From its earliest days the Colony was home for people from many nations.

- Many early colonists came from England, Scotland and Wales.

- Many independent and nationalistic Irish came to the new land to escape the potato famine and English control of their country in the 1840s.

- After 1847 many Chinese came to the colony to provide cheap “coolie” labour. There is evidence of a group of 30 Chinese immigrants arriving in 1848 (Green, p142). Chinese migration stopped with the arrival of free convict labour in 1850. However, a second wave of Chinese arrived in the colony during the 1880s and 1890s to work in Pearling industry or on the goldfields.

- Americans whalers also made their home in the colony.

- Italian and Spanish priests and missionaries came to the Colony throughout the nineteenth century. The first Italian immigrant was Dr Louis Giustiniani who arrived in Fremantle 1836 as a missionary to convert Aborigines to Christianity. He stayed in the colony only one year. Benedictine missionaries from France, Spain and Italy arrived in the Colony in 1846. They founded missions in Perth (near Herdsman Lake) and New Norcia. Another group of Benedictines arrived from Spain and Italy in 1849.

- During the gold rush era of the 1890s people from many countries came to find wealth. At this time Western Australia was also flooded with “t’othersiders” from the Eastern Colonies.