



Information Sheet

Youth Arrivals to Victoria

JULY 2015 – JUNE 2016

The Centre for Multicultural Youth is a Victorian not-for-profit organisation supporting young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. As part of our role in resourcing the sector, CMY produces an annual information sheet on youth arrivals to Victoria.

1. Overview

The information presented here is derived from statistics collated by the Department of Social Services (DSS) based on the records of people arriving in Australia under the Migration Programme as at 15 August 2016. Statistics have been sourced directly from the Department of Social Services via the online Settlement Reporting Facility (SRF), which primarily uses on-arrival data supplemented by data from the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), Medicare and other relevant sources. This data is subject to a number of caveats that should be considered when reviewing this information.¹ Additionally, young people can be very mobile and the data reported in this information sheet needs to be seen as indicative.

The following information should be read in conjunction with this Information Sheet:

Terms:

- » 'young people' refers to those aged between 12 to 24 years (data available through existing Government reporting facilities only allows a breakdown of 12–24 years);
- » 'youth arrivals' refers to young people who have received a permanent visa under Australia's Migration Programme;
- » 'humanitarian youth' refers to young people who have received a permanent visa under Australia's Special Humanitarian Programme.

- Data was provided by the Department of Social Services on 15 August 2016, all data presented is accurate as at this date within noted caveats of the Settlement Reporting Facility (SRF)²;
- The statistics provided refer to financial years and not calendar years, with the year reported referring to 'Settlement Date'. (Settlement Date is 'date of visa grant' for settlers who were in Australia when their visa was granted and 'date of arrival in Australia' for settlers who were overseas when their visa was granted.)
- The visa sub-classes included under the Humanitarian Programme in this Information Sheet include: 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-country special humanitarian programme), 202 (Global special humanitarian programme), 203 (Emergency rescue), 204 (Woman at risk) and 866 (Protection visa).³

¹ Details can be found at <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/programs-policy/settlement-services/settlement-reporting-facility>

² Department of Social Services, Settlement Reporting Facility. <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/programs-policy/settlement-services/settlement-reporting-facility>

³ For more information see <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Refu/Offs/Refugee-and-Humanitarian-visas>

2. How many young people are settling in Victoria?

Each year Australia offers permanent visas to almost 200,000 people under one of three migration programmes (or streams): Humanitarian, Family and Skilled.⁴ Between July 2010 and June 2015, young people, aged between 12 and 24, made up over one fifth of all permanent migrants to Australia. More than a quarter of all people arriving during this period settled in Victoria.

In 2015/16, while young people arriving via all migration streams made up less than one fifth (18%) of all arrivals to Victoria (Figure 1) they represented more than a quarter (27%) of those arriving to the state via the Humanitarian stream (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Youth arrivals, 12-24, to Victoria, 2010-2015

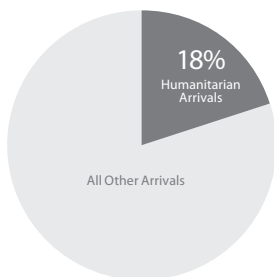


FIGURE 2. Youth arrivals by migration stream, 2015/16

	Humanitarian	Family	Skilled	TOTAL
12-24	940 (27%)	2,359 (20%)	2,905 (16%)	6,204 (18%)
All ages	3,429	11,879	18,504	33,812

Of those young people settling in Victoria during this same period, just over a quarter (27%) were of school age (12 to 17 years old) (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3. Youth arrivals by age group and migration stream, 2015/16

Age	Humanitarian		Family		Skilled		TOTAL	
12-15	280	(30%)	416	(18%)	460	(16%)	1,156	(19%)
16-17	137	(15%)	246	(10%)	143	(5%)	526	(8%)
18-24	523	(56%)	1,697	(72%)	2,302	(79%)	4,522	(73%)
Total	940	(15%)	2,359	(38%)	2,905	(47%)	6,204	

Of the 6,204 young people from all migration programs (Family, Skilled and Humanitarian) who settled in Victoria during 2015/16, there were a large number (19% or 1,153) for whom a settlement location was not recorded. Of those for whom settlement data was provided the top 10 LGAs, where the largest numbers of young people settled on arrival in Victoria, represented over 70% of all youth settlement to the state during this period and were all in metropolitan Melbourne (Figure 4).

⁴ For further information on migration streams see Australian Government advice at www.border.gov.au

Less than one in ten young people settled in rural and regional Victoria during this same period (8% or 397). Of those who did settle outside metropolitan Melbourne, over one third settled in Greater Geelong (Figure 5).⁵ This closely reflects the settlement patterns of humanitarian youth arriving in Victoria, which can be found at Section 3.1 (below).

FIGURE 4. Youth arrivals by LGA of settlement, 2015/16 (Metropolitan Melbourne)

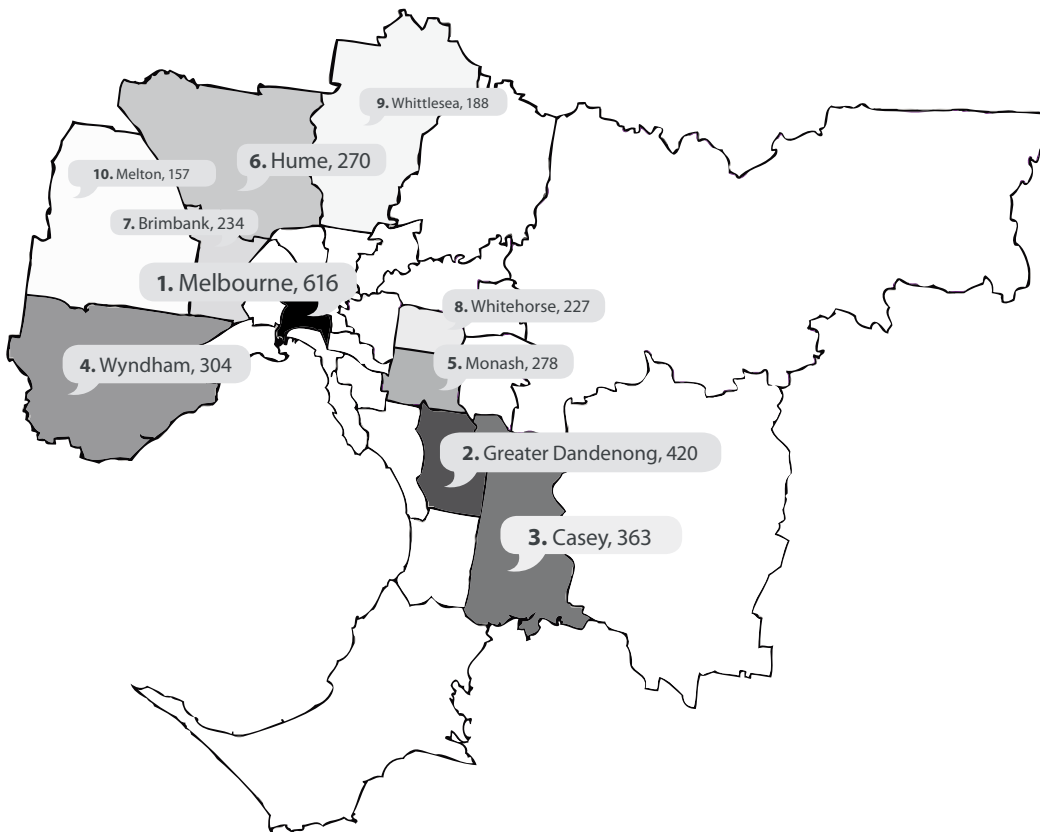
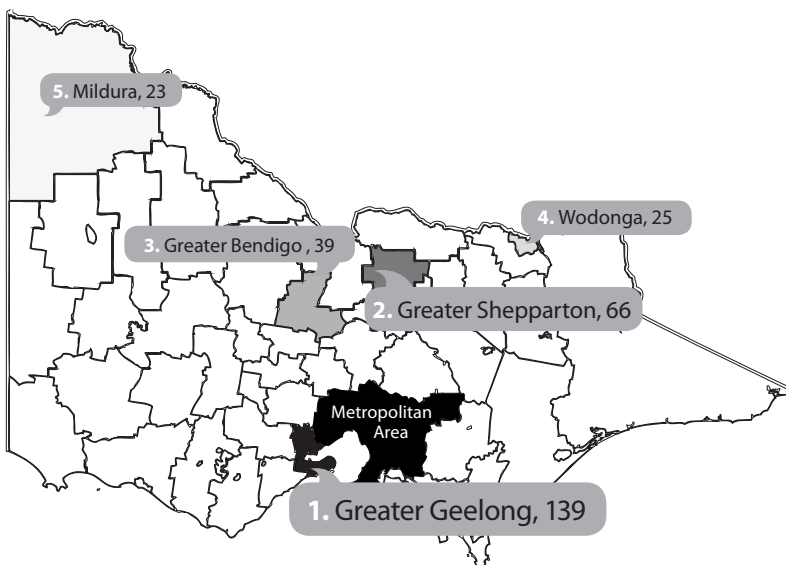


FIGURE 5. Youth arrivals by LGA of settlement, 2015/16 (Rural/Regional Victoria)



⁵ It is important to note that this data does not accurately account for secondary settlement, which is currently inadequately captured by existing data collection processes. With the addition of such a high proportion of youth for whom location of settlement has not been recorded, this data is indicative only.

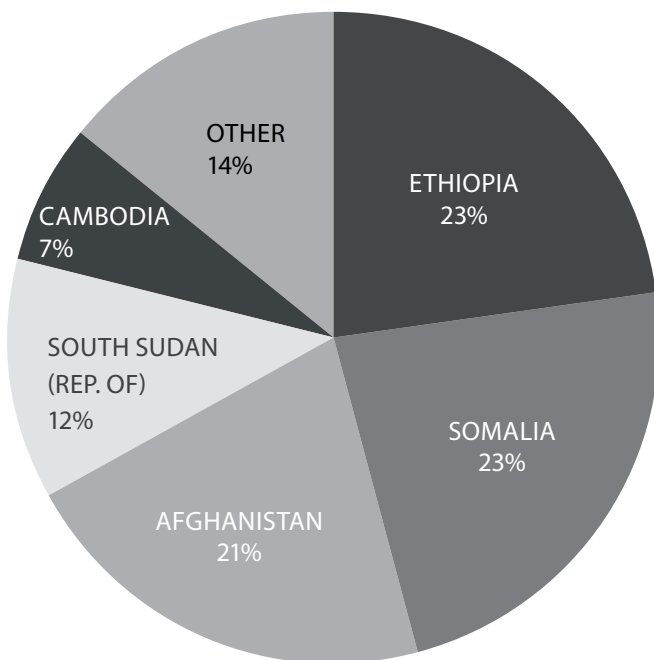
Last Remaining and Orphan Relative Visas

Many young people who arrive in Australia through the Family and Skilled migration programmes may also come from refugee or refugee-like situations. This means that while their experiences may similarly reflect those of the young people entering through the Humanitarian Programme, they may have less formal structures and supports in place when they begin their settlement journey in Australia.

One group who often will have experienced refugee-like situations are young people arriving through the Last Remaining Relative (115) and Orphan Relative (117) visa categories, which fall under the Family programme. These are young people aged 12 to 24 who migrate from a range of countries to live permanently in Australia with a relative or near relative. These young people typically live in Australia in kinship care arrangements and may have particular vulnerabilities related to their pre-migration experiences and their transition to a new country and culture. However, 117 and 115 visa holders are unable to access many of the support services provided to those arriving through the Humanitarian Programme.⁶ Young people arriving on 117 and 115 visas have been included in this year's Information Sheet to support service providers and practitioners in their work with this group.

During the 2015/16 financial year, Victoria welcomed 10 young people (aged 12-24) through the Last Remaining Relative (115) and 110 young people through the Orphan Relative (117) visa categories. These numbers have remained relatively constant over the last five years.⁷ Almost 85% of all young people arriving on this visa came from Somalia (23%), Ethiopia (23%), Afghanistan (21%), the Republic of South Sudan (12%), or Cambodia (7%) (Figure 6).

FIGURE 6. Youth 115 and 117 visa holders by country of birth⁸



⁶ In a 2013 report exploring the unique migration experience of young people on 117 visas, International Social Service (ISS) Australia recommended collaboration between kinship care services and the refugee and migrant settlement sector to specifically support the needs of this newly arrived group of young people. See, Kavanagh, S. (2013) Home safe home: A report on children who migrate to Australia. Available at <http://iss-ssi.org/2009/assets/files/news/ISSAustralia-HomeSafeHomeReport-May2013-web.pdf>, p.5

⁷ CMY (2015). Information Sheet Youth Arrivals to Victoria, July 2014 to June 2015. Available at www.cmy.net.au

⁸ Other includes less than 5% from: Sudan, China (Peoples Republic of), Zimbabwe (Republic of), Philippines, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), India, Kenya, Nepal, Yemen (Republic of)

Asylum seekers living in the community on bridging visas

As of June 2016, 28,163 asylum seekers, who had arrived irregularly to Australia by boat, had been granted bridging visas (class E or BVEs) and were residing in the community.⁹ Almost one quarter (22%) of BVE holders living in Australia are aged between 12 and 24 and 40% of these young people are living in Victoria (Figure 7). Of the more than 10,000 BVE holders living in Victoria, 2,520 (23%) are aged between 12 and 24 and of the more than 28,000 BVE holders living in Australia, 6,147 (22%) are aged between 12 and 24 (Figure 8 and 9).¹⁰

Figure 7. Percentage of 12-24 year old BVE holders who live in Victoria

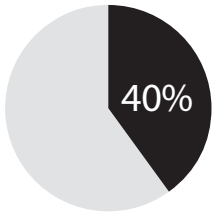


FIGURE 8. BVE holders by age group, March 2016 (Victoria)

TOTAL 12-24 VIC	2,520
TOTAL all ages VIC	10,837

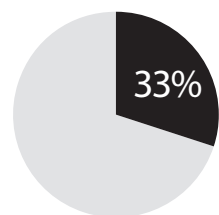
FIGURE 9. BVE holders by age group, March 2016 (Australia)

TOTAL 12-24 AUST	6,147
TOTAL all ages AUST	28,163

3. How many young people from refugee backgrounds are arriving in Victoria?

Between July 2010 and June 2015, 6,279 young people granted visas under the Humanitarian Programme (humanitarian youth) were settled in Victoria, this represented almost one third (32.5%) of all humanitarian youth arriving to Australia during this period (Figure 10). In 2015/16 Australia's Humanitarian Programme comprised 13,750 settlement places, with an additional 12,000 Humanitarian Programme places made available for people displaced by conflicts in Syria and Iraq.¹¹

FIGURE 10. Humanitarian Youth Arrivals that settled in Victoria, 2015/16



⁹ As of June 2016, Australia had granted 35,776 bridging visa E's to asylum seekers who had arrived irregularly to Australia by boat. The remaining 7,613 who were not living in the community as of June 2016 had either been granted a substantive visa (allowing them to remain in Australia legally), departed Australia, been returned to immigration detention or were deceased. These are the most up-to-date publicly available figures at the time of publishing. For more information on asylum seekers living in the community in Australia please visit www.border.gov.au.

¹⁰ In the original source figures less than 10 were not provided. In order to provide this analysis figures less than 10 were rounded up to 10.

¹¹ During 2015/16, Australia granted 3,790 additional visas towards the additional 12,000 humanitarian places allocated for people displaced by conflicts in Syria and Iraq. For further information visit <https://www.border.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/statistics/humanitarian-programme-outcomes-offshore-2015-16.pdf>

During 2015/16, a total of 940 humanitarian youth arrived in Victoria, representing 27% of all humanitarian arrivals (3,429) and 15% of all youth arrivals (6,204) to the state (Figure 11). Almost half (44%) of all humanitarian youth arrivals to Victoria in 2015/16 were of school age (Figure 12).

FIGURE 11. Humanitarian youth by age group, 2015/16

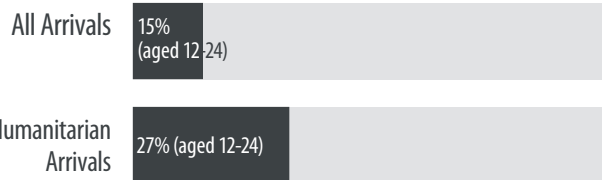


FIGURE 12. Humanitarian youth by age group, 2015/16

Ages	Humanitarian
12-15	280
16-17	137
18-24	523
Total 12-24	940
All ages	3,429

3.1 Where are refugee young people settling in Victoria?

Many young people and their families move between Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the months and years subsequent to settlement for a variety of reasons.¹² This relocation from an original on-arrival settlement location to another place within the first five years of arriving in Australia is typically referred to as secondary settlement. Secondary settlement data is especially hard to track and has not been used to inform or supplement on arrival settlement data for this Information Sheet. As such, information provided here should be taken as indicative only.¹³

Of the 940 young people arriving through the Humanitarian Programme to Victoria in 2015/16 there were a small number (less than 1% or 3) for whom a settlement location was not recorded. The majority (85%) of humanitarian youth for whom an LGA of settlement was recorded had settled on arrival in the metropolitan areas of Greater Melbourne upon arrival in 2015/16. This reflects similar urban/rural split in previous years.¹⁴

Metropolitan Victoria

From July 2010 to June 2015, the top five metropolitan LGAs of settlement for humanitarian youth were Greater Dandenong, Hume, Casey, Brimbank and Wyndham. However, over the last two years Maroondah has settled greater numbers of humanitarian youth than Brimbank. In 2015/16, 75% of all humanitarian youth settling on arrival in Victoria settled in one of ten metropolitan LGAs (see Figure 13). During this period almost one in five (19%) of the 799 young people who settled in metropolitan Melbourne during 2015/16 settled in Hume LGA. This is the third year in a row

¹² In reference to LGAs, the Government of Australia uses the following abbreviations for Victoria which are replicated in the data here: Cities (C), Rural Cities (RC), Boroughs (B) and Shires (S).

¹³ Further information on the challenges of secondary settlement data capture can be found at <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/tr/spn/110601-SPN.pdf>.

¹⁴ See CMY Humanitarian Youth Arrival Information Sheets from previous years at www.cmy.net.au

that Hume has settled the largest number of young people from the Humanitarian Programme arriving in Victoria.

FIGURE 13. Humanitarian youth by Top 10 metropolitan LGAs of settlement by age group, 2015/16

Local Government Area	Age 12-15	Age 16-17	Age 18-24	Total
Hume (C)	49	17	67	133
Wyndham (C)	37	15	55	107
Casey (C)	28	18	55	101
Greater Dandenong (C)	25	14	57	96
Maroondah (C)	18	11	56	85
Brimbank (C)	15	6	42	63
Melton (S)	13	5	34	52
Whittlesea (C)	8	5	12	25
Yarra Ranges (S)	7	1	15	23
Hobsons Bay (C)	7	6	6	19
Top 10 METRO total				704

Rural/Regional Victoria

In 2015/16, 138 young people from humanitarian backgrounds settled in regional or rural Victoria. From July 2010 to June 2015, eight in every ten humanitarian youth to regional or rural Victoria settled in one of five LGAs – Greater Geelong, Greater Shepparton, Greater Bendigo, Mildura or Wodonga. This settlement pattern was reflected again in 2015/16. Of all humanitarian youth settling in regional and rural Victoria in 2015/16, almost all (96%) settled in one of these top five LGAs, with almost half (46%) settled in Greater Geelong (Figure 14).

FIGURE 14. Humanitarian youth by Top 5 rural/regional LGAs of settlement by age group, 2015/16

Local Government Area	Age 12-15	Age 16-17	Age 18-24	Total
Greater Geelong (C)	25	12	26	63
Greater Shepparton (C)	4	3	16	23
Wodonga (RC)	5	2	11	18
Greater Bendigo (C)	6	4	7	17
Mildura (RC)	2	1	8	11
Top 5 REGIONAL total				132

3.2 Where are young people from refugee backgrounds coming from?

One in every four humanitarian youth arriving to Victoria in the period July 2010 to June 2015 were born in Afghanistan. Combined with humanitarian youth arrivals from Iran, Iraq and Myanmar, young people from these source countries make up two thirds of all humanitarian youth arriving in Victoria over the last five years.

In 2015/16, 92% of all humanitarian youth settling in Victoria were born in one of ten countries, with two thirds reporting their country of birth as Myanmar, Afghanistan, Iraq or Thailand. In contrast, when looking at youth arrivals from all three migration streams young people from these four countries made up just 17% of those settling in Victoria (Figure 15 and 16).

The number of humanitarian youth arriving from Myanmar has more than doubled from July 2010 to June 2015 (an increase from 133 in 2010/11 to 286 in 2014/15). In 2015/16 almost one in

four humanitarian youth arrivals reported their country of birth as Myanmar. However, given the protracted nature of the conflict producing refugees from Myanmar, it is likely that many humanitarian youth reporting Thailand as their country of birth have originated from Myanmar. This would make the number of humanitarian youth settling in Victoria who identify their culture and/or ethnicity as from within Myanmar much higher than is indicated by country of birth data alone.¹⁵

FIGURE 15. Youth arrivals born in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Iraq and Thailand as percentage of all youth arrivals/ all humanitarian youth, 2015/16

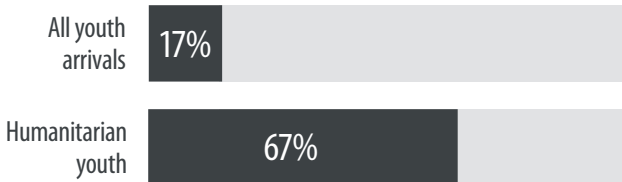


Figure 16. Humanitarian youth by country of birth (Top 10), 2015/16

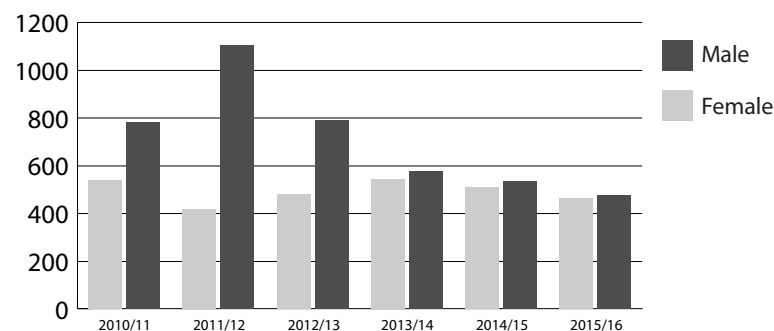
Country of Birth	Number of humanitarian youth	% humanitarian youth
Myanmar	213	23%
Afghanistan	186	20%
Iraq	148	16%
Thailand	74	8%
Syrian Arab Republic	65	7%
Iran	51	5%
Congo, Dem Republic of the	41	4%
Ethiopia	30	3%
Pakistan	28	3%
Eritrea	25	3%

3.3 What are the characteristics of young people from refugee backgrounds?

Gender

Current data shows that over the two years from June 2013 there has been a balancing of the genders among humanitarian youth arriving in Victoria.¹⁶ In 2015/16, 49% of humanitarian youth arriving in Victoria were young women (465) and 51% were young men (475).

Figure 17. Humanitarian youth by gender, 2010-2016



¹⁵ Importantly, data on self-reported ethnicity or cultural background is not currently collected and country of birth does not necessarily reflect cultural background. As such, many young people will have been born and/or lived much of their lives in countries not considered their country of origin before migrating to Australia. For example, Thailand continues to host large numbers of refugees and people in refugee-like situations from near-by Myanmar. The UNHCR reports that refugees and forced migrants have sought protection in Thailand for more than 30 years, with over 100,000 people from Myanmar registered with the UNHCR in Thailand as at January 2015. See www.unhcr.org for further information.

¹⁶ CMY (2016).

Languages spoken

During 2015/16, 29% of young people arriving in Victoria through the humanitarian programme reported speaking a Burmese or a related language originating from Myanmar as their main language.¹⁷ The percentage of humanitarian youth who reported speaking an Iranic language was similarly high at 28%, while almost one quarter (23%) reported speaking Arabic, Hebrew, Assyrian or Chaldean as a main language and 14% an African language (Figure 18).

FIGURE 18. Humanitarian youth by main language spoken (Top 5), 2015/16

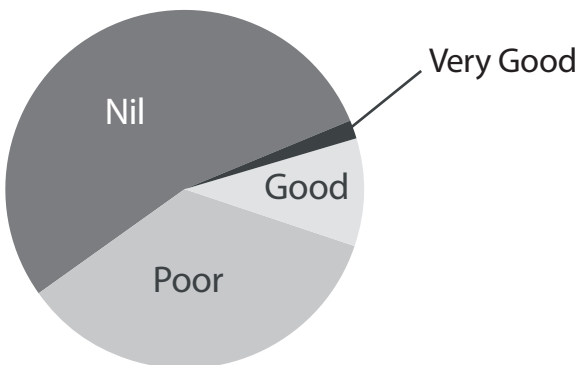
Language	Number	Percentage
BURMESE AND RELATED - including Chin, Burmese / Myanmar, Chin Haka, Haka, Karen, Karen S'gaw, Chin Zome, Chin Zotong (Zotung), Burmese and Related Languages, nfd, Chin Falam, Chin Mara, Chin Teddin, Kachin	273	29%
IRANIC - including Afghan, Kurdish, Pashto, Dari, Farsi (Afghan), Persian, Farsi (Persian), Persian (excl. Dari), Hazaragi	265	28%
MIDDLE EASTERN SEMITIC - including Arabic, Hebrew, Assyrian, Chaldean	218	23%
AFRICAN - including Mauritian Creole, Oromo, Shona, Somali, Swahili, Amharic, Dinka, Nuer, Tigre, Tigrinya, Anuak, Bari, Mandingo, African languages nec	135	14%
OTHER EASTERN ASIAN - including Tibetan, Mongolian	11	1%

Over half (54%) of all humanitarian youth arrivals to Victoria in 2015/16 had their English language proficiency reported as 'nil', 35% as 'poor', 10% as 'good' and 2% as 'very good' (Figure 19 and 20).¹⁸

FIGURE 19. Humanitarian youth by English language proficiency and age group, 2015/16

Age Group	Very good	Good	Poor	Nil
12-15	<5 (1%)	13 (5%)	48 (18%)	203 (76%)
16-17	<5 (2%)	20 (15%)	32 (24%)	77 (58%)
18-24	11 (2%)	56 (11%)	240 (46%)	211 (41%)
Total	16	89	320	491

FIGURE 20. Humanitarian youth by English language proficiency, 2015/16



¹⁷ Languages are grouped using the ABS Standard Classification for Languages 2016 (1276.0, released 18 July 2016)

¹⁸ English language proficiency was not recorded for 24 humanitarian youth arrivals.

Religion

In 2015/16, more than half of all humanitarian youth arrivals reported Christianity (52%) as their religion. The other most reported religions included: Islam (39%) and Buddhism (5%).¹⁹

Figure 17. Humanitarian youth by reported religion 2015/16

Religion	#	%
BUDDHISM	44	5%
CHRISTIANITY	493	52%
HINDUISM	8	1%
ISLAM	365	39%
JUDAISM	0	0%
OTHER RELIGIONS	17	2%
SECULAR BELIEFS AND OTHER SPIRITUAL BELIEFS AND NO RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	0	0%
Not recorded / not stated	13	1%

¹⁹ Based on self-reported religion from the original (DSS SRF) data source and grouped according to ABS Standard Classification of Religious Groups 2016 (1266.0 released 18 July 2016).

The Centre for Multicultural Youth is a Victorian not-for-profit organisation supporting young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to build better lives in Australia.

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