



## PRIME MINISTER

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### A.L.P. IMMIGRATION POLICY

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. William  
McMahon, C.H., M.P.

There are three elements in the A.L.P. Immigration Policy which are relevant to non-European immigration to Australia.

1. the 'non discrimination' clause inserted into the A.L.P. Platform at the Launceston Conference.
2. the policy of basing immigration entirely on sponsorship by relatives, friends and employers resident in Australia.
3. the decision to grant assisted passages to non-European immigrants.

The first requires "the avoidance of discrimination on any grounds of race or colour of skin or nationality".

The second would bias the composition of our migration programme heavily in the direction of those countries which have an ingrained tradition of sponsorship of friends and relatives - that is, the Southern European, Middle Eastern, and non-European countries. This 'pyramid' or 'chain' migration as it is sometimes called is not characteristic of the Northern European and North American countries or Britain. These patterns of sponsorship for various countries are clearly established in the statistics of the Department of Immigration.

The third element, the granting of assisted passages, would undoubtedly increase the pressures for entry to Australia from non-European countries. From practical experience, we know that, even under present restrictive policies and without assisted passages - very large numbers of enquiries are received involving very large numbers of people.

If, despite this established evidence, Mr. Whitlam claims that under a Labor Government there will be fewer people of non-European descent admitted to Australia than at present, he has a clear obligation to explain how it will be achieved. In the view of the Government it would require a savage and ruthless use of the immigration power to prevent entry into Australia that would be difficult to sustain.

Mr. Whitlam's obligation to explain where he stands is all the more pressing when it is realised that the aims of a Labor Government in this field could be achieved purely by administrative action without the Parliament or the Australian people being aware of what was happening.

PERTH,  
4 May, 1972.