

# Australia's dilemma — refugees or illegal immigrants?

**DATELINE:** 29 August 2001. A boatload of asylum seekers, mainly from Afghanistan, were rescued by a Norwegian ship just outside of Australian waters, 4 nautical miles from Christmas Island. (Australia's territorial waters extend to 12 nautical miles from the coastline.) After an international debate over whether Australia, Indonesia or even Norway should accept responsibility for these people, New Zealand and Nauru have agreed to process the arrivals and determine their claims for asylum. Four million refugees have fled Afghanistan ruled by the Taliban since last year. Those near Christmas Island probably fled from Afghanistan overland to neighbouring Pakistan, then by ship or plane to Indonesia where they would have paid people smugglers between \$4000 and \$10 000 for the boat journey to Australia.

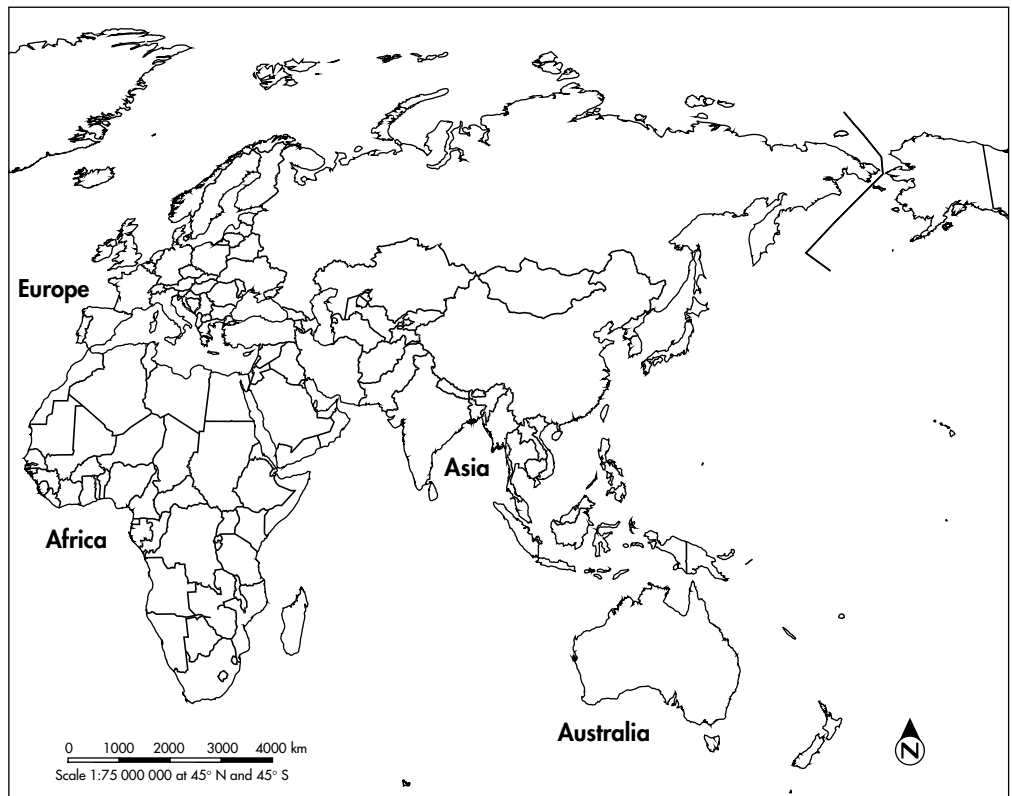
1. Using the outline map on the right and page 22–23 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*, mark in the following places:

- (a) Australia
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) Norway
- (d) Afghanistan
- (e) Pakistan
- (f) Christmas Island
- (g) Nauru
- (h) New Zealand
- (i) Indian Ocean

2. Mark on the map the possible route taken by the asylum seekers from Afghanistan.

3. Using the scale provided, estimate the following distances:

- (a) Afghanistan from Australia (Christmas Island)



World map (excluding Americas and Antarctica)

- (b) Afghanistan from Norway \_\_\_\_\_  
 (c) Afghanistan from Indonesia \_\_\_\_\_  
 (d) Christmas Island from (i) Indonesia \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) New Zealand \_\_\_\_\_ (iii) Nauru \_\_\_\_\_

4. Using the world map showing Global Defence and Conflict in 1999 on page 25 of the *Jacaranda Atlas*, locate Afghanistan. What types of conflict are occurring in Afghanistan? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Using the world map showing Refugees in 1995 on page 25 of the *Jacaranda Atlas* and the **DATELINE** above, what has been the increase in refugees from Afghanistan since 1995?

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