

SRI LANKAN MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

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Abstract: *Sri Lanka is one of the contemporary world's major emigration nations and Australia is one of the important destination countries with an estimated 94,140 Sri Lanka-born population in 2011. In the contemporary world a nation's diaspora can have a positive impact on economic development in their origin country and policy can play an important role in facilitating and maximising the benefits which the diaspora can deliver. A fundamental prerequisite for development of effective diaspora policy is to understand the dynamics of the migration relationship between an origin and destination country. The aim of the present paper is to examine the migration relationship between Sri Lanka and Australia. It analyses the pattern of migration focusing especially on the last two decades and demonstrates the increasing complexity of the population flows between the two countries with the increasing significance of non-permanent movements and return migration from Australia. It then turns to an examination of some of the characteristics of the contemporary Sri Lankan diaspora in Australia. The paper concludes with a discussion of some of the implications of emigration and diaspora for development and change in Sri Lanka.*

Key Words: Sri Lanka, migration, diaspora, circulation