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Indonesian police are looking for two suspects after Australians were shot in Bali. Two Australian men were shot at multiple times. One was killed and another critically injured. Indonesian police say they are searching for two Australian men suspected of shooting two Melbourne men, killing one and injuring the other at a villa in Bali. Police identified
the victim as Zivan Radmanovic, 32, from Melbourne and the injured man as Sanar Ghanim, 34, also from Melbourne, who was seriously wounded and taken to intensive care at Sanglah Hospital in Denpasar.Local police chief Arief Batubara said the shooting took place at Villa Casa Santisya near Munggu Beach in the district of Badung.Batubara
confirmed Radmanovic died at the scene. He later said a motive had not been established. According to police, the villa had only three rooms occupied with a total of five guests when the shooting happened. The two victims' wives were also there and another foreign tourist, he said. Radmanovic was shot in a bathroom, where police found 17 bullet
casings and two intact bullets. At least three witnesses at the villa told investigators that two gunmen, one wearing a dark helmet, arrived on a scooter at the villa around midnight. Radmanovic's wife, Gourdeas Jazmyn, 30, told police that she suddenly woke
up when she heard her husband screaming. She cowered under a blanket when she heard multiple gunshots. Jazmyn later found her husband's body and the injured Ghanim, whose wife has also testified to seeing the attackers. A police spokesman Ariasandy said a witness said the pair were heard speaking English with an Australian accent. The
Australian Consulate in Bali has been contacted by authorities and an autopsy for further investigation is still waiting permission from the family of the victim, "We send our deepest condolences to the family at this difficult
time," a spokesperson said."DFAT stands ready to provide consular assistance to another Australian injured in the same incident." Here's everything you need to know about the Australian selection 2025. Source: SBS NewsAnthony Albanese has announced Australian selection 2025. Source: SBS NewsAnthony Albanese has announced Australian selection 2025. Source: SBS NewsAnthony Albanese has announced Australian selection 2025.
Peter Dutton for the nation's top job. With the cost of living crisis at the front of the major parties are entering the election campaign promoting policies they argue will alleviate financial strain without exacerbating inflation. In the
lead-up to the vote, here are all your questions answered. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has officially announced the date Australians will head to the polls as 3 May. "Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May." Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May. "Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May." Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May. "Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May." Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May. "Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May." Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May. "Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May." Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May. "Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May." Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May. "Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May." Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May. "Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May." Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will head to the polls as 3 May. "Over the last few years, the world has thrown a lot at Australians will have a lot at Australians will h
the challenges that we face, but we can determine how we respond. "Now on 3 May, you choose the way forward." Parliament was dissolved on the same day and the government is now in caretaker mode. Every three years, the Australian prime minister will call a federal election. Because there are no fixed terms or election dates, forecasting when this
will happen is a guessing game. Generally, the prime minister will call an election at a time that's politically advantageous for them. Elections are held on Saturdays, and candidates need to be given at least 33 days' notice of the poll. When the prime minister decides to call an election, a few steps need to happen. First, the prime minister needs to tell
the representative of the King, the governor-general terminates the governor-general instructs the independent electoral body, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), to conduct an election, which includes
setting dates for nominations, electoral rolls, and, of course, election day. Then, the writs are issued. The federal election will take place on 3 May, with polling booths open from 8am to 6pm. Voting locations are typically set up at local schools, church halls, or community centres. Voting is mandatory for all Australian citizens aged 18 and over. Writs
will be issued within 10 days of the parliament's dissolution, which took place on 28 March. Enrolment closes seven days after the writs are issued. To enrol to vote, you need to be 18 or older. If you've moved since 2022, remember to update your address as well. Voting is compulsory in Australia. To vote, you must be registered on the electoral roll.
You can check your enrolment here. If you're not enrolled, there's still time to do so. The electoral roll will close seven days after the issue of writs, which must happen within 10 days of the parliament's dissolution. Typically, a majority of Australians will head to a local polling place on election day (3 May) to cast their votes. However, this is not a
requirement, as if you're unable to vote on election day itself, you're welcome to vote in person in the two weeks leading up to the election or via a postal vote. You can find your electorate — for example, if you are travelling or working — on 3 May, you still
need to vote. Early voting centres will open across the country progressively from Tuesday, 22 April. Locations and addresses will become available closer to the early voting period. You may also be eligible to apply for a postal vote, which means your ballot papers will be sent to you in the mail. You can apply for a postal vote now via the AEC.If you
are not going to be in Australia in the lead-up to the election, you may be able to vote in overseas voting centres, which are usually in Australia membassies, high commissions and consulates. You can find out more about overseas voting centres here. The AEC also offers mobile voting in some locations to cater for people who cannot attend an in-person
polling place. This can include people in residential aged care, hospitals, mental health facilities, prisons, homelessness services, and First Nations communities. Mobile voting schedules for the 2025 federal election have not yet been finalised. As Prime Minister Anthony Albanese makes his case for a second term in office, here's everything you need
to know about his life and political career. 1. He became prime minister in May 2022, as Australia started to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, ending almost a decade of Coalition government. 2. Before securing the top job, he had been in parliament for over a quarter of a century, mostly as a member for the inner-western Sydney seat of
Grayndler.3. Known widely as "Albo", the 61-year-old father-of-one has traditionally aligned himself with Labor's left; however, as prime minister, he has adopted more centrist positions, analysts say.4. He joined the Labor Party at age 16 and says his working-class roots have shaped his political values.5. When taking office, Albanese said his
government's areas of focus would be the cost of living, bolstering Indigenous rights, and tougher climate action. Since taking office, Albanese has had to navigate a complex mix of domestic and international issues — including a cost of living crisis, a worldwide inflation surge, and the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Legislative setbacks, rising interest
rates and living costs, as well as concerns over housing affordability, have impacted Albanese's government, while Labor says it has given cost of living relief through tax cuts, energy bill relief and an increase to paid parental leave. Peter Dutton is seeking to defy almost 100 years of political history by defeating Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and
unseating his first-term government. Here's a rundown of his life and career.1. He has served as the leader of the Liberal Party since 2022 after it suffered its worst electoral loss since 2001.3. The 54-year-old has held several
significant positions in successive Coalition governments, including stints as the Minister for Home Affairs, Health and Defence.4. A married father of three, Dutton was a police officer and businessman before entering politics.5. He is known for his conservative views on issues such as national security, immigration, and law and order. Before his times a police officer and businessman before entering politics.
in Canberra, Dutton was a small business owner who also had a long career in law enforcement. In 1988, he joined the Queensland Police Force (now Service) where he worked as an officer for several years before becoming a detective. He later studied at the Australian Federal Police College, and held positions in the National Crime Authority and
Drug and Sex Offenders' Squads. He often credits his background in policing as playing a critical role in shaping his views on issues such as security and immigration. Adam Bandt has framed the upcoming election as a choice between progressive policies that make people's lives better, or a US-style shift to the right. 1. Bandt has been the leader of
the Australian Greens since 2020 and a member of parliament since 2010.2. He was the first Greens candidate to win a seat in a general election for the House of Representatives.3. The 52-year-old has framed the upcoming election for the House of Representatives.3.
government.4. During his time at university, he was a member of the Left Alliance, a national organisation of socialist, feminist, and progressive students.5. Under his leadership, the Greens have come up with what they refer to as a series of "Robin Hood-style" policies to take to the election, which would tax the super-rich to free up money for the
cost of living issues. He eventually became a partner at the firm Slater & Gordon, where he specialised in industrial law and represented several unions. After going part-time in 2008, he completed a PhD at Monash University. If Peter Dutton becomes Australia's next prime minister, David Littleproud would be in the running to become his deputy.
Here's a basic rundown of the National Party leader's life and career. 1. He was elected to lead the National Party in May 2022, after Labor's win, succeeding Barnaby Joyce. 2. He has represented the Queensland seat of Maranoa in the House of Representatives since 2016. 3. Throughout his career, Littleproud has been an advocate for regional
Australian communities, often stressing the importance of agriculture and calling for more infrastructure development.4. A father of three, Littleproud worked as a farm manager and businessman before entering
office in 2016, Littleproud worked as an agribusiness banker with the National Australia Bank (NAB) and Suncorp, where he focused on rural and agricultural finance. He lived and worked in several rural towns, including Miles, Nanango, Charleville, St George, Stanthorpe and Warwick. The Australia Labor Party — or ALP — is Australia's oldest
political party. The ALP is synonymous with Australia's labour and union movement, being born from the "great shearer strikes in western Queensland in the 1890s", according to Wayne Swan, former treasurer and the party's current national president. Back then, working conditions were tough, so trade unions, which are organised groups of workers,
were formed. They wanted their demands taken seriously by the government, so they formed the Labor Party in 1901. At the start, Labor's policies were focused on working wage. In its early days, it was a strong advocate for the 'White Australia Policy' and was
largely against immigration. But these days, the party's priorities have shifted. Labor fills the space of the more progressive party out of the two main contenders, and is considered centre-left. Senior lecturer at the Australian National University's School of Politics and International Relations, Jill Sheppard, says the party is rooted in unions. "Sometimes
when we think we'd expect Labor to be a bit more progressive on some issues, or maybe a bit more pro-immigration, we can sometimes explain that by drawing on their history of being really trade union representatives," she tells SBS News. The Labor Party says it also represents the working class and workers' rights in Australia, rooted in strong
union ties. "We are a party that is proudly of the union movement and associated with the union movement is a participant in our party, but many are. "The ethos of unionism, the solidarity that comes from it, looking after your mate, if you like, always been
having an eye out for those that are more vulnerable, and lending them a helping hand lies at the very core of unionism, but also at the very core of unionism, but also at the very core ethos of the Labor Party. "At its core, the Labor Party believes the government has a role in "spreading" opportunity, according to Swan. He says it's what you'd call a party of big government. "We
fundamentally believe that government has got a role to play in creating prosperity and then spreading the opportunity," he said. "So we see a significant role for government intervention in the economy, in clear contrast to the number of conservative parties over the past 100 years that have argued for essentially a survival of the fittest mentality on
their side of politics, small government, regressive tax, a very sparse social safety net. "Sheppard says over the last 15 years, the party would be proud of its social achievements." We might look at things like the apology to the Stolen Generations, we might look at things like the apology to the Stolen Generations, we might look at things like the apology to the Stolen Generations, we might look at constant minimum wage increases, things that don't always sound very exciting, but they
are the important business of governing the country, making sure that there is a safety net for the worst off Australians," she said. Some of its biggest achievements include: Introducing universal healthcare in 1974 (first known as Medibank, now Medicare) The Native Title Act of 1993 Setting up the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the NDIS, in
2013As we head into the election, Swan says it's not going to be easy for Labor. "There's been no government in the last couple of years that's been re-elected internationally induced. So it's a tough environment to go to the people. "This election,
Labor's policies include: Cutting student debtMaking childcare cheaperImproving MedicareInvesting in renewable energySo how does the party stack up to its original manifesto? Sheppard says there's been a lot of change. "The Labor Party of today is obviously very different to 150 years ago," she said. "What that means for them now is that they are
expected to both represent workers and represent people who want, you know, a progressive, sort of socially liberal, multicultural Australia. "Formed in 1944, the Liberal Party was born in response to the Labor Party.Dr Jill Sheppard, senior lecturer at The Australian National University's School of Politics and International Relations, said there was a
simple idea behind it. "The Liberal Party really just formed in response to the Labor Party, and that has shaped not only sort of their history, but it also shapes where they are at the moment," she told SBS News.Robert Menzies, the founding member of the Liberal Party, was very strong on the idea of individual choice. His assessment was that the
Labor Party had been born out of the union movement and that no-one spoke for people who were self-employed and the middle class. A bunch of other people thought the same thing, so they banded together to form the Liberal Party was conceived to represent the
broad mainstream of Australia in those days, not organised labour, and it certainly wasn't designed to represent the big end of town either," he told SBS News.In 1949, the Liberal Party won its first election, partnering up with the Country Party of Australia, making Robert Menzies prime minister. "He [Robert Menzies] was hugely successful at
creating and sort of driving this sense of purpose that represented an Australian society that made sense to a lot of people, and he called these he's forgotten people, and he called the cal
working man is often looked after by his trade union," Brandis said. "But middle-class people, professional people, farmers, artisans, those sorts of people have no-one to look after them. So that was the original base of the Liberal Party. "Menzies was a strong advocate of the 1901 Immigration Restriction Act — more commonly
known as the 'White Australia Policy'. But in 1966, the Liberal Party changed laws, paving the way to abolish the policy. The Liberal Party is considered to be the more conservative of the two major parties, leaning right. And since the party is more politically conservative than liberal, the name might seem a bit confusing. While in other parts of the
world, parties that oppose labour are often called conservative, Brandis said that was not the original intent of the party, because he wasn't a conservative, he was a classical liberal," he said. But Sheppard said there is a
does, the better," she said. "The conservative stream of the Liberal Party does think that government is okay. They're much less resistant to the idea that government can solve our problems. "Nowadays, the Liberal Party traditionally seeks a "smaller, quieter Australia", Sheppard said. "But what they are less happy about are things like same-sex
marriage, open borders, you know, international students. They want a smaller, quieter Australia that looks more like it did in the 1960s," she said. "It's an incredibly different set of principles that the Liberal Party is trying to manage. Under Peter Dutton, the party feels quite conservative. It feels like a party that just wants us to live quietly, does not
want to rock the boat too much."The Liberal Party teams up with the Nationals in a coalition to form a government. Brandis describes it as a "functional" and "necessary" relationship. "The National Party, though, is a very different beast from the Liberal Party," he said. Sheppard said the party would be proud of its economic
achievements."Liberalisation of the economy, you know, the ability for anyone in the middle class or working class to move up in society, to own their occupation or to what their parents did," she explains. "They would say that is their core
achievement over the last 30 years. "Some of the most well-known Liberal Party policies include: Resettling Vietnamese refugees after the Port Arthur massacre in 1996. And creating Operation Sovereign Borders in 2013. For this year's
election, the Liberal Party's slogan is 'Get Australia Back on Track'. Building Australia's first nuclear reactorsBeing tough on crime Reducing wasteful spending, including cutting public service jobsReducing manifesto? Pretty well, Sheppard said. "Weirdly, I think the Liberal Party is probably
closer to its original party than the Labor Party is. "Even though they've never had a strong sense of purpose necessarily, apart from opposing Labor, there's always been tension between conservatives and liberals inside the Liberal Party. That was the case in 1944 when the party was founded and it's the case today. "In just three decades, the Greens
have transformed from what was essentially an environmental protest movement to Australia's third-largest party by vote. At the 2022 election, the federal Australian Greens are looking to achieve even greater success on 3
May, capitalising on the bloc of generally more progressive gen Z and millennial voters, who outnumber baby boomers for the first time this election. "We're getting a terrific response on the doors, the streets and the polling booths to our plan to get dental and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis, make child careful and mental health into Medicare, finally tackle the housing and rental crisis and the housing and rental crisis and the housing and tackle 
free, and stop opening up new coal and gas mines in the middle of a climate crisis," the member for Melbourne says. Rodney Smith, a professor of Australian politics from the University of Sydney, says the Greens have been able to position themselves quite successfully as an alternative for disenchanted Labor voters who are looking for a more solid.
leftist, or progressive policy package. Key promises from the Greens include: Cancelling all student HECS debt. Expanding Medicare to cover dental. Banning new coal and gas projects. Introducing higher taxes on billionaires and big corporations. They've also unveiled a national plan to provide free school meals. But Greens MP Max Chandler-Mather,
the party's housing and homelessness spokesperson, says housing is the "defining issue" of the election. The party has put forward its own measures to tackle the housing crisis, including discounted mortgage rates and capping rents. "There's certainly a lot of people voting Greens for the first time in their lives because we're the only party with
policies to make housing affordable," Mather says. Jill Sheppard, a professor of Australian Politics at the Australian National University, says the Greens can't form government on their own, their policies are more an indication of how party members may vote on legislation, she says, and
the number of seats they secure will determine how much power they'll wield over legislation in the upper house. "Although we focus on the House of Representatives, particularly around an election because that's where government is won and lost, the Senate is still really important for passing legislation after the election," Sheppard says. "There, the
Greens have held the balance of power for quite a while. They are very experienced Senate negotiators, and so even if they are sidelined in some kind of independent Labor minority government, they will still be strong in this election, meaning it's
likely the party will retain its powerful 11-seat upper house voting bloc. In the House of Representatives, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has insisted he won't do a deal with the Greens to form government if Labor fails to win a majority. The Coalition has frequently raised the prospect of a Labor-Greens alliance as a point of concern for voters,
pointing out that the Greens and Labor usually recommend that voters put the other party in the second position on how-to-vote cards. Sheppard says that, if Labor falls short of the 76 seats it needs for a majority, it will likely first look to independents to form government. "They probably feel like they can work with [Independents] more easily ...
without offering the Greens a spot in cabinet, which would be about the worst-case scenario for the ALP," Sheppard says. "The major parties want you to think that a hung parliament isn't bad. "We saw between 2010 and 2013 a minority government last
the full term quite successfully. "The relationship between the Greens and Labor has never been a particularly happy one," Smith says. "Initially, it was because there was a
tension between Labor's union base and many of the environmental concerns and policies of the Greens. "More recently, it's had to do with that trend of left voters moving their support away from the Labor Party to the Greens, and the Greens, and the Greens using their position to pressure Labor to shift its legislative agenda in a more progressive direction." The
Greens are defending their record number of lower house seats, three of which turned Green for the last election, shocking both major parties. All three were inner-city Brisbane electorates. Griffith was won from Labor, while Brisbane and Ryan flipped from the Liberal National Party. Ryan, once considered a rock-solid Liberal seat, is
now a key battleground the Coalition is determined to reclaim. "The LNP thinks they own that seat. I ousted them in 2022. They didn't see us coming now," Greens member for Ryan Elizabeth Watson-Brown says. Watson-Brown says she's faced verbal abuse and her signs have been vandalised throughout her
campaign. She blamed far-right groups who "want to oust [her] from the seat" and said she's also concerned about the misinformation and disinformation and disinformation that's being spread about her. Labor has pledged tax cuts if they win the election, with the average earner getting $268 back in their pocket by 2026, according to the treasurer. Earnings between
$18,201 and $45,000 are currently taxed at 16 per cent, and this will fall to 15 per cent in 2026-27 and 14 per cent in 2027-28, Labor said. The party has also pledged to increase access to childcare and a $1 billion fund for 160 new childcare centres. Labor said they would spend $8.5 billion on increasing bulk-billing rates at GPs, and an extension
of the energy rebate until the end of 2025 which will save households $150. The Coalition has agreed to both of these policies. The Coalition said there would be allowed
to use more of their superannuation towards a house deposit, and the Coalition said it would invest $5 billion into essential infrastructure to "unlock up to 500,000 new homes". The party would restore the number of mental health sessions subsidised by Medicare from 10 to 20. It said it would allow businesses with a turnover of less than $10 million a
year to claim a tax deduction of up to $20,000 for business-related meal and entertainment expenses and increase the instant asset write-off for small and medium businesses from $20,000 to $30,000. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Opposition leader Peter Dutton have spent the last few weeks pledging billions of dollars in commitments as they
try to sell voters their vision for Australia's future. Here's an overview of the major national pledges so far. Scroll down as we've covered topics including Health, Small Business and Industrial Relations, Housing, the Cost of Living, Defence, Indigenous Affairs, Young People, Energy, and Migration. Labor hopes to incentivise more doctors to bulk bill
patients as part of an $8.5 billion boost to Medicare, which also includes $400 million to train more nurses and doctors. The government will also open an extra 50 urgent care clinics — on top of the 87 already operating — by June 2026, at a cost of $644 million. Women suffering from endometriosis, pelvic pain or menopause will have access to more nurses and doctors. The government will also open an extra 50 urgent care clinics — on top of the 87 already operating — by June 2026, at a cost of $644 million. Women suffering from endometriosis, pelvic pain or menopause will have access to more nurses and doctors. The government will also open an extra 50 urgent care clinics — on top of the 87 already operating — by June 2026, at a cost of $644 million. Women suffering from endometriosis, pelvic pain or menopause will have access to more nurses and doctors. The government will also open an extra 50 urgent care clinics — on top of the 87 already operating — by June 2026, at a cost of $644 million. Women suffering from endometriosis, pelvic pain or menopause will have access to more nurses and doctors. The government will also open an extra 50 urgent care clinics — on top of the 87 already open and extra 50 urgent care clinics.
specialised clinics as well as cheaper medicines, with Labor pledging a $573 million boost to women's health. The government has promised to cap the cost of most prescriptions to $25 (currently $31.60) — and $7.70 for concession card holders — by January 2026. Labor will also expand access to free mental health support as part of a $1 billion
investment in mental health services. The Coalition has matched Labor's Medicare promise, with a $9 billion commitment including $400 million towards youth mental health. The Coalition has also promised to go ahead with cuts to the price of
medicines on the PBS as well as boost funding to women's health care. The Greens want to expand Medicare to include dental care and mental health. The Coalition has pledged to make the small business instant asset write-off a permanent tax deduction, boosting it to $30,000 for businesses with a turnover of up to $10 million. Dutton also wants to
increase the number of small businesses in Australia by 350,000 over four years by offering tax incentives that encourage reinvestment. Under the entrepreneurship accelerator scheme, businesses would pay tax on 75 per cent of their first $100,000 of taxable income, and on 50 per cent of the second $100,000. The ratio of tax paid will increase in the
to the $20,000 instant asset write-off for small businesses but has not committed to making it permanent. Labor will expand its 5 per cent deposit scheme so that every first home buyer is eligible. The government will act as a guarantor for buyers to purchase with a smaller deposit (instead of the usual 20 per cent) saving them from having to pay
lenders' mortgage insurance. There will be no income limits or caps on places. It will also build 100,000 new affordable homes exclusively for first home buyers with construction to start in 2026/27. More first home buyers will be able to access the Help to Buy shared equity loan scheme, which allows them to buy with a deposit of 2 per cent if they are
homelessness. Labor hopes to speed up the construction of homes as part of its existing target to build 1.2 million homes by 2029, pledging $626 million towards apprentices in housing construction will receive an extra $10,000 at intervals, with the first payment at six months and the last when they
complete their training. For Australians struggling to put together a deposit, a Dutton-led government would allow Australians to access $50,000 of their superannuation to buy a first home. The Coalition argues this scheme is important for women fleeing violence, who could access their super to buy a home and restart their lives. It has also pledged $50,000 of their superannuation to buy a first home. The Coalition argues this scheme is important for women fleeing violence, who could access their superannuation to buy a first home. The Coalition argues this scheme is important for women fleeing violence, who could access their superannuation to buy a first home. The Coalition argues this scheme is important for women fleeing violence, who could access their superannuation to buy a first home. The Coalition argues this scheme is important for women fleeing violence, who could access $50,000 of their superannuation to buy a first home. The Coalition argues this scheme is important for women fleeing violence, who could access the first home. The Coalition argues this scheme is important for women fleeing violence, and the first home fleeing violence is a first home. The coalition argues this scheme is a first home for women fleeing violence, and the first home fleeing violence is a first home. The coalition argues the first home fleeing violence is a first home for which it is a first home. The coalition argues the first home fleeing violence is a first home for which it is a first home. The coalition argues the first home fleeing violence is a first home for which it is a first home. The coalition argues the first home fleeing violence is a first home for which it is a first home. The coalition argues the first home fleeing violence is a first home fleeing violence is a first home. The coalition argues the first home fleeing violence is a first home fleeing violence is a first home. The coalition argues the first home fleeing violence is a first home fleeing violence is a first home. The coalition argues have a f
billion for building infrastructure such as sewerage and water to support the construction of 500,000 new homes. First home buyers will also be allowed to claim tax deductions on interest payments against the first $650,000 of their mortgage. The scheme will be available for the first five years for those who purchase a newly built home. Businesses
employing apprentices in areas where there's a skills shortage can get $12,000 a year for the first two years. Dutton says the housing crisis has been exacerbated by record levels of migration, peaking at 536,000 in 2022-23. Both major parties support a two-year ban on foreign investors from buying established homes, a policy that came into effect on
1 April 2025. The Coalition will also scrap the government's $10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund, which aims to deliver 55,000 social and affordable homes over five years. The Greens will make housing a priority in the event of a hung parliament, calling for reforms to negative gearing and the 50 per cent capital gains tax (CGT) discount. Under
its proposal, existing investors who negatively gear properties will be allowed to continue doing so, but new investors will only be allowed to negatively gear one property in the future. CGT would be phased out. The minor party is also pledging to freeze rents for two years, then cap future increases at 2 per cent every two years. The Albanese
government committed $4 billion towards the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children with bipartisan support in 2022. However, victim-survivors and advocates have criticised both major parties for giving the issue minimal attention throughout the election campaign. Domestic violence offenders will appear on a new National
Domestic Violence Register if the Coalition is elected, allowing police and relevant agencies to share vital information. New laws would also crack down on perpetrators using mobile phones and computer networks to cause an intimate partner or family member to fear for their safety. It includes pledges to increase crisis helpline support and a royal
commission into sexual abuse in Indigenous communities. However, there are no timelines or clear commitments regarding how the $90 million package for women fleeing violence and hoping to buy a new home, a Dutton-led government would allow access to $50,000 of their superannuation for a
deposit. Labor is focusing on financial abuse and violence prevention, with $8.6 million towards initiatives including electronic monitoring and ankle bracelets for high-risk perpetrators. They will also look at making perpetrators from
receiving their victim's superannuation after death. Acknowledging the root cause of violent behaviours among men and young boys, intensive behaviour change programs will get a boost under a re-elected Labor government. Labor has also committed $100 million to refurbish and build more crisis and transitional housing for women leaving domestic
violence or at risk of homelessness. The Greens' $15 billion package includes a $1 billion annual investment in frontline response services, housing and recovery programs over the next 12 years. They also seek to double the Escaping Violence Payment to $10,000 to cover expenses such as relocation, bond, food, clothing and medical needs. In addition,
the government legislated two tax cuts for all Australian taxpayers. This means anyone earning more than $45,000 will save $268 in 2026/27 and $536 the year after. The Coalition has vowed to repeal the measure. Every taxpayer would also be eligible to claim an instant $1,000 tax deduction for work expenses, without needing to fill out paperwork or
submit receipts. The government will also make medicines more affordable by capping most PBS prescriptions to $25 by January 2026 and $7.70 for concession card holders. The Coalition has matched Labor's promise for cheaper medicines. It will also provide a one-off $1,200 tax offset to everyone earning between $48,000 and $104,000 when they
lodge their 2025-26 tax return. Motorists can also expect to save money at the bowser, with a temporary fuel excise cut from 50 cents to 25 cents a litre, and is estimated to save a one-car household an average of $14 a week or roughly $700 over one year. Dutton says he also
has an aspiration to tackle bracket creep — so that personal income tax brackets rise regularly in line with measures like inflation — which would only be looked at after the budget is in order and he has not provided a timeframe for this. Greens are pushing for a $29 billion early
childhood package, which would give families access to 50 hours of free childcare a week and extend pre-school to 30 hours a week for all three and four-year-olds. Its policy platform includes capping rental increases and making unlimited rent rises illegal, wiping student debt, and heavily subsidising public transport so that buses, trains, ferries and
tram trips only cost 50 cents. It plans to raise $514 billion to fund these commitments by introducing a 10 per cent tax on excess profits for corporations with over $100 million in turnover. Dutton is yet to pledge a defence spending target but is expected to make an announcement ahead of Anzac
Day. The Coalition has already promised to spend $3 billion on 28 extra fighter jets, increasing Australia's fleet of F-35s from 72 to 100. Both major parties have remained largely quiet about policies affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout the campaign. The Coalition has promised a royal commission into sexual abuse in
Indigenous communities and an audit into government spending on Indigenous affairs, according to a document detailing its party's policies. It has also pledged to reintroduce compulsory income management via the cashless debit card and an inquiry into land councils. Dutton, who opposed the Voice to Parliament, had promised to hold a referendum
on symbolic constitutional recognition, such as mentioning Indigenous history in the preamble of Australia's constitution, but later backed away from the idea. In the March budget, Labor set aside $1.3 billion for Closing the Gap initiatives. This included $70.9 million on boosting the number of first nations homeowners, $23.9 million on creating
employment opportunities and growth for first nations businesses, and $21.8 million for family, domestic and sexual violence services. During the second leader's debate, the prime minister argued schemes like Labor's free TAFE had real jobs and training outcomes — benefiting over 40,000 Indigenous people. As part of Labor's Medicare boost, two
new Headspace centres will be built in remote communities. There is no mention of further reforms pushed for as part of the Uluru Statement of the Heart — including a treaty or truth-telling process — following the failure of the Australian
people in that referendum," the prime minister said during the second leaders' debate. The Greens want to establish a National Truth and Justice Commission to acknowledge the ongoing injustices experienced by First Nations people. Its policy platform includes a plan to revive First Nations languages, pledging $14 million to schools and First Nations
teachers. The government will also establish 100,000 fee-free TAFE places from 2027, and increase the income threshold at which students are required to start paying back their loans. Apprentices in housing construction will receive an extra $10,000 paid in $2,000 instalments at regular intervals, starting at six months and finishing when they
complete their training. The government has upped it's mental health investment by $1 billion, but will not increase the number of psychology sessions. They plan to establish 21 new youth specialist centres for more complex issues, on top of a pledge to expand, upgrade or build 58 Headspace centres. Dutton has pledged $400 million towards mental
health, particularly youth mental health and expanding services such as Headspace which assists 12 to 25-year-olds. The Coalition's plan includes reinstating 20 free Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions per year. It plans to cap new international student enrolments to 240,000 a year, a reduction of roughly 80,000 from 2023 levels. It's a bid to ease
housing pressures impacting young people. The Greens have vowed to make education free and wipe all student debt. The minor party is pushing for all psychology sessions to be subsidised as part of their bid to make mental health part of Medicare. Labor will also offer households a 30 per cent discount on solar power batteries as part of a $2.3 billion
pledge.It has a target for renewables — like solar and wind — to make up 82 per cent of the energy grid by 2030. More transmission lines to transport electricity across the country will also be built. It has also pledged to flood the energy market with more gas to drive down power bills. This includes fast-tracking new gas projects (including a decision
within 30 days on Western Australia's North West Shelf project), halving approval times and imposing a levy on gas companies who prioritise exporters to set aside gas for use in Australia will drive down household bills by 7 per cent and for industrial users by 15 per cent,
according to modelling by Frontier Economics. The Greens oppose new coal and gas projects as well as nuclear power. They support the electrification of households and businesses to drive down power bills and reduce emissions. The minor party proposes grants of up to $1,000 and low-interest loans of up to $20,000 to install technologies such as
induction cooktops, as well as similar grants for installing solar in households. Dutton has confirmed a Coalition government will cut net overseas migration by 100,000 places. It plans to cut permanent migration by 25 per cent, shrinking the intake from 180,000 per
year to 135,000 — a reduction of 45,000 visas. A cap on public university enrolments by 25 per cent from 2026 would also apply. The changes will result in 30,000 fewer new students every year than under Labor's plan. Dutton has previously said he could not provide details about which programs would be cut before election day but has confirmed the
Coalition would not cut the annual parent visa intake, which Labor increased from 4,500 to 8,500 when it came to government. Labor will continue its current plans to reduce migration as per Treasury forecasts, with no new announcements throughout the campaign. This forced the government to pass ministerial direction 111, which has enabled it to
reduce numbers by slowing visa processing and assigning quotas for international students to each university. Education Minister Jason Clare told SBS Malayalam executive producer Deeju Sivadas there is no official cap but the ministerial direction would be used to get international student numbers back to where they were pre-pandemic. United
States President Donald Trump has become an outsized figure on the world stage, and his political influence is being seen in many countries, including Australia. But there was a reference to his impact. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese also alluded to Trump's presence during a press conference on Friday, during which he announced the date for the
people will have a look at the mass sackings of public servants. "He dismissed the comments, saying: "The sledge-a-thon is on by the prime minister because he doesn't have a good story to tell about his three years in government." Since Trump regained the US presidency, he has once again become a ubiquitous figure on the world stage. Zareh
Ghazarian, a political scientist from Monash University, said: "The presence of Donald Trump transcends boundaries."He's a figure of such interest in politics and international relations that I can't imagine a liberal democracy or a country in which he's not talked about. Australia's political system can be described as a constitutional monarchy,
governed by a representative parliamentary democracy. The monarchy part is due to Australia being a member of the British Commonwealth, meaning it doesn't have a president and — instead — the head of state of Australia is technically the United Kingdom's King Charles. Australia, although ruled by the King, is an independent country having
achieved full sovereignty from the UK in 1986. So now the King only plays a small, mostly symbolic role through his representative, the government. They are the federal parliament, the state or territory parliaments, and local municipal councils. Each of these has different duties
but the most senior decision-making body in Australia is the federal parliament in Canberra. Every three years, a federal election is called and Australians can vote for the candidates to represent them in parliament. Then, the party or coalition of parties that wins a majority of seats in what's called the House of Representatives forms a government and
appoints a prime minister. The federal parliament is made up of two chambers: the House of Representatives, and the Senate is a house of review. In practice, for the government to pass a law, a bill must be
introduced in the House of Representatives, then pass through the Senate, and finally approved by the government has shifted back and forth from the centre-left party, Labor, to the centre-right Liberal-National Coalition. Aside from the major parties though, then
support for independent politicians and minor parties has risen steadily over the past 40 years, according to The Australia Institute. These minor parties include the left-wing One Nation Party which has two senators. They sit on what's called the crossbench,
positioned between both parties in the House of Representatives and the Senate, playing an important role in drafting and debating legislation. At this election, Australians will be electing all 150 members of the House of Representatives, otherwise known as
MPs, have three-year terms in office and represent local electorate is a geographical area and is represented by one member of parliament. Now, all those areas, geographical areas, are different sizes because each
electorate has roughly the same number of electors inside it, so one member of parliament represents one electorate. "And with the Senate, it's a little different. Each state has 12 senators, regardless of population size, while the Northern Territory and the ACT each have two senators. Senators typically have six-year terms, but they are staggered so
that roughly half of the Senate is up for election in each voting cycle. Being a politician is a job with a unique hiring process, given candidates must win over voters instead of simply submitting a resume and attending an interview. It also comes with no guarantee of long-term employment, as parliamentarians typically serve fixed terms. But who is even
allowed to run for office, and what does it take to become a politician?SBS News spoke to Luke Beck, a professor of constitution sets out some basic requirements for anyone looking to enter parliament and important exclusions. You
have to be over 18, an Australian citizen, You can't have a public servant, You can't have any allegiance to a foreign power That last one is the trickiest — because it counts out dual
citizens. The requirement made headlines in 2017 when 15 MPs and senators were caught up in what became known as the section 44 saga. Many of those impacted were unaware they even held foreign citizenship, which they had inherited through birth or ancestry. Since then, no further politicians have been disqualified under section 44, but the
issue continues to surface in political debates. With a term only lasting three years, incumbent governments have a short period to achieve their agenda before the next election. So why does Australia have shorter parliamentary terms than other countries such as the United States and Germany? In 1901, at federation, the constitution established the
Australian parliament. The view then was that three years was the optimal term to create consistency with the existing colonial parliaments of each jurisdiction. While every state and territory now has four-year election cycles, the federal calendar remains unchanged. Prime ministers generally serve the full length of their three-year term unless they
lose the majority of the House or are replaced as the leader of their party. There is no fixed number of terms and are up for election over
six years or two election cycles. The difference in the terms of senators and members of the House of Representatives reflects the distinctions between them. Senators represent the whole of their state, a much larger number of people than members of the House of Representatives. A six-year term gives them more time to work for the people they
represent. There is a possibility that no-one will really win the federal election. Polls show a minority government or 'hung' parliament is a possibility, which means leaders of the major parties (Labor and the Liberal/National Coalition) will have to gain the support of enough crossbenchers — made up of independents, Greens and members of other
minor parties — to form government. Paul Williams, an associate professor of politics and journalism at Griffith University, said: "We are staring down the barrel of minority government this time." Graeme Orr, an electoral law expert from The University of Queensland, said as the primary vote of the major parties slipped below 30 per cent, there was a
higher chance politicians who were not members of the major parties would be elected."I think we have to be more adult about it and accept the fact that not only [will there be] more minority government is by winning a majority
of the seats in the House of Representatives, also known as the lower house. At this election, 150 seats will be needed for an outright majority. But getting fewer seats than this can still lead to a party being in power if it can gain support from enough crossbenchers to reach at least 76 seats. The lowest form of support that
minor parties and independents can offer a government is confidence and supply. "The one thing that can bring down a government that allow the government to spend money, also known as "supply". "The one thing that can bring down a government that
otherwise has numbers is if it can't get the budget through parliament," Orr said. He said the MPs would reserve the right to block other legislation they disagreed with. In Australia, federal elections operate under the preferential voting system allowing for the reflection of the number and diversity of smaller parties. It differs from the first past-the-
post system used in countries such as the United States, the United States, the United States, the United States, the United States on their ballot paper for both houses of parliament according to their preferences. It is employed when no one candidate or party wins outright, based on first-preference
votes. Ultimately, it highlights a person's vote can still be counted, even if their first choice of candidate is eliminated due to a lack of votes. On polling day, the House of Representatives ballot paper is green while the Senate ballot paper is green while the Senate ballot paper is day, the House of Representatives ballot paper is green while the Senate ballot paper is day, the House of Representatives ballot paper is green while the Senate ballot paper is green while the Sena
secures an absolute majority of primary votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is then eliminated from the count. The voter is second preference. This counting process continues until one candidate has more than half of the formal
votes cast or an absolute majority and is therefore declared elected. There are two systems of preferential voting that elect the two sides of parliament - the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the Senate is elected for each contest. The voter must simply number the boxes according to their preferences. In the Senate, a single representative is elected for each contest.
multiple representatives are chosen for each state, and the system is a little more complex. The voter has two choices in which they can number at least
six boxes. Preferences are still in place with your vote endorsing the declared preferences of the party, allowing the voter to number at least twelve boxes of candidates. According to the AEC, around 5 per cent of votes are considered
'informal' because people have made mistakes in how they voted, and those votes will not be counted towards the election result, Some key mistakes to avoid include repeating a number on a ballot paper, skipping a number and not numbering all of the boxes."You've got to decide between your most favourite and your least favourite, even if there's a
few that you think are your equal least favourite, you've got to decide between them to make sure that your vote will be counted," Mr Ekin-Smyth said. "If you miss a box on the House of Representatives ballot paper, you risk having it not being heard." You may have heard of preference deals — where a political party agrees to give another party its
vote if they are knocked out of contention during the counting process. AEC spokesperson Pat Callanan said this is a "historical hangover" and these deals are not as powerful as they once were. Until 2016, voters could mark only one number next to a party in the Senate. This allowed the party to decide where votes would go, according to preference
deals they made with other parties. However, parliament passed reforms and changed the voter, according to Callanan. Parties can now only offer suggestions on their how to vote cards, which recommend how they would like voters to rank candidates. These cards are
handed out at polling booths by volunteers from different political parties."It's up to the voter if you want to follow that or not," Callanan said. Australia has one of the largest ballot papers in the world, meaning voters will have their work cut out for them at the 2025 federal election. In past state and federal elections, some ballots have measured over
a metre long from the sheer number of candidates and parties running. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) oversees the ballot paper is often large due to Australia's mixed voting systems used in both state and federal
elections. The House of Representatives and the Senate both use preferential voting, but there are differences in how it operates in each house. Candidates from 1, 2, 3, and so on, based on their preference. If a
candidate gets more than 50 per cent of the first-preference votes, they win. If no-one gets more than 50 per cent, the candidate must reach a guota of votes. The guota is
calculated based on the total number of votes cast and the number of seats up for election. When a candidate ets enough first-preference votes to reach the quota, they are elected. If no-one reaches the quota, they are elected the quota, they are elected. If no-one reaches the quota, they are elected the q
the seats are filled. In Senate elections, voters may rank parties or individual candidates, which can lead to a longer Senate ballot. The Senate ballot is especially large because many parties and candidates run, especially in states with multiple members. At election time you can either vote above the line for a party or below the line for individual
candidates, which are all listed separately. If voting above the line, voters pick a party, and the party then decides how preferences are allocated. If voting above the line is one of two ways you can fill out your
Senate ballot paper. To vote above the line, you need to number at least six party or group boxes, starting with 1 for your first choice, 2 for your second choice, and so on until you reach at least 6. When you use this method, you can't vote for individual candidates, only political parties or groups. They are given control over the order in which your
preferences are distributed among their candidates. Your preferences will first be distributed to the candidates in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choice in the party or group of your first choic
Senate ballot paper is by voting below the line. If you choose to use this method, you need to number at least 12 individual candidate boxes, starting with 1 for your first choice, 2 for your second choice, and so on until you reach at least 12. Voting below the line is the only way you can preference individual candidates over others, rather than the
parties deciding that order for you. Some candidates relegated to seemingly unwinnable spots on their party's Senate ticket have managed to get elected after running campaigns encouraging people to vote below the line. Given their name, it may sound like 'how to vote cards' are a helpful guide that simply tells you how to fill in your ballot paper
correctly to ensure your vote counts. What they actually are, are the flyers handed out at polling booths by party and campaign workers that suggest the number that voters should place next to each candidate on their ballot paper. You're under no obligation to follow the order listed on how to vote cards and not doing so won't necessarily impact the
likelihood of the candidate you give your first preference to being elected. A seat is considered by the AEC to be marginal when the elected candidate received less than 56 per cent of the vote at the previous election. When a seat is marginal, it's at risk of being lost to another candidate. The most marginal seat in the country is Deakin in Melbourne's
outer-east, which Liberal MP Michael Sukkar holds by just 0.02 per cent. A seat where the elected candidate received more than 60 per cent of the vote at the previous election is considered by the AEC to be 'safe'. That means there would need to be a big swing against the incumbent MP for them to lose their seat. A swing is the difference between the
percentage of the vote a candidate or party secured at one election compared to another. If there's a swing away from a party or candidate, it means they received more first-preference votes this election than the previous one. A
swing voter is someone who changes which party or candidate they vote for between elections. Dr Kevin Bonham, an independent election and polling analyst, said political opinion polling analyst, said political opinion polling analyst, said political opinion polling analyst.
be presented in a few different ways and can use quantitative or qualitative data. Quantitative is numbers based, like "45 per cent of Australians will vote for [X]". Qualitative, on the other hand, is an analysis of trends that can't be captured in clear numbers, like "Australians are increasingly concerned by [X]". Both come under the umbrella of political
polling and while quantitative polls tend to capture news headlines, both types are used in politics. Simon Welsh, director of research is often used for making decisions about campaign resource allocation. "The qualitative research is really used to deeply
understand the voters and their priorities and their priorities and their drivers, and that helps inform the messaging that the parties tend to take into campaigns. "Polling can be conducted in multiple ways, such as in-person interviews, phone i
data, both Bonham and Welsh want voters to pay attention to two things: Methodology (the way data is collected) and where the data was collected. Methodology, like phone calling, can mean only certain demographics engage or models like MRP means some seats could be predicted with little or no direct voter engagement. Welsh wants voters to
consider where the polling was conducted, warning that a broad national sample might miss important local, social, and community differences. Bonham also encourages people to consider who conducted the poll. "Although [many] national polls are conducted using fair questions, there are a lot of polls swirling about, often on a local level or by less
well-known pollsters, that use suspect questions and they get poorly reported in the media," he said. This can include things like 'push polling industry. Other experts have said to look at the margin of error —
the range that poll results might vary due to chance. For example, if a poll indicates Labor leads the Coalition 51 to 49 per cent to a two-party-preferred basis with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 per cent, the real result could be as close as 48 per cent Labor versus 52 per cent Coalition or as wide as 54 per cent Labor versus 46 per cent
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Coalition. If these details are not included in a media report, a methodology statement may be available on the polling group's website. Ultimately, Bonham encourages voters to "read lots of different polls, don't take any one poll as gospel". There are a number of First Nations candidates in both the upper and lower houses — and several senators who

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are halfway through their terms. Both Labor senator Malarndirri McCarthy and Country Liberal Party (CLP) senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price are up for re-election. In the lower house, sitting Lingiari Labor MP Marion Scrymgour, a Tiwi Anmatjere woman, faces a challenge from CLP candidate for Lingiari Lisa Siebert, a Larrakia woman and Peltherrea are up for re-election. In the lower house, sitting Lingiari Labor MP Marion Scrymgour, a Tiwi Anmatjere woman, faces a challenge from CLP candidate for Lingiari Lisa Siebert, a Larrakia woman and Peltherrea are up for re-election. In the lower house, sitting Lingiari Labor MP Marion Scrymgour, a Tiwi Anmatjere woman, faces a challenge from CLP candidate for Lingiari Lisa Siebert, a Larrakia woman and Peltherrea are up for re-election.
Chris Tomlins, an Arrente man, running for the Indigenous - Aboriginal Party of Australia (IAPA). Labor MP Gordon Reid, a Wiradjuri man, is recontesting the central coast seat he won in the 2022 election. In recent times, Robertson has been somewhat of a bellwhether seat, with Reid, a former emergency doctor, winning it with a 2.26 per cent
margin. Yuin and Bidjigal man Keiron Brown is the Greens candidate for the south-east Sydney seat of Kingsford Smith, currently a safe Labor seat held by Matt Thistlethwaite. The IAPA is running a Senate ticket with Uncle Owen Whyman, party founder and Barkindji/ Malyangapa community leader from Wilcannia, on top. Kamilaroi man Lawrence
Brooke, who was raised in Wilcannia and is now living in Newcastle, where he works as a self-employed builder, is second on the IAPA Senate ticket.LNP senator Kerrynne Liddle, an Arrernte woman, was elected in 2022, so she is not facing an election this year. Well-known activist Wayne Coco Wharton is the lead candidate for IAPA in the Senate,
while Marnie Laree Davis is running second. Senator Jacqui Lambie, a Palawa woman, is campaigning for re-election. Former diplomat and finance manager Benson Saulo, a Wemba Wemba, Gunditijmara and Papua New Guinean man, is the Liberal Party candidate for the seat of Macnamara. Celeste Ackerly, a Trawlwoolway woman originally from
Tasmania, is a candidate for the Sustainable Australia Party in the upper house. The IAPA has nominated Jason Hunter, a Nyikina/Nyul Nyul/Worora man from the West Kimberley, as their candidate for the northern WA seat of Durack. The Greens have two Indigenous lower house candidates running in WA: Noongar man Clint Uink is the Greens
candidate for Swan and Eric Hayward for Tangney. Noongar advocate Megan Krakouer is the WA lead Senate candidate for Australia's Voice, the party started by former Labor senator Fatima Payman. And Trish Botha, a South Sea/Nywaigi woman, is running on a Liberal ticket for the Senate. Visit the SBS election portal to access articles, podcasts and
videos from SBS News, NITV and our teams covering more than 60 languages. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has unveiled his new cabinet lineup, following Labor's historic election result that has delivered the largest ALP
caucus since federation. Speaking at a press conference, Albanese confirmed the party is on track to claim 92 seats in the House of Representatives, with close counts still underway in Bean, Calwell and potentially Longman. Tanya Plibersek, as the prime minister unveiled his new ministry. Plibersek,
who has a frosty relationship with Albanese despite being one of Labor's most senior women, has been shifted to social services. Former communications minister Michelle Rowland will become the new attorney-general after Mark Dreyfus was knifed by his own right faction in a power play by deputy prime minister Richard Marles. Murray Watt is
shifting from employment and workplace relations to the environment portfolio, with former NDIS minister Richard Marles, treasurer Jim Chalmers, finance minister Raty Gallagher, foreign affairs minister Penny Wong
and trade minister Don Farrell. Other ministers keeping their portfolios include Malarndirri McCarthy (Indigenous Australians), Tony Burke (home affairs), Mark Butler (health), Chris Bowen (energy), Jason Clare (education) and Clare O'Neil (housing). Anne Aly was elevated to cabinet from the outer ministry, making her the sole Muslim MP in the
senior leadership team after Ed Husic fell victim to factional warfare. Aly's promotion reflects a greater focus on Western Australia after the state helped deliver Labor government for the second consecutive federal election. Tim Ayres was also promoted to cabinet while Jess Walsh, Daniel Mulino and Sam Rae enter the 30-person ministry. The new
cabinet, set to be sworn in tomorrow at 9am, includes:Richard Marles - Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmers - TreasurerKaty Gallagher - Minister for Foreign AffairsJim Chalmer - Minist
and Citizenship, Cyber Security, and the ArtsMark Butler - Minister for Health and Ageing, Disability and the NDISChris Bowen - Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Jason
Clare - Minister for EducationMichelle Rowland - Attorney-GeneralTanya Plibersek - Minister for Social ServicesJulie Collins - Minister for EducationMichelle Rowland - Attorney-GeneralTanya Plibersek - Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and ForestryClare O'Neil - Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and F
Environment and WaterMalarndirri McCarthy - Minister for Communications and Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for SportPat Conroy - Minister for SportPat Conroy -
Minister for Industry and Innovation and Minister for ScienceMatt Keogh - Minister for ScienceMatt Keogh - Minister for ScienceMatt Keogh - Minister for Skills and Defence PersonnelKristy McBain - Minister for ScienceMatt Keogh - Minister for Skills and Innovation and Minister for ScienceMatt Keogh - Minister for ScienceMatt Keo
TrainingJenny McAllister - Minister for the National Disability Insurance SchemeDaniel Mulino - Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial ServicesJess Walsh - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Financial ServicesJess Walsh - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Financial ServicesJess Walsh - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Financial ServicesJess Walsh - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister for Early Childhood Education and YouthSam Rae - Minister f
reporting from the Australian Associated Press. Queensland twin sisters Bridgette and Paula Powers have tried not to speak in unison, but they say it's impossible. "You know it's hard," Bridgette told SBS News on the phone, with her sister occasionally answering in the background throughout the interview." We don't notice it ourselves when we're
getting interviewed. "The pair's unique trait has garnered new attention after a video of the sisters being interviewed by a news crew on the Sunshine Coast went viral around the world. The 51-year-old twins were recounting their distress as witnesses to a collision involving a cariacked vehicle on Monday. Speaking in unison while wearing identical
clothing, they described how their mother went to help a man with blood all over his face only to be threatened by the gun-toting man. "One guy, he was up there with our mum. He went up there and he was coming back down toward us," one said, as the other finished her sister's sentences. "And he goes 'run, he's got a gun!" the sisters said at the
same time. The video has been described as one of "the greatest news interviews of all time" by media figures, while others were stunned at the unique characteristic trait: "This can't be real, right?". But not everyone has been gracious. Bridgette told SBS News the pair, known as the 'Twinnies' first became aware that their interview had gone viral
after they saw people talking about it online. "There is a lot of negative comments on Facebook ... because some people are saying, 'It's fake. How can you rehearse a conversation?'"You can't. It's us, and we've tried not to talk together, and it's impossible. "This is not the first time the sisters have gained global attention for their unique ability. In 2016,
the sisters did an interview with British TV, with former Good Morning Britain presenter Piers Morgan saying: "It is one of the greatest interviews I have ever conducted in my life." Asked how they were able to speak together at the same time, the sisters said in unison: "It comes automatically." We don't know how it happens. Some people say, 'Do you
rehearse a conversation?', and we said: 'no, how can you rehearse a conversation?'"The pair has run the Twinnies Pelican and Seabird Rescue in Landsborough for the past 25 years, rehabilitating seabirds and pelicans who've been injured in the wild. Two years ago they were at risk of losing the sanctuary until a businessman made a generous
donation to keep it going. Bridgette says they're hoping the video will raise awareness of their cause. "It would be great. Yeah, because all wildlife need to be saved," she said the negative comments that they've received over the years
about their ability to speak together don't worry them. "We used to worry, but we don't worry no more. We just giggle at them." A Customs review found authorities acted appropriately when an asylum seeker boat reached Geraldton. 1831 - 43 years after the arrival of the First Fleet and the beginning of British colonisation in Australia, the first
assisted migration begins with workers from Britain encouraged to apply. Other immigrants follow that decade, including German Lutherans leaving their homeland in search of religious freedom and better economic opportunities. 1860 - Many Chinese miners take advantage of Australia's Gold Rush, but it causes tensions that come to a head in an
1860 riot. 3,000 European miners drive the Chinese off the Burrangong Goldfield in New South Wales. 1888 - Tensions continue over Chinese workers and in 1888 the Premiers of all the pre-Federation colonies (except Tasmania) agree to further restrict Chinese immigrants. 1901 - Among the first laws passed by the Federal Government in the new
Commonwealth of Australia is the Immigration Restriction Act 1901. It introduces a dictation test to prevent 'non-whites' from entering Australia as immigrants. The laws create the legal foundation of the White Australia Policy. The War Years - During the war years and the Great Depression, hundreds of thousands of British settlers are given
assistance to come to Australia, and German Jews fleeing persecution are also admitted, but immigrants considered 'aliens' are required to register with the authorities and in some cases classed as 'enemy aliens' and interned in camps. 1945 - Australia embarks on an ambitious 'populate or perish' program to encourage immigration after the war
British migration is especially encouraged in the years that follow. 1947 - Permanent residency is granted to non-European immigrants for business reasons and to those who have lived in Australia Policy. 1950 - Immigration Minister Harold Holt makes an historical Holt makes an instance of the White Australia Policy.
decision to allow 800 non-European war refugees to remain in Australia. In the following few years, Australia enters into assisted migration Act 1958 introduces a simpler system of entry permits and abolishes the controversial Dictation Test introduced at
Federation in 1901. 1963 - The 50 page Immigration: Control or Colour Bar? is published by Melbourne University. It advocates a wider immigration policy, especially allowing immigration from Asia. The manifesto is taken seriously by political parties and the press, but change isn't immediate. 1966 - Hubert Opperman, Minister for Immigration in
the newly elected Howard Holt Government, announces that applications from prospective settlers will be considered on their suitability as settlers, their ability to integrate readily and whether they have qualifications useful to Australia. It's effectively the beginning of the end of the White Australia Policy. 1972 - By the time the White Australia
Policy is formally abolished by the Whitlam Government in 1972, thousands of Asian immigrants have already been allowed into the country. 1975 - The Racial Discrimination Act is adopted, finally making racial discrimination illegal. 1976-1982 - The phrase 'boat people' enters the national lexicon as over 2,000 refugees from Vietnam arrive in
Australia directly by boat. Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser allows boat people to settle in Australia, and supports the resettlement of over 200,000 more refugees whose claims are processed in camps in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand. 1989 - A second wave of boat arrivals begins, with about 300 people arriving by boat each year, mostly from
Cambodia, Vietnam and Southern China. 1992 - Paul Keating's Government introduces a change of policy, with mandatory detention for all people arriving without a valid visa. 1999 - A third wave of asylum seekers begins to arrive, predominantly from the Middle East. The numbers are larger than before, with the asylum seekers often assisted by
people smugglers. 2001 - This year is a key turning point in recent immigration policy... John Howard's Government denies permission for the Norwegian vessel the MV Tampa to enter its waters after rescuing 438 mainly Afghan refugees from a stranded boat off Christmas Island, sparking international condemnation. It prompts what becomes known
as the 'Pacific Solution', where outlying parts of Australia such as Christmas Island are excised from the migration zone. This means asylum seeker arrivals are then either returned to Indonesia, processed on Christmas Island or sent to newly established offshore processing centres
at Manus Island in Papua New Guinea or the Pacific island nation of Nauru. This allows them to be dealt with by Australian immigration officials outside of Australian immigration officials outside of Australian immigration officials outside of Australian law. Although aimed at discouraging people from making the journey, the Pacific Solution is widely criticised by human rights groups. 2008 - The Kevin Rudd Government announces the
closure of the centres at Manus Island and Nauru. Asylum seekers arriving by boat will now be processed at Christmas Island. 2012 - More than 100 boats carrying in excess of 5,000 refugees, mostly from Iraq, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, arrive in Australia this year. It's the biggest surge in a decade that has seen hundreds killed in failed attempts to
reach Australia by boat. The Julia Gillard Government reopens the asylum seeker processing centres at Manus Island in PNG and Nauru, prompting renewed controversy over offshore processing and the treatment of asylum seekers, especially families, while in detention. 2013 - 66 Sri Lankan asylum seekers manage to reach the Australian mainland
by boat, arriving at Geraldton in Western Australia in April. The following month, the Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. Share this with family and friends Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. Share this with family and friends Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. Share this with family and friends Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. Share this with family and friends Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. Share this with family and friends Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. Share this with family and friends Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. Share this with family and friends Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. Share this with family and friends Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. Share this with family and friends Australia mainland is also, controversially, excised from the official migration zone. The official migration zone is also as a second controversial manufacture and the official migration zone. The official migration zone is a second controversial manufacture and the official migration zone. The official migration zone is a second controversial manufacture and the official migration zone. The official migration zone is a second controversial migration zone is a second controversial manufacture and the official migration zone is a second controversial migration zone. The official migration zone is a second controversial migration zone is a second controversial migration zone is a second controversial migration zone. The official migration zone is a second controversial migration zone is a second controversial migration zone is a second controversial 
each with its own distinct language, customs and lore. The invasion of British settlers in the late 18th century precipitated decades of colonial violence and dispossession, yet many groups resisted and survived. Today, there are more than 150 First Nations languages still spoken across Australia, making it home to one of the oldest continuous cultures
on Earth.Since the arrival of the First Fleet, millions of others have crossed the seas, seeking to call this vast continent home. But who has come — and been allowed to stay — has fluctuated greatly. Source: SBS NewsThe gold rushes of the 1850s attracted migrants primarily from the United Kingdom, Europe and China, while thousands of South Sea
Islanders were brought to Queensland in the second half of the 19th century to work on sugar plantations. After Federation in 1901, the first national immigration law was introduced, which became known as the White Australia policy. It primarily targeted people of Asian descent and was widely denounced as xenophobic, restricting non-British
migration to Australia well into the middle of the 20th century. The post-war years witnessed a boom in immigration from continental Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west, followed by southern and eastern Europe, but with successive waves coming from the north-west waves and the north-west waves are not the north-west waves and the north-west waves are not the north-west waves and the north-west waves are not wave waves and the north-west waves are not wave waves and the north-west waves wave waves and the north-west waves wave wave waves and the north-west waves wave wave wave wave wave wave wav
reached Darwin Harbour. They became known as Australia's first 'boat people' — a term that would come to shape policies and attitudes for the next 50 years. To mark this chapter and SBS' 50th anniversary, SBS News brings you the stories of five people who, in search of safety, freedom, education and a better life, have journeyed across the seas to
make Australia home. Click to view an interactive version of this story Source: SBS NewsDr Carina Hoang was 16 years old when she fled war-torn Vietnam with two of her younger siblings. It was May 1979, and the trio boarded a small wooden boat — 24 metres long and four-and-a-half metres wide. On board with them were around 370 others. "We
were packed in four layers of people, like sardines," Hoang says. Carina Hoang. Source: SBS NewsHoang was born several years into the Vietnam War in 1963. Having never known life outside of wartime, she describes her childhood in Saigon with her six siblings as relatively "normal". "The only difference was we didn't get to see our father often
because he was always at his military base or out in the field fighting," she says. Hoang's father served in the South Vietnamese military and would later be imprisoned without trial for 14 years by North Vietnamese military and would later be imprisoned without trial for 14 years by North Vietnamese military and would later be imprisoned without trial for 14 years by North Vietnamese authorities. Carina Hoang's father served in the South Vietnamese military and would later be imprisoned without trial for 14 years by North Vietnamese authorities.
recalls hiding in a bunker inside her family home for days and nights on end as the conflict intensified. On 30 April 1975, North Vietnam. That was the day the war ended, and it changed our life in ways that we could never, ever imagine. Carina
HoangJust before Saigon fell, the United States and other foreign forces evacuated thousands of civilians and personnel. Hoang remembers a city in "chaos". Her mother gathered all seven children and one of their cousins and took them to the US embassy, where they waited in line for hours, hoping to be airlifted out. "Many helicopters came up and
down, and each time, I think they would only take 20 people. I don't know how many hours we were there, until all of a sudden, the soldiers just closed the door, turned around and pointed for all of us to go back downstairs. "Within hours of leaving the embassy, the South Vietnamese government surrendered. Hoang says her family's home was seized,
her father was taken from them, and her mother's business was frozen. They became homeless overnight. Vietnamese evacuees are helped onto a helicopter near the US Embassy in Saigon on 29 April 1975. Source: Getty / Bettmann ArchiveAfter several attempts to leave the country over the next few years, Hoang, along with one of her sisters and one
brother, finally escaped by boat. Two of her other siblings had managed to escape earlier, while another two remained in Vietnam with their mother. Conditions aboard the vessel were filthy, and the waters were pirate-infested. They eventually docked at an uninhabited Indonesian island, which later became a makeshift refugee camp. There was no
food, and Hoang and her siblings, then aged 12 and 10, were forced to walk through the jungle in search of drinking water. Locals started exchanging food for money or valuables, but things remained scarce. Early on, the siblings would survive for days at a time on a single pack of ramen noodles."I sold my mum's diamond rings and earrings to get
money for medicines and for food," Hoang says. Ahead of their journey, Hoang's mother had packed the siblings some rock sugar, salted plums and Vietnamese medicinal oil, along with sets of clothes and one of her traditional dresses." I love those outfits, but in retrospect, I think my mum ... didn't know what lies ahead," she says. Hoang instead
 "protected them" and still has the dress to this day. Carina Hoang kept her mother's dress safe throughout her journey by boat. She still has it. Source: Supplied / Carina HoangThey would stay on the island for 10 months before being resettled with help from the Red Cross. Many others were not so lucky — hundreds died due to sickness and
 malnutrition.According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), around three million people fled Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the aftermath of the Vietnam War and other communist victories. Australia's then-prime minister, Malcolm Fraser, was widely credited for accepting Southeast Asian refugees. Between April 1975 and March 1991
more than 130,000 refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were resettled here, according to Rachel Stevens, a lecturer from the Australian Catholic University who specialises in immigration and refugee policies. Crowds of Vietnamese citizens gather around a US Embassy bus as they try to leave on 24 April 1975. Source: Getty / Bettmann
ArchiveThe 1970s also marked two major turning points for immigration policy in Australia: the formal dismantling of the Whitlam government in 1973 and the introduction of the Racial Discrimination Act in 1975, which made it unlawful to discriminate against a person because of their race, descent, national or ethnic
origin or immigrant status. However, Stevens says Australia's intake only ramped up in 1978-79. She attributes this to the 1976 arrival of 'boat people' for the first time, which "forced the Fraser government to formalise the refugee intake process". Source: SBS News / ABSThe government implemented the nation's first refugee policy the following
year, and a humanitarian program was introduced. At the same time, the term 'boat people' became associated with "unauthorised" migration, Stevens says. Between 1975 and 1982, there were just over 2,000 Vietnamese people who arrived by boat without authorisation, according to records from the Parliamentary Library of Australia. "We're talking
about a tiny percentage of Vietnamese refugees who came 'illegally', without government support, and yet it has framed our thinking about immigration in general." Madeline Gleeson, a senior research fellow at UNSW's Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, points to a "long-standing resistance to - or even a fear of - the idea of people coming
to Australia spontaneously or by unauthorised means". Particularly from the 1970s onwards, we started to see a growing public and political concern with people arriving by boat from countries to our north to seek asylum, and the beginning of a sense that there was some sort of uncontrolled or overwhelming number of people that might be trying to
reach Australia in this manner. "Despite Australia's "relatively generous approach" at the time, she says the origins of a division between "genuine" and "non-genuine" refugees emerged — an "undercurrent of the political discourse that we see today". It would be many years before Hoang made it to Australian shores. An identification photo of Carina
Hoang, taken in Indonesia in 1979. Source: Supplied / Carina Hoang Source: SBS NewsChin Jin remembers clearly where he was on the day of the Tiananmen Square and started to open fire
at protesters. It followed weeks of pro-democracy protests after the death of former Communist Party of China chief Hu Yaobang, who had sought to liberalise the country. Pro-democracy protesters face a line of soldiers in Beijing on 1 June 1989. Source: Getty / Peter Charlesworth/LightRocketChin, then 32 years old, had arrived in Sydney months
earlier and was staying at a friend's house when the news broke. "I feel my heart was beating together with the people in Tiananmen Square," he says. He recalls asking his friend to drive him to Chinatown, where many Chinese students were gathering. "Everybody was weeping and shouting. All these students showed their anger towards the barbaric
Chinese government. I was one of them. "Chin Jin. Source: SBS NewsDays later, then-prime minister Bob Hawke delivered a tearful tribute to the victims of the crackdown. Afterwards, he announced Chinese students would be allowed to remain in Australia. Some 42,000 permanent visas were granted to Chinese citizens — including Chin. "We were so
lucky. Nobody had any idea that could happen," he says."I still feel very grateful to Bob Hawke ... to make this generous decision to allow such a large group of people to stay in Australia. "While the move was seen by many as compassionate, Stevens says it ruffled feathers within the bureaucracy." For a prime minister, who is not even minister for
immigration, to make a unilateral decision like that, it was unprecedented," she says." I think it's being remembered as a really positive step of an Australian prime minister showing compassion. But if you look under the hood, it's actually something much more troubling. "Following this 1989 speech, Bob Hawke offered unilateral asylum to thousands
of Chinese students, without consulting his cabinet. Source: SBS NewsThe decision allowed Chin to continue his life in Australia. Born into a working-class family in the Chinese province of Jiangsu, Chin says he was fortunate to have access to education and pursued marine engineering at a tertiary institute similar to TAFE. He later worked for a
Chinese shipping company, leading to his first treacherous journey to Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says, of the trip aboard a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia to move to Australia to a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says, of the trip aboard a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia to a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says, of the trip aboard a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says, of the trip aboard a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says, of the trip aboard a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says, of the trip aboard a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says, of the trip aboard a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west Western Australia in 1982. "We almost lost our lives," he says a cargo ship to the industrial port of Dampier in north-west lost our lives, which is a cargo ship to the in
study English, travelling by plane from Shanghai to Sydney. "When I first arrived, I noticed life was very tough — a totally different life between Australia and China," he says. "The living expenses were very, very expensive. Without any job or income, we could not survive. "Chin started out as a kitchen hand. After Hawke's decision, he worked in a
factory, beginning to enjoy a "peaceful, quiet life". But his sights were always set further. My ambition was not only to stay in Australia; my ambition was to bring freedom and democracy back to China. Chin JinChin is now the president of the massacre
and describes himself as a researcher in the modern Chinese democracy movement. He says his journey to Australia was a "successful" one. "Without that, if I were to stay in China, I believe I [would] be in jail because of my political thinking." I still cherish hope in the foreseeable future [that] we could see a big change in China. "Source: SBS
NewsWith civil war waging in his home country, Deng Athum faced a stark choice: join the fight in South Sudan and risk being killed, or leave and seek refuge. It was the late 1990s, several years into the Second Sudanese Civil War. Athum was studying in Egypt and had planned to return home to teach, but couldn't. "At that time, I didn't even known
 that there was [a country] called Australia," he says."But I had two friends who came before me ... They found that this place was a good fluture."Deng Athum and his wife were granted humanitarian visas and flew from Cairo to Sydney in 1998. He was 26, with a
dream to continue his studies."But I did not know what I was coming to face."Athum found a "land of abundance".But when he arrived, his thoughts kept turning back to those left behind in the warzone. He and a friend worked with immigration officials to help others immigrate to Australia. South Sudan gained independence in 2011. Two years later,
Athum returned to his studies, pursuing a master's degree in education leadership. "That is the thing that I did for myself," he says. Deng Athum (far left) with two others from his village in South Sudan. Source: Supplied / Deng Athum (far left) with two others from his village in South Sudan. Source: Supplied / Deng Athum (far left) with two others from his village in South Sudan. Source: Supplied / Deng Athum (far left) with two others from his village in South Sudan.
Balkans. Stevens says there was a resurgence of people arriving by boat without authorisation and seeking asylum over the decade also. This followed a period between 1982 and 1989 when boat arrivals had dropped to zero. In response, Hawke's successor, Paul Keating, introduced mandatory detention of asylum seekers in 1992. Australia's South
Sudanese community was established mostly by refugees who had been displaced by the war, which spanned 1983-2005. The largest numbers arrived between 2003 and 2006. Athum has now lived here for 26 years and is an Australian citizen. He has seven children - among them: a midwife, an assistant nurse, and law and engineering students. "I'm
very proud of them," he says. Deng Athum graduating from Alexandria University's education faculty in Egypt. Source: Supplied / Deng AthumIn recent years, he has seen his community become the centre of negative media coverage and political rhetoric, associating young South Sudanese men with crime and the so-called Apex gang in Melbourne.
Police later declared the crime group a "non-entity", with then deputy commissioner Shane Patton telling an inquiry a large cohort "was in fact Australian-born offenders". In a 2018 radio interview, Peter Dutton, who was home affairs minister at the time, said Melburnians were "scared to go out to restaurants" at night due to "African gang
violence". Athum acknowledges there are "good and bad people" in any community, but says there was "a lot of name-calling going on", which was addressed by prominent community members at the time. We have to treat ourselves as humans. We've been here for a long, long time ... we are Australian, we are working and we are paying tax. Deng
AthumAthum and his family are preparing to open a restaurant showcasing local dishes in the western Sydney suburb of Blacktown. Source: SBS News"Australia is a multicultural country, where everyone comes to make Australia home, to show what they
have in their home. [With] this restaurant, I'm bringing South Sudan may be on the brink of a return to civil war. Athum has been in touch with loved ones
- and is once again fearful of the country's future. "But the leaders are doing their best for this not to happen ... I'm optimistic that South Sudan is not going to collapse." Source: SBS NewsThe first time Asif Ali Bangash saw big seas was when he fled his home country by boat, in search of safety. Bangash is a minority Shia Muslim from the city of
Parachinar in north-west Pakistan, which has a history of sectarian violence." I fled from Pakistan because of the situation in my hometown," he says. "I came here [to Australia] by boat in 2012, which was very dangerous and scary for me. "Asif Ali Bangash. Source: SBS NewsAt the time, Bangash was 22 years old. Leaving his parents and brothers, he
travelled to Malaysia and Indonesia before coming to Australia."It was a small, wooden boat ... we were 200 people on the boat, and we [would] just think about that it can sink [at] any time," he says."But still I had hope that I can go and reach [the] safe place. "Bangash recounts rough seas at night, where they "didn't see anything". There was no hope
at night time. At one point, I was just thinking, 'we are all dying very soon'. Asif Ali Bangash Bangash reached Christmas Island, a remote Australia and the site of an immigration detention centre. It was emptied of detainees in October 2023. After one month, he was transferred to the now-closed
Curtin Immigration Detention Centre in the Kimberley region of WA, where he spent two months. Asif Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (far left) aboard the boat that brought him to Australia in 2012. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash (
was pretty much like prison. You can't go outside ... you don't have any friends to bond with; to sleep, you don't have your own space in the room or anything like that," he says. "All the people who came with you in the same boat [are] getting out of detention, one by one, and you are the last. "Bangash obtained a bridging visa while in detention at
Curtin and was later transferred to community detention in Sydney, but his subsequent attempts to secure a protection visa were rejected. Unable to return home, he twice applied for ministerial intervention. Both his parents died while he was awaiting a determination. After 13 years in limbo, without work rights, healthcare or social support,
Bangash was granted a permanent visa in March this year. Building a life and community in Sydney, Bangash now volunteers at Parliament on King in Newtown - a cafe and social enterprise that supports asylum seekers and refugees gained
attention in the early 2000s. In August 2001, a Norwegian freighter, MV Tampa, rescued 433 mainly Hazara asylum seekers who were in distress in a small fishing boat carrying asylum seekers is rescued by the Norwegian freighter MV Tampa in
August 2001. Source: Getty / AFP / Wilhelmsen GroupAt the time, Hazaras were fleeing Afghanistan, fearing persecution from the resurgent Taliban. The Howard government refused to grant the ship permission to enter Australian waters. It proceeded to pass a series of laws known as the Pacific Solution, which meant asylum seekers arriving by boat
could be detained and their claims for refugee status processed in offshore centres on Nauru and Manus Island, with the government cutting off the territory from its migration zone. This barred access to refugee determination processes followed on the mainland. Agreements were
secured for the Tampa asylum seekers to be taken to New Zealand and Nauru, as Howard positioned his government as tough on border control ahead of the 2001 election policies introduced in the aftermath of the Tampa affair. Source: SBS
NewsAlong with mandatory detention, iterations of offshore processing have defined Australia's stance over successive governments and have repeatedly raised concerns among human rights groups and UN agencies. Offshore processing continued until 2008, by which time boat arrivals had declined and facilities had been emptied. The incoming
Rudd government acted on an election promise to dismantle the Pacific Solution. Replacing Rudd in 2010, Julia Gillard commissioned an expert panel, which recommended a range of measures, including offshore processing was never meant to be the main pillar
of Australian immigration policy, but in practice, it became the sole pillar for an extended period," Gleeson says. In July 2013, a returned Rudd government announced that resettlement would no longer be available for any refugees offshore. Five years after Kevin Rudd dismantled the Pacific Solution, he announced that no one seeking asylum by boat
would be resettled in Australia. Source: SBS News "We had a significant number of people offshore who had been or were about to be determined to be refugees. They were being released from the determined to be refugees. They were being released from the determined to be refugees. They were being released from the refugees. They were being released from the determined to be refugees.
frantically trying to find third countries with whom to conclude settlement agreements. "Despite a formal policy being in place, offshore transfers only occurred until 2014, when detention centres became full. The government then pivoted its focus towards maritime interception and turnbacks. "From 2014 to 2023, nobody arriving in Australia by boat
was sent offshore ... By 2023, the people who had arrived almost a decade earlier were transferred — either resettled or repatriated. Since late 2023, Australia has begun transferring a new group of people offshore, and we know very little about their processing, their status or their conditions," Gleeson says. Source: SBS News / Refugee Council of
Australia Decades on, Gleeson says the generation of "artificial fear" around asylum seekers arriving by boat remains, "rather than that being portrayed as a reality of the world and something which can be effectively managed with a properly organised system". Reflecting on his own journey, Bangash says he'd always imagined a better life in Australia
- a place where there would be "more humanity". In reality, his path has been long and difficult. While acknowledging "every country has rights to protect their borders", he says Australia "can do better than this". The first time Asif Ali Bangash saw big seas was when he fled Pakistan by boat. Source: Supplied / Asif Ali Bangash Source: SBS
NewsShiao Lu Ooi's decision to come to Australia as an international student was based on a gut feeling. The Malaysian-born 22-year-old initially considered pursuing a study in the United Kingdom, but was drawn to "something really inherent about Australia". However, things didn't go as planned. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic prompted
Australia to close its borders in 2020, so Ooi had to complete her first semester abroad. Shiao Lu Ooi. Source: SBS NewsOoi moved to Melbourne ahead of her second semester in 2022, after borders had re-opened. She recalls feeling insecure and anxious in the lead-up. "I caught COVID on my third day here, and I knew nothing whatsoever about
Melbourne at that point," she says."I remember being so scared and homesick, being like, 'I just want to go home. This is so tough, and I don't know how I'm going to navigate my life here'. 'Empty inner-city streets in Melbourne in October 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Source: Getty / Chris Putnam/Future PublishingOoi says her experience
was compounded by "rumours and misinformation" associated with COVID-19 and aggression towards Asian people, 'could I go out?' Shiao Lu OoiIn time, Ooi was able to explore her new city and form connections. She is now a youth adviser at the Centre for Multicultural
Youth and the founder of Wombat Collective, a non-profit organisation that supports international students in engaging with grassroots initiatives. She says connecting with international students and other people from diverse backgrounds in Melbourne has offered her "the community that I always wanted". But Ooi believes COVID-19 has had a
 "spillover effect"."I would 100 per cent say that COVID definitely has altered perceptions of international students very negatively, and that contributes to how these issues like housing, financial difficulties and securing work still impact [them] to this day. "When Australia closed its borders in 2020, migration levels — sometimes referred to as net
overseas migration (NOM) — entered a shortfall as international students returned home. NOM refers to the difference between those who enter and leave Australia, and includes both migrants and Australians. Source: SBS News / ABSThe re-opening of borders prompted a rebound in arrivals. "We do expect a bounce back; that's just getting back to
normal levels now," Stevens says. "What we experienced with COVID was hopefully a once-in-a-life crisis, and we do have to expect a bit of economic and therefore political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years that follow." International students have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some political instability in the years have also been singled out by some politic
been refuted in research from the Student Accommodation Council and the University of South Australia. Stevens says this cohort is being "scapegoated for economic problems not of their making" as a means of political distraction, calling the recent discussion on housing a "complete furphy". "At the same time, we're demonising a significant part of
the Australian population who make important contributions to not just the economy but Australian culture and society overall. "Shiao Lu Ooi giving a TEDx talk in conjunction with The University of Melbourne. Source: Supplied / Shiao Lu Ooi giving a TEDx talk in conjunction with The University of Melbourne. Source: Supplied / Shiao Lu Ooi giving a TEDx talk in conjunction with The University of Melbourne.
housing crisis.""There are a lot of ways that I believe the crisis could be tackled - and this is not one of those ways, by pinning it entirely on international students," she says. Source: SBS NewsThe scapegoating of migrants is not a new concept to many migrant Australians, including Carina Hoang. The now 62-year-old academic and historian
published a book in 2010 titled Boat People, chronicling the journeys taken by Vietnamese refugees, like herself. She believes the meaning of the term has changed significantly. "In my time, it's more describing this group of people who flee persecution, and their way of transportation was by boat," she says. "I felt as if at that time [in the 1970s] that
people were welcoming boat people with more compassion, with humanity, with some understanding. "I felt as if at that time [in the 1970s] that people were welcoming boat people with more compassion, with humanity, with some understanding. "I felt as if at that time [in the 1970s] that people were welcoming boat people with more compassion, with humanity, with some understanding." I felt as if at that time [in the 1970s] that people were welcoming boat people with more compassion, with humanity, with some understanding. "I felt as if at that time [in the 1970s] that people were welcoming boat people with more compassion, with humanity, with some understanding." I felt as if at that time [in the 1970s] that people were welcoming boat people with more compassion, with humanity, with some understanding. "I felt as if at that time [in the 1970s] that people were welcoming boat people were welcoming boat people were welcoming boat people with more compassion, with humanity, with some understanding." I felt as if at that time [in the 1970s] that people were welcoming boat people were welcomi
Christopher TanLater, Hoang says the term "became demonised". "We didn't have a choice. Whether we went on foot, on the water [or] by air, those refugees are trying to find safety, even freedom, for themselves and their families," she says. "Being judged by the term boat people because of the way they
came, it's not right. "Hoang's journey led her to resettle as a refugee in the US in 1980. She migrated to Australia with her husband in 2006 and settled in Perth, where she has lived for the past quarter-century. She has since completed a PhD in refugee experiences and now works as the UNHCR's special representative to Australia. "I have Vietnam as
the country where I was born, America where I lived for 25 years, and then now Australia ... Out of those three places, I would call Australia home. I feel I belong here. Carina Hoang Source: SBS NewsThis project was designed and developed by Jono Delbridge and Ken Macleod, with video led by Pranjali Sehgal, additional reporting from Amy Hall and
Chris Tan, and research support from SBS Chinese and SBS Dinka. It was edited by Anna Freeland. Your stories have shaped SBS for half a century. Together, we're just getting started. Join us as we celebrate 50 years of belonging on our SBS50 portal and SBS50 content hub.
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