

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



victorian refugee health network

Prepared for the 7 March 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

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 6 months living in Victoria

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/07/2018 and 04/01/2019 and are recorded as residing in Victoria as of 04/01/2019.

In the past 6 months, 1,863 people who arrived through the Refugee and Humanitarian Program settled in Victoria, this is 318 less than the previous 6 month period.

Table 1: Country of Birth: Top 10¹

Country of Birth	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Myanmar	94	0	388	5	487
Iraq	159	0	205	<5	<369
Syria	101	0	101	5	207
Thailand	38	0	110	<5	<153
Congo, the Democratic Republic	105	0	5	23	133
Afghanistan	67	13	35	<5	<120
Eritrea	<5	0	39	7	<51
India	<5	0	45	0	<50
Ethiopia	29	0	5	12	46
Malaysia	9	0	31	<5	<45

Table 2: Age on arrival¹

Age Band	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
00-05	98	5	137	7	247
06-11	116	<5	146	12	<279
12-15	66	<5	79	16	<166
16-17	28	0	28	5	61
18-24	90	0	149	19	258
25-34	149	5	193	8	355
35-44	81	<5	132	8	<226
45-54	41	<5	85	<5	<136
55-64	33	0	46	<5	<84
65+	31	<5	35	<5	<76
Grand Total	733	18	1,030	82	1,863

Table 3: Gender¹

Gender	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Female	378	12	511	60	961
Male	355	6	519	22	902
Grand Total	733	18	1,030	82	1,863

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 15¹

Local Government Area	Visa Numbers				Total
	200	201	202	204	
Hume (C)	149	5	229	5	388
Maroondah (C)	10	0	156	0	166
Brimbank (C)	68	0	82	9	159
Wyndham (C)	55	0	99	1	157
Greater Geelong (C)	81	0	24	10	115
Yarra Ranges (S)	13	0	95	0	108
Greater Dandenong (C)	51	8	41	6	106
Casey (C)	55	5	41	0	101
Melton (S)	37	0	29	4	70
Wodonga (RC)	44	0	0	25	69
Greater Shepparton (C)	48	0	5	9	62
Greater Bendigo (C)	4	0	57	0	61
Maribyrnong (C)	14	0	47	0	61
Mildura (RC)	40	0	0	0	40
Darebin (C)	16	0	16	5	37

19% of arrival during this period settled in rural and regional areas (highlighted yellow above).

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

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program 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 Program or were subsequently granted a permanent protection visa (i.e. visa subclass 866) settled and stayed in Victoria.

Table 6: Country of birth: Top 15²

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 arrival²

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)

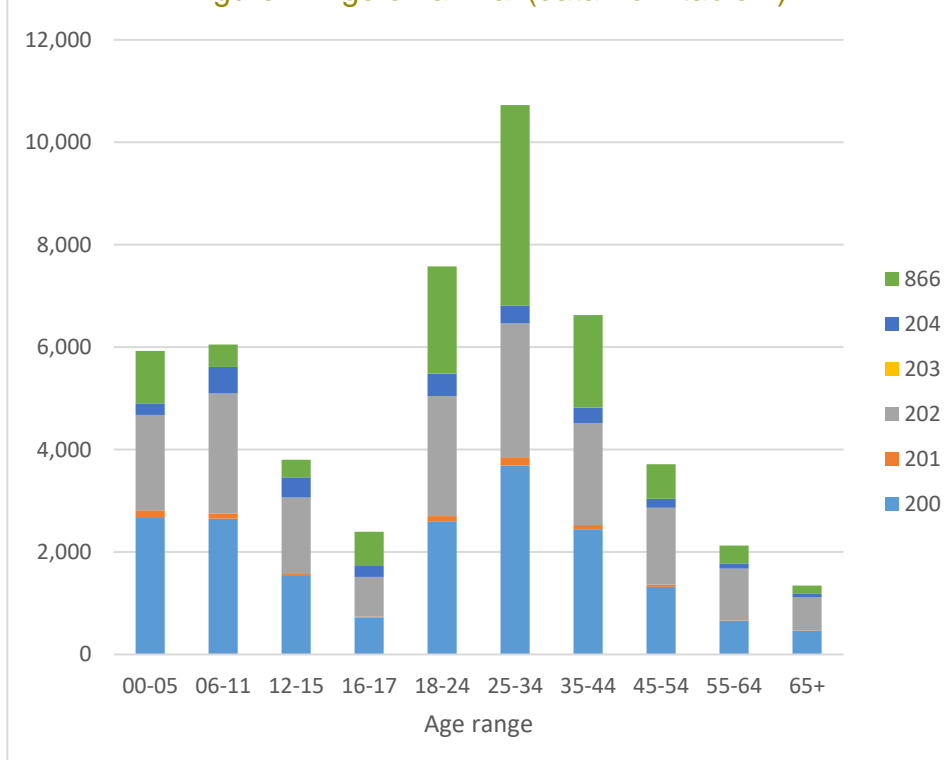


Table 8: Gender²

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 15²

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 Program entrants living in Victoria²

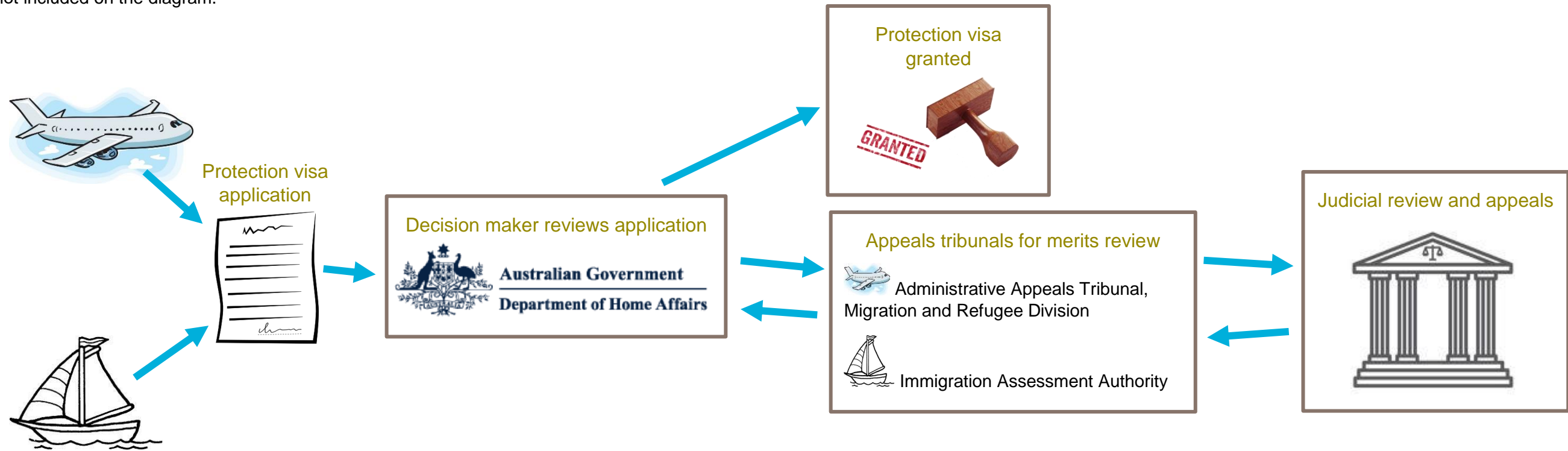
Financial year of arrival	Visa number						Total
	200	201	202	203	204	866	
2008/09	1,725	87	1,632	<5	207	1,006	4,657
2009/10	1,609	54	1,398	0	182	1,811	5,054
2010/11	1,383	31	1,308	<5	205	2,029	4,956
2011/12	1,797	40	471	0	224	3,388	5,920
2012/13	2,580	47	132	10	427	2,142	5,338
2013/14	2,538	258	1,150	<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

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 the 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**. The diagram below illustrates these pathways. Please note that Ministerial powers 'to replace a decision of a merits review tribunal on a person's case with a decision that is more favourable to that person if the Minister thinks it is in the public interest to do so' are not included on the diagram.³



Statistic summary:

Utilising the statistics that are publically available, it is not possible to calculate the total number of people seeking asylum in Victoria; the number is in excess of **7,400** (Box 3) + **7,001** (Box 5) = **14,401**

The missing data are about those who arrived by plane and have active cases at primary and judicial review stages.

Box 1. People who arrive by boat at primary stage¹²

	Victoria	Australia
Active cases 31 Dec 2018	Not available	8,908

Box 2. People who arrive by plane at primary stage⁷

	Victoria	Australia
New 2017-18 FY	Not available	27,931
Active cases	Not available	Not available

Box 3. Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Migration and Refugee Division⁶

	Victoria	Australia
Active cases 31 Jan 2019	7,400	17,919

Box 4. Immigration Assessment Authority¹³

	Victoria	Australia
Active cases 31 Dec 2018	Not available	435

Box 5. People who arrived by boat who have been granted a Bridging Visa E 'to allow them to remain lawfully in Australia while their immigration status is being resolved'. This number would include people at all stages of processing.¹¹

	Victoria	Australia
31 Dec 2018	7,001	15,674

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/>

The most recent data available, from February 2018, indicates the average processing time from lodgement to primary decision⁴:

- 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.⁵

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 462 days from lodgement to finalisation of PPV applications in the 2018-19 financial year, 46% of lodgements were finalised within 365 days.⁶

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^{**7,8}

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

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

Table 12: Nationalities: protection visa application lodgements, Australia-wide: Top 10^{7,8}

2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
China	Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysia	Malaysia
India	China	China	China	China
Pakistan	Pakistan	India	India	India
Fiji	India	Iraq	Vietnam	Vietnam
Egypt	Iraq	Pakistan	Pakistan	Pakistan
Iran	Libya	Fiji	Iraq	Iraq
Libya	Fiji	Vietnam	Indonesia	Indonesia
Lebanon	Iran	Indonesia	Fiji	Fiji
Nepal	Lebanon	Iran	Taiwan	Bangladesh
Malaysia	Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Thailand	Iran

Table 13: Australia-wide PPV grants: Top 10^{7,8}

2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Pakistan	Pakistan	Iraq	Iraq	Iraq
Egypt	Iraq	Libya	Pakistan	Pakistan
Iran	Iran	Pakistan	Libya	Libya
Libya	China	Afghanistan	Iran	Malaysia
China	Egypt	China	China	China
Iraq	Libya	Iran	Afghanistan	Iran
Afghanistan	Afghanistan	Syria	Syria	Syria
Lebanon	Syria	Lebanon	Egypt	Egypt
India	Papua New Guinea	Egypt	Lebanon	Bangladesh
Papua New Guinea	Turkey	Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	Ethiopia

Table 12a: Nationalities: protection visa lodgements, Australia-wide, 2017-18, 2016-17 financial years⁸

Nationality	2016-17	2017-18
Malaysia	8,579	9,319
China (PRC)	2,269	9,315
India	1,133	1,529
Vietnam	867	764
Pakistan	509	589
Iraq	469	194
Indonesia	426	515
Fiji	307	354
Bangladesh	216	256
Iran	210	250
Other	3,305	4,846
Total	18,290	27,931

Table 13a: Australia-wide PPV grants: 2017-18⁸

Nationality	Number of PPVs granted	Grant rate
Iraq	297	79%
Pakistan	208	69%
Libya	106	99%
Malaysia	90	2%
China (PRC)	87	10%
Iran	79	85%
Syria	55	100%
Egypt	44	49%
Bangladesh	44	60%
Ethiopia	36	80%
Other	379	...
Total	1,425	18%

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 January 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 January 2019: Top 10⁶

Country	Number
Malaysia	4,567
Vietnam	520
China	352
Pakistan	312
Thailand	298
Indonesia	245
Taiwan	185
Sri Lanka	151
India	120
Iran	78
Other	572
Total	7,400

Table 15: PPV decisions by citizenship Australia-wide (2018-19 financial year, as 21 January 2019): Top 10⁶

Country	Number of decisions		Set aside***
	Arrived by boat	Arrived by plane	
Malaysia	0	899	29 (3%)
China	0	237	11 (5%)
India	0	106	9 (8%)
Fiji	0	87	1 (1%)
Pakistan	3	79	19 (23%)
Vietnam	6	75	5 (6%)
Bangladesh	5	60	6 (9%)
Sri Lanka	23	18	14 (34%)
Iraq	2	37	16 (41%)
Iran	13	25	19 (50%)
Other	13	275	65 (34%)
Total	65	1898	194 (10%)

***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 detention⁹

Place of immigration detention	Number of people seeking asylum who arrived by boat
Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre	0
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	76

Table 17: People under residence determination⁹

	Men	Women	Children	Total
Number	61	52	91	204

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).

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 December 2018.

On 31 December 2018, **7,011** 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^{10****}

Municipality	Number
Greater Dandenong	1522
Brimbank	1203
Whittlesea	941
Casey	579
Hume	516
Moreland	310
Wyndham	259
Darebin	208
Maribyrnong	159
Manningham	130
Moonee Valley	125
Melton	94
Greater Geelong	90
Whitehorse	62
Monash	55

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

Table 19: Current age¹¹

Age range	Number
0-4	501
5-11	563
12-15	264
16-17	82
18-25	920
26-35	2638
36-45	1450
46+	593

Table 20: Gender¹¹

Gender	Number
Female	1692
Male	5319
Total	7011

Table 21: Country of Citizenship¹¹

Country of citizenship	Number
Iran	2466
Sri Lanka	1698
Stateless	773
Pakistan	642
Afghanistan	602
Iraq	181
Vietnam	164
Lebanon	128
Myanmar	100
Bangladesh	82
Somalia	34
Sudan	31
India	30
Indonesia	10
Not recorded	18
15 citizenships with < 10	52
Total	7011

Temporary Protection visa and Safe Haven Enterprise visa holders

On 2 January 2019, **4,709** temporary protection visas (SHEV and TPV) had been granted to people living in **Victoria**, **5,131** people were awaiting an outcome of their application.¹² Most people waiting for an outcome have applied for SHEVs, 86%.¹²

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 January 2019.

Table 22: Nationalities: TPV and SHEV grants, **Australia-wide**¹²

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 23: TPV and SHEV application status, **Australia-wide**¹²

	TPV	SHEV	Total
On hand at Primary****	1039	7869	8908
Review and other	420	940	1360
TOTAL	1459	8809	10268
Finalised grants	5280 (67% grant rate)	9323 (73% grant rate)	14603 (70% grant rate)
Finalised refusals	2642	3535	6177
Total	7922	12858	20780

****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>

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

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>

Endnotes

¹ Australian Government Department of Social Services Strategic Planning and Reporting Section, Settlement Database, accessed 13 February 2019.

² Australian Government Department of Social Services Strategic Planning and Reporting Section, Settlement Database, accessed 15 October 2018.

³ Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, Status Resolution Service: Ministerial Intervention, <<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/status-resolution-service/ministerial-intervention>> accessed 15/2/2019.

⁴ Senate Estimate, Question on notice no. 82. Portfolio question number AE18/085. 2017-18 Additional estimates. Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio, Senator Nick McKim asked the Department of Home Affairs on 26 February 2018, <<https://www.aph.gov.au/api/qon/downloadestimatesquestions/EstimatesQuestion-Committeeld6-EstimatesRoundld2-Portfoliold20-QuestionNumber82>> accessed 11/2/2019.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Administrative Appeals Tribunal, *Migration and Refugee Division Caseload Report Financial year to 31 January 2019*, <<http://www.aat.gov.au/AAT/media/AAT/Files/Statistics/MRD-Detailed-Caseload-Statistics-2018-19.pdf>> accessed 11/2/2019.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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 11/08/2019.

⁹ Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, *Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary 31 December 2018*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/immigration-detention-statistics-dec-2018.pdf>> accessed 11/2/2019.

¹⁰ City of Greater Dandenong, *Data tables: Asylum seekers and refugees*, <<http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/27554/statistics-asylum-seekers>> accessed 11/2/2019

¹¹ Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, *Illegal maritime arrivals on Bridging E visa: 31 December 2018*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/illegal-maritime-arrivals-bve-dec-2018.pdf>> accessed 11/2/2019.

¹² Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, *IMA legacy caseload: Report on processing status and outcomes (December 2018)*, <<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/ima-legacy-caseload-dec-2018.pdf>> accessed 11/2/2019.

¹³ Immigration Assessment Authority, *Case Load Report*, <<http://www.iaa.gov.au/IAA/media/IAA/Statistics/IAACaseloadReport2018-19.pdf>> accessed 11/2/2019.