



Humanitarian youth arrivals to Victoria

Updated October 2011

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 DIAC's online Settlement Reporting Facility uses primary settlement data, supplemented by AMEP and Medicare data, among other sources. Given the difficulty of keeping all arrivals' addresses up-to-date, there are inevitably some inaccuracies in what the Settlement Reporting Facility data reveals. Young people, in particular, can be very mobile and the data reported in this information sheet needs to be seen as indicative.

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 were accessed on 1 October 2011.²

How many refugee young people?

As at 1st October 2011, there were 6,068 humanitarian youth arrivals (12–24 years) living in Victoria who had arrived in Australia over the last five years (1 July 2006–30 June 2011). There were 1,078 young people who arrived in 2010–11, comprising 29% of the total number of humanitarian entrants to Australia for that year who were settled in Victoria (3,766 people).

Figure 1 shows that the proportion of youth arrivals who received protection visas onshore (visa 866), rather than visas through the offshore humanitarian program,³ has been steadily increasing over the past few years to a total of 29% of those who arrived in 2010–2011. This change reflects the increased number of young people who resettle in Victoria from various Immigration Detention Centres.

Where are refugee young people coming from?

Continuing the pattern in recent years, young people from Afghanistan, Iraq and Burma represent the largest components of the Humanitarian Program for the age group 12–24 years who arrived in 2010–11 and were resident in Victoria as at 1 October 2011 (Figure 2; overleaf).

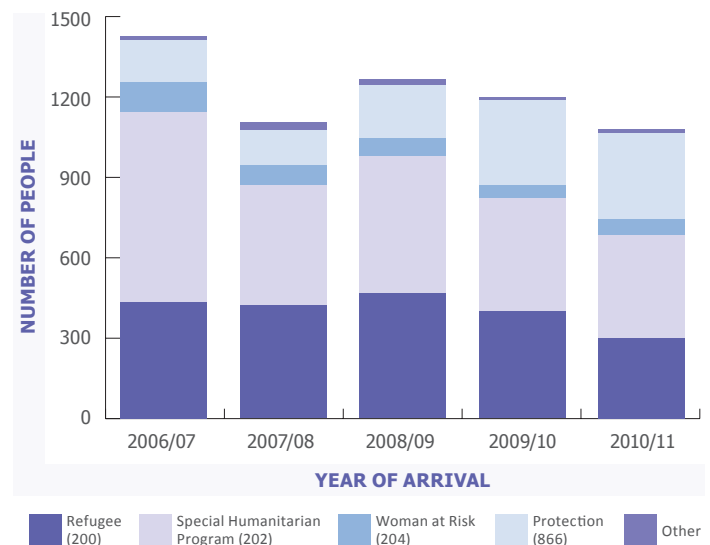


Figure 1: Humanitarian youth (12–24 years) resident in Victoria as at 1 October 2011, by visa subclass and year of arrival to Australia

1 Australia settles around 14,000 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 1 October 2011 from www.immi.gov.au/settlement

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





Country of birth	# of people
Afghanistan	337
Iraq	180
Burma	135
Iran	111
Sri Lanka	50
Thailand	31
Ethiopia	28
Pakistan	23
Bhutan	21
Nepal	20
Somalia	20
Sudan	11

Figure 2: Top 20 countries of birth⁴ for humanitarian youth (12–24 years) residents in Victoria, who arrived in Australia 2010–11

Country of birth	# of people
Kuwait	11
Stateless ⁵	10
Tibet	8
Liberia	6
Sierra Leone	5
China	5
Tanzania	4
Nigeria	4

According to DIAC’s online Settlement Reporting Facility, young people from Burma make up a significant proportion of humanitarian youth residents in Victoria who arrived in Australia over the past 5 years (1,182 of 6,068 total young people as at 1 October 2011). Of those Burmese humanitarian youth residents who arrived over the last 5 years, and currently reside in Victoria, most arrived in Australia between 2006–09 (834 Burmese young people). This can be contrasted with a similar number of Afghani humanitarian youth residents who’ve arrived in the last 5 years and currently reside in Victoria (1,168), almost half of whom have only arrived in Australia in the last 2 financial years (599 young people from 2009–2011).

Young people from Iraq make up the next highest number of humanitarian youth (816 young people) currently resident in Victoria, who arrived in Australia in the last 5 years. Young Iraqi humanitarian residents in Victoria have arrived to Australia in fairly even numbers over the last 5 years (with a peak of 240 having arrived in 2008–09). This can be contrasted to young humanitarian entrants from Sudan, of whom 299 of the 484 who arrived in Australia over the last five years and currently reside in Victoria, arrived in 2006–07. That is, most young humanitarian arrivals from Sudan who currently reside in Victoria, have been settled in Australia for longer periods.

Characteristics and experiences of humanitarian youth entrants

Gender

The majority of humanitarian youth arrivals to Australia in 2010–11 who were residing in Victoria as at 1 October 2011 were male: 59% (631 young men), compared with 41% female (447 young women). This fits with the general pattern for humanitarian arrivals of all ages for 2010–2011. Rates of male and female humanitarian arrivals to Australia of all ages have been fairly steady over the last five years, with generally slightly greater numbers of males than females arriving.

Languages spoken

One in three humanitarian youth entrants to Australia in 2010–11, living in Victoria as at 1 October 2011, nominated Dari (17%) or Hazaragi (16%) as their main language, reflecting the significant number of settlers from Afghanistan. The third most frequently nominated main language was Arabic (14%), followed by Chin dialects and Farsi (Persian) (6%), Karen dialects and Tamil (both 5%), Nepali (4%), and Assyrian, Burmese/Myanmar and Kurdish (all 3%).

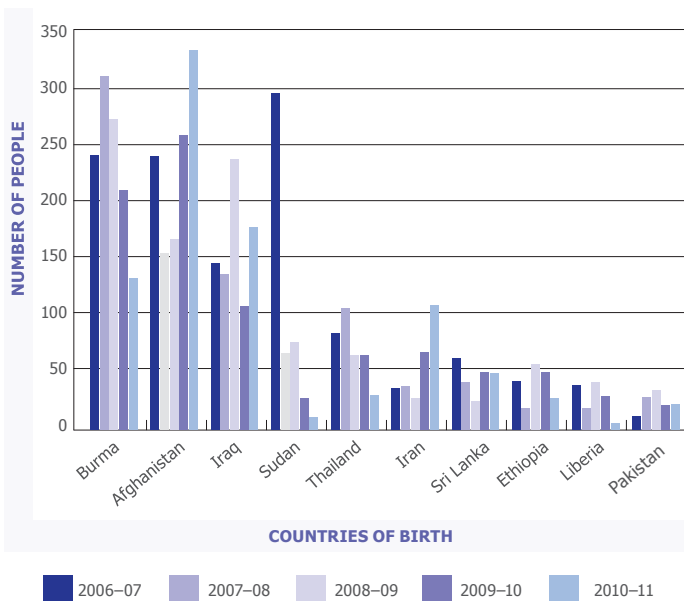


Figure 3: Top 10 countries of birth for humanitarian youth (12–24 years) arrivals over the past 5 years, living in Victoria in 2010–11

Figure 3 represents the top 10 countries of birth for humanitarian youth arrivals to Australia over the past 5 years, who are living in Victoria as at 1 October 2011. These are the young people who are eligible for Settlement Grants Program (SGP) services and funding as they have come to Australia within the last 5 years.

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

⁵ Statelessness may result from various circumstances. States may cease to exist while individuals fail to get citizenship in their successor states; political considerations may dictate changes in the way that citizenship laws are applied; an ethnic minority may be persecuted by being denied citizenship; or a group may live in frontier areas and frequently cross borders, causing states on both sides of the border to deny them citizenship. Statelessness can also arise from legal differences between countries, people renouncing one nationality without having acquired another or even, more simply, from failure to register the birth of a child. (http://www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/articles_publications/articles/stateless_20090401)





Pre-arrival experiences

The pre-arrival experiences of humanitarian youth arrivals have diversified in recent years. Some young people have spent time in refugee camps. For example, in 2009–10, 33% of refugees assisted through Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) in Australia stated that they had spent more than 2 years in a refugee camp, 19% had spent more than 7 years in a camp, and 11% had spent 12 years or more.⁶ Other young people may have spent significant periods of time, or even have been born, in third countries (e.g. many Burmese humanitarian youth arrivals were born or have spent several years in Thailand before being resettled in Australia). Likewise, some Afghani humanitarian youth arrivals were born or have spent several years in Pakistan prior to their arrival in Australia. Growing numbers of humanitarian youth arrivals have spent time in Australian Immigration Detention Centres.

Regardless of their pre-arrival experiences, young people who are settled through the Humanitarian Program are likely to have experi-

enced 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.

Schooling

A significant proportion of young humanitarian entrants arriving in Victoria through the Humanitarian Program have had little or no previous education. In 2010–11, more than a third (34%) of humanitarian entrants aged between 12–24 years, who stated their level of education, arrived with six or fewer years of schooling. Out of the 66% of humanitarian youth arrivals who arrived with seven or more years of education, many have an educational background that is interrupted, inadequate or that has little resemblance to the Victorian education system.

Where are refugee young people settling in Victoria?

Figure 4 shows LGAs in Victoria with the largest numbers of newly-arrived humanitarian youth entrants who arrived in Australia between 2006–07 and 2010–11. This figure also shows how long the humanitarian youth entrants in each of the LGAs have been resident in Australia. Of the young humanitarian arrivals living in Dandenong as at 1 October 2011, many arrived in Australia five years ago, and large numbers also arrived in the last couple of years. Of those who currently live in Hume, and arrived in Australia over the last 5 years, most are more recent arrivals to Australia.

Of the humanitarian youth entrants to Australia in 2010–11, who were living in Victoria as at 1 October 2011, 85% (for whom an LGA was recorded) were living in the Greater Melbourne area, and 15% were living in rural/regional areas.

The Victorian LGA with the highest proportion of humanitarian youth arrivals was Greater Dandenong (19%), where one in five humanitarian youth entrants living in Victoria, who arrived in Australia in 2010–11, were living as at 1 October 2011. The LGAs with the next highest proportion of humani-

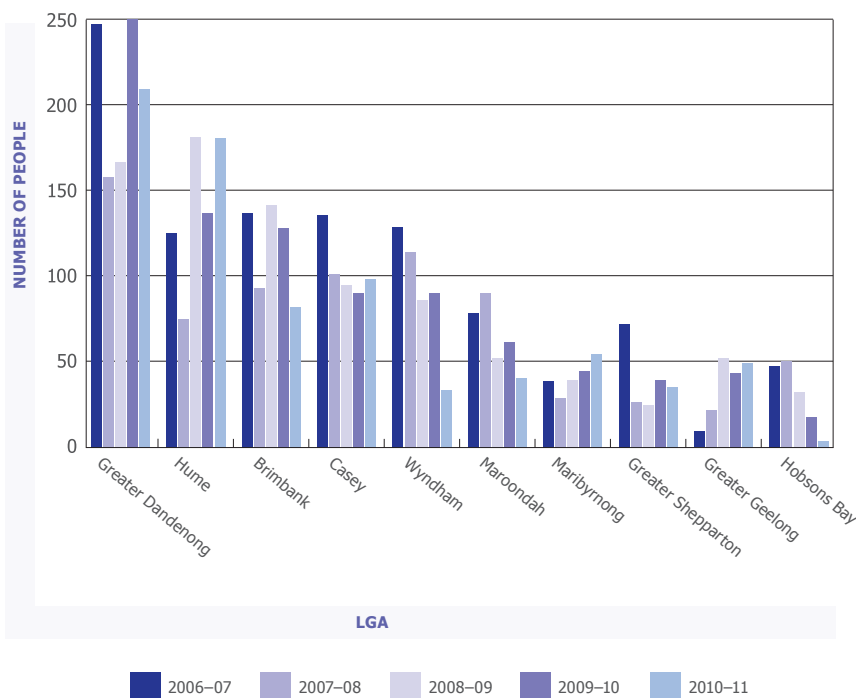


Figure 4: 12–24 year old humanitarian entrants settling in select LGAs of Greater Melbourne, 2006–07 to 2009–10

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





tarian youth arrivals, who arrived in Australia in 2010–11 were: Hume (18%), Casey (9%), Brimbank (8%), Greater Geelong (6%), Maribyrnong (5%), Maroondah (4%), and Greater Shepparton, Moreland and Wyndham (each with 3%).

Figure 6 shows the Greater Melbourne LGAs where 12 to 24 year old humanitarian entrants to Australia in 2010–2011 were living as at 1 October 2011, and **Figure 7** shows the rural and regional settlement locations.

Figure 6: Greater Melbourne LGAs where humanitarian youth arrivals (12–24 years) to Australia in 2010–11 were living as at 1 October 2011

Greater Melbourne LGA	# of youth settlers
Greater Dandenong	210
Hume	185
Casey	96
Brimbank	85
Maribyrnong	57
Maroondah	41
Wyndham	34
Moreland	31
Whittlesea	30
Darebin	15
Yarra Ranges	12
Moonee Valley	12
Monash	11
Whitehorse	10
Manningham	10
Boroondara	13

Greater Melbourne LGA	# of youth settlers
Knox	7
Frankston	7
Kingston	7
Glen Eira	6
Melbourne	6
Yarra	5
Hobsons Bay	4
Melton	3
Banyule	2
Nillumbik	1
TOTAL	896

Figure 7: Rural and regional LGAs where humanitarian youth arrivals (12–24 years) to Australia 2010–11 were living as at 1 October 2011

LGA	# of youth settlers
Greater Geelong	55
Greater Shepparton	36
Mildura	18
Greater Bendigo	14
Wodonga	10
Swan Hill	6

LGA	# of youth settlers
Moira	2
Bass Coast	2
Ballarat	2
Colac-Otway	1
Alpine	147
TOTAL	

