

Chronology
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Australia and Refugees, 1901–2002: An Annotated Chronology Based on Official Sources

This detailed chronology is based on official sources and covers a long and complex period of Australian immigration and refugee experience, the years 1901 to 2002. For the convenience of the reader wanting just an overview of the period, a summary version has also been produced. The detailed version is available as an electronic document only and the summary version is available both electronically and in hard copy. The chronology is presented in two parts: 1901–1991 and 1992–2002—because of the complexity of developments of the past decade.

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Acronyms

AIDAB	Australian International Development Assistance Bureau
AMEP	Adult Migrant Education Program
ASA	Asylum Seekers Assistance Scheme
BIPR	Bureau of Immigration and Population Research
CAAIP	Committee to Advise on Australia's Immigration Policies
CALFRIC	Committee for the Allocation of Loan Funds to Refugees from Indo-China
CRSS	Community Refugee Settlement Scheme
CPA	Comprehensive Plan of Action
CSSS	Community Settlement Services Scheme
DIEA	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs
DILGEA	Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs
DIMA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
DORS	Determination of Refugee Status Committee
DP	Displaced Person
EXCOM	Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
ICEM	Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IRO	International Refugee Organisation
IRT	Immigration Review Tribunal
LSIA	Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia
OMA	Office of Multicultural Affairs
PRC	People's Republic of China
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
ROMAMPAS	Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services
RRT	Refugee Review Tribunal
RSP	Rescue at Sea Pool
RSRC	Refugee Status Review Committee
SAC	Special Assistance Category
SHP	Special Humanitarian Program
UN	United Nations
UNAMET	United Nations Mission in East Timor
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Glossary

In basing the chronology on official source material, the official terminology has been retained. The use of language has been important in recent debates over refugee policy and there is a need to make clear the meanings of the most significant terminologies.

Asylum seeker: any person who moves to another country for the purpose of claiming protection under the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees or the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Boat people: A term that gained currency during the late 1970s as a description of asylum seekers who arrived in Australia without legal authority in boats not authorised by the Australian Government to land in Australia. The term was revived during the 1990s, as other unauthorised boats carrying passengers with no legal authority to enter Australia, came into Australian waters. The term has been used in official publications since 1977 when it first appeared in the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs' annual review, *Review '77*.

Country of first asylum: The first, usually neighbouring country to which a refugee flees. The world's refugee camps are in countries of first asylum.

Displaced persons: persons fleeing conflict, human-made or natural disasters either within their own country or across national boundaries. (National Population Council, *Refugee Review*, 1991, p. 220)

Illegal immigrants: persons who enter or remain in Australia without a valid visa or travel authority. The most common form of illegal immigration is visa over-staying. Asylum seekers are not illegal immigrants as they have invoked Australia's obligations under the 1951 UN Convention and 1967 Protocol. They become illegal when they are denied refugee status and avenues of review and appeal are exhausted.

Illegal migration racket (see: people smuggling)

Offshore visas: Where visas authorising entry into a country are issued to people in other countries, they are described as being issued 'offshore'.

Onshore visas: Where visas authorising stay in Australia are issued to people after they have already arrived, legally or illegally, in Australia, they are described as being issued 'onshore'.

People smuggling: defined by the *United Nations' Global Program Against Trafficking in Human Beings* as 'the procurement of illegal entry of a person into a State of which that person is not a national with the objective of making a profit'.

Prohibited immigrants: Under the *Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901*, a prohibited immigrant was any person who failed a dictation test in a European language. The Act was overhauled in 1958 and the dictation test provision replaced by a system of entry permits. The *Migration Act 1958* defined a prohibited immigrant as someone who does not hold an entry permit that is in force.

Refugee: the 1951 *UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* defines a refugee as any person who 'owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'.

Third country: Where refugees move from their countries of first asylum to another country, such as Australia, that country is described as a third country (the first being the home country, and the second being the country of first asylum).

Unauthorised arrivals: Any person who arrives in Australia by air or sea without the correct documentation. (Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, *Protecting the border: immigration compliance*, Canberra, 1999, p. 9.)

White Russians: The name given to Russians who left the Soviet Union in the early 1920s as defeated opponents of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. In the 1950s, another wave of White Russians came to Australia, this time consisting of those who had escaped from Russia into China or Manchuria after 1917. The White Russians fleeing the Communist Government of China included many who were the children of the 1920s generation. (B. Christa, 'Russians', in J. Jupp (ed.), *The Australian people: an encyclopedia of the nation, its people and their origins*, Cambridge University Press, 2001, pp. 639–640.)

(Note: The definitions of 'Country of first asylum', 'Offshore visas', 'Onshore visas' and 'Third country' are taken from the glossary in A. Millbank, *The problem with the 1951 Refugee Convention*, *Research Paper No. 5*, Department of the Parliamentary Library, 2000–01.)

Section 1: Australia and Refugees, 1901–1991

Purpose

Scope and methodology

This chronology covers a long and complex period of Australian immigration and refugee experience: the years 1901 to 2002. It is arranged in two sections: 1901–1991 and 1992–2002. The chronology is presented in two parts because of the complexity of developments of the past decade. The *Migration Reform Act 1992* may be seen as responding to a new period characterised by mandatory detention of asylum seekers in remote centres and by the rise of the organised crime known as 'people smuggling'.

The central rationale of the chronology is that the past lives on in the present, and policy-makers can only benefit from understanding how things have developed and changed over time. Current debates often draw on generalised assessments of the past. For example, there is an assumption shared by supporters and opponents of refugee policy alike that Australia has a humanitarian tradition in such matters. (Readers may also be interested in the Parliamentary Library's audio-brief, *Australia's humanitarian tradition in refugee intake: myth or reality?*, produced in December 2002.) The chronology is not interpretative but rather presents the selected facts for others to analyse as they see fit.

The chronology is based on official sources such as Annual Reports, Ministerial Media Releases, reports of official inquiries and Year Books. It attempts to identify important events in the development of refugee policy and intake, and to track the trends and responses in official thinking, while placing them in the context of the wider Australian immigration program and international developments. The reliance on official sources is justified by the fact that they are the most authoritative for the purposes of the chronology. Limits of space also precluded any broadening of the methodology.

In basing the chronology on official source material, the terminology of different periods has been retained. The use of language has been important in recent debates over refugee policy. No historian worthy of the discipline can sanitise the past in the interests of current political considerations and this applies to language as much as anything else. But there is also a need to make clear the meanings of the most significant terminologies, such as 'prohibited immigrants', 'illegal entrants', 'unauthorised arrivals', 'boat people' and 'illegal migration'. A glossary is included to define such terms. The changing terminologies reflect developments in law and official attitudes. This principle also applies to the names of countries: for example, Australian governments used 'Kampuchea' from the late 1970s to the early 1980s but then adopted 'Cambodia'. This is reflected by the use of both in the chronology.

From White Australia to Port Hedland

It comes as a surprise to many that Australia did not have an explicit refugee policy, separate from its general immigration policy, until the late 1970s. Australia certainly received refugees prior to the 1970s but it was in response to the Indo-Chinese refugee crisis of the late 1970s and early 1980s that a comprehensive, ongoing, approach was adopted.

From the beginning of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901, the framers of immigration policy made it clear that Chinese and other 'non-whites' had to be stopped from permanently settling here. They did this chiefly through a 'dictation test', whereby anyone seeking admission could be tested in a European language. Failure of the test automatically imposed 'prohibited immigrant' status on the individual. The test was usually administered at the point of disembarkation and was applied selectively to Chinese and other 'non-whites'. It proved an effective mechanism of exclusion and deterrence.

It should be noted that prior to the formation of the League of Nations in 1919 governments around the world were not interested in formulating policy to deal specifically with refugees. Such interest developed through the League and the United Nations, with the usual driving force for refugees being wars and their aftermath rather than the classic 'persecution' criteria set up by the two international bodies. Australia was under no international obligation to take refugees until it ratified the 1951 UN *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* and then it still remained free to discriminate on racial grounds in its intake.

The White Australia Policy, embedded in the *Immigration (Restriction) Act 1901*, remained a guiding principle of Australian immigration until its gradual abolition between 1966 and 1973. In such a context, any Australian concern with responsibilities toward refugees was limited in its humanitarianism by the reality of racial exclusion. This point was illustrated by the treatment of Asian evacuees taken in during the Pacific War. More than 6000 were granted protection but as soon as the war was over, the government took action to repatriate them. About 900 refused to be repatriated and so the *War-time Refugees Removal Act 1949* was passed. It mattered not that many had married Australians or established businesses here—and that all had been fleeing the common Japanese militarist enemy during World War Two. In the final analysis it was the colour of skin that mattered.

In addition to racism, Australian refugee policy was framed by decisive factors, such as the need for labour after the Second World War and the politically bipartisan desire to stand firmly against the Soviet Union in the Cold War. The admission of more than 170 000 Displaced Persons from European camps between 1947 and 1954 was followed by large intakes of Hungarians from 1956 to 1958 and Czechs and Slovaks in 1968. Most were anti-Communist, and the Displaced Persons were recruited essentially because they were a convenient source of labour. It was not until 1973 that political refugees from an anti-Communist pro-Western regime would be admitted: the Chileans.

The 1970s mark a watershed in the development of refugee policy for a number of reasons. Firstly, Australia abolished the White Australia Policy in 1973: race was no longer a criterion in immigration selection procedures. The principle was tested soon afterwards, with the Indo-China refugee crisis, following the defeat of United States-backed regimes in Vietnam and Cambodia in 1975. But the 1970s were also notable because Australia no longer required the old type of immigrant. No longer primarily seeking 'factory fodder', Australian governments during the 1970s became more interested in skills-based selection and family reunion. The policy towards refugees continued to be pragmatic but required sharper definition. Thus, on 24 May 1977, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, the Hon. Michael Mackellar MP, articulated the basic principles, and enunciated a strategy and practical initiatives, for a comprehensive policy. It is worth noting the four key principles, as they have remained a formal basis of policy to the present day:

1. Australia fully recognises its humanitarian commitment and responsibility to admit refugees for resettlement.
2. The decision to accept refugees must always remain with the Government of Australia.
3. Special assistance will often need to be provided for the movement of refugees in designated situations or for their resettlement in Australia.
4. It may not be in the interest of some refugees to settle in Australia. Their interests may be better served by resettlement elsewhere. The Australian Government makes an annual contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which is the main body associated with such resettlement.¹

The above statement is historically significant because it shows that Australia formally recognised that its commitment to refugees must be an ongoing one. Through the development of practical mechanisms for refugee policy implementation, refugees were recognised as a separate component of the wider immigration program, not just another migrant group. In these respects, it may be said that the 1977 Mackellar statement marked the beginning of an explicit refugee policy.

Also interesting about the principles is the idea that it may be best for some refugees to be resettled elsewhere. Mackellar's landmark statement was made at a time when Australia had to confront the reality of the massive displacement of Vietnamese people. By 1979, there were well over 300 000 Indo-Chinese refugees in camps in South-East Asia.

The establishment by the Australian Government in March 1978 of an inter-departmental Determination of Refugee Status Committee (DORS) was a response to the unauthorised arrival of boats carrying mainly Vietnamese refugees. As a signatory to the United Nations' 1951 *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, and to the 1967 Protocol, Australia needed a mechanism for assessing refugee status onshore (i.e. on Australian territory).

The chronology encompasses the other 'watershed' year of 1989, when a new set of international events posed challenges to decision-makers and when unauthorised boat arrivals became an issue again. The collapse of the Soviet Union ended the Cold War, and

altered perceptions, particularly in Europe, of those who had previously been seen as refugees from Communism. Of more immediate importance to Australia, though, was the response of Australia's Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, to the action taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China against protestors occupying Tiananmen Square in June 1989. The number of asylum applications in Australia increased by over 10 000: from 1260 in 1989 to 12 130 in 1990 (and to 16 740 in 1991). The applicants were mainly Chinese students already in Australia.

In 1989, the *Migration Act 1958*—itself a product of a fundamental overhaul of the *Immigration Act 1901*—was reformed by the *Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989*. The 1989 Act established immigration rules and criteria within the legislation with a view to ensuring accountable and consistent decisions. The new regulations, numbering about 200 in all, greatly reduced room for discretion by departmental officers and tightened control of the management of the immigration program. They also created a two-tier system for the review of migration decisions. In these ways, the Act sought to create a fairer processing system and, in doing so, sought to remove the need for unsuccessful onshore visa applicants to appeal to the judiciary. In the words of Senator the Hon. Robert Ray, the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs in the Hawke Government, the Regulations 'sought to improve the ability to curb abuse of the immigration program by people seeking to come to Australia illegally'. Minister Ray made 'no apology for the toughness of the new law as far as illegal entrants are concerned'.² The 'toughness' included the introduction of mandatory deportation of 'illegal entrants' and the power to sell their possessions, with a view to recovering costs relating to detention and deportation.

As mentioned previously, 1989 saw the return of unauthorised boat arrivals in Australia, the first detected since 1981. In November 1989, a small boat carrying 26 people from Cambodia reached Broome, Western Australia, followed by two more boats carrying larger numbers in March and June of 1990. By 31 December 1991, 438 people had arrived in nine boats. The Government responded in the 1991–1992 Immigration Budget Statement by allocating additional funds for the expansion of staff and facilities related to onshore processing and detention of unauthorised arrivals. It also resolved to establish a new detention centre at Port Hedland in Western Australia. The first group of 'boat people' to be detained at Port Hedland consisted of 104 Indo-Chinese, transferred from Darwin in October 1991.

A new period in refugee policy, characterised by the detention of unauthorised arrivals in remote centres, had begun. The detention policy would be further developed during the 1990s, beginning with the *Migration Reform Act 1992* which made detention mandatory for all unlawful non-citizens (i.e. non-citizens without a valid visa). At the same time, Australia maintained its planned program of refugee and humanitarian intakes at a rate of about 12 000 a year. The new period, 1992–2002, is covered later in this paper.

Endnotes

1. Hon. Michael Mackellar, Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Statement, House of Representatives, *Debate*, 24 May 1977, p. 1714.
2. Senator the Hon. Robert Ray, Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, *Media Release*, MPS 88/89, 18 December 1989.

Chronology 1901–1991

	Details	Source Documents
1901	Australia's population, exclusive of so-called 'full-blooded Aboriginals' who were not counted, is 3 773 801 at the time of the 1901 Census. A total of 865 498 is born overseas (23 per cent of the population). People from the United Kingdom are the largest overseas-born group (679 159). The immigration policy of the new federated Australian nation is based on racial exclusion, the notion of a 'White Australia'. There is no refugee policy but refugees, mainly fleeing religious persecution in Germany, Hungary, Poland and Italy, settled in Australia as unassisted immigrants during the nineteenth century colonial era.	<i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1901–1907</i> , Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne, 1908, p. 147.
1901	The <i>Immigration (Restriction) Act</i> is passed by the new Commonwealth of Australia Parliament. The Act does not mention race but seeks to prohibit the permanent settlement of Asians, Africans and other coloured races through Section 3(a). Under this provision, a dictation test may be administered in any European language against an immigrant. It is enforced mainly against Chinese arrivals and, coupled with penalties against shipping companies, quickly proves effective in deterring 'non-white' arrivals. Under the 'White Australia Policy', non-European refugees are not welcome, though during World War Two, more than 6000 Asian evacuees are admitted temporarily. The racism inherent in the Act works against non-European refugee and migrant intake for seven decades.	A. C. Palfreeman, <i>The Administration of the White Australia Policy</i> , Melbourne University Press, 1967, pp. 81–85.
1911	Australia's population, exclusive of so-called 'full-blooded Aboriginals' who were not counted, is 4 455 005 at the time of the 1911 Census. A total of 787 335 is born overseas (18 per cent of the population). People from the United Kingdom are the largest overseas-born group (590 722). The White Australia Policy remains the guiding principle in immigration policy. Small numbers of refugees are admitted, on the same basis as other 'white' immigrants, including Jews fleeing imperial Russia and Russian Poland.	<i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1901–1913</i> , Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne, 1914, p. 120.
1914–18	World War One brings immigration to a virtual halt. In the period between 1905 and the war, Australia receives 390 000 new settlers, mainly from the British Isles. The war creates a massive refugee problem in Europe. It also leads to the formation of the League of Nations.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Immigration: Federation to Century's End, 1901–2000</i> , Canberra, 2001, p. 1.

	Details	Source Documents
1919	Australia joins the League of Nations as a founding member.	
1921	Australia's population, exclusive of so-called 'full-blood Aboriginals' who were not counted, is 5 435 734 at the time of the 1921 Census. A total of 854 071 people are from overseas (16 per cent of the population). People born in the British Isles are the largest group (676 387). Australia has admitted small numbers of refugees from Europe, perhaps no more than a few thousand, under the general immigration program since 1901. The White Australia Policy remains in force.	<i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1924</i> , Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne, 1924, p. 921.
1921	Australia supports the establishment of the League's Office of Commissioner for Refugees and recognises the League's special passports for people in need. During the 1920s, some Russians, Greeks, Bulgarians, Armenians, Assyrians and Jews are admitted into Australia, but the numbers are not significant. They are only admitted in cases where they meet normal migration criteria.	C. Price, <i>The Refugee Issue in Australia: 1838–1991</i> , Working Papers No. 2, Australian Immigration Research Centre, Deakin, ACT, 1990, p. 3.
1921	The Australian Government takes control of migrant selection from the States, under the Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme.	
1922	The Hughes' and Bruce Governments pursue an active mass immigration program under the Empire Settlement Act 1922. Assisted passages are provided by the British Government to encourage British, mainly English and Scots, emigration to Australia.	
1929	Economic depression brings assisted immigration to a halt. However, during the 1920s, more than 300 000 immigrants are admitted, of whom two-thirds are assisted under the Empire Settlement Act.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Immigration: Federation to Century's End, 1901–2000</i> , Canberra, 2001, p. 3.
1933	Adolph Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany and incites violent anti-Semitism as part of his <i>judenrein</i> program, i.e. the program to make Germany free of Jews. Thousands of Jews seek protection in Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia.	M. Blakeney, <i>Australia and the Jewish Refugees 1933–1948</i> , Croom Helm Australia, Sydney, 1985, pp. 84–100
1933	Australia's population, exclusive of so-called 'full-blood Aboriginals' who were not counted, is 6 629 839 at the time of the 1933 Census. A total of 903 273 is born overseas (14 per cent of the population). People born in England are the largest	<i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1951</i> , Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra,

	Details	Source Documents
	group (486 831), followed by Scotland-born (132 489), Irish (78 652) and New Zealanders (45 963). There are 26 756 Italian-born and 16 842 German-born residents. Australia has admitted small numbers of refugees, no more than several thousand, under the general immigration program since 1901. The White Australia Policy remains in force.	1951, p. 550.
1938	In July, Australia joins 31 other countries at a conference in Evian-les-Bains, France, to discuss the urgent Jewish refugee situation arising from the worsening situation in Germany and Hitler's occupation of Austria. The Conference, convened by the United States, establishes an Inter-governmental Committee for Refugees. Australia's representative at Evian asserts that, while Australia sympathises with the persecuted Jews and has admitted approximately 700 since 1934, it does not want to import a 'racial problem'. Later in the year, after the German occupation of the Sudetan area of Czechoslovakia, Australia agrees to receive 15 000 Jewish refugees over a three-year period. Seven thousand are admitted before the intake is halted by war in Europe. Settlement and post-settlement services are provided by the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, which was founded with government support in 1937.	P. Bartrop (ed.), <i>False Havens: the British Empire and the Holocaust</i> , University Press of America Inc., New York, 1995, pp. 64–65, pp. 130–145.
1939	World War Two causes cessation of significant immigration but during the Pacific War, Australia admits 6269 non-Europeans, mainly crew of Asian ships stranded in Australian ports and Chinese evacuees from Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. The majority are voluntarily repatriated after the war but those who wish to stay are compelled to leave under special legislation.	K. Blackburn, 'Disguised Anti-Colonialism', <i>Australian Journal of International Affairs</i> , vol. 55, no. 1, 2001, p. 103.
1943	Australia supports the establishment of the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Agency and makes financial contributions to it, thus making a commitment to international responsibility to refugee work.	National Population Council, <i>Refugee Review</i> , AGPS, Canberra, 1991, p. 63.
1945	Australia's first Department of Immigration is established on 13 July, with Hon. Arthur Calwell as Minister in the Chifley Labor Government. An unprecedentedly ambitious mass immigration program is undertaken, fuelled by a post-war economic boom and the need for labour. The Government is committed to increasing Australia's population by two per cent per annum, with one per cent attained through immigration.	

	Details	Source Documents
1946	In December, Australia abstains in the United Nations General Assembly vote to establish the International Refugee Organisation. Prime Minister Chifley is not opposed to the IRO in principle but doesn't want Australia to incur any moral responsibility for financial support.	ibid., p. 66.
1947	Australia's population, exclusive of so-called 'full-blood Aboriginals' who were not counted, is 7 579 358 at the time of the 1947 Census. A total of 744 187 is born overseas (10 per cent of the population). People from England are the largest group (381 592), followed by Scots (102 998), Irish (44 813) and New Zealanders (43 610). There are 33 632 Italians and 14 567 Germans. The largest humanitarian group is the Jews, who mainly arrived from Germany and Austria in the 1930s. Official figures were not kept on refugee numbers but it is possible that Australia had admitted about 20 000 refugees since 1901. In 1947, the first liberalisation of the White Australia Policy occurs when the Chifley Government allows non-Europeans who had been admitted for business reasons, and who had lived in Australia continuously for fifteen years, to remain without applying for periodic extensions of permit.	<i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1951</i> , Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra, 1951 p. 550.
1947	In July, Australia enters into an agreement with the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) to select and admit displaced persons from camps in Europe. By 1952, Australia has selected and admitted 170 700 Displaced Persons under this scheme. The main groups are Poles (63 394), Yugoslavs (23 543), Latvians (19 421), Ukrainians (14 464), Hungarians (11 919), Lithuanians (9906), Czechs (9142) and Estonians (5329). They are required to work for a period of two years as directed by the Australian Government. For the first time, the Australian Government is responsible for post-disembarkation settlement services, such as accommodation and basic English classes.	<i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia</i> , Canberra, 1953, p. 567. E. Kunz, <i>Displaced Persons: Calwell's New Australians</i> , ANU Press, 1988, p. 43.
1949	The Chifley Government passes the <i>War-time Refugees Removal Act</i> in July, with a view to forcibly repatriating approximately 900 non-Europeans who had been admitted temporarily during the war. They had declined to be repatriated, wishing to settle in Australia.	A. C. Palfreeman, op. cit., p. 102.
1949	The election of Menzies' Liberal Government in December results in Hon. Harold Holt's appointment as Immigration Minister.	

	Details	Source Documents
1949	Australia supports the establishment of the United Nations' Relief and Works' Agency, created to help the 1.5 million Palestinians who became refugees during and after the establishment of Israel.	National Population Council, op. cit., p. 63.
1950	In February, the new Liberal Government cancels some of the deportation orders imposed against Asian war-time evacuees by the previous government and permits about 600 remaining wartime refugees to stay in Australia. They are permitted to live and work as 'permanent residents' but not allowed to bring in families or business assistants.	Palfreeman, op. cit., pp. 22–23. Hon. Harold Holt, House of Representatives, <i>Debates</i> , 24 February 1950, p. 96.
1950	The United Nations (UN) establishes the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with the primary duty of providing international protection for refugees.	
1951	In 1950–1951, the Department of Immigration costs the Commonwealth Government £20 137 281, a three-fold increase since 1948–1949. Approximately £6 000 000 is capital works and services' expenditure on migrant centres and hostels, with another £6 600 000 spent on 'miscellaneous services', mainly maintenance of and equipment for migrant centres and hostels.	Commonwealth of Australia: <i>The Budget 1952–1953</i> , Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra, 1952, pp. 10, 45, 59, 71.
1952	The Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) is established, in part in response to UN unwillingness to involve its High Commissioner for Refugees in costly resettlement operations. Australia joins ICEM in 1953 but, in 1973, withdraws its support. (According to Price, this was because the Whitlam Government regarded ICEM as too influenced by United States' policy). During its twenty year association with ICEM, Australia admits 628 000 people, of whom 199 000 are refugees. Australia rejoins ICEM in 1985.	ibid., p. 63. Price, op. cit., p. 7. <i>Year Book Australia, 1977–78</i> , ABS, Canberra, 1979, p. 125.
1954	Australia's population, exclusive of so-called 'full-blood Aboriginals' who were not counted, is 8 986 530 at the time of the 1954 Census. A total of 1 286 466 is born overseas (14 per cent of the population). People from England are the largest group (478 411), followed by Scots (123 634), Italians (119 897) and Germans (65 422). The emphasis in immigration remains on the recruitment of industrial labour and on the White Australia Policy; though the latter continues to be liberalised. Cultural diversification, necessitated by lack of success in obtaining the desired numbers of United Kingdom migrants, continues during the 1950s as a result of the intake of European 'Displaced Persons' of various ethnic backgrounds, and as a result of assisted passage agreements with governments such as Malta (1948), the Netherlands and Italy (1951), West Germany	<i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1957</i> , Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra, 1957, p. 566.

	Details	Source Documents
	(1952) and Finland, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark (1954). The largest humanitarian group—the Poland-born, who are mainly admitted as Displaced Persons—totals 56 594. More than 170 000 refugees have been admitted since 1945, mainly under the International Refugee Organisation's Displaced Persons' scheme.	
1954	<p>Australia ratifies the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which defines a refugee as any person who: 'owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'.</p> <p>A Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted by the UN in 1967, seeks to update the scope of the convention by removing a stipulation in the 1951 definition to the effect that a refugee only qualifies 'as a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951'. Australia does not endorse the Protocol until 1973, under the Whitlam Government.</p>	National Population Council, op. cit., p. 64.
1956	<p>In October, an anti-Communist uprising in Hungary is brutally suppressed. Australia admits 9562 Hungarians over the next eight months. This is the largest single humanitarian intake since 1949–1950 when 89 199 Displaced Persons were admitted. By 1961–1962, when the Hungarian program ceases, 14 060 had been admitted, mostly in 1957 and 1958. They are selected from countries of first asylum, mainly Austria. As more than 16 000 ethnic Hungarians had been admitted under the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) agreement (1947–1952), the Hungarian population in Australia now reaches 30 000.</p>	<i>Australian Immigration: Consolidated Statistics</i> , Department of Immigration, Canberra, no. 1, 1966, p. 64 and no. 4, 1970, p. 23.
1956	<p>In October, Hon. Athol Townley MP succeeds Holt as Immigration Minister in the Menzies' Government.</p>	
1956	<p>The Menzies' Government liberalises the White Australia Policy by granting permanent resident status to non-Europeans who had arrived as refugees during the war or had resided here for at least 15 years. The reformed policy also allows non-European spouses of Australian citizens to be naturalised and relaxes the conditions of entry for persons of 'mixed descent'. The following year, non-Europeans other than spouses are permitted to apply for citizenship after 15 years residence. Further liberalisation takes place in 1959 and 1960, under Menzies, and in 1966 under Prime Minister Holt.</p>	K. Rivett (ed.), <i>Australia and the Non-White Migrant</i> , Melbourne University Press, 1975, pp. 25–30.

	Details	Source Documents
1957	The formation of the European Economic Community provides freedom of movement between member states and guest-worker programs that have the effect of reducing European migrant and refugee interest in Australia. Over the next ten years, Australia's refugee intake averages less than 2500 per annum.	
1958	In March, Hon. Alexander Downer MP succeeds Townley as Immigration Minister in Menzies' Government.	
1958	The Immigration Act is overhauled. The new <i>Migration Act 1958</i> abolishes the dictation test and replaces it with an entry permit system.	ibid., pp. 26–27.
1961	In 1960–1961, the Department of Immigration costs the Commonwealth Government £12 161 849. Approximately £2 250 000 (18.5 per cent) is spent on settlement services (though this term is not used in 1960–1961). Most of the settlement service expenditure goes to the maintenance of migrants in centres and hostels, medical and hospital costs and the 'education of non-British migrants in the English language'. The latter cost £424 892.	Commonwealth of Australia: The Budget 1961–1962, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra, 1962, pp. 8, 32, 59.
1961	Australia's population is 10 508 186 at the time of the 1961 Census. About half the increase since 1947 (when the population was 7 579 358) is due to immigration. A total of 1 778 780 is born overseas (17 per cent of the population). People from the United Kingdom (and the Republic of Ireland) are the largest group (755 402), followed by Italians (228 296) and Germans (109 315). The largest humanitarian group—the Poland-born, who mainly arrived as Displaced Persons after the War—totals 60 049. A total of 261 399 refugees have been admitted since 1945, of whom 200 550 travelled on assisted passages. The White Australia Policy is further liberalised during the 1960s, and governments persist with an economically-driven immigration policy based on industrial labour requirements.	<p><i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1968</i>, Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra, 1968, p. 140.</p> <p><i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1962</i>, Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra, 1962, pp. 305–306.</p>
1963	In December, Hon. Hubert Opperman MP succeeds Downer as Immigration Minister in the Menzies' Government.	
1966	Review of migration policy further liberalises the White Australia Policy. The fifteen year residence requirement for citizenship is reduced to five years.	J. Jupp, <i>Immigration</i> , Oxford University Press, second edition, Melbourne, 1998, pp. 118–119.
1966	In December, Hon. William Snedden MP replaces Opperman as Immigration Minister in the Holt Liberal Government.	

	Details	Source Documents
1968	About 6000 Czech and Slovak refugees arrive in Australia following the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in August. More than 10 000 had arrived in the immediate post-war years (1947–1952). The 1968 refugees brought the total in Australia to more than 16 000.	M. Cigler, <i>The Czechs in Australia</i> , AE Press, Melbourne, 1983, pp. 111–112.
1969	In November, Hon. Phillip Lynch MP succeeds Snedden as Immigration Minister in the Gorton Liberal Government.	
1971	In 1970–1971, the Department of Immigration costs the Commonwealth Government \$70 325 094. Approximately \$10 200 000 (14.5 per cent) is spent on settlement services (though this term is not used in 1970–1971). Most of the settlement service expenditure goes to the maintenance of migrants in centres and hostels, and 'Migrant Education Services'. The latter cost \$3 875 000.	Commonwealth of Australia, <i>Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1971–1972</i> , House of Representatives, 17 August 1971, pp. 50–53.
1971	Australia's population is 12 755 638 at the time of the 1971 Census. A total of 2 579 318 is born overseas (20 per cent of the population). People from the United Kingdom (and Republic of Ireland) are the largest group (1 088 210), followed by Italians (289 476) and Greeks (160 200). The largest humanitarian group—the Poland-born, who mainly arrived as Displaced Persons after the War—totals 59 700. The number of refugees admitted under assisted passages since the War exceeds 250 000. During the early 1970s, the White Australia Policy is abolished and the immigration intake is greatly reduced due to economic recession and high levels of unemployment. Emphasis is placed on family reunion and, from 1975, on the resettlement of refugees. In the latter half of the 1970s, the net proportion of migrants from the United Kingdom falls significantly and the Fraser Government begins a process of institutionalising the multicultural reality of Australian society.	<i>Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1973</i> , Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra, 1973, pp. 140 and 156
1971	In November, Hon. Dr. Alexander (Jim) Forbes MP succeeds Lynch as Minister in the McMahon Liberal Government.	
1972	Idi Amin's regime expels 80 000 Asians from Uganda. In October, the Australian Government grants entry to 198. In Parliament, Arthur Calwell, who had been Australia's first Minister for Immigration (1945–1949) in the Chifley Government, expresses concern about their admission but Dr Forbes, the Immigration Minister, states that the McMahon Government, recognising the humanitarian problem, will admit only a small number 'who are qualified in professions to practise in Australia and who can be absorbed	For Calwell's position, see: House of Representatives, <i>Debates</i> , 17 October 1972, p. 2741. For Forbes, see: House of Representatives, <i>Debates</i> , 22 August 1972, p. 468.

	Details	Source Documents
	readily in those professions'.	
1972	The election of the Whitlam Labor Government in December sees the Hon. Al Grassby MP appointed as Minister for Immigration.	
1973	In January, the new Whitlam Government announces that future immigration policy would not distinguish between immigrants on the basis of race, colour or nationality. The White Australia Policy is finally abolished. The implications of this new policy for refugees are not tested until 1975, with refugee crises in East Timor and Vietnam.	Jupp, op. cit, p. 119.
1973	In September, a military coup in Chile overthrows the socialist government of Salvadore Allende, and Australia takes in Chilean refugees. The Chilean program has bipartisan support and marks a break from previous refugee programs that tended to support refugees who were fleeing Communist governments. Between 1974 and 1981, about 6000 Chileans are taken in and, thereafter until the ending of military rule in 1990, hundreds continue to be admitted each year as part of either the Special Humanitarian Program (introduced in 1981) or family reunion program. The Chilean population in Australia increases from 3760 at the 1971 census to 24 042 in 1991.	'Chileans' in J. Jupp (ed.), <i>The Australian people: an encyclopedia of the nation, its people and their origins</i> , Cambridge University Press, 2001, pp. 195–197.
1974	Displaced persons from Cyprus are admitted after the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus. The Cypriot population in Australia increases from 13 267 at the 1971 census to 21 629 in 1976.	'Greek Cypriots', <i>ibid.</i> , pp. 419–420.
1974	The Department of Immigration is disbanded and a Department of Labour and Immigration established by the Whitlam Government. Hon. Clyde Cameron MP succeeds Grassby as Minister in June.	
1975	Australia has received approximately 300 000 refugees and displaced persons since 1947, with the great majority assisted by government with passage and settlement services.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '76</i> , Canberra, 1976, p. 8.
1975	The defeat of United States-backed regimes in Vietnam is accompanied by massive displacement of Vietnamese people from their homes. Refugees flee to Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong and the Philippines.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Chronology—Australia and Indo-Chinese refugees, 1975–80</i> , Canberra, 1981, p. 1.
1975	In April and May, the Royal Australian Air Force evacuates	<i>ibid.</i>

	Details	Source Documents
	2000 Vietnamese refugees and the Whitlam Government announces categories of Vietnamese citizens who are eligible for temporary entry into Australia: spouses and children of Vietnamese students already in Australia; spouses and under 21-year-old children of Australian citizens subject to completion of Australian citizenship formalities, and Vietnamese with a long and close association with the Australian presence in Vietnam whose life is considered to be in danger. The latter are selected on a case by case basis. Australia informs the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of its willingness to accept refugees. Resident status is granted to students in Australia under the Colombo Plan and privately from both Vietnam and Cambodia who apply for it. In June 1976, admission policy is extended to Lao students. Visitors and other temporary entrants from South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are granted resident status subject to health and character checks. By the end of 1975, Australia has selected about 400 Vietnamese refugees from camps in Guam, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '76</i> , Canberra, 1976, p. 15.
1975	In June, Hon. James McClelland MP replaces Cameron as Immigration and Labour Minister in the Whitlam Government.	
1975	Violent civil war in East Timor in August 1975 produces a wave of about 2500 evacuees to Darwin. About 700 agree to go to Portugal but the remaining group, which includes families without breadwinners, the elderly and unaccompanied children, are accommodated in Commonwealth Government hostels in Sydney and Melbourne. The December invasion of East Timor by Indonesian military forces leads to widespread resistance and guerilla warfare that lasts until independence is achieved in 2002. Throughout the 25-year struggle, a continuous flow of Timor-born people seek refuge in Australia. At the 1996 census there are an estimated 9200 Timorese-born people in Australia.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '76</i> , Canberra, 1976, p. 9. 'Timorese', in Jupp, <i>op. cit.</i> , p. 706.
1975	In November, following the appointment of a Coalition 'caretaker' government by the Governor-General, the Hon. Anthony Street MP becomes Minister for Labour and Immigration.	
1975	In December, following the general election, the Fraser Liberal Government establishes a new Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, with Hon. Michael Mackellar MP as Minister.	
1976	On 26 January, the Fraser Government offers an amnesty to prohibited immigrants who have over-stayed their visas. The period in which applications may be made for amnesty expires	<i>Review '76</i> , <i>op. cit.</i> , p. 17 and 19.

Details	Source Documents	
<p>on 30 April. There are four categories of prohibited immigrant: 'people who are required to have entry permits and who enter without them, people whose temporary entry permits expire or are cancelled while they are still in Australia, people exempted from the entry permit requirement who cease to be exempted while in Australia, and people convicted of criminal offences overseas or who have been deported from any country or who suffer from certain disabilities, whose entry permits do not bear special endorsements'. The amnesty applies to 'over-stayers'.</p>		
1976	<p>An Australian team is sent to Thailand in March to process Indo-Chinese refugees there. A total of 568 refugees are accepted and admitted.</p>	ibid., p. 8.
1976	<p>On 27 April, a small unauthorised boat carrying five refugees from Vietnam reaches Darwin. It is the first of 56 such boats to arrive over the next six years. The term 'boat people' becomes current. A total of 1037 refugees are admitted from Indo-China in the 1975–1976 year.</p>	<i>Chronology - Australia and Indo-Chinese refugees, 1975–80</i> , op. cit., p. 3.
1976	<p>In May, Minister Mackellar invites the Timorese who were admitted at the end of 1975 to apply for resident status. More than a thousand take up the offer.</p>	<i>Review 76</i> , op. cit., p. 15.
1976	<p>Civil war in Lebanon results in the deaths of 50 000 people and displacement of about 600 000 Lebanese and 150 000 Palestinians from Lebanon. The Australian Embassy in Beirut is evacuated in March. Visas are granted to any relatives of Australian residents who have suffered extreme hardship as a result of the war, provided they meet health and character requirements. In the first half of 1976, more than 800 Lebanese are admitted. The flow continues with the worsening war and by 1981 the Lebanon-born community has increased by more than 16 000.</p>	ibid., p. 9. A. and T. Batrouney, <i>The Lebanese in Australia</i> , AE Press, Melbourne, 1985, pp. 83–86.
1976	<p>The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence issues its report, <i>Australia and the Refugee Problem</i>, based on its examination in 1975 of the plight and circumstances of Vietnamese refugees and the Australian response to them. The report points to the 'complete lack of policy for the acceptance of people into Australia as refugees rather than as normal migrants' and recommends as a matter of urgency 'an approved and comprehensive set of policy guidelines and the establishment of appropriate machinery' to be applied to refugee situations.</p>	Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, <i>Australia and the Refugee Problem: the plight and circumstances of Vietnamese and other refugees</i> , AGPS, Canberra, 1976, p. 77, p. 89.
1976	<p>A new detention centre providing 'specially designed security accommodation for up to 48 people awaiting deportation' is</p>	Department of Immigration and

	Details	Source Documents
	opened at Villawood, Sydney, on 15 November. It is called the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre. Existing detention facilities in Melbourne and Brisbane were built prior to 1945. Prior to 1976, prohibited immigrants in Sydney were detained at North Head quarantine station and Long Bay Gaol.	Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '77</i> , Canberra, 1977, p. 22.
1976	Australia admits a total of 4431 refugees in 1975–1976, of whom 1037 are Indo-Chinese. Total immigration intake for the year is 52 748—the lowest since World War Two.	<i>Review '76</i> , op. cit., pp. 5, 8.
1977	With a commitment to admitting greater numbers of refugees, Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, the Hon. Michael Mackellar, visits Thailand in February to assess the Indo-Chinese refugee problem, and visits Cyprus to confer with government officials and the Australian task force assisting Lebanese refugees.	<i>Review '77</i> , op. cit., p. 7.
1977	In February, the first Migrant Resource Centre is established in Melbourne. It is operated by the Australian Greek Welfare Society, with Government funding.	ibid., p. 1.
1977	In March, Minister Mackellar announces an agreement with Indonesia on arrangements to reunite East Timorese in Australia with close relatives from Timor. Australia also allows for the return to Australia of Timorese who went voluntarily to Portugal from Darwin in 1975–1976. Normal migration requirements apply, with emphasis on family reunion.	ibid., p. 8.
1977	In a landmark statement on 24 May, Minister Mackellar announces in Parliament a strategy and a series of initiatives for the development and implementation of a comprehensive refugee policy. It is the first occasion on which a coherent and specific refugee policy has been enunciated in the Parliament. Prior to this time, refugees were admitted as migrants. The statement draws on key recommendations of the 1976 <i>Australia and the Refugee Problem</i> report and includes a commitment to the formulation of procedures for designating refugee situations and appropriate responses to them; the establishment of an inter-departmental committee to advise the Minister, in consultation with voluntary agencies, on Australia's capacity to accept refugees; an examination of ways in which voluntary agencies may be encouraged to participate in refugee resettlement; and the strengthening of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs' Refugee Unit. A significant aspect of the new policy relates to the humanitarian acceptance of people 'in refugee-type situations who do not fall strictly within the UNHCR mandate or within Convention definitions'. Australian staff are	Hon. Michael Mackellar MP, Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, 'Statement', House of Representatives, <i>Debates</i> , 24 May 1977, pp. 1713–16. <i>Review '77</i> , op. cit., pp. 14–15.

	Details	Source Documents
	temporarily stationed in Thailand to organise a 'regular intake' of Indo-Chinese refugees.	
1978	The UNHCR estimates the global refugee population at 3.1 million. This figure does not include other humanitarian categories of concern to the UNHCR or Palestinians assisted by the UN Relief and Works Agency.	UNHCR, <i>The State of the world's refugees, 1997-1998</i> , Oxford University Press, 1997, p. 54.
1978	In March, the Determination of Refugee Status Committee (DORS) is established on an inter-departmental basis, to handle applications from people in, or arriving in, Australia seeking refugee status as defined by the UN Convention. DORS consists of representatives of the Departments of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Attorney-General. All 'boat people' have to apply to DORS.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '78</i> , Canberra, 1978, p. 28.
1978	In addition to DORS, the Fraser Government establishes a Standing Inter-departmental Committee on Refugees to advise the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs on a range of refugee issues and to regularly review the refugee intake. The Committee comprises senior officers of Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, the Departments of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Employment and Industrial Relations, Social Security, and Health and Education. The Committee maintains contact with voluntary agencies. A separate Refugee and Special Programs Branch is created within the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.	ibid.
1978	On 17 May, Minister Mackellar announces initiatives relating to the plight of Indo-Chinese refugees. These include moves to internationalise the approach to the situation by concerted action with the United States and other receiving nations to persuade more nations to accept refugees for resettlement; a decision to accept 9000 Indo-Chinese refugees in 1978–1979; approaches to regional governments seeking their cooperation in holding Vietnamese vessels in transit to enable processing of 'boat people' in those countries; and an approach to the UNHCR seeking greater involvement among receiving countries and regional governments.	ibid.
1978	In June, Dr. Moss Cass MP, the Opposition Spokesman on Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, writes in <i>The Australian</i> newspaper's regular column, 'The A.L.P. View', that 'Between April 1976 and January this year, 1037 Boat People arrived in Australia: none were sent back. The implications of a government policy which accepts queue-jumping on this scale are obvious'. The concept of 'queue-jumping' is evoked from	Moss Cass, 'Stop this unjust queue jumping', <i>The Australian</i> , 29 June 1978.

	Details	Source Documents
	time to time by spokespersons for both the major parties. In March 1982, it is used in the House of Representatives by Ian Macphree, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in the Fraser Government. (See '1982' entry.)	
1978	The Galbally Report—the <i>Review of Post-Arrival Programs and Services to Migrants</i> —is tabled in Parliament in May. The Fraser Government announces expenditure of \$49.7 million on migrant services (English language teaching, initial settlement services, ethnic media, establishment of an Institute of Multicultural Affairs, and others) over three years to implement Galbally's recommendations. Acting on the report, the Government establishes Migrant Resource Centres, reshapes the Adult Migrant Education Program, provides grants for migrant welfare workers, establishes the Institute for Multicultural Affairs and expands the Telephone Interpreter Service.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '78</i> , Canberra, 1978, p. 7.
1978	As part of a review of immigration, Minister Mackellar announces new policies in June, essentially extending family reunion, reaffirming a commitment to humanitarian and compassionate responsibilities and introducing a numerical 'points' system to ensure that future immigrants have the skills and qualities best suited to Australia's national needs. The new program is based on three-year rolling programs, with an assumed net intake of 70 000 per annum. Refugees are to be admitted under criteria separately established for each refugee program within the guidelines announced in May 1977.	<i>ibid.</i> , pp. 1, 13, 18.
1978	In June, the Department's annual report states that 'Efforts to exercise greater control over the prohibited immigrant problem by increased search activity are inhibited by the lack of adequate detention facilities'. Only Sydney has a modern detention facility, the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre. The great majority of prohibited immigrants are people who overstay their visas.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 35.
1977–78	Australia admits 75 732 migrants, of whom 7117 are Indo-Chinese refugees (5458 Vietnamese, 1331 Laotians and 328 Cambodians), mainly from camps in Thailand and Malaysia. However, 1977–1978 also sees the arrival of the largest ever numbers of unauthorised 'boat people': 1430, who travel in 37 small boats. They are mainly from Vietnam.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 2.
1977–78	Under the special programs for people who are not refugees but who gain entry on a humanitarian basis, Australia receives Soviet Jews and White Russians from China, in addition to Timorese from Portugal and Lebanese. Refugees arrive in	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 28.

	Details	Source Documents
	Australia in 1977–1978 from more than 40 countries. A total of 9597 refugees are admitted.	
1978	In keeping with the commitment to seek an international solution to the Indo-Chinese refugee crisis, Minister Mackellar undertakes two significant overseas missions in the second half of the year. In July, he meets with representatives of South East Asian governments to explore ways of maintaining an orderly processing of Indo-Chinese refugees and of securing greater international cooperation in resettling them and, in December, he attends UNHCR consultations in Geneva to discuss Indo-Chinese refugees. The participating countries offer to double the number of resettlement places and pledge increased financial assistance to the UNHCR.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '79</i> , Canberra, 1979, p. 13.
1979	In January, Minister Mackellar announces policy in regard to the 'export' of ethnic Chinese and Vietnamese by officials in Vietnam who take bribes and transport them on vessels flying flags of convenience. Australia will not deal with the owners or masters of such vessels and any passengers will be denied entry. In June, exodus from Vietnam reaches a peak with the continuing expulsion of ethnic Chinese.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 6.
1979	In keeping with the strategy of an international solution, Minister Mackellar visits Manila, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia in May. In light of the Indonesian Government's decision to establish an island processing centre, the Australian Government offers the UNHCR \$250 000 toward the centre's establishment.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 13.
1979	In March the Committee for the Allocation of Loan Funds to Refugees from Indo-China (CALFRIC) is incorporated in New South Wales to administer refugee resettlement loans. CALFRIC plays an important role in helping refugees move from Migrant Centres into their own homes and, by 1982, has assisted 18 000 with small interest-free loans funded by DIEA.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '82</i> , Canberra, 1982, p. 36.
1979	Commonwealth funding for the Adult Migrant and Refugee Education Program reaches \$18 million, three times the sum of four years earlier. The program began in 1951 but was limited to part-time, mainly evening, courses and correspondence courses until 1969, when it was expanded. Between 1969 and 1972, full-time courses were introduced, along with the Home Tutor Scheme, migrant education television and courses-in-industry.	<i>Review '79</i> , op. cit., p. 27.
1979	Fewer unauthorised boats arrive in 1978–1979: six boats carrying 351 people. Since 1975, Australia has admitted 22 819 Indo-Chinese refugees—18 962 Vietnamese, 2985 Laotians and	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 13.

	Details	Source Documents
	872 Cambodians. Since the first unauthorised boat arrival in April 1976, 50 other boats have reached northern Australia, carrying 2011 people.	
1979	At mid-July, there are 373 000 refugees in camps in South East Asia.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '80</i> , Canberra, p. 46.
1979	On 20–21 July, an international conference on refugees, attended by 66 countries, is held in Geneva, under UN auspices. Australia announces it will increase its resettlement program to 14 000 in 1979–1980. Other countries offer to increase their intake, bringing an increase of pledged resettlement places from 125 000 to 260 000 world wide. Also, from this conference, the Government of Vietnam pledges to stop the outflow of 'boat people'. The conference results in a decrease in the number of boats leaving Vietnam.	ibid.
1979	While the Indo-Chinese remain the main refugee group, Australia continues its special refugee programs for East Europeans who have gained asylum in Western Europe, taking in about 300 a year, with assistance from the Australian Council of Churches and the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee; Soviet Jews, under a program of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (in 1978–1979, about 400 families totalling about 1200 people); Chileans who have fled to Argentina, and Iraqi Assyrians who sought refuge in Greece; and East Timorese under a family reunion arrangement with Indonesia.	<i>Review '79</i> , op. cit., pp. 13–15.
1979	The Australian Refugee Advisory Council is established in October to advise the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs on aspects of the movement to and settlement in Australia of refugees from all sources.	<i>Review '80</i> , op. cit., p. 5.
1979	In December, the first application is approved under the Community Refugee Settlement Scheme (CRSS). Under this sponsorship scheme CRSS refugees are moved directly into the community where they are cared for by groups which have undertaken to provide initial accommodation, help with finding employment and general social support. The first group, consisting of 20 Indo-Chinese families, is settled at Whyalla, South Australia, in February 1980. The scheme is extended to Tasmania, Queensland and New South Wales. The CRSS is an alternative to government-run Migrant Centres; an objective is to limit residential concentrations of particular groups. By 1982, there are 400 sponsor groups throughout Australia, mainly	ibid., p. 21. <i>Review '82</i> , op. cit., p. 34.

	Details	Source Documents
	churches and service clubs. That year, the Fraser Government introduces a system of grants to support CRSS sponsors. Nearly 5000 refugees had been sponsored by the CRSS up to June 1982.	
1979	In December, Hon. Ian Macphee MP succeeds Mackellar as Minister in the Fraser Government.	
1980	In February, the total number of Indo-Chinese refugees settled in third countries since April 1975 reaches 777 913, of which 251 000 are in the Peoples' Republic of China. Australia has taken in 32 402.	<i>Chronology - Australia and Indo-Chinese refugees, 1975–80</i> , op. cit., p. 11.
1980	A total of 19 954 refugees are admitted during 1979–1980—nearly a quarter of total settler arrivals.	<i>Review '80</i> , op. cit., p. 40.
1980	Despite the success of the Geneva Conference in helping to decrease the number of 'boat people' and the caseload of refugees in countries of first asylum awaiting resettlement, there are still 118 076 Laotians, 8443 Kampucheans and 7512 Vietnamese 'boat people' in Thailand. An additional 2520 Vietnamese entered Thailand overland.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 47.
1980	In 1979–1980, 2500 Eastern Europeans are admitted from countries of first asylum in Western Europe, mainly Austria. Other refugee groups in 1979–1980 are: Assyrians in Greece (250 cases admitted); Chileans (in late 1978, UNHCR invited Australia to be part of an international operation to resettle Chileans in Argentina who were under threat of deportation. In March 1979, Minister Mackellar agreed to accept up to fifty family units); Cubans (small group is admitted in June 1980, following Castro's decision to allow mass exodus early in 1980) and White Russians from China (about 12000 admitted as refugees since 1947 but numbers declined in 1970s). The passage and resettlement of the White Russians is handled by the Australian Council of Churches. Only about 200 are admitted in 1979–1980.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 48.
1980	Introduction of 'special humanitarian programs' for cases where people are in need ('individual members of minority groups around the world suffering human rights violations or serious discrimination') but are not refugees by the UNHCR definition. These were in 1979–1980: Soviet Jews in Europe, mainly sponsored by the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (1500 admitted in 1979–1980); China family reunion, as a result of liberalisation of Chinese government policy on exit permits (740 admitted in 1979–1980); East Timor family reunion (298 admitted from December 1978 to June 1980); and Vietnam	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 50. Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '81</i> , Canberra, 1981, p. 49.

	Details	Source Documents
	family reunion (320 sponsored relatives allowed to leave Vietnam for Australia by June 1980).	
1980	In June, Minister Macphee announces an amnesty: people in Australia without permanent resident status may apply for permanency under the Regularisation of Status Program, if they arrived before 1 January. They are given until 31 December to apply.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 56.
1980	In November, the Australian Refugee Advisory Council meets in Canberra to discuss the issue of recognition of professional or trade qualifications held by some refugees.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 3.
1980	A major earthquake in Italy in November leads to special provisions to allow family members of Australian residents to migrate to Australia. Sponsors are not required to have resided in Australia for the usual period of time. The special arrangements apply until 27 February—three months after the earthquake.	<i>ibid.</i> , pp. 4–5.
1980	In June, the 600th unaccompanied refugee child is admitted into Australia as part of the intake from South East Asia. Their status on admission is as wards of the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs but they are cared for by State and Territory child welfare authorities. They are paid an allowance the same as other wards of the state. Through the UNHCR, the Australian government seeks to trace the whereabouts of any relatives of the children, only granting them permanent residence in cases where no relatives can be located.	<i>Review '80</i> , op. cit., p. 21.
1981	Australia's population is 14 576 330 at the time of the 1981 Census. A total of 3 182 469 is born overseas (22 per cent of the population). People from the United Kingdom (and Republic of Ireland) are the largest group (1 132 601), followed by Italians (275 883), New Zealanders (176 713), Yugoslavs (149 335) and Greeks (146 625). The largest humanitarian group - the Poland-born, who mainly arrived as Displaced Persons after World War Two - totals 59 441. The intake of Indo-Chinese refugees since 1975 reaches 45 077. During the 1980s, an 'Orderly Departures' program is finalised with the Government of Vietnam and the refugee intake is diversified, with new emphasis on Central and Latin America. Australia places greater emphasis on skills in high demand occupations and business schemes in its immigration program. The program is about 80 000 for 1980-1981 but the target is raised to an intake of 145 000 by the end of the decade, 1989-1990. In 1990-1991, the planned intake is 126 000. More than 400 000 refugees and other humanitarian	<i>Year Book Australia, 1983</i> , Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, 1983, p. 127. <i>Year Book Australia, 1982</i> , Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, 1982, p. 115.

	Details	Source Documents
	cases have been admitted since 1945, with approximately 150 000 admitted during the 1980s.	
1981	The UNHCR estimates the global refugee population at 8.2 million. This figure does not include other humanitarian categories of concern to the UNHCR or Palestinians assisted by the UN Relief and Works Agency.	UNHCR, <i>The State of the world's refugees, 1997-1998</i> , Oxford University Press, 1997, p. 54.
1981	A Commonwealth grant-in-aid is made to the Indo-China Refugee Association to employ a qualified social worker for Sydney's Fairfield area.	<i>Review '80</i> , <i>ibid.</i> , p. 5.
1981	From 1945–1981, Australia has accepted more than 400 000 refugees and displaced persons from many countries. The Department reflects that 'They have proved themselves valuable and positive contributors to building Australia economically, socially and culturally while at the same time helping to develop and maintain what is still a discernible Australian identity'.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 47.
1981	Australia continues its negotiations with the Vietnamese authorities to establish an orderly departure program based on the principle of family reunion. At 30 June 1981, the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs holds 1900 offers of sponsorship on behalf of 3500 people.	<i>ibid.</i>
1981	Between April 1975 and 30 June 1981, Australia has resettled a total of 51 780 Indo-Chinese refugees, including 43 393 Vietnamese, 5050 Laotians and 3276 Kampucheans. Most were selected from camps of first asylum in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, with smaller numbers coming from Hong Kong, the Philippines and other countries. The number of 'boat people' in camps is declining, with 63 310 at 30 June 1981 compared with 85 500 in 1980 and 193 000 in 1979. However, while the Government of Vietnam has maintained its undertakings on organised boat departures from Vietnam, there is still an outflow of people escaping Vietnam by land and sea.	<i>ibid.</i>
1981	Other refugees in 1980–1981 are Eastern Europeans (in response to outflows from Eastern Europe and pressure on countries of first asylum). Australia resettles 4600 in 1980–1981 (compared to 2500 the previous year). Events in Poland add to the higher rates of people seeking resettlement and, for the first time, Eastern Europeans are assisted by the CRSS. Also, the resettlement program in Greece for Assyrians from Iraq is extended to include Armenians and Chaldeans (a total of 300 admitted in 1980–1981). Two hundred and twenty White Russians are admitted from China and a small group of Cubans (40) but this program is not attracting the planned intake as most	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 48.

	Details	Source Documents
	Cubans leaving Cuba want to settle in the United States.	
1981	In the latter half of 1981, the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) is established.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 49.
1981	Under the SHP, Australia continues to take in Soviet Jews. The Soviet Government started allowing them to leave in 1974 and Australia has been receiving groups since then. Five hundred and nineteen are admitted in 1980–1981 but the planned intake of 1500 is not met due to Soviet exit controls. Also under the SHP, Australia takes in 46 Timorese, as part of the family reunion scheme negotiated with the Indonesian government in 1978. The agreement is for the admission of 625 and, by 1980–1981, 346 have arrived. On 16 October, Minister Macphee announces the establishment of a special humanitarian program for Timorese who are living in disadvantaged conditions in Portugal, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and Jakarta, having left Timor prior to September 1980. This group has to be nominated by relatives in Australia who can provide accommodation and settlement support. In 1980–1981, 1192 are approved for entry.	<i>ibid.</i>
1981	In June, the Fraser Government establishes Individual Special Humanitarian Entry for individuals suffering serious discrimination or human rights abuses. They have to be fleeing oppression and seeking temporary asylum in a third country and have close relatives or close ties with Australia. This is known as the 'Global SHP'.	<i>ibid.</i>
1981	In 1980–1981, expenditure of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs is \$95 613 650, of which approximately \$34 293 000 (35.8 per cent) is spent on settlement services (though the term is not used in the Appropriation Bill). The main expenditure on settlement services is \$28 773 000 for the Adult Migrant Education Service, \$1 681 952 for Grants-in-aid to ethnic communities, \$1 464 000 for the Telephone Interpreter Service and \$1 197 000 for assistance to migrant resource and information centres. A total of \$338 000 is allocated to voluntary agencies and communities who assist refugees.	<i>Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1981-1982, Budget Paper No. 2, Canberra, 1982, pp. 83–85.</i>
1981	The 56th unauthorised boat reaches Australia in August 1981, bringing the number of 'boat people' arrivals since 27 April 1976 to 2100. Notwithstanding another unauthorised boat arrival in October, whose passengers are deported when it is shown that they are part of a people smuggling operation, this is the last of the Indo-Chinese 'boat people' until November 1989.	
1981	Australia initiates the concept of 'temporary refuge' at a meeting	<i>Review '82, op. cit.,</i>

	Details	Source Documents
	of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR (EXCOM). Temporary refuge is 'the practice whereby refugees are admitted temporarily into a country of first arrival, pending the provision of a durable solution'. EXCOM unanimously endorses the concept.	p. 59.
1981	Review of Commonwealth Functions terminates all assisted passages except for refugees and replaces the Refugee Advisory Council, the Australian Ethnic Affairs Council and the Population and Immigration Council with a single body, the Australian Council on Population and Ethnic Affairs.	<i>Review '81</i> , op. cit., p. 6.
1981	In October, 146 asylum seekers from Vietnam arrive at Darwin in an unauthorised boat. Australian Federal Police and Hong Kong police investigations confirm that the passengers paid large sums of money as part of an organised attempt at illegal entry into Australia. One hundred and twenty seven are deported (mainly to Taiwan) in December and the remaining 19 moved temporarily to Villawood Detention Centre awaiting deportation.	<i>Review '82</i> , op. cit., pp. 4, 7, 64.
1981	Grant paid to Association of Lao Refugees in New South Wales to employ a social worker in Fairfield, Sydney.	<i>Review '81</i> , op. cit., p. 6.
1981	Australia is the fourth largest contributor to the UNHCR. Since 1978, it has contributed more than \$96 million in aid to refugees and refugee situations.	<i>Review '82</i> , op. cit., p. 59.
1981–82	The Fraser Government reviews Australia's refugee programs, following overseas trips by Minister Macphee in June and July 1981. The review results in the introduction in 1982 of 'individual determinations' of the refugee status of people seeking resettlement in Australia, to ensure that 'only genuine refugees, not economic migrants, are admitted under Australia's refugee programs'. The new policy is part of Australia's evolving response to Indo-Chinese in camps in the region, an attempt to set criteria and limit and control the intake at a time of mixed economic/refugee outflows. The review also results in the termination of the White Russian program and an extension of the Latin American program. At 30 June 1982, about 12 500 White Russians from China have been resettled in Australia. The refugee program for Iraqi Assyrians in Greece is ended and that group incorporated into the new SHP for persons of Middle Eastern minority groups. 'Group specific' SHPs also apply to Soviet Jews (about 4300 resettled in Australia since Soviet authorities began allowing them to leave in 1974) and East Timorese.	<i>ibid.</i> , pp. 6, 56.

	Details	Source Documents
1981	Following imposition of martial law in Poland on 13 December, the Australian Government decides to increase by one thousand the number of Polish refugees admitted from outside Poland.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 7.
1982	Report on <i>Indo-Chinese refugee resettlement - Australia's involvement</i> by the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence is published. The Report says that 'Australia's immigration policy is an integral part of its relations with many countries and the refugee policy is increasing in prominence within that policy'.	Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, <i>op. cit.</i> , p. 15.
1982	Refugee and special humanitarian intake for 1981–1982 is 21 917—the highest since 1950–1951—and unmatched since. In addition to the South East Asian program, which has resettled some 73 600 people since April 1975, the 1981–1982 intake includes Lebanese and special entry arrangements for Poles and other Eastern Europeans, Soviet Jews, and Central Americans. Poland, which is experiencing the Solidarity movement and martial law, is the main source of Australia's 5923 Eastern European refugees. The total number of Indo-Chinese refugees admitted since April 1975 (to 30 June 1982) reaches 65 585, mainly Vietnamese (54 397) followed by Laotians (5677) and Kampucheans (5449).	<i>Review '82</i> , <i>op. cit.</i> , pp. 56–57.
1982	In March, agreement is reached between the Fraser Government and the Government of Vietnam on migration to Australia and, in June, a Migration Officer is posted to Hanoi. Names of 6000 Vietnamese offered sponsorship by relatives in Australia are given to the Vietnam Government. In November, the first group of immigrants from Vietnam is accepted under the Orderly Departure Program. Six hundred and twenty-four are admitted during 1982–1983.	<i>ibid.</i> Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '83</i> , Canberra, 1983, p. 26.
1982	In a statement to the House of Representatives on 16 March 1982, Minister Macphee announces the Fraser Government's intention to tighten refugee policy by applying the UN Convention criteria on an individual basis rather than on the basis of the UNHCR's group mandate. The aim, he says, is 'to ensure that our limited program places are reserved for the genuine refugees'. During the speech, the term 'queue-jumping' is used, possibly for the first time by a Government Minister.	Hon. Ian Macphee MP, 'Refugee policy and procedures', Statement to House of Representatives, 16 March 1982, in <i>Immigration policies in action</i> , AGPS, Canberra, 1982, pp. 39–41.
1982	In March, the survey of Indo-Chinese refugees' settlement experiences, which commenced in 1978, is published under the title <i>Please listen to what I'm not saying</i> . It finds that settlement difficulties for Indo-Chinese refugees stem from lack of cultural sensitivity on the part of the host society, an absence of support	<i>Review '82</i> , <i>op. cit.</i> , p. 9.

	Details	Source Documents
	systems and the lack of an established ethnic community.	
1982	In April and May, Australia airlifts 1360 Eastern Europeans from Austria to Australia by Qantas.	ibid., p. 10.
1982	In May, Hon. John Hodges MP succeeds Macphee as Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.	
1982	Government accepts key recommendations of the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs evaluation of the objectives and implementation of the <i>Report of the Review of Post-Arrival Programs and Services for Migrants</i> (the 1978 Galbally report).	<i>Review '83</i> , op. cit., p. 101.
1982	<i>Guidelines for the Determination and Processing of Refugees</i> are introduced in July 1982. They interpret the UN Convention definition of refugees in light of Australia's own priorities and criteria for refugee selection. The criteria include: (i) the size and nature of the particular refugee problem; (ii) the urgency of resettlement; (iii) the validity of the claim for refugee status or consideration within the Special Humanitarian Program; (iv) the views and policies of the UNHCR, countries of first refuge and other resettlement countries; (v) the existence of ethnic communities in Australia likely to facilitate sponsorship and other post-arrival support; and (vi) Australia's regional and other national interests.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '86</i> , Canberra, 1986, p. 64.
1982	In July, 40 people believed to be from Afghanistan are refused entry after arriving at Sydney airport from India without visas.	<i>Review '83</i> , op. cit., p. 101.
1982	The number of refugees resettled under the Rescue at Sea Pool (RSP) reaches 330. Under the RSP, which is a UNHCR scheme, a number of countries guarantee a reserve of resettlement places to refugees found at sea by ships from countries flying flags of convenience.	<i>Review '82</i> , op. cit., p. 57.
1983	From January, refugees are to be allowed to remain in migrant centre accommodation for 26 weeks to complete English and orientation classes and to seek accommodation and employment. This is a lengthening of the period.	<i>Review '83</i> , op. cit., p. 103.
1983	The Hawke Government is elected in March 1983. Hon. Stewart West MP is the new Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. The new Government endorses existing refugee policy but diversifies the intake, to 'reflect the global dimensions of refugee problems'. The result is greater focus on Central and South America and the Middle East. Labor also emphasises the importance of placing greater weight on 'political solutions to	ibid., pp. 1, 27, 31.

	Details	Source Documents
	refugee situations' and, in keeping with the UNHCR view, recognises that resettlement is a last resort. Preferred options, or 'durable solutions', are: voluntary repatriation to the refugees' homeland under suitable and safe conditions and local integration in the country of first asylum. Labor endorses the practice of 'temporary refuge' and reaffirms the system of individual determination of refugee status, introduced by the Government in July 1982.	
1983	In April, Minister West inspects Villawood Immigration Detention Centre and promises improvements to conditions and the appointment of a manager and a social worker.	ibid., p. 103.
1983	In May, a new Immigration Detention Centre is opened at Maribyrnong, Melbourne.	ibid., p. 104.
1983	Under Labor, the CRSS and CALFRIC continue and a Clothing Reimbursement Scheme is introduced, through which the government reimburses voluntary agencies for supplying clothing to refugees.	ibid., p. 68.
1983	In 1982–1983, a total of 17 054 persons arrive under refugee and SHP programs. Australia resettles 12 435 refugees from Indo-China, of whom 8177 are Vietnamese, 3997 Kampucheans and 261 Laotians. Australia also admits 3668 people from Eastern Europe, mainly Poles, and smaller numbers from Latin America and East Timor. Under an agreement with Indonesia, a mutually agreed list of East Timorese and their dependents are allowed to move to Australia. Nearly 600 are admitted under the agreement. An additional 760 people are resettled under the Global SHP, into which the Soviet Jewish SHP is incorporated.	ibid., pp. 1, 27, 29–31.
1983	Minister West participates in inter-governmental consultations (with the United States, Japan and Canada) on the Indo-Chinese refugee situation, at the invitation of the United States Government, in Hawaii.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '84</i> , Canberra, 1984, p. 114.
1983	Communal violence in Sri Lanka in July and August results in special concessions for family migration sponsorships and for people adversely affected by the disturbances.	ibid., p. 36.
1983	Renewal of fighting in Lebanon results in new special arrangements for Lebanese entry to Australia, including priority processing of family migration sponsorships, waiving of two year residence requirement for such sponsorships and extension of visitor visas. Further extensions are made, in light of the continuing conflict, during 1984.	ibid., pp. 114–116.

	Details	Source Documents
1983	In September, the Human Rights Commission Report on Villawood Detention Centre, <i>The observance of human rights at the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre</i> , is tabled in Parliament. It is critical of conditions and management at the Centre and charges that there is an 'unnecessary circumscription of many rights and freedoms' of detainees, which amounts to a system of 'arbitrary detention' inconsistent with Australia's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and under the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.	ibid., p. 114. Human Rights Commission, <i>The observance of human rights at the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre</i> , Report no. 6, AGPS, Canberra, August 1983, p. 5.
1983	Ministers for Immigration & Ethnic Affairs and for Education and Youth Affairs release the report, <i>Immigrant and refugee youth in the transition from school to work or further study</i> , in December. The report highlights the disadvantage created in employment and education through inadequate English among migrants and refugees aged 15 to 24.	Review '84, op. cit., p. 115.
1983–84	Refugee and SHPs bring 14 769 people to Australia. 10 092 cases from Indo-China (7908 Vietnamese, 1603 Kampuchean and 581 Laotians), 1964 from Eastern Europe, 982 from Middle East, 838 from Latin America and smaller numbers from other places. More than a third of the Eastern Europeans are Polish supporters of the Solidarity movement. The largest Latin American group is Salvadoran. The DIEA reports that, 'Refugees have become an increasingly important element of Australia's international relations'.	ibid., pp. 2, 35–36.
1984	First group of Chilean miners accepted under SHP is settled in Perth. They were deprived of their civil liberties due to trade union activity in Chile.	ibid., pp. 103, 117.
1984	Vietnam Orderly Departure Program) brings 1755 people to Australia. Priority is given to spouses, children, fiancés and parents of Australian residents. All applicants are subjected to standard family migration selection criteria.	ibid., pp. 3, 29.
1984	The first appreciable number of Africans (106) is admitted as part of the refugee and humanitarian intake in 1983–1984. They are mainly Ethiopian and most settle in Melbourne. More than a million Ethiopians are in refugee camps in surrounding countries.	ibid., pp. 36, 118.
1984	At 30 June 1984, DORS has considered about 1700 applications for refugee status since its first meeting on 11 March 1978.	ibid., p. 38.
1984	National Population Council meets for first time in August. It	Review '85, op. cit., p. 131.

	Details	Source Documents
	was established in June to advise the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs on policies relating to immigration, population, workforce planning, ethnic affairs and settlement, migration and international law and refugee policy.	
1984	First national conference of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia is held in Melbourne. A thousand delegates attend.	ibid.
1984	Hawke Government returned at election held on 1 December. Hon. Chris Hurford MP succeeds West as Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.	ibid.
1984	DIEA publishes figures on numbers of refugees arriving in Australia from January 1945 to June 1984: a total of 418 870. The three principal groups are: Polish (74 973), Vietnamese (70 492) and Hungarian (26 185).	<i>Review '84</i> , op. cit., p. 55.
1985	By June, Australia has resettled about 95 000 Indo-Chinese refugees since April 1975. In 1984–1985, 7183 are visaed, of whom 6071 are Vietnamese, 1005 Cambodian and 107 Laotian. More than half are selected from camps in Thailand and Malaysia. A total of 779 East Timorese are granted visas globally under concessional arrangements that are now completed. A total of 214 Sri Lankans are visaed, representing a decline since the violence of 1983. A total of 1166 Eastern Europeans are given visas under the refugee program and 253 under the SHP. Special favourable provisions apply for Polish people who had been detained for their pro-Solidarity activities. Significant increase in humanitarian resettlement of people from South and Central America (1717), half of whom are Salvadorans. 752 South Americans are accepted, mainly Chileans.	<i>Review '85</i> , op. cit., p. 68–69.
1985	An earthquake in Chile in March results in priority processing of family migration sponsorships for people affected by the disaster.	ibid., p. 134.
1985	Responding in April to the Joint Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee report <i>Australia and ASEAN: Challenge and Opportunities</i> , the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Bill Hayden MP, says that the Hawke Government shares the report's view that 'no other part of the world promises to be of more consistent importance to Australia than the region of East and South East Asia...'. Hayden describes Australia's immigration and refugee policies as 'fundamental to the way we	ibid., p. 135.

	Details	Source Documents
	are perceived by our neighbours in the region'.	
1985	Australia accepts 1882 people from the Middle East under the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Programs, notably Iranian Baha'is. Special entry arrangements are made in February for close relatives of Australian residents seriously affected by the conflict in Lebanon. A total of 943 are given visas and an additional 1352, mostly Lebanese, admitted under the family migration scheme.	ibid., p. 69.
1985	A total of 144 Africans, mainly Ethiopians, are selected from the small caseload of individuals unable to obtain secure first refuge in Africa.	ibid.
1985	In May, the Treasurer, the Hon. Paul Keating MP, announces that, with a decreasing number of 'boat people' and an increased emphasis on family reunion, a reduction of 2000 in 1985–1986 in the 12 000 assisted passage places in the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Programs in 1984–1985 would save around \$3.6 million. He also announces the Hawke Government's intention to sell surplus migrant centre buildings and associated land.	ibid., p. 135.
1985	In June, Australia joins with thirteen other countries in the Rescue at Sea Resettlement Offers Scheme, launched by the UNHCR. The scheme encourages ships in South East Asian waters to rescue Indo-Chinese boat people.	ibid., p. 136.
1985	In July, Minister Hurford announces that five Irian Jayans, who arrived unauthorised in northern Australia, would not be given permanent residence. If they prove their case, they will be recognised as refugees temporarily until arrangements can be made for their resettlement in a third country.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '86</i> , Canberra, 1986, p. 129.
1985	In an address to the Refugee Council of Australia, Minister Hurford expresses the view that the resettlement of Indo-Chinese refugees in third countries is not an adequate solution for all refugee problems. He reaffirms the Hawke Government's commitment to such comprehensive policies as: normal migration arrangements (like the Orderly Departure/Family Reunion Program from Vietnam); voluntary repatriation; screening procedures (such as those developed by the UNHCR) and integration in the immediate locality.	ibid., p. 130.
1985	Communique issued in Phnom Penh by Indo-Chinese Foreign Ministers: Vietnamese military forces in Cambodia to be withdrawn progressively and totally in 1990.	ibid.
1985	In December, informal talks on Indo-Chinese refugees held in	ibid.

	Details	Source Documents
	Canberra between United States, Canada, Japan and Australia, with deputy UN High Commissioner for Refugees present as an observer.	
1985	Lebanese in Australia on temporary entry permits are invited in December to apply for permanent residence by 31 January 1986 or return home. Special concessional arrangements are brought into line with more general criteria.	ibid., p. 133.
1986	The UNHCR estimates the global refugee population at 11.2 million. This figure does not include other humanitarian categories of concern to the UNHCR or Palestinians assisted by the UN Relief and Works Agency.	UNHCR, <i>The State of the world's refugees</i> , 1997-1998, Oxford University Press, 1997, p. 54.
1986	In January, the Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services meets for first time.	<i>Review '86</i> , ibid.
1986	In February, the last of the 'White Russians' from China arrives under the special program that had been instigated by the Department and the Australian Council of Churches in 1947. About 14 700 were settled in Australia under the program.	ibid., p. 64.
1986	In April, Minister Hurford reiterates the Hawke Government's opposition to an amnesty for 'illegal immigrants'. The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs estimates that each year more than 16 000 people admitted as visitors remain as illegal immigrants more than six months after their entry permit expires. This message, repeated throughout 1985, has the support of the Opposition, which in 1980 introduced legislation to ensure that Parliamentary approval is required for any amnesty.	ibid., p. 135. Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '87</i> , Canberra, 1987, p. 98.
1986	In May, Minister Hurford states that while the Indo-Chinese already in Australia are genuine refugees, a large proportion of those leaving the countries of Indo-China 'could not establish any claim of individual politically-motivated persecution'. Many were 'migrants—pure and simple', seeking a better life economically and socially.	ibid., p. 137.
1986	Migration and Review Task Force established in May, to look at policy proposals relating to the administration of the Migration Act and decisions that flow from it. The aim is to specify entitlements and restrictions and to streamline decision-making processes.	ibid., p. 6.
1986	Conflict in Irian Jaya results in 12 000 people crossing the border into Papua New Guinea. In July, Minister Hurford grants refugee status to two of the eleven Irian Jayans living in	ibid., pp. 65, 138.

Details	Source Documents	
<p>Australia in the Torres Straits. This follows consideration of the refugee claims by DORS. The Minister grants temporary entry permits to all eleven, allowing them to move freely in Australia and to gain employment for the duration of the permits which, after six months, would be subject to review. The Minister says that the 'best long-term solution' for the nine is 'for them to return to their homes voluntarily'. Granting the permits to all is a 'practical and humanitarian response'.</p>		
1986	<p>Australia accepts its 100 000th Indo-Chinese refugee during the 1985–1986 year. About half of the year's refugee and SHP intake is Indo-Chinese (6168). Under the SHP, visas are issued to 254 East Timorese and 38 Sri Lankans. A total of 1572 East Europeans are issued visas and 95 Africans. Also, 946 from Central America (mainly El Salvador) and 524 from South America (mainly Chile). A total of 1690 from the Middle East are granted visas, about half from Lebanon (mainly SHP). The other large group consists of Afghans and Iranians who had sought asylum in Pakistan.</p>	ibid., pp. 65–66.
1986	<p>At 30 June, 1986, DORS had considered 2200 applications since 11 March 1978.</p>	ibid.
1986	<p>A survey conducted in August by DIEA and Rearch Research Pty Ltd of Australian-born and Asian-born neighbours' attitudes to each other in public and private housing in selected areas of Sydney and Adelaide reveals a high level of acceptance on both sides. The survey focused on areas with concentrations of recently arrived Asians and other migrants and surveyed 555 Australians and 160 migrants.</p>	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '87</i> , Canberra, 1987, p. 154.
1986	<p><i>Don't settle for less</i>, the report of the Committee of Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services, chaired by Dr. James Jupp, is released. The report recommends that all Government decisions should take into account ethnic and cultural diversity and that the composition and functions of advisory bodies should be reviewed in light of multicultural principles. Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Hurford responds by saying that 'the response [of the Government] to the needs of migrants and the multicultural nature of our society is not as effective as it should be'. The Review prompts a new strategy on the part of government, with key elements recognising the leadership role of government in promoting multicultural principles and in ensuring that overseas-born residents have equitable access to Federal programs and services.</p>	ibid., pp. 158, 106. Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>News Release</i> , MPS 80/86, 12 August 1986.

	Details	Source Documents
1986	The Prime Minister, the Hon. Robert Hawke MP, announces the establishment of an Office of Multicultural Affairs, as an advisory and research body. The Office begins operations in March 1987.	<i>Review '87</i> , pp. 159, 163.
1987	Hon. Michael Young MP succeeds Hurford as Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in February, with Hon. Clyde Holding MP appointed Minister Assisting the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.	
1987	During 1986–1987, Australia issues visas to 11 291 people under the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Programs. About half are Indo-Chinese, with an increase in Cambodian intake due to Thai closure of the Khao-I-Dang Cambodian refugee camp. SHP visas are issued to 98 East Timorese and 61 Sri Lankans. A total of 2161 Eastern Europeans are given visas, mainly Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and Romanians located in first refuge countries in Europe. In 1986–1987, the SHP includes opponents of apartheid in South Africa who are persecuted by the regime. Two hundred and thirty-eight Africans are visaed. Visas are issued to 1051 Central Americans (mainly from El Salvador) and 665 Chileans from South America. Also, 1423 people from Middle East are visaed: 425 from Lebanon. The balance is mainly Iranians and Afghans in temporary refuge in Pakistan.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 66.
1987	Minister Young announces in September that people who enter Australia and subsequently apply for refugee status would be permitted to work while their cases are decided, provided they meet certain criteria.	Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '88</i> , Canberra, AGPS, 1988, p. 177.
1988	Hon. Clyde Holding MP succeeds Young as Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs in the Hawke Government.	
1988	A study of the Community Refugee Settlement Scheme by Touche Ross Management Consultants confirms the Scheme's importance in refugee settlement in Australia. Since the CRSS's introduction in 1979, it has helped settle nearly 35 000 refugees. In 1986–1987, 2500 refugees are assisted by about 280 support groups.	<i>ibid.</i> , pp. 86–87, 183.
1988	Australia's Refugee Program and Special Humanitarian Program receives people from more than 60 countries.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 184.
1988	In June, Minister Holding tables <i>Immigration - a commitment to Australia</i> , the Report of the Committee to Advise on Australia's	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 187. Also: 'Migrants policy

	Details	Source Documents
	Immigration Policies (CAAIP) in the Federal Parliament. The Committee (CAAIP), headed by Dr. Stephen Fitzgerald, was established in September 1987. The report calls for urgent reform of Australia's immigration policy and recommends that it be given a sharper economic focus through greater skilled and business migration. While recommending the maintenance of a refugee and humanitarian program at about 10 per cent of the total intake, the report also calls for a gradual disengagement from Indo-Chinese resettlement.	under fire', <i>The Age</i> , 4 June 1988.
1988	In 1987–1988, Australia accepts 11 400 refugees and Special Humanitarian cases. About half are Indo-Chinese. A total of 2462 persons given visas under the Refugee and Special Humanitarian Programs are from Europe, 491 from the Middle East, 1676 from Central and South America and 20 from Africa.	ibid., p. 37, p. 42.
1988	New procedures for migrant entry from Vietnam commence on 1 July 1988, after two years of negotiations with the Vietnam Government. Vietnam agrees to provide Australian authorities with substantial lists of people eligible for departure from Vietnam. People wishing to emigrate no longer need to seek permission from the Vietnamese authorities prior to lodging an application with Australian migration personnel. The Vietnam Government retains sole right to grant exit permits. Since the commencement of the original bilateral arrangement in 1982, more than 11 000 people have migrated directly from Vietnam to Australia.	ibid., p. 188.
1988	The Clothing Reimbursement Scheme and the Committee for the Allocation of Loans to Refugees in Centres continue their work during 1987–1988. The former assists 5500 people during the year while the latter has made 12 700 loans since its inception in 1979, with a total value of about \$6 million.	ibid., p. 87.
1988	At 30 June 1988, there are 3642 refugee wards of the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs. During the year, 308 refugee minors (aged 18 or under) arrive in Australia. Those who are not joining or arriving with close adult relatives enter as wards of the Minister. Wards aged 16 or under who are full-time students can receive an allowance. At 30 June, 268 refugee wards are receiving the maintenance allowance.	ibid., p. 91.
1988	During 1987–1988, DORS receives 439 applications, of which 432 are finalised.	ibid., p. 41.
1988	In September, Senator the Hon. Robert Ray succeeds Holding as Minister in the Hawke Government.	

	Details	Source Documents
1988	In December, Minister Ray announces the Hawke Government's response to the Report of CAAIP. Reforms include the division of the immigration program into three main streams (family, skill and humanitarian) and the establishment of the Bureau for Immigration Research. Migration legislation is reformed to provide for more equitable decision-making, 'capping' is imposed onto program numbers and a new statutory two-tiered system of review for rejected immigration applications is introduced.	Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '89</i> , Canberra, 1989, p. 11.
1989	In April, the Hawke Government announces the establishment of the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition within the Department of Employment, Education and Training.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 14.
1989	On 3 and 4 June 1989, Chinese troops storm a protest against corruption and for greater democracy by Chinese students who are occupying Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Hundreds of protestors are killed. The Australian Government announces that citizens of the People's Republic of China (PRC) who are normally resident in China but legally temporarily resident in Australia will be permitted to remain here until 31 July 1990 on the same temporary basis. This is later extended to June 1994. The Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, Ray, says the Hawke Government has 'enormous sympathy for the PRC students'. 'Australia', he says, 'has consistently shown its compassion in circumstances where human rights are blatantly violated'.	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 15. MILGEA, News Release, 6 June 1989.
1989	In June, Australian and Indonesian authorities cooperate in an effort to thwart an illegal migration racket based at Kupang, West Timor. The Indonesian government later deports 40 men from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka who had approached boat owners in Indonesian ports seeking to buy passages to Australia.	'Indons help block illegals', <i>The West Australian</i> , 7 June 1989. 'Aliens in Indonesia trying to enter Australia illegally', <i>Canberra Times</i> , 26 June 1989.
1989	Following the CAAIP report, DORS procedures are enhanced so that applicants for refugee status can also lodge a parallel application for Grant of Resident Status on humanitarian grounds. Both claims are to be considered by DORS staff. In 1988–1989, DORS finalises 388 cases and 564 applications are received.	<i>Review '89</i> , op. cit., p. 26.
1989	On 14–15 June, Australia participates with 77 other countries in an international conference held under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General in Geneva. The Conference, which aims to	<i>ibid.</i> , p. 15, p. 25. <i>Review '90</i> , op. cit., pp. 45–46.

Details	Source Documents	
<p>resolve the situation of Indo-Chinese refugees in camps in the region, endorses a Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) designed to achieve a durable solution to the problem of the Indo-Chinese outflow. The five key elements of the Plan require first asylum countries in South-East Asia to continue to grant temporary refuge to all asylum seekers and to screen all new arrivals against internationally-recognised criteria to determine whether they are bona fide refugees. Under the CPA, persons deemed not to be refugees are to be returned to their country of origin; persons in camps throughout the region who arrived prior to cut-off dates for screening are to be resettled along with those accepted as refugees; and the orderly departure arrangement is to be expanded as the safest and preferred means of departure from Vietnam. Australia joins the Steering Committee set up to monitor the Plan. By 30 June 1990, Australia has given visas to more than 7200 Vietnamese who were in camps. The Department also gave visas to more than 8000 Vietnamese under general migrant categories.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs (MILGEA), <i>News Release</i>, MPS 90/89, 29 December 1989.</p>	
1989	<p>Settlement programs continue but principal expenditure is on a network of Migrant Centres in Sydney and Melbourne and self-contained accommodation in all mainland capitals. Minister Ray commences review of on-arrival accommodation.</p>	<p><i>Review '89</i>, op. cit., p. 37.</p>
1989	<p>The <i>Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989</i>, the Hawke Government's legislative response to the Report of CAAIP, represents the most comprehensive reform of immigration legislation in 30 years. It receives Royal Assent on 19 June 1989.</p>	<p>ibid., p. 15.</p>
1989	<p>The National Population Council (NPC) is asked to review Australia's refugee and humanitarian response. It also reviews Grant of Resident Status to Visitors on the grounds of marriage or de-facto relationships.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '90</i>, Canberra, 1990, p. 90, pp. 175–76.</p>
1989	<p>Minister Ray announces a new initiative for refugee women and their families facing hazards such as physical or sexual abuse. The new category allows immigration officers to exercise discretion when assessing refugee applications from single women and their families who are in vulnerable situations.</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>News Release</i>, MPS 70/89, 18 September 1989.</p>
1989	<p>Intensification of fighting around Beirut, and Australian Government's support for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, results in extensions of stay for Lebanese visitors to Australia.</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>News Release</i>, MPS 74/89, 29 September 1989.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
1989	On 21 November, the High Court rules unanimously in <i>Park Oh Ho v. the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs</i> (1989) T 167 CLR 637 that the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs has no legal basis for the detention of seven Koreans who had illegally entered Australia between December 1985 and July 1986. They were detained at Villawood from 20 August to 2 December 1986.	'Koreans' detention illegal, court rules', <i>The Age</i> , 22 November 1989.
1989	On 28 November 1989, a small boat carrying 26 people from Cambodia arrives at Broome: the first direct boat arrival from Indo-China since 1981. Two more boats arrive: on 31 March with 119 people and on 1 June with 79 people. Talks are held with Cambodian officials in an attempt to find solutions in line with accepted international principles.	<i>Review '90</i> , op. cit., p. 15, p. 48.
1989	Torture and trauma therapy centres in Sydney and Melbourne receive funding from the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in November. A nation-wide network is developed and eventually administered by the Department of Community Services and Health.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Refugee and humanitarian issues: the focus in Australia</i> , 1994, p. 34.
1989	In late 1989, the Hawke Government introduces accelerated processing and movement arrangements for refugee women and their families in situations involving abuse and exploitation, and refugees and other victims of persecution facing immediate life threatening situations or threat to liberty.	<i>Review '90</i> , op. cit., p. 39.
1989	Speaking at a function to mark the tenth anniversary of the Community Refugee Settlement Scheme, Minister Ray says that Australia shares the concerns of many others in the international community about 'the large numbers of people seeking a better life who presented themselves as asylum seekers'. 'If we use valuable resettlement places to help them', he says, 'we may deny freedom and security to a corresponding number of genuine refugees in precarious circumstances'.	MILGEA, <i>News Release</i> , MPS 85/89, 8 December 1989.
1989	In 1989, Australia's Migration Act is overhauled, the first such fundamental redesign since 1958, when the Migration Act replaced the old Immigration Act of 1901. The new Act, the <i>Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989</i> , comes into operation on 19 December 1989. The Act and Regulations tighten control of the management of the immigration program, create a two-tier system for the review of migration decisions, and in the words of the Minister Senator the Hon. Robert Ray, 'improves the ability to curb abuse of the immigration program by people seeking to come to Australia illegally'. The 'illegals' in	ibid., p. 15, p. 21. MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 88/89, 18 December 1989.

Details	Source Documents	
<p>question are mainly visitors who have overstayed their visas. Minister Ray says he 'makes no apology for the toughness of the new law as far as illegal entrants are concerned'. The 'toughness' includes the introduction of mandatory deportation (after a period of grace of 28 days) and the power to sell illegal entrants' possessions with a view to recovering costs relating to detention and deportation. 'Illegals' are given twelve months, from 19 December, to regularise their status or forfeit the right to apply to remain. (The <i>Migration Reform Act 1992</i> strengthened the mandatory deportation section by removing the 28 day period of grace and replacing it with 'removal as soon as possible'). The people of concern to the Government are mainly individuals who have overstayed their visitor visas and students from the People's Republic of China who had been assured by Prime Minister Hawke in June (following the repression of protestors in Tiananmen Square) that they would not have to return to the PRC on the expiration of their student visas. In response to some public concerns, the Minister guarantees that the new Act and Regulations do not disadvantage asylum seekers and that the determination of their status would be 'basically the same as it was before 19 December'.</p>		
1989	<p>The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia criticises the new Migration Regulations on the grounds that some changes 'infringe on the basic human rights of many Australians and potential migrants'. A National Immigration Forum is established by ethnic community groups, the Council of Churches and the International Community of Jurists, to campaign against the new Regulations.</p>	<p>'Tougher migration rules in force today', <i>The Age</i>, 19 December 1989.</p>
1989	<p>In December, more than a decade after the initial large-scale resettlement of Vietnamese refugees in Australia, Minister Ray describes the Vietnamese in Australia as having 'demonstrated their industriousness and determination to build a new life for themselves and their children'. Australia has resettled about 120 000 Indo-Chinese.</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>News Release</i>, MPS 90/89, 29 December 1989.</p>
1990	<p>Following the December 1989 reforms to the immigration law, Minister Ray reports that 'tens of thousands' of 'illegals' have either left Australia or sought to legalise their status. These were mainly visa overstayers. In 1988–1989, about 14 000 applications for Grant of Resident Status (GORS) had been received by the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs but in December alone the number of applications was 12 000. The number of PRC citizens applying under the GORS program increased dramatically. A period of</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, 21 January 1990 and 24 January 1990.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	grace is declared. So-called 'illegals' have until 16 February to apply for an entry permit and face mandatory deportation if the application fails. The period of grace is extended on two occasions.	
1990	In February, Minister Ray assures PRC nationals in Australia that the new regulations will not adversely affect them and that those who were legally in Australia on 20 June 1989, are still allowed to apply for permanent residence. Those who were here illegally may apply for temporary entry permits valid until 31 January 1991. Extensions of stay are also announced for Sri Lankan citizens and visitors from Lebanon.	MILGEA, <i>News Release</i> , 16 February 1990.
1990	International aid workers in Phnom Penh claim that a syndicate is selling illegal boat passages from Cambodia to Australia. They say that people had paid up to \$A5000 and that eight fishing boats had left the port of Kompong Som for Australia in recent months.	'Cambodians paying up to \$5000 for escape to Australia', <i>The Age</i> , 24 April 1990.
1990	In April, Hon. Gerry Hand MP succeeds Ray as Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs.	
1990	On 9 May, Minister Hand announces adjustments to the migration rules which, he says, are necessitated by a number of procedural flaws arising from the changes of 19 December 1989. The initial changes of relevance to asylum seekers relate to 'illegal entrants' who, under the changes, are given extended time in which to apply for an entry permit and also given the right to have decisions on entry applications reviewed under the new two-tiered system.	MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 37/90, 9 May 1990.
1990	Opposition Leader, Hon. John Hewson MP, and Opposition Immigration Spokesman, Hon. Philip Ruddock MP, condemn Prime Minister Hawke's decision to allow PRC nationals to remain in Australia. They argue that the decision sets dangerous precedents and pre-empts the established processes for dealing with refugees. Wellington Lee, chair of the Asian-Australian Consultative Council, accuses the PRC students of 'duping' the Australian authorities and 'living off the blood' of the Tiananmen massacre.	'Outrage over favoured students', <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 8 June 1990.
1990	On 27 June, Minister Hand announces the introduction of temporary entry permits within the refugee and humanitarian categories. Prompted by an unprecedented increase in applications for refugee status arising from Prime Minister Hawke's assurances to PRC students that they would not have to return to China, the new policy separates the obligation to offer protection from the practice of granting automatic permanent	MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i> , 27 June 1990.

	Details	Source Documents
	<p>residence to individuals deemed to be refugees. The regulations are amended to create temporary entry permits which provide refugees with four years' protection. Holders may apply for permanent residence after four years and they may apply for the renewal of the permit.</p> <p>Under the changes, the Minister also institutes a review of the DORS processes, with a view to expanding their capacity.</p>	
1990	<p>On 27 June, Government announces that Chinese nationals who were in Australia at the time of the Beijing Tiananmen Square incident (20 June 1989) would be granted temporary residence for four years to 30 June 1994, under a special category of permit. There are about 20 000 in Australia in 1990.</p>	<i>Review '90</i> , op. cit., p. 16, p. 45.
1990	<p>During 1989–1990, DORS receives 3598 applications, compared with 564 the previous year. Four hundred and forty-nine cases are finalised in 1989–1990.</p>	ibid., pp. 44–45.
1990	<p>On 10 July, Minister Hand announces that all asylum seekers on four-year temporary residence permits are to be given access to the following government services: Special Benefit, Family Allowance, Family Allowance Supplement, Medicare, labour market programs, English language training and education. (The Special Benefit is a 'safety net' measure as the temporary residents are not eligible for pensions and unemployment benefits.)</p>	MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i> , 10 July 1990.
1990	<p>In July, Minister Hand extends the period of stay for Sri Lankans and Lebanese temporarily in Australia, due to uncertain security situations in both places. Subsequent extensions last until December 1991.</p>	MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 47/90, 27 July 1990.
1990	<p>In August, the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs opens a special centre in Sydney for the processing of applications for the special Temporary Entry Permits for PRC citizens. The permits are valid to the end of June 1994.</p>	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '91</i> , Canberra, 1991, p. 18.
1990	<p>Federal government trebles the number of compliance staff in regional offices of the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, and undertakes other measures to reduce the number of people in Australia illegally.</p>	ibid. MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 50/90, 21 August 1990.
1990	<p>In September, the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Regulations tables its first report, <i>Illegal entrants in Australia - balancing control and compassion</i>.</p>	<i>Review '91</i> , op. cit., p. 18.

	Details	Source Documents
1990	<p>On 15 October, Minister Hand announces the Hawke Government's intention to further amend the Migration Regulations with a view to allowing certain people who were in Australia illegally before 19 December 1989 to regularise their status. The decision is based on the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Regulations. The provisions apply until 18 December 1993, after which no person in Australia illegally prior to 19 December 1989 will be able to obtain permission to remain.</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 54/90, 15 October 1990.</p>
1990	<p>On 26 October, the Hawke Government announces the introduction of a new system of determining claims for refugee status and humanitarian stay and the provision of significantly larger resources to speed up decision-making on refugee applications. The new system begins on 10 December. Under the new arrangement, a Refugee Status Review Committee (RSRC) replaces the DORS Committee. Refugee applications now go through three stages: a primary stage for applications to be assessed and decisions made quickly; a review stage for negative assessments; and where there are clear grounds for humanitarian stay but where refugee status is not recommended, the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs may approve temporary entry on humanitarian grounds. For the first time, a non-government representative is involved in the decision-making process: a nominee of the Refugee Council of Australia is a member of the RSRC. Government members represent the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Attorney-General and DILGEA. A representative of the UNHCR attends meetings in an advisory capacity.</p>	<p><i>Review '91</i>, op. cit., pp. 18–19. MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 55/90, 26 October 1990.</p>
1990	<p>Further extensions are granted to Sri Lankans and Lebanese. Citizens and residents of either country who are in Australia temporarily on 31 October 1990 may extend their stay until 30 June 1991. In announcing the extensions, Minister Hand says that 'compliance activity in respect of illegal entrants would increase significantly from 1 November 1990' and that any Sri Lankan or Lebanese illegal entrants arrested after 1 November would not be eligible for the concession.</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, 29 October 1990.</p>
1990	<p>In December, Minister Hand announces that plans to establish a holding centre for Cambodian boat people at Port Hedland have been abandoned and that the 224 unauthorised boat arrivals, who arrived in November 1989 and March and June 1990, would remain in Westbridge Migrant Centre, Sydney, Enterprise Migrant hostel, Melbourne, and the Youth Hostels Association Hostel in Darwin, until their future could be decided and while</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 62/90, 12 December 1990.</p>

Details	Source Documents	
the Department reassessed options for a holding centre elsewhere.		
1990	<p>In December, Minister Hand issues 'fair warning' to the 'illegal community' that the Government is now better equipped and prepared to enforce its policies against them. He cites figures for the month of November, revealing that 536 'illegals' had been located by his Department, a figure more than double the monthly average for 1989–1990. The 'illegals' are people who have overstayed their visas and the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs estimates that there are 90 000 as of 30 April 1990. The great majority entered as visitors to Australia.</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 61/90, 7 December 1990</p> <p>Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '91</i>, Canberra, 1991, p. 87.</p>
1991	<p>In January, Minister Hand announces that people visiting from Latvia and Lithuania may apply to extend their entry permits, in light of the unsettled situation in those republics.</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 2/91, 16 January 1991.</p>
1991	<p>In February, Minister Hand announces extensions of stay to citizens of Iraq, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, in light of conflict in the Persian Gulf.</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 6/91, 5 February 1991.</p>
1991	<p>In March, two boats arrive at Darwin without authorisation, carrying 33 and 35 people. The group of 33 consists of 20 PRC citizens, eight Macanese and five Vietnamese while the group of 35 comprises 34 Cambodians and one Vietnamese. Due to inadequate accommodation facilities in Darwin, most of the people on the second boat are sent to Sydney and Melbourne for processing.</p>	<p>MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, 7 March 1991.</p> <p>Joint Standing Committee on Migration, <i>Asylum, border control and detention</i>, AGPS, Canberra, 1994, p. 17.</p>
1991	<p>On 15 March, Minister Hand announces guidelines under which people legally (i.e. who are not illegal entrants) in Australia who are unable to sustain a claim to refugee status will be allowed to have their claims considered on humanitarian grounds. The guidelines are part of the new refugee system introduced on 10 December 1990. Recommendations for humanitarian stay are to be made by the Refugee Status Review Committee, with final decisions made by the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs under Section 115 of the Act. This special category is for 'exceptional cases presenting features of threat to personal security and intense personal hardship'. It is officially titled the 'Special Assistance Category'.</p>	<p><i>Review '91</i>, op. cit., p. 21.</p> <p>MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 15/91, 15 March 1991.</p>
1991	<p>In recognition of the deteriorating situation in (then) Yugoslavia, in August Minister Hand allows visitors from (then) Yugoslavia to extend their stay until 31 December 1991.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '92</i>, Canberra,</p>

Details	Source Documents	
1991	On 30 July, the report of the National Population Council's Refugee Review is presented to Minister Hand. The Review was commissioned in November 1989 with a view to providing the Government with options for Australia's future approach to refugee policy, resettlement programs and processing, settlement services and socio-economic consequences.	1992, p. 395. <i>Review '92</i> , p. 90.
1991	In 1990–1991, the total outlay of the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs is \$320 788 000, of which \$141 366 000 (44 per cent) is spent on settlement and ethnic affairs. The main expenditure on settlement services is \$98 194 000 for English training and \$26 852 000 on 'access to services'. A total of \$11 676 000 is spent on refugees, humanitarian and special assistance.	<i>Program Performance Statements 1991-1992</i> , Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs portfolio, Budget related paper, no. 8.9, Canberra, 1992, pp. 6, 11, 101.
1991	On 12 August, Minister Hand announces the Hawke Government's decision to establish a processing centre at Port Hedland, Western Australia, for people who arrive in Australia without prior authorisation.	<i>Review '92</i> , <i>ibid.</i>
1991	On 13 August, Minister Hand announces that refugee claimants onshore now have to lodge a completed application within 28 days of indicating their intention to apply. In the case of unauthorised 'border applicants', the 28 days apply from the date of arrival. The Minister states that the new measure is designed to stop 'the system being misused by some individuals who are cynically seeking to extend their stay in Australia'. He also points to the 'dramatic rise' in numbers of asylum claimants. During the 1980s, applications averaged about 500 a year but from 1989 there was a sudden upsurge. At August 1991, the Department had 17 000 applications on hand, and the number was growing at a rate of 1000 a month. 'We may well reach a point', he said, 'where onshore asylum numbers begin to encroach seriously on our overseas resettlement capacity'. One hundred and sixty new permanent staff and 100 temporary staff are recruited and trained to help clear the backlog.	<i>ibid.</i> MILGEA, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 50/91, 13 August 1991. <i>Media Release, Immigration Budget Statement 3</i> , 20 August 1991.
1991	In his Immigration Budget statement for 1991–1992, Minister Hand announces additional funds and staff for onshore processing of claims for refugee status and humanitarian stay, enhanced immigration compliance and control arrangements, and funding for reception and detention centres for people who arrive in Australia without prior screening or approval.	MILGEA, <i>Media Release, Immigration Budget Statement 1</i> , 20 August 1991.
1991	Minister Hand announces the recruitment of an additional 21	MILGEA, <i>Media</i>

	Details	Source Documents
	compliance field and investigations officers and the decision to expand the Westbridge Migrant Centre at Villawood to provide temporary accommodation for people in detention.	<i>Release, Immigration Budget Statement 4</i> , 20 August 1991.
1991	The Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs introduces computerised case management system to link the determination of refugee status operational areas of the Department in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.	MILGEA, <i>Media Release, Immigration Budget Statement 3</i> , 20 August 1991.
1991	One hundred and thirteen Cambodian 'boat people' are transferred from the Enterprise Migrant hostel at Springvale, Melbourne, to Westbridge, Villawood, New South Wales. The group arrived at Broome without authorisation in March 1990 and had been held in custody under Section 88 of the Migration Act. Some absconded while at Springvale 'rather than await the outcome of their refugee applications'. An officer of the UNHCR and a legal adviser travel with the group to Sydney.	MILGEA, <i>Media Release, MPS 57/91</i> , 30 August 1991.
1991	Final group of unauthorised arrivals from Macau, who arrived in March, are sent home on 6 October after investigations reveal they are part of a people-smuggling racket and have no valid claims to refugee status.	MILGEA, <i>Media Release, MPS 59/91</i> , 11 October 1991.
1991	The first group of 'boat people' is detained in the new processing centre at Port Hedland, Western Australia, consisting of 104 Indo-Chinese transferred there from temporary sites in Darwin. They are detained while their refugee applications are being processed. Minister Hand says the new centre represents 'considerable savings' in the 'costs of housing people who arrive on our shores without a legal right to enter'.	MILGEA, <i>Media Release, MPS 62/91</i> , 18 October 1991. 'Boat people to move', <i>The News, NT</i> , 21 October 1991.
1991	Government allows nine 'illegal entrants' from the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya to remain in Australia on four year temporary permits. The nine are active supporters of the separatist guerilla movement, the Free Papua Movement (OPM). They had arrived in four unauthorised boats between June 1985 and October 1987, disembarking at the Torres Strait Islands. An additional three, with criminal records, are deported.	'Irian refugees allowed to stay', <i>The Age</i> , 26 November 1991. 'Government in bind over 'refugees'', <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 21 May 1991.
1991	In December, further extensions of stay are granted to citizens of the former Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka. The new extensions end on 30 April 1992.	<i>Review '92</i> , op. cit., p. 39.
1991	The total number of immigrants admitted in 1990–1991 is 123 600. Seven thousand visas are in the Business Migration Program and 9780 visas are issued under the Refugee and	<i>Review '91</i> , op. cit., pp. 44–45.

	Details	Source Documents
	Special Humanitarian Programs. Of these, 44 per cent are Indo-Chinese, 30 per cent Middle Eastern, 20 per cent Latin American, three per cent East European and three per cent African.	
1991	The UNHCR estimates the global refugee population at 17.2 million. This figure does not include other humanitarian categories of concern to the UNHCR or Palestinians assisted by the UN Relief and Works Agency.	UNHCR, <i>The State of the world's refugees</i> , 1997-1998, Oxford University Press, 1997, p. 54.
1991	Australia's population is 17 284 000 at the time of the 1991 Census. A total of 3 965 300 is born overseas (23 per cent of the population). People from the United Kingdom (and Republic of Ireland) are the largest group (1 244 300), followed by New Zealanders (286 400), Italians (272 000), people from the Former Yugoslav Republics (168 000) and Greeks (147 400). The largest humanitarian group—the Vietnam-born, who arrived after 1975—total 124 800. More than 550 000 refugees and other humanitarian cases have been admitted since 1945.	<i>Year Book Australia 1995</i> , ABS, Canberra, p. 119.

Section 2: Australia and Refugees, 1992–2002

Purpose

This section serves the same purpose, follows the same methodology and has the same format, as Section 1 (1901–1991). Its purpose is to outline the official development of refugee policy, placing it in the context of the wider migration program and, through this introduction, of the key world events that influenced governments' formulation of policy. The methodology is, again, based on official sources: Government reports and Departmental and Ministerial media releases. These are fleshed out, occasionally, by secondary source material. The format is that of a chronology, with annotations.

An international context

In 1992, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated the world refugee population at 17.8 million. In 2001, the estimate was 12 million. Added to the refugees are 'persons of concern' to the UNHCR.¹ In 2001, there were 19.7 million in this category. These are tragically large figures. The UNHCR promotes three durable solutions for the long-term protection needs of such people. The preferred solution is voluntary repatriation in conditions of safety and dignity. If this is not possible, the UNHCR prefers local integration in the country of first asylum. Failing that, the durable solution of last resort, from the UNHCR point of view, is resettlement in a third country. Only nine countries in the world have annual refugee resettlement programs: collectively they resettle around 110 000 each year.² The greatest number are resettled by the United States of America.

In the decade under review, Australia admitted more than 100 000 refugees and other humanitarian cases. The largest proportion came from Europe (45 per cent of the total, principally from the regions of the former Yugoslavia), followed by the Middle East and North Africa (25 per cent of the total, principally from Iraq), South-East Asia (13 per cent of the total, principally from Vietnam), Africa (excluding North Africa) (eight per cent of the total, principally from Eritrea and Somalia) and Southern Asia (six per cent, principally from Afghanistan). About two per cent of the total were from South and Central America: a group that was significant to the intake at the start of the decade but whose numbers steadily declined. The region with the biggest rate of increase into Australia under the Humanitarian Program is Africa (excluding North Africa). The African intake has almost doubled during the course of the decade and, while numbers are relatively small (1039 in 2001–2002), the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Philip Ruddock MP, has indicated a strong interest in this region.

The main international events of relevance to Australia's Humanitarian intake in the period 1992–2002 relate to the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East. About 70 per cent of Australia's refugee and humanitarian intake originated in these two regions over the

decade. Of the Middle East group (27 403 in all), the majority (16 417, or 60 per cent) were from Iraq and were escaping the national socialist regime of Saddam Hussein and the consequences of the 1990–1991 Gulf War. From 1996, Iraqis became numerically significant among the unauthorised arrivals by boat and, therefore, were prominent in the remote detention centres. The same applied to Afghans from 1997, after the Islamo-fascist Taliban took over Kabul in September 1996. These two groups, numbering 21 788 in the Humanitarian Program intake over the decade, had quite an impact outside the planned program. The fact that they, and other groups (such as Sri Lankans, Pakistanis, Iranians and Chinese) tended to arrive via organised people smuggling routes, and as 'forum shoppers' (i.e. they came from countries of first asylum in which they were safe), ultimately led the Australian Government to formulate its Pacific Solution. Under this solution, the islands at which boat people commonly arrived were excised from the Australian migration zone, thus denying unauthorised arrivals any prospect of seeking protection in Australia via Australia's determination system.

About 45 per cent of all admissions under the Humanitarian Program came from the regions of the former Yugoslavia, and it is this group that prompted two innovations in Australian policy: the introduction of temporary 'safe haven' protection and the introduction of financial incentives to return home.

War and internal displacement throughout the 1990s were the main causes of the intake. Proclamations of independence from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) by Croatia and Slovenia in June 1991 marked the beginning of the disintegration of the SFRY. The Serb forces of the SFRY retaliated and, in March 1992, when Bosnia and Herzegovina also proclaimed independence, the SFRY laid siege to Sarajevo. The UNHCR began airlifts into Sarajevo on 3 July 1992. The humanitarian air-bridge was in place for more than three years and about 3.5 million people in the former Yugoslavia were helped by UNHCR. During the crisis, the Balkans experienced the worst atrocity in Europe since the Second World War when, in July 1995, 7000 men and boys were massacred by Serb forces at Srebrenica, Bosnia. The Dayton Peace Accord, of 21 November 1995, ended hostilities in Bosnia but in March 1998 fighting erupted in the southern province of Kosovo.³ Australia took in 8544 people from Bosnia-Herzegovina, and 6517 from Croatia, between 1992 and 2002.

The conflict in Kosovo, between the majority ethnic Albanians and Serbs, resulted in the displacement of about 350 000 ethnic Albanians, many of whom fled the region. In March 1999, NATO's air war over Kosovo resulted in further displacement, with around 800 000 fleeing. About 90 000 Kosovars were airlifted by UNHCR and received by 29 countries which offered temporary protection. In April 1999, Australia created 'safe haven' (temporary protection) visas for about 4000. By July, all were temporarily resettled in Australia at various safe haven centres. Not all the Kosovars wished to remain in Australia and many returned as soon as it was safe and practicable to do so. This local experience conforms to the general overseas' pattern, with 600 000 displaced persons and refugees returning to Kosovo within three weeks of the SFRY withdrawal of forces in June 1999.

'Operation Safe Haven' was the largest single humanitarian evacuation Australia has undertaken and created two important precedents for the Humanitarian Program in the new century. The first of these was to establish the precedent of offering temporary rather than permanent protection to people in genuine need. It could be said that this precedent really dates to the temporary visas created for People's Republic of China (PRC) students in Australia at the time of the Tiananmen incident in 1989 but the difference is that the PRC nationals were eventually permitted to remain permanently. Nearly all the Kosovars were in Australia for less than a year. Following from the Kosovar experience, Safe Haven visas were also granted to 1900 East Timorese in September 1999.

The second precedent created by Operation Safe Haven saw the introduction by the government of 'reintegration packages': financial inducements to return home. After the UNHCR declared Kosovo safe in July 1999, many Kosovars returned at the earliest opportunity. But by late August, with the European winter only a month or so away, the Australian Government offered a special 'Winter Reconstruction Allowance' to those who returned before the end of October. It paid \$3000 to each adult and \$500 per child. The same basic idea was adapted in the case of Afghans under the Pacific Solution in 2002, only it was called a 'Reintegration Package'. By April 2000, nearly all the Kosovars had returned, with only a few hundred by-passing the Allowance. Australia's temporary protection to 4000 Kosovars cost the Government about \$100 million over the 12 months of its operation.⁴

Australia's policy, 1992–2002: mandatory detention, protests, people smugglers and the Pacific Solution

Refugee policy during the decade under review did not so much mark a political or philosophical break with previous official approaches as a response to the need to deal with changed circumstances. The principles enunciated by the Hon. Michael Mackellar, as Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, in 1977 continued to guide Australian policy, and continued to be shaped by pragmatic considerations.⁵ Proof that we did not abandon those principles is found in the continuation of the Humanitarian Program at around 12 000 per year. On a per capita basis, this resettlement program continues to place Australia among the most generous recipients of refugees in the world. The most recent figures from the UNHCR reveal that Australia resettled 42 refugees per 100 000 of its population in 2001, putting it ahead of Canada (33) and the United States (29).⁶

A defining feature of Australian governmental thinking on refugee policy is the commitment to a planned system. This approach is bipartisan and represents a tradition in the wider migration program. During the 1990s, legislation which aimed at tightening the reception, detention and processing system was motivated by a desire to ensure that the government's intake was not undermined by unplanned (unauthorised) arrivals who may or may not be people in genuine need of protection. This commitment to preserving the integrity of the program continues to have bipartisan support.

Under the Humanitarian Program, the 12 000 admissions a year consist of two main groups. These are refugees within the UN Convention meaning (i.e. they are people outside their country of nationality and unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution) and people admitted under the Special Humanitarian Program, which was established by the Fraser Government in 1981 for people who are outside their home country and who have experienced gross violations of human rights and cannot return. A Special Assistance Category, established in 1991 to cater for people not in fear of persecution but fleeing civil disorder, has been greatly reduced since 1999.⁷

The period after 1992 differs from the preceding decades in that the *Migration Reform Act 1992* formalised in law mandatory detention for all unlawful arrivals. Enacted by the Keating Government, mandatory detention became controversial, especially as the numbers of unlawful arrivals increased over time and as some detainees remained in detention for very lengthy periods (exceeding a year). The Act provided for unlawful arrivals to be detained until such time as an application for asylum had been processed and status finally determined. Appeals before the Refugee Review Tribunal and the Courts extended the duration of detention for those dissatisfied with the primary decision made by the Immigration Department.

Protest groups and refugee advocates condemned the policy of mandatory detention and focused their criticisms on the remote locations and allegedly poor conditions of the centres. The Australian Government was also criticised by international bodies, including the United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights and Human Rights' Watch.⁸ Inside the detention facilities, detainees occasionally expressed their frustration through demonstrations and, in late 2001 and 2002, through violent means, including self-harm and the burning down of buildings. By the late 1990s, Minister Ruddock was devoting considerable time to the careful repudiation of what he regarded as misinformation, misconceptions and lack of objectivity on the part of critics.

Government policy in the 1990s cannot be understood in isolation from the rise in, and sophistication of, international people smuggling. (People smuggling is defined by the *United Nations' Global Program Against Trafficking in Human Beings* as 'the procurement of illegal entry of a person into a State of which that person is not a national with the objective of making a profit').⁹ Government opposition to the practice was not new: indeed, in October 1981, the Fraser Government took firm and prompt action against a group of 146 Vietnamese when it was revealed they had paid substantial amounts for their unauthorised passage to Australia. The passengers were detained at Darwin's East Arm Quarantine Station and deported to Taiwan and Hong Kong.¹⁰ By the 1990s, people smuggling had become a qualitatively and quantitatively greater force behind the illegal movement of people. Addressing the Forum of Human Rights and Immigration in 1998, Minister Ruddock pointed to the ways in which the problem had grown. He said:

Organisations involved in people trafficking - smuggling them as if they were just so much contraband - are doing very good trade. Their plans are often complex, involving recruitment of passengers, purchase or forgery of travel documents and itineraries

which offer transit through several countries before arrival in the eventual destination country. It has been apparent for quite some time now that there are smuggling networks operating throughout China, South-East Asia and Australia to assist illegal immigrants to enter Australia. Increasingly, even boat arrivals in Australia have tended to come from outside the region. Characteristically, these arrivals fly into the region and gather in small groups ready for transshipment by boat on the last leg to Australia. Those who use these smuggling schemes undoubtedly pay heavily for the opportunity. Undoubtedly also, many travellers have been promised by the organisers that they would be allowed to stay in Australia and would quickly be able to work to recoup the cost of travelling.¹¹

The sophistication of the operations was apparent in the kind of vessels sometimes used to smuggle people. These included 35 metre twin-engine vessels with radar and global satellite navigation, a far cry from the tiny boats used by desperate Vietnamese in the late 1970s.¹² Tragic drownings of people travelling on overcrowded boats organised by smugglers heightened the resolve of governments to combat the practice. The Indonesian fishing vessel, code-named SIEV X, which sank on 19 October 2001 is a well-known case in point: 353 of its 397 passengers drowned en route to Australia.

Government concern about people smuggling intensified as a result of a significant increase in unauthorised boat arrivals in 1999 and 2000. Between July 1999 and June 2001, there were 8316 unauthorised boat arrivals compared with 4114 in the ten-year period from 1989–1990 to 1998–99.¹³ The increase was accompanied by a change in the regional origin of the arrivals—from mostly Asian to mostly Middle Eastern—and an increase in the percentage applying for protection.

The Government's strategy for dealing with the new circumstances has been based on efforts (such as aid and intelligence sharing) to minimise outflows from countries of origin and of first asylum and on regional and international cooperation to disrupt the smugglers and intercept their clients. Remote detention centres are an additional part of the strategy, along with attempts to quicken both the determination process and the removal of those who are not refugees.

A most important legislative amendment in the Government's strategy was the proclamation of the *Migration Amendment Regulations (no. 12)* on 20 October 1999, which created the three-year Temporary Protection Visa for unauthorised arrivals who are assessed as requiring protection. Previously, such people were granted a permanent protection visa (which is granted to successful applicants onshore who have arrived lawfully, with authorisation). The three-year visa, which limits the range of settlement services available to the holder, has been criticised as unfair to individuals who have been assessed as being genuine refugees.¹⁴ The Government, however, has argued that such measures are necessary to its multifaceted strategy to combat people smuggling and to deter arrivals from outside of the planned Humanitarian Program. Minister Ruddock has consistently argued that, given the limits to Australia's capacity, every unauthorised arrival who is granted protection takes the place of one of the many who have been languishing

for years in refugee camps in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Critics reject the 'queue-jumping' accusation but no-one disputes the fact that the UNHCR has thousands of people in refugee camps who have been assessed as genuine refugees in need of resettlement and who have been waiting for a resettlement place for many years.

The controversies of the early 1990s came to a head in the late 1990s and early 2000s with an exponential increase in the number of unauthorised arrivals into Australia by sea. In July 1999 the *Migration Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 1999* was passed to create people smuggling and related offences. In November, the *Border Protection Legislation Amendment Act 1999* was passed to expand Australia's capacity to board, search and detain ships and to detain persons aboard those ships at sea. In February 2000 the *Crimes at Sea Act 2000* was passed to extend the criminal jurisdiction of the Commonwealth and States to the limits recognised under the 1982 *Convention on the Law of the Sea*. These measures were tested with the arrival of the *MV Tampa* off Christmas Island on 29 August 2001 and the adoption by the Federal Government of the so-called 'Pacific Solution'. The *Tampa*, a Norwegian freighter, had rescued 430 passengers aboard the *KM Palapa 1*, a fishing vessel that had broken down 80 nautical miles from Christmas Island:

The master of the *Tampa*, Captain Arne Rinnan, had intended to take the rescuees to a port in Indonesia but was requested by the passengers to proceed to Christmas Island. Before the *Tampa* reached Australia's territorial waters it was instructed to remain in the contiguous zone. On 28 August the *Tampa* issued a distress signal based on the fact that assistance had not been provided within 48 hours. On 29 August it proceeded into the territorial waters surrounding Christmas Island and was interdicted by [the SAS]. The same day the Government introduced border protection legislation into Parliament.¹⁵

The Border Protection Bill 2001 sought to retrospectively validate the actions in relation to the *Tampa* and, effectively, to deny its passengers the right to claim asylum in Australia. It was rejected by the Senate against the backdrop of legal action in the Federal Court and Full Federal Court challenging the lawfulness of the action in relation to the rescuees.

The key provisions were subsequently re-introduced along with various other measures. In the last sitting period for 2001, Parliament considered and passed a number of Bills dealing with the validation and enforcement of border protection measures, the 'excision' of offshore territories from the migration zones, a new protection, humanitarian and refugee visa regime, partially codified refugee assessment criteria, mandatory sentencing for people smugglers and a privative clause relating to judicial review of migration decisions.

On 26 September, the second last sitting day of 2001, the Senate passed six Bills which became the following Acts:

Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) Act 2001

Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) (Consequential Provisions) Act 2001

Migration Legislation Amendment (Judicial Review) Act 2001

Migration Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2001

Migration Legislation Amendment Act (No. 6) 2001

Border Protection (Validation and Enforcement Powers) Act 2001

Some of the Bills had been previously introduced and failed to pass the Senate. Many of them set the legislative framework for an administrative arrangement that came to be known as the 'Pacific Solution'. The *Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) Act 2001* excised certain territories from Australia's migration zone, including Christmas Island, Ashmore and Cartier Islands and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, with a view to creating a separate visa application regime for unlawful arrivals at the excised places. Unauthorised arrivals to those territories cannot apply for a visa. The *Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) (Consequential Provisions) Act 2001* allowed for the detention of an unlawful non-citizen in an excised offshore place, for the transfer of an unlawful non-citizen from Australia to another country, and prevents such people from taking legal action against the Government in an Australian court. Under the Pacific Solution, asylum seekers were housed and processed at Manus Island (Papua New Guinea) and Nauru, at Australian Government expense. Through these measures, the Government hoped to further deter unlawful arrivals and also to reduce the high levels of litigation in the Courts.

By the end of 2002, the Australian Government had weathered the storm of protest and criticism and Minister Ruddock could accurately report, on 17 December, that there had not been an unauthorised boat arrival for twelve months. At the time of writing, February 2003, the Government's multifaceted strategy—based on prevention of outflows from countries of origin and first asylum, cooperation with other countries to disrupt people smugglers, mandatory detention and the introduction of temporary protection for genuine cases who arrive without authorisation, and the Pacific Solution—appears to have achieved its objectives.

Endnotes

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1. The 19.7 million persons categorised as 'of concern' to the UNHCR at the end of 2001 included 12 million refugees (persons who met the 1951 Refugee Convention definition), 462 000 returnees, 940 800 asylum seekers, 5.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 241 000 returned IDPs, and one million 'others of concern' (e.g. certain groups of war-affected populations, stateless citizens). <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/openssl.htm?tbl=STATISTICS&id=3d075d374&page=statistics>, accessed on 16 June 2003.
 2. The nine are Australia, Canada, the United States, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

3. UNHCR: *A brief history of the Balkans*, UNHCR web-site. <http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/+vwwBmeLtOGswwwwrwwwwwwwhFqnN0bItFqnDni5AFqnN0bIcFqgXGonharo5BdGOadhaBrmaxwcAwD5Dzmxwwwwww/opendoc.pdf>, accessed on 6 May 2003.
4. P. Ruddock, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, *Media Release*, MPS 028/2000, 15 March 2000.
5. The 'Mackellar principles' were: '(i) Australia fully recognises its humanitarian commitment and responsibility to admit refugees for resettlement; (ii) The decision to accept refugees must always remain with the Government of Australia; (iii) Special assistance will often need to be provided for the movement of refugees in designated situations or for their resettlement in Australia, and (iv) It may not be in the interest of some refugees to settle in Australia. Their interests may be better served by resettlement elsewhere. The Australian Government makes an annual contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees which is the main body associated with such resettlement'. (Hon. Michael Mackellar, op. cit., p. 1714).
6. Figures for 2001 resettlement are for quotas which appear in the UNHCR's *Easy Guide to Refugee Resettlement Programs*, Geneva, 15 June 2001.
7. Only 40 visas were issued under the Special Assistance Category in 2001–2002.
8. Human Rights Watch issued a 94-page report, *By invitation only: Australian asylum policy*, in December 2002.
9. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, *Global programme against trafficking in human beings: project document*. http://www.unicri.it/project_document.htm, accessed on 16 June 2003.
10. Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, *Review '82*, AGPS, Canberra, p. 63.
11. P. Ruddock, 'The plight of Australia's illegal immigrants', Address to the Forum of Human Rights and Immigration, Sydney, 14 May 1998.
12. Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, *Media Release*, MPS 59/99, 11 April 1999.
13. *Border protection: Background paper on unauthorised arrivals strategy*, Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs Web-site, last updated 22 July 2002.
14. J. Jupp, *From White Australia to Woomera*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, pp. 190–193.
15. N. Hancock, 'Refugee Law—Recent Developments', *Current Issues Brief No. 5*, Department of the Parliamentary Library, 2001–02, pp. 1–2. <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/CIB/2001-02/02cib05.htm>, accessed on 6 May 2003.

Chronology 1992–2002

	Details	Source Documents
1992	Four thousand places are allocated in January under the new Special Assistance Category (SAC) to applicants belonging to ethnic minorities from the former Soviet Union, and to Yugoslav, Slovenian, Croat, East Timorese and Lebanese applicants. The SAC was announced in April 1991 to give Australia flexibility in helping people in need who did not fit the UN definition of a refugee. Selection is based on degree of distress suffered by an individual or their membership of a disadvantaged or repressed minority and also the extent of the person's link with Australia.	Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Review '92, Annual Report 1991–92</i> , AGPS, Canberra, 1992, p. 397.
1992	Minister Hand visits Thailand, Cambodia and Hong Kong between 14 and 23 February with a view to discussing refugee and asylum matters with the UNHCR, the International Organisation for Migration and government representatives. Cambodia, and the repatriation of Cambodians along the Thai-Cambodian border, is of special interest.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 6/92, 17 January 1992.
1992	The National Population Council's report, <i>Refugee Review</i> , is officially released in February. The NPC was commissioned in 1989 to undertake a comprehensive analysis of refugee issues, with a view to recommending future policy directions to the Australian Government. The report emphasises that Australia's refugee responses should encompass diplomatic initiatives, overseas aid, onshore processing of asylum claims and offshore refugee work. Specific recommendations result in the establishment of the Refugee Review Tribunal, the establishment of the Special Humanitarian Program and the separation of the Humanitarian Program from the Migration Program. The <i>Review</i> urges the Australian Government to play a more active role in the international response to refugees.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 10/92, 2 February 1992. National Population Council, <i>Refugee Review</i> , AGPS, Canberra, July 1991, p. 14, p. 41.
1992	In February, the Government agrees to incorporate the refugee determination system into regulations and to streamline processing and procedures for claimants. Binding time limits are to be imposed and asylum seekers must lodge their applications and respond to requests for information within a set time-frame. The aim of the proposed measures is to 'ensure that people making asylum claims can no longer routinely anticipate extended stay because of processing delays'. Minister Hand says that it is crucial to speed up procedures in order to 'reduce the trauma of holding people in detention but also to reduce the very considerable cost to taxpayers of maintaining them in custody'.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 12/92, 12 February 1992.

Details	Source Documents
<p>1992</p> <p>In April, 37 people from the groups of 'boat people' who arrived in Western Australia in November 1989 and March 1990 are notified of the failure of their claims to refugee status. The Refugee Status Review Committee, which consists of representatives of the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs (DILGEA) and the Refugee Council of Australia, upholds the Department's decision. An observer from the UNHCR also participates in the review process. The Australian Government provides legal assistance and covers costs of the asylum seekers' preparation of their claims. (This group later lodge challenges in the Federal Court and the High Court. In the High Court, <i>Lim v. the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs</i> (1992) 176 CLR 1, results in the Court's validation of the Government's custody provisions for the detention of people who arrive by boat without proper authority).</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 18/92, 6 April, 1992.</p>
<p>1992</p> <p>In light of a defect in the refugee determination process as applied to a group of 37 Cambodians, Minister Hand instructs his Counsel that he does not wish to defend the case which has gone to the Federal Court in Darwin. The boat people are told they will be deported on 6 April but the Federal Court grants them the right to appeal against the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs' decision. The Minister directs the Department to carry out the final stages of the decision-making again.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 22/92, 13 April 1992.</p> <p>L. Taylor, 'Legal flaw halts deportations', <i>The Australian</i>, 14 April 1992</p>
<p>1992</p> <p>Minister Hand announces further extension of stay for visitors from Sri Lanka, Croatia, Slovenia and (former) Yugoslavia in light of continuing unrest in their regions. Extensions for visitors from Croatia, Slovenia and (former) Yugoslavia had previously been granted to December 1991 and 30 April 1992. The new extension is to 30 July 1992.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 24/92, 24 April 1992.</p>
<p>1992</p> <p>In late April, ten Chinese boat people are transferred from Port Hedland Detention Centre to the State prison in Roebourne (Western Australia), following escapes and unrest at the centre.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 25/92, 4 May 1992.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
1992	<p>On 5 May, Minister Hand introduces legislation in Parliament that aims to prevent the release of boat people from detention. The <i>Migration (Amendment) Act 1992</i> is 'an interim measure pending a comprehensive overhaul of immigration legislation governing entry, custody and removal'. Section 54S states: 'A court is not to order the release from custody of a designated person'. A designated person is basically any person arriving unlawfully by boat after 19 November 1989. The Minister instigates the Bill because of an imminent Federal Court hearing (scheduled for 7 May) to consider the release from detention of 37 Cambodian boat people who had been in detention since November 1989 and March 1990. (These are the group whose challenge in the High Court in December, <i>Lim v. the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs</i>, results in the Court's validation of the Government's mandatory detention policy).</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 26/92, 5 May 1992.</p> <p>M. Millett, 'Parl slams door on held boat people', <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>, 6 May 1992.</p>
1992	<p>Grants totalling \$5 million are allocated for 1991–1992 by the Department to help community organisations provide settlement services.</p>	<p>Review '92, op. cit., p. 398.</p>
1992	<p>Planning level of 80 000 is established for the 1992–1993 migration program: a reduction of 31 000 places on the previous year. The program places greater emphasis on labour market targeting and English language proficiency and skills.</p>	<p>ibid.</p>
1992	<p>Minister Hand announces plans to establish a new body, the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT), to replace the purely administrative Refugee Status Review Committee in 1993. The RRT is to be independent and statutory, with procedures set out in regulations. It will provide non-adversarial hearings for applicants, assess applications on their merits and will have the power to decide appeals.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 35/92, 15 July 1992.</p>
1992	<p>Fundamental reforms to Australia's migration laws are announced by Minister Hand on 17 July. The major proposal relates to the introduction of a single document—a visa—to travel to, enter and remain in Australia. This will replace the existing 'confusing mixture of forms of authority'. It is also proposed to reduce the various forms of status for non-citizens to just two: 'lawful' and 'unlawful'. Unlawful non-citizens will be subject to detention and removal, under the proposals. The reforms are enacted by the Migration Reform Act 1992, which commences in 1994.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 39/92, 17 July 1992.</p>
1992	<p>In announcing the Refugee, Humanitarian and Special Assistance migration categories for 1992–1993, Minister Hand points out that 'numbers admitted under the Central American</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	and Indo-Chinese programs will be smaller than in recent years reflecting declining resettlement needs'. The Refugee and Humanitarian categories mainly consist of programs for the Middle East, Africa, Central America and for Indo-Chinese in camps in South East Asia.	Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 41/92, 24 July 1992.
1992	In light of continuing unrest in their respective regions, a further extension of stay is granted in July to visitors from Sri Lanka and the former Yugoslavia. The Sri Lankan extension is to 31 October 1992. The extension for citizens of the former Yugoslavia is to 31 January 1993. About 2.2 million people have been displaced and the fighting is particularly intense in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In October, the Sri Lankan extension is further extended to 30 June 1993.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 41/92, 24 July 1992.
1992	Changes are made to arrangements whereby Peoples' Republic of China nationals in Australia on four year Temporary Entry Permits may nominate close family members to come to Australia. The PRC people are mainly students who were in Australia at the time of the Tiananmen Square incident.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 45/92, 3 August 1992.
1992	A group of detainees on a hunger strike at Port Hedland stage a demonstration on the Centre's roof with a view to publicising various grievances. Minister Hand offers to personally visit them at Port Hedland if they end their demonstration on the roof.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 47/92, 5 August 1992.
1992	The Budget for 1992–1993 includes more than \$8 million for a new independent tribunal to hear refugee decision appeals (the Refugee Review Tribunal) and for a new program to assist asylum seekers awaiting decisions on their applications for refugee status (i.e. the Asylum Seekers Assistance Scheme). An additional \$4 million is allocated to the refurbishment of Villawood Immigration Detention Centre and \$1.5 million to upgrading security at the Port Hedland Reception and Processing Centre.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 54/92 and 55/92, 18 August 1992.
1992	Unauthorised boat arrives at Christmas Island on 23 August with 68 PRC nationals who apply for refugee status.	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Annual Report 1992–1993</i> , p. 274.
1992	Commenting on the 'speedy' processing of ten recently arrived asylum seekers under the new 'fast-tracking system', Minister Hand says that 'rejected asylum-seekers have no claim to remain in Australia and I put people on notice that threats, demonstrations and other dramatic action will not alter the situation'.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 60/92, 5 September 1992.

	Details	Source Documents
1992	<p>In September, the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Regulations Report, <i>Australia's Refugee Humanitarian System: Achieving a balance between refuge and control</i>, is released. The report generally endorses the Government's refugee responses. Recommendations already addressed by the Government include the establishment of the Refugee Review Tribunal, short extended stay for victims of civil unrest, faster processing of boat arrivals and simplification of the law affecting border claimants for refugee status.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 61/92, 14 September 1992.</p>
1992	<p>On 23 October, the first group of failed asylum seekers under the new fast-tracked determination procedures is removed from Australia and returned to Guangzhou, China. The group consists of six Chinese 'boat people' and one child. The Government of the PRC assures the Australian Government that the group will not be punished for their illegal departure from China.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 64/92, 23 October 1992.</p>
1992	<p>Three Cambodian women asylum seekers continue a hunger strike in Sydney. Minister Hand reiterates his longstanding position that he will not intervene in the decision-making process for refugee applications. On 6 November, the women are counselled by a representative of the UNHCR and on 10 November by a Buddhist monk. In a lengthy Media Release issued on 11 November, Minister Hand discusses the case and identifies the women as part of a group that arrived off the coast of Western Australia on 31 March 1990. Refugee applications were lodged by the women in May 1990 and, following interviews with them and the intervention of peak refugee organisations on their behalf, primary decisions were delivered in early 1992. The women then appealed to the Refugee Status Review Committee which unanimously recommended against the grant of refugee status.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 66/92, 4 November 1992.</p> <p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 69/92, 11 November 1992.</p>
1992	<p>Eleven Romanian nationals arrive by unauthorised boat from Papua New Guinea in October and apply for refugee status. A second group of 113 people from the PRC, also arriving by unauthorised boat, is deemed to have no legal basis to enter or remain in Australia and are returned to the PRC on 7 November.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Annual Report 1992–1993</i>, Canberra, 1993, p. 274.</p>
1992	<p>Minister Hand initiates an approach to Papua New Guinea authorities in Port Moresby about a suspected illegal immigrant racket operating across the Torres Strait. In the previous fortnight, two groups of illegal immigrants had been delivered to islands in the Torres Strait via Papua New Guinea.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 67/92, 6 November 1992.</p>
1992	<p>In light of unrest, including hunger strikes, among Cambodian detainees, the Department of Immigration, Local Government</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration, Local</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	and Ethnic Affairs puts together an expert counselling team comprising international staff from the UNHCR and staff of the Australian Red Cross. The team works with Cambodians detained in Villawood and Port Hedland.	Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 69/92, 11 November 1992.
1992	On 7 December, 16 Cambodians who arrived unlawfully at Broome as part of a group of 26 in November 1989 have their refugee claims rejected. (They are part of the group whose appeal to the High Court in <i>Lim v. the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs</i> , results in the Court's validation of mandatory detention). Two of the original group had earlier been given approval to remain in Australia and four others had returned voluntarily to Cambodia. The following week, a further group of 70 Cambodian 'boat people' are formally rejected as refugees, with two others granted refugee status.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 72/92, 7 December 1992, and MPS 76/92, 15 December 1992.
1992	On 8 December, in the case of <i>Lim v. the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs</i> , the High Court upholds the Government's custody provisions for the detention of people who arrive by boat without proper authority. All seven judges say the Government's mandatory detention policy is a valid use of government power, provided it is to facilitate processing and removal and is not punitive. Minister Hand says the decision justifies the Government's policy. Shadow Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Philip Ruddock, says the High Court has reaffirmed the principle that 'it is the right of the Government of the day to determine who shall and who shall not enter Australia'.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 73/92, 8 December 1992. M. Millett, 'High Court upholds Government's power to detain boat people', <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , 9 December 1992.
1992	Minister Hand proposes legislation to limit compensation claims for boat people. The need for the new legislation arises from a High Court decision on 8 December that upholds the constitutional validity of the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs' right to detain boat people while their entry applications are considered but which raises doubts about the previous custody arrangements of the boat people. (The court held that, in cases where the boat on which people arrive is destroyed or otherwise unavailable, then custody is unlawful for that period of time). The Migration (Amendment) Bill (No. 4) 1992 passes in the House of Representatives on 16 December, and limits any damages' claim for unlawful detention to a dollar per day.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 77/92, 16 December 1992.
1992	On 21 December, the Enterprise Migrant Centre, Melbourne, the last remaining operating migrant accommodation centre, is closed.	Review 92, op. cit., p 398.

	Details	Source Documents
1993	Early in January, visitors from the former Yugoslavia are granted further extension of stay to 30 June.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 41/92, 24 July 1992.
1993	In January, Minister Hand announces the separation of the Migration and Humanitarian Programs. He sees this as a strengthening of Australia's humanitarian commitment and also announces an increase in the Humanitarian Program from 10 000 to 12 000 in 1992–93. There are an estimated 40 million refugees and displaced persons in the world.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 41/92, 24 July 1992.
1993	Minister Hand stresses the importance in refugee policy of coordination between the three most relevant agencies of government: the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau and the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs.	Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 41/92, 24 July 1992.
1993	An Australian Government Information Office is opened in Beirut, Lebanon, to cater for ongoing migration interest in Australia.	Annual Report 1992–1993, DIEA, Canberra, 1993, p. 275.
1993	Senator the Hon. Nick Bolkus replaces Gerry Hand as the new Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs on 24 March. Local Government is removed from the portfolio.	ibid.
1993	In May, Minister Bolkus increases by 1000 the planned refugee and humanitarian intake for 1993–1994, aiming for a total of 13 000. Four thousand places are made available in the Refugee component, 6350 places in the Special Assistance Category and 2650 in the Special Humanitarian Program, including an extra 400 for women at risk.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B 7/93, 26 May 1993.
1993	The new Minister affirms his commitment to a 'more coordinated' response to refugee situations, pointing out that \$50 million has been allocated to assist refugees and displaced persons through AIDAB.	ibid.
1993	Further extensions of stay, to 31 January 1994, are granted to Sri Lankans and citizens of the former Republic of Yugoslavia who have been legally in Australia since 31 December 1991.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B13/93 and B14/93, 21 June 1993.
1993	The new Refugee Review Tribunal commences on 1 July, with 26 members drawn from many areas of the community. It is an independent non-adversarial merits' review body with power to	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B19/93,

	Details	Source Documents
	overturn refusal decisions. The RRT begins with a backlog of about 5500 review cases.	1 July 1993.
1993	The Joint Standing Committee on Migration is appointed to inquire into proposed changes to the <i>Migration Act 1958</i> .	
1993	On 6 August, Justice Neaves of the Federal Court determines that the continuing detention of Mr. Jia Xin Tang and 25 other Chinese boat people is not authorised under the Migration Act. The court rules that the 273 day limit on detention set by the Federal Parliament had expired by the time Mr. Tang's application for refugee status was refused. Minister Bolkus expresses the Government's intention to appeal the ruling. The decision does not have bearing on the rejection of Mr. Tang's refugee status by the Department and by the RRT but it does oblige the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs to release him and the other 25 into the community. Minister Bolkus imposes conditions on their release, including the duty to report to Departmental officials once a fortnight.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B23/93, 13 August 1993.
1993	In October, a Special Assistance Category for Cambodians with close links to Australia is established. Eligible Cambodians must also have experienced hardship as a result of upheavals in Cambodia, been resident in Cambodia for 12 months before lodgement of an application, and must meet the usual health and character requirements. The SAC also applies to Cambodians who 'arrived unauthorised by boat between 28 November 1989 and 26 April 1991' and who were 'held in immigration detention for the greater part of their stay in Australia'.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B36/93, 19 October 1993.
1993	In addition to Cambodians, the SAC for 1992–1993 applies to minorities from the former USSR, displaced persons from the former Yugoslavia, East Timorese in Portugal, Sudanese and Burmese in Burma and Thailand. Under the SAC, a near relative or community support group in Australia must give a written undertaking that they will support successful applicants during their first six months in Australia with food, clothing, household goods, personal support, access to community and public services, language interpretation and the securing of English language instruction and community involvement and self-reliance. Persons accepted under the SAC must fund their own travel to Australia.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B46/93, 9 December 1993.
1993	In November, the Government decides to provide access to permanent residence to people temporarily in Australia. The decision is directed mainly at Chinese nationals who are on four-year temporary entry permits, following the Tiananmen Square incident, but also covers some Sri Lankans and citizens	DIMIA, <i>Immigration: Federation to century's end 1901–2001</i> , p. 14. Minister for Immigration and

	Details	Source Documents
	of the former Republic of Yugoslavia. By August 1994, about 49 700 people have applied.	Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B4/94, 31 January 1994.
1993	A further extension of stay (to 30 June 1994) is granted to Sri Lankans.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B44/93, 9 December 1993.
1994	The Joint Standing Committee on Migration Regulations' report, <i>Asylum, border control and detention</i> , is tabled in the Senate in March. The report provides a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the law and practice relating to immigration detention in Australia and makes various recommendations concerning the implementation of the <i>Migration Reform Act 1992</i> , scheduled for commencement on 1 September 1994.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B8/94, 2 March 1994.
1994	On 11 March, Minister Bolkus announces the introduction of regulations that will allow the release of detained boat people who are under the age of 18, subject to certain conditions. Among the conditions is the requirement that release is in the minor's best interests, and that appropriate care and accommodation be in place. In cases where a parent or guardian is in detention, the express permission of the parent or guardian is necessary. Of 147 boat people in detention in Australia, about 20 are eligible to apply for the new arrangements.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B10/94, 11 March 1994.
1994	On 11 April, Minister Bolkus opens the Regional Consultations on Illegal Migration, attended by representatives of governments of Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China (PRC), Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, UK, USA and Vietnam, as well as the UNHCR and International Organisation for Migration. Hosted by the Australian Government, the Consultations are held in Canberra and aim to exchange information and increase the level of knowledge amongst participants of the ways in which illegal migration operates. Minister Bolkus says that 'illegal migration undermines sovereign rights to determine who can enter and remain in' a territory.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B14/94, 11 April 1994.
1994	Minister Bolkus undertakes a two-week official visit to Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam in April to discuss immigration and humanitarian issues, including illegal migration.	ibid.

	Details	Source Documents
1994	A Memorandum of Understanding establishes an Immigration Cooperation Program between Australia and Laos.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , 14 April 1994.
1994	The 1994–1995 Humanitarian Program is announced, with 4000 places for refugees (persons overseas who meet the UN definition), 6500 places in the Special Assistance Category (for people in vulnerable situations overseas who have close links with Australia) and 2500 places in the Special Humanitarian category (for people who have suffered discrimination or other violation of human rights, but are not defined as refugees). Priority areas remain Indo-China, former Yugoslavia and the Middle East. Five hundred places are set aside for the Women at Risk category.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B21/94, 10 May 1994 and B49/94, 2 August 1994.
1994	Approximately 73 000 places are planned for the 1994–1995 Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program, consisting of: 47 000 in the family stream, 25 000 in the skill stream and 1000 for special eligibility migrants.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B20/94, 9 May 1994.
1994	The 1994–1995 Budget increases funding to the Immigration and Ethnic Affairs' portfolio and includes more than \$5 million for a pilot program to help refugees who have suffered torture and trauma. In another initiative, the Government removes the requirement for refugees to have resided in Australia for a set period of time to become eligible for pensions.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B24/94, 11 May 1994.
1994	In May, new guidelines are released under which people refused refugee status may be allowed to remain in Australia on humanitarian grounds. The guidelines replace those issued in 1991, and assist the Minister in exercising his discretionary power. Section 166BE of the Migration Act allows the Minister to substitute for a decision of the Refugee Review Tribunal a decision more favourable to the applicant. (Section 166BE is not part of the guidelines.) The guidelines were developed after consultations with a range of voluntary agencies and refugee interest groups.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B28/94, 24 May 1994.
1994	Detainees at Port Hedland Centre receive widespread publicity following demonstrations on the Centre's roof top. Minister Bolkus says that he will not be 'intimidated' and that the decision of his Department and of the RRT, that found the nine Chinese 'boat people' not to be refugees, will stand.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B30/94, 30 May 1994.
1994	During National Refugee Week in June, Minister Bolkus launches two publications: <i>Refugee Reflections</i> , a collection of stories of refugees from Iran, Vietnam, Eritrea, Hungary,	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B39/94,

	Details	Source Documents
	Kurdistan, Ethiopia and Afghanistan, and <i>Refugee and humanitarian issues: the focus in Australia</i> , an official description of Australia's humanitarian programs and policies.	24 June 1994.
1994	In July, Minister Bolkus announces his intention to amend migration legislation so that individuals found not to be refugees under UNHCR processes in another country will not be able to lodge fresh applications in Australia. The decision is prompted by the unauthorised arrival of 17 Vietnamese 'boat people' at Broome on 7 July, who had been processed and found not to be refugees at Indonesia's Galang Processing Centre. Under the 1989 Comprehensive Plan of Action, Vietnamese and Laotian refugees are assisted to resettle in third countries and failed asylum seekers must return to their country of origin.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B44/94, 15 July 1994 and B58/94, 29 August 1994.
1994	Justice Gallop rules in the Federal Court in Canberra that the representative of Port Hedland detainees, Lin Yan (aged 11) and Lin Jing (aged 8), have no arguable case to stop their return to China. The girls' representative, Marion Le, appeals to the Federal Court in Sydney.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , Un-numbered, 22 July 1994.
1994	Australia has resettled more than 17 000 Indo-Chinese refugees from camps since the advent of the 1989–1990 Comprehensive Plan of Action, and has contributed nearly \$7 million to the CPA.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B49/94, 2 August 1994.
1994	In August, the Minister for the first time issues Conclusive Certificates to stop people who had been refused refugee status from seeking a review of the decisions by the Refugee Review Tribunal. The individuals concerned are from the group of 17 Vietnamese who arrived at Broome on 7 July, after having been unsuccessfully assessed for refugee status at Galang in Indonesia.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B58/94, 29 August 1994.
1994	The Government proceeds with the Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No 2) despite Coalition opposition. The Bill seeks to limit claims for compensation for detention by boat people.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B60/94, 30 August 1994.
1994	In September, an unauthorised boat carrying 31 people arrives near Broome. Its passengers are taken to Port Hedland. Minister Bolkus says they have told local people they are from the Galang Processing Centre in Indonesia. The Government is proceeding with legislation to prevent such people, who have access to protection under the Comprehensive Plan of Action in another country, claiming asylum in Australia.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B62/94, 9 September 1994.
1994	A Melbourne-based organisational restructuring of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, and the Bureau	Minister for Immigration and

Details	Source Documents	
of Immigration and Population Research (BIPR) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet), takes place, following an evaluation by consultants Price Waterhouse Urwick. The changes aim to make the department more client focused. Divisions dedicated to onshore and offshore services delivery are established, as well as a new division to develop and review policy. Other changes include the integration of OMA's regional offices into the Department, and the broadening of the BIPR into the Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research.	Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B87/94, 15 December 1994.	
1995	A new reception and processing centre for unauthorised boat arrivals is activated at the RAAF Base Curtin, near Derby in Western Australia. It can accommodate 300 people and is needed because Port Hedland has reached its capacity with 756 detainees and because of the arrival of three unauthorised boats carrying 171 people.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B4/95, 25 January 1995 and B20/95, 28 March 1995.
1995	The 1995–1996 Budget increases funding to the national network of Migrant Resource Centres and includes allocation of resources to better meet the needs of refugees. The Budget continues to support services for torture-trauma survivors.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B30/95, 9 May 1995.
1995	The Humanitarian Program is maintained at a planned intake level of 13 000 places for 1995–1996. This consists of 4000 refugees, 5200 Special Assistance Category and 3800 Special Humanitarian Category. Five hundred places are reserved under the Women at Risk program. Indo-China is no longer a priority area. The two priority regions are the former Yugoslavia and the Gulf. There are 3.5 million displaced persons in the former Yugoslavia, many of whom can only be helped through resettlement and, in the Middle East, some 22 500 people, mainly Iraqis, are in need of resettlement as a result of the Gulf War. In October, the Program is increased by 2000 places, in light of the situation in the former Yugoslavia.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B32/95, 11 May 1995 and B106/95, 24 October 1995.
1995	The 1995–1996 Migration (non Humanitarian) Program is increased to 83 000, with 51 000 places in the family stream, 30 800 in the skill stream and 1200 in the special eligibility stream. The Program marked a significant increase in skill levels, especially business skills. A new pilot scheme is introduced for up to 500 migrants sponsored to settle in regional areas.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B31/95, 11 May 1995.
1995	On 17 June, the Full Federal Court rules that parents in China with one child do not constitute a 'particular social group' under the UN Convention. The ruling overturns a ruling by Justice Sackville in December 1994 that a Chinese couple came within	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B44/95, 17 June 1995.

	Details	Source Documents
	the refugee definition because they formed part of a social group in respect of which PRC fertility control policies discriminated against parents with more than one child.	
1995	Minister Bolkus criticises the Chief Justice of the Family Court for his public comments on children in detention, particularly the claim that the centre at Port Hedland is a 'virtual concentration camp'. The Minister points out that under Australian law people not eligible to claim asylum who arrive without authorisation must be held in immigration detention until they are removed. He also says that 'there are already provisions under the law to release minors from detention, where it is in the best interests of the child and this has been done'. The Minister also points out that delays in refugee determination are not caused by the determination and review process but arise when failed applicants pursue litigation. On average, he says, the Department takes five weeks to process the asylum claims of boat people.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B56/95, 19 July 1995.
1995	Eight new members are appointed to the Refugee Review Tribunal. The RRT now has 42 full-time members, 17 part-time members and a Principal Member.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B85/95, 6 September 1995.
1995	About 14 000 former Yugoslav nationals have been resettled in Australia since the regional conflict began in 1992. The Department plans for the resettlement of an additional 7500 in 1995–1996.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B106/95, 24 October 1995.
1995	Minister Bolkus undertakes to revise the <i>Guidelines for Stay in Australia on Humanitarian Grounds</i> to take into account the special needs and concerns of women. He promises to undertake wide ranging consultations, including with the UNHCR and the Refugee Council of Australia, and to implement a training strategy to sensitise decision makers to gender issues. He anticipates the finalisation of the 'gender guidelines' early in 1996.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B131/95, 5 December 1995.
1995	In December, the reception and processing centre for unauthorised arrivals at RAAF Base Curtin is mothballed, as the removal of Vietnamese refugees to China under Safe Third Country Legislation means that Port Hedland can accommodate all remaining 'boat people'.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B134/95, 7 December 1995.
1995	New arrangements allow Sri Lankans and former Yugoslavs who have been in Australia without temporary entry permits or visas since 31 December 1991 to access temporary humanitarian visas from 1 February 1996.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B144/95, 13 December 1995.

	Details	Source Documents
1996	In January, Minister Bolkus announces the continuation of the Cambodian Special Assistance Category. A total of 1361 visas have been granted under the program since its introduction in October 1993.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B6/96, 18 January 1996.
1996	Minister announces measures to make it easier for refugees and other humanitarian entrants to bring their immediate families to Australia. The measures, which are meant to be introduced during the 1996–1997 Migration and Humanitarian Programs, include the dropping of migration fees normally payable to bring separated families together.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B11/96, 25 January 1996.
1996	New training arrangements for voluntary groups who help refugees settle in Australia are announced by Minister Bolkus. The training relates to cultural and gender sensitivity, sensitivity to torture and trauma survivors and negotiation and advocacy skills. The new arrangements are under development by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and the Refugee Council of Australia.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B12/96, 25 January 1996.
1996	During the Federal Election campaign in February, Minister Bolkus accuses Opposition Leader, Hon. John Howard MP, of displaying 'no real interest in or understanding of immigration or what makes cultural diversity work for all of us' and of being 'on record as opposing Asian immigration'.	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , B23/96, 9 February 1996.
1996	On the election of a Coalition Government in March, Hon. Phillip Ruddock MP replaces Nick Bolkus as Minister. The Department becomes the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.	
1996	Minister Ruddock undertakes a series of consultations on the immigration program with representatives of ethnic groups, business, environment, planning, unions, refugee and other welfare groups and state and local governments around Australia. He says that 'family reunion and the humanitarian intake will remain central parts of the immigration program'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS2/96, 1 April 1996.
1996	Visitors from the southern part of Lebanon, where conflict has escalated, who face danger upon their return are able to apply for an extension of stay in Australia. The Australian Government supports international efforts for a cease-fire and return to the Middle East peace process.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 9/96, 23 April 1996.
1996	In May, the Australian Government returns a group of 59 boat people to China, bringing the total number returned to China since 1991 to almost a thousand.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 3/96, 14 May 1996.

	Details	Source Documents
1996	Under the Memorandum of Understanding with the People's Republic of China, signed in January, the Australian Government repatriates 357 'boat people' whose claims for protection are unjustified. Minister Ruddock says the returns are 'a clear illustration of this Government's determination to ensure that the integrity of our borders is not compromised by those attempting illegal immigration'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 16/96, 27 May 1996.
1996	In May, Minister Ruddock invites written submissions from individuals and organisations as part of a review of the Immigration Review Tribunal and the Refugee Review Tribunal. He is concerned about delays in the process which result in some people remaining in detention for lengthy periods.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 19/96, 31 May 1996.
1996	Draft guidelines for refugee decision-makers dealing with gender related claims are released for community comment. The 'gender guidelines' were initiated in December 1995. The final document is released on 15 July.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS20/96, 3 June 1996 and MPS 34/96, 15 July 1996.
1996	Minister Ruddock puts forward the Migration Legislation (Amendment) Bill (No. 2) 1996 to limit the right of detainees to access a lawyer to those situations in which the detainees themselves request such access. A recent Federal Court case— <i>HREOC and Another v. the Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs</i> —necessitates the Government's move to 'prevent unauthorised arrivals from being encouraged to engage unwarranted, lengthy and expensive processing'. An effect of the court decision, the Minister says, is that 'the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Act can be used to undermine the intent of the Migration Act, allowing lawyers to provide unsolicited advice to people who have entered Australia illegally. This could give unauthorised arrivals unrealistic expectations that they will be able to remain in Australia ... (and) could encourage more boat arrivals'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 25/96, 19 June 1996.
1996	In October, Minister Ruddock criticises the Opposition for creating a Migration Program when it was in office that was 'out of balance and rapidly losing public confidence'. Family migration grew significantly at the expense of the skilled intake, according to the Minister, and he intends to restore the balance between skilled and family migration. The 1996–1997 Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program incorporates a significant shift towards skilled migration. A total of 28 000 places are in the skilled stream, 36 700 in the Preferential	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS27/96, 3 July 1996 and MPS70/96, 30 October 1996.

	Details	Source Documents
	Family category, 8000 in the Concessional Family category and 1300 are 'Special Eligibility'.	
1996	Special arrangements for visitors from southern Lebanon are ended, in light of the 27 April cease-fire which has brought stability to the region.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 24/96, 18 June 1996.
1996	Visitors and temporary entrants from Sri Lanka and the former Yugoslavia are granted an extension of stay until 31 July 1997. The extension applies to people who entered Australia on or before 31 July 1996.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 26/96, 1 July 1996.
1996	The 1996–1997 Humanitarian Program consists of 12 000 offshore places and 2000 nominally set aside for onshore places. This includes the 2000 offshore places brought forward from the Program by the former Government. The Program consists of 4000 refugee places (including 665 places brought forward), 2800 Special Humanitarian Program places (including 667 brought forward) and 5200 in the Special Assistance Category (including 668 brought forward). Priority is given to former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Africa.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS28/6, 3 July 1996.
1996	Figures released by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs in July reveal a drop in the estimated number of people living in Australia unlawfully. Between June and December 1995, the estimated total declined from 51 300 to 47 600. Visa over-stayers are the great majority (74 per cent), followed by visitors and students.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS31/96, 10 July 1996.
1996	Minister Ruddock visits the People's Republic of China in August and has discussions with senior officials on a number of issues including the illegal movement of people.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS46/96, 8 August 1996.
1996	The Government increases funding to the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) by \$17.6 million over four years, in addition to its 1996–1997 grant of \$76.3 million.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS54/96, 20 August 1996.
1996	In an attempt to speed up the processing of asylum claims, Minister Ruddock announces additional funding of \$9.6 million in 1996–1997 for additional staff to address the backlog of protection visa applications. He sees the move as reducing the 'spiralling costs' of the Asylum Seekers Assistance Scheme (ASA), introduced by the previous Government. ASA is available to eligible protection visa applicants while their claims	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS53/96, 20 August 1996.

	Details	Source Documents
	are being assessed at the primary and review stages. It cost the government \$16 million in 1995–1996.	
1996	The Commonwealth Government allocates \$5 million for an anti-racism education campaign in 1996–1997.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS52/96, 20 August 1996.
1996	An increase in funding of \$20.7 million over four years for migrant settlement services is announced by Minister Ruddock in August, along with a promise to specifically identify refugee settlement needs in restructured advisory arrangements.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS51/96, 20 August 1996.
1996	Three Special Assistance Categories are terminated in the 1996–1997 Humanitarian Program: the Minorities from the Soviet Union SAC (in operation since 1992), the East Timorese SAC for people in Portugal, Macau and Mozambique (in operation since 1991) and the Cambodian SAC (in operation since 1993). Minister Ruddock says they have achieved their original purpose. Continuing SACs exist for Burmese in Burma, citizens of the former Yugoslavia, Sudanese, Burmese in Thailand, Sri Lankans, Ahmadis and Vietnamese.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS59/96, 4 September 1996.
1996	Minister Ruddock announces that arrangements are being made to allow the immediate families of Humanitarian Program entrants and Protection Visa holders to come to Australia under the Humanitarian Program. The visa holder will no longer need to be an Australian citizen in order to sponsor immediate family members for entry. This, however, is among a package of proposed changes to the Migration Regulations that is disallowed by the Senate in November.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS59/96, 4 September 1996 and MPS81/96, 28 November 1996.
1996	Minister Ruddock leads the Australian delegation at the Executive Committee meeting of the UNHCR in Geneva in September. He also visits the United Kingdom and the Middle East for discussions on immigration and refugee issues and to address a conference of Australian migration officers.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS63/96, 20 September 1996.
1996	In 1995–1996, a total of 99 139 new settlers arrived in Australia—the largest intake since 1991–1992. Fourteen per cent, or 13 824 people, arrived under the Humanitarian Program. Two-thirds are from the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS64/96, 22 September 1996.
1996	The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs publishes <i>Ambivalent welcome: the settlement experiences of humanitarian entrant families in Australia</i> , a comparative study	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS

	Details	Source Documents
	of 126 humanitarian entrant families and 46 non-humanitarian entrant families. The study finds that, despite initial difficulties which can be considerable, humanitarian entrants adjust well to Australian society over time. The report points to the special problems faced by victims of torture and trauma and the importance of family support.	8/96, 30 September 1996.
1996	In November, Australia and the UNHCR jointly host a conference in Canberra attended by 22 countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Minister Ruddock says the conference aims to 'discuss past experiences and to examine avenues for enhancing understanding of major people movements in the region for future cooperation'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS81/96, 28 November 1996.
1997	In March, Minister Ruddock announces changes to the refugee and immigration review systems, with a view to 'shorten overall processing times and to discourage frivolous applications'. The Migration Internal Review Office and the Immigration Review Tribunal (IRT) are to be collapsed into one body, the IRT. The Refugee Review Tribunal remains but review application time limits are reduced, restrictions are placed on working rights during the review period and a \$1000 fee introduced for applicants who fail to obtain refugee status.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 28/97, 20 March 1997.
1997	On the weekend of 21–22 March, the Government returns 114 boat people to China on the grounds that they arrived illegally and have no claim to remain. The boat people do not engage Australia's protection obligations when interviewed by Immigration officers. Among the group are 70 Chinese from the PRC who were rescued at sea on 6 March.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 31/97, 23 March 1997.
1997	In March, Minister Ruddock announces plans to introduce a 'privative clause' for many decisions under the Migration Act, with a view to limiting the volume and cost of litigation. A privative clause is 'a provision within an Act of Parliament, the practical effect of which will be to limit judicial review to whether the decision maker made a decision that was within their jurisdiction and power to make'. The plan is a response to the large number of litigation cases in the Immigration portfolio, of which 422 relate to onshore refugee decisions. The Minister claims that people who have no legitimate right to be in Australia are using litigation to delay their departure. In 1995–1996, litigation cost the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs \$7.4 million.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 32/97, 25 March 1997.

	Details	Source Documents
1997	A Refugee Resettlement Advisory Council is established in April to advise the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs on the settlement of refugees, especially the adequacy of Commonwealth services.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 34/97, 4 April 1997.
1997	Addressing the Administrative Law Forum in May, Minister Ruddock criticises the condition of the Migration Program inherited from the previous Government. He says it was 'seriously out of balance', with almost 70 per cent of the program in the family stream, entry standards reduced too far in some categories and sham marriages and other abuses eroding public confidence in the overall program. Ruddock informs the Forum that the Government will give greater priority to business and skilled migration and maintain the humanitarian program.	P. Ruddock, Speech, 1997 National Administrative Law Forum, Canberra, 1 May 1997, pp. 3–4.
1997	The Federal Budget provides \$20.8 million over four years for enhanced settlement services for refugee and humanitarian entrants. Extra funding is made available for the Adult Migrant English Program and the role of the Home Tutor Program is expanded. The Refugee Resettlement Advisory Council is to advise the Government on the most effective means of delivering the initiatives.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 42/97, 44/97 and 45/97, 13 May 1997.
1997	A group of 46 Chinese boat people is returned to China in May. Minister Ruddock thanks PRC officials for their 'high level of cooperation' and says that 'The Government has no desire to keep unauthorised arrivals in detention for any longer than is necessary and this is evidenced by the quick and effective removal of a group of people who have no claim to be in Australia'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 46/97, 18 May 1997.
1997	In June, the Government creates new visa classes to cover specified citizens from Sri Lanka, countries in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and China. The aim is to resolve their status, as people who have been in Australia on humanitarian grounds as long-term temporary residents. The new visas affect about 8 000 people and offer further temporary stay, with the availability of permanent residence after they have been in Australia for a total of ten years. The move represents the resolution of Tiananmen Square related decisions.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 56/97, 13 June 1997.
1997	The Government sets the 1997–1998 Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program at 68 000, with a strengthening of the skilled intake. The Humanitarian Program is set at 12 000, bringing the total immigration target to 80 000. The Humanitarian Program's components for 1997–1998 are Refugees (4000 places), Special Humanitarian Program (2800	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 47/97 and 48/97, 21 May 1997 and MPS 60/97, 24 June 1997.

	Details	Source Documents
	places), Special Assistance Category (3200) and Onshore Protection Visa Grants (2000). Priority continues to be given to regions of the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Africa. A total of 420 places are reserved for the Women at Risk Program.	
1997	In June, the Vietnamese Special Assistance Category is terminated on the grounds that it had achieved its purpose. The Vietnamese SAC was established in 1995 to provide resettlement opportunities for people in camps who had been denied refugee status and returned to Vietnam.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 60/97, 24 June 1997.
1997	Ninety-two Chinese are returned to the PRC after arriving in Australia unlawfully by boat. The 92 people had arrived from China on five boats in 1992, 1994 and 1996. Many had been detained for lengthy periods because they had taken their cases to review following rejection of their primary applications by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. The review tribunals and the courts rejected their appeals.	Senator the Hon. Amanda Vanstone, Acting Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 69V/97, 15 July 1997.
1997	A group of 15 Sri Lankans is returned to Sri Lanka after arriving by unauthorised boat at Coral Bay, near Exmouth, Western Australia a few weeks earlier. A total of 383 unauthorised boat arrivals have been removed in the 12 months since July 1996.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 72/97, 26 July 1997.
1997	The 1996–1997 Migration Program achieves the Government's aim of greater emphasis on skilled migration. Around 37 per cent of the total Program outcome of 73 900 is in the skilled stream (compared with 29 per cent in 1995–1996). The Migration Program outcome is 8600 visas less than the 1995–1996 Program.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 75/97, 29 July 1997.
1997	About 2000 Sri Lankans and citizens of the former Yugoslavia, who have been lawfully in Australia from before 1 November 1993, are reminded that their temporary visas expire on 31 July and that they must leave Australia.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 77/97, 31 July 1997.
1997	The Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy is introduced as part of the Budget commitment of an additional \$20.8 million over four years for a more effective delivery of humanitarian services, particularly in the areas of health, English language training, employment and youth. Government contributions to voluntary groups are increased, and the Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS) is introduced to replace the former Grant-in-Aid and Migrant Access Projects Scheme. The CSSS pays particular attention to the aged, women and new arrivals who belong to small emerging communities.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 85/97 and 84/97, 28 August 1997.
1997	The 1997–1998 Humanitarian Program allocates 4155 places to people from the regions of the former Yugoslavia. The total	Minister for Immigration and

	Details	Source Documents
	Program target is 12 000 places, of which 10 000 are offshore and 2000 onshore. Minister Ruddock, who visited the region in July, says of the former Yugoslavia that 'priority in allocating places continues to be given to people in mixed marriages and other vulnerable cases identified by the UNHCR, such as war widows and people of mixed ethnic parentage, unable to return safely to their home areas'.	Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 91/97, 30 September 1997.
1997	In October, Minister Ruddock launches the report, <i>The Migrant Experience</i> , which is a summary of the main findings of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (LSIA). The LSIA, the most comprehensive survey of immigrants ever undertaken in Australia, provides government agencies with reliable information to improve immigration and settlement policies, programs and services. LSIA basically measures how well immigrants settle into Australia.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 102/97, 10 October 1997.
1997	On 14 November, Australian Correctional Services (ACS) takes up responsibility for the delivery of services (i.e. guarding, catering, health, welfare, education and transportation) at the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre in Sydney. ACS is jointly owned by Australasian Correctional Management Pty Ltd (ACM) and Thiess Contractors Pty Ltd. ACM has contracts for 44 detention/correctional facilities with over 29 000 beds in the United Kingdom, United States and Australia.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs PS 19/97, 14 November 1997.
1997	On 17 December, Minister Ruddock and the Attorney-General, the Hon. Daryl Williams QC MP, jointly respond to a United Nations' Human Rights' Committee report regarding the detention of an asylum seeker, 'Mr A' who had been detained between late 1989 and early 1994. The Human Rights' Committee claimed the length of Mr. A's detention contravened the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Ruddock-Williams respond by pointing out that a primary decision was made in regards to Mr. A's application in May 1991 but that 'subsequent review processes beyond the control of Government extended his detention'. They also point out that his arrival and application for refugee status coincided with a dramatic increase in the number of such applications.	Attorney-General the Hon. Daryl Williams AM QC MP and the Hon. Philip Ruddock MP, <i>Joint News Release</i> , 17 December 1997.
1998	The Humanitarian Program for 1998–1999 consists of 10 000 offshore places and 2000 onshore. Priority remains in the regions of the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Africa. In the offshore component, 4000 places are reserved for Refugees, 4250 for the Special Humanitarian Program and 1750 for the Special Assistance Category.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 37/98, 8 April 1998.

	Details	Source Documents
1998	The 1998–1999 Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program remains at 68 000 places with continuing emphasis on the economic benefits of the program. The Skill stream remains the largest component, with 35 000 places (followed by the Family stream with 30 500).	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 36/98, 8 April 1998.
1998	The 1998–1999 Budget includes initiatives designed to strengthen border management. Australian staff resources are increased in countries with a known high risk of abuse of Australia's visa systems and the numbers of immigration staff at airports in Australia are increased. Also, the Budget provides funds for the improvement of the Movement Alert List computer system, which is the central checking tool for the identification of passengers who are of immigration concern. Increased funding is also allocated for surveillance of unauthorised movements in the Torres Strait Protected Zone. The introduction of a \$50 visa application charge for some visitors is to contribute to the costs of the initiatives.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release No 1, 1998 Budget</i> , 12 May 1998.
1998	A major redevelopment of the Immigration Detention Centre at Villawood, Sydney is allocated \$35 million in the 1998–1999 Budget. The aim is to improve security and to better address the needs of detainees of diverse backgrounds.	ibid.
1998	Minister Ruddock announces that, in light of civil disturbances in Indonesia, Indonesian nationals temporarily and lawfully in Australia are able to apply for an extension of stay. He says this will be 'a short-term measure and will remain in place only while the current disturbances make it unsafe for people to return to their home regions'. (Ethnic Chinese are targeted by rioters and looters in demonstrations caused by Indonesia's national economic crisis.) The extension of stay is withdrawn on 26 June, following the easing of the situation in Indonesia.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 51/98, 16 May 1998 and MPS 75/98, 26 June 1998.
1998	A Government 'crack down' on over-stayers and illegal workers results in more than 11 600 people being detained in 1997–1998.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 71/98, 24 June 1998.
1998	In June, 15 people who arrived in Australia unlawfully by boat are returned to Bangladesh. Minister Ruddock says that 'It is unfortunate that people who may already be economically disadvantaged have again lost substantial sums of money to individuals organising such travel when there was no real chance of them being allowed to stay in Australia'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 78/98, 30 June 1998.
1998	In July, details of the 1997–1998 Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program are announced. More than half the total outcome—	Minister for Immigration and

Details	Source Documents	
<p>34 670 visas—were issued in the Skill stream and 31 310 in the Family Stream. In the 1996–1997 program, 37 per cent of visas were in the Skill stream and 60 per cent were in the Family stream. The shift in the program balance is consistent with Coalition policy and is designed to benefit the national economy and to increase public confidence in the migration program through demonstrating its economic benefits.</p>	<p>Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 87/98, 13 July 1998.</p>	
1998	<p>The 1997–1998 Humanitarian Program delivers 12 020 visas, including 543 in the Women at Risk category. A total of 10 467 visas were granted offshore, mainly under the Special Humanitarian Program (4636) and Refugees (4010). Nearly half the total Humanitarian visas are granted to people resettled from the regions of the former Yugoslavia, 28 per cent to people from the Middle East and 14 per cent to those from Africa. A total of 1553 people are granted Protection Visas onshore.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 100/98, 5 August 1998.</p>
1998	<p>In August, the first stage of the Federal Government's anti-racism campaign—<i>Living in harmony</i>—is launched by Minister Ruddock in Sydney. The campaign's centrepiece is a \$2.5 million Community Grants Program.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 106/98, 14 August 1998.</p>
1998	<p>The planned Humanitarian Program for 1998–1999 remains at 12 000 places, of which 10 000 are for offshore cases. The former Yugoslavia remains the main component, followed by the Middle East and Africa.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 110/98, 25 August 1998.</p>
1998	<p>A total of \$2.1 million is provided by the Federal Government to the National Forum of Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma, as part of a \$19.3 million package of funding for migrant and refugee settlement services. Refugees and humanitarian entrants are a priority group in the funding, which is granted under the Community Settlement Services Scheme and the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 118/98, 28 August 1998.</p>
1998	<p>On 2 December 1998 Minister Ruddock introduces the Migration Legislation Amendment (Judicial Review) Bill 1998 into Parliament. The Bill seeks to establish a new judicial review scheme under the Migration Act, the main clause being a 'privative' provision. The clause does not deny access to courts but limits the grounds of judicial review to the High Court and the Federal Court. The Minister says the aim of the privative clause is to reduce the 'manipulation of Australia's judicial system by unlawful non-citizens seeking to delay their departure from Australia'.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, un-numbered, 2 December 1998.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
1998	On the 50 th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Minister Ruddock says that Australians can be proud of their humanitarian record, having resettled approximately 600 000 refugees and other humanitarian cases during those five decades. On a per capita basis, in 1998–1999, Australia operates one of the biggest planned refugee and humanitarian resettlement programs in the world.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 157/98, 10 December 1998.
1999	Australia Day, 26 January, marks the 50 th anniversary of Australian Citizenship. In 1949, the first people to take out Australian citizenship consisted of less than 3000 migrants and their families from 37 countries in Europe and the Middle East. In 1998, more than 112 300 people from 140 countries become Australian citizens.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 02/99, 25 January 1999.
1999	On 10 February, an international conference in Melbourne marks the 50 th anniversary of one of Australia's key migrant settlement schemes, the Adult Migrant English Program. The Program has helped approximately 1.5 million new arrivals to learn English.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 21/99, 10 February 1999.
1999	In 1997–1998, 80 per cent of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' compliance budget of \$50 million is spent on locating, detaining and removing failed applicants for protection visas and unauthorised arrivals.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 29/99, 13 February, 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock announces the Government's intention to introduce reforms to limit judicial review through the implementation of the privative clause (part of the Migration Legislation Amendment (Judicial Review) Bill, introduced into Parliament in December 1998). The number of new refugee-related applications to the courts has risen from 53 in 1993–1994 to nearly 470 per annum.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 29/99, 13 February, 1999.
1999	The Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) has running costs of more than \$14 million in 1997–1998. In addition, litigation costs are more than \$9 million. In 1997–1998, a total of 6506 cases were determined by the RRT and, in 90 per cent of the cases, the RRT upheld the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' initial decision. About 85 per cent of those refused a protection visa apply for a review by the RRT. However, about 40 per cent of people offered a hearing fail to attend, and about 15 per cent of applicants withdraw their applications before receiving a decision.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 29/99, 13 February, 1999.
1999	The Government is owed \$2.8 million by failed applicants for protection visas (for the period July 1997 to December 1998),	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs,

	Details	Source Documents
	who are subject to the \$1000 post-Refugee Review Tribunal fee. (The fee applies to persons found not to be refugees).	<i>Media Release</i> , MPS 29/99, 13 February, 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock estimates that each claimant for a protection visa whose application is refused 'who then applies to the Refugee Review Tribunal, appeals to the Federal Court, has one associated intervention request, and is then located, detained and removed from Australia, costs the taxpayer a minimum of \$20 500'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 42/99, 7 March 1999.
1999	Of the total number of people unlawfully in Australia, more than 5000 are estimated to be failed claimants for protection visas.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 42/99, 7 March 1999.
1999	In announcing the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' success in 'smashing' a 'sophisticated Sydney-based people smuggling ring', Minister Ruddock says that 'Australia will not allow queue-jumpers to push in ahead of genuine refugees'. The people smuggling ring brought Iraqi nationals to Australia on false documents for between \$6000 and \$12 000. The ring was uncovered through an Australian Federal Police operation conducted over a six month period.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 46/99, 15 March 1999.
1999	In light of the situation in the former Yugoslavia, the Australian Government invites people from the former Republic of Yugoslavia, who are in Australia temporarily and lawfully, to apply for an extension of stay. Minister Ruddock says that the measure is 'temporary' and 'will be subject to ongoing review as the situation in Yugoslavia develops and efforts are made to restore peace'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 55/99, 5 April 1999.
1999	The Australian Government decides to accept 4000 Kosovo Albanians for temporary stay in Australia. Under the 'short-term humanitarian measure', the 4000 will be given an initial three-month 'safe haven' visa which will be extended as required. They will also receive food, accommodation, health care and other necessities of life.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 56/99, 6 April 1999.
1999	A special Government task force consisting of immigration officials, interpreters and a representative of the UNHCR, prepares to fly to Skopje in Macedonia with a view to selecting displaced persons for temporary asylum in Australia. Family units are to be given priority and selection is made on the advice of the UNHCR. The main concern is for people who were forced to flee Kosovo since 26 March.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 57/99, 9 April 1999. Minister Philip Ruddock, <i>Part Transcript - Press Conference</i> , 9 April 1999.

	Details	Source Documents
1999	Removal arrangements for Kosovo Albanians are placed on hold, following a request by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Madam Ogata. The UNHCR indicates a need to re-evaluate the international humanitarian effort.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 58/99, 10 April 1999.
1999	A 40 metre vessel, 'apparently carrying a number of unauthorised arrivals', goes aground off Macksville, south of Coffs Harbour, northern New South Wales on 10 April. Immigration officials detain 43 of the passengers but a dozen or more evade their efforts. The Opposition's Justice and Customs spokesperson, Duncan Kerr, describes Australia's border patrol as a laughing stock.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 4/99, 10 April 1999. J. MacDonald, 'Coffs Harbour boat people spark immigration probe', <i>The Sunday Age</i> , 11 April 1999.
1999	A group of 26 people from China who arrived at Cairns, Queensland, unlawfully by boat on 12 March, is returned to the PRC. The 26 are victims of a people smuggling racket and inform Australian officials that they paid around \$US2500 each to join the boat. The sophistication of the operation is evidenced by the type of vessel used: a twin-engine 35 metre boat that cost the group around \$US43 000, equipped with global satellite navigation equipment and radar. Minister Ruddock reiterates the Government's determination to implement the Judicial Review Bill in order to restrict unlawful arrivals' ability to delay their removal through court action and appeal.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 59/99, 11 April 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock urges the media to be precise in its use of the term 'refugees', citing the UN Convention definition as the appropriate one. Under this definition, an individual must be outside their country of nationality or of usual residence and must be unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution of a racial, religious, national, social or political nature. The Minister is concerned that the term 'refugee' is wrongly applied in the media to individuals who 'arrive on our shores clandestinely seeking migration outcomes or work opportunities'. He says such people are more accurately described as 'unlawful arrivals' and commonly referred to as 'boat people'. He also points to the distinction between a 'refugee' and an 'asylum seeker'; the latter seeks refugee status but does not already have it.	The Hon. Philip Ruddock MP, 'Open letter to all media outlets regarding refugees', 12 April 1999.

	Details	Source Documents
1999	<p>Minister Ruddock praises the 'excellent cooperation' received from the Government of the PRC in its determination to combat the illegal smuggling of people. He says:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">China has informed us on a number of occasions of vessels they have intercepted leaving the country attempting to travel to Australia. It is crucial we continue effective intelligence sharing on the most recent boat arrivals in an effort to establish the identity of the people involved and the way in which such operations are organised.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 60/99, 20 April 1999.</p>
1999	<p>In light of the continued expulsion of Albanians from Kosovo, the Australian Government offers priority processing for permanent resettlement for up to 200 families under the Humanitarian Program. This is in addition to the temporary refuge offered on 6 April. About 600 000 Albanians have been forced from Kosovo.</p>	<p>Attorney-General, the Hon. Daryl Williams AM, QC, MP, Acting Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>News Release</i>, 22 April 1999.</p>
1999	<p>The Australian Government maintains its planned Humanitarian Program for 1999–2000 at 12 000 places, 10 000 being for offshore cases and 2000 onshore. Any places not used in the 1998–1999 program are rolled over into 1999–2000. Priority remains in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Africa. Four thousand places are reserved for refugees, 4300 for the Special Humanitarian Program and 900 for the Special Assistance Category. About 800 places are kept unallocated for contingencies.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 63/99, 29 April 1999.</p>
1999	<p>The Migration Legislation Amendment (Temporary Safe Haven Visas) Bill 1999 passes through the Senate on 30 April, with the support of all Senators.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 66/99, 30 April 1999.</p>
1999	<p>On 1 May, following a request from the UNHCR, the Australian Government activates its plans to provide safe haven for 4000 displaced Kosovars. Extensive preparations for their reception are in place, with the first group scheduled to be given health checks and orientation at East Hills Processing Centre, Sydney, before travelling on to Brighton Barracks, Tasmania.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 67/99, 1 May 1999.</p>

Details	Source Documents
<p>1999 In a Budget statement, Minister Ruddock highlights initiatives aimed at enhancing the immigration and multicultural affairs programs. These include an extension of the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme to help people in urgent need of assistance during review of failed protection visa applications and a doubling of funding (to \$10 million) for the <i>Living in harmony</i> anti-racism campaign. Also included is an extension of autonomy to the Refugee Review Tribunal and the new Migration Review Tribunal by prescription under the <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act</i> to ensure each tribunal has full responsibility for financial management. Funding is also allocated to a review of the post-RRT review fee by the Joint Standing Committee on Migration and for a Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' presence at the proposed new Australian Consulate-General in Dili, East Timor.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, Budget 99 MPS 72/99, 11 May 1999.</p>
<p>1999 The number of unauthorised non-citizens entering Australia unlawfully by boat increases significantly in 1999. At 20 May, 440 have arrived, compared with 200 for the entire 1998 calendar year.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 82/99, 20 May 1999.</p>
<p>1999 The Australian Government issues warnings in Somalia, via the media and the High Commission in Nairobi, to dissuade Somalis from being duped by a major people smuggling operation that charges each individual \$US2300 to travel by boat from Mogadishu to Australia. Efforts are directed through local media because of the absence in Somalia of a central legal authority to whom the Government can appeal to thwart the operation. The people smugglers are attempting to recruit an estimated 2000 people. The Government also approaches governments of countries along the route, where the boat might dock.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 83/99, 23 May 1999.</p>
<p>1999 In urging the Opposition to support the government's Judicial Review Bill, Minister Ruddock points out that, of 1036 people in detention, 137 detainees have taken legal action to delay their removal from Australia. The 137 lodged applications for protection visas that were rejected by both the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and the Refugee Review Tribunal. In 1997–1998, he says, there were 1045 applications to the Federal Court seeking judicial review of migration decisions. In the 1998–1999 financial year (at 9 June) there are 1148 new actions.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 91/99, 8 June 1999.</p>
<p>1999 Eight Members of Parliament are appointed as 'Patrons to the Kosovo Safe Havens' in Australia. Senator Kay Patterson, the Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Ruddock, is the</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	Government's principal Patron. The Patron arrangement is designed to ensure that the Kosovars will have access to a representative of the Federal Government, and made as welcome and comfortable as possible, during their stay in Australia. Patrons are expected to visit the centres in which Kosovars reside every two to three weeks.	93/99, 9 June 1999.
1999	A group of 83 Chinese who tried to enter Australia illegally by boat near Port Kembla on 17 May is returned to China. The group, like other recent unlawful arrivals, has been falsely promised jobs on Olympic projects in Sydney and has wrongly been told that the Australian Government would offer an amnesty during the Olympic event.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 95/99, 10 June 1999.
1999	At 10 June, almost 3000 Kosovars have been brought to Australia and reside in safe haven centres in Brighton (Tasmania), Puckapunyal and Portsea (Victoria), Leeuwin (Western Australia), Singleton (New South Wales) and Hampstead (South Australia).	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 94/99, 10 June 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock says that an illegal boat arrival at Christmas Island on 11 June reveals the 'treacherous nature of illegal boat landings and shows the utter disregard of people smugglers for the lives of their desperate human cargo'. Five passengers on the boat are missing and feared drowned. Four crew and three unauthorised arrivals are detained and held at Christmas Island before being transferred to Port Hedland Detention Centre.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 96/99, undated but probably 12 June 1999.
1999	A journalist with <i>The Australian</i> , who helps to transport a disgruntled Kosovar family, the Salihu family, from Singleton safe haven to East Hills is criticised by Minister Ruddock for 'undermining the accommodation arrangements' in place for hundreds of Kosovars about to arrive in Australia. The disgruntled family say they want to remain at East Hills or return to Kosovo. As staying at East Hills is not an option, as people under the Kosovar safe haven operation 'do not have the right to pick and choose the accommodation provided to them', Minister Ruddock begins consultations with the UNHCR to arrange the family's repatriation. The seven members of the family are transported by the International Organisation for Migration back to their village in Kosovo, which has been declared a safe area.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 92/99, 17 May 1999, MPS 95/99, 18 June 1999 and MPS 97/99, 23 June 1999.
1999	Over a period of less than two months, a total of 3919 Kosovars are processed at the East Hills Centre, Sydney. Minister Ruddock refers to the Kosovar Safe Haven operation as 'the	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media</i>

	Details	Source Documents
	largest single humanitarian evacuation that Australia has ever undertaken', and praises the 'astounding' level of support from non-government organisations.	<i>Release</i> , MPS 101/99, 26 June 1999.
1999	Following recommendations of the Prime Minister's Coastal Surveillance Task Force, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs increases its compliance officer presence at seven overseas posts (Shanghai, Guangzhou, New Delhi, Colombo, Nairobi, Pretoria and Ankara) and five key airports (Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Denpasar, Singapore and Dubai) in its efforts to curb people smuggling. The Department also continues to work closely with foreign governments. Half a million dollars are allocated to support strategies in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to detect, detain and remove people attempting to enter Australia illegally and a senior Departmental officer is seconded to Coastwatch.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 102/99, 27 June 1999.
1999	On 29 June, Minister Ruddock reiterates that any Kosovars in Australia under Operation Safe Haven are free to go home at any time, but as they were evacuated to Australia at the request of the UNHCR it is necessary for the Australian Government to consult with the UNHCR first. The UNHCR's priority is with the hundreds of thousands of people living in camps on the Kosovo borders. The Minister points out that some Kosovars have already returned home, with full assistance of the Australian Government. The Minister's comments are necessitated by media reports of a planned hunger strike by one of the evacuees in Tasmania.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 103/99, 29 June 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock rejects as 'totally unacceptable' the claim made in a report of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission that mandatory detention of illegal entrants contravenes Australia's international obligations. The Minister argues that the United Nations' Human Rights' Committee maintains that the detention of individuals seeking asylum does not per se breach Australia's obligations. Of 94 recommendations relating to conditions and the treatment of detainees in Perth, Port Hedland and Villawood, the Minister says he fully supports 35 and partially accepts 37.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 104/99, 29 June 1999.
1999	The Senate passes the Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 1999 (known as the 'People Smuggling Bill'). Under this legislation, a new offence of knowingly organising the illegal entry of groups of five or more people carries a 20 year jail penalty and a fine of up to \$220 000. The penalty for individual instances of people smuggling rises from two years to ten years'	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 107/99, 30 June 1999.

	Details	Source Documents
	jail with a fine up to \$110 000. Under the legislation, there is no time limit for instituting a prosecution for people trafficking offences.	
1999	Penalties on airlines that bring people to Australia without proper documentation are increased from \$2000 to \$3000. There is a significant increase in the number of unauthorised passengers travelling to Australia by air. In 1997–1998, about 1550 were refused entry but the figure for 1998–1999 exceeds 2000. Airlines have the option of minimising the risk of incurring such penalties by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs to implement the Advance Passenger Processing system. Under this system, passengers undergo immigration processing before their arrival in Australia. The system allows a passenger's status to be confirmed during check-in.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 106/99, 30 June 1999.
1999	On 30 June, Minister Ruddock announces the Government's decision to allow the Kosovars brought to Australia under 'Operation Safe Haven' to engage in paid or unpaid employment up to 20 hours a week. People who work for money, however, will not be entitled to the special allowance provided by the government. A \$50 phone card is also to be provided to each family per month.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 105/99, 30 June 1999.
1999	More than a dozen illegal immigrants, believed to be Sri Lankans, drown in rough seas on their way to Australia from Indonesia.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 108/99, 22 July 1999.
1999	Following the UNHCR's assessment that it is safe for Kosovars to return home, the first charter flight of 294 Kosovars departs Sydney on 23 July. More than a hundred have already returned in small groups on Qantas commercial flights. The Kosovars' travel arrangements are organised by the International Organisation for Migration. The first charter flight is with Air Kampuchea and takes the 294 to Skopje in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 109/99, 23 July 1999.
1999	A group of 34 Turkish illegal entrants is returned to Turkey on 31 July. The 34 men were victims of a people smuggling racket and paid up to \$US8000 each to travel to Indonesia where they boarded fishing vessels bound for Ashmore Reef.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 112/99, 2 August 1999.

Details	Source Documents
<p>1999 In 1998–1999, the Humanitarian Program resulted in 11 360 humanitarian places being granted: 9526 offshore and 1834 onshore. The 640 places not used are carried over to the 1999–2000 program. The largest single component of the offshore program is from the Former Republic of Yugoslavia.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 117/99, 12 August 1999.</p>
<p>1999 The 1998–1999 Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program results in the issue of 67 900 visas. More than half the outcome is in the Skill Stream (35 000 visas), with a notable increase in the Business Skills category (5360 in 1997–1998 to 6080 in 1998–1999). A total of 32 040 visas were issued in the Family Stream, with 84 per cent taken up by spouses, fiances and children of Australian citizens and permanent residents.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 116/99, 12 August 1999.</p>
<p>1999 The Australian Government offers a 'Winter Reconstruction Allowance' for Kosovars who return to Kosovo before the advent of the European winter. The allowance provides \$3000 for each adult and \$500 for each child under the age of 18 who leave Australia by 30 October. The idea is to help the individuals re-establish their lives, restock businesses, buy seeds for farms, building materials and furniture.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 121/99, 24 August 1999.</p>
<p>1999 People from Turkey who are in Australia temporarily and lawfully are invited to apply for extensions of stay, in light of a devastating earthquake in the north of their country.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 122/99, 26 August 1999.</p>
<p>1999 An Australian delegation to Indonesia, led by Bill Farmer, Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, results in agreement between the two countries on a range of measures to combat people smuggling. The measures include: an extension of existing cooperation and coordination with Defence, Immigration, Police and Customs authorities; improving systems for the exchange of information and criminal intelligence; a range of technical cooperation issues to improve Indonesia's capacity to combat people smuggling; and arrangements for an education/media program to promote knowledge of the dangers and penalties involved in people trafficking. The Indonesian Justice Minister, Dr. Muladi, proposes a formal agreement to cover the work of all the agencies involved in the efforts to curb people trafficking. The Australian delegation comprises senior officers of the Department of Defence, Customs and Coastwatch, Ausaid and the Australian Federal Police.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 123/99, 27 August 1999.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
1999	A group of 85 Chinese from Fujian Province, who arrived in Australia illegally in late May and early June, is returned to China, bringing to 186 the number of illegal Chinese entrants removed from Port Hedland Detention Centre since mid-August. The Fujian group were expected to pay the racketeers about \$36 000 for their trip to Australia. Minister Ruddock says that Australia is not a 'soft touch when it comes to unlawful arrivals'. A press statement released in China spells out Australia's position: people who attempt to enter Australia illegally are detained and, if they have no right to stay as refugees, are deported as soon as possible.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 126/99, 2 September 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock announces funding initiatives totalling \$30.2 million over the next three years to assist migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants to settle in Australia. The funding is part of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' Community Settlement Services Scheme.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 128/99, 3 September 1999.
1999	The <i>Impact of Migrants on the Commonwealth Budget</i> report is released and indicates that, from their second year in Australia, the overall impact of people from the Migration and Humanitarian programs on the Commonwealth Budget is positive. The report attributes the positive impact to the Government's increased focus on the Skill Stream.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 129/99, 3 September 1999.
1999	Nearly half of the 3921 Kosovars in Australia under Operation Safe Haven have returned home by 9 September, and a further 700 request to return. Safe haven centres at Singleton, Puckapunyal and Hampstead are closed, leaving five still operational.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 131/99, 9 September 1999.
1999	The independent inquiry into the return of a pregnant woman to China publishes its findings (known as 'the Ayers' Report'). The inquiry is established by Minister Ruddock in May, and headed by Mr. Tony Ayers AC. The inquiry into the case of a Chinese woman allegedly returned to China to face a forced abortion finds that the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' actions were lawful and the woman's treatment in Australia was humane. The case is also among the terms of reference of the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee's inquiry into Australia's refugee and humanitarian program.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 134/99, 14 September 1999.
1999	A total of 1450 East Timorese evacuated from the UN compound in Dili are given protection in Australia on three-month safe haven visas. The group follows the admission of 350 United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) staff and	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS

	Details	Source Documents
	their families on the same 'safe haven' visas. The East Timorese UNAMET staff remain in Darwin under the responsibility of UNAMET but the other evacuees are transferred from Darwin to former Kosovar safe haven centres in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. The East Timorese evacuees have access to a range of services, including health care, food and education, trauma counselling, language services and a weekly allowance of \$27 for adults and \$10 for children. Minister Ruddock says that 'the successful formula used for the Kosovars is being replicated for the East Timorese'.	135/99, undated but probably 16 September 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock announces on 17 September that the East Hills safe haven centre in Sydney, currently holding 468 Kosovars, many of whom will return home by the end of the month, will be used to accommodate some of the 1438 East Timorese recently evacuated to Darwin.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 137/99, 17 September 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock rejects calls for a formal population policy for Australia, made by the report, <i>Australia's carrying capacity: one nation - two ecologies</i> (known as the 'Jones Report').	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 138/99, 20 September 1999.
1999	The Border Protection Legislation Amendment Bill is introduced to Parliament by Minister Ruddock. The Bill proposes to give officers of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and Customs the power to enforce Australia's border strategies in international waters, unconstrained by the 12 mile rule. Other new powers proposed include the power to detain, forfeit, seize and dispose of ships and aircraft used in people smuggling operations.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 139/99, 23 September 1999.
1999	The East Hills haven is closed to Kosovars who can now only access support services at Bandiana and Portsea havens in Victoria and Brighton in Tasmania. Exception is made for Kosovars who are medically unfit to travel. Minister Ruddock reiterates that the Kosovars must leave Australia by the end of October, and repeats his offer of a \$3000 winter reconstruction allowance for each who does so. The East Hills haven is needed for East Timorese evacuees, of whom there are now larger numbers than Kosovars.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 141/99, 29 September 1999.

	Details	Source Documents
1999	<p>Minister Ruddock announces new measures aimed at curbing the growing number of people arriving illegally in Australia. The measures to be introduced include: excluding unauthorised arrivals from accessing permanent residence by giving those granted refugee status a three-year temporary protection visa or a short-term safe haven visa; stopping people who have effective protection overseas from gaining onshore protection in Australia; and using biometric tests (such as fingerprinting and DNA testing) to help ascertain the identity of asylum seekers. The latter measure is directed at people who might already have protection elsewhere, or who have been refused refugee status overseas. The overall package is designed to stop so-called 'forum shopping', whereby individuals try to obtain residence as refugees in a country of preference rather than in the closest or more logical alternative. The proposed legislation will prevent unauthorised arrivals from obtaining permanent protection visas and associated benefits such as family reunion.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 143/99, 13 October 1999.</p>
1999	<p>During its 20 years in operation, the Community Refugee Settlement Scheme has assisted nearly 60 000 humanitarian entrants.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 144/99, 15 October 1999.</p>
1999	<p>On 22 October, Minister Ruddock announces an extension of stay by one month for those among the 450 Kosovars still in Australia who will remain beyond the end of October. The extension is made to allow individuals to complete medical treatment in Australia. All others who do not leave on the last charter flight, on 26 October, will not be eligible for the Winter Reconstruction Allowance, which ceases at the end of October, and will become unlawful non-citizens subject to detention and removal. The visa of one Kosovar who has breached his visa conditions is not extended.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 149/99, 22 October 1999.</p>
1999	<p>Toward the end of October, Minister Ruddock writes to each of the remaining Kosovar families, indicating that he has extended their visas by a month, until the end of November, to enable them to 'set out in writing why they believe they should be allowed to stay longer in Australia'. The Minister expresses concern that some Kosovars who are in a position to return have accepted 'bad advice' and are choosing to remain. This does not apply to a small group who require ongoing medical treatment.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 151/99, 27 October 1999.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
1999	A big increase in the number of illegal boat arrivals is apparent in the first four months of the financial year (July-October) with 926 people arriving illegally on 28 boats. All the boats travelled from Indonesia. Increasing numbers arrive at Ashmore Reef, a small uninhabited Australian island about 400 kilometres off the north-west coast of Australia and two days by boat from Indonesia.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 152/99, 27 October 1999.
1999	Forty East Timorese on 'safe haven' visas are repatriated to East Timor following a stabilisation of the situation there. Minister Ruddock says that 'The recent visit by Xanana Gusmao added extra incentive to their already strong resolve to get home'. (Gusmao is the leader of the East Timor Independence Movement).	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 154/99, 28 October 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock launches an overseas information campaign as part of the Government's strategy against illegal air and boat arrivals. The campaign distributes a range of publicity material throughout high risk people smuggling source countries (such as China, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Turkey) and transit countries (such as Thailand, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea). The material explains Australia's new penalties against people smugglers and explains how illegal entrants with no lawful claim to remain are detained and deported.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 154/99, 29 October 1999.
1999	On 1 November 1999, a group of 352 boat people arrive at Ashmore Reef aboard an Indonesian inter-island cargo vessel. It is the largest group of boat people to have ever arrived in Australia. Minister Ruddock says that 'on being located and informed of the penalties they faced for bringing people to Australia illegally, the crew sabotaged the engines and the passengers started throwing their passports overboard'. The Indonesian crew are detained and charged under the Migration Act and arrangements are made for the passengers to be transferred to the mainland and detained at Curtin Detention Centre.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 155/99, 2 November 1999.
1999	Minister Ruddock establishes an External Reference Group to advise the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs on Australia's effectiveness in combating people smuggling. The Reference Group includes former Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs (1982–1983), John Hodges, former Chief of Air Force (1987–1992) Air Marshall Ray Funnell and former	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 156/99, 3 November 1999.

Details	Source Documents	
<p>Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs (1990–1993), Gerry Hand. The Reference Group also looks into the reasons behind the sharp increase in unauthorised arrivals to Australia in 1999 and the increasingly sophisticated methods used by smugglers.</p>		
1999	<p>Cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the fight against people smuggling is strengthened following Minister Ruddock's visit to the PRC and high-level meetings with authorities in Beijing and Fujian Province. Areas of cooperation include the interdiction of boats leaving for Australia without authority, the exchange of information, agreement on public information campaigns to inform the Chinese people about the risks of illegal travel, and continuing agreement on the return to China of people who do not engage Australia's protection obligations.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 162/99, 14 November 1999.</p>
1999	<p>In the first two weeks of November, six boats carrying 717 unauthorised arrivals land in Australia. They comprise 513 Iraqis, 147 Afghans and 57 other nationalities and 23 Indonesian crew. Minister Ruddock urges the Opposition to support the passage of the Border Protection Bill, which allows Australian officials to interdict and board vessels in international waters, and to also support amendments to the Bill which are aimed at stopping 'forum shopping' (i.e. the practice whereby individuals try to obtain residence as refugees in a country of preference rather than in the closest or more logical alternative.) A few days later, two more unauthorised boats arrive. One, with 62 people, lands at Christmas Island. The other, with 35 unauthorised arrivals, arrives at Ashmore Reef.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 163/99, 14 November 1999 and MPS 164/99, 17 November 1999.</p>
1999	<p>Between 1 July and 17 November, a total of 1671 people have arrived without authorisation on 35 boats. Minister Ruddock estimates that at that rate there will be more than 4000 unauthorised arrivals by the end of the financial year.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 164/99, 17 November 1999.</p>
1999	<p>The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' External Reference Group (to advise on Australia's effectiveness in combating people smuggling) issues an interim report to Minister Ruddock. The Group endorses the action taken by the Government in response to unauthorised arrivals, such as increasing penalties against people smugglers, information campaigns in other countries and the introduction of an initial</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 165/99, 21 November 1999.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	three year protection visa for unauthorised arrivals who meet refugee criteria.	
1999	More than 500 East Timorese, who have been in safe haven centres in Australia since September, volunteer to return to East Timor, following assessments by the UNHCR that it is safe to do so. The temporary safe haven visas issued to the East Timorese expire on 8 December.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 172/99, 6 December 1999.
2000	In January, Minister Ruddock meets with high level Government Ministers and officials in Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. The aim is to discuss the issue of people smuggling, to inform the five governments of Australia's strong position against people smuggling and the new laws to enforce it, and to develop a 'global approach' to the problem. The Minister also meets with representatives of the UNHCR, the International Organisation for Migration and the Red Cross. As a result of the meetings, agreements to cooperate are made in the areas of exchange of intelligence on people smuggling, increased technical cooperation, and (in the cases of Syria and Turkey) agreement on the return of illegal entrants. The cooperation represents an extension of cooperation against people smuggling. Australia already has in place a Memorandum of Understanding (signed on 25 January 1995) and effective working relationship with the Peoples Republic of China on the matter.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Releases</i> : MPS 001/2000, 7 January 2000; MPS 002/2000, 12 January 2000; MPS 004/2000, 16 January 2000; MPS 005/2000, 19 January 2000; MPS 006/2000, 20 January 2000.
2000	Announcing the return of 73 Chinese boat people, who landed illegally at Christmas Island in December 1999, Minister Ruddock says that since 1 November 1999, 29 boats and 2245 people have arrived illegally in Australia, mostly from the Middle East and the sub continent. Crew members arriving with such boats face up to 20 years in jail and up to \$220 000 in fines.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 011/2000, 28 January 2000.
2000	East Timorese who were admitted under temporary Safe Haven arrangements continue to return home, with 270 returned between 20 and 27 February. The UNHCR has assessed the situation in East Timor as safe, and East Timorese leaders, Xanana Gusmao and Jose Ramos-Horta, also call for the East Timorese to return.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 023/2000, 27 February 2000.

	Details	Source Documents
2000	With the end of the European winter, Minister Ruddock announces that the remaining Safe Haven Kosovars in Australia, numbering about 500, are to be returned around 8 April. They have been in Australia on a temporary basis for almost a year. The cost to Australia of assisting the 3924 Kosovars under the Safe Haven program is \$100 million.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 028/2000, 15 March 2000.
2000	In March, Minister Ruddock visits six European nations (England, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy) for discussions to strengthen Australia's global approach to combating people smuggling. The European trip follows the Minister's January visit to Middle Eastern countries, which had the same anti-people smuggling goal.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 029/2000, 16 March 2000.
2000	A charter flight is scheduled for 8 April to return the remaining Kosovars to their homeland. A total of 259 Kosovars are involved but 130 have their temporary visas extended, mainly for medical reasons. An additional 110 are allowed to apply for protection visas and two are permitted to apply for partner visas on the basis of a relationship with an Australian.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 033/2000, 3 April 2000.
2000	The planning level for the 2000–2001 Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program is 76 000 places. There is an increase in the Skill Stream, especially in high demand occupations such as information technology and accounting. The Skill Stream target is 40 000, and the Family Stream is 34 4000. A total of 1600 places are reserved for the Special Eligibility Stream.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 034/2000, 3 April 2000.
2000	The target for the 2000–2001 Humanitarian Program is set at 12 000 places, with possible supplementation by any unused places rolled over from the 1999–2000 program. Four thousand places are allocated to refugees and 4000 for the Special Humanitarian Program and Special Assistance Category combined. The latter is to be closed during 2000–2001. Minister Ruddock says that 'The increase in unauthorised boat arrivals to Australia in recent months has placed great pressure on the capacity of Australia to assist with resettlement of people in need overseas'. In expressing a desire to increase the number of places available offshore, the Minister says 'this will depend on the number of people claiming asylum onshore'. Priority in the offshore program continues to be given to former Yugoslavia, the Middle East, South West Asia and Africa.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 035/2000, 3 April 2000.

	Details	Source Documents
2000	More than 250 boat people are feared drowned after three boats transporting them illegally to Australia disappeared. Intelligence gathered later suggests that the boats were overloaded and unseaworthy when they left Indonesia and that the gangs who smuggled the people may have tied their 'human cargo' with rope to prevent them rushing to the sheltered side of the boats in the prevailing bad weather conditions.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS un-numbered/2000, 13 April 2000. B. Nicholson, 'Hundreds die tied up to hulks', <i>Sunday Age</i> , 23 July 2000.
2000	The East Hills safe haven centre is formally closed on 6 May. The centre was the first safe haven to open and the last to close. It processed and received thousands of Kosovars and East Timorese.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 045/2000, 6 May 2000.
2000	The 2000 Budget allocates an additional \$116.8 million to introduce measures to tackle people smuggling and for a long-term strategy to establish new detention centres. More than \$12 million is allocated to expand the number of DIMA compliance officers overseas, at posts in Islamabad, Belgrade, Moscow, Amman, Tehran, Suva and Cairo. More than \$52 million is allocated for the construction of two new Immigration Reception and Processing Centres, at Darwin and Brisbane, and for the redevelopment of existing centres.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 046/2000, Budget Media Release No. 1, 9 May 2000.
2000	In May, migration regulations covering Australia's 'safe third country' arrangement with the People's Republic of China are renewed. The arrangement facilitates the return to the PRC of Sino-Vietnamese refugees who have been settled in the PRC and who have subsequently arrived in Australia unlawfully. The regulations are part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Australia and the PRC on 25 January 1995. The regulations are reviewed every two years to ensure that the return of such people to the PRC is still appropriate.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 051/2000, 15 May 2000.
2000	Following a series of mass escapes from detention centres in Woomera, Curtin and Port Hedland, a high level government task force is established to review security measures at all immigration centres holding detainees. The task force is headed by Secretary of DIMA, Bill Farmer, and includes secretaries of the Departments of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Defence, Attorney-General's and Finance and Administration.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 062/2000, 13 June 2000.

	Details	Source Documents
2000	The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs releases three video productions for distribution in people smuggling 'source and transit countries'. The videos contain messages from victims of people smugglers who warn others not to be duped.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 063/2000, 15 June 2000.
2000	Penalties on airlines that bring passengers to Australia without proper documentation are increased from \$3000 to \$5000. DIMA continues to encourage airlines to link their passenger processing systems to those of the Department so that a passenger's status can be confirmed during the check-in.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 066/2000, 21 June 2000.
2000	Special long-term temporary visas are created for a small group of remaining Kosovars who are undergoing treatment for trauma. The visas provide for three years' temporary stay in order to receive ongoing medical treatment.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 069/2000, 28 June 2000.
2000	In July, Minister Ruddock visits Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India and France for discussions on people smuggling and to develop international cooperation against it.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 075/2000, 9 July 2000.
2000	The Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program for 1999–2000 delivers 70 200 visas. A total of 35 330 are in the Skill Stream, which is the highest level since 1991–1992, and 32 000 in the Family Stream. Another 2850 are in the Special Eligibility stream.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 077/2000, 27 July 2000.
2000	Funding worth \$22.8 million over three years under the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' Community Settlement Services Scheme is announced to help community and service organisations in the provision of settlement services to migrants, refugees and humanitarian entrants.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 085/2000, 17 August 2000.
2000	On 29 August, Minister Ruddock indicates that he will lead Australia's 'intensified efforts in working with other countries and United Nations officials to reform the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee'. The Australian Government seeks reforms to the UNHCR that will make it more effective in 'meeting the	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 088/2000, 29 August 2000.

	Details	Source Documents
	challenges of providing protection to those most in need, while combating people smuggling'. Ruddock says 'We need to arrest the trend which has led to some pressure groups and organisations seeking to extend the scope of the Convention [1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees] in ways which countries did not envisage, when they signed'.	
2000	Cooperation between Australia and Vietnam against people smuggling and illegal immigration is strengthened by a new agreement. Special attention is to be paid to those responsible for the importation, fabrication or selling of fraudulent travel documents and to the sharing of intelligence about people smugglers' methods of operation and routes.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 095/2000, 14 September 2000.
2000	The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs publishes <i>Refugee and humanitarian issues - Australia's response</i> , a booklet explaining Australia's refugee and humanitarian policies in terms of the global context. The booklet is launched during Refugee Week.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 103/2000, 12 October 2000.
2000	After being 'appraised of further claims, of an individual character', Minister Ruddock allows a group of Kosovars being held at Port Hedland to apply for bridging visas which will release them from detention.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 110/2000, 31 October 2000.
2000	A significant increase in settler arrivals of nearly 10 per cent is recorded for 1999–2000. Of the total of 92 272 settler arrivals, 52 377 (62 per cent of the total) are in the Skill Stream.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 113/2000, 8 November 2000.
2000	On 22 November, Minister Ruddock announces that an Inquiry will be held into allegations of child abuse at the Woomera Immigration Reception and Processing Centre. The Inquiry is chaired by Mr. Philip Flood AO and looks into the processes in place for dealing with allegations or instances of child abuse in detention centres. The role of both the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and the company that manages the Woomera centre, Australian Correctional Management, is also examined.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 118/2000, 22 November 2000.

	Details	Source Documents
2000	Nineteen people who are unlawfully in Australia are returned to China from Port Hedland detention centre. Two arrived without authorisation by boat in October and seventeen overstayed their visas. A total of 269 people have been returned to the People's Republic of China since July.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 122/2000, 29 November 2000.
2000	On 13 December, Minister Ruddock issues a Media Release concerning reports that two boats carrying up to 163 seeking unlawful entry into Australia might have sunk en route to Ashmore Islands. He says the Australian Maritime Safety Authority has been asked to locate any maritime reports of the incident and that Coastwatch has been informed. Due to a cyclone, the weather conditions in the area are 'atrocious'. Ruddock describes people smuggling as a 'heinous trade in human misery'. (In early January 2001, the people on the boats are accounted for and found not to have drowned but mostly to have arrived unlawfully in late December.)	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 132/2000, 13 December 2000 and MPS 134/2000, 14 December 2000.
2000	The South Australian Family and Youth Services (FAYS), which has been independently investigating allegations of sexual abuse of a 12 year old boy at Woomera detention centre, issues its findings. FAYS concludes that there is no evidence to substantiate allegations of abuse against the boy. The Flood Inquiry, established by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, is to continue with its examination of the mechanisms and processes for reporting allegations of this nature within Australia's detention centres.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 137/2000, 18 December 2000.
2001	Two boatloads of people believed to have drowned en route to the Ashmore Islands in December are accounted for. The boats experienced mechanical difficulties in rough seas and returned to Indonesia for repairs, before attempting the journey again. Most of the original group arrive unlawfully in Australia in late December.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS un-numbered, 3 January 2001.
2001	In the 2000 calendar year, 51 boats carrying 2939 passengers arrive unlawfully in Australia. In 1999 the number is 3722 people on 86 boats. However, in the last two weeks of December 2000, 12 boats arrive with about 800 people.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS un-numbered, 3 January 2001.
2001	About 300 detainees at Curtin Immigration Reception and Processing Centre attack staff with makeshift weapons during a	Department of Immigration and

	Details	Source Documents
	melee sparked by cultural differences between Iranians and Afghans. A detainee is hospitalised with stab wounds. Marion Le, of the Independent Council for Refugee Advocacy, says it is bad management to put different religious sects with a history of war in their own countries into custody together.	Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 09/2001, 30 January 2001. M. Barton, 'New detention battle centre', <i>West Australian</i> , 31 January 2001.
2001	Minister Ruddock meets with senior government Ministers in Iran in January, a year after his first meeting with them. Iran is host to two million people from Iraq and Afghanistan. Ruddock briefs the Iranian Ministers on developments in Australia's efforts to combat people smuggling and both governments agree to continue cooperation on the matter. The Minister also meets with senior officials in Jordan, Syria and Turkey and secures further agreement in such areas as exchange of intelligence, enhanced technical cooperation and action in multilateral agencies like the UNHCR.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS un-numbered, 8 January 2001 and MPS 006/2001, 20 January 2001.
2001	On 4 February, Minister Ruddock responds to criticisms that the Government has not addressed processing times for unlawful arrivals. He says: Since mid-1999, the number of trained staff allocated to processing asylum claims has more than doubled. While 80 per cent of protection claims made by boat arrivals in late 1999 received a decision within seven and a half months, this had reduced to less than 15 weeks for applications made in late 2000. Where a case has gone to the Refugee Review Tribunal, processing times have consistently averaged less than 70 days. In calendar year 2000, 3770 people are released from detention on Temporary Protection Visas and, of the 1118 detainees waiting for a decision, more than 800 have been in detention for less than six weeks. The Minister says that a further 367 detainees 'have been found not to be refugees and are pursuing review and litigation opportunities. The remaining 888 detainees are awaiting removal, having either not made asylum claims or having had claims exhaustively examined and rejected'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 011/2001, 4 February 2001.

	Details	Source Documents
2001	Detainees at Woomera and Curtin are examined for typhoid, following the detection of a number of cases. Eighteen former detainees are examined by health authorities in Victoria but reveal no symptoms.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 010/2001, 2 February 2001.
2001	Minister Ruddock accuses the Labor State Governments of Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland of 'funding incentives which will be used by people smugglers to encourage unlawful arrivals to Australia'. The claim is prompted by State government support to holders of Temporary Protection Visas. The Minister says the Bracks' Labor Government in Victoria provides \$100 000 to TPV holders, in addition to housing and other services totalling \$625 000.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 13/2001, 14 February 2001.
2001	Minister Ruddock estimates that it costs around \$300 million a year to detain and process unlawful arrivals.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 016/2001, 15 February 2001.
2001	On 21 February, Minister Ruddock announces that, on the basis of new information provided to him, a Kosovar family illegally (i.e. they overstayed their safe haven visa) in Australia will be allowed to apply for visas to remain here permanently. In the meantime, the family is granted a bridging visa. The family came to Australia as part of Operation Safe Haven.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 018/2001, 21 February 2001.
2001	On 27 February, Minister Ruddock announces a plan to trial alternative detention arrangements for women and children at Woomera. (Administrative measures required for the trial's commencement are announced on 25 May, and the trial begins on 7 August.)	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 021/2001, 27 February 2001.
2001	An Immigration Detention Advisory Group is established to advise the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs on the appropriateness and adequacy of services, accommodation and facilities at immigration detention centres around Australia. The 8-person group is chaired by former Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, John Hodges, and includes former Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, Gerry Hand.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 022/2001, 27 February 2001.

	Details	Source Documents
2001	<p>The Flood Report - <i>Inquiry into Immigration Detention Procedures</i> - is tabled in Parliament on 27 February. The report into procedures for dealing with allegations of child abuse in detention centres examines 35 cases and concludes that, in all but one case, allegations or incidents were handled in accord with relevant legislation and departmental procedures.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 023/2001, 27 February 2001.</p>
2001	<p>Fourteen people—consisting of seven men, two women and five children from the Middle East and Africa—escape from Villawood Immigration Detention Centre on 26 March by cutting through fencing. The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs commissions an independent review of the escape.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 034/2001, 27 March 2001.</p>
2001	<p>The Government rejects the findings of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) in relation to two former asylum seekers. HREOC finds that the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs has breached the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and recommends compensation of \$20 000 and \$15 000 to each individual. Minister Ruddock declines to make the payment to the individuals, on the grounds that his Department did not breach the ICCPR. The Minister argues that HREOC has mistakenly equated 'arrival separation' in immigration detention centres with 'incommunicado detention'. The Minister says:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In separation detention, detainees are able to communicate with relatives overseas in particular, to let them know they have arrived safely. Detainees are also free to interact with others at the same stage of processing... However, they are not able to communicate initially with those at a more advanced stage of processing in order to protect the integrity of the protection visa process.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 035/2001, 28 March 2001.</p>
2001	<p>Shahraz Kiane (Kayani) sets fire to himself outside of Parliament House, Canberra, in protest at the Government's failure to allow his family to join him from Pakistan. He sought asylum in Australia in 1996 and was granted a protection visa, and became a permanent resident. He took out Australian citizenship in 1999. (His name is recorded by mistake as Kiane, and he is referred to by that spelling from then on.) His application to bring out his family was refused (mainly because his daughter is disabled and in need of expensive medical treatment) but, following an inquiry by the Ombudsman, the</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 038/2001, 2 April 2001 and MPS 039/2001, 3 April 2001.</p> <p>C. Kremmer, 'Long-distance agony over</p>

Details	Source Documents	
<p>family was invited toward the end of 2000 to submit a new application. The new application is being considered at the time of the man's protest. Mr. Kayani dies from his injuries in late May.</p>	<p>father's desperate protest, <i>SMH</i>, 5 April 2001.</p>	
<p>2001</p>	<p>On 5 April, Minister Ruddock issues a Media Release jointly with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, and the Attorney-General, Daryl Williams, indicating measures Australia will take to reform the United Nations Treaty Committee system. Key initiatives are that Australia will host a Ministerial meeting at the time of the UN General Assembly to 'stimulate political momentum for reform' and Australia will also host a series of workshops to look at the practicalities of reform. The Ministers and Attorney-General also call for additional resources for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights from the core UN budget. Australia seeks election to the Commission on Human Rights for the period 2003–2005.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 042/2001, 5 April 2001.</p>
<p>2001</p>	<p>The United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia accepts the Government's long-standing invitation (since 1998) to visit Australia. Professor Maurice Glele-Ahanhanzo visits several cities and towns between 22 April and 10 May.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 043/2001, 12 April 2001.</p>
<p>2001</p>	<p>The planned Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program for 2001–2002 has 85 000 places, with 45 500 (54 per cent) in the Skill Stream, 37 900 in the Family Stream and 1600 in the Special Eligibility Stream. Minister Ruddock says that the greater emphasis on skills over the past five years has begun to 'deliver clear economic and budgetary benefits'.</p>	<p>Joint Statement with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer.</p>
<p>2001</p>	<p>In announcing the planned Humanitarian Program for 2001–2002, Minister Ruddock says that 'Every time someone comes here illegally seeking asylum is granted refugee status it means that someone in greater need overseas who does not have the money to pay a people smuggler misses out'. He says the continued unauthorised arrivals threaten 'Australia's ability to help those most in need'. The Humanitarian Program is</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 045/2001, 27 April 2001.</p>
<p>2001</p>	<p>In announcing the planned Humanitarian Program for 2001–2002, Minister Ruddock says that 'Every time someone comes here illegally seeking asylum is granted refugee status it means that someone in greater need overseas who does not have the money to pay a people smuggler misses out'. He says the continued unauthorised arrivals threaten 'Australia's ability to help those most in need'. The Humanitarian Program is</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 046/2001, 27 April 2001.</p>

Details	Source Documents	
<p>maintained at 12 000 which, the Minister says, makes Australia one of the most generous per capita refugee and humanitarian resettlement countries in the world. He releases comparative figures showing that in 2000, Australia resettled 41 people per 100 000 of its population, making it second only to Canada, which resettled 45 per 100 000. Ruddock also points out that most other developed nations, including the United Kingdom and Germany, do not have a resettlement program. The Humanitarian Program continues to give priority to Africa, the Middle East and South-West Asia and the former Yugoslavia.</p>		
2001	<p>Within the 2001–2002 Humanitarian Program, the Government puts aside a notional 6300 places to meet possible onshore requirements. As a result, there is limited scope to cater for offshore demand under the Special Humanitarian Program. The 6300 notional places are created to cope with a possible increase in unauthorised boat arrivals and claims from people who arrive lawfully by air.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 046/2001, 27 April 2001.</p>
2001	<p>More than 40 000 people are extending their stay in Australia through the use of bridging visas and litigation. Immigration litigation reaches 'totally unacceptable levels', according to Minister Ruddock, with 1437 applications to the Courts and Administrative Appeals Tribunal in the first three-quarters of 2001, compared with 1589 in the whole of 1999–2000 and less than a thousand five years earlier.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 048/2001, 29 April 2001.</p>
2001	<p>In 1999–2000, a total of 14 369 people were located who had either overstayed or breached their visa conditions. This is an increase on the 1998–1999 figure of 13 284. Approximately 58 000 people are estimated to be living in Australia illegally.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 049/2001, 30 April 2001.</p>
2001	<p>The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs announces that the provision of immigration detention services is to go to tender. The services have currently been supplied under contract by Australasian Correctional Services since February 1998.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 16/2001, 25 May 2001.</p>
2001	<p>On 11 May, a riot occurs at Port Hedland detention centre, sparked by attempts to move six Iranian detainees. Twenty-two detainees are later charged over their involvement.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 18A/2001,</p>

Details	Source Documents	
2001	<p>Minister Ruddock responds to criticism levelled by Amnesty International at Australia's treatment of asylum seekers. He says that the Guidelines of the UNHCR allow for detention for the purposes of identification and assessment of claims and that the UN Human Rights Committee has confirmed that Australia's detention policy does not breach the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.</p>	<p>26 May 2001.</p> <p>'Tear gas used on detainees', <i>The West Australian</i>, 12 May 2001.</p>
2001	<p>On 2 June, tear gas is deployed against detainees at Curtin detention centre when about 200 detainees burn down a small building and violently damage other property. The violence is sparked after a group of more than 50 are told they have no legal basis to remain and are to be removed from Australia.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 19/2001, 2 June 2001.</p>
2001	<p>\$5.3 million is made available by the Australian Government for humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. In a joint Media Release with Alexander Downer, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Minister Ruddock says the aid is 'part of an integrated approach focusing on activities to address the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, bolster protection for Afghan refugees in the region and reduce the potential for irregular migration and people smuggling'. Australia's assistance to Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan is \$12 million in 2000–2001.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 071/2001, 7 June 2001.</p>
2001	<p>On 9 June, seven detainees abscond from Woomera detention centre by burrowing under a perimeter fence.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 20/2001, 10 June 2001.</p>
2001	<p>Minister Ruddock visits Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam for discussions with Ministers and officials on continuing regional cooperation on the illegal movement of people. Thailand remains a significant transit point for people travelling onto Indonesia and Australia but there has been a drop in the number</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 078/2001,</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	of people transiting Thailand for Australia as a result of cooperation between the two countries in identifying fraudulent documentation. In Hanoi, the Minister signs a Memorandum of Understanding relating to the return to Vietnam of Vietnamese nationals in Australia who have committed crimes in Australia.	18 June 2001.
2001	Australia hosts a workshop in Geneva to discuss ways of improving the process of reporting to the six United Nations' human rights' treaty committees. The workshop, which is part of the diplomatic initiative of the Australian Government announced on 5 April, brings together for the first time the key participants in the UN treaty committee system. Weaknesses in the existing UN human rights' treaty committees are revealed in a study undertaken by Canadian academic, Professor Anne Bayefsky. The report found that there are 1200 overdue reports—yet only 1600 have been considered by the committees over the past 30 years. The great majority of UN members have overdue reports. The Australian-led workshop seeks to find ways to 'reduce duplication, produce shorter, thematic reports and more sensible timeframes'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 79/2001, 19 June 2001. Joint Statement with Attorney-General Daryl Williams and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Alexander Downer.
2001	World Refugee Day is inaugurated by the UNHCR on 20 June. Minister Ruddock marks the day by pointing to Australia's 'proud tradition of helping those most in need'. In the past 50 years, Australia has resettled about 600 000 refugees and displaced people. The Minister uses the occasion to reiterate his opposition to people smuggling: Every time someone who has the resources to pay people smugglers arrives unlawfully in Australia and is granted refugee status, a place is denied to someone else languishing in the most undesirable circumstances.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 080/2001, 20 June 2001.
2001	On 21 June, Minister Ruddock circulates a summary of detention facilities and services to all Members of Parliament and Senators. The 14-page document is designed to counter what he regards as 'misinformed comment'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 081/2001, 21 June 2001.
2001	The <i>Migration Legislation Amendment (Immigration Detainees) Act 2001</i> is passed by Parliament on 28 June. Prompted by violent disturbances at Woomera, Curtin and Port Hedland Immigration Reception and Processing Centres, it increases	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 083/2001,

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<p>levels of security and safety for detainees and staff in detention centres. Specifically, the Act makes it an offence for a detainee to manufacture, possess, use or distribute a weapon, increases the penalty for escape, and introduces additional security measures for visitors.</p>	<p>29 June 2001.</p>	
<p>2001</p>	<p>In 2000–2001, a total of 14 238 unlawful non-citizens are located, representing a 4.8 per cent increase on the previous year. The figure includes people lawfully in Australia who are in breach of their visa conditions. At 30 June 2001, there are an estimated 60 103 people unlawfully in Australia.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 60/2001, 20 December 2001.</p>
<p>2001</p>	<p>The Law Council of Australia calls on the Federal Government to reinstate the jurisdiction of the Federal Court to hear matters 'clogging' the High Court's workload. The Council says there has been a six-fold increase in migration cases over the past two years. Minister Ruddock responds by urging the Law Council—and the Opposition—to support Bills before the Senate that aim to make Tribunal decisions conclusive and reduce class actions in migration matters. He says the Council's claim of a six-fold increase is erroneous: the number of migration matters coming before the High Court 'had dropped by 27 per cent from the 1999–2000 to 2000–2001 financial years'.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 89/2001, 3 July 2001.</p> <p>R. Campbell, 'High Court's workload must be lightened', <i>Canberra Times</i>, 18 July 2001.</p>
<p>2001</p>	<p>Fewer unauthorised boats arrive in Australia during the year 2000–2001. A total of 54 boats arrive in 2000–2001 compared with 74 in 1999–2000. The number of passengers also drops slightly, from 4175 in 1999–2000 to 4141 in 2000–2001. Minister Ruddock attributes the declining numbers to the disruption of people smuggling activities as a result of cooperation with countries in the Middle East and Asia, as well as Australia's introduction of higher penalties on people smugglers.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 087/2001, 3 July 2001.</p>
<p>2001</p>	<p>On 4 July, Cambodian authorities intercept a boat preparing to unlawfully transport 242 Middle Eastern people to Australia. A large number of the passengers tell Cambodian authorities that on arrival in Australia they were going to claim to be fleeing Afghanistan. However, they are found not to be Afghan citizens, despite carrying Afghan passports. More than half of the group indicate they lived in Pakistan, Iran and the Gulf States. All but four have return tickets to Pakistan or the United Arab Emirates, which means they have a right of re-entry to those countries. Minister Ruddock reiterates his view that it is 'deeply regrettable</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 092/2001, 6 July 2001 and MPS 112/2001, 7 August 2001.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	that Australia's ability to take the most urgent cases—those languishing in refugee camps—was under threat by people who bypassed the normal resettlement processes offshore by paying criminals to bring them to Australia'.	
2001	Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Surakiart Sathirathi, and Minister Ruddock sign an agreement to fight people smuggling and illegal immigration.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 091/2001, 6 July 2001.
2001	Minister Ruddock presents an 'update' to a Senate Estimates Committee on progress in implementing the Flood Report's recommendations. Memoranda of Understanding are being negotiated with health, welfare and police departments at the state level to define their role within the detention environment. (A Memorandum of Understanding with the South Australian Department of Human Services is signed early in December.) The Minister says that many of Flood's recommendations were already being undertaken at the time of the report. He points to progress in such areas as reducing processing times, improving the physical environment at Woomera, the alternative detention arrangements for women and children, allocation of additional long-term Australian Correctional Management (ACM) staff at Woomera, external evaluation of ACM training program for new officers and a review of Immigration Detention Standards.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 093/2001, 9 July 2001 and MPS 190/2001, 6 December 2001.
2001	On 19 July, 23 detainees escape from Villawood detention centre. The group includes four Algerians, five Somalis, one Pakistani, three Indians, one Iranian, eight Afghans and one Iraqi. The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs launches an investigation.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 27/2001, 19 July 2001.
2001	The Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program for 2000–2001 results in 80 610 visas (including 4450 grants in the Skill Stream contingency reserve). About 55 per cent of the Program outcome is in the Skill Stream, in keeping with the Government's commitment to a program that will deliver economic, budgetary and employment benefits. A total of 33 470 grants are made in the Family Stream and there are 2420 in the Special Eligibility Stream.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 097/2001, 20 July 2001.

	Details	Source Documents
2001	A group of 23 detainees escape from Villawood detention centre. It is the second escape within a week: 23 others escaped on 19 July. The group includes three Kuwaitis, one Algerian, eight PRC nationals, eight Vietnamese, one south Korean, one Indonesian and one Macedonian. The majority of the group are not asylum seekers.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 28/2001, 22 July 2001.
2001	On 26 May, a man dies at Villawood detention centre, as a result of 'a self-harm attempt'. The man's visa was cancelled on arrival at Sydney International Airport the day before and he was transferred to Villawood. The man travelled to Australia on a South African passport.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 19/2001, 26 July 2001.
2001	A preliminary report into the July escapes from Villawood detention centre results in a tightening of security, including a strengthening of perimeter security.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 106/2001, 31 July 2001.
2001	The alternative detention project for women and children at Woomera commences on 7 August. The project involves a maximum of 25 volunteers and is to be closely evaluated during its proposed duration of three to six months. Participants are still in detention but live in a cluster of four three-bedroom houses leased from the Department of Defence. The women and children selected for the project must have a family member at the Woomera Immigration Reception and Processing Centre, have an application for asylum under consideration and pose no character or management risks.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 110/2001, 6 August 2001.
2001	The 2000–2001 Humanitarian Program resettles 7992 people from offshore and 5741 onshore (5577 places for people granted temporary or permanent protection visas and 164 temporary humanitarian stay visas). Of the protection visas granted in Australia, 4452 go to people who arrived in Australia without proper authority. These are Temporary Protection Visas. The priority regions for the offshore intake remain Africa, the Middle East and the former Yugoslavia. In 2000–2001, 43 per cent of offshore grants are made to Europeans, mainly from the regions of the former Yugoslavia, 25 per cent to Africans and 20 per cent to people from the Middle East.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 111/2001, 7 August 2001.

	Details	Source Documents
2001	<p>On 19 August, Minister Ruddock and the Hon Bruce Scott MP, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, issue a joint statement regarding the arrival of an unauthorised boat which they do not identify by name. The joint media statement says: 'A boat carrying 348 men, women and children, believed to be of Middle Eastern origin, arrived on Christmas Island, 2650 kilometres north-west of Perth, on Thursday [16 August]'. It continues: 'Two Royal Australian Air Force C130 Hercules aircraft are bound for Christmas Island to assist Immigration authorities ease the strain on the island's resources'. A 'shuttle service' of the Hercules aircraft is planned to relocate more than 230 of the unlawful arrivals to Port Hedland.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 121/2001, 19 August 2001.</p>
2001	<p>The Commonwealth Ombudsman issues a report into the death of Shahraz Kiane (Kayani), who died of self-inflicted burns in a protest outside Parliament House in April, and criticises the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs for taking so long (five years) to make a final decision as to whether his family would be permitted to join him in Australia. The Ombudsman says, 'The history of this case is one of administrative ineptitude and of broken promises'. Minister Ruddock describes the report as 'unbalanced' and says that two key issues in the case relate to 'whether Mr. Kiane could have returned safely to live in Pakistan with his spouse and three children' and 'what weight could be given to the claims of Mr. Kiane and his extended family that they would bear the health and social welfare costs involved'. (The latter point is in reference to Mr. Kiane's 10-year old disabled daughter, Annum. Mr. Ruddock says he had to take into account 'potential costs of \$750 000'.)</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 122/2001, 22 August 2001.</p> <p>A. Clennell, 'Ombudsman blasts 'inept' department over migrant's suicide', <i>SMH</i>, 23 August 2001.</p>
2001	<p>The number of immigration appeals to the courts and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal reaches record levels in 2000–2001, with 2003 new appeals recorded (an increase of 26 per cent over the previous year when 1590 were recorded). There is an increase of almost 40 per cent in the number of 'first instance' appeals to the Federal Court and a 19 per cent increase in appeals to the Full Federal Court. Minister Ruddock maintains that people are using the courts to delay their departure. He says that 'more than 65 per cent of appeals to the Federal Court seek review of decisions of the Refugee Review Tribunal, but less than 1 per cent of those commencing the judicial process are likely to obtain a visa and be permitted to remain in Australia'.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 126/2001, 26 August 2001.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
2001	The Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS) provides \$18.4 million to community organisations over three years. The CSSS supports groups that help refugees and migrants settle into Australian society, such as the provision of information on employment, housing and education. The Scheme complements the Government's network of services available to refugees and migrants. The overall funding for the settlement services network in 2001 is \$24.6 million.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 127/2001, 27 August 2001.
2001	On 29 August, Prime Minister John Howard tables the Border Protection Bill 2001. The Bill seeks to put beyond doubt the domestic legal basis for actions taken in relation to foreign ships within the territorial sea of Australia, and is prompted by the unauthorised arrival of the <i>MV Tampa</i> , carrying 433 people, north-west of Christmas Island, on 26 August. The Bill seeks to permit an 'officer' to direct the master of a ship within the territorial sea to take it outside the territorial sea. It also seeks to make any actions taken within it non-reviewable in any Australian court. The Bill is rejected in the Senate. The <i>Tampa</i> is the subject of considerable public controversy and is interdicted by Special Air Service members when it proceeds into territorial waters surrounding Christmas Island on the 29 th . Action taken by the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties (VCCL) to have the Tampa passengers admitted to mainland Australia succeeds in the Federal Court on 11 September (i.e. Justice North finds that the 'rescuees' had been unlawfully detained on the Tampa and orders that they be brought to the mainland). However, an appeal by Minister Ruddock to the Full Bench of the Federal Court finds that the Commonwealth has sufficient executive power to control the movement of the Tampa and that the rescuees had not been detained for the purposes of the VCCL's <i>habeas corpus</i> writ.	N. Hancock, 'Border Protection (Validation and Enforcement Powers) Bill 2001', <i>Bills Digest No. 62</i> , Department of the Parliamentary Library, Canberra, pp. 3–4.
2001	The Migration Legislation Amendment (Immigration Detainees) Bill (No.2) 2001 is passed by Federal Parliament on 29 August. The legislation permits the use of metal detector scans on detainees and provides powers to strip search.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 129/2001, 29 August 2001.
2001	Opposition Leader Kim Beazley and the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Laurie Brereton, release the Labor Party's international strategy to combat people smuggling. Describing people smuggling as 'a critical international challenge for Australia', the statement says 'We must not allow our	Australian Labor Party, <i>Media Statement</i> , Labor's international strategy to combat people smuggling

	Details	Source Documents
	immigration policy to be subverted by unchecked illegal arrivals'. Beazley reiterates his party's plan to establish an Australian Coast Guard and his commitment to improving Australia's relationship with Indonesia. He says, 'International and regional cooperation is vital'. Minister Ruddock comments on the Labor policy saying that it mainly recycles old policies but of the positive 'initiatives' 'all have already been implemented by the Government, or are in the process of being implemented'.	6 September 2001. Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 132/2001, 7 September 2001.
2001	On 6 September, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs launches a <i>Background paper on unauthorised arrivals strategy</i> . It provides an overview of policy development during the 1990s, emphasising the Government's three-pronged approach based on the minimisation of outflows from countries of origin and from countries of first asylum, practical cooperation with other countries to disrupt people smugglers and intercept their clients, and the development of 'reception arrangements' for unauthorised arrivals, early determination of their status and the prompt removal of those not in need of protection.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 131/2001, 6 September 2001.
2001	Following the 11 September terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York and on the Pentagon in Washington DC, Minister Ruddock urges the Australian community to unite in the face of 'any challenge posed to its harmonious society'. He says, 'Events such as the Gulf War and conflicts in the Balkans have shown that those who are on different sides of a conflict in other parts of the world can live in peace in the same street in Australia'. He condemns any attacks on, or vilification of, Australian Muslim and Arabic communities as 'un-Australian'. Later in the month, more than \$1.5 million in grants for <i>Living in Harmony</i> projects is announced and includes several projects that work with Muslim communities and refugee and migrant support organisations to 'promote harmony and address misconceptions about Islamic culture'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 155/2001, 12 September 2001 and MPS 168/2001, 28 September 2001.
2001	As of 17 September, Cocos Island is included in the move to excise certain territories from the Australian migration zone. Prime Minister John Howard announces on 8 September that the Government would move to excise Christmas Island, Ashmore Reef and Cartier Reef from the zone. Action to bring the excisions into effect is contained in the Migration Legislation Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) Bill 2001.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 160/2001, 17 September 2001.

Details	Source Documents
<p>Removing the territories from the zone means that it is not possible to apply for a Protection Visa or Temporary Protection Visa while in those areas.</p>	
2001	<p>A package of seven Bills designed by the Government to boost the fight against people smugglers is passed through the Senate. Minister Ruddock says the new legislation will increase penalties for people smugglers, introduce a new visa regime and strengthen deterrence measures for unauthorised arrivals. The seven Bills are: The Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) Bill 2001, The Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2001, The Border Protection (Validation and Enforcement Powers) Bill 2001, The Migration Legislation Amendment (Judicial Review) Bill 1998, The Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No 1) 2001, The Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No 5) 2001 and The Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No 6) 2001. The Border Protection (Validation and Enforcement Powers) Bill 2001 imposes minimum prison terms for people smugglers (five years for a first conviction and eight years for a second conviction) and puts beyond doubt the legality of actions of the Government taken in relation to the MV Tampa and provides additional statutory authority for future action in relation to vessels carrying unauthorised arrivals. The Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) Bill 2001 excises certain territories from Australia's migration zone, including Christmas Island, Ashmore and Cartier Islands and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, with a view to creating a separate visa application regime to unlawful arrivals at the excised places. Unauthorised arrivals to those territories cannot apply for a visa. The Migration Amendment (Excision from Migration Zone) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2001 allows for the detention of an unlawful non-citizen in an excised offshore place, for the transfer of an unlawful non-citizen from Australia to another country, and prevents such people from taking legal action against the Government in an Australian court. The Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No 6) 2001 allows adverse inferences to be drawn from an absence of documentation and also defines certain key terms used by the Federal Court and the Refugee Review Tribunal in determining refugee status. The Bill narrows the interpretation given to the definition of 'refugee' (in particular, the elements of 'persecution', 'membership of a particular social group', and 'particularly serious crime'. The Migration Legislation Amendment (Judicial Review) Bill 1998</p>
	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 164/2001, 26 September 2001 and MPS 161/2001, 17 September 2001.</p>
	<p>Also: Various <i>Bills Digests</i> prepared by specialists in the Parliamentary Library's Law and Bills Digest Group: Nathan Hancock, Dy Spooner, Natasha Cica, Katrine Del Villar, Kirsty Magarey and Krysti Guest.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	limits the grounds for judicial review and prohibits class actions in migration litigation. The Migration Legislation Amendment Bill (No 5) 2001 authorises disclosure of information relating to travel to and from the migration zone for migration control purposes by private organisations that provide travel related services. The aim is to avoid the restrictions of the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000. The Bills are passed.	
2001	New reception centres are required on Christmas Island for unauthorised arrivals, who are currently received in tents on the shores of Flying Fish Cove. The Federal Government erects demountable buildings to replace the tents and promises a new sports hall, for completion by mid-2002, for use as a reception centre for future unauthorised arrivals.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 162/2001, 23 September 2001. Joint Statement with Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government, Senator Ian Macdonald.
2001	On 16 October, as part of the Federal Election campaign, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Kim Beazley, issues a statement outlining the Australian Labor Party's policies on people smugglers and border protection. The policy promises to establish a Coast Guard that will 'be on the beat every day of the year' and to develop a comprehensive bilateral agreement with the Indonesian Government on people smuggling. Beazley claims credit for bringing about improvements to the Border Protection (Validation and Enforcement Powers) Bill 2001, which is passed into law in September. He says: The new Bill contained specific provisions to authorise the action that was taken with respect to the <i>Tampa</i> , as called for by Labor. Rather than setting aside all other laws, the new Bill built on the existing well-established legal framework for the treatment of vessels... The new Bill contained a specific provision that people could only be returned to a ship if it was safe to do so... And the new Bill preserved the power of the High Court to review government action, as required by our Constitution.	K. Beazley, Leader of the Opposition, ALP News Statement, <i>Combating people smugglers and strengthening Australia's border protection</i> , 16 October 2001.

	Details	Source Documents
2001	During the Federal Election campaign, Opposition Leader Kim Beazley says the Labor Party supports 'what John Howard's doing but we've got to have more than what John Howard's doing'. On people smugglers, he says: 'The people who are responsible for this horror are the criminals who organise the trade ... And we've supported every measure, in terms of dealing with the protection of our borders, against what these people are up to—every measure that Howard's put in place, but it's not enough'.	Kim Beazley, Doorstop interview with Martin Ferguson, Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Transport and Infrastructure, Regional Services and Population, <i>Transcript</i> , Gladstone, Queensland, 23 October 2001.
2002	On 10 November, the Federal Election returns the Coalition with an increased majority. The Federal Government's actions against the <i>Tampa</i> at the end of August and the legislative package in September that became known as 'the Pacific Solution' are factors in the election campaign, though analysts differ as to the extent to which they influence the final outcome.	
2001	Detainees at Woomera attempt to set alight three female ablutions but the fire is brought under control by centre staff with the assistance of some detainees. 'Acts of vandalism' have damaged other ablutions as well as recreation rooms, and a kindergarten. The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and Australasian Correctional Management continue to liaise with the Detainee Representative Committee 'to convince them that these actions will not influence the outcomes of their applications for Protection Visas in Australia'.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 48/2001, 24 November 2001.
2001	On 26 November, Indigenous Affairs is added to the Immigration and Multicultural Affairs' portfolio. Philip Ruddock is the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.	
2001	Two buildings—a laundry and an ablution block—at Woomera detention centre are destroyed by fires deliberately lit by detainees.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 54/2001, 7 December 2001.

	Details	Source Documents
2001	Minister Ruddock visits the United Kingdom and Spain for talks with Government representatives on the issue of border arrivals, asylum seekers, and other migration-related topics. He also attends the Ministerial Council of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Geneva to mark the 50 th anniversary of the Refugees Convention and for discussions on the future direction of the UNHCR.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 191/2001, 7 December 2001.
2001	Thirteen buildings, including three new accommodation facilities, a mess and a computing facility, at Woomera detention centre are damaged or destroyed during the night of 17 December as part of 'a deliberate criminal campaign by detainees'. The fires are part of protests by detainees who chant the word 'visa' during their demonstrations. Detainees stop staff and firemen from extinguishing the fires by throwing rocks and furniture at them. This is the seventh fire-related incident at Woomera since 20 November. There are 949 detainees at Woomera. Nineteen are women and children housed in the Woomera Residential Housing Project.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 58/2001, 18 December 2001.
2001	In light of recent violent protests at Woomera detention centre, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs points out that an Imam recently visited the centre at the request of the management and of the Department to consult with detainees about any problems. The response in all instances is that 'there were no issues with conditions'. The protests are all about visas, according to the Imam.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 58/2001, 18 December 2001.
2001	Six officers at Woomera detention centre are injured during continuing arson and violence on the part of about 300 detainees. Tear gas and water cannon are used after the detainees breach an internal security fence. Fires lit by the detainees damage eight buildings, bringing to 21 the number damaged or destroyed in the past two days. The damages bill is around \$2 million. A spokesperson for the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs says, 'This deliberate criminal activity will not force the Government to expedite or influence the visa granting process. If those responsible for this criminal damage can be identified and prosecuted it will have a direct impact on any visa application'.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 59/2001, 19 December 2001.
2001	Disturbances continue at Woomera detention centre and water cannon is again used. A total of 21 staff have been injured since the violent protests commenced on 17 December. However,	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and

	Details	Source Documents
	many of the detainees are withdrawing from the protests, which are maintained by a small core group of around 45.	Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 61/2001, 20 December 2001.
2001	In December, an Indonesian vessel carrying about 160 people suspected of attempting to illegally enter Australia is escorted back toward Indonesian waters, at a point north of the Ashmore Islands, by an Australian Navy vessel. It is the fourth vessel that the Navy has escorted back toward Indonesian waters.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 193/2001, 21 December 2001.
2002	On 22 January, Minister Ruddock pays tribute to Mr. Neville Roach AO, who retires from the positions of Chair of the Council for Multicultural Australia and Chair of the Business Advisory Council on Migration. The Minister says Mr. Roach has 'an exemplary record in developing and promoting Australian multiculturalism and business migration in Australia'. Mr Roach retires as a protest against the Federal Government's 'hard line and inflexible' position on asylum seekers.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 5/2002, 22 January 2002. J. Davies, 'Adviser quits over Howard's asylum policy', <i>The Age</i> , 23 January 2002.
2002	On 22 January, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs responds to allegations reported in the media by Dr. Michael Dudley, who visited Woomera detention centre on 7 January with a group of detainee legal advisers. Dr. Dudley, who chairs Suicide Prevention Australia and heads the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Royal Australian College of Psychiatry, claims that conditions at Woomera are 'akin to concentration camps'. He says there is 'a tendency to use coercive management strategies... tear gas, room-trashings, children being put in solitary confinement, being separated from their parents, being stood out in the hot sun'. The Department rejects the claims, pointing out that Dr. Dudley only had access to the administration block and its bathroom facility during his visit. In replying to several points, the Department says there are 'individual management plans designed to meet the specific needs in education and social development' of unaccompanied minors in detention and there is no solitary confinement for children.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 5/2002, 22 January 2002 (Note: the DPS is mistakenly dated 22 February). K. Lawson, 'Ruddock warns rights officials', <i>Canberra Times</i> , 23 January 2002.
2002	About a quarter of the detainees in Woomera detention centre are on hunger strike as of 22 January. Of 830 detainees, 202 are	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and

	Details	Source Documents
	on the strike, and 64 of them have sewn their lips together. Eighteen are undergoing treatment for dehydration in the facility's medical centre. Four of these have lips sewn. Three others are in hospital.	Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 5/2002, 22 February 2002.
2002	In light of protests at Woomera detention centre which involve adults and some children sewing their lips together, Minister Ruddock announces that five unaccompanied minors will be removed for protection from 'the coercion of other adult detainees'. A further seven children are the subject of child abuse notifications, under the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs' Memorandum of Understanding with the South Australian Department of Human Services. South Australia's Human Services Minister, Dean Brown, says he is disgusted by the level of abuse adults had brought upon children at the centre.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 7/2002, 23 January 2002. Joint statement with Dean Brown, South Australian Human Services Minister.
2002	In the final week of January, a group of 180 asylum seekers is transferred from Christmas Island to Manus Island and Nauru. Forty go to Nauru. The group includes people from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan. There are now only 34 detainees remaining on Christmas Island.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 6/2002, 1 February 2002.
2002	An agreement to combat people smuggling is signed by Minister Ruddock and Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sar Kheng. The new agreement strengthens 'cooperative efforts in regional fora' and continues 'joint cooperative activities designed to build expertise and provide assistance for the immigration work of both countries'. The agreement is signed during Ruddock's visit to Cambodia and Japan and Laos for discussions on the topic.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 10/2002, 8 March 2002.
2002	The Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia, is held at Bali, Indonesia, from 26–28 February. Thirty-eight countries, mainly of the Middle East and Asia-Pacific regions, are represented, with an additional 15 mainly European governments in attendance as observers. Several international organisations also attend, including the UNHCR and IOM. The Ministerial Conference agrees to enhance the struggle against people smuggling by developing more effective information and intelligence sharing, improving cooperation of law-enforcement agencies and	Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, Co-Chairs' Statement, 28 February 2002.

Details	Source Documents	
<p>improving cooperation on border and visa systems, increasing public awareness with a view to discouraging those considering illegal movement, enhancing the effectiveness of return as a strategy to deter illegal migration through the conclusion of appropriate arrangements and cooperating in verifying the identity and nationality of illegal migrants.</p>		
2002	<p>On 28 February, the Australian Government establishes the position of Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues to Australia, within the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Ambassador is responsible for 'promoting a coherent and effective international approach to combating people smuggling, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, and to assist as appropriate in the negotiation of high level return, readmission and resettlement arrangements'. The Ambassador is Mr. John Buckley, who is also Australia's Ambassador to the Philippines.</p>	<p>The Hon. Alexander Downer MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, FA27, 28 February 2002.</p>
2002	<p>On 12 March, Minister Ruddock announces that a permanent immigration reception and processing centre will be built on Christmas Island.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 011/2002, 12 March 2002.</p>
2002	<p>The six millionth post-War migrant arrives in Australia on 18 March. Minister Ruddock welcomes Cristina Jurado, her husband Karlo and their two children at Sydney International Terminal. The family is from the Philippines.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 012/2002, 18 March 2002.</p>
2002	<p>On 21 March, Parliament passes the Migration Legislation Amendment (Transitional Movement) Bill 2002. The legislation allows for failed asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus, Papua New Guinea, to be brought to Australia and held in detention while arrangements are made for their transit to another country. Such cases may apply for a review by the RRT, but only if they have cooperated with efforts to return them and have been in continuous detention in Australia for more than six months.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 16/2002, 21 March 2002.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
2002	On 25 March, Minister Ruddock invites East Timorese asylum seekers, who have been in Australia since September 1999, to provide additional information in support of their claims, so that decision making can proceed. The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs has several hundred applications from East Timorese and these cover about 1700 people.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 19/2002, 25 March 2002.
2002	Minister Ruddock and the Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison, condemn the actions of protest groups who converge at Woomera over the Easter weekend. The 500 protestors tear down the centre's perimeter fence and assist some detainees to escape. In all, 50 asylum seekers escape and 28 protestors are arrested.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 22/2002, 30 March 2002. '14 escapees still on run from Woomera', <i>The Australian</i> , 1 April 2002.
2002	On 19 April, a group of about 100 detainees at Curtin detention centre intentionally light fires and damage buildings and destroy equipment provided for them. They also throw rocks at staff, injuring five. There are 340 detainees at Curtin.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 23/2002, 20 April 2002.
2002	A group of 150 detainees at Port Hedland detention centre engage in violent protest activity, damaging property and throwing concrete at staff. A group of 20 to 30 arm themselves with iron bars and a sledge hammer. The protest begins after a detainee is injured and hospitalised after falling from a tree. The man climbed the tree as a protest gesture because he did not have an opportunity to meet a visiting delegation, which included the Opposition Spokesperson on Immigration, Julia Gillard.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 24/2002, 24 April 2002.
2002	The Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program planned for 2002–2003 is the largest and most highly skilled in over a decade, with a target between 100 000 and 110 000 places. The Skill Stream is targeted at 60 700 places and the Family Stream at 43 200 places. The Government decides to maintain the Program at that level for each of the next four financial years.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 30/2002, 7 May 2002.

Details	Source Documents
<p>2002</p> <p>The planned Humanitarian Program for 2002–2003 remains at 12 000 new places, which includes 4000 places set aside for refugees resettled from offshore. The offshore component includes any asylum seekers accepted by Australia from the processing centres of Nauru, Manus Island and Cocos Keeling and Christmas Island. About 6000 places are for the Special Humanitarian Program and a notional 2000 places are set aside for onshore cases. Priority remains in the regions of Africa, the Middle East and South West Asia.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 31/2002, 7 May 2002.</p>
<p>2002</p> <p>In Kabul, Minister Ruddock signs an agreement with the Interim Administration of Afghanistan on the return of refugees and asylum seekers. More than three quarters of a million Afghans have returned to Afghanistan from neighbouring countries, including about 600 000 under the auspices of the UNHCR.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 34/2002, 17 May 2002.</p>
<p>2002</p> <p>In May, Minister Ruddock announces a series of measures relating to border protection in the 2002–2003 Budget. He says 'The Budget focuses on removing some of the "push factors" from source countries as well as bolstering international efforts to deter illegal travel'. The Budget provides additional funding to assist the Afghan Interim Authority with the reintegration of Afghan returnees, a total of \$5.8 million over three years in personal reintegration assistance for asylum seekers who volunteer to go home, \$4 million a year to assist transit countries in the detection and interception of illegal people movement, and up to \$14.4 million a year to support international organisations responsible for detaining, processing and removing illegal migrants in transit countries.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 32/2002, un-dated, 2002.</p>
<p>2002</p> <p>The 2002–2003 Budget allocates \$129.3 million for offshore processing of unauthorised boat arrivals at offshore locations in third countries and \$81.9 million for offshore processing at Christmas Island and, 'if necessary', Cocos Island. A total of \$153.7 million over two years is allocated for construction of the reception and processing centre on Christmas Island, plus \$34.4 million in commissioning and operating expenses over four years.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 33/ 2002, un-dated (May), 2002.</p>
<p>2002</p> <p>The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs and the Australian Federal Police present a 'landmark course' for 'front line immigration and law</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs,</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	enforcement personnel' in the Pacific region. The course is convened at the Pacific Islands Forum's Secretariat in Suva, Fiji, and runs from 20 May to 31 May and 27 May to 7 June. The course aims to 'provide local staff with enhanced skills to more easily detect and deter illegal immigrants and the criminal element associated with their movement through the region'. Participants in the course include representatives of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, American Samoa, and Nauru.	<i>Media Release</i> , MPS 36/2002, 20 May 2002.
2002	In May, the Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace releases its report, <i>Damaging kids</i> , which is based on an analysis of documents obtained under Freedom of Information Act from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. The report reveals 264 cases of 'self-harm' in detention centres over the previous eight months, including 29 children and people younger than 20. The report accuses the Federal Government of 'psychological child abuse'. Minister Ruddock responds by saying that, while such incidents are taken seriously, the number of incidents is not as large as appears because separate incidents involving the one person are counted. He says that most cases are 'of a minor nature and no medical treatment was required'. He also points out that he has made the public aware that there have been incidents of self-harm as part of some detainees' efforts to place the Government under duress. More than 9000 individuals had passed through detention centres during the eight month period. Twenty reports relate to detainees under the age of 18.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 37/2002, 21 May 2002. S. Carbone and K. Taylor, 'Report slams detention of children', <i>The Age</i> , 22 May 2002.
2002	A reintegration package to assist Afghan asylum seekers who volunteer to return to Afghanistan is announced by Minister Ruddock on 23 May. The package includes cash assistance of \$2000 per adult or child, or up to \$10 000 for a family unit. The Minister says the package is 'estimated to be worth up to five years' annual income for the average Afghan'. To be eligible, Afghans must have arrived in Australia, Nauru or Christmas Island on or before 16 May, the date of signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Australia and Afghanistan's Interim Government. The package is offered to Afghans in detention in Australia who have been found not to be refugees, or who are still awaiting a decision, and to Afghans in Nauru who are being assessed or who have received a negative decision. The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs also provides a range of support services to	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 38/2002, 23 May 2002.

	Details	Source Documents
	them, through the International Organisation for Migration, such as counselling, air travel, vocational training and transport from Kabul to other locations in Afghanistan.	
2002	The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs makes a submission to the National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention, being conducted by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Minister Ruddock says the detailed submission is made to 'clearly show Australia meets its duty of care to those in detention, including children, and has a continuous record of improvement, especially in the areas of health, education and recreational programs'. The HREOC report is expected to be finalised and tabled in Parliament in the first quarter of 2003.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 40/2002, 29 May 2002.
2002	On 30 May, the reintegration package for Afghans who voluntarily return home is extended to non-Afghans currently accommodated on Manus Island and Nauru. Essentially, the package offers \$2000 per adult or child and up to \$10 000 for a family unit. It only applies to asylum seekers who have been found not to be refugees or who are awaiting a decision.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 42/2002, 30 May 2002.
2002	Minister Ruddock challenges the credibility of the visiting United Nations' Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, saying that it is taking at face value claims about detainee suicides made by 'advocacy groups'. The Minister says the groups claim there have been six suicides but, he says, 'While it is regrettable that anyone has died, to date there have been seven deaths in detention but there have been no coronial findings that any of the deaths were as a result of suicide'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 46/2002, 7 June 2002.
2002	On 7 June, new regulations extend the area of excised offshore places from the migration zone. The new excised places are: the Coral Seas Islands Territory, all islands in the far north of Queensland (north of latitude 120 south—essentially the Torres Strait islands), all islands forming part of the Northern Territory and all Western Australia islands north of latitude 230 south.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 45/2002, 7 June 2002.
2002	In June, Minister Ruddock reminds refugees who were granted the first lot of Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs), issued in November 1999, that their TPVs expire in November. They must either apply for another protection visa or leave Australia at the end of their TPVs.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 47/2002, 11 June 2002.

	Details	Source Documents
2002	A new highly specialised document examination laboratory is opened at the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs' Sydney offices in June. The Document Examination Service is now better equipped to examine the authenticity of a range of documents submitted to Immigration officials, including passports and visas.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 53/2002, 21 June 2002.
2002	The Migration Legislation Amendment (Procedural Fairness) Bill 2002 passes through Parliament on 28 June. The Bill inserts a number of sections which emphasise that certain provisions are 'an exhaustive statement of the requirements of the natural justice hearing rule' and in this way the legislation prevents failed asylum seekers from appealing against decisions on the grounds of a breach of natural justice. This pursues the Government's objective of reducing scope for appeal to the Federal Court. Minister Ruddock says the changes 'remove the uncertainty which has enabled unsuccessful visa applicants to bring confused arguments to the courts for the purpose of delaying their departure from Australia'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 59/2002, 28 June 2002.
2002	On 27 June, a night-time raid on Woomera detention centre by a small group of protestors in cars results in the escape of 35 rejected asylum seekers. Prior to the escapes, there were 215 people in Woomera. Of that population, seven are awaiting a primary decision on their application for asylum, 18 are seeking review of a negative decision by the RRT, six have received decisions from the RRT, 85 have claims before the courts and 99 are awaiting removal.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 58/2002, 28 June 2002.
2002	In response to claims by detainees staging a hunger strike in protest at delays in the processing of asylum claims at Woomera detention centre, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs says that of the 177 detainees at Woomera, as of 5 July, only six are waiting for a primary decision and these are 'subject to security or criminal record checks'. Of the others: 95 are awaiting removal, having gone through the application process; 54 are before the courts, five are awaiting a finding from the Refugee Review Tribunal and 17 are before the RRT. A spokesperson for DIMIA says, 'The majority of the applications have been rejected and the detainees have been found not to be refugees. Their detention is being prolonged through their own actions in appealing the negative decisions'.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 44/2002, 5 July 2002.

	Details	Source Documents
2002	Guided tours of the new Baxter Immigration Reception and Processing Centre near Port Augusta, South Australia, attract 375 visitors on 11 July.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 63/2002, 12 July 2002.
2002	On 19 July, two brothers, Montazar and Alamdar Baktiari, who escape from Woomera detention centre and unsuccessfully seek asylum at the British Consulate in Melbourne, are reunited with their mother at the centre. Minister Ruddock says of the case that the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs had issued a notice of intent to cancel their father's Temporary Protection Visa on 12 April, 'on the grounds that he was actually a Pakistani national who had been working as a plumber in Pakistan, not an Afghan national as he claimed'. The father arrived in Australia, without his family, in October 1999 and was granted the TPV in August 2000.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 66/2002, 19 July 2002. 'Adventures aplenty but no thrills in short lives', <i>The Canberra Times</i> , 21 July 2002.
2002	The first group of Afghans to accept the Australian Government's reintegration package return to Afghanistan. The group of seven men had been in detention in Australia for between two and three years. The package provides \$2000 per adult, plus support services in Afghanistan.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 67/2002, 22 July 2002.
2002	Australia's Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program for 2001–2002 is the largest and most skilled in a decade. The program outcome is 93 080 places, of which 53 520 (or 58 per cent) are in the Skill Stream. The Family Stream achieves 38 090 places.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 68/2002, 24 July 2002.
2002	The Humanitarian Program for 2001–2002 results in the granting of 12 349 visas, of which 4160 are offshore refugee places, 4258 Special Humanitarian Program places, 3885 onshore places, 40 Special Assistance Category places and six temporary humanitarian concern visas. Most of the onshore places are temporary protection visas (3137). The remainder (748) are permanent protection visas. The regional focus of the Humanitarian Program has shifted during the 1990s from South-East Asia, Central America and Europe to Africa, the Middle East and South-West Asia.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 68/2002, 24 July 2002.

	Details	Source Documents
2002	On 26 July, a small group of Woomera detainees object to staff conducting a routine accommodation search. The search uncovers home-made weapons, including metal bars and sling shots.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 49/2002, 31 July 2002.
2002	On 30 July, four Sri Lankans are sentenced in Perth District Court to three-and-a-half to five years imprisonment for people smuggling offences under the Migration Act. The four were involved in the arrival of a boat carrying 71 unlawful non-citizens on Cocos Islands in September 2001.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 53/2002, 5 August 2002.
2002	Justice Prafullachandra Bhagwati, the Personal Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights releases the report, <i>Human rights and immigration detention in Australia</i> , following his visit to Australia in May and June. The report finds that the human rights situation in detention centres is a matter of serious concern. Minister Ruddock, in a joint statement with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, and the Attorney-General, Daryl Williams, rejects the report as 'fundamentally flawed' and lacking in objectivity.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 71/2002, 31 July 2002. 'UN envoy criticises mandatory detention', <i>The Canberra Times</i> , 1 August 2002.
2002	The first group of refugees from the Manus Island processing centre arrive in Australia on 30 July. The 42 refugees comprise a man, 13 women and 28 children. Most of the group have immediate family members (spouse or parent) in Australia. They are granted three-year temporary protection visas, as people 'who have abandoned or by-passed effective protection in a country of first asylum and travelled to another country to seek a preferred migration option'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 70/2002, 30 July 2002.
2002	In August, Minister Ruddock visits several countries in Africa and Europe to discuss their efforts against people smuggling and to brief their governments on Australia's border control laws. He also has discussions in the United Kingdom.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 72/2002, 1 August 2002.
2002	On 2 August, Minister Ruddock signs a Joint Ministerial Statement with South Africa's Minister for Home Affairs, the	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and

Details	Source Documents	
<p>Hon. Mangosuthu Buthelezi in Capetown. The Statement provides a framework for mutual cooperation on migration, refugees, irregular migration and people smuggling issues. The agreement allows Australia to return to South Africa all third country nationals who have transited South Africa for at least seven days before arriving illegally in Australia and claiming asylum. South Africa will return to Australia arrivals in similar circumstances. It is Australia's first 'readmission' agreement.</p>	<p>Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 073/2002, 2 August 2002.</p>	
2002	<p>Fifty-six refugees (16 women and 40 children) from the Nauru processing centre are admitted into Australia. They are given resettlement priority because they have immediate family members (spouse or parent) in Australia. They are granted three-year temporary protection visas which are available to people 'who have abandoned or by-passed effective protection in a country of first asylum and travelled to another country to seek a preferred migration option'.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 55/2002, 6 August 2002.</p>
2002	<p>The Immigration Detention Housing Project, which provides alternative detention arrangements for women and children at Woomera, is deemed successful by Minister Ruddock in August. The Minister says, 'Participants have clearly benefited from the living conditions provided and it has been possible to maintain security with residents living in the town environment'. The women's self esteem was improved 'as their role as mothers in the family was reinforced and they took control of managing their homes, their time and the priorities and activities of their children in a more normal domestic environment than was possible in the Immigration Reception and Processing Centre'. The Minister says he will expand the eligibility criteria for women and children who participate in the project.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 075/2002, 20 August 2002</p>
2002	<p>Eighteen refugees (five women, two men and 11 children) arrive in Australia from the Manus processing centre.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 62/2002, 23 August 2002.</p>
2002	<p>On 3 September, 16 refugees comprising five women and 11 children are resettled in Australia from the processing centre on Nauru. In all, 136 people have been allowed into Australia from offshore processing centres.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 64/2002, 4 September 2002.</p>

Details	Source Documents
<p>2002 <i>The settlement experiences of new migrants: a comparison of Wave One of LSIA1 and LSIA2</i> is launched in September. The report, prepared by a team at the National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University, Adelaide, contrasts the early settlement experiences of two different cohorts of migrants: the first having been studied for the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (LSIA) in 1993–1994 and the second in 1999–2000. In speaking at the report's launch, Minister Ruddock says, 'Interestingly, the most satisfied migrants were from the most well-off and the least well-off groups—that is, business migrants and humanitarian program entrants'. The report found that 90 per cent of migrants interviewed six months after arrival were happy with their decision to migrate and that 'pull' factors were of paramount importance. These include Australia's lifestyle, environment and climate, and opportunities for the future. The report found that nearly all humanitarian entrants intended to take out Australian citizenship.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 81/2002, 3 September 2002.</p>
<p>2002 On 6 September, the first detainees are transferred to the new Baxter Immigration Reception and Processing Centre near Port Augusta, South Australia. The seven detainees, from the Woomera centre, comprise three men and four women from Vietnam and Afghanistan. Transfers to Baxter are also planned from centres at Curtin, Port Hedland, Perth and Maribyrnong.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 65/2002, 6 September 2002.</p>
<p>2002 Processing of reviews of the assessments of 159 asylum seekers on Nauru and 30 on Manus results, in the Australian caseload, in 138 (130 Afghans and eight Iraqis) being found not to be refugees and 44 (22 Afghans, 19 Iraqis and three others) granted refugee status. Of the seven people in the UNHCR load, six Iraqis are found to be refugees.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 72/2002, 18 September 2002.</p>
<p>2002 At 16 September, 1157 initial refugee assessments have been handed down on Nauru (644 by Australia and 513 by the UNHCR) and 835 reviews (plus 48 pending) of the initial assessments handed down (542 by Australia and 341 by UNHCR). A total of 338 initial assessments have been handed down on Manus and 59 reviews (plus 33 pending). About a quarter of all the initial assessments on Nauru are approved, as are 18 per cent of reviews. The main nationalities are Afghan and Iraqi. Of the Nauru initial assessments, 760 (65 per cent) are Afghans, as are 671 (76 per cent) of reviews handed down. A total of 59 Afghans are approved in the initial refugee assessment stage (seven per cent of the Afghans at that stage)</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 72/2002, 18 September 2002.</p>

Details	Source Documents
and 74 (eight per cent) at review. A total of 340 (58 per cent of) Iraqis are approved at the initial stage, as are 68 (50 per cent) at review. On Manus, at the initial assessment stage, 235 Iraqis (69 per cent) are approved, as are 24 (46 per cent) at review.	
2002 On 23 September, the last detainees leave Curtin Immigration Reception and Processing Centre, which is being decommissioned. The Curtin group, numbering 30, is transferred to the new Baxter Immigration Detention Facility near Port Augusta, South Australia.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 085/2002, 23 September 2002.
2002 The first decisions for East Timorese protection visa applicants are handed down, with none of the 168 applicants receiving approval. In March, decision-making on approximately 1700 East Timorese cases was resumed.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 087/2002, 25 September 2002.
2002 On 1 October, a group of 49 refugees is admitted into Australia from the processing centre on Manus Island. They are granted three-year temporary protection visas. The 18 men, 12 women and 19 children have family members in Australia. Their arrival brings to 200 the number of people resettled in Australia from offshore processing centres. There are 1062 people in offshore processing centres: 960 on Nauru and 102 on Manus.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 77/2002, 1 October 2002.
2002 On 16 October, 40 refugees, comprising 12 men, 11 women and 17 children, are admitted to Australia from the Nauru processing centre. All have family members in Australia. Their arrival brings to 249 the number resettled from the offshore processing centres. There are 1005 remaining in such centres: 903 on Nauru and 102 on Manus.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 81/2002, 16 October 2002.
2002 A report prepared by the Human Rights' Commissioner, Dr. Sev Ozdowski, is tabled in Parliament on 22 October. The report, titled <i>Report on visits to immigration detention facilities by the Human Rights Commissioner 2001</i> , criticises the mandatory detention system, particularly the long periods in which some detainees are kept in detention. Dr. Ozdowski's report attributes recent violent protests in the centres to the deprivation of detainees' basic human rights. Minister Ruddock responds to the report by saying that it contains factual errors that 'damage its overall credibility and authority'. He cites as an example the	M. Shaw, 'Detention ordeals under fire', <i>The Age</i> , 23 October 2002. Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs,

Details	Source Documents	
<p>report's claim that five or six people share accommodation designed for a single occupant. The Minister says there are no accommodation units for single individuals at the centre. Ruddock criticises the Commissioner for accepting statements made by detainees 'at face value' and for not acknowledging that lengthy periods of detention are largely a product of detainees pursuing domestic litigation.</p>	<p><i>Media Release</i>, MPS 89/2002, 22 October 2002.</p>	
2002	<p>On 22 October, thirty-two refugees, comprising seven men, eight women and 17 children, arrive in Australia from Nauru processing centre. All have family members in Australia. A total of 281 people have been resettled from offshore processing centres. There are 973 people in the centres: 871 on Nauru and 102 on Manus.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 82/2002, 23 October 2002.</p>
2002	<p>On 29 October, 21 refugees, comprising six men, four women and 11 children, arrive in Australia from Nauru processing centre. The 18 Iraqis and three Afghans all have family members in Australia. A total of 302 people have been resettled from offshore processing centres. There are 944 people in the centres: 842 on Nauru and 102 on Manus.</p>	<p>Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, DPS 83/2002, 30 October 2002.</p>
2002	<p>On 14 November, Minister Ruddock announces a series of packages of assistance to Afghanistan worth \$2.4 million. The main funding is to help Afghanistan strengthen its migration and border control system. Other support is for employment and training for Afghan returnees. Australia has previously funded the refurbishment of a training and accommodation facility in Kabul (the Jangalak Reception Centre). Australia has provided more than \$53 million in assistance to Afghanistan since September 2001.</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 98/2002, 14 November 2002.</p>
2002	<p>On 17 November, a group of 113 Afghan asylum seekers is returned to Kabul from Nauru as part of the Australian Government's reintegration assistance package. The package provides cash assistance of \$2000 per individual adult or child or up to \$10 000 for a family unit. A range of support services are also provided, through the International Organisation for Migration, including counselling, air travel, reception, access to vocational training and help with transportation from Kabul to other destinations within Afghanistan. Forty-two Afghans have previously returned to Kabul from Nauru. Of 549 Afghans remaining on Nauru, 318 have accepted the reintegration package offer. Under the package, returnees can access the</p>	<p>Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i>, MPS 099/2002, 17 November 2002 and MPS 110/2002, 16 December 2002.</p>

	Details	Source Documents
	Jangalak Reintegration and Vocational Training Centre, which is funded by the Australian Government, and due to open shortly.	
2002	A criminal deported to Vietnam from Australia on 18 November brings to 24 the number of removals of Vietnamese nationals under the Memorandum of Understanding between Australia and Vietnam, which was signed in June 2001.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 89/2002, 18 November 2002.
2002	On 28 November, ten Iraqi refugees, comprising four men and four women, arrive in Australia from the processing centre on Nauru. All have close family links in Australia. A total of 312 people have been resettled from offshore processing centres: 192 from Nauru and 120 from Manus. There are 810 people in the centres: 719 on Nauru and 91 on Manus.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 91/2002, 29 November 2002.
2002	On 3 December, the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Simon Crean MP, and the Shadow Minister for Population and Immigration, Julia Gillard MP, release the Australian Labor Party's new policy on asylum seekers and refugees. Mandatory detention is retained in the policy but Labor pledges to release children and scrap the 'Pacific Solution' (i.e. the excision of Australian islands from the migration zone). The ALP also commits itself to closing Woomera detention centre, speeding up the processing of people in detention and releasing into 'supervised hostel accommodation' those 'with claims of merit who pose no risk'. The policy also says that under a Labor Government 'Temporary Protection Visas will not continue indefinitely' and that 'returned asylum seekers will be monitored to ensure they are not being persecuted'. Initiatives relating to border security include the establishment of an Australian Coastguard and the introduction of a Green Card to 'crack down on illegal workers'.	Joint Statement by the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Simon Crean MP, and Shadow Minister for Population and Immigration, Julia Gillard MP, Canberra, 3 December 2002.
2002	On 7 December, detainees on Christmas Island protest against negative decisions on their asylum appeals by damaging property and setting fire to accommodation blocks.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 95/2002, 8 December 2002.

	Details	Source Documents
2002	On 9 December, the final group of detainees on Christmas Island, comprising 15 Sri Lankans, receive the outcomes of the reviews of their initial assessments for asylum. The review decisions were delayed as a result of disturbances at the reception centre on 7 December.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 96/2002, 10 December 2002.
2002	On 11 December, Australia signs the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children ('the People Trafficking Protocol'). The Protocol is part of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. The Protocol is signed by 112 other countries, including Australia's key regional partners in the fight against people trafficking.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 106/2002, 12 December 2002. Jointly with Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, and Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison.
2002	Minister Ruddock and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, reject the report of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's visit to Australia in May and June. They say the report 'contains fundamental factual errors, misrepresents Australia's policies and demonstrates significant confusion about the relationship between international and Australian law'. A 25 page critique is released by Minister Ruddock substantiating his rejection of the report.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 107/2002, 13 December 2002.
2002	On 15 December, a group of 119 Afghan men return to Kabul from Nauru under the Australian government's reintegration assistance package. The package provides cash assistance of \$2000 per individual adult or child or up to \$10 000 for a family unit. A range of support services are also provided, through the International Organisation for Migration, including counselling, air travel, reception, access to vocational training and help with transportation from Kabul to other destinations within Afghanistan. On 17 November, a group of 113 Afghans are the first large-scale group to return under the package. Of 428 Afghans on Nauru, slightly less than 200 have accepted the package and arrangements are being made for their return.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 109/2002, 15 December 2002 and MPS 110/2002, 16 December 2002.

	Details	Source Documents
2002	On 16 December, Minister Ruddock extends the reintegration package for Afghan asylum seekers to include holders of Temporary Protection Visas. Afghan TPV holders who are applying for a further Protection Visa must withdraw their application, should they accept the reintegration package. The package provides cash assistance of \$2000 per individual adult or child or up to \$10 000 for a family unit. A range of support services are also provided, through the International Organisation for Migration, including counselling, air travel, reception, access to vocational training and help with transportation from Kabul to other destinations within Afghanistan. The cut-off date for accepting the offer is 30 June 2003.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 110/2002, 16 December 2002.
2002	Four more islands are excised from Australia's migration zone. The excision is a temporary measure, prompted by concerns about a boat possibly carrying illegal entrants. The islands, located near Carnarvon, Western Australia, are Bernier Island, Dorre Island, Dirk Hartog Island and Faure Island. When it is discovered that the boat is not carrying illegal entrants, Minister Ruddock says he will ask the Governor General to rescind the excisions.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 111/2002, 17 December 2002.
2002	As of 17 December, there has not been an unauthorised boat arrival for twelve months. Minister Ruddock maintains that this is proof that the Government's policies against people smugglers are working. 'But most importantly', he says, 'it has stopped people risking their lives in dangerous journeys'.	Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , MPS 112/2002, 17 December 2002.
2002	Detainees at Baxter Immigration Detention Facility set fire to accommodation units on 27 and 29 December. Seventy-seven rooms in two compounds are destroyed by up to five fires. Many of those involved are people 'found not to be refugees' or 'awaiting a review decision of the rejection of their claims for asylum'. Damage is estimated at about \$2 million.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Releases</i> , DPS 101–102/2002, 29 and 30 December 2002.
2002	On 29 December, a fire, believed to be deliberately lit, causes about \$3 million damage to Port Hedland detention centre. On the same day, two small fires are started at Woomera detention centre.	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, <i>Media Release</i> , DPS 102/2002, 30 December 2002.

Table 1: Humanitarian Arrivals (Assisted), Financial Years 1947–48 to 1974–75

Financial Year	Number of assisted humanitarian arrivals
January 1947 to June 1948	5 138
1948–49	33 816
1949–50	89 199
1950–51	36 912
1951–52	4 934
1952–53	664
1953–54	3 248
1954–55	1 534
1955–56	521
1956–57	11 070
1957–58	6 759
1958–59	4 118
1959–60	3 969
1960–61	3 413
1961–62	946
1962–63	1 375
1963–64	2 040
1964–65	1 609
1965–66	2 177
1966–67	1 805
1967–68	3 226
1968–69	7 613
1969–70	16 495
1970–71	11 812
1971–72	3 259
1972–73	2 512
1973–74	1 228
1974–75	514

Note:

Between January 1947 and 1952–53, all were Displaced Persons. The Scheme was discontinued in January 1954. An estimated additional 33 000 humanitarian cases were not assisted by government.

Sources: Compiled from Australian Immigration: Consolidated Statistics, Nos 1, 1966, 4, 1970, Department of Immigration, AGPS, 1966 and 1970, and No. 13, 1982.

Table 2: Humanitarian Arrivals, Financial Years 1947–48 to 1990–91

Financial Year	Refugee Program Arrivals Number	Special Humanitarian Program (a) Arrivals Number	Total Humanitarian Arrivals Number
1947–48 to 1974–75 (Estimated Assisted Refugees) (b)	(b)264 053	n/a	264 053
1947–48 to 1974–75 (Estimated Unassisted Refugees)	33 000	n/a	33 000
1975–76	4 374	n/a	4 374
1976–77	8 124	n/a	8 124
1977–78	9 597	n/a	9 597
1978–79	13 450	n/a	13 450
1979–80	19 954	n/a	19 954
1980–81	21 847	n/a	21 847
1981–82	20 216	1 701	21 917
1982–83	16 193	861	17 054
1983–84	12 330	2 439	14 769
1984–85	9 680	5 170	14 850
1985–86	7 837	4 003	11 840
1986–87	5 990	5 111	11 101
1987–88	5 304	5 772	11 076
1988–89	3 623	7 264	10 887
1989–90	1 537	10 411	11 948
1990–91	1 267	6 478	7 745

Notes:

(a) Special Humanitarian Program (introduced late in 1981)

(b) Includes an estimated 170 000 displaced persons who arrived between 1947 and 1954.

Source: DIMA (unpublished tabulations)

Table 3: Humanitarian Arrivals, Financial Years 1991–92 to 2000–01

Financial Year	Refugee Program Arrivals	Special Humanitarian Program (a) Arrivals	Special Assistance Category Arrivals	Total Humanitarian Arrivals
1991–92	2 385	4 320	452	7 157
1992–93	2 686	3 169	5 082	10 939
1993–94	3 845	2 563	4 942	11,350
1994–95	4 006	3 774	5 852	13 632
1995–96	4 060	3 617	6 147	13 824
1996–97	3 372	2 120	4 394	9 886
1997–98	3 553	3 033	2 193	8 779
1998–99	3 269	4 614	907	8 790
1999–00	3 429	3 022	816	7 267
2000–01 (a)	4 129	2 701	795	7 625

Note:

(a) Figures for 2001–02 are from DIMIA's Settlement database. Figures that incorporate the Overseas Arrivals and Departures (OAD) database will not be available until later in 2002. The figure will not be much different. In 1999–00, for instance, the Settlement Database figure was 7 313 humanitarian permanent arrivals compared to the OAD figure of 7 267.

Table 4: Humanitarian Program by Country of Birth, 1991–1992 to 2001–2002

Birthplace	Financial Year										
	91–92	92–93	93–94	94–95	95–96	96–97	97–98	98–99	99–00	00–01	01–02
Oceania											
<i>Total</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Europe & the Former USSR											
Bosnia-Herzegovina		-	219	733	2 026	1 214	1 603	1 180	573	672	324
Croatia	55	174	89	78	379	691	1 096	1 225	1 001	1 166	563
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	59
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Poland	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Romania	42	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukraine	171	345	36	5	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Fed. Rep. of Yugoslavia			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 484	1 417
Other	1 583	4 363	4 950	4 986	5 417	2 205	2 585	2 273	1 836	36	33
<i>Total</i>	1 853	4 891	5 297	5 802	7 822	4 110	5 284	4 682	3 410	3 453	2 412
The Middle East and North Africa											
Egypt	10	25	19	39	33	38	21	34	23	73	111
Iran	240	78	225	468	485	303	378	424	366	441	212
Iraq	1 904	1 090	1 434	2 310	2 009	1 624	1 635	1 546	1 091	893	881
Kuwait	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-

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Birthplace	Financial Year										
	91–92	92–93	93–94	94–95	95–96	96–97	97–98	98–99	99–00	00–01	01–02
Lebanon	116	13	-	3	-	-	5	11	4	-	-
Sudan	21	148	293	295	320	390	493	632	924	1 107	1 046
Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	129
Other	137	28	41	15	4	22	97	194	232	113	70
<i>Total</i>	<i>2 428</i>	<i>1 382</i>	<i>2 012</i>	<i>3 130</i>	<i>2 851</i>	<i>2 377</i>	<i>2 629</i>	<i>2 841</i>	<i>2 640</i>	<i>2 664</i>	<i>2 449</i>
Southeast Asia											
Burma (Myanmar)		112	378	524	379	236	104	97	49	83	100
Cambodia	9	6	614	580	584	152	-	14	3	-	-
Indonesia	436	193	52	128	129	82	-	-	2	-	-
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Viet Nam	1 525	2 207	2 277	1 542	745	638	396	45	17	17	44
Other	123	79	57	116	22	-	5	8	-	14	5
<i>Total</i>	<i>2 094</i>	<i>2 597</i>	<i>3 378</i>	<i>2 890</i>	<i>1 859</i>	<i>1 108</i>	<i>505</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>158</i>
Northeast Asia											
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>23</i>
Southern Asia											
Afghanistan	509	563	415	332	510	312	775	662	450	322	521
Pakistan	2	1	-	-	45	48	56	77	31	104	25
Sri Lanka	1	2	17	238	254	254	160	101	29	102	53
Other	-	3	1	-	13	2	4	5	5	5	12
<i>Total</i>	<i>512</i>	<i>569</i>	<i>433</i>	<i>570</i>	<i>822</i>	<i>616</i>	<i>995</i>	<i>845</i>	<i>515</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>611</i>
Northern America											
<i>Total</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>
South America, Central America & the Caribbean											
Colombia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
El Salvador	916	288	132	154	137	77	49	7	9	5	-
Other	36	9	17	24	41	-	1	17	10	9	13
<i>Total</i>	<i>952</i>	<i>297</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>26</i>
Africa (excl. North Africa)											
Eritrea	-	1	61	228	159	120	102	170	185	105	108
Ethiopia	380	575	359	255	216	164	172	196	211	268	227
Kenya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	-
Liberia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128	323
Somalia	116	124	300	390	352	397	611	457	254	213	192
Other	52	56	25	-	10	2	6	16	89	67	79
<i>Total</i>	<i>548</i>	<i>756</i>	<i>745</i>	<i>873</i>	<i>737</i>	<i>683</i>	<i>891</i>	<i>839</i>	<i>739</i>	<i>824</i>	<i>1 039</i>
Other and Not Stated											
		16	17	7	-	1	-	5	4	14	13
Total											
All Countries	8 399	10 515	12 046	13 462	14 276	8 979	10 367	9 410	7 424	7 625	6 732

Source: DIMIA

Table 5: Estimated Global Refugee Population and 'Persons of Concern' to the UNHCR, 1978–2002(a)

Year	Refugee population (millions)	Persons of concern (b) (millions)
1978	3.1	
1979	4.6	
1980	5.3	
1981	8.2	
1982	9.7	
1983	10.3	
1984	10.9	
1985	10.5	
1986	11.2	
1987	12.2	
1988	13.2	
1989	14.9	
1990	14.8	
1991	17.2	
1992	16.9	
1993	16.2	23.0
1994	15.6	27.4
1995	14.8	26.1
1996	13.3	22.7
1997	11.9	22.3
1998	11.4	21.4
1999	11.6	22.2
2000	12.0	21.8
2001	12.0	19.7

Notes:

- (a) All figures are for year ending 31 December.
- (b) This category was not enumerated by UNHCR prior to 1993.

Source: UNHCR website: Statistics page and UNHCR, *The State of the world's refugees*, 1997–1998, Oxford University Press, 1997, p. 54. Totals do not include other groups (i.e. other than refugees by the UNHCR definition) of concern to the UNHCR and Palestinians assisted by the UN Relief and Works Agency.

Table 6: Ministers of Immigration, Ministries and gross annual settler intake, 1945–1991(a)

Ministry	Year	Minister (b)	Intake (c)
Curtin	1945	Calwell (ALP)	
Chifley	1946	Calwell (ALP)	
	1947 (d)	Calwell (ALP)	34 284
	1948	Calwell (ALP)	46 569
	1949	Calwell (ALP)	114 818
Menzies	1950	Holt (Lib)	184 889
	1951	Holt (Lib)	153 290
	1952	Holt (Lib)	130 462
	1953	Holt (Lib)	95 890
	1954	Holt (Lib)	86 468
	1955	Holt (Lib)	124 180
	1956	Holt (Lib)	132 628
	1957	Townley (Lib)	120 601
	1958	Downer (Lib)	107 978
	1959	Downer (Lib)	116 697
	1960	Downer (Lib)	105 887
	1961	Downer (Lib)	108 291
	1962	Downer (Lib)	85 808
	1963	Downer (Lib)	101 888
	1964	Opperman (Lib)	122 318
	1965	Opperman (Lib)	140 152
Holt	1966	Opperman (Lib)	144 055
McEwen	1967	Snedden (Lib)	138 676
Gorton	1968	Snedden (Lib)	137 525
	1969	Snedden (Lib)	175 657
	1970	Lynch (Lib)	185 099
McMahon	1971	Forbes (Lib)	170 011
	1972	Forbes (Lib)	132 719
Whitlam	1973	Grassby (ALP)	107 401
	1974a (e)	Cameron (ALP)	112 712
	1975a	McClelland (ALP)	89 147
Fraser	1976	MacKellar (Lib)	52 748
	1977	MacKellar (Lib)	70 916
	1978	MacKellar (Lib)	73 171
	1979	MacKellar (Lib)	67 192
	1980	Macphee (Lib)	80 748
	1981	Macphee (Lib)	110 689
	1982	Hodges (Lib)	118 030
Hawke	1983	West (ALP)	93 010
	1984	West (ALP)	68 820
	1985	Hurford (ALP)	77 510
	1986	Hurford (ALP)	92 590
	1987	Young (ALP)	113 540
	1988	Holding (ALP)	143 480

Ministry	Year	Minister (b)	Intake (c)
Keating	1989	Ray (ALP)	145 320
	1990	Hand (ALP)	121 230
	1991	Hand (ALP)	121 690
	1992	Hand (ALP)	107 391
	1993	Bolkus (ALP)	76 330
	1994	Bolkus (ALP)	69 768
Howard	1995	Bolkus (ALP)	87 428
	1996	Ruddock (Lib)	99 139
	1997	Ruddock (Lib)	85 752
	1998	Ruddock (Lib)	77 327
	1999	Ruddock (Lib)	84 143
	2000	Ruddock (Lib)	92 272
	2001	Ruddock (Lib)	107 366
	2002	Ruddock (Lib)	88 900

Notes:

- (a) All figures are for the financial year ending 30 June.
- (b) Ministers indicated are those holding office for the majority of the year. (During the period of the 'caretaker' Government of Malcolm Fraser in November and December 1975, the Minister for Labour and Immigration was Anthony Street).
- (c) The settler intake includes permanent and long-term arrivals before 1958–1959.
- (d) The 1947 figure includes arrivals from October 1945.
- (e) The Department of Immigration was amalgamated with Labour between 1974 and 1976.

Table 7: Onshore Asylum Applications 1989–2002

Year	Asylum claims
1989–90	3 373
1990–91	14 020
1991–92	9 718
1992–93	3 087
1993–94	2 800
1994–95	4 516
1995–96	7 640
1996–97	11 135
1997–98	8 101
1998–99	8 257
1999–00	12 713
2000–01	13 015
2001–02	11 635

Source: Immigration Department Annual Reports.

Table 8: Unauthorised Arrivals by Air and Sea, 1989–90 to 2001–02

Year	Number of boats	Total arrivals	Min/max on board
1989–90	3	224	26/119
1990–91	5	158	3/77
1991–92	3	78	10/56
1992–93	4	194	2/113
1993–94	6	194	4/58
1994–95	21	1 071	5/118
1995–96	14	589	4/86
1996–97	13	365	4/139
1997–98	13	157	3/30
1998–99	42	921	2/112
1999–00	75	4 175	3/353
2000–01	54	4 137	2/231
2001–02	6	1 212	60/359
2002–	0	0	0
Totals	159	13 475	2/359

Note:

Arrivals 13 475

Australian births 142

Total boat people 13 617

Source: DIMIA Fact Sheet No. 74, Unauthorised arrivals by air and sea, DIMIA web-site, last update: 27 November 2002.

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