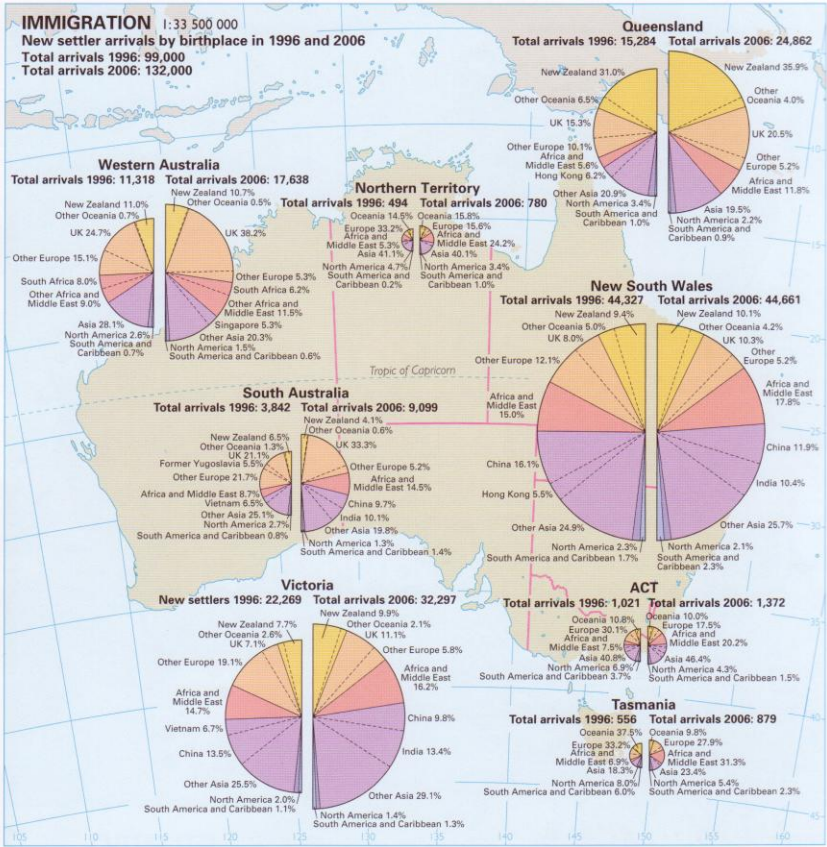




Refugee seekers being rescued from a sinking boat in 2002. The Australian Government's controversial policy on 'boat people' has attracted widespread criticism.
 Australians of Greek descent celebrate at a Sydney festival in traditional costume. Sydney has one of the largest Greek populations of any city outside Athens.



IMMIGRATION

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. Migration may be permanent or temporary, and may be within one country or from one country to another. People migrate in order to get away from somewhere (something they do not like ('Push' factor), or to go somewhere that seems more attractive ('Pull' factor). It is usually a combination of 'push' and 'pull' which makes people migrate.

International migration to Australia

Push factors

- War
- Civil and religious conflicts
- Physical and climatic disasters
- Economic hardship
- Limited life opportunities
- Political oppression

Pull factors

- Education
- Employment opportunities
- Civil and religious freedoms
- Good standards of living
- Adventure
- Family reunions

International migration from Australia

Australia is often categorized as a country of immigration, but it has also become a country of significant emigration (million Australians now live overseas (about 5% of the total population)). Departing residents tend to be younger and better educated than the general population. The major destinations are the developed economies of the European Union and North America. An increasing number of emigrants are going to Asian countries where newly developing economies have experienced skills shortages. Most of the emigration, however, is not permanent and many expatriates eventually return to Australia.

