

Statistics for Victorian health programs: planning service provision for people from refugee backgrounds, including people seeking asylum



victorian refugee health network

Prepared for the 1 November 2018 statewide meeting. Care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this data and references are included. If you have any feedback please contact Philippa Duell-Piening, duell-pieningp@foundationhouse.org.au

Australian Government Refugee and Humanitarian Programme statistics

This population group includes people who have received refugee and humanitarian visas prior to travelling to Australia (subclasses 200, 201, 202, 203 & 204) and people who have been granted a permanent protection visa after arrival in Australia (subclass 866).

People who arrived in Australia in the past 6 months living in Victoria

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Programme entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/04/2018 and 30/09/2018 and are recorded as residing in Victoria as of 04/10/2018.

In the past 6 months, 2,181 people who arrived through the Refugee and Humanitarian Programme settled in Victoria.

Table 1: Country of Birth: Top 10¹

Country of Birth	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Myanmar	90	0	398	7	495
Iraq	200	0	210	20	430
Syrian Arab Republic	118	0	188	8	314
Afghanistan	96	24	79	<5	199
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	105	0	6	37	148
Thailand	32	0	101	<5	133
Eritrea	7	0	48	8	63
Ethiopia	22	0	13	17	52
India	<5	0	45	0	45
Malaysia	10	0	35	<5	45

Table 2: Age on arrival¹

Age Band	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
00-05	106	8	160	14	288
06-11	115	8	162	18	303
12-15	74	<5	89	18	181
16-17	25	<5	40	8	73
18-24	102	<5	191	24	317
25-34	163	10	229	16	418
35-44	96	<5	140	15	251
45-54	49	<5	118	9	176
55-64	32	0	60	6	98
65+	28	0	32	5	65
Grand Total	790	37	1,221	133	2,181

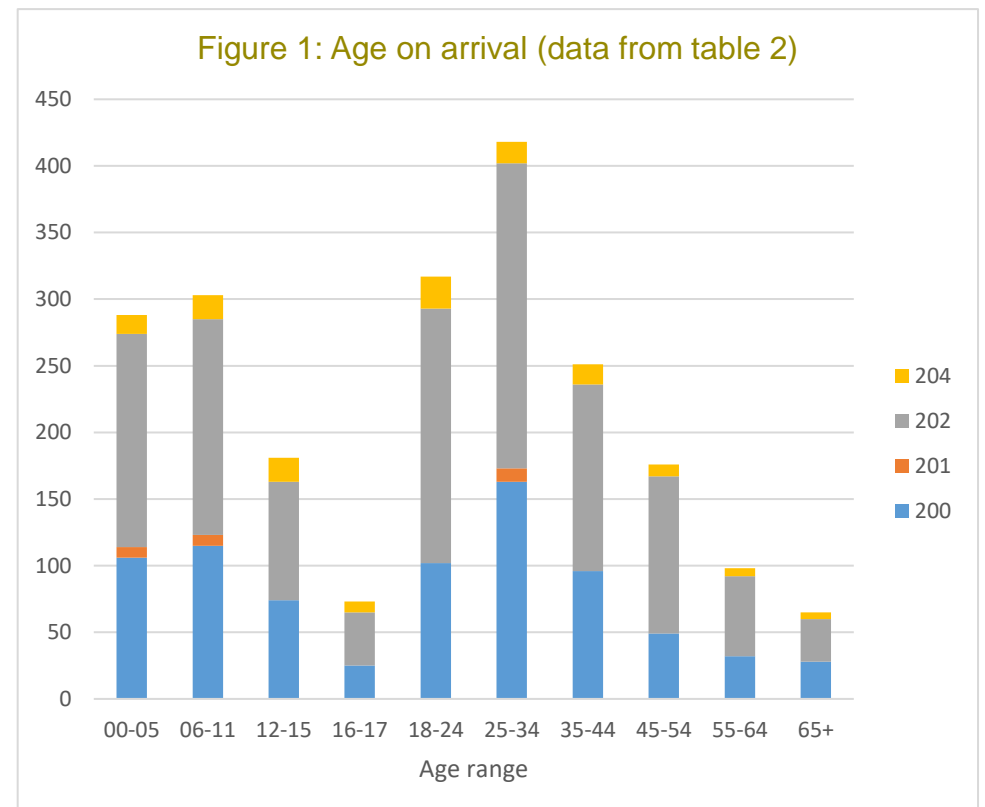
Table 3: Gender¹

Gender	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Female	384	18	606	96	1,104
Male	406	19	615	37	1,077
Grand Total	790	37	1,221	133	2,181

Table 4: Local Government Areas where people live: Top 15¹

Local Government Area	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Hume (C)	163	5	262	24	454
Brimbank (C)	60	0	113	8	181
Wyndham (C)	55	0	118	8	181
Maroondah (C)	10	0	147	0	157
Casey (C)	77	13	50	<5	140
Greater Dandenong (C)	50	11	60	6	127
Maribyrnong (C)	27	0	72	0	99
Melton (S)	51	<5	40	7	98
Greater Geelong (C)	60	0	30	6	96
Greater Shepparton (C)	78	0	12	0	90
Greater Bendigo (C)	8	0	76	0	84
Whittlesea (C)	12	0	47	7	66
Wodonga (RC)	17	0	<5	49	66
Yarra Ranges (S)	10	0	51	0	61
Mildura (RC)	52	0	6	0	58

Figure 1: Age on arrival (data from table 2)



People who arrived in Australia in the past 10 years living in Victoria

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Programme entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/07/2008 and 30/06/2018 and are recorded as residing in Victoria as of 04/10/2018.

In the past 10 years, 50,307 people who arrived through the Refugee and Humanitarian Programme or were subsequently granted a permanent protection visa (i.e. visa subclass 866) settled and stayed in Victoria.

Table 6: Country of birth: Top 15¹

Country of Birth	Visa numbers						Total
	200	201	202	203	204	866	
Iraq	4,579	125	4,679	5	253	836	10,477
Afghanistan	2,220	322	1,409	0	576	3,384	7,911
Myanmar	4,800	0	1,824	0	431	67	7,122
Syrian Arab Republic	781	0	3,251	<5	74	130	4,236
Iran	1,044	<5	381	0	254	1,999	3,678
Thailand	1,307	0	775	0	104	<5	2,186
Pakistan	287	<5	211	0	236	1,387	2,121
Ethiopia	400	<5	550	7	137	155	1,249
Sri Lanka	127	<5	214	0	<5	728	1,069
Malaysia	505	0	165	0	18	134	822
Sudan	161	<5	555	0	47	7	770
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	511	0	81	0	160	6	758
Eritrea	146	0	399	<5	70	49	664
Egypt	45	257	44	<5	10	201	557
Somalia	166	0	243	0	97	27	533

Table 7: Age on arrival¹

Age range	Visa number						Total
	200	201	202	203	204	866	
00-05	2,667	146	1,861	<5	229	1,021	5,924
06-11	2,653	99	2,341	<5	520	438	6,051
12-15	1,532	36	1,496	<5	395	344	3,803
16-17	718	20	777	<5	212	669	2,396
18-24	2,592	107	2,344	<5	439	2,095	7,577
25-34	3,689	163	2,612	<5	352	3,913	10,729
35-44	2,445	84	1,988	<5	301	1,810	6,628
45-54	1,319	46	1,499	0	176	675	3,715
55-64	655	12	1,009	0	96	352	2,124
65+	455	12	647	0	70	159	1,343
Grand Total	18,725	725	16,574	17	2,790	11,476	50,307

Figure 2: Age on arrival (data from table 7)

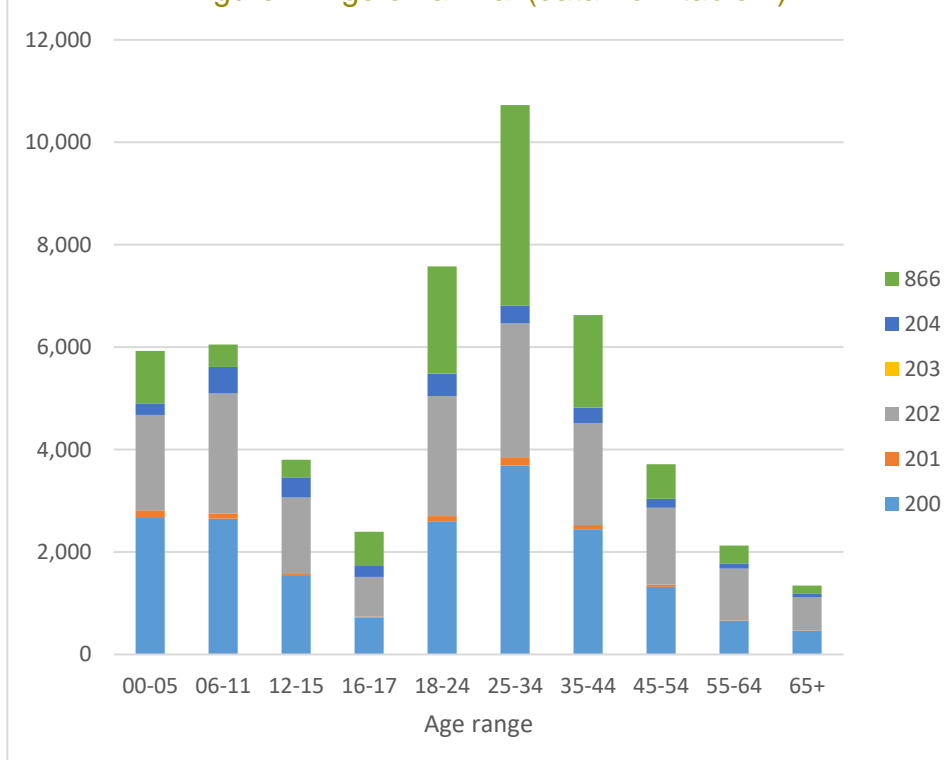


Table 8: Gender¹

Gender	200	201	202	203	204	866
Female	8,786	340	8,536	6	1,950	n.p.*
Male	9,939	385	8,038	11	840	8,420
Not Stated	0	0	0	0	0	<5
Grand Total	18,725	725	16,574	17	2,790	11,476

Table 9: Local Government Areas where people now live: Top 15¹

Local Government Area	Visa number						Total
	200	201	202	203	204	866	
Hume (C)	3,897	30	5,622	<5	316	729	10,594
Greater Dandenong (C)	1,731	212	1,240	10	437	2,179	5,809
Casey (C)	1,511	274	1,400	0	319	2,116	5,620
Wyndham (C)	2,012	17	1,223	<5	260	499	4,011
Brimbank (C)	1,635	13	1,029	<5	143	742	3,562
Melton (S)	1,003	54	971	0	72	350	2,450
Whittlesea (C)	401	26	810	0	37	1,141	2,415
Maroondah (C)	1,386	14	621	0	111	77	2,209
Greater Geelong (C)	1,038	0	220	0	403	180	1,841
Moreland (C)	202	15	463	0	22	399	1,101
Greater Shepparton (C)	565	0	210	0	73	211	1,059
Maribyrnong (C)	352	<5	333	<5	47	270	1,002
Greater Bendigo (C)	536	0	282	0	74	39	931
Yarra Ranges (S)	477	0	180	0	45	29	731
Darebin (C)	108	7	128	<5	30	319	592

Table 10: Financial year of arrival for Refugee and Humanitarian Programme entrants living in Victoria¹

Financial year of arrival	Visa number						Total
	200	201	202	203	204	866	
2008/09	1,725	87	1,632	<5	207	1,006	4,657
2009/10	1,609	54	1,398	0	182	1,811	5,054
2010/11	1,383	31	1,308	<5	205	2,029	4,956
2011/12	1,797	40	471	0	224	3,388	5,920
2012/13	2,580	47	132	10	427	2,142	5,338
2013/14	2,538	258	1,150	<5	369	616	4,931
2014/15	1,371	68	2,126	0	263	295	4,123
2015/16	1,605	54	1,631	0	329	141	3,760
2016/17	2,640	36	4,613	<5	352	n.p.*	7,641
2017/18	1,477	50	2,113	0	232	<5	3,872
Grand Total	18,725	725	16,574	17	2,790	11,476	50,307

*any cells that contain less than five have been suppressed (<5) and the next cell with the lowest value is also masked as 'n.p.' (not provided) where applicable. This is due to the Department of Social Service's privacy policy.

People seeking asylum

The date a person arrived, their mode of arrival and if they had valid entry documents determine if they are detained, how they will have their asylum application processed, what means of appeal they will have and whether they may apply for permanent or temporary protection. People often have long waits to hear the outcome of their application. More about asylum application pathways here: <https://www.racs.org.au/causes/factsheets/>

The most recent data available, from February 2018, indicates the average processing time from lodgement to primary decision²:

- Permanent Protection visa (PPV) 257 days
- Temporary Protection visa (TPV) 415 days
- Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV) 316 days

It is important to note that some people were barred from lodging their asylum applications for years, in effect making their wait for a primary decision about their application much longer than the time periods indicated above.³

Those who do not have a visa granted at primary stage may have their application reviewed. People seeking asylum eligible who are eligible for a PPV have their appeals heard through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) Migration and Refugee Division. The AAT reported an average wait of 288 days from lodgement to finalisation of PPV applications in the 2017-18 financial year, 66% of lodgements were finalised within 365 days.⁴

People who arrived by plane

There is little data available about people who arrive by plane and apply for protection. The number of people living in the community who sought asylum after arriving by plane with a valid visa (i.e. tourist, student visa etc), and who are now waiting for their protection claims to be assessed is unknown. Some national data is available about new lodgements, see table 11 below.

Table 11: New permanent protection visa lodgements and permanent protection visa grants Australia-wide by financial year**⁵

Component	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	1 Jul 2017 to 31 Jan 2018
Permanent Protection Visa (PPV) lodgement	9,688	8,587	12,617	18,290	15,367
PPV grants	2,752	2,750	2,003	1,711	931

**a small proportion of this group arrived by boat. See table 15 for indicative numbers.

Table 12: Nationalities of onshore asylum claims for people coming by plane Australia-wide: Top 10⁵

2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	1 Jul 2017 to 31 Jan 2018
China	China	Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysia	China
India	India	China	China	China	Malaysia
Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan	India	India	India
Egypt	Fiji	India	Iraq	Vietnam	Vietnam
Iran	Egypt	Iraq	Pakistan	Pakistan	Thailand
Lebanon	Iran	Libya	Fiji	Iraq	Pakistan
Iraq	Libya	Fiji	Vietnam	Indonesia	Indonesia
Libya	Lebanon	Iran	Indonesia	Fiji	Fiji
Fiji	Nepal	Lebanon	Iran	Taiwan	Bangladesh
Bangladesh	Malaysia	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Thailand	Taiwan

Table 13: Nationalities of successful onshore asylum claims for people coming by plane in Australia-wide: Top 10⁵

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	1 Jul 2017 to 31 Jan 2018
Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq
Iran	Egypt	Iraq	Libya	Pakistan	Pakistan
Egypt	Iran	Iran	Pakistan	Libya	Libya
China	Libya	China	Afghanistan	Iran	Iran
Iraq	China	Egypt	China	China	China
Libya	Iraq	Libya	Iran	Afghanistan	Malaysia
Syria	Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Syria	Syria	Syria
Sri Lanka	Lebanon	Syria	Lebanon	Egypt	Bangladesh
Fiji	India	Papua New Guinea	Egypt	Lebanon	Lebanon
Zimbabwe	Papua New Guinea	Turkey	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Egypt

Appeals heard by the AAT: PPV applications

Most people that apply for a PPV arrived by plane, however a very small number of people who arrived by boat were able to apply for a PPV and have their appeal heard by the AAT. The data below is for financial year 2017-18 and does not take into account people who received a PPV at the primary decision.

Table 14: Appeals applications by citizenship in Victoria: Top 10⁴

Country	Number
Malaysia	3128
Vietnam	330
China	289
Pakistan	223
Indonesia	136
Thailand	133
Sri Lanka	119
Taiwan	110
Iran	45
Iraq	32

Table 15: PPV decisions by citizenship Australia-wide: Top 10⁴

Country	Number of decisions		Set aside***
	Arrived by boat	Arrived by plane	
Malaysia	0	3701	2%
China	0	488	3%
India	1	139	6%
Vietnam	18	86	2%
Taiwan	0	98	0%
Pakistan	3	87	18%
Sri Lanka	32	36	21%
Fiji	0	65	3%
Iran	25	30	31%
Iraq	0	46	26%

***set aside means the primary decision has been overturned

People in detention

The following data is about people in immigration detention and under residence determination (formerly community detention) in Victoria as of 30/6/2018.

Table 16: People in detention⁶

Place of immigration detention	Number of people seeking asylum who arrived by boat
Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre	20
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	49

Table 17: People under residence determination⁶

	Men	Women	Children	Total
Number	37	34	61	132

People transferred from offshore processing centres to Australia for medical treatment

No government data is publically available about the number of people transferred from offshore processing for medical care in Australia. A number of people that have been transferred from offshore processing centres to Australia for medical treatment live under residence determination (see table 17).

*The UNHCR report that... 'approximately 1,420 people still held in Papua New Guinea and Nauru, some 500 have now been returned to Australia on medical grounds'*⁷

People who arrived by boat

The following data is about people seeking asylum who arrived by boat prior to 2014, without valid entry documents and who are living in the community in Victoria as of 31/3/2018.

On 31 March 2018, 7,891 people seeking asylum who arrived by boat prior to 2014 lived in Victoria on a Bridging Visa E (BVE).

Table 18: Place of residence: Top10^{8****}

Municipality	Number
Greater Dandenong	1,839
Brimbank	1,350
Whittlesea	1,072
Casey	629
Hume	553
Moreland	338
Wyndham	304
Darebin	214
Maribyrnong	185
Moonee Valley	142

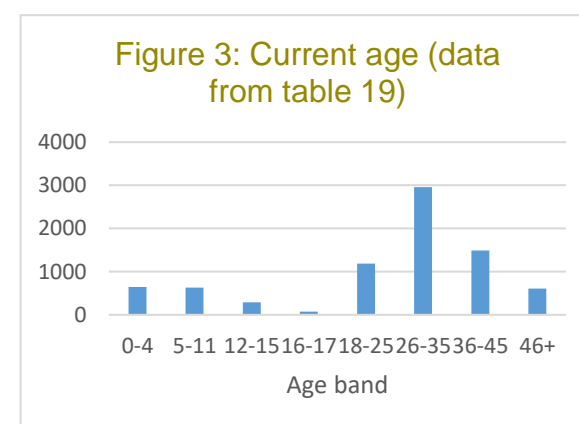
****data has been aggregated from postcode to LGAs

Table 19: Current age⁸

Age range	Number
0-4	648
5-11	632
12-15	286
16-17	78
18-25	1190
26-35	2956
36-45	1491
46+	610

Table 20: Gender⁸

Gender	Number
Female	1987
Male	5904
Total	7891



Temporary Protection visa and Safe Haven Enterprise visa holders

On 2 September 2018, 4,380 temporary protection visas (SHEV and TPV) had been granted to people living in Victoria, 5,662 people were awaiting an outcome of their application.⁹ Most people waiting for an outcome have applied for SHEVs, 86%.

People seeking asylum who arrived without a valid visa are only allowed to apply for TPVs or SHEVs. The following data is about people who arrived by boat before 2014 without a valid visa living in Australia as of 2/9/2018.

Table 21: Country of citizenship⁹

Country of Citizenship	Number
Iran	3834
Afghanistan	3573
Sri Lanka	1852
Stateless	1455
Pakistan	1015
Iraq	894
Vietnam	97
Bangladesh	21
Other	891
Total	13632

Table 22: TPV and SHEV application status⁹

	TPV	SHEV	Total
APPLIED AND ON HAND****			
On hand at Primary	1166	9067	10233
Review and other	448	1091	1539
TOTAL	1614	10158	11772
APPLICATIONS FINALISED			
Finalised grants	5177 (67% grant rate)	8455 (74% grant rate)	13632 (72% grant rate)
Finalised refusals	2545	2918	5463
Total	7722	11373	19095

****on hand refers to appeals that are in the process of being reviewed

Data sources

- Settlement Database, Australian Government Department of Social Services, contact: settlement.data.request@dss.gov.au
- 'Onshore processing statistics', Department of Home Affairs: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/reports-publications/research-statistics/statistics/live-in-australia/onshore-processing>
- 'Immigration detention statistics', Department of Home Affairs: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/reports-publications/research-statistics/statistics/live-in-australia/immigration-detention>
- 'Humanitarian Program Statistics', Australian Government Department of Home Affairs: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/reports-publications/research-statistics/statistics/live-in-australia/humanitarian-programme>
- 'Statistics', Refugee Council of Australia: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/statistics/>
- 'Statistics', Administrative Appeals Tribunal: <http://www.aat.gov.au/migration-and-refugee-division/resources/statistics>

Endnotes

- ¹ Australian Government Department of Social Services Strategic Planning and Reporting Section, Settlement Database, accessed 15 October 2018.
- ² Refugee Council of Australia, 'Fast tracking statistics', <<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/getfacts/statistics/aust/fast-tracking-statistics/>> accessed on 19/10/2018.
- ³ Refugee Council of Australia, 'Brief: Recent changes to Australian Refugee Policy', <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Recent_changes_201807.pdf>, accessed 24/10/2018, pg 4.
- ⁴ Administrative Appeals Tribunal Migration and Refugee Division, *Caseload Report Financial year 20 June 2018*, <<http://www.aat.gov.au/AAT/media/AAT/Files/Statistics/MRD-Detailed-Caseload-Statistics-2017-18.pdf>> accessed 23/10/2018.
- ⁵ Refugee Council of Australia, *Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community* <<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/getfacts/statistics/aust/asylum-community/>> accessed 19/10/2018.
- ⁶ Department of Home Affairs, *Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary 31 July 2018*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/statistics/immigration-detention-statistics-july-18.pdf>> accessed 17/10/2018.
- ⁷ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'UNHCR urges Australia to evacuate off-shore facilities as health situation deteriorates', <<http://www.unhcr.org/en-au/news/briefing/2018/10/5bc059d24/unhcr-urges-australia-evacuate-off-shore-facilities-health-situation-deteriorates.html>> accessed 23/10/2018.
- ⁸ Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, *Illegal maritime arrivals on Bridging E visa: 31 March 2018*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/statistics/ima-bve-mar-2018.pdf>> accessed 17/10/2018.
- ⁹ Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, *IMA legacy caseload: Report on processing status and outcomes (August 2018)*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/statistics/ima-legacy-caseload-august-2018.pdf>> accessed 19/10/2018.