

Timeline of migration

1700	1788	1851	1860	1870
Indigenous population estimated at 300,000–750,000.	From 1788-1868, 160,000 convicts were shipped to the Australian colonies from the United Kingdom. From the early 1790s, free immigrants also began coming to Australia.	During the Gold Rush era of 1851 to 1860, around 500,000 people migrated to Australia. The main migrant communities were from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, China and the USA.	From 1860–1900, labourers from Melanesia (Pacific Islands) were recruited to work on Queensland sugar plantations.	From 1850–1900, Afghani, Pakistani and Turkish camel handlers played an important part in opening up central Australia, helping in the building of telegraph and railway lines.
1880	1901	1950	1956	1968
In the late 1800s, Japanese fishers were important in the pearling industry.	1901 – With Federation, the Immigration Restriction Act was passed which made it very difficult for non-English speaking immigrants to come to Australia. This was the beginning of the White Australia Policy that existed until 1973.	After World War II, during the 1950 and 1960s, large numbers of migrants came to Australia from the Netherlands, Greece, Italy, Malta, Germany and Turkey. This was part of the ‘Populate or Perish’ migration policy.	In 1956, Hungarian refugees fled fighting in their country.	In 1968, Czech refugees fled fighting.
1973	1975	1976	2000	
In 1973, refugees came to Australia from Chile following the overthrow of the elected government.	From 1975-1985, over 90,000 refugees came to Australia from Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) after the end of the Vietnam War.	From 1976–1981, approximately 16,000 Lebanese refugees fled civil war.	From 2000, Australia has taken in people from a broad range of countries including Iraq, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sudan, India and Sri Lanka. However, the majority of settlers are from New Zealand and the UK.	