

# 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 August 2019 statewide meeting. Care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this data and references are included. If you have any feedback please contact [info@refugeehealthnetwork.org.au](mailto:info@refugeehealthnetwork.org.au)

## Australian Government Refugee and Humanitarian Program 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 11 months living in Victoria

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/07/2018 and 31/05/2019 and are recorded as residing in Victoria as of 04/06/2019. Note: cells with values of 5 or less are marked <5 and some cells are marked 'n.p.' (not provided). This is due to the Department of Home Affairs' privacy policy.

*In the past 11 months, 3658 people who arrived through the Refugee and Humanitarian Program settled in Victoria.*

Table 1: Country of Birth: Top 10<sup>1</sup>

Country of Birth	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Iraq	344	0	633	17	994
Myanmar	131	0	573	6	710
Syria	245	0	208	16	469
Afghanistan	131	23	106	7	267
Congo, Democratic Republic of	208	0	14	43	265
Thailand	62	0	153	<5	<220
Iran	58	0	25	11	94
Eritrea	8	0	58	14	80
Ethiopia	44	0	17	19	80
Malaysia	11	0	54	<5	<70

Table 2: Age on arrival<sup>1</sup>

Age Band	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
00-05	173	9	254	12	448
06-11	238	<5	274	22	539
12-15	124	<5	147	25	301
16-17	63	0	67	13	143
18-24	195	<5	271	42	513
25-34	266	9	368	17	660
35-44	164	<5	272	20	461
45-54	111	<5	175	9	300
55-64	63	0	109	n.p.	172
65+	51	<5	75	<5	131

Table 3: Gender<sup>1</sup>

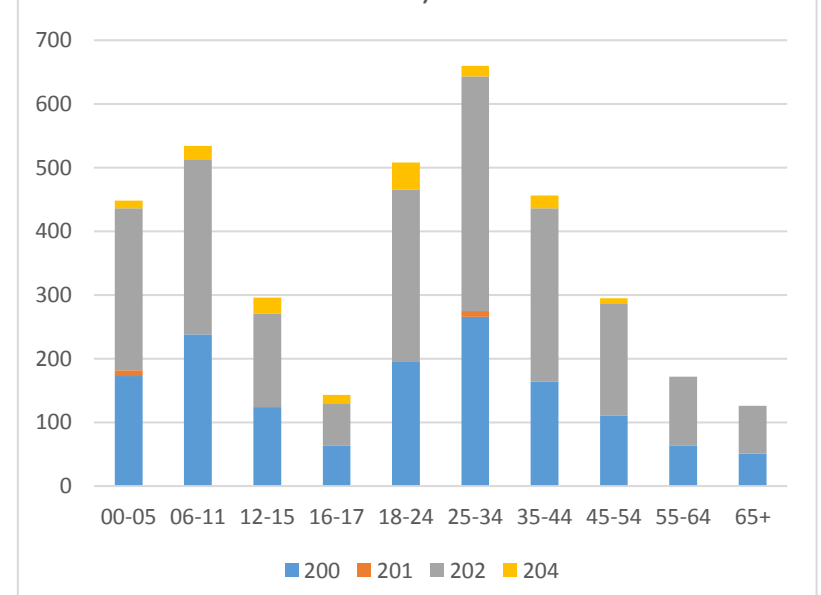
Gender	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Female	724	16	1,005	135	1880
Male	724	12	1,007	35	1778
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>3658</b>

202 visas were the most common visa held by new arrivals during this period (full description of visa subclasses on page 6).

Table 4: Local Government Areas where people live: Top 15<sup>1</sup>

Local Government Area	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Hume	246	5	397	16	664
Maroondah	21	0	249	0	270
Wyndham	82	0	152	<5	<239
Brimbank	84	0	133	12	229
Greater Geelong	110	0	63	13	186
Greater Dandenong	84	12	63	19	178
Casey	84	9	77	<5	175
Melton	75	0	82	5	162
Greater Shepparton	88	0	5	29	122
Yarra Ranges	22	0	100	0	122
Whittlesea	51	0	48	5	104
Greater Bendigo	10	0	77	0	87
Maribyrnong	16	0	62	<5	<83
Wodonga	51	0	<5	25	81
Mildura	54	0	0	0	54

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



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

Previously Australian Government Refugee and Humanitarian Program statistics were recorded in the Settlement Database and provided by Department of Social Services (DSS) on request. The Victorian Refugee Health Network data bulletin is compiled using those data. As of 1 July 2019 the Settlement Database is now managed by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Due to this transition we have not been able to populate tables 6-10 about people who arrived in Victoria in the past 10 years. We apologise for this inconvenience and will provide these data at a later date to assist in planning service provision.

## People seeking asylum

A person who is seeking asylum in Australia has applied for a refugee protection visa and is awaiting a decision on this application.

Protection applications are assessed by Department of Home Affairs at first instance, this is commonly referred to as the **primary stage**. The Department of Home Affairs can decide a person is owed protection. If they find they are not owed protection, a person may have this decision reviewed, depending on their mode of arrival, by the Immigration Assessment Authority or the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Migration and Refugee Division, this is commonly known as **merits review**. If a person is found not to be owed protection by the tribunals they may be able to appeal to have their case heard in the courts, this is commonly called **judicial review**.

## Asylum seeker data in detail

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. You may read more about asylum application pathways here: <https://www.racs.org.au/causes/factsheets/>

Those who do not have a visa granted at primary stage may have their application reviewed. People seeking asylum 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 508 days from lodgement to finalisation of PPV applications in the 2018-19 financial year, 40% of lodgements were finalised within 365 days.<sup>2</sup>

## 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: Protection visa application lodgements and PPV grants, Australia-wide by financial year<sup>3,4</sup>

Component	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (to 28/02/19)
Permanent Protection Visa (PPV) lodgement	9,688	8,587	12,617	18,290	27,931	16,082
PPV grants	2,752	2,750	2,003	1,711	1,425	773

Table 12: Nationalities: protection visa application lodgements, Australia-wide: Top 10<sup>3,4</sup>

2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019 (to 28/02/19)
China	Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysia
India	China	China	China	China	China
Pakistan	Pakistan	India	India	India	India
Fiji	India	Iraq	Vietnam	Vietnam	Thailand
Egypt	Iraq	Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan	Fiji
Iran	Libya	Fiji	Iraq	Iraq	Vietnam
Libya	Fiji	Vietnam	Indonesia	Indonesia	Indonesia
Lebanon	Iran	Indonesia	Fiji	Fiji	Pakistan
Nepal	Lebanon	Iran	Taiwan	Bangladesh	Taiwan
Malaysia	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Thailand	Iran	Iran

## 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 2018-19 (until 31 May 2019) and does not take into account people who received a PPV at the primary decision.

Table 14: Active appeals applications by citizenship of in Victoria as of 31 May 2019: Top 10<sup>2</sup>

Country	Number
Malaysia	5,370
Vietnam	565
China	394
Thailand	311
Pakistan	296
Indonesia	237
Taiwan	194
Sri Lanka	153
Iran	105
India	81
Other	599
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,305</b>

Table 15: PPV decisions by citizenship Australia-wide (2018-19 financial year, as 31 May 2019): Top 10<sup>2</sup>

Country	Number of decisions		Set aside***	
	Arrived by boat	Arrived by plane		
Malaysia	0	1,579	37	2%
China	0	443	16	4%
India	0	220	14	6%
Pakistan	4	151	43	28%
Vietnam	12	98	13	12%
Fiji	0	109	2	2%
Bangladesh	10	91	12	12%
Sri Lanka	32	35	20	30%
Indonesia	0	59	0	0%
Iran	24	35	26	44%
Other	24	511	135	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>3,331</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>9%</b>

## People in detention

The following data is about people in immigration detention and under residence determination (formerly community detention) in **Victoria** as of 31 May 2019.

Table 16: People in detention<sup>5</sup>

Place of immigration detention	Number of people seeking asylum who arrived by boat
Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre	Closed
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	68

Table 17: People under residence determination<sup>5</sup>

	Men	Women	Children	Total
Number	79	65	92	236

## 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 March 2019.

On 31 March 2019, 6,831 people seeking asylum who arrived by boat prior to 2014 lived in **Victoria** on a Bridging Visa E (BVE).

Table 18: Place of residence: Top15<sup>6\*\*\*\*</sup>

Municipality	Number
Greater Dandenong	1418
Brimbank	1182
Whittlesea	924
Casey	569
Hume	501
Moreland	289
Wyndham	262
Darebin	203
Maribyrnong	150
Manningham	137
Greater Geelong	112
Melton	109
Moonee Valley	106
Whitehorse	66
Monash	55

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

Table 19: Current age<sup>7</sup>

Age range	Number
0-4	435
5-11	565
12-15	261
16-17	90
18-25	849
26-35	2575
36-45	1460
46+	596

Table 20: Gender<sup>7</sup>

Gender	Number
Female	1628
Male	5203
Total	6831

Table 21: Country of Citizenship<sup>7</sup>

Country of citizenship	Number
Iran	2417
Sri Lanka	1669
Stateless	715
Pakistan	642
Afghanistan	594
Iraq	177
Vietnam	164
Lebanon	129
Myanmar	91
Bangladesh	80
Sudan	31
India	26
Somalia	21
Syria	10
Not recorded	20
15 citizenships with < 10	45
Total	6831

## Temporary Protection visa and Safe Haven Enterprise visa holders

On 3 June 2019, **5,088** temporary protection visas (SHEV and TPV) had been granted to people living in **Victoria**, **4,582** people were awaiting an outcome of their application.<sup>8</sup>

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 3 June 2019.

Table 22: Nationalities: TPV and SHEV grants, Australia-wide<sup>8</sup>

Country of Citizenship	Number
Iran	4,506
Afghanistan	3,802
Sri Lanka	1,996
Stateless	1,874
Pakistan	1,116
Iraq	970
Sudan	339
Somalia	247
Other	703
Total	15,553

Table 23: TPV and SHEV application status, Australia-wide<sup>8</sup>

	TPV	SHEV	Total
On hand at Primary****	880	6,646	7,526
Review and other	393	816	1,209
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>7,462</b>	<b>8,735</b>
<b>Finalised grants</b>	<b>5,388</b>	<b>10,165</b>	<b>15,553</b>
<b>Finalised refusals</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>4,023</b>	<b>6,727</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,092</b>	<b>14,188</b>	<b>22,280</b>

## Data sources

- Settlement Database, Australian Government Department of Social Services, contact: [settlement.data.request@dss.gov.au](mailto: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>
- 'Statistical Data for Victorian Communities', City of Greater Dandenong: <http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/18464/statistical-data-for-victorian-communities>

## Humanitarian Visa Subclasses

**Refugee (subclass 200)** for people who the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has referred to Australia for assistance

**In-Country Special Humanitarian (subclass 201)** for people who are still living in their country and have been unable to leave

**Global Special Humanitarian Visa (subclass 202)** for people who face substantial discrimination or human rights abuses and are proposed for resettlement by a person or organisation in Australia

**Emergency Rescue (subclass 203)** which gives priority processing for people who are in immediate danger

**Woman at Risk (subclass 204)** for women who do not have the protection of a partner or a relative and are in danger of victimisation

Source: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/refugee-and-humanitarian-program/refugee-visas>

## References

<sup>1</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs Strategic Policy and Analysis Section, Settlement Database, accessed 22/07/2019.

<sup>2</sup> Administrative Appeals Tribunal, *Migration and Refugee Division Caseload Report Financial year to 31 May 2019*, <<http://www.aat.gov.au/AAT/media/AAT/Files/Statistics/MRD-Detailed-Caseload-Statistics-2018-19.pdf>> accessed 26/07/2019.

<sup>3</sup> Refugee Council of Australia, *Asylum Community Statistics* <<https://refugeecouncilms.sharepoint.com/:x/s/Public/EY9v-ub5DpBAiFhn6empbwkBzXKurJF5ATqtaTU4xhYCCg?rttime=cJ6EBXoR10g>> accessed 26/07/2019.

<sup>4</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, *Onshore humanitarian program 2017-18: Delivery and outcomes for non-illegal maritime arrivals (non-IMA) as at 30 June 2018*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/ohp-june-18.pdf>> accessed 26/07/2019.

<sup>5</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, *Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary 31 May 2019*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/immigration-detention-statistics-31-may-2019.pdf>> accessed 26/07/2019.

<sup>6</sup> City of Greater Dandenong, *Data tables: Asylum seekers and refugees*, <<http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/27554/statistics-asylum-seekers>> accessed 26/07/2019

<sup>7</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, *Illegal maritime arrivals on Bridging E visa: 31 March 2019*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/illegal-maritime-arrivals-bve-mar-2019.pdf>> accessed 26/07/2019.

<sup>8</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, *IMA legacy caseload: Report on processing status and outcomes (May 2019)*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/ima-legacy-caseload-may-2019.pdf>> accessed 26/07/2019.