



Humanitarian youth arrivals to Victoria No. 19 | Updated January 2010

Overview

The information presented below is derived from statistics collated by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) based on the data records of people arriving in Australia under the Humanitarian Program.¹ This information is useful in providing a general overview of the primary source countries and settlement trends for refugee young people currently residing in Victoria.

DIAC's settlement database can be accessed online at www.immi.gov.au/settlement. Unless otherwise stated, all statistics in this information sheet are for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.²

How many refugee young people?

In 2008-09, there were 1,097 young people (aged 12 to 24 years) who entered Victoria under the Humanitarian Program—which is 31% of the total number of humanitarian entrants to Victoria for that year (3,564 people). **Figure 1** shows that there has been an increase in the number of humanitarian youth arrivals to Victoria from the previous year (this increase is evident for all age groups over 12 years of age).

The proportion of youth entrants coming under the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) has generally decreased over the last five years (from 62% of the 2004-05 intake to 43% of the 2008-09 intake), with the proportion coming under the Refugee visa category increasing from 27% to 40%. The SHP requires applicants to pay for their own airfares and have a proposer in Australia to provide settlement support. This can have implications for families who have incurred significant financial costs and are frequently indebted to their proposers in Australia upon arrival.

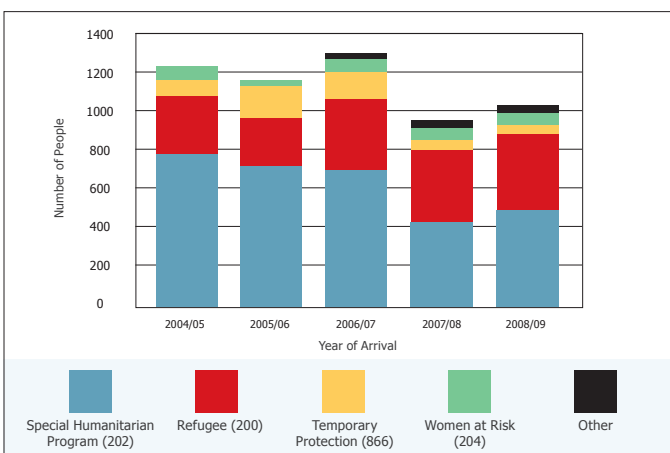


Figure 1. Humanitarian youth arrivals (12 to 24 years) to Victoria by Visa category, 2004-05 to 2008-09

Where are refugee young people coming from?

Young people from Burma, Iraq and Afghanistan represent the largest components of the Humanitarian Program for the age group 12-24 years (Figure 2).

This is a relatively similar pattern to 2007-08, although greater numbers of this year's humanitarian youth entrants to Victoria were born in Iraq or Afghanistan (Figure 3). **Figure 3** shows that there has been a significant decline in the number of Sudanese humanitarian youth entrants to Victoria in recent years.

Country of birth	# of people	Country of birth	# of people
Burma	272	Zimbabwe	14
Iraq	233	Kenya	10
Afghanistan	166	Ivory Coast	9
Sudan	79	Democratic Republic of Congo	9
Thailand	68	Pakistan	9
Ethiopia	53	People's Republic of China	8
Liberia	36	Eritrea	5
Sri Lanka	28	Egypt (Arab Republic of)	5
Iran	25	Sierra Leone	4
Somalia	15	Nepal	4

Figure 2. Top 20 countries of birth for humanitarian youth arrivals (12-24 years) to Victoria, 2008-09

¹ Australia settles around 13,000 people each year under its Humanitarian Program. The Humanitarian Program and this information sheet cover both off-shore and onshore humanitarian visa holders. For more information about the Humanitarian program go to www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian.

² The data in this information sheet was accessed on 18 January 2010 from www.immi.gov.au/settlement.



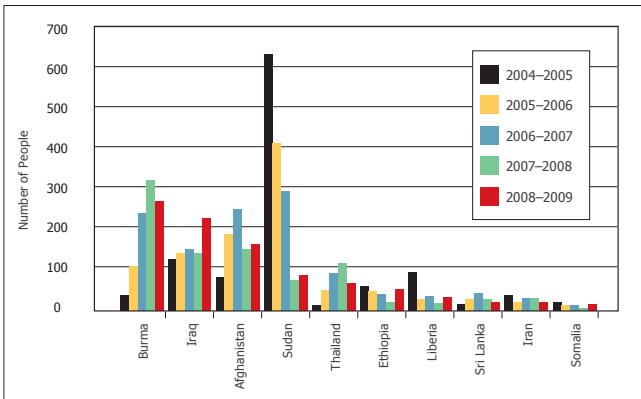


Figure 3. Top 10 countries of birth³ for humanitarian youth entrants (12–24 years) to Victoria, 2004–05 to 2008–09

Changing needs and demographics of refugee families

Family size

In 2008–09, 25% of all refugee families settling in Victoria had five or more members, compared with only 1% of families arriving under the family and skilled migration streams (Figure 4).

Languages spoken

More than one in six (18%) humanitarian youth entrants to Victoria in 2008–09 nominated Arabic as their main language, reflecting the significant number of settlers from Iraq. Other main languages nominated included Karen (11%), Dari (9%), Burmese (6%), Persian (5%), Assyrian (4%), Karen S'gaw (4%) and Chin (4%).

Time spent in refugee camps

It is worth noting that more than 50% of humanitarian entrants to Australia have not lived in refugee camps. However, in 2008–09, 36% of all entrants assisted through Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Services (IHSS) in Australia reported that they had spent more than two years in a refugee camp, 27% of all entrants reported spending more than 7 years in a camp, and 13% of all entrants indicated that they had lived in a camp for 12 years or more.⁴

Young people who are born or have spent prolonged periods in camps are likely to have experienced long-term insecurity, separation from family and exposure to violence; and to have had extremely limited access to services and opportunities (e.g. education, employment, health, housing). These pre-settlement experiences have implications for settlement in Australia—including how young people and families access services and the types of support services needed. DIAC programs such as the IHSS and the Settlement Grants Program, and other settlement services, are designed to address these issues and assist with settlement.

Schooling

A significant proportion of young humanitarian entrants arriving in Victoria through the Humanitarian Program have had little or no previous education. In 2008–09, 40% of humanitarian entrants aged between 12–24 years arrived with six or fewer years of education. (Figure 5).

³ Country of birth does not necessarily reflect cultural background. For example, humanitarian entrants born in Thailand are likely to be Karen, Chin or Burmese.

⁴ Source: Refugee Support Branch, Department of Immigration and Citizenship 2010.

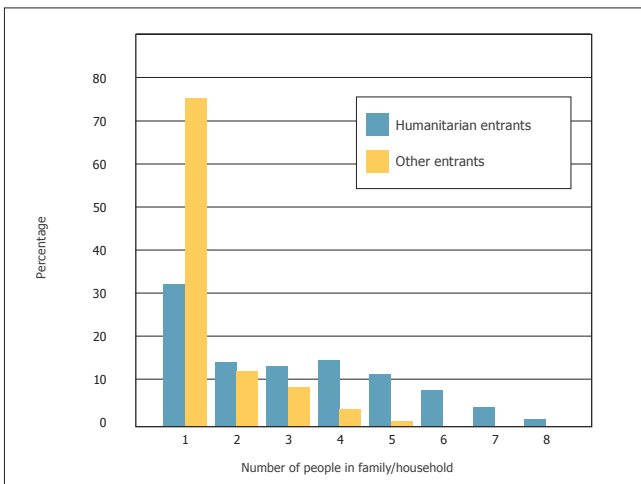


Figure 4: Family sizes—comparison of humanitarian entrants and non-Humanitarian entrants, Victoria 2008–09

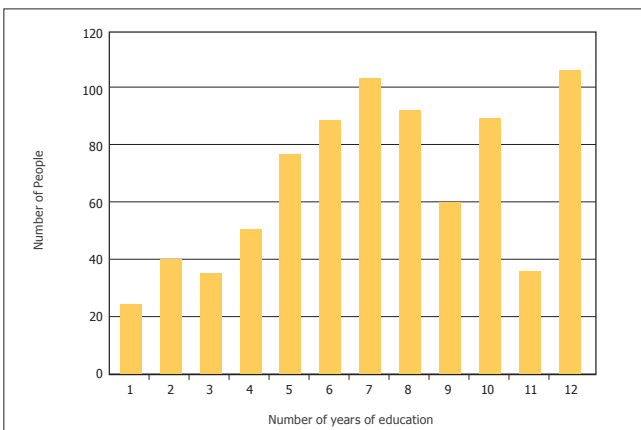


Figure 5. Known years of education for youth humanitarian entrants to Victoria in 2008–09



Where are refugee young people settling in Victoria?

Factors influencing settlement patterns include housing affordability and availability, employment opportunities in regional areas, the development of regional settlement programs to attract new arrivals to rural areas, and the existence of accessible services and community support networks. **Figure 6** shows Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Greater Melbourne with the largest numbers of humanitarian youth entrants for 2008–09. This figure also shows the change in intake numbers for these areas over the past four years, with significant growth in Hume in particular in 2008–09.

In 2008–09, 88% of humanitarian youth arrivals (for whom an LGA was recorded) settled in the Greater Melbourne area, and 12% settled in rural/regional areas. The LGAs with the highest proportion of humanitarian youth arrivals were: Greater Dandenong (17%), Hume (16%), Brimbank (10%), Wyndham (8%), Greater Geelong (6%), Casey (6%), Maribyrnong (5%), and Maroondah (5%).

Figure 7 shows the Greater Melbourne LGAs where 12 to 24 year old humanitarian entrants have settled, and **Figure 8** shows the rural and regional settlement locations.

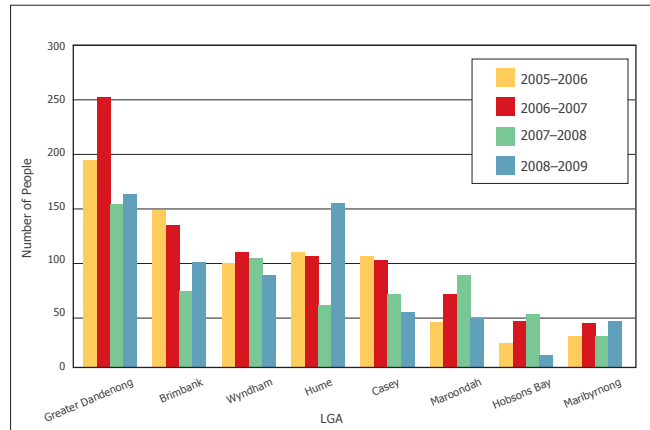


Figure 6. 12–24 year old humanitarian entrants settling in select LGAs of Greater Melbourne, 2005–06 to 2008–09

Greater Dandenong	169	Melbourne	11
Hume	155	Monash	11
Brimbank	103	Boroondara	8
Wyndham	84	Whitehorse	8
Casey	55	Banyule	7
Maroondah	49	Cardinia	5
Maribyrnong	48	Knox	4
Moreland	28	Glen Eira	4
Yarra	25	Melton	3
Hobsons Bay	23	Manningham	3
Whittlesea	18	Port Phillip	2
Darebin	15	Frankston	2
Yarra Ranges	13	Stonnington	2
Moonee Valley	12	Kingston	1
TOTAL		868	

Figure 7. Greater Melbourne LGAs where humanitarian youth arrivals (12–24 year olds) settled in 2008–09

Greater Geelong	55	Wodonga	3
Greater Shepparton	15	Moira	3
Greater Bendigo	14	Surf Coast	1
Mildura	11	Colac-Otway	1
Swan Hill	10	Ballarat	1
Latrobe	10		
TOTAL		124	

Figure 8. Rural and regional LGAs where humanitarian youth arrivals (12–24 year olds) settled, 2008–09

