Stage 4

Topic 1: *Investigating History*

This topic introduces the nature of History and the methods used by historians to investigate the past. Students focus on the use of primary and secondary sources to gather evidence to answer questions about the past and to understand historical and heritage issues. The Chifley Home is an ideal site for students to begin their study of history.

Inquiry Questions:

- How do historians investigate the past?
- Why is conserving our heritage important?

Outcomes
Throughout this topic students' work towards all outcomes, with particular focus on:

4.4 Identifies major periods of historical time and sequences people and events within specific periods of time

4.5 Identifies the meaning, purpose and context of historical sources

4.6 Draws conclusions about the usefulness of sources as evidence in an inquiry

4.10 Selects and uses appropriate oral, written and other forms, including ICT, to communicate effectively about the past

Students Learn About:
- The process of historical inquiry;
- The usefulness of sources as evidence;

 Students can draw conclusions about the usefulness of the Chifley Home, its collection of Primary Sources and the Chifley Home website when investigating the past.

The usefulness of the Chifley Home as evidence

Chifley Home is probably the most palpable example of primary evidence of the lives of Ben and Elizabeth Chifley within the Bathurst community. It is located in Bathurst at 10 Busby Street and vividly represents Chifley "*the man of the people*", who rose from humble origins to become Australia's 16th Prime Minister.

Chifley Home offers not only a tangible vision of the Chifley's private life, but it is the representation of the era in which Chifley lived. The house holds an extensive range

of primary sources; photographs, furniture, paintings, personal effects and ceremonial gifts of Ben and Elizabeth Chifley which clearly depict the two personalities and the context in which they lived.

Chifley Home and most of its original contents were purchased by the Bathurst Regional Council which now forms a house museum. A website on Chifley Home provides valuable information on the building, its contents and its ultimate importance for the Bathurst community and Australia.

Furthermore, Chifley Home and the planned Interpretation Centre provides teachers and students with an effective and valuable opportunity to participate in a site study of a local history/heritage site or museum visit which is a compulsory component of the syllabus.

- History as the study of people:

1. Identify Ben and Elizabeth Chifley as significant people of the past at a local, regional and national level.

Students should make reference to both the public and private lives of Ben and Elizabeth Chifley in general terms. Reference to the rise to prominence of Ben and his initial public life should be made. A brief description of the personalities' context in Bathurst, in relation to the broader community and national aspects should also be explored.

Ben and Elizabeth Chifley as significant people of the past at a local, regional and national level

<u>Ben Chifley</u>

Joseph Benedict 'Ben' Chifley, was born in Bathurst on 22 September 1885. From the age of 5-14 he lived on his grandfather's farm in the rural Limekilns area, 20 kms north of Bathurst. Chifley moved back to Bathurst where he eventually joined the New South Wales Railways becoming the youngest first-class locomotive driver, aged 24. He was elected Labor member for the Federal seat of Macquarie in 1928. Following the Labor struggle in NSW during the 1930s he remained out of parliament until 1940, devoting himself to the Abercrombie Shire Council from 1933 and other local causes such as the Bathurst District Hospital Board.

Chifley became Federal Treasurer in 1941 under the John Curtin Government and following Prime Minister Curtin's death in 1945, he was became the 16th Prime Minister of Australia. He held simultaneously the posts of Prime Minister and
Treasurer, until Labor's defeat at the 1949 Federal election. Ben Chifley died in1951 after being reappointed leader of the Federal Labor opposition.

Chifley is regarded as one the most loved Prime Ministers of Australia. Monuments have been erected in his memory and place names and landmarks

have been named in his honour. He has contributed greatly to Australia's postwar development.

Elizabeth McKenzie

Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Gibson McKenzie, was born in Bathurst on 1 August 1886. She lived in Bathurst her entire life, actively participating in local associations and church activities. Unlike Ben, Elizabeth had little interest in public life. Her health conditions did not allow her to visit Canberra very often, nor follow Ben in his overseas voyages as Prime Minister. She certainly preferred to live a 'normal' life in Bathurst as much as was possible. Much of Elizabeth's assets, following her death in 1962, were left to the Presbyterian Church in Bathurst. A kindergarten was established in her memory honouring her contribution towards the city where she resided.

2. **Examine the forces and ideas which motivated Chifley's actions in relation to the Bathurst area and explain the consequences of these actions in the context of the development of Bathurst.**

Students should consider the forces and ideas, such as the Labor Movement, the Light on the Hill speech, Chifley's early childhood and the economic depressions of the 1890s and 1930s in the development of Chifley 'the local man' and his presence in the Bathurst community. Students should also explore the affects of such forces and ideas on Chifley in relation to his private and public life within Bathurst.

Forces and ideas which motivated Chifley's actions in relation to Bathurst

Chifley's actions in relation to Bathurst are found in a number of aspects throughout his life. Chifley lived most of his childhood and adult life in the Bathurst region. At a young age, he was presented with the struggle of workers and injustices in society. He witnessed the difficulties imposed on rural workers by the 1890s' economic crisis and the 1930s' Great Depression. These experiences would serve to greatly influence his political and economic policies.

Chifley was elected to the Federal seat of Macquarie in 1928, which included the city Bathurst. As Minister for Defence, he was directly interested in the small arms factory in nearby Lithgow.

Chifley's involvement in Bathurst intensified in the 1930s. Following his struggle with the State Branch of the Australian Labor Party, he joined the Abercrombie Shire

Council in 1933 and further consolidated his work on the Board of the Bathurst District Hospital which he had joined in 1924.

Bathurst was symbolic of Chifley's rise to prominence. Some consider the city to be the subject of his "**Light on the Hill**" speech. Indeed, Chifley's involvement in Bathurst is in many ways representative of his philosophy. He

became known as the 'local man', who would even write references to young Busby Street neighbours entering the workforce and became involved in those services which aimed to better mankind.

Like his father, Chifley became director of the *National Advocate* in the early 1920s. This served to strengthen his political ambitions and maintain his hold on the Macquarie electorate. Chifley embarked in making the *National Advocate* an effective form of media and a successful operation in the Bathurst region.

Chifley is still a symbol of Bathurst. His involvement in the local area has been vastly acknowledged together with the belief that it was Bathurst and Chifley's early life in the region that had much influence in his policies as Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Post-war Reconstruction in the period 1940-1949.

- The heritage issue:

3. **Describe how Chifley Home contributes to a sense of family and community heritage.**

Students should make reference to the monumental importance of Chifley Home as the place where the Chifleys developed and coexisted. The issue of community heritage should also be referred to, describing the importance of Chifley as Prime Minister and the role acquired by Elizabeth Chifley as wife to one of Australia's Prime Ministers, as their lives evolved around the Bathurst community.

Chifley Home: a sense of family and community heritage

Chifley Home is the first and only building where Ben and Elizabeth lived as a couple since the time of their marriage in June 1914. The home is symbolic of the traditional family structure of the Chifleys' despite the fact that the couple had no children.

Chifley Home portrays a sense of family in the couple. They lived simply and in harmony with each other upon Ben's return to Bathurst every fortnight to see Elizabeth.

Chifley Home is also a portrayal of Elizabeth Chifley's disinterest in a prominent public life. Although she occasionally resided at the Lodge, the Prime Minster's official residence in Canberra, she felt most at home at 10 Busby Street. She is remembered as a key personality of Bathurst and is appreciated for her legacy to the city.

4. **Appreciate the value of preserving and conserving Chifley Home and its collection of Primary Sources for the city of Bathurst, New South Wales and Australia.**

Students should make reference to Chifley Home and its collection of primary sources in making a judgment of their significance for the local community and their importance at a regional and national level.

The value of preserving and conserving Chifley Home

Chifley Home is a monument to the lives of Ben and Elizabeth Chifley. It visualises the simplicity in which the personalities lived as well as their relationship with the community. The collection of primary sources found within Chifley Home assist in understanding the standard of living for an average family in the 1940s and particularly describe the nature of Prime Minister Ben Chifley in his private environment. The house contains photographs, gifts and other material which explore particular features, events and issues in the lives of Ben Chifley and his wife Elizabeth.

The preservation of the primary sources contained in Chifley Home is of paramount importance to both the local and regional communities and the nation as a whole. Bathurst is the proud birthplace of Ben and Elizabeth Chifley, and the home's conservation and preservation is a tangible representation of the city's admiration of the couple. Nationally, Chifley represents an important part in Australia's history. Chifley served as public figure in times of struggle and greatly contributed in shaping post-World War Two Australia.

Stage 5

Topic 4: *Australia and World War II*

The Second World War had a major impact on the generation who fought and lived through it. Ben Chifley, as the Treasurer and Minister for Post-War Reconstruction in the Curtin Government, played a significant role in shaping wartime policies and his home in Bathurst encapsulates life on the Australian home front during the 1940's.

<u>Inquiry Questions</u>:

• What was the impact of the war on the Australian home front?

Outcomes
Throughout this topic students work towards all outcomes with particular focus on:

5.2 Assesses the impact of international events and relationships on Australia's history

5.3 Explains the changing rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples and other groups in Australia

5.4 Sequences major historical events to show an understanding of continuity, change and causation

5.5   Identifies, comprehends and evaluates historical sources

5.7   Explains different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past

Students Learn About:

- Wartime Government controls including:
    - ***Manpower controls***

1. **Describe Chifley's actions in relation to government policy and control of manpower as wartime Treasurer and Minister for Post-war Reconstruction.**

Students should be able to describe the role of Chifley as Treasurer and Minister for Post-War Reconstruction under the Curtin Government. Some reference should be made to the monetary policy brought forward by Chifley as wartime Treasurer. Students could also consider the various social, political and economic developments initiated by Chifley as Minister for Post-war Reconstruction in relation to control of manpower.

Chifley as Treasurer and Minister for Post-War Reconstruction (Government policy and manpower controls)

Joseph Benedict Chifley assumed the role of Treasurer in the Curtin Government of 1941. He was regarded as the '*financial supremo…who could guide the nation through the dangerous and unchartered waters in which it was travelling*' (Day: 2002). The Curtin Government established a Directorate of Manpower with the authority to distribute labour on the basis of the requirements of warfare.

Being in charge of the Treasury, Chifley was the figure in the Curtin Government that was responsible for the implementation of the national control of banking, interest rates and the authorisation of investment in support of the war effort and for the development of post-war reconstruction.

In December 1942 Chifley whilst Treasurer took on the additional post of Minister for Post-War Reconstruction. His role was to create the new social order following the Second World War. Chifley devised the National Welfare Fund in order to properly administer the funds raised from the heavy taxation system running throughout and immediately following the war.

Tertiary education was also expanded by the Chifley Government with the establishment of the Australian National University, the creation of the Commonwealth Education Office and the funding of Commonwealth scholarships.
Post-war reconstruction 'appeared' in many and varied forms from the provision of social services to the announcement of the immigration policy, '*Populate or Perish*', by Chifley's Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell.

2. Rationing

Describe Chifley's policy in relation to rationing as Treasurer and Minister for Post-War Reconstruction.

Students should be able to describe Chifley's introduction of wartime restrictions during the period of the Curtin Government and outline arguments for and against such controls. Although outside the time period studied in this topic, students could refer to the Chifley Government's attitude in maintaining restrictions following the end of the Second World War, examining reasons for Chifley's reluctance to abolish these.

Chifley as Treasurer and Minister for Post-war Reconstruction (Rationing)

In 1942 the Curtin Government announced the National Economic Plan which included the lowering of wages and profits, the closure of non-essential industries and government's control of manpower.

The Government argued the importance of a unified taxation system and in May 1942 income tax was placed under the control of the Commonwealth. Compensatory funding was allocated if the States refrained from imposing further state income tax. Rationing was officially introduced, initially for items such as clothes, but was later extended to include tea, butter, sugar, meat, firewood and cigarettes. Petrol rationing was introduced in 1940 and many motorists were forced to abandon their cars or use alternative sources of fuel.

In April 1942 Chifley introduced further price controls in order to effectively regulate inflation. He also encouraged a progressive reduction in private spending in favour of savings and war loans. Upon realising that taxation alone could only provide revenue sufficient to support just one third of the total war expenditure, the Curtin Labour Government of which Ben Chifley held the Treasury portfolio, launched the National
Savings Campaign. The Campaign, announced on 15 April 1942, was an encouragement to all Australians to convert their savings into War Savings Certificates on National Savings Bonds. The Labour Government was of the ideal that by convincing Australians to directly finance the war, there would have been much more success in guaranteeing the safety and welfare of the nation.

Chifley's experience of economic depression highly influenced his reluctance to abolish wartime restrictions after 1945. He continued to maintain a strong grip on the post-war economy, including the rationing of essential products and control of prices and rents.

Stage 5

Topic 6: *Changing Rights and Freedoms – Section B (Migrants)*

The Chifley Government's post-war reconstruction policies encouraged migrants to increase the Australian population and enable projects such as the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

Inquiry Questions:

• How have the rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples and other groups in Australia changed during the post-war period?

Outcomes
Throughout this topic students work towards all outcomes with particular focus on:

5.1   Explains social, political and cultural developments and events and evaluates their   impact on Australian life

5.2   Explains the changing rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples and other groups in
        Australia

Students Learn About:

Migrants

• Changing patterns of Migration (1945-2000)

   1. Account for the changing patterns of migration during the period of the Chifley Government.

Students describe the changes made to the Government Policy in respect to Immigration after WWII and the arrival of the "New Australians". Reference to Eastern and Southern European migration in the second half of the 1940s should be examined. Appropriate use of data from secondary sources is recommended.

   Patterns of Migration during the Chifley Government 1945-1949

   In 1945 the Chifley Government established the Immigration Department under the direction of Arthur Calwell as its Minister. The Government launched the slogan '*Populate or Perish*', originally with the hope to influence a new flow of British-speaking migration to Australia and progressively increase population. In order to encourage migration from the British Isles, Australia established a migration program granting Free or Assisted Passage to ex-servicemen from Britain and the United States of America.

   However, as the initial immigration targets could not be met, Eastern Europeans and a large number of Southern Europeans, including Italians, Greeks and Maltese arrived in Australia. The first group of non-British migrants

8

in 1940s were 170,000 displaced people who were unable to return to their homeland due to the affects of WWII. They mostly came from Eastern Europe, including Ukrainians, Poles, ethnic Russians,
migrants from the Baltic States and Romanians. They became known as the 'New Australians'. Australia's traditional British-based migration was replaced by general European migration by the 1950s.

2. **Examine the experiences of a migrant group in Post-WWII period (E.g. The Italians)**

Students examine the experiences of Italian migrants in Australia in the Post-WWII period. Reference to government policies, settlement patterns, difficulties encountered and contribution to Australian society should be included.

Experiences of Italian migrants in Post-WWII Australia
Italians are today the largest non-English speaking migrant group in Australia. The mass of Italian migration commenced following WWII as many reached the shores of Australia as refugees following the devastations of warfare in Europe. Most Italian migrants arrived from the poorer regions of southern Italy.

Their settlement in Australian society was primarily determined by the expectation of '*thinking Australian, acting Australian, being Australian*' according to the policy of Assimilation which was still in force during the Chifley Government. In June 1940, with the Italian declaration of war on Britain, Italians in Australia were defined '*enemy aliens*' and as a result were interned as a threat to the country.

Following the end of WWII and creation of the Immigration Department in 1945, bilateral agreements were established between Italy and Australia. Italians became one of the main sources of non-British migrants. A large number of Italian migrants in the mid-1940s were unskilled and formal qualifications acquired overseas were not recognised, hence many were ultimately forced to accept more demanding and less desirable jobs.

In Australia, Italians have developed 'enclaves' as most migrants lived in the same area to give each other support. This is visible still today in suburbs such as Leichhardt and Haberfield in Sydney and Carlton in Melbourne. Other areas with a predominant Italian presence are Griffith and Wollongong in New South Wales.

The Chifley Government was also of the belief that migrants could provide the necessary labour and skills for economic and industrial growth. Many Italians were employed in the development of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme, a Chifley Government initiative which began in 1949. Italian-Australians have contributed greatly to Australian society and culture in areas such as food and wine, the arts, sport, fashion and politics.

3. **Outline the important developments of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme in relation to Migrants.**

Students should explore the early developments of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme during the Chifley Government with reference to the Commonwealth administration of the Scheme. A brief analysis of the social and economic reasons for the construction of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme should also be included.

The development of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme began with the establishment of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority through an Act of the Commonwealth by the Chifley Government in 1945. The purpose of the Scheme was announced by Prime Minister Ben Chifley during a trip to Tasmania as he defined the project as '*a plan for the nation*'. The Scheme would produce electricity at half the cost of coal-powered stations and provide more power to New South Wales and Victoria.

Under the updated project of 1946, the establishment and development of the Snowy Mountains Scheme was to be controlled by the Commonwealth. However, as water and irrigation are matters dealt with by the States, the Federal Government did not have the right under the Constitution to pass legislation in regards to the Scheme.

The project was described as vital to Australia's defence as most of the power stations were located on the coast and could have been possible targets of invasions by foreign enemies. Following this argument, the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Power Act allowed the Federal Government to acquire land in the Snowy Mountains and oversee the construction of the Scheme.

The Chifley Government's estimate for the completion of the Scheme was 25 years. The project included the construction of 19 tunnels for a total of 135km, 18 aqueducts, 16 dams and 7 power stations. The Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme would collect waters from twelve rivers and seventy-one creeks, making the project and engineering masterpiece. It was completed in 1974.

4. **Explain the significance of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme for the changing rights and freedoms of migrants**

Students should make detailed reference to the significant aspects of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme contributing to the changing shape of Australia's population in the Post-WWII era. A description of the migrant experience working in the Snowy Mountains Project should also be included, together with a brief background to Australia's need for labourers in the second half of the 1940s.

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme is considered the birthplace of multiculturalism in Australia despite the Chifley Government's strong stance on the policy of assimilation. Approximately 170,000 people from 71 different nations worked on the project over the 25 years of construction.

The Australian Government began recruiting workers to build the Scheme from the many displaced persons camps around Europe. Many thousands of displaced persons from Europe reached the shores of Australia to begin a new life. Many took notice of the Chifley Government's official publication in those nations that had established bilateral agreements, and tradesmen and labourers from Europe began heading towards the Snowy Mountains.

Working at the Snowy Mountains provided migrants with both negative and positive experiences. Many had been promised adequate accommodation but were obliged to reside in the most basic of accommodation and experience the sometimes precarious conditions of the Australian Alps.

Conversely, for many migrants, the living conditions at the Snowy Mountains proved to be more accommodating than the displaced camps of Europe. English classes were organised in order to assimilate the new Australians into society and provide basic education to migrant children. However, with the increase of immigrants, schools became inefficient and were commonly affected by overcrowding. Racism and discrimination was also a widespread phenomenon among immigrant workers.

In any case, migrants from a wide and diverse range of nationalities and cultures worked tirelessly to construct a post-war engineering wonder that has provided a tangible representation of the benefits of immigration. The amazing accomplishment that is the Snowy Mountains Scheme broke down barriers and served to be the catalyst for multiculturalism in this nation.

Stage 5

Topic 7: *People, Power and Politics in the Post-War Period*

This topic is designed to facilitate students' knowledge and understanding of some key political issues and developments of the post – WWII period both within Australia and in Australia's international relationships. The Chifley Government (1945 – 1949) was instrumental in shaping post-war Australia's internal and international policies.

Inquiry Questions

• What role has Australia played in international affairs in the post-war period?
• What have been some important political developments in post-war Australian history?

Outcomes
Throughout this topic students work towards all outcomes with particular focus on:

5.1   Explains social, political and cultural developments and events and evaluates their   impact on Australian life

5.2   Assesses the impact of international events and relationships on Australia's history

5.3   Explains the changing rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples and other groups in   Australia

5.7   Explains different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past

5.8   Locates, selects and organises relevant historical information from a number of sources,
       including ICT, to undertake historical inquiry

5.10   Selects and uses appropriate oral, written and other forms, including ICT, to
       communicate effectively about the past for different audiences

Students Learn About:

SECTION A – *Australia as a Global Citizen*
- Australia's Role in the United Nations

Outline the key developments of Australia's role within the United Nations in the period 1945-1949.
Students should consider the changes in Australia's Foreign Policy after the Second World War and the role played by the Chifley Government through the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr H.V. Evatt. Reference to peacekeeping missions should also be included in the response.

Australia's role within the United Nations in the period 1945-1949

The Curtin Labor Government had already 'turned' to the United States as a prime ally after the British defeat in Singapore. Australia's role within the Allies intensified as Labor took an active part in the establishment of the United Nations and Dr H.V. Evatt, Chifley's Minister for External Affairs, played a key role in the drafting of the UN Charter.

Australia is a founding member of the United Nations and has been an active member of the organisation since 1945. Evatt was elected as President of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 September 1948.

Australia participated in the first peacekeeping operation under UN auspices in 1947, leading the UN Consular Commission to Indonesia. As a foundation member of the United Nations, in January 1946 and January 1947, the Chifley Government appointed Australia's Diplomat and former Labor Speaker of the

House of Representatives, Mr NJO Makin as President of the United Nations Security Council.

Chifley was an internationalist. He believed Australia should play an international role in the modern era, contributing to the establishment and development of the United Nations during the period of Labor office. Chifley embraced the humanitarian program developed by the United Nations and the Allies in the Post-WWII period, contributing to the rebuilding of Europe.

SECTION C – *Prime Ministers and Policies*

• One Prime Minister in the post-war period (Joseph Benedict Chifley)
• Outline and explain <u>ONE</u> Policy or Issue of the term of office of Joseph Benedict Chifley

Joseph Benedict "Ben" Chifley - 1945-1949: Policy options include:

- Post-War Reconstruction Program
- Immigration Policy
- Bank Nationalisation
- 1949 Coal Strike (not annotated)

Students develop an understanding of the key policies implemented and issues faced by the Chifley Government in the period 1945-1949. Only ONE of the above options is to be studied.

Post-War Reconstruction

Post-War reconstruction was one of the most important endeavours of the Chifley Government. In December 1942, Chifley became the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction. He paved the way for the shaping of Australian society after World War II. In 1943 the Curtin Government established the National Welfare Fund in order to finance social services, together with the implementation of the Social Service Contribution in 1945.

Changes to the health system were also enacted with the passing of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act 1944-1945. This reform provided the Commonwealth reimbursement for specified medical requirements. However, as the Act was declared unconstitutional by the High Court, the Health Benefits Act 1945 enabled the Commonwealth to subsidise the cost of public health by making grants to the States. In the same year the government introduced benefits in regards to funeral services, sickness and unemployment.

Labor's post-war reconstruction program also aimed at the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen into mainstream Australian society. Preference was given to those who had served in the armed forces during the Second World War in relation to finding employment, together with the establishment of the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Program in 1944 which offered full-time and part-time training at technical colleges and universities to returned service people.

Financial assistance and funds were accommodated for the granting of scholarships to students to enable them to undertake tertiary education. In 1946 the Australian National University was established in Canberra as a post-graduate institution.

National development of industry and infrastructure was also part of Chifley's program of Post-War reconstruction. The coal mining industry was recognised with the establishment of the Joint Coal Board in 1946 which would be responsible for increasing output and control industrial unrest. The launch of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme was also a major project which aimed to modernise Australia in the post-war period. Commonwealth-State Agreements brought to the establishment of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority in 1949.

Immigration Policy:

Chifley's immigration policy aimed to develop Australia's resources. A new flow of European migration would deter Asian countries from seeking to take over Australia's undeveloped land. The Government ensured that the new immigration program would increase the national population by one per cent on a yearly basis as well as assist the resettlement of ethnic groups who had been displaced by the war. The Department of Immigration was established in 1945 under the direction of Arthur Calwell who launched the slogan '*populate or perish'*, highlighting the need for migrants in the development of Australia in the post-WWII period.

The original immigration policy planned for a ratio of British to 'foreigner' migrants of ten to one. However, it was soon realised that British migration on its own did not adequately cater for the government's expectation. In 1946 the last attempt to increase the flow of migrants from Britain enabled the creation of the Assisted Passage Scheme, whereby free travel or the sum of 10 pounds would allow migrants to reach the shores of Australia.

By 1947 agreements were established with European nations and migrants arrived from Italy, Malta, The Netherlands, Greece, Germany and the former Yugoslavia. Migrant labour provided the necessary means for the development of national projects such as the Snowy Mountains Scheme. The term: '*New Australians*' was introduced in order to encourage assimilation into mainstream society and develop a sense of community acceptance of those newly arrived.

Bank Nationalisation:

Bank Nationalisation was a policy of Prime Minister Chifley and his Government in the period 1945-1949. The idea of placing financial institutions under the control of the Government commenced in 1945 with the legislation of the *Commonwealth Bank Act 1945*. The provisions contained in the Act extended the powers of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, abolishing the Bank Board and replacing it with a Governor who would direct the policies of the Bank under the control of the Federal treasurer. Furthermore, the Commonwealth Bank

would assume control of the banking system, overseas funds of private financial institutions and rates of interest. Under Section 48 of the *Commonwealth Bank Act 1945*, government authorities were obliged to deposit and borrow exclusively through the centralised banking system.

In 1947 Chifley extended the 1945 legislation to the complete nationalisation of the private banking sector by passing the *Bank Nationalisation Act 1947*. The Prime Minister ensured that the control of private banking would secure the progressive growth of the Australian economy, avoiding booms and slumps and maintain full employment. The Act was considered unconstitutional by both the High Court and the Privy Council. Although the 1947 Act was repealed, the 1945 transformation of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia into a strong central bank was maintained to ensure stability in the industry.

5. Assess the contribution of Chifley to Australia's Post-War development

Students should refer to Prime Minister Chifley and his policies both in general and specific terms. Detailed information on Post-War Reconstruction should be part of the response, together with social, political and economic initiatives in favour of the national development of Australia. Students should make a judgment in relation to the effectiveness of the Chifley Government in the period 1945-1949 in contributing to Australia's post-war development. An examination of the legacy of Chifley's policies is also encouraged.

The contribution of Ben Chifley to Australia's Post-War development

Chifley was appointed Prime Minister of Australia on July 13, 1945, a week after the sudden death of John Curtin. Chifley was determined to control Australia's post-war economy through price and rent controls, rationing of essential goods and heavy taxations to control inflation. During his term as Prime Minister, Chifley introduced the first Holden Car, established Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Australian National University.

Chifley also expanded Australia's immigration program for humanitarian, defence and economic purposes. He also developed in 1949 one of Australia's most ambitious projects, the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme. Constructed in and around the southern regions of the Great Diving Range, the water would be used to irrigate land for agriculture and to generate electricity. Also in 1945 Chifley attempted to
nationalise the interstate air services in Australia. By the decision of the High Court, the result was the establishment of the 'Trans Australia Airline' (TAA) operated by the Australian National Airlines Commission.

Furthermore, Chifley introduced the idea to nationalise privatised banks in 1946. He was concerned with the power that the Australian private enterprise banks had over the people and economy. Finally, the 1949 Coal Miners Strike in NSW had caused controversy as Chifley was the first ever Prime Minister to ever call troops into open-cut mines in NSW and mine coal due to the shortages of coal consumption and power.

To some extent, Chifley's contribution to Australian society in regards to post-war development might have been negative. The Prime Minister was reluctant in removing war-time restrictions at the 1946 elections. Workers became irritated with the Government handling of Trade Unions resulting in widespread industrial unrest. In July 1949 the national coal strike was announced. Chifley imposed fines, withdrawing the Government funding of the Miners' Federation. His ideals of centralism and national control of society were a major issue during Labor's period of office. It must also be considered that due to Chifley's defeat at the 1949 Federal election, other leaders finished some of the programs he initiated.

In any case, however, the legacies of Chifley's brief but eventful four year term of office have greatly contributed to and shaped the Australia we know today. It can be argued that some of his policies (at the very least) were truly nation building.

Acknowledgements:

Books:

1. **Anderson, M. and Ashton P (2004). Australia in the 20th Century. Macmillan Education Australia, South Yarra.**
2. **Carrol, B. (2004). From Barton to Frazer. Cassell Australia, Stanmore.**
3. **Day, D. (2001). Chifley - A Life. Harper Collins Publishers. Pymble.**
4. **Mc Mullin, R. (2000). Australian Prime Ministers - Joseph Benedict Chifley. New Holland Publishers, Sydney.**
5. **Nance, L. (1989). Prime Ministers of Australia. Bison Group, London.**
6. **Wesley, A. (1999). Australia in the Second World War and post-war reconstruction, 1939-1949. Longman Australia, South Melbourne.**

Online Resources:

1. **http://john.curtin.edu.au/aspirations/social.html**
2. **http://www.chifleyhome.org**
3. **http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A130460b.htm**
4. **http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/meetpm.asp?pageName=wife&pmId=16**
5. **http://www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/sp/statehouseagree.htm**
6. **http://espace.library.curtin.edu.au:1802/view/action/singleViewer.do?dvs=1 248340860418~603&locale=en_US&search_terms=000027552&application= DIGITOOL-3&frameId=1&usePid1=true&usePid2=true** (Speech on War Loans by PM Curtin).
7. **Waterson, D.B. (2006). Australian Dictionary of Biography – Online Edition. [Internet]. Available from: www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A130460b.htm**