

No. 1717

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**NETHERLANDS  
and  
AUSTRALIA**

**Agreement (with schedule) for assisted migration. Signed  
at Canberra, on 22 February 1951**

*Official texts: English and Dutch.*

*Registered by the Netherlands on 25 April 1952.*

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**PAYS-BAS  
et  
AUSTRALIE**

**Accord (avec annexe) relatif à l'assistance à la migration.  
Signé à Canberra, le 22 février 1951**

*Textes officiels anglais et néerlandais.*

*Enregistré par les Pays-Bas le 25 avril 1952.*

No. 1717. AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA FOR ASSISTED MIGRATION. SIGNED AT CANBERRA, ON 22 FEBRUARY 1951

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The Government of the Netherlands and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia (hereinafter referred to as "the Commonwealth Government"),

Being willing to co-operate in order to assist suitable persons in the Netherlands to emigrate to Australia for permanent settlement;

And being prepared to carry out the scheme set out in this Agreement and the Schedule hereto (hereinafter called "the scheme"),

Hereby agree as follows :

1. The scheme shall operate for a period of five years, commencing upon a date to be fixed between the two Governments and may be continued thereafter by mutual agreement.

2. The scheme shall apply only to Netherlands nationals residing in the Netherlands and to such other Netherlands nationals as may be mutually agreed upon between the two Governments.

3. Generally, the scheme shall apply to all classes of migrants, skilled and unskilled; provided that the Commonwealth Government shall have the right to limit at any time the selection of specific classes of workers if it considers that conditions for their absorption in Australia are unfavourable.

4. The two Governments shall contribute towards the cost of passages from the Netherlands to Australia of such persons as may have been approved by them before departure, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Schedule, a free grant of a portion of the cost thereof as set out in Clause (1) of the Schedule.

5. Except as hereinafter provided, the two Governments shall bear their own expenses of administering the scheme.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 April 1951, the date fixed between the two Governments, in accordance with paragraph 1.

6. Persons eligible for selection under the scheme shall be those described in Clause (5) of the Schedule, provided that, as the two Governments recognise the housing difficulties in Australia, the Commonwealth Government shall have the right to limit the selection and shipment of family units until satisfactory arrangements for their accommodation in Australia can be made. It is understood, however, that a substantial flow of Netherlands migrants under the scheme will depend upon the acceptance of a reasonable ratio of family units in the total number of Netherlands migrants. This ratio shall be agreed upon from time to time by an exchange of notes between the two Governments.

7. The Netherlands Authorities concerned shall, in accordance with conditions to be agreed to by the Commonwealth Government, be responsible for initial selection, medical examination, and documentation of applicants for emigration under the scheme.

8. The Commonwealth Government shall appoint its own representatives to undertake the final examination and selection of applicants. Such representatives shall have final responsibility for deciding the suitability on mental, moral, physical and other grounds of each applicant for settlement in Australia. The Netherlands Government Authorities shall render every facility and assistance to such representatives.

9. The Government of the Netherlands shall, where necessary, provide free internal travel facilities for migrants selected under the scheme from their place of residence in the Netherlands to the port of embarkation.

10. The Commonwealth Government shall, in respect of migrants selected under the scheme, accept full responsibility for their reception at approved ports of disembarkation in Australia and thereafter for their onward movement, temporary accommodation, placement in employment, and after-care. In discharge of this obligation the Commonwealth Government shall carry out the functions set out in Clause (13) of the Schedule.

11. Having regard to the problem of accommodation and to the necessity of fostering the development of certain branches of both primary and secondary industries which are of vital importance to the Australian economy, migrants selected under the scheme shall enter into an undertaking with the Commonwealth Government to remain for a period of two years after arrival in Australia in the employment for which they were selected or in such other employment as may be deemed economically equivalent by the Commonwealth Government.

12. Migrants selected under the scheme shall also undertake to use every endeavour to become proficient in the English language and to attend regularly

the night classes conducted for all migrants at the Commonwealth Government's expense for the purpose of teaching them the English language.

13. The Commonwealth Government shall provide the Government of the Netherlands with information concerning conditions of and opportunities for employment in Australia for the guidance of all prospective migrants who may desire it. No pamphlets or other material explaining the scheme shall be issued without the concurrence of the two Governments.

14. The Commonwealth Government shall have the right to return to the Netherlands any migrant and/or his dependants selected under the scheme who, within five years of arrival in Australia, may contravene the provisions of the Immigration Act (1901—1949) of the Commonwealth of Australia, or within two years after arrival may otherwise prove unsuitable for settlement.

15. Migrants selected under the scheme shall undertake not to depart from Australia within two years from the date of arrival, unless they have repaid to the Commonwealth Government the amount of free grants contributed by the two Governments under Clause (1) of the Schedule towards their assisted passages to Australia.

16. The sums repaid by migrants pursuant to the last preceding clause shall be applied in payment to the Commonwealth Government of the sum of thirty-seven pounds, ten shillings, English currency, in respect of each migrant or such less amount as may in fact have been contributed by the Commonwealth Government, and any balance shall be paid to the Government of the Netherlands. If during any accounting period, as set out in Clause (3) of the Schedule, any migrants return to the Netherlands and the gross amount received from them in repayment is less than the amounts debited against the Commonwealth Government, as set out in Clause (1) of the Schedule, then the Netherlands Government shall make such adjustments in the accounts between the two Governments as will ensure that the full Commonwealth Government debited contribution is repaid to the Commonwealth Government.

17. The appropriate Authority in the Netherlands shall produce to the Secretary, Department of Immigration, Canberra, or his representative for inspection, any documents or accounts, whether in the Netherlands or in Australia, relating to cases in which assistance has been given under the scheme, if such documents are required to be produced to the Commonwealth Government for audit or other purposes.

18. The Government of the Netherlands shall accept responsibility for procuring the necessary transportation to Australia for migrants selected under

the scheme, provided that any arrangements relating thereto shall first be approved by the Commonwealth Government. The Government of the Netherlands shall arrange for migrants proceeding under the scheme to be disembarked at such ports in Australia and on such dates as shall be nominated from time to time by the Commonwealth Government.

19. As far as the economic and financial situation of the Netherlands permits, the Government of the Netherlands shall facilitate the transfer to Australia of funds belonging to migrants selected under the scheme.

20. Recognising that it may not be possible for each of them to continue contributions towards the cost of passages on the present high scale for a long period, involving increasing numbers of migrants, the two Governments shall, if it becomes possible at any time to obtain international aid from any source, review the rates of contribution set out in Clause (1) of the Schedule.

21. If after the scheme has been in operation for a period of two years there have been any substantial changes in the cost of operation of passenger shipping generally involving increases or decreases in the amount of passage rate ruling at the date of the signing of this Agreement, and on which the contributions set out in Clause (1) of the Schedule are based, the two Governments shall confer for the purpose of increasing or decreasing the amount of their respective contributions.

22. Assistance shall be given to intending migrants who sail from the Netherlands to Australia pursuant to his scheme at any time within five years from the commencing date of the scheme, and thereafter while the scheme continues to operate.

23. The English and Netherlands texts of the present Agreement are equally authentic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed the present Agreement at Canberra, on this twenty-second day of February, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-one.

For the Government of  
The Netherlands :  
(Signed) A. H. HASSELMAN

For the Government of the  
Commonwealth of Australia :  
(Signed) H. E. HOLT

## SCHEDULE

(1) Approved migrants shall be required by the Government of the Netherlands to contribute the maximum which their financial resources will permit towards the cost of their passage money, but in no case shall an adult migrant contribute less than the equivalent of ten pounds English currency. The balance of the passage money shall be borne by the two Governments as follows :

(a) The Commonwealth Government contribution shall be payable to the Government of the Netherlands at the rate of thirty-seven pounds, ten shillings, English currency, for each adult or juvenile who has been charged an adult passage for transport to Australia, and one half or one quarter of thirty-seven pounds, ten shillings, English currency, or other proportionately reduced amount where the cost of passage on an age basis is one half, one quarter or some other fraction of the full passage rate;

(b) The Government of the Netherlands shall contribute the remainder of the passage costs after subtraction of the contributions of the migrant and the Commonwealth Government;

(c) The amount of the total contributions of the Government of the Netherlands in respect of all migrants moved to Australia under the scheme shall be calculated for each period of three months from the commencement of the scheme and, if that amount be less than the Commonwealth Government contributions over the same period, the Government of the Netherlands shall pay to the Commonwealth Government one half of the amount by which its contributions are less than those of the Commonwealth Government;

(d) Where the contributions of the Government of the Netherlands exceed in total those of the Commonwealth Government no additional sums will be payable by the Commonwealth Government.

The foregoing rates of contribution shall apply whether migrants under the scheme travel by sea or by air transport.

(2) No financial assistance of any kind pursuant to Clause (1) of this Schedule shall be given without the approval of both Governments.

(3) The Government of the Netherlands shall render to the Commonwealth Government at Canberra at the end of each period of three months from the commencement of the scheme an account of the sums expended in that period pursuant to Clause (1) of this Schedule. If the Commonwealth Government is satisfied that the sums have been expended in accordance with the Agreement, it shall pay to or to the account of the Government of the Netherlands the agreed contribution.

(4) In respect of grant repayments pursuant to the provisions of Clause (15) of the Agreement, the Commonwealth Government shall keep a separate account of sums so received and shall render to the Government of the Netherlands at the end of each period of three months from the commencement of the scheme an account of the sums received in that period. The Commonwealth Government shall pay to or to the account of the Government of the Netherlands the share due to the latter Government of the sums so received.

(5) Persons eligible for selection under the scheme shall be :

(a) Single men not less than 18 nor more than 35 years of age;

(b) Single women not less than 18 nor more than 30 years of age;

(c) Childless married couples within the age groups hereinbefore specified for single men and single women; and

(d) family units, the breadwinner of which shall not be more than 45 years of age; who are able to comply with the physical and other selection criteria required for entry into the Commonwealth of Australia for permanent residence. In special cases and at the discretion of the Commonwealth Government, a family unit consisting of sufficient employable members to make it self-supporting may be accepted even though the breadwinner thereof exceeds 45 years of age.

(6) The procedure for the selection and grant of assistance to migrants under the scheme shall be as set out in this Clause and Clauses (7) to (10) inclusive of this Schedule. Application forms shall be prepared by the Commonwealth Government in consultation with the Government of the Netherlands. Such forms shall be distributed by the appropriate Department or Agency of the Government of the Netherlands to prospective migrants. On completion the forms shall be returned to the said Department or Agency, together with such certificates of trade proficiency and character as may be required by the Commonwealth Government.

(7) The appropriate Department or Agency of the Government of the Netherlands shall check the application and accompanying certificates and shall arrange for the medical examination by an approved Medical Officer of those applicants deemed to be eligible. Such examination shall be in accordance with the provisions of a Medical Examination Form approved by the Commonwealth Government. The cost of the medical examination shall be borne by the applicant or, if necessary, by the Government of the Netherlands.

(8) Application forms and accompanying certificates shall be completed in duplicate. One copy of each shall be delivered to a Commonwealth Government representative appointed pursuant to Clause (8) of the Agreement.

(9) The Commonwealth Government in collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands shall arrange, where necessary, for its Selection Teams to travel to centres in the Netherlands for the purpose of interviewing, examining and finally selecting applicants brought forward by the Government of the Netherlands. The location of such centres shall be decided by arrangement between the Commonwealth Government representative and the appropriate Department or Agency of the Government of the Netherlands.

(10) The appropriate Department or Agency of the Government of the Netherlands shall in respect of all applicants approved by an Australian representative arrange for

the preparation of all relevant documents, the movement of the applicants to embarkation point and their embarkation for Australia. The Government of the Netherlands shall pay to shipping or air line companies the passage charges for those embarked. The appropriate Department or Agency of the Government of the Netherlands shall arrange for nominal rolls of those embarked to be delivered immediately after embarkation to the Australian representative for transmission to the Secretary, Department of Immigration, Canberra.

(11) Any selected migrant not proceeding directly to private accommodation in Australia who wishes to bring with him household effects for the purpose of establishing a home in Australia, shall arrange, at his own expense, for such effects to be stored either in the Netherlands or in Australia until he obtains private accommodation in Australia. When such private accommodation has been obtained the Government of the Netherlands shall, if such effects are stored in the Netherlands, arrange with the shipping company by which the migrant travelled, or such other company as may be decided upon by the Government of the Netherlands, to transport free of charge to the migrant an amount of household effects equal to that which, in addition to the migrant's personal effects, would have been transported free of charge had the household effects accompanied the migrant in the first instance.

(12) The Commonwealth Government may appoint a Welfare and Information Officer or other representative to accompany each vessel carrying migrants from the Netherlands to Australia in order to advise such migrants concerning Australian conditions and generally to attend to their welfare during the voyage.

(13) In accordance with Clause (10) of the Agreement, the Commonwealth Government shall

(a) Accommodate temporarily at Immigration Reception and Training Centres migrants selected under the scheme during the period while they are awaiting placement in employment. Free accommodation, where necessary, will be given for the first seven days and thereafter the weekly charges payable to the Commonwealth Department of Immigration for such accommodation will be those applicable at the time;

(b) In the case of family units, after the breadwinner has been placed in employment, accommodate his dependants at an Immigration Holding Centre. The breadwinner shall be primarily responsible for payment to the Department of Immigration of the weekly charges applicable at the time for dependants accommodated at such Holding Centres. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this sub-clause, where practicable, and subject to accommodation being available for complete family units in Commonwealth Government Workers' Hostels, the family units will be placed in such Hostels. The charges made for family units accommodated at Commonwealth Government Workers' Hostels shall be those applicable at the time at such Hostels;

(c) Arrange transport of migrants at Commonwealth Government expense



(i) From ship-side to an Immigration Reception and Training Centre or to the place of initial private accommodation;

(ii) From the Immigration Reception and Training Centre to the place of initial employment;

(iii) From the Immigration Reception and Training Centre to an Immigration Holding Centre or to a Commonwealth Government Workers' Hostel;

(iv) From the Immigration Holding Centre to the private accommodation found by the breadwinner;

(d) Ensure that in respect of migrants selected under the scheme the amount of personal or household effects which is carried free by the ship on which the migrants travel to Australia, or by any subsequent ship, as provided for in Clause (11) of this Schedule shall be carried at Commonwealth expense to the initial place of private accommodation in Australia. Should a migrant bring with him an amount of personal or household effects over and above that carried free by the vessel on which he travels, then the migrant shall be responsible for sea freight, storage charges, and movement in Australia of all personal or household effects which exceed the amount carried free by the vessel;

(e) Render every assistance through the medium of the Commonwealth Employment Service in placing migrants in employment. Migrants having any special skill or trade will, as far as possible, be found employment in that trade, provided that they possess the requisite degree of craftsmanship or trade skill for membership of the appropriate Australian Trade Union or Association;

(f) Arrange for the payment of normal social service benefits to migrants selected under the scheme. Such social service benefits shall be unemployment and sickness benefit (payable from and including the seventh day after the day on which the person becomes unemployed, or makes a claim for unemployment benefit, or becomes incapacitated), child endowment, maternity allowance, hospital benefit, and pharmaceutical benefit;

(g) Provide after-care for the migrants in that the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and associated voluntary welfare and after-care organisations will advise them on any assimilation problems which they may have during their initial period of settlement in Australia;

(h) Reduce landing money to a minimum of ten pounds Australian currency in the case of single men and women and twenty pounds Australian currency in the case of family units.