

## Summary

This report discusses the changes that have occurred in the Australian workforce since the end of World War II (1945-2000). A review of some of the available literature provides insights into the changing role of women and migrants in the workforce, and the influence of new technologies and changing levels of unemployment have also been considered.

Key findings include:

- There has been a marked increase in women's participation in the workforce, particularly that of married women.
- While immigration was encouraged in post-war Australia as a way of providing labour for new industries and major projects, the migrant population continues to experience a high rate of unemployment in low-skilled jobs.
- During the period 1945-2000, the nature of work in Australia has changed with a shift from labour-intensive rural and manufacturing industries to 'white collar' industries like tourism and entertainment.
- The number and proportion of unemployed people in Australia has risen dramatically, and factors that influence a person's likelihood of experiencing unemployment include age, proficiency in speaking English, and geographic location.

The information presented in this report has been gathered from secondary sources, and from Australian Bureau of Statistics' data.

The report has been prepared for submission as Unit 4 of the Tertiary Studies Course at Victoria University.

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