[From Robe to the Goldfields - ABC Education](https://www.abc.net.au/education/from-robe-to-the-goldfields/13663554)

### Long before the enactment of the White Australia policy, the Victorian government introduced a poll tax to discourage Chinese immigrants entering the colony.

To avoid paying the tax in Victoria (1855), Chinese travellers disembarked their ships near Robe in South Australia. Learn about their experiences on the long trek to the Victorian goldfields.

<https://youtu.be/6wdf3Z2h2fg>

### A Short History of the White Australia Policy

A Short History of the White Australia Policy is a mini documentary about the origins, impact, and abolition of the Immigration Restriction Act 1901. Get to know how the policy got a headstart from events around the Australian Gold Rush, how the policy was enforced, and learn how it was eventually got dismantled.

[60 years since the end of the dictation test - Australian National Maritime Museum (sea.museum)](https://www.sea.museum/2018/10/08/60-years-since-the-end-of-the-dictation-test)

### Acts of the White Australia policy

October 8, 2018 marked the 60th anniversary of the abolition of the controversial dictation test, which was a central feature of the Immigration Restriction Act 1901. This was one of three pieces of legislation, together with the Pacific Island Labourers Act and the Post and Telegraph Act, which were passed after Federation in 1901 and colloquially known as the White Australia policy. Together these acts placed restrictions on immigration and sought to remove prohibited immigrants, namely those from Asia and the Pacific Islands, from the new Commonwealth. The Immigration Restriction Act was replaced by the Migration Act 1958, which introduced a simpler system of entry permits.

The dictation test required non-European immigrants to write out a passage of 50 words in any European language (later any prescribed language) as dictated by the immigration officer. Since the choice of language was at the discretion of the officer, undesirable immigrants were destined to fail the test. They could then be declared prohibited immigrants and deported.

[White Australia policy established | Australia’s Defining Moments Digital Classroom | National Museum of Australia (nma.gov.au)](https://digital-classroom.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/white-australia-policy-established)

### Australia for the Australians

1. What was the dictation test, and why was it made so hard to pass?
2. What reasons were given for passing laws to restrict immigration from 1901?
3. How long was the White Australia policy in place? Does this surprise you?

[Dictation test passages used in 1925 | naa.gov.au](https://www.naa.gov.au/learn/learning-resources/learning-resource-themes/society-and-culture/migration-and-multiculturalism/dictation-test-passages-used-1925)

### Dictation test passages used in 1925

[Why Australia wanted a White Australia policy - ABC Education](https://www.abc.net.au/education/why-australia-wanted-a-white-australia-policy/13625068)

**The Immigration Restriction Act of 1901 was designed to limit non-British immigration to Australia.**

It came to be known as the White Australia policy.

In some quarters, people of non-British (and especially non-European) heritage were regarded as being inferior, greedy or unable to fit in with dominant Australian society.

Many Australians wanted their country to remain a paradise for white, working men and their homemaking wives.

[Australia's Prime Ministers: Alfred Deakin - ABC Education](https://www.abc.net.au/education/australias-prime-ministers-alfred-deakin/13856668)

### ****Australia's second prime minister, Alfred Deakin, was considered one of the nation's finest speakers, and played a key role in developing the White Australia policy.****

He served as prime minister three times - from 24 September 1903 to 27 April 1904, from 5 July 1905 to 13 November 1908, and finally from 2 June 1909 to 29 April 1910.

He was known as one of the parliament's finest speakers. He played a key role in the development of the White Australia policy.

[ABC 7.30: Chinese ANZACs - ABC Education](https://www.abc.net.au/education/abc-730-chinese-anzacs/13817322)

### When World War I broke out in 1914, the 'White Australia Policy' had been in place for 13 years.

Despite this attempt at exclusion, many Chinese Australians chose to enlist and fight the war with their fellow countrymen.

Video about Chinese ANZACs from a researcher and a curator of the 2014 exhibition from the Museum of Chinese Australian History in Melbourne.

[Australia's Prime Ministers: Harold Holt - ABC Education](https://www.abc.net.au/education/australias-prime-ministers-harold-holt/13857120)

### As Australia's 17th prime minister, Harold Holt made changes to the White Australia policy, and oversaw the 1967 Referendum to allow Aboriginal Australians to be counted in the census.

He also oversaw the increase in Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

He served as prime minister from 26 January 1966 to 19 December 1967.

[Reflections on ending the White Australia policy - ABC Education](https://www.abc.net.au/education/reflections-on-ending-the-white-australia-policy/13760954)

### Reflections on ending the White Australia policy

### Why was the abolition of the White Australia policy so important?

Steps taken by the Whitlam Labor government in 1973 signalled the end of the legislation behind the policy.

[What was the White Australia Policy, and how does it still affect us now? | NITV (sbs.com.au)](https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2017/04/10/what-was-white-australia-policy-and-how-does-it-still-affect-us-now)

### What was the White Australia Policy, and how does it still affect us now?