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Modern History

Externally set task Source Booklet

Australia 1914–1949

SOURCE 1

(Extract from a speech by Arthur Calwell, Minister for Immigration in the Chifley Labor Government, delivered in the Australian House of Representatives on 2 August 1945, two weeks before the Japanese surrender.)

If Australians have learned one lesson from the Pacific war now moving to a successful conclusion, it is surely that we cannot continue to hold our island continent for ourselves and our descendants unless we greatly increase our numbers ... A third world war is not impossible, and ... humanity may [yet] be face to face again with horrors of another period of total war.

It would be prudent for us ... not to ignore the possibility of a further formidable challenge ... to our right to hold this land ... Our first requirement is additional population. We need it for reasons of defence and for the fullest expansion of our economy ... We make [it clear] first to the British people, and then to other peoples who might make good Australian citizens ... [that] Australia wants, and will welcome, new healthy citizens who are determined to become good Australians by adoption.
SOURCE 2

(An example of one of the posters distributed in Britain by the Australian government during the 1920s.)
SOURCE 3

(A cartoon depicting Edith Cowan the first woman elected to an Australian parliament. This cartoon ‘The New "House" Wife’, by Leason was published in the Bulletin, 31/3/1921.)

SOURCE 4

(Extract from an article written by the (male) Federal Secretary of the Printing Employees Union of Australia in June 1943.)

Women have a place, an expanding place, in industry, commerce, and the professions, and it is that place they will continue to hold in the Australian economy of the future... What is that place? Women should know. Queen Elizabeth [the mother of Queen Elizabeth II], in a recent broadcast, proudly proclaimed that ‘in a hundred ways, women have filled the places of men who have gone to fight. After the war they would be called upon as homemakers to play a great part in rebuilding family life’ Lady Gowrie [said]... ‘We do not want our Servicewomen to become hard-faced and tough. After the war we want them to remain women and set up homes just as they would have done had there been no war’.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


Source 4  Printing Industry Employees Union of Australia. (1943). [Article written by federal secretary of union].