



APPENDIX B

WHITE AUSTRALIA: A BRIEF NOTE¹

White Australia' is the unofficial term which has gained wide currency to portray public attitudes to, and government policies for, Australia's past policies of a racially restrictive immigration. These policies, originating in the mid nineteenth century, were driven mainly by the desire of the early Australian colonial settlers to maintain an exclusively white settlement. As early as the 1820s some pastoralists had introduced cheap 'coolie' labour from India to assist in the development of the Australian pastoral industry. And by mid to late nineteenth century, there were several groups of non-European workers, mostly as indentured contract labour such as the Chinese, Pacific Islanders (*Kanakas*) working in the sugar plantations of Queensland, and small groups of Japanese, Afghans and so-called 'Malays' from the Indonesian archipelago.

Large scale agitation against the introduction of non-European labour emerged most powerfully as a consequence of the Victorian gold rush of the 1850s. The mid nineteenth century economic boom caused an unprecedented rise in the number of *Chinese* entering Australia, and created considerable antagonism from some white settlers to this expansion of the Chinese community. It was the increasing hostility toward the Chinese which had an economic and racist basis that led to the introduction of the first statutory Acts relating to restrictive

¹ Edited version of Encyclopedia entry, see Jayasuriya 2005.



legislation in the colonies of Victoria (1855), South Australia (1858), and New South Wales (1861). This early legislation, largely directed mainly at the Chinese, was complemented by other measures discriminating against Asians already resident in Australia with regard to working conditions and wages. By the late 1880s and throughout the 1890s, there was a ground swell of anti-Asian attitudes among the emerging Australian working class.

While there was a growing concern among nearly all colonial governments at the increasing Chinese presence, the opposition to non European labour was by no means universal. It was often contingent upon local economic imperatives, as, for instance, in Queensland where it was argued that non white labour (mostly *Kanaka*) was necessary for the sugar industry, and also to a lesser extent for pearling and *bêche-de-mer* fishing. But there is no doubt that it was anti Chinese sentiment, based both on economic and racist grounds, that became the core of the pursuit of a 'White Australia'. By the late 1890s a series of colonial laws were enacted to restrict Chinese immigration, and also barring Chinese residents from specified occupations and access to citizenship status.

The opposition to anti Chinese immigration, however, was largely framed in the nineteenth century language of doctrines of racial superiority and social Darwinism. Accordingly, the Chinese, as a 'race', were considered 'inferior' because of their inherited characteristics, their moral depravity, proneness to crime and corruption. Moreover, they were likely to pollute the purity of an unmixed nation which was considered the indisputable condition of unity and social cohesion. This broad ranging racist ideology existed alongside the ingrained hostility of Australian settlers towards indigenous Australians, the Aboriginal people.

Underlying this racialism was the insistence on racial and cultural homogeneity as a defining element in shaping a sense of Australian identity. Importantly, this was to become a significant factor in determining the kind of society a future Australian nation would embrace. The unity of Australia was nothing if it did not imply a united 'race' and accordingly Australian nationalism was driven by the need for racial and cultural homogeneity.

Not surprisingly, one of the first policy initiatives of the newly established Federation of States was to enact the racial exclusion legislation of 1901 – *The Immigration Restriction Act (Cth)* (I.R. Act) – with the specific purpose of safeguarding the ‘unmixed nation’. In order to avoid overt suggestions of discrimination on grounds of ‘race’ or any direct reference to colour, the criteria for exclusion were based on a *dictation test* (sometimes known as the ‘Natal test’) relating to a European language (later amended to ‘any prescribed language’). This Act was the main instrument in producing the formal legislative basis for racial exclusion and served to confirm a blanket opposition to *all* non European immigration. The main objective was to instil a sense of national identity, linking ‘race’, nation and colour.

The logic and rationale of these discriminatory policies soon became the emblem of Australian national identity and remained a dominant influence on all other policies particularly during the first five decades after Federation. The uncertainty and even fear arising from the dilemma of the nation’s history as a white European nation, located among hordes of ‘aliens’ on its doorstep—the peoples of the *Asia-Pacific* region—represented by the popular slogan, ‘yellow peril’ installed a deep sense of unease. The ‘invasion narrative’ instilled a feeling of insecurity and provided the main grounds for justifying Australia’s continued adherence to policies of racial discrimination and controlled immigration.

Furthermore, the sentiments of a ‘White Australia’ had a profound influence in shaping the nature and form of external affairs and defence policies. These considerations were however destined to markedly change the nature and character of Australian society in the post-WWII period, especially after the relaxation of migration entry requirements and the new waves of migration post 1945. This served to transform Australia from a parochial monocultural society consisting mainly of British settlers to a more cosmopolitan, poly-ethnic, multicultural society

The first cracks in the White Australia policy came with the *Migration Act (1958)* (Cth) which dropped the notorious dictation test, the lynch pin of the 1901 legislation. By the 1970s there was overall a noticeable change in public attitudes followed by

moves within the main political parties towards a weakening of the opposition to total exclusion of non-Europeans. The formal rescinding of the White Australia policy came with the election of the reformist Whitlam Labor government in 1972, which proceeded to implement a non-discriminatory policy of immigrant recruitment. Furthermore, all immigrants, regardless of origin were entitled to obtain *citizenship* after three years residence. These steps towards an end to racially discriminatory immigration practices were further strengthened with the passage of the *Racial Discrimination Act (1975)* (Cth) and also the ratification of all international agreements relating to race and immigration.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATED TO THE WHITE AUSTRALIA POLICY: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL

From Colonial Australia to Federation

- 1787 First British colony of New South Wales established by law.
- 1792 William Brereton calls for Chinese migration to assist the British colonisation of Australia.
- 1800 First Indian convicts arrive in Australia
- 1804 Governor King plans Chinese migration scheme
- 1812 Select Committee on Transportation reports to the British Parliament.
- 1816 William Brown brings nine indentured Indians to New South Wales
- 1817 The first free Asian settler Mak Sai Ying arrives in New South Wales, and receives a land grant from Governor Macquarie. He becomes a prominent Inn-keeper in the Paramatta district.
- Fort Dundas established on Melville Island to explore trading possibilities with the East Indies.
- 1833 The *Mercury* bound for Perth from Calcutta sinks with 70 indentured Indians aboard.
- 1838 Germans settle in South Australia and Queensland.
- 1847 First Introduction of Pacific Island labourers (*Kanakas*)
- 1853 First Chinese gold diggers land in Victoria

- 1855 First restrictive legislation to control and limit Chinese passed in Victoria followed by South Australia in 1858, and New South Wales 1861
- 1861 Anti-Chinese riots at Lambing Flat (Young).
- 1863 Pacific Islanders (*Kanakas*) brought to Queensland.
- 1871 Colony of South Australia negotiates with Japan to create a colony in the Northern territory.
- 1877 Restrictions on Chinese access to Queensland goldfields.
- 1878 Anti-Chinese agitation in Sydney.
- 1880 Inter-colonial Conference agrees to uniform laws on Chinese immigration.
- 1885 Queensland agrees to end *Kanaka* recruitment.
- 1887 Chinese government enquiry into immigrant conditions.
- All colonies increase poll tax on Chinese immigrants to a massive 100 pounds
- 1888 Restrictions on Chinese immigration.
- Phrase 'White Australia' policy first appears in *Boomerang* a Queensland magazine.
- Chinese passengers on steamship *Afghan* denied entry in Victoria and in Sydney. Premier Henry Parkes attempts to bar legal immigrants and returning residents on the *Afghan* from landing
- 1893 Alfred Deakin publishes *Temple and the Tomb in India*, and *Irrigated India: An Australian view*

of India and Ceylon, following visits to India and Ceylon.

1896 *Chinese Restriction Acts* extended to cover all 'coloured races'.

1897 Western Australian immigration legislation adopts the Dictation Test, modelled on the South African *Natal Immigration Restriction Act 1897*. The aim of this was to exclude entry of non-Europeans.

Federation to End of WW II

1900 *Australia Constitution Act (Cwth)* gives Federal government legal control over immigration and citizenship. Naturalized Australians still British subjects.

1901 *Immigration Restriction Act (IR Act)* and *Pacific Island Labourers Act*, first Acts of the Commonwealth Parliament; restricts migration to those of British and European descent. Also excludes others such as those suffering from an infectious or contagious disease, anyone suffering from mental illness or intellectual disability (any 'idiot or insane person').

IR Act (Cwth) administered using Dictation Test

1903 *Naturalization Act (Cwth)*.

1905 Legislative change sees the wives and children (under 18) no longer allowed to join their non-European husbands/fathers.

Dictation test altered to any prescribed language.

1906 Kanakas repatriated to Pacific Islands.

- 1914 German and Austrian residents interned, as a result of fears of subversion.
- 1917 German place-names changed in South Australia by law.
- 1919 Prime Minister W.M. Hughes upholds the White Australia Policy at the Versailles Conference, calling it 'the greatest thing we ever achieved'.
- 1920 Commonwealth assumes administrative responsibility for immigration; non-British White Australians distinguished from White aliens'.
- 1925 *Empire Settlement Act* (UK) to encourage assisted emigration from Britain.
- Ferry Commission reports on alien workers (primarily Italians) in Queensland.
- Immigration Act of 1925 empowers Australia to exclude those unlikely to be readily assimilable *aimed at Southern Europeans*
- 1928 Commonwealth of Australia introduces a quota system on immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe.
- 1929 Assisted Passages Scheme terminated.
- 1930 Entry of all non-British Europeans banned, barring some exceptions.
- 1934 Dictation Test used in *Immigration Restriction Act* applied to exclude Egon Kisch, Czech anti-Nazi socialist. Kisch passes the test but fails it in Gaelic.
- Riots in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, against Italian, Greek, Yugoslav and other non-British immigrants.

- 1938 Prime Minister John Curtin agrees to take Jewish refugees fleeing from Germany after terror of *Kristallnacht*.
Assisted Passages Scheme resumed.
At the Evian Conference, Australia agrees to take 15,000 Jewish refugees, but war intervenes and by late 1939 only half have arrived.
- 1939 More than 5000 Jewish refugees, also enemy aliens interned, including Italians, Germans, Japanese
- 1940 The *Dunera* arrives in Sydney, from England, carrying mainly Jewish 'enemy aliens'.
- 1944 Calls for an end to the White Australia Policy fuels public debate

Post-WW II (1945-)

- 1945 *Department of Immigration* established, with Arthur Calwell as its first Minister.
Immigration Advisory Committee (IAC) (later Council) established, consisting of representatives of leading employer organizations, trade unions, universities, ex-servicemen's associations and government.
Dr H.V. Evatt ensures strong Domestic Jurisdiction to protect White Australia Policy from the new United Nations Charters.
- 1946 Japanese who were interned in Australia (including Australian citizens)'repatriated to Japan.
- 1946-49 Thousands of Asians who had sought refuge in Australia during the War are forcibly

- deported. Many married Australian women and have Australian-born children
- 1946 Assisted Passages Scheme agreement with Britain.
- 1947 Displaced Persons Scheme, to accept refugees displaced by World War II.
Arthur Calwell's infamous 'two Wongs don't make a White' statement uttered in Parliament.
R.G. Casey publishes *An Australian in India* giving his reflections as Governor of Bengal.
- 1948 *Nationality and Citizenship Act* (Cwth) creates status of 'Australian citizen' instead of 'British subjects'.
Immigration Minister Arthur Calwell announces all non-Europeans who took refuge in Australia during the war must leave.
- 1949 O'Keefe and Gamboa cases capture national attention and challenges the White Australia Policy. Bills closing loopholes in legislation passed in Parliament but never enacted. The *Immigration Act* and *Wartime Refugees Removal Bill* enables some Asian wives and refugees access to Australia.
Adult Migrant Education Scheme (AMES) established.
People born in Australia of Australian parents become Australian citizens by birth.
- 1950 Good Neighbour Council (GNC) movement launched nationally; seen as a state sponsored initiative to ensure assimilation, social cohesion and cultural homogeneity through Anglo-conformity.

- Colombo Plan (C Plan) sponsored by Sir Percy Spender, Australian Minister of External Affairs launched at Commonwealth Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. C Plan allows students from Commonwealth countries and other less developed countries to study in Australia.
- 1951 Immigration agreements with the Netherlands and Italy.
- Total arrivals in last 4 years included Maltese, Dutch, Italians, Jews, Greeks and Cypriots. Only 40% of migrants during this period were of British origin.
- ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand, and United States) Treaty signed seen as centrepiece of national security and diplomacy.
- 1952 Immigration agreements with West Germany, Austria and Greece.
- Immigration Minister Harold Holt allows 800 non-European refugees to stay, and Japanese war brides to be admitted initially for five years.
- 1953 British migrants become entitled to all Australian social welfare benefits on arrival, but not available to non-British migrants.
- 1954 Australia joins SEATO (South-East Asian Collective Defence Treaty Organization) which includes NZ, Pakistan, Thailand, the Phillipines, France, UK, and USA.
- 1955 Arrival of the millionth post-war immigrant.
- Australia participates at Non Aligned Countries of Third World nations held in Bandung, Indonesia.

- 1956 First modifications of White Australia policy with admission of persons of mixed descent who conform to certain requirements.
- 1957 Non Europeans permitted to apply for citizenship after 15 years residence. But for Europeans the waiting time was 5 years.
- The author John O'Grady acclaimed for depiction of himself as Italian migrant assimilating into Australian culture, in *They're a Weird Mob*
- 1958 *Migration Act* (Cwth) effective from 1 June 1959, abolishes the discriminatory Dictation Test and introduces an entry-permit system for controlling immigration. Also requires that applicants for entry were at least '75% European' in appearance. Introduction of 'Highly Distinguished' category for non-European entry.
- 1959 Movement to change 'White Australia' policy promoted by the Association for Immigration. Reform known as the *Immigration Reform Group* (IRG).
- 1960 Australian citizens permitted to sponsor Asian spouses for Citizenship.
- 1960 British subjects with Permanent Residence (PR) Status permitted to bring their non-European spouses and unmarried minor children into Australia.
- Donald Horne as Editor of *The Bulletin* removes its motto: 'Australia for the White Man'
- 1961 Various State Associations for Immigration Reform established.
- Melbourne students form Student Action to

protest against policy during 1961 general election.

Peter Heydon, Australian High Commissioner to India, becomes Secretary of the Department of Immigration.

Immigration Reform Group's (IRG's) *'Immigration Control or Colour Bar?'* published by Melbourne University Press.

Liberal Party removes phrase 'White Australia' from Party platform.

1962 Canada ends its racially discriminatory immigration policy.

1964 Assimilation Section of Department of Immigration becomes the Integration Section; signifies change in settlement policy from Assimilationsim to Integration.

Part-Europeans, such as those of mixed race, e.g., Anglo-Indians, Anglo-Burmese permitted entry.

Australian Labor Party removes White Australia from its platform and condemns racial discrimination in immigration policy.

Nancy Prasad deportation case captures national attention with Abrogial activist Charles Perkins leading demonstrations.

Australia deploys forces to support the newly established Federation of Malaysia 1963 when attacked by Sukarno, Indonesia in the *Konfrantasi* crisis

United States ends its racially discriminatory immigration policy.

1966 Immigration Minister Hubert Opperman in the Holt Liberal government introduces

liberalization of White Australia policy to allow entry qualified skilled non-Europeans, able to integrate readily and possess needed skills. Government reaffirms that 'preserving a homogeneous population' is the basic objective of immigration policy.

Reduction of 15 year wait to 5 years for some non-Europeans to gain citizenship

1967 Immigration agreement with Turkey.

1968 Czech and Slovak refugees arrive in Australia, following the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The Immigration Control Association formed by Robert Clark to resist further liberalization of the White Australia Policy.

1969 Immigration Minister Bill Snedden affirms continuance of White Australia policy by declaring that 'we must have a single culture'.

Citizenship Act amended to replace 'British subject' with 'Australian citizens' who enjoyed the status of British subjects.

Committee (later Council) on Overseas Professional Qualifications (COPQ)

1969 Immigration agreement with Yugoslavia.

Post Abrogation of White Australia

1972 Gough Whitlam's Labor government elected and rescinds 'White Australia' policy with bi-partisan endorsement; leads to a policy of non-discriminatory immigration.

Al Grassby appointed as Minister of Immigration

Bonegilla Migrant Camp closed after 24 years.

Immigration (Education) Act passed

Jan Allen case and charges of racial discrimination end the Assisted Passage scheme with Britain.

Immigration Advisory Council (IAC) enlarged to include those Australians of migrant origin and four migrant settlers of European and Asian background (Pietearaci, Jayasuriya, Calomeris and Bizjak) appointed to IAC.

Whitlam historic visit to China

1973 Amendments to *Citizenship Act* makes all migrants become eligible for citizenship after 3 years of permanent residence.

Immigration Minister Al Grassby launches the concept of cultural pluralism with a publication entitled *Multi-Cultural Society for the Future*, and 'Family of the Nation' statement.

Official declaration that Immigration policy will not take account of race, colour, or nationality.

Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) established.

1974 Migrant Task Forces established in each State.

Report of the Committee on Community Relations, of the IAC chaired by Walter Lippman, outlines a philosophical rationale for cultural pluralism; also recommends removal of category 'aliens'.

Australian Ethnic Heritage Program
launched by Minister Al Grassby.

Al Grassby loses seat in 1974 election. His
dismantling of the last vestiges of the White
Australia policy seen as a factor in his loss.

1975 *Racial Discrimination Act* (Cwth) makes it
unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of
colour, descent, national or ethnic origins.
of race, colour, descent, national or ethnic
origins.

Migrant Workers Conference Declaration
asserts cultural and language rights as
fundamental rights.

Australian Population and Immigration
Council (APIC) which replaces IAC releases
National Inquiry into Population (The
Borne Report).

Australia acquiesces to Sukharto's
annexation of East Timor by Indonesia.

Department of Immigration abolished. New
Department of Labour and Immigration
created under Clyde Cameron.

1976 Department of Immigration named as
Department of Immigration and Ethnic
Affairs (DIEA) under Minister Michael
McKellar in the Fraser Government.

Fraser Government accepts first Vietnamese
refugees who arrive by boat. This leads to
adverse public comment about 'boatpeople'
for decades.

National Ethnic Broadcasting Advisory Council
established

1977 *National Accreditation Authority for Translators*

and Interpreters (NAATI) established.

Australian Ethnic Affairs Council (AEAC) publishes *Australia as a Multicultural Society*.

Broadcasting and T V Act leads to the establishment of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)

1978 Galbally Report on Migrant Programs and Services. Enunciates principles of migrant settlement: maintenance of cultural identity, promotion of equality of opportunity, social cohesion and self-help. Family Reunion criteria are relaxed

NSW Report on *Participation* (Totaro Report). NSW government introduces the Ethnic Affairs Commission (EAC), NSW.

Sociologist Jean Martin argues for a form of pluralism which goes beyond tolerance of cultural differences and defines ethnic groups as interest groups.

National Front of Australia, an extremist right-wing racist organization, which campaigns for the re-introduction of 'White Australia'.

New Zealand ends its racially discriminatory immigration policy.

1979 NUMAS (Numerical Multifactor Assessment Scheme) points system introduced for migrant selection by Fraser government

Landmark decision of the Fraser government to accept Chinese refugees after the UN International Refugee Conference.

Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs Act leads to the establishment of AIMA as a statutory body.

*Federation of Ethnic Communities Council
(FECCA).*

- 1980 Most GNCs disbanded following Galbally Report.
Multicultural Television Broadcasts commence.
- 1981 Assisted Passages Scheme ends after 50 years except for refugees.
AEAC (Australian Ethnic Affairs Council) replaced by Australian Council on Population and Ethnic Affairs (ACPEA).
- 1982 NUMAS points system replaced
Special Humanitarian Assistance Program allows Iranian Baha'is to seek refuge
- 1983 Remaining distinction between—'British' and "aliens' removed, and Migration Act amended to replace 'alien' with 'non citizen'.
Refugees from El Salvador, Sri Lanka, and Lebanon accepted.
Hawke government releases Report of the Committee appointed to Review of the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs (CRAIMA Chair, Moss Cass).
Victorian government releases *Access and Equity Report*.
- 1984 National Advisory and Co-ordinating Committee on Multicultural Education (NACCME) (Chair, Laksiri Jayasuriya) appointed by Minister of Education (Susan Ryan).
National Population Council (NPC) established.

Historian Geoffrey Blainey suggests Australia is accepting too many Asian migrants and initiates debate on immigration and multiculturalism.

Amendments to *Nationality and Citizenship Act* (Cwth) make distinction between citizens and non-citizens. Resdeince requirement for residents reduced to two years.

First Ethiopian and Chilean refugees accepted under the *Special Humanitarian Program*

1986 Report on the Review of Migrants and Multicultural Programs and Services: *Don't Settle for Less*. Chair, James Jupp)

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) Act passed.

1987 Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs (AIMA) replaced by government agency, Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs (OMEA) located in Department of Premier and Cabinet.

National Policy on Languages following the release of the *Lo Bianco Report*.

Merger of ABC and SBS abandoned.

1988 Stephen Fitzgerald Report on Immigration Policy: *Immigration a Commitment to Australia*, is released. Report recommends 3 streams of migrants: family reunion, skilled, and humanitarian; Report also criticizes multiculturalism.

Bicentenary celebrations 200 years of 'white settlement' evokes Aboriginal people's peaceful demonstrations against 'white

invasion’

Establishment of Australians Against (later ‘Further’ added) Immigration by Robyn and Rodney Spencer

John Howard, leader of the Liberal Party criticizes multiculturalism and advocates a reduction in the levels of Asian migration. Fuels public debate and Howard loses leadership of the Liberal Party

1989

Bureau of Immigration Research (BIR) established and located in Melbourne.

National Agenda for a Multicultural Australia. Report of National Multicultural Advisory Council (NMAC chaired by Sir James Gobbo enumerates three principles of Australian multiculturalism: cultural identity, social justice, and economic benefits.

Immigration Review Tribunal established.

Garnaut Report of Australian and the East Asian Region

Following the Tiananmen Square repression, Bob Hawke grant Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) for Chinese students in Australia.

Jack Van Tongeren jailed in Perth for racist violence

1991

HREOC Report on National Inquiry into Racial Violence (NIRV) released.

Report of NPC: *Population, Issues and Australia’s Future* released.

1992

Disability Discrimination Act passed, but those coming with the provisions of the Migration Act (1958) are explicitly exempted.

- Minister Garry Hand of the Labor government introduces mandatory detention for asylum seekers, mainly 'boat people' from Cambodia. Port Hedland Detention Centre opened.
- Migration Reform Bill* introduced
- 1993 Permanent Resident (PR) status granted to Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) holders, mainly Chinese students.
- Native Title Act* rejects doctrine of Terra Nullius.
- Refugee Review Tribunal established to consider Department of Immigration rulings.
- 1994 The *Australian Citizenship Act* (1948) is amended, including a preamble which reflects a more multicultural concept of citizenship.
- 1995 The *Commonwealth Racial Hatred Act* amends the *Racial Discrimination Act* (1975).
- NMAC Report: *Multicultural Australia: The Next Steps Towards and Beyond 2000*.
- 1996 Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research (BIMPR) abolished.
- Independent Member Pauline Hanson's maiden speech reignites anti-Asian immigration debate.
- Reduction of Migration Program
- 1997 Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party rejects policies on multiculturalism, Asian immigration and Aboriginal land claims.

- Report on Asylum Seekers by HREOC criticizes detention of children and proposes granting bridging visas
- Temporary safe haven offered to refugees from Kosovo fleeing from Yugoslavia conflict.
- HREOC Discussion Paper: *Free to Believe?* Examines legal status of religion in Australia.
- 1998 Howard government rejects *Article 18* of HREOC endorsing the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religious Belief.
- New Points system favours skilled migrants with Australian experience or qualification
- 1999 *Border Protection Act* (Cwth) permits boarding of vessels ferrying illegal immigrants
- TPVs assigned to refugees provides second class refugee status by denying access to rights and services
- Report of NMAC: *New Agenda* sets out four principles of multiculturalism: *civic duty*, *cultural respect*, *social equity* and *productive diversity*.
- Howard endorses the 'm' word as *Australian Multiculturalism*.
- Howard as PM claims Australia as a Deputy of the USA is responsible for policing the Asian Region. Australia seen as a 'client state' of USA.
- Australia supports East Timor in gaining independence from Indonesia and leads Peace Keeping Mission

2000 Council for Multicultural Australia (CMA) appointed by the Howard government replaces NMAC and focus' on social, economic and cultural dividends of diversity'.

Increasing proportions of the refugees admitted to Australia are from African nations; also from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Former refugee Shahraz Kayani self immolates in front of Parliament House, to protest denial of migration to his daughter, who has a disability. The Migration Act (1958) remains exempt from the provisions of the *Disability Discrimination Act* (1992).

2001 The *Tampa* incident. Standoff between Commonwealth government and Norwegian freighter, *Tampa* which rescued Afghan asylum seekers heading for Australia in unseaworthy boat.

Border control legislation introduced to protect Australian borders includes excise of several islands (Christmas, Cocos and Ashmore) from migration zone; other Cwth legislation to exclude illegal immigrants and asylum seekers. These include:

Migration Legislation (Amendment Judicial Review) Bill 2001

Border Protection Act 2001

Border Protection (Validations and Enforcement Powers) Act 2001;

Migration Amendment (Exclusion from Migration Zone) Act No. 127, 2001

Migration Amendment (Exclusion from Migration Zone)

Consequential Provision) Act No. 128, 2001

Agreement to establish detention centres on Pacific islands such as Nauru to process asylum seekers off shore, dubbed the 'Pacific Solution'.

National Symposium *Constituting a 'People': The Legacy of White Australia* held at the University of Western Australia, sponsored by the Government of WA, University of WA, and the Academy of Social Sciences, to mark 100years of the passage of the IR Act of 1901

Controversy over allegations that asylum seekers sent on Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel (SIEV 4) off the north west coast threw children overboard

Grossly overloaded SIEV X sinks and leads to drowning of 355 asylum seekers

50th Anniversary of the signing of the ANZUS Treaty

Australia and East Timor agree to share of oil and gas revenue from Timor sea.

Australia signs to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation

2002

Continuing violence and protests at Woomera and other detention Centres.

Protests against mandatory detention of children and policy relating to asylum seekers dubbed the 'Pacific Solution.'

Passing of *Citizenship Amendment Bill 2001* permits dual citizenship for Australian born citizens living overseas

Bali Bombing. Over 200 Australians killed.

- Abn Baker Bashir charged for his role in bombings
- Pauline Hanson, leader of *One Nation Party* convicted for fraud, but later released on appeal.
- 2003 Ratification of Timor Sea Treaty by Australia
- 2004 Boxing Day Asian Tsunami causes extensive hardship in several countries such as Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Australia grants over A\$ 1 billion in aid for tsunami relief.
- 2005 Cronulla Beach riots following friction between Muslim and non Muslim Australians after beach incidents relating to women wearing bikinis
- Australia attends inaugural *East Asian Summit* sponsored by ASEAN
- 2006 Migration Amendment designated *Unauthorized Arrivals Bill* to send all asylum seekers to Nauru withdrawn
- Release of *IsmaE-Listen* Project of HREOC deals with hostility against Arabs and Muslims
- 2007 Labor Party returns to government with Kevin Rudd as Prime Minister who is noted for being a fluent Mandarin speaker
- Rudd government rejects 'Pacific Solution', declares Nauru no longer a Detention Centre, and grants resettlement in Australia to all detainees.
- Rudd government scraps uranium deal with India proposed by the Howard government
- Introduction of Australian Citizenship Test for prospective Australian residents aiming

- to promote social cohesion
- 2008 Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) system abolished. Hereafter all refugees guaranteed right to apply for PR (Permanent Resident) status.
- Australia-India cricketing goodwill affected by Harbhajan Singh incident. This follows an Australian player, Andrew Symonds, been called a 'monkey' by Singh who was found guilty of racial abuse but later this decision was overturned.
- Global Financial Crisis (GFC) reinforces significance Australia's economic ties with Asia
- 2009 Indian media accuses Australia of racism following several racist attacks on Indian students.
- Arrest of Australian citizen, Stern Hu, head of Rio Tinto's iron ore marketing
- 2010 SIEV 221 with between 76-90 asylum seekers cruises the strong seas with the loss of over 50 persons