNE

- Photograph of Lip Moon (1900–50) VA1984/397
- Register of Certificates Exempting from Dictation Test (Departures) (1904–59)
B6003
- Files relating to Applications for Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test (1910–48) MT19/4
- Handprints and thumbprints of Asians arriving at Australian ports (1910–25)
B5541
- Posters relating to prohibited migrants (1913–31) MP412/1
- Reports of Medical officers under Immigration (Restriction) Act (Forms Q63) (1921–47) B3194
- Certificates of Exemption book butts (1932–46) MP56/13
- Miscellaneous collection of immigration registers (including passports) (1935–55)
MP478/1
- Samples of records destroyed (includes receipt books and books of copies of passport clearances) (1939–41) MP56/20

BRISBANE

- Proclamations under the Chinese Immigration Act 1888 (1897–1902) J2481
- Registers of Chinese emigration permits (1898–1902) J1694
- Certificates of Domicile issued under Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901 (1902–06)
J2482
- Particulars of persons admitted without being asked to pass Education Test (Form 20) (1902–03) BP658/3
- Register of Certificates of Domicile (1903–08) BP384/3
- Particulars of coloured persons leaving the State of Queensland (1903) BP658/1
- Particulars of coloured persons leaving the Port of Townsville (1903–06)
BP658/2
- Certificates exempting from Dictation Test issued under the Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901–05 and Regulations (1906–56) J2483
- Register of Certificates Exemption from Dictation Test (1908–59) BP384/4
- Alphabetical index to Register of Certificates Exempting from Dictation Test (1916–24) BP384/5
- Register of arrival of non-Europeans (1923–45) BP384/17
- Arrivals register – coloured persons arriving (1924–59) BP384/10
- Departures register – coloured persons leaving (1923–59) BP384/11

Register of Certificates of Exemption (1926–59) BP384/7

Personal statements and declaration of aliens entering the State of Queensland (1927–47) BP9/3

Maternity allowance Certificate of Registration of Birth (Forms D), Mount Molloy (1929–44) BP876/5

Register of endorsements and visas (1930–73) BP634/1

Black Book for reference for applications for CEDT (1931–46) BP384/22

Register of re-entry permits (1931–45) BP384/12

Register of New Guinea permits (1931–41) BP384/13

PERTH

Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test (1901–55) K1145

Returns and documents relating to Asiatics (1902–22) PP281/6

Register of Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test (1904–28) PP363/1

Pearling register, Onslow, Western Australia (1905–38) PP363/2

Lists of Immigrants (1905–13) PP444/3

Key to immigrants lists (1906–09) PP444/1

Immigrations returns (Forms 19 & 20) (1923–42) PP240/5

Applications for Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test with supporting documents (1926–41) PP4/2

Re-entry permit book butts (1934–56) PP50/2

Certificate of Exemption book butts (1938–53) PP410

ADELAIDE

Register of Chinese Immigration (1882–1903) AP214/20

Certificate of Exemption (Form 2) book butts (1901–59) D398

Immigration (Restriction) Act Exemption Certificate Register (1902–57) D2860

Certificates Exempting from Dictation Test (1902–59) D5036

Immigration/Passport Index Cards (1921–25) D2246

Statements by alien passengers on entry to Australia (1923–48) D4880

Immigration Index cards (1926–47) D2248

HOBART

Immigration permit butts (Form 21) issued to foreign nationals at Launceston and Burnie outposts (1908–18) P526

Registration papers for non-British migrants (1939–66) P1184

DARWIN

Certificate exempting from Dictation Test (1907–41) E752

Lists of Certificates Exempting from Dictation Test (1916–37) E812

Certificate exempting from Dictation Test (2) Passenger lists (1933–41) E754

Correspondence files relating to Certificates of Exemption (1936–40) E755

Passport and identity records

Records included in this section relate either to those identity records, such as passports or travel documents, surrendered to customs officials by those arriving in Australia, or registers of identity records, such as birth certificates issued to aliens or their families. This list is indicative only, and should not be taken as comprehensive.

SYDNEY

Applications for Certificates of Domicile (1875–1910) SP11/26

Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation test (1901–46) SP11/6

Register of Applications – Certificates of Exemption from Dictation tests (1902–59)
SP726/1

Certificates of Domicile & Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation test (1905–53)
ST84/1

Folders containing Certificates of exemption and related papers for passengers arriving in Australia by ship (1911–43) SP115/1

Exemption from Dictation Test (Form 32) (1911–23) SP115/2

Inward Registers Immigration Act. Persons admitted, persons who passed Dictation test, persons refused permission, prohibited migrants, persons en route (Ports of Sydney & Newcastle) (1913–30) SP143/4

Statistical register of persons admitted under Immigration Act (1919–24)
SP822/7

Prosecution register (1931–49) SP470/1

Permits to enter the Territory of New Guinea (Forms B & C) (1935–40) SP11/24

Register of renewals of visas (1937–50) SP1095/6

Asiatic arrivals index cards (war period) (1939–45) SP343/3

Application for registration – Chinese (1939) SP1732/4

MELBOURNE

- Photograph of Lip Moon (1900–50) VA1984/397
- Register of Certificates Exempting from Dictation Test (Departures) (1904–59)
B6003
- Files relating to Applications for Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test (1910–48) MT19/4
- Handprints and thumbprints of Asians arriving at Australian ports (1910–25)
B5541
- Posters relating to prohibited migrants (1913–31) MP412/1
- Reports of Medical officers under Immigration (Restriction) Act (Forms Q63) (1921–47) B3194
- Certificates of Exemption book butts (1932–46) MP56/13
- Miscellaneous collection of immigration registers (including passports) (1935–55)
MP478/1
- Samples of records destroyed (includes receipt books and books of copies of passport clearances) (1939–41) MP56/20

BRISBANE

- Proclamations under the Chinese Immigration Act 1888 (1897–1902) J2481
- Registers of Chinese emigration permits (1898–1902) J1694
- Certificates of Domicile issued under Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901 (1902–06)
J2482
- Particulars of persons admitted without being asked to pass Education Test (Form 20) (1902–03) BP658/3
- Register of Certificates of Domicile (1903–08) BP384/3
- Particulars of coloured persons leaving the State of Queensland (1903) BP658/1
- Particulars of coloured persons leaving the Port of Townsville (1903–06)
BP658/2
- Certificates exempting from Dictation Test issued under the Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901–05 and Regulations (1906–56) J2483
- Register of Certificates Exemption from Dictation Test (1908–59) BP384/4
- Alphabetical index to Register of Certificates Exempting from Dictation Test (1916–24) BP384/5
- Register of arrival of non-Europeans (1923–45) BP384/17
- Arrivals register – coloured persons arriving (1924–59) BP384/10
- Departures register – coloured persons leaving (1923–59) BP384/11

Register of Certificates of Exemption (1926–59) BP384/7

Personal statements and declaration of aliens entering the State of Queensland (1927–47) BP9/3

Maternity allowance Certificate of Registration of Birth (Forms D), Mount Molloy (1929–44) BP876/5

Register of endorsements and visas (1930–73) BP634/1

Black Book for reference for applications for CEDT (1931–46) BP384/22

Register of re-entry permits (1931–45) BP384/12

Register of New Guinea permits (1931–41) BP384/13

PERTH

Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test (1901–55) K1145

Returns and documents relating to Asiatics (1902–22) PP281/6

Register of Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test (1904–28) PP363/1

Pearling register, Onslow, Western Australia (1905–38) PP363/2

Lists of Immigrants (1905–13) PP444/3

Key to immigrants lists (1906–09) PP444/1

Immigrations returns (Forms 19 & 20) (1923–42) PP240/5

Applications for Certificates of Exemption from Dictation Test with supporting documents (1926–41) PP4/2

Re-entry permit book butts (1934–56) PP50/2

Certificate of Exemption book butts (1938–53) PP410

ADELAIDE

Register of Chinese Immigration (1882–1903) AP214/20

Certificate of Exemption (Form 2) book butts (1901–59) D398

Immigration (Restriction) Act Exemption Certificate Register (1902–57) D2860

Certificates Exempting from Dictation Test (1902–59) D5036

Immigration/Passport Index Cards (1921–25) D2246

Statements by alien passengers on entry to Australia (1923–48) D4880

Immigration Index cards (1926–47) D2248

HOBART

Immigration permit butts (Form 21) issued to foreign nationals at Launceston and Burnie outports (1908–18) P526

Registration papers for non-British migrants (1939–66) P1184

DARWIN

Certificate exempting from Dictation Test (1907–41) E752

Lists of Certificates Exempting from Dictation Test (1916–37) E812

Certificate exempting from Dictation Test (2) Passenger lists (1933–41) E754

Correspondence files relating to Certificates of Exemption (1936–40) E755

Aliens registration records

Alien registration was required in time of war. It was provided for under War Precautions Regulations during World War I, and under National Security Regulations during World War II. Many of those required to register, especially at the outbreak of World War II, had migrated to Australia during the earlier years of the century.

This list is indicative only, and should not be taken as comprehensive.

SYDNEY

Papers of the NSW Police Department dealing with registration and contact with aliens (1916–21) SP11/16

Alien registration forms (Forms A1 and A2) (1939–47) C413

Forms of application for registration for aliens resident in Australia (Form RA2) (1939) SP1732/1

Index to aliens registered under National Security Regulations in NSW (1939–47) SP267/1

Index to aliens registered under National Security Regulations in NSW (1939–47) SP267/2

Aliens returns, New South Wales, at 9 December 1939 (1939–40) SP11/25

Applications for registration of aliens (1930–62) SP605/10

MELBOURNE

Applications for registration of aliens (1939–47) MT33/1

BRISBANE

Aliens register, Oakey, and register of foreign subjects and reservists reports at Oakey Police Station (1914–17) BP876/1

Alien registration papers (1939–66) BP25/1

Register of aliens, Mount Molloy (1939–47) BP876/3

Register of Notices of Change of abode for naturalized persons and aliens, Mount Molloy (Queensland) (1939-1947) BP876/4

Register of aliens, Oakey (1939-47) BP876/2

Alien registration documents (1939-64) D4878

PERTH

Intelligence reports of internments, repatriations, affiliations and general investigations (1915-20) PP14/1

Reports and personal files (1914-20) PP14/2

Register of aliens maintained under war precautions (Aliens Registered) Regulations, 1916 (1916-20) PP14/3

Subject and main index cards to Intelligence section general and staff files (1915-20) PP14/4

Investigations Branch correspondence files (1918-59) PP302/1

ADELAIDE

Register of aliens (1921-45) AP1097/4

Aliens registration documents (1939-64) D4878

HOBART

Nil

DARWIN

Correspondence files relating to aliens (1939-40) E759

Correspondence files relating to registration of aliens (1939-46) E760

Correspondence records

Before the creation of a separate Department of Immigration following the end of World War II, matters relating to immigration that arose in the state capital cities were often handled by the Collectors of Customs. The records listed below identify some of the major series of correspondence records created by these agencies, and some of the indexes or registers that may be used to identify relevant records.

SYDNEY

Correspondence of the Collector of Customs relating to immigration restriction and passports (1898-1948) SP42/1

Outward letter books, correspondence in connection with the Immigration (Restriction) Act (1904-08) A1026

Index books to correspondence in connection with the Immigration (Restriction)
Act (1904–08) A1027

Correspondence relating to the issue of bonds re prohibited immigrants (1904–28)
SP740/1

Correspondence (miscellaneous) of the Collector of Customs relating to immigration
restriction and passports (1907–48) SP42/2

General correspondence of Collector of Customs with 'N' prefix (1915–67)
SP1122/1

Index to C series correspondence (1920–45) SP220/1

General correspondence of Collector of Customs with 'C' prefix (1923–47)
SP11/27

General correspondence of Collector of Customs with 'B' prefix (1924)
SP11/28

Correspondence of Collector of Customs re Chinese (1926–47) SP11/12

File movement and Folio registers for 'C' series correspondence (1932–48)
SP143/1

MELBOURNE

General and classified correspondence (1902–ongoing) B13

BRISBANE

Correspondence files of Collector of Customs, Brisbane (1899–1909) BP342/1

Correspondence files of sub-Collector of Customs, Townsville (1910–65) J2773

Correspondence files of Collector of Customs, Brisbane (1935–45) BP234/1

PERTH

Register of correspondence (1901–42) PP4/4

Numerical index cards to 'H' Series (1926–50) PP513/5

Subject index cards to 'H' Series (1926–45) PP513/4

General correspondence with 'H' infix (1926–50) PP6/1

Policy and Administration files, with 'W' prefix (1937–60)

ADELAIDE

Correspondence files (1871–1962) D596

HOBART

Correspondence files (1901–ongoing) P437

DARWIN

Correspondence files relating to immigration (1933–42) E756

Correspondence files relating to immigration (1933–42) E757

Miscellaneous records related to immigration

The records listed in this section include the instruction circulars issued to officials on the administration of the various immigration programs, and on how to interpret the provisions of legislation relating to immigration.

SYDNEY

Papers re dispute over leak to the press (1906) SP11/29

Immigration circulars (1931–47) C4239

Register of Forms (1933–45) SP444/1

Register of Endorsements (1937–50) SP1095/5

MELBOURNE

Miscellany (1880–1925) MP56/12

Folders of correspondence, reports and agreements relating to immigration (1922–26) M1773

BRISBANE

Immigration Act Circular Instructions IA Series (1913–21) BP170/7

Immigration Act Circular Instructions IAI Series (1917–39) BP170/5

Immigration Act Information Circulars (1931–58) BP384/20

Index to Immigration Act Information Circulars (1933–53) BP384/21

PERTH

Government Statistician's Reports: Immigration (1913–18) PP444/2

Circulars/Instructions and associated index (1926–45) K1013

ADELAIDE

Register containing Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901 and related correspondence (1901–13) AP214/9

Immigration Act 1914 Instructions(with annotations) (1914–19) D3193

HOBART

Nil

DARWIN

Nil

Appendixes

Appendix 1 Glossary

'alien'

Term used in this period to describe a person residing in Australia, born in or belonging to another country, who had not acquired citizenship by naturalisation and was not entitled to the political rights, powers and privileges of a citizen. It also applied to non-Europeans wishing to migrate to Australia. It is in inverted commas throughout the Guide since it is a term which is seldom used today.

assisted immigrants

Immigrants who were selected or nominated under government schemes and received free or reduced fares and/or other concessions.

Atti di Chiamata – (Letter of Call system)

Italian nomination papers (literally acts of calling) for relatives and friends in Italy nominated to come to Australia by Australian residents of Italian origin.

certificate of domicile

Under the *Immigration Act 1901*, any person domiciled in the Commonwealth of Australia who wished to leave temporarily could apply to the Collector of Customs at the port of departure for a certificate of domicile. Holders of these certificates were permitted to re-enter the country without being required to sit the dictation test. Certificates of domicile were replaced by Certificates of Exemption from the Dictation Test (CEDT).

certificate of exemption

Certificates of exemption were introduced by the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*. The 'exemption' referred to is exemption from the dictation test. Certificates of exemption were issued to both Europeans and non-Europeans entering Australia temporarily. The certificates were a form of entry visa or permit. Issue of the certificates ceased in 1958 with the abolition of the dictation test.

certificates of exemption from the dictation test (CEDTs)

Certificates of exemption from the dictation test were introduced as a result of 1905 amendments to the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*, replacing certificates of domicile. Like the certificates of domicile they were essentially re-entry permits, allowing holders of the certificates to re-enter the country without being required to

sit the dictation test. Issue of the certificates ceased in 1958 with the abolition of the dictation test.

child migration

Children migrating without parent(s) or guardian. Children migrating as part of a family unit are not included in this category. They were often sponsored by non-government philanthropic or Church organisations.

dictation test

Under the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* non-Europeans intending to enter Australia could be required to write out a dictated passage, not less than fifty words in length, in any European (after 1905, any prescribed) language. Those who failed to write out the dictated passage correctly could be refused entry.

female migration

Female migration refers to the immigration of women who migrated alone unaccompanied by either husbands or families. They were often sponsored by governments or private organisations.

Letter of Call system (Atti di Chiamata)

The Atti di Chiamata, or letter of call, was a nomination system whereby Italians residing in Australia could apply for the admission of a countryman through the Italian Consul-General, who if satisfied, issued a paper to approved applicants bearing an endorsement of their landing permit.

naturalisation

This is the recognition of an 'alien's' rights to citizenship in Australia and provision of citizenship rights identical to those of Australian-born subjects.

nominated immigrants

Immigrants (named and un-named) nominated by a sponsor or guarantor in Australia who would assume responsibility for them and often contribute to the fare. The government rebate was generally one third of the ordinary third class fare. Regulations and conditions differed over time, usually including age, health, character and vocational provisions. In the case of British immigrants, the nominator had to supply the name and address of the nominee and supply an undertaking (at times legal, at times moral) that the nominee upon arrival in Australia would not become a burden on the state. In other words, the nominator was responsible for the maintenance of the nominee. As applied to European migrants in the first half of the 1920s, the guarantor had to be a close relative. In other years, friends could also be nominated. Group nomination, for example by non-government organisations involved in child or vocational migration, was also possible.

refugee

Definitions of 'refugee' have changed over time. The Department of the Interior in 1939 applied the term 'refugee' to persons of German nationality, or former German, Austrian, or Czechoslovakian nationality, against whom there was political discrimination. Before this, the term applied to various ethnic and religious groups, including refugees from the Saar, Russians, Poles, Armenians, Germans, Spanish, Austrians, Jews and Catholics.

selected immigrants

Assisted migrants who had been selected by government officials as having satisfied certain requirements of age, health and occupation.

'white alien'

A term used in government documents and the press in this period, referring to Europeans, and especially Southern Europeans. It implied 'white' but non-British. The bulk of 'white aliens', as defined in official papers, embraced Italians, Greeks, Yugoslavs and Poles.

Appendix 2 Chronology

1901, Immigration Restriction Act

This Act was the basis of the 'white Australia' policy for over fifty years. Rather than focus on particular nationalities as the anti-Chinese legislation had done in the nineteenth century, it prohibited all those who failed to pass a dictation test of fifty words in a European language. After 1905, any prescribed language could be used although this change was never implemented. The use of the test by immigration officers was discretionary and aimed to exclude all those who looked 'coloured'. The Act also prohibited those who had criminal records, were mentally ill, considered immoral, had contagious diseases, were unable to support themselves, and, until 1905, manual labourers under contract. The Dictation Test was abolished under the *Migration Act 1958*; the 'white Australia' policy officially came to an end in 1966.

1901, Pacific Island Labourers Act

Under this Act all Pacific Islanders were to be returned to their places of origin by 1906.

1901–2, Commonwealth Royal Commission on Foreign Contract Labour in Western Australia, (*Commonwealth Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, Paper A44, p.871ff).

1903, Commonwealth Naturalisation Act

This Act prevented non-Europeans in Australia from acquiring British citizenship and remained in force until 1956–7. Non-British Europeans could apply after two years' residence. Amendments were passed in 1917 (whereby prospective applicants had to advertise their intentions to become naturalised in the press), 1920 (which repealed the 1903 Act, included the Territories and imposed a fee for the Certificate), 1936 (when women were allowed to apply for independent naturalisation, or take on 'deemed naturalisation' by using the marriage as certification), 1946 (which confirmed that a woman who was a British subject would not lose her status of Australian citizen if she married an 'alien'), and 1948 (which repealed the earlier Acts and amendments and for the first time, men and women of Australia could gain citizenship by either birth or descent, registration or naturalisation. Thereafter, the application for naturalisation could be made one year after arrival although a further five years' residence was required to obtain approval).

1904, Western Australian Royal Commission on the Immigration of non-British Labour, (*Western Australian Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, Paper No. A7, p.102).

1904, New South Wales Royal Commission on the Decline of the Birth Rate and on the Mortality of Infants in New South Wales, (*New South Wales Parliamentary Papers*, Second Session, vol.1V, pp.791–955).

1905, Contract Immigrants Act (the *Amending Immigration Act 1905*)

This Act amended and superseded the clauses relating to contract immigrants in the 1901 *Immigration Restriction Act*. Much tighter procedures were put in place. Employers resident in Australia wishing to bring in labourers under contract had to gain approval from the Minister of External Affairs. This would be granted only if equivalent labour was unavailable in Australia, contracts were in writing, there was no industrial dispute pending, and current award wages were paid.

1911–12, Royal Commission into the Alleged Shortage of Labour in the State of New South Wales, (*New South Wales Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, pp.665–1135).

1913–14, Victorian Royal Commission to Investigate Certain Complaints re Closer Settlement, (*Victorian Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, No. 28).

August 1914 to November 1918, World War I, virtual suspension of immigration for the duration of the war.

1914, 1915, War Precautions Act

This Act, first passed in October 1914, conferred broad and arbitrary powers on the Federal government to restrict civil liberties, especially the activities of 'aliens' (non-British) in Australia. It was repealed in 1920.

1915–16, Victorian Royal Commission on Closer Settlement and a General Review of the Finances of Closer Settlement, (*Victorian Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, No. 21, 1915 and vol. 2 No. 29, 1916).

1916, War Precautions Aliens Registration Regulations

These regulations required all Europeans in Australia to register and to report any change of address. They were superseded by the *Aliens Registration Act 1920*.

1917, United Kingdom Royal Commission on the Natural Resources, Trade and Legislation of Certain Portions of His Majesty's Dominions, London HMSO, known as the Dominions Royal Commission, Part 1, Migration and Settlement.

1920, Aliens Registration Act

This replaced (and incorporated) the regulations of 1916 above. The main purpose of the Act was to trace all Asians and prohibited immigrants in Australia. It was repealed after only one year.

1920, Enemy Aliens Act

Officially this was the *Amending Immigration Act 1920*. It prohibited Germans, Austrian-Germans, Bulgarians, Hungarians and Turks from entering Australia for five years from 2 December 1920. The same Act prohibited anyone who advocated the forceful overthrow of the Australian or any other government. It was repealed (with the exception of Turks) in 1925.

1921, Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme

This Scheme brought about a new cooperation in the field of immigration between the Australian Federal and state governments in 1921. The Commonwealth government took responsibility for recruiting and transporting assisted immigrants to Australia while the states advised the Commonwealth on the type and number of immigrants required. The Commonwealth thereafter provided assisted passages; the states controlled reception, employment and aftercare. Directors of Immigration were appointed in both Australia and in London.

1922, Empire Settlement Act

Under this Act, the British government agreed to cooperate with the Commonwealth government to provide funds for assisted passages for selected migrants from the United Kingdom and for land settlement schemes in Australia. Its broader aims were to stimulate primary production, foster industry and trade within the Empire and provide for its stability and security. The Act was renewed in 1937 for a further fifteen years but effectively came to an end with World War II.

1925, Victorian Royal Commission on Soldier Settlement, (*Victorian Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 2, No. 32).

1925, £34 Million Agreement

This agreement between the Commonwealth and British governments aimed to expand settlement in Australia and increase the capacity of already settled areas to support a higher population. The Commonwealth could raise loans up to a maximum of £34 million over ten years and provide low interest loans to the States. Half the funds could be used for land settlement, the other half for approved public works. Australia had to raise an additional pound for every pound supplied by the British government. The Agreement was cancelled in November 1935.

1925, Royal Commission to Investigate the Social and Economic Effect of the Increase in the Number of Aliens in North Queensland, known as the Ferry Report, (*Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 3, A28, pp.25–52).

1926, Development and Migration Act

This Act provided for the setting up of a Commission to stimulate the development of Australia's resources, attract more immigrants and examine new settlement schemes. Its members were Herbert Gepp of Tasmania, the Hon. John Gunn of South Australia and Charles Nathan, CBE, of Western Australia.

1930, Virtual suspension of all assisted immigration owing to the depression.

1933, Royal Commission on Migrant Land Settlement, (*Victorian Parliamentary Papers*, vol. 1, Paper No. 3).

1934, riots in Kalgoorlie and Boulder, Western Australia, against Italians, Slavs and other foreigners.

1936, Partial reintroduction of assistance schemes by the Commonwealth government.

1937, Renewal of the 1922 Empire Settlement Act for a further 15 years.

1938, Renewal of assistance schemes by the Commonwealth government.
September 1939 – September 1945, World War II, virtual suspension of immigration in general for the duration of the war.

Appendix 3 Voluntary and church organisations involved in migration work

The following list is by no means exhaustive. Please note that the internal archives of non-government organisations are not held by the National Archives; usually, the organisations themselves hold these records. Researchers wishing to work on the role of these non-government organisations in immigration would be advised to contact the particular organisations concerned. The work of Geoffrey Sherington (in Jupp, 1988) and John Lack and Jacqueline Templeton, (1988) is acknowledged here.

Australian German Migration Association dealt with refugees in the 1930s on a non-denominational basis.

Australian Jewish Welfare Society, formed in 1937 with the amalgamation of several existing organisations, selected, sponsored and received Jewish refugees.

Big Brother Movement was a juvenile migration scheme, founded in 1924 by Richard Linton. Australian men (called 'Big Brothers') virtually became god-fathers to youth, generally 15 to 17 years of age, (called 'Little Brothers') who arrived from Great Britain under the scheme thus providing long-term aftercare. 'Little Brothers' generally underwent a course at Scheyville Training Farm, Hawkesbury River, then worked for selected employers in rural industries in NSW. Most of these schemes were suspended with the outbreak of World War II.

British Dominions Immigration Society

British Empire Service League

British Orphans Adoption Society

British Settlers' Welfare Committee was established in 1931 for the purpose of attending to the aftercare of youth introduced into New South Wales as assisted migrants prior to the depression. It was supported by the British government.

British Women's Overseas League

Boy Scouts' Association sponsored juvenile immigration to Australia, mainly to Queensland

Catholic Church including the Catholic Immigration Societies of New South Wales and Queensland, Catholic Emigration Association, London, the Christian

Brothers schemes and the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, (Perth).

Child Emigration Society, Oxford, in association with the Farm School Society of Western Australia, sponsored child migrants for settlement at Kingsley Fairbridge's Farm School at Pinjarra, south of Perth, from 1912. Other farm schools were established in later years, one at Molong, New South Wales in 1937, and another along the same lines, the Lady Northcote Farm School in Victoria.

Church Army brought boys, mainly to Queensland, for farm work both before and after World War I.

Church of England Society for Empire Settlement

Church of England Immigration (Migration) Council (or Committee), under the leadership of Canon David Garland, was involved in group nomination in the second half of the 1920s.

Continental Catholic Migrants' Welfare Committee, Sydney, began operations in 1938 and attended to the reception, settlement and aftercare of Catholic refugees.

Country Women's Association

Dr Barnardo's Homes began sponsoring child migrants in 1921, training boys for farm labouring and girls for domestic service.

Dreadnought Trust, NSW, formed in 1909 with funds originally raised in New South Wales to purchase a battleship for the British government, sponsored boys.

European Refugee Emergency Committees (non-Aryan Christian refugees)

German Emergency Fellowship Committee (formed by Camilla Wedgwood and Dr Lemberg in February 1937), introduced a small number of non-Aryan Christians (of partial Jewish race) for agricultural work or domestic service under certain conditions. This became the European Emergency Committee in April 1939, its focus, non-Jewish and non-Catholic refugees.

Girl Guides Association in the late 1930s was involved in migrant selection.

Immigration League of Australia, formed in 1905 by Richard Arthur, MLA. (A later offshoot was called the Immigration League of Australasia while the original body was renamed the British Immigration League of Australia.)

Inter-Church Committee for non-Aryan Christian Refugees, began in October 1938 and worked in close collaboration with the European Emergency Committee. It consisted of Church representatives (other than the Roman Catholic Church), and representatives of the Salvation Army, the Society of Friends (Quakers), the YMCA and YWCA, and the National Missionary Council of Australia. The Society of Friends also helped those of no religious persuasion.

Inter-Church Immigration Committee formed by the Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregationalist and Baptist Churches and the Church of Christ in 1926, co-ordinating with the YMCA Migration Department.

International Refugee Emergency Councils were also formed in 1938 in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, to care for refugees who were non-Jewish by religion and non-Catholic, but they had no real ties with the former group.

Masonic Clubs nominated and received families.

Millions Club, formed in Sydney in 1916. From 1919 to 1925, its founder, Sir Joseph Carruthers, campaigned to settle 'a million farmers on a million farms' in New South Wales and Victoria.

New Settlers' League, formed in 1921 with government support, to welcome and assist British immigrants and had branches in Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania and in Western Australia, as a sub-branch of the Ugly Men's Association. Only the Queensland branch continued to operate after 1930.

Nichols (Rev R C) known as 'Brother Bill' of St Mark's Church of England, Fitzroy, Melbourne, sponsored child migration to Victoria.

Presbyterian Church

Rotary Clubs nominated and received families.

Salvation Army brought large numbers of immigrants of the poorer classes, many of them juveniles, to Australia in the 1920s and 1930s. The Army also brought out many women, especially war widows and their children after World War I.

St Vincent de Paul

Primary Producers' Union (had representatives on the New Settlers' League Executive Council).

Ugly Men's Association, Western Australia, affiliated with the New Settler's League to receive migrants.

United British Immigrants' Association (had representatives on the New Settlers' League Executive Council).

Victoria League, formed in 1901, promoted the Empire and empire migration, particularly of middle-class British women. It was affiliated with the Royal Colonial Institute and had connections with the Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women. It was active before World War I and in the 1920s and involved in migrant selection in the late 1930s.

Welcome and Welfare Committee, operated in Victoria in the 1930s, supported by the British government.

West Australian Cornish Association (had representatives on the New Settlers' League Executive Council).

Young Australia League brought youth to Western Australia

Young Men's Christian Association worked in conjunction with certain Protestant churches in promoting child migration in the 1920s

Young Women's Christian Association

Appendix 4 Suggestions for further research

Official sources for the period 1901–39 focus on assisted immigrants, for example, land settlers, child migration schemes and the like, since they were accountable to governments and non-government organisations and careful records were kept. Very little is known about unassisted immigrants, those who were not directed to rural areas and who often went straight to the cities and became the main source of labour for the industrial expansion of the interwar years. What were their experiences and how did they fare?

There is little research to date on the volume and nature of emigration from Australia. Emigration was greatest at times of depression, but even during prosperous years when the intake was high, such as 1912 and 1927, the number of departures was considerable, sometimes over half the number of arrivals. Who left and why? The proportion appears to be greater for unassisted migrants than for assisted? Was this because of a sense of obligation to stay and make good or because assisted migrants by their very nature, were less well off and therefore less able to relocate? Did they return to their former homelands or did they remigrate to other immigrant receiving countries, such as the United States, Canada or New Zealand?

More work needs to be done on comparative state policies and immigrant experiences in the pre-World War One period. The inter-war years are comparatively well covered. Most of the published work on the peak period of immigration between 1910 and 1914 is on Victoria and New South Wales. Further detailed studies for the other states would provide a useful balance.

Appendix 5 Bibliography

Archival sources

Archival sources relating to immigration, other than those held by the National Archives, can be found at the various State Archives and Public Record Offices, the Noel Butlin Archives Centre at the Australian National University, and major libraries in each state such as the National Library of Australia in Canberra, the Mitchell Library in Sydney, the State Library of Victoria, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, and the J S Battye Library in Perth.

These libraries house collections such as the Fairbridge Society Records, 1912–76, and the Millicent Fawcett Library Emigration Records held in the National Library, the Kingsley Fairbridge Papers held in the Battye, and the records of the Dreadnought Trust in the Mitchell.

There are also relevant British collections held in the Public Record Office in Kew, Surrey, United Kingdom, such as Colonial Office, Dominions Office, Cabinet, and Board of Trade records. Records about Australia held in the United Kingdom have been microcopied by the Australian Joint Copying Project. Records filmed as CO/418, which are held by most major libraries, are particularly useful.

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Oral Sources

See various collections housed in the Oral History section of the National Library of Australia especially the New South Wales Bicentennial Oral History Project which includes interviews of Dreadnought boys and other migrants who came to Australia between 1901 and 1939.

Others

Federal and State Parliamentary Papers, Government Reports, Inquiries and Royal Commissions (see Appendix 2, Chronology), Official Year Books, the records of political parties, trade unions and the Trades Hall Council, as well as the contemporary press, are all rich sources on immigration policy and practice, and the public response. In addition, academic journals published during the period, such as *The Australian Quarterly* and *The Economic Record* highlight many of the current debates.

Appendix 5 Glossary of archival terms

access decision

The decision made by the Archives under the Archives Act 1983 (sometimes in consultation with agencies) that determines whether a record is open for public access.

agency

Usually an Australian Government department or part of a department which creates records. It can also be an Army base, lighthouse, royal commission, statutory authority, diplomatic post, intelligence agency, Antarctic station, etc. The Archives identifies each agency by giving it a CA (Commonwealth Agency) number and describing it in the RecordSearch database.

archives

- records that have enduring value for research purposes
- a building or room where archives are kept
- an organisation responsible for the care and control of archival material.

citation

A standard format for identifying records – eg National Archives of Australia: K997, 1/15/2 refers to item 1/15/2 from series K997. Refer to Citing archival records for more information.

closed

The access decision of a record that has been withheld from public access under the Archives Act. See also *open* and *open with exception*.

closed period

Records that are not in the open access period, as defined by the Archives Act, are said to be in the closed period and in most cases are not available for public access under the Act (access can be sought under the Freedom of Information Act). Under the Archives Act records are not available for public access until they enter the open access period. See also *open period*.

Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) system

The cataloguing system used by the National Archives to describe records and to link groups of items (series) to the agencies which created them.

exempt information

Sensitive information defined in section 33 of the Archives Act (eg personal or security related information) which may be withheld from public access beyond the open access period.

expunge

To delete exempt information from a copy of a record in order to make the remainder of the record available for public access.

extant

A term used by archivists to describe records that remain or have survived to the present (ie records that have not been destroyed or lost).

finding aid

A reference tool created by the National Archives to help staff and researchers find records. Examples include RecordSearch, item lists, fact sheets, guides.

folio

Usually a single sheet of a file, folder, volume, etc.

item

The smallest discrete unit in a recordkeeping system which, with others, forms a series. An item is usually a file but can be a volume, map, plan, photograph, computer disc, etc.

item list

A list of items within a series usually providing the item number, title and date range. Item lists are one of the Archives' main manual finding aids.

internal reconsideration

The first stage of the appeal process in which you may apply to the National Archives for review of a decision to wholly or partially refuse access to a record. You have a legal right to request such a review.

open

The access decision of a record that has been opened for public access under the Archives Act. See also *closed* and *open with exception*.

open period

Records created within the open access period, as defined by the Archives Act, are said to be in the open period. The Archives Act provides a statutory right of access to these records. The open period is currently being reduced from 30 years to 20 years over a ten-year transition period from 2011 to 2021. See also *closed period*.

open with exception (OWE)

The access decision of a record, part of which has been withheld from public access. See also open and closed.

PhotoSearch

An image bank available on the Archives website which contains images from the National Archives photographic collections.

reader card

A numbered pass issued to researchers using original records in the reading room.

reading room

The area where public and official researchers view records.

RecordSearch

A database available on the Archives website that lets you search for information about records held in the National Archives collection. This information currently comprises descriptions of 9000 creators/depositors and over 8 million record items (about 10% of the items in the collection).

reference copy

A microfilm or other copy of a record made to protect a fragile original or to make the record available in more than one reading room.

research agent

A person employed and paid to do research on behalf of another.

researcher

Any member of the public using the Archives information services.

series

A group of similar records usually kept together because they result from the same activity. The Archives identifies each series by giving each a CRS (Commonwealth Record Series) number and describing it in the RecordSearch database.

top numbering

The renumbering and intersorting of items into a more recent series or their integration into another agency's recordkeeping system.

withheld pending advice (WPA)

A temporary restriction on public access pending advice on whether a record contains exempt information.

Appendix 6 Guides to the collection

The National Archives of Australia creates and maintains guides to records in its collection to help researchers identify and locate records relevant to their research. These guides are available on the [National Archives' website](#).

Appendix 7 Addresses and hours of opening

For contact details of the National Archives of Australia, see the National Archives of Australia [contact us page](#).

Appendix 8 Addresses of other institutions

For contact details of other archival institutions, see the [National Archives' website](#).