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Report on immigration to Australia of non-Europeans and persons of partly non-European descent -  
Decision 177 (GA)

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C A B I N E T      M I N U T E

General Administrative Committee

Canberra, 25 May 1971

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Decision No. 177(GA)

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Submission No. 95    -    Report on Immigration to Australia of  
Non-Europeans and Persons of Partly  
Non-European Descent.

The Committee noted the Submission.

Certified true copy

  
Committee Secretary.

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FOR CABINET

REPORT ON IMMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA  
OF NON-EUROPEANS AND PERSONS OF  
PARTLY NON-EUROPEAN DESCENT

NON-EUROPEANS

In March 1966 Cabinet (by Decision No. 52) approved of two changes in immigration policy relating to non-Europeans, namely:

- (A) Non-Europeans who were already in Australia under temporary entry permits and who would clearly not be required to leave should be eligible to be granted resident status and citizenship when they have completed a minimum of five years' residence (instead of the fifteen years previously required);
- (B) Non-Europeans selected individually (and dependent children) should be eligible for admission for residence in limited numbers, their selection being dependent upon:
  - (a) their being assessed as clearly suitable as settlers and as capable of ready integration into the Australian community;

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(2)

- (b) their having knowledge, experience or qualifications useful to Australia;
- (c) their ability to make a contribution to Australia's economic, social and cultural progress.

2. The Cabinet "indicated that it would wish the Minister for a period of a few years at least, to provide an annual statement of the numbers of non-European admissions."

3. In October 1967 Cabinet received a report from the then Minister and:

"(a) endorsed the view that the number of well qualified non-Europeans permitted to settle in Australia could increase marginally without prejudicing the essentials of Australia's immigration policy;

"(b) agreed that the Minister should also have discretion to admit each year a limited number of non-Europeans not specifically covered by (a) above, but nevertheless with close regard to their general quality and usefulness and the essential points of policy enumerated in Section 3 of the Submission;

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"(c) accepted that, in this context, admission of non-European school teachers and nurses who comply with Australian standards of training and efficiency should no longer be ruled out;

"(d) agreed that while complying with the conditions of training schemes such as Colombo Plan, the Minister should nevertheless be able to exercise discretion in appropriate cases to extend permanent residence to non-Europeans trained at Australian educational institutions."

GRANT OF RESIDENT STATUS

4. The numbers of non-European holders of temporary entry permits who have been granted resident status have been:

1966	1174
1967	1563
1968	1135
1969	1056
1970	1006
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	5934

These figures include persons who would have been eligible for resident status under Cabinet decisions of the 1950's, particularly persons married to Australians. However, the increased number in 1967

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was due to the 1966 decision referred to in paragraph 1(A) above; and the decrease since then is due to the fact that most of those who became eligible under that decision and who wished to gain resident status have now done so.

ENTRY OF WELL-QUALIFIED NON-EUROPEANS

5. The numbers of non-Europeans who were approved for entry as well-qualified persons and who have arrived in Australia have been as follows:

	<u>Approved</u>			<u>Arrived</u>		
	<u>Applicants</u>	<u>Dependants</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Applicants</u>	<u>Dependants</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1966	61	103	164	8	20	28
1967	141	311	452	64	133	197
1968	500	866	1366	158	277	435
1969	751	1200	1951	342	605	947
1970	1254	1805	3059	586	1023	1609
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>2707</u>	<u>4285</u>	<u>6992</u>	<u>1158</u>	<u>2058</u>	<u>3216</u>

Appendix "A" to this submission shows the racial groupings of persons whose applications have been approved; Appendix "B" the countries of previous residence of persons who have arrived; and Appendix "C" the broad occupational classifications of persons who have arrived.

ENTRY OF DEPENDENT RELATIVES

6. In addition to the dependants of well-qualified non-Europeans, statistics of whom appear above, other non-Europeans may, (under Cabinet decisions of the

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1950's), enter as dependants of persons already having resident status in Australia or of Europeans migrating to Australia.

Statistics of these are:

1966	718
1967	1382
1968	1029
1969	680
1970	822
	<hr/>
	4631

The increase in 1967 was attributable to the increased numbers granted resident status under the 1966 decision, as described in paragraph 4 above, and so becoming eligible to introduce dependants.

COMMENT

7. The statistics in my view represent a satisfactory result of the Cabinet decisions of 1966 and 1967. Government policy relating to non-European immigration has of course had much less criticism since those decisions than before them. We are also gaining valuable qualified people in numbers which are useful and gradually increasing but which represent no contradiction of our aim to preserve an essentially homogeneous society.

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PERSONS OF MIXED DESCENT

8.                   Until 1964 applications for entry for residence by persons of partly European and partly non-European descent were decided on the basis that those assessed by officers as being "75% European in appearance" could be admitted but not others. By Decision No. 48 of 15 September 1964 Cabinet decided that:

"The policy for the admission of persons of mixed descent be amended by authorising the Minister, at his discretion and consistent with the need to maintain the predominantly European character of the Australian population, to admit for permanent residence persons of mixed descent where:

- (a) humanitarian considerations involving close family relationship or hardship on the grounds of discrimination are present; or
- (b) the applicant has special knowledge, experience or qualifications useful to Australia; or
- (c) the applicant has the ability to make a contribution to Australia's economic, social and cultural progress;

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(7)

if the applicant shows by appearance, outlook, mode of dress, way of living, that he is capable of rapid integration into the Australian community."

9. This decision has been administered so as to allow the entry of persons who, in addition to having the ability to be integrated here, can meet one of the following conditions:

- (i) if an applicant has an immediate relative here (spouse, parent, son or daughter, brother or sister);
- (ii) if an applicant has positively useful qualifications recognisable in Australia at the tradesman level or above;
- or
- (iii) if an applicant is suffering hardship through specific discrimination against him or her in his or her country of residence.

10. The number of persons who have arrived in Australia during the period 1 July 1965 to 31 December 1970 is as follows:

1965-66	1019
1966-67	1827
1967-68	3644
1968-69	6171
1969-70	6147
(6 months to 31 December 1970)	2626
	<u>21434</u>

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11. Appendix "D" shows for the persons who arrived, the source countries, and their States of intended residence in Australia.

12. The people in question are English-speaking and essentially British in education, traditions and customs. They seem to have had no problems in settling in Australia. However, I have thought it desirable to inform Cabinet regarding persons of mixed descent in my report on persons who are entirely non-European, because there is sometimes confusion between the two.

A. J. FORBES

Minister of State for Immigration

CANBERRA

May, 1971

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APPENDIX 'A'

ENTRY OF WELL QUALIFIED NON-EUROPEANS  
APPROVALS AS AT 31.12.1970

BROAD RACIAL GROUPINGS

<u>Racial Grouping</u>	<u>Principals</u>	<u>Dependants</u>	<u>Total</u>
Burmese	41	85	126
Cambodian	1	4	5
Ceylonese	126	214	340
Chinese	788	1441	2229
Fijian	5	15	20
Filipino	178	203	381
Indian	1279	1889	3168
Indonesian	55	127	182
Japanese	33	33	66
Korean	28	64	92
Malay	58	114	172
Negroid	1	3	4
Pakistani	95	76	171
Polynesian	9	6	15
Sudanese	1	-	1
Thai	3	10	13
Tongan	2	-	2
Vietnamese	1	1	2
West Indian	3	-	3
TOTAL	<u>2707</u>	<u>4285</u>	<u>6992</u>

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APPENDIX 'B'

ENTRY OF WELL QUALIFIED NON-EUROPEANS  
ARRIVALS AS AT 31.12.1970

COUNTRY OF PREVIOUS RESIDENCE

<u>Country of Previous Residence</u>	<u>Number</u>
Ceylon	158
Fiji	75
Hong Kong	534
India	813
Indonesia	134
Malaysia	392
Philippines	134
Singapore	187
United Kingdom	132
U.S.A.	55
Other Commonwealth	279
Other (non-Commonwealth)	323
TOTAL	<u>3216</u>

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APPENDIX 'C'

ENTRY OF WELL QUALIFIED NON-EUROPEANS  
ARRIVALS AS AT 31.12.1970

BROAD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Architects, Draftsmen, Surveyors	31
Professional Engineers	156
Chemists (not Pharmaceutical)	20
Scientists	67
Medical Practitioners	239
Dentists	30
Other Professional Medical Workers	28
Nurses	50
Teachers	199
Other Professional and Technical Workers	108
Administrative, Executive and Managerial	156
Miscellaneous	74
	<hr/>
	1158
Dependants	2058
	<hr/>
TOTAL	<u>3216</u>

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APPENDIX 'D'

ENTRY OF PERSONS OF MIXED DESCENT

ARRIVALS - Period 1.7.65 to 31.12.70

<u>Source Country</u>	<u>Number</u>
Burma	1756
Ceylon	2920
India	8870
Malaysia	675
Mauritius	4107
Others	3106
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TOTAL	21434
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STATE OF INTENDED RESIDENCE

<u>State</u>	<u>Number</u>
New South Wales	5203
Victoria	8246
Queensland	716
South Australia	581
Western Australia	6563
Tasmania	27
Northern Territory	53
Australian Capital Territory	45
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TOTAL	21434
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