



Humanitarian youth arrivals to Victoria

Updated October 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 2009 to 30 June 2010.²

How many refugee young people?

In 2009–10, there were 1,103 young people (aged 12 to 24 years) who entered Victoria under the Humanitarian Program—which is 29% of the total number of humanitarian entrants to Victoria for that year (3,776 people). **Figure 1** shows that there has been a slight increase in the number of humanitarian youth arrivals to Victoria from the previous year.

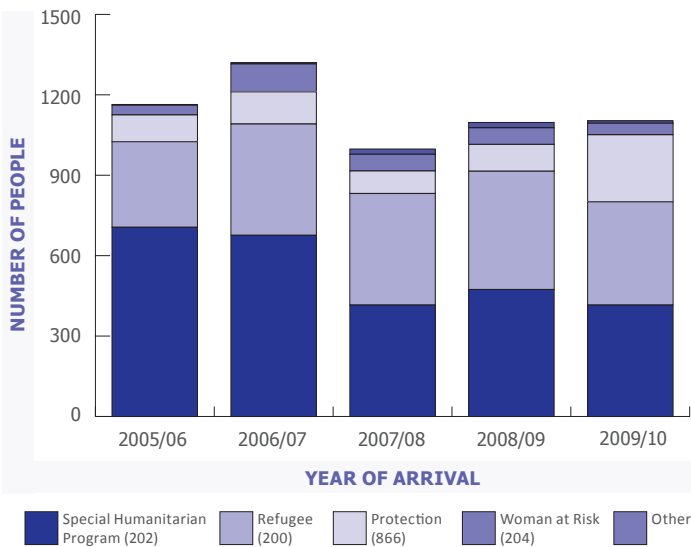


Figure 1: Humanitarian youth arrivals (12–24 years) to Victoria by visa subclass, 2005–06 to 2009–10

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 on-shore 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 in September 2010 from www.immi.gov.au/settlement

The proportion of youth arrivals who received protection visas on-shore (visa 866), rather than visas through the off-shore humanitarian program³ increased significantly in 2009–10: from an average of 8–9% over the last five years, to 23% of humanitarian youth arrivals this year. This change reflects the increased number of young people who re-settled in Victoria after arriving in Australia by boat.

Where are refugee young people coming from?

As in 2008–09, young people from Afghanistan, Burma and Iraq represent the largest components of the Humanitarian Program for the age group 12–24 years (**Figure 2**). However, greater numbers of this year's humanitarian youth entrants to Victoria were born in Afghanistan than in Iraq, and there were significantly fewer youth entrants from Sudan.

Country of birth	# of people	Country of birth	# of people
Afghanistan	248	Indonesia	17
Burma	211	Democratic Republic of Congo	15
Iraq	107	Pakistan	14
Thailand	65	Guinea	14
Iran	62	Uganda	12
Ethiopia	49	Nepal	12
Sri Lanka	43	Burundi	10
Somalia	42	Eritrea	10
Liberia	30		
Sudan	26		
Sierra Leone	25		
Bhutan	22		

Figure 2: Top 20 countries of birth⁴ for humanitarian youth arrivals (12–24 years) to Victoria, 2009–10

3 See CMY infosheet: *Culturally and linguistically diverse young people: some definitions*, www.cmy.net.au

4 *Note:* country of birth does not necessarily reflect cultural background. For example, humanitarian entrants born in Thailand are likely to be Karen, Chin or Burmese



Figure 3 shows that there has been a significant decline in the number of Sudanese humanitarian youth entrants to Victoria in recent years.

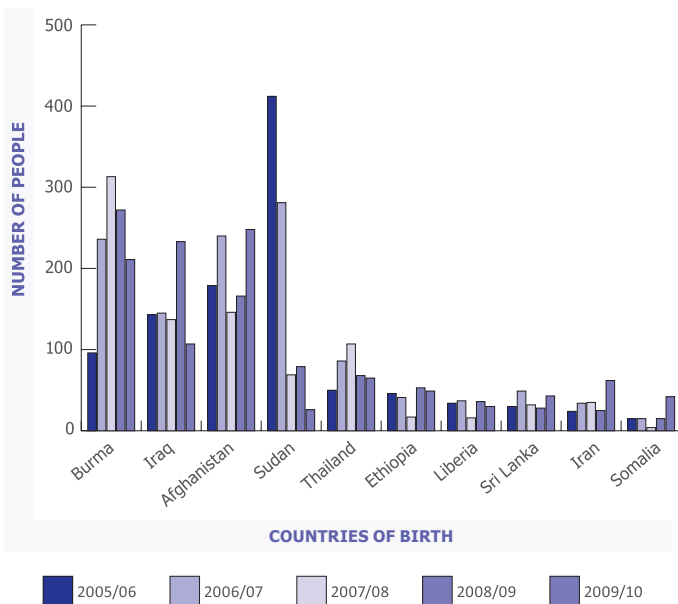


Figure 3: Top 10 countries of birth for humanitarian youth entrants (12–24 years) to Victoria, 2005–06 to 2009–10

Characteristics and experiences of humanitarian youth entrants

Gender

In 2009–10, the majority of humanitarian youth arrivals settling in Victoria were male: 59%, compared with 41% female. This fits with the general pattern for humanitarian arrivals of all ages for 2009–2010. Rates of male and female arrivals of all ages have been fairly steady over the last 5 years, with generally slightly greater numbers of males than females arriving.

Languages spoken

More than one in six (16%) humanitarian youth entrants to Victoria in 2009–10 nominated Dari as their main language, reflecting the significant number of settlers from Afghanistan. Other main languages nominated included Karen and Arabic (both 9% each), Hazaragi (5%), Somali and Tamil (both 4%), and Nepali and Karen S'gaw (both 3%).

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 2009–10, 33% of refugees assisted through Integrated Humanitarian Settlement

Services (IHSS) in Australia stated that they had spent more than two years in a refugee camp, 19% had spent more than seven years in a camp, and 11% had spent 12 years or more.⁵

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 2009–10, 40% of humanitarian entrants aged between 12–24 years arrived with six or fewer years of education. This is a very similar pattern to last year's arrivals. See **Figure 4**.

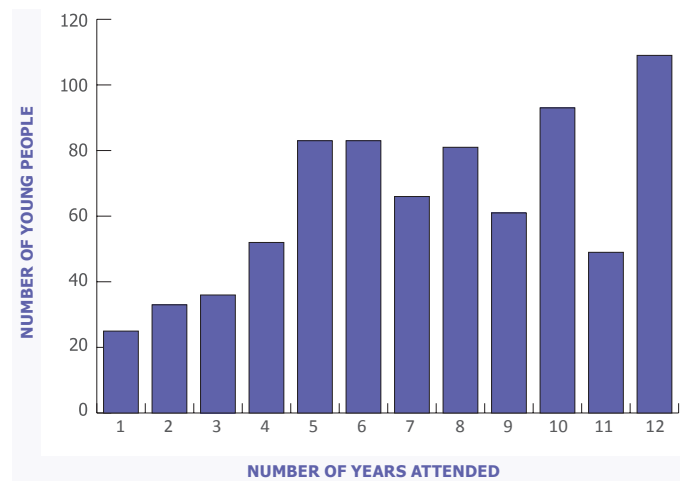


Figure 4: Known years of education for youth humanitarian entrants to Victoria in 2009–10

⁵ Source: Refugee Support Branch, Department of Immigration and Citizenship 2010



Where are refugee young people settling in Victoria?

The statistics and information presented below reflect primary settlement data only: that is, data on the Local Government Areas (LGAs) in which young people settle on arrival to Victoria. Many young people and their families move between LGAs in the months and years subsequent to settlement for a variety of reasons, including:

- housing affordability and availability;
- educational and employment opportunities (including in regional areas); and
- the existence of accessible services and community support networks.

Secondary settlement is by nature unpredictable and therefore data is difficult to obtain.

Figure 5 shows LGAs in Greater Melbourne with the largest numbers of humanitarian youth entrants for 2009–10. This figure also shows the change in intake numbers for these areas over the past four years, with a notable resurgence in arrivals to Greater Dandenong in particular in 2009–10.

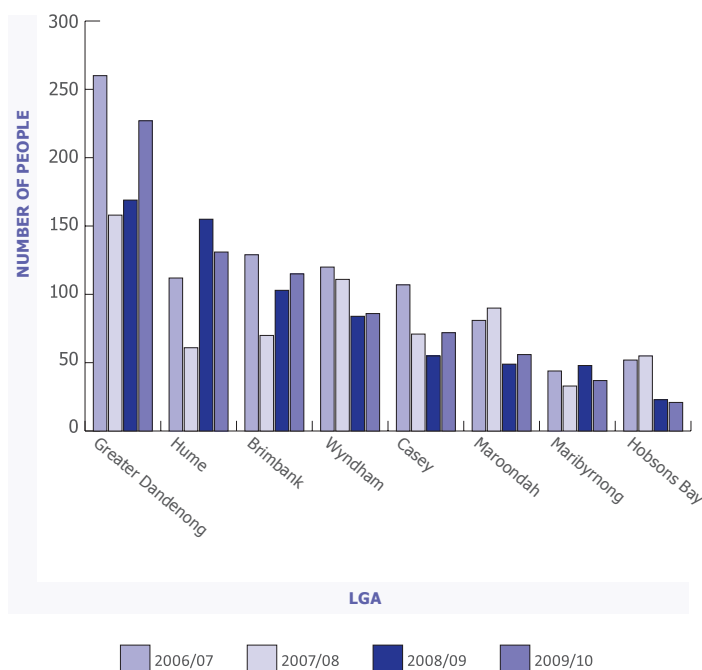


Figure 5: 12–24 year old humanitarian entrants settling in select LGAs of Greater Melbourne, 2006–07 to 2009–10

In 2009–10, 93% of humanitarian youth arrivals (for whom an LGA was recorded) settled in the Greater Melbourne area, and 7% settled in rural/regional areas. These figures represent a significant decrease in arrivals to the rural/regional areas, down from 12% in 2008–09.

The LGA with the highest proportion of humanitarian youth arrivals was Greater Dandenong (22%), where more than one in five humanitarian youth entrants to Victoria settled on arrival. The LGAs with the next highest proportion of humanitarian youth arrivals were: Hume (13%), Brimbank (11%), Wyndham (8%), Casey (7%), Maroondah (5%) and Maribyrnong and Greater Shepparton with 4% each.

Figure 6 shows the Greater Melbourne LGAs where 12 to 24 year old humanitarian entrants have settled, and Figure 7 shows the rural and regional settlement locations.

Figure 6: Greater Melbourne LGAs where humanitarian youth arrivals (12–24 year olds) settled in 2009–10

Greater Melbourne LGA	# of youth settlers	Greater Melbourne LGA	# of youth settlers
Greater Dandenong	227	Banyule	11
Hume	131	Knox	9
Brimbank	115	Boroondah	8
Wyndham	86	Moonee Valley	7
Casey	72	Melton	7
Maroondah	56	Kingston	5
Maribyrnong	37	Manningham	5
Hobsons Bay	21	Whitehorse	5
Moreland	19	Nillumbik	4
Melbourne	16	Stonnington	2
Yarra Ranges	15	Port Phillip	2
Darebin	15	Bayside	1
Yarra	14	Cardinia	1
Monash	14	Frankston	1
Whittlesea	13	Glen Eira	1
TOTAL	920		

Figure 7: Rural and regional LGAs where humanitarian youth arrivals (12–24 year olds) settled, 2009–10

LGA	# of youth settlers	LGA	# of youth settlers
Greater Shepparton	37	Wodonga	6
Greater Geelong	32	Swan Hill	4
Greater Bendigo	11	Ballarat	3
Mildura	10	Bass Coast	3
TOTAL	106		

