

## Humanitarian Youth Arrivals to Victoria (Update 9/07)

### Overview

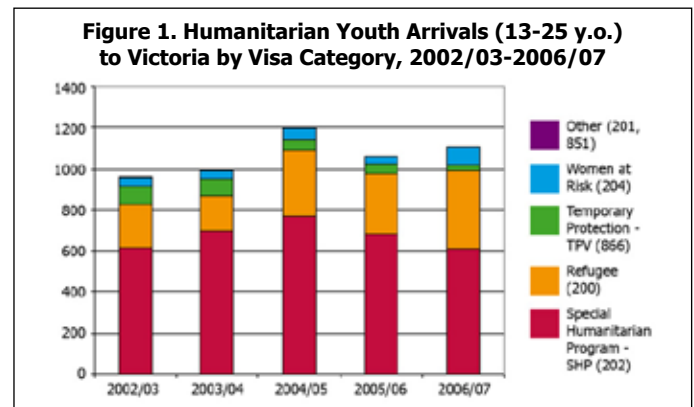
The information presented below is derived from statistics collated by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) based on the data records of people arriving in Australia under the Humanitarian Program [1]. This information is useful in providing a general overview of the primary source countries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

In 2007, DIAC's settlement database was integrated with Medicare data to provide more up-to-date information on settlement patterns than was previously available. The DIAC settlement database can be accessed online at [www.settlement.immi.gov.au/settlement](http://www.settlement.immi.gov.au/settlement) (youth-specific data is limited). Unless otherwise stated, all statistics in this information sheet are for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

### How many refugee young people?

In 2006/07, 74% of Australia's 12,747 Humanitarian arrivals were under the age of 30. Of the 3,673 Humanitarian arrivals to Victoria in the same year, 32% were aged 12-24. Figure 1 shows that there has been a slight increase in the number of youth arrivals in Victoria over the past year, increasing from 1,061 in 2005/06 to 1,110 in 2006/07.

The number of youth entrants coming under the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) – a visa category which requires applicants to pay for their own airfares and have a proposer in Australia to provide settlement support – has dropped slightly, while the numbers coming under the Refugee and Women at Risk visa sub-classes have increased. However, young people on SHP visas still represent the most significant proportion of all Humanitarian youth entrants (55%). This has implications relating to the financial burdens experienced by families on SHP visas who have incurred the cost of airfares and are frequently indebted to their proposers in Australia upon arrival.



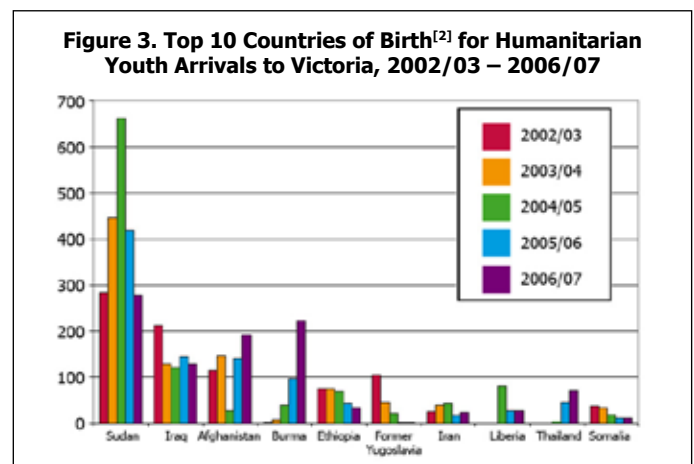
### Where are refugee young people coming from?

Young people from Sudan, Burma, Afghanistan and Iraq represent the largest components of the Humanitarian program for the age group 13-25 (Figure 2), accounting for 75% of the total intake. Young people from Sudan were the largest group of Humanitarian youth entrants in 2006/07 (25%).

With regard to the top 10 countries of birth for youth entrants, Figure 3 shows a steady drop in the number of Sudanese young people arriving since 2004/05, and a regional shift in the intake away from Africa (Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Liberia) towards Southeast Asia (Burma, Thailand). In 2006/07, 37.5% of Humanitarian youth entrants to Victoria were from Africa, 32.5% were from the Middle East, 29.8% were from Southeast and Southern Asia, and 0.2% were from Europe.

Sudan	276	Yemen	*
Burma	233	China, Peoples Rep.	*
Afghanistan	191	Croatia	*
Iraq	129	Egypt, Arab Rep. of	*
Thailand	72	Eritrea	*
Liberia	36	Former Yugoslavia	*
Ethiopia	35	India	*
Iran	26	Ivory Coast	*
Dem. Rep. of Congo	25	Malaysia	*
Sri Lanka	21	Nepal	*
Sierra Leone	12	Rwanda	*
Somalia	12	Turkey	*
Burundi	11	Uganda	*
Kuwait	10	Zimbabwe	*
Congo Republic	3	Unknown	*
Kenya	*	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,110</b>

\* Indicates less than 3 people



[1] Australia settles around 13,000 people each year under its Humanitarian Program. The Program is divided into an offshore and onshore stream. The offshore stream includes Refugee, Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) and Women at Risk sub-classes, and the onshore stream is made up of Temporary/Permanent Protection Visa (TPV, PPV) sub-classes. For more information about the Humanitarian Program go to [www.immi.gov.au/refugee](http://www.immi.gov.au/refugee).

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

## Changing needs and demographics of refugee families

### New and emerging communities

Figure 4 shows some of the major new source countries of birth for refugee young people settling in Victoria through the Humanitarian Program. These represent new and emerging communities from Southeast Asia (Karen, Chin, Burmese), West Africa (Liberian, Sierra Leonean) and Central Africa (Burundi, Congolese).

### Family size

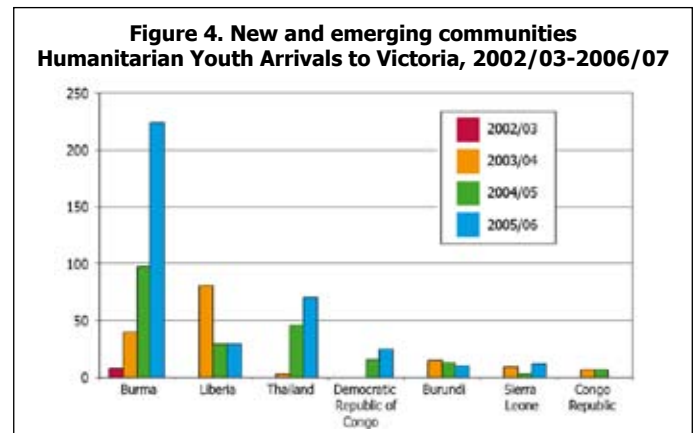
Within the Humanitarian Program, average family size has increased over the past five years. In 2006/07, 30.4% of all refugee families settling in Victoria had 5 or more members, compared with 28.1% in 2002/03 and 19% in 2000/01.

### Languages spoken

19.6% of all Humanitarian entrants to Victoria in 2006/07 nominated Arabic as their main spoken language, reflecting the large cohorts of Sudanese and Iraqi arrivals. Other significant languages nominated included Burmese (14.2%), Dari (13.9%), Karen (7.7%), Dinka (5.4%), Chin (5.1%) and Assyrian (3.7%).

### Time spent in refugee camps

In 2004/05, 52% of all refugees assisted through Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Services (IHSS) in Australia had spent more than 5 years in a refugee camp, and 32% had spent 10 years or more in a camp. 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). These pre-settlement experiences



Note: Source countries do not necessarily reflect cultural background. For example, arrivals from Thailand are likely to be Karen, Chin or Burmese from camps on the Thai-Burma border.

have implications for settlement in Australia – including how young people and families access services and the types of support services needed.

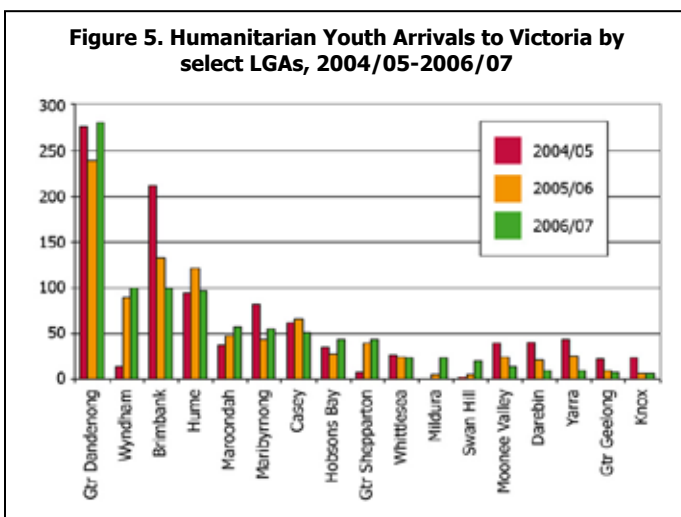
### Schooling

A significant proportion of young people arriving in Victoria have had little or no previous education. In 2006/07, 43% of all Humanitarian entrants (this includes adults) had 6 or fewer years of education. In 2001/02, the proportion of Humanitarian entrants with 6 or fewer years of education was 31.5%.

## Where are refugee young people settling in Victoria?

Figures 5 and 6 reflect the settlement trends of recent years, with the outer metropolitan regions of Melbourne being the primary destinations for Humanitarian arrivals in Victoria. In 2006/07, 25.2% of all Humanitarian youth entrants settled in the City of Greater Dandenong followed by 9% in Wyndham, 8.9% in Brimbank and 8.7% in Hume. Of the regional settlement areas, Greater Shepparton (4%), Mildura (2.2%) and Swan Hill (1.8%) settled the greatest numbers of young people on humanitarian visas.

LGAs that saw significant growth in arrivals over the past two years included Wyndham (614% increase), Greater Shepparton (529% increase), Mildura & Swan Hill (2100% increase) and Maroondah (57%). Yarra, Darebin, Knox, Greater Geelong, Moonee Valley, Brimbank and Maribyrnong all had significantly fewer humanitarian entrants settling in their areas in 2006/07 compared to 2004/05.



Factors influencing changing 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. Humanitarian Youth Arrivals (13-25 y.o.) to Victoria by LGA of Residence, 2006/07**

Greater Dandenong	280	Knox	6
Wyndham	100	Banyule	5
Brimbank	99	Glen Eira	5
Hume	97	Colac-Otway	5
Maroondah	58	Frankston	4
Maribyrnong	56	Moira	4
Casey	51	Melbourne	3
Hobsons Bay	44	Melbourne (Unspecified)	3
Greater Shepparton	44	Port Phillip	3
Whittlesea	24	Bayside	*
Mildura	24	Melton	*
Swan Hill	20	La Trobe	*
Moreland	18	South Gippsland	*
Moonee Valley	14	Boroondara	*
Whitehorse	13	Mornington Peninsula	*
Kingston	11	Stonnington	*
Darebin	10	Ballarat	*
Monash	10	Bass Coast	*
Yarra	10	Greater Bendigo	*
Yarra Ranges	9	Wodonga	*
Greater Geelong	7	Victoria (Unspecified)	58
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,110</b>

\* Indicates less than 3 people