

SUMMARY OF POST-WAR PRIME MINSTERS

Date	Name	Party	Policies/Achievements	Problems
7 th October 1941 – 6 th July 1945	John Curtin	Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> War time leader, strengthened ties with US Capable in controlling the country Intent on Australia emerging from the war free from the unemployment problems of the 1930s Aimed for a policy of work for all who wanted it Passionate about his job, influencing his attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broke down in front of the Cabinet suggesting that he was easily affected by the negative events which occurred in Parliament
13 th July 1945 – 19 th December 1949	Ben Chifley	Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-war reconstruction Full employment Began huge immigration program Started campaign to wipe out TB Started Snowy Mountains Scheme Set up TAA and national shipping line Took over QANTAS Helped people buy their own homes Set up the Australian National University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sought the nationalisation of banks so that the Government could have more control over the economy
19 th December 1949 – 26 th January 1966	Robert Menzies	Liberal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Broadcasting and Television Act 1956</i>, which covered the introduction of television, including the government's control of the ABC Various banking acts, including the <i>Reserve Bank Act 1957</i>, which separated central banking from other functions. Menzies had to wait until he had control of the Senate to pass these laws The <i>Matrimonial Causes Act 1959</i>, which set in place uniform divorce laws The <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1962</i>, which gave Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia the right to vote in Commonwealth elections The <i>Currency Act 1963</i>, which started the introduction of decimal currency The <i>National Service Act 1965</i>, which introduced a national military service scheme, and was a response to Australia's increasing involvement in the Vietnam War. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some believed that he was arrogant and not fully concerned on leading the Australian people Involvement in the Vietnam War

26 th January 1966 – 19 th December 1967	Harold Holt	Liberal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced Pounds, Shillings, and Pence with Dollars and Cents • 1967 referendum gave the Commonwealth Government power to legislate for Indigenous Australians and allowed their inclusion in the census • Relaxed migration restrictions • Beginning of the dismantling of the 'White Australia' policy • Australia became more interested in China, visited Asian countries several times • Links with the US became stronger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a very strong leader • Lived in the shadow of Menzies • Disappeared while swimming • Resulted in a struggle for leadership in the Liberal Party
10 th January 1968 – 10 th March 1971	John Gorton	Liberal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal Affairs was established • Identified health of the Indigenous Australians as one of four major areas • Aboriginal health units were established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dictatorial leadership • Made rash decisions without discussing them with his cabinet ministers or the public service • Informal style annoyed some members of Parliament and some Liberal supporters • Unable to stop arguments, disagreements and rivalries among members of the Liberal Party • Believed that the Commonwealth Government should become stronger. He wanted the Commonwealth Government to control the minerals and oils found off Australia's coast. This angered state governments.
10 th March 1971 – 5 th December 1972	William McMahon	Liberal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His ministry was the first to have a Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. • Accelerated the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam, announcing on 18 August 1971 the return of the Australian Task Force by December. • Announced program for granting self-government to the Australian territories of Papua New Guinea in April 1971. • Initiated reform of the offshore mining legislation of the Gorton government and dealt with the demarcation issue over the continental shelf between Australia and Indonesia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Liberal Party was no longer a united party. Liberal members of Parliament had different ideas about what the party should be doing and who its leader should be • McMahon was not a strong leader. He did not have the support of many party members • Many voters lost their enthusiasm for the Liberal Party because it did not seem to have worthwhile policies • Australia's economy was in a mess. Inflation was growing quickly. This meant that money was worth less. • The unemployment rate was growing quickly • World-wide problems • McMahon not prepared to take the drastic action required to solve these problems.

5 th December 1972 – 11 th November 1975	Gough Whitlam	Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing opportunities for women, Aboriginal peoples and minority groups Conscription was ended. All Australians were brought back from Vietnam Making Australia more independent from other countries, particularly the US Improving educations, pensions and health and introducing a free health scheme called Medibank Plans were made for improving cities and developing new regions Whitlam recognised Communist China and visited in 1973 The Government spent more money on education, the arts and social welfare Foreign investment was limited Aborigines were given more control over their own affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor not used to being in power. Lack of experience caused many mistakes Unemployment was growing. People thought the government should do more to stop it. Inflation was getting worse. The government's new policies cost millions of dollars The Government tried to raise \$4000 million from the Middle East without asking parliament There were many squabbles in the party. Ministers were dismissed or resigned. Some people thought Whitlam was aloof and determined to push unpopular policies through.
11 th November 1975 – 11 th March 1983	Malcolm Fraser	Liberal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation for Aboriginal land rights in the Northern Territory Introducing SBS multicultural television Establishing the Women's Advisory Council Recommending an end to whaling in Australian waters Proclaiming Kakadu and parts of the Great Barrier Reef as national parks Foreign affairs Government tried to reduce inflation Links with the US were made stronger Uranium was mined Business and investment were encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government spending was reduced. This cut down the amount of money available for social services, the arts, health and education Medibank was made voluntary Unemployment remained a problem
11 th March 1983 – 20 th December 1991	Bob Hawke	Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government spending was cut back to reduce the amount of money Australia owes to other countries Business and investment strongly encouraged Medicare is set up as a scheme for the whole community Strong links with the US were maintained Uranium was mined and sold to foreign governments An agreement, or 'accord' made between government and trade unions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worsening economy Logged old-growth forests Traditional Labor supporters felt that Hawke ignored workers and the poor Less money was available for social services, arts, health and education New taxes were raised. Measures were introduced to stop people avoiding tax Unemployment remains still a problem

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homelessness is a growing problem
20 th December 1991 – 2 nd March 1996	Paul Keating	Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed views which made Australians see themselves as part of the Asia-Pacific region rather than connected with European and American economies Overseeing the Native Title Act as a response to the Mabo Decision (the ending of Terra Nullius) The establishment of the Council for Aboriginal reconciliation (1991) Accelerating the republic debate by establishing a committee to look at how this could be achieved before 2000 Debating the relevance of the Union Jack dominating the Australian flag Confident in himself and his policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach seen by some as 'arrogant' Had greater concern for big-picture issues such as republicanism rather than problems of the ordinary people was used against him in the 1996 Federal election
2 nd March 1996 – 3 rd December 2007	John Howard	Liberal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embodies middle-class values of hard work, decency, thrift and respect for profits, property and authority Government inherited Keating's republic debate and implemented strategies which led to the referendum in November 1999 In economic policy, succeeded in making the electorate give him a mandate to introduce a goods and services tax. Encouraged Australians to become shareholders in government enterprises such as Telstra when they were being privatised. Significant role in the UN-conducted referendum in which the East Timorese people voted for independence from Indonesia Involvement in peacekeeping missions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Troops in Iraq, 'war on terrorism' – concerned with making secure supplies of Middle Eastern oil, which were central to the world economy Continuation of Australian foreign policy following that of the US' and the Australian Government's desire for better trading arrangements with the USA Intervention in Iraq getting greater criticism
3 rd December 2007 –	Kevin Rudd	Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apology to the Stolen Generations Withdrawal of troops from Iraq Recognised Asian countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not recognised Japan as an Asian country