



Data Bulletin 2023

Victorian Refugee Health Network
Data Bulletin: Q1 2023





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Humanitarian settlement data for Victoria

The Following report provides data on people from refugee backgrounds, including people seeking asylum settling in Victoria.

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).

People who arrived in Australia in the first quarter of 2023 living in Victoria²

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/01/2023 and 31/03/2023 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2023. Note that any cells that contain less than five have been suppressed (<5). Values that have not been provided and cannot be calculated are given as 'n.p.' (not provided).

Please note that data sets from Department of Home Affairs (DHA) only include those who have received refugee and humanitarian visas prior to travelling to Australia (subclasses 200, 201, 202, 203 & 204). This data does not include people who currently reside in Victoria who are on a temporary protection visa (449, 786, 790, 785), bridging visas or without a valid visa.

Table 1: Local Government Areas where people live who arrived in the first quarter of 2023: Top 10

Local Government Area	Visa Numbers				
	200	201	202	203	204
Greater Dandenong	72	<5	77	0	10
Casey	27	6	110	0	15
Wyndham	31	9	56	12	<5
Hume	64	7	24	0	6
Greater Geelong	36	0	21	0	6
Darebin	34	9	9	<5	0
Greater Bendigo	<5	0	30	0	<5
Whittlesea	20	6	8	0	<5
Greater Shepparton	12	0	8	0	<5
Cardinia	0	0	21	0	0
Grand Total	961				

As of 04/04/2023, 961 people on Visa Subclass (200, 201, 202, 203, 204) settled in Victoria.

Table 3: Main language spoken for those who arrived in the first quarter of 2023: Top 5

Main Language	Visa Numbers				
	200	201	202	203	204
Dari	127	8	154	0	21
Arabic	151	28	42	0	8
Karen S'gaw	0	0	59	0	<5
Hazaragi	12	0	39	0	6
Burmese	0	0	36	<20	0

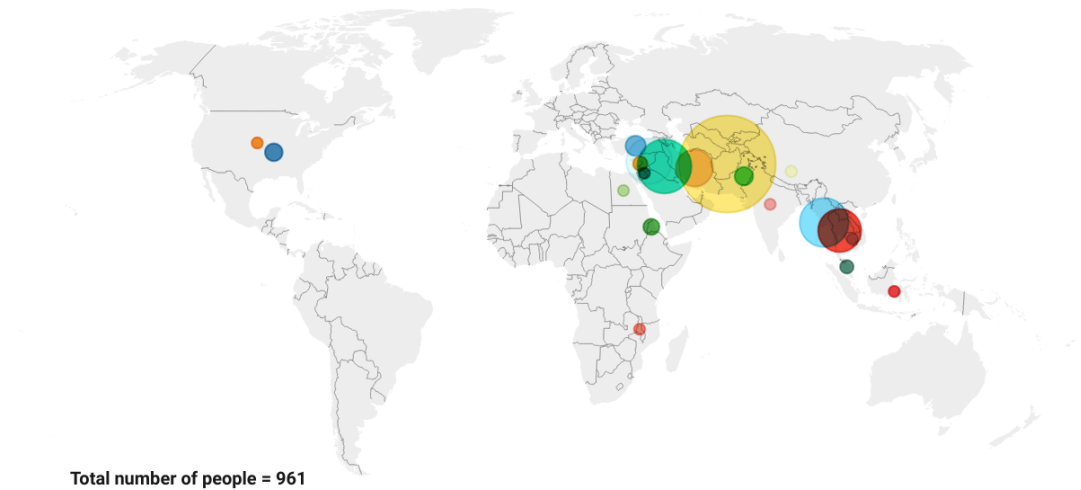
Visa Subclass Information ¹		
Visa subclass number	Visa name	Details
200	Refugee	for people who the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has referred to Australia for assistance
201	In-Country Special Humanitarian	for people who are still living in their country and have been unable to leave
202	Global Special Humanitarian	for people who are outside Australia (offshore), living outside of their home country, subject to substantial discrimination in their home country amounting to a gross violation of their human rights, and proposed by an Australian citizen or Permanent resident, an Eligible New Zealand citizen, or an organisation based in Australia.
203	Emergency Rescue	which gives priority processing for people who are in immediate danger
204	Woman at Risk	for women who do not have the protection of a partner or a relative and are in danger of victimisation
866	Protection	for people who arrived in Australia on a valid visa and want to seek asylum

Table 2: Recorded gender of people living in Victoria who arrived in the first quarter of 2023

Gender	Visa Numbers				
	200	201	202	203	204
Female	156	26	251	13	44
Male	199	26	226	8	12
Total	355	52	477	21	56
Grand total	961				

Country of Birth - Humanitarian Settlers who reside in Victoria and arrived in the first quarter of 2023.

People on Refugee Category Visas (200 series) with a Date of Arrival between 01/01/2023 and 31/03/2023 are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2023



* These figures are approximations as any cells that have been suppressed (<5) were changed to a numerical value (3) to present data in this map.
Map: Victorian Refugee Health Network • Source: Department of Home Affairs- Settlement Data • Created with Datawrapper
Interactive Map available at: <https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/ExnhX/4/>

¹ <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/refugee-and-humanitarian-program>
² Settlement Database, Australian Government Department of Home Affairs: settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au

People who arrived in Australia in the past year living in Victoria³

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2023 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2023. Note that any cells that contain less than five have been suppressed (<5). Values that have not been provided and cannot be calculated are given as 'n.p.' (not provided). For the full data set please contact our team at Victorian Refugee Health Network (refugeehealth@foundationhouse.org.au).

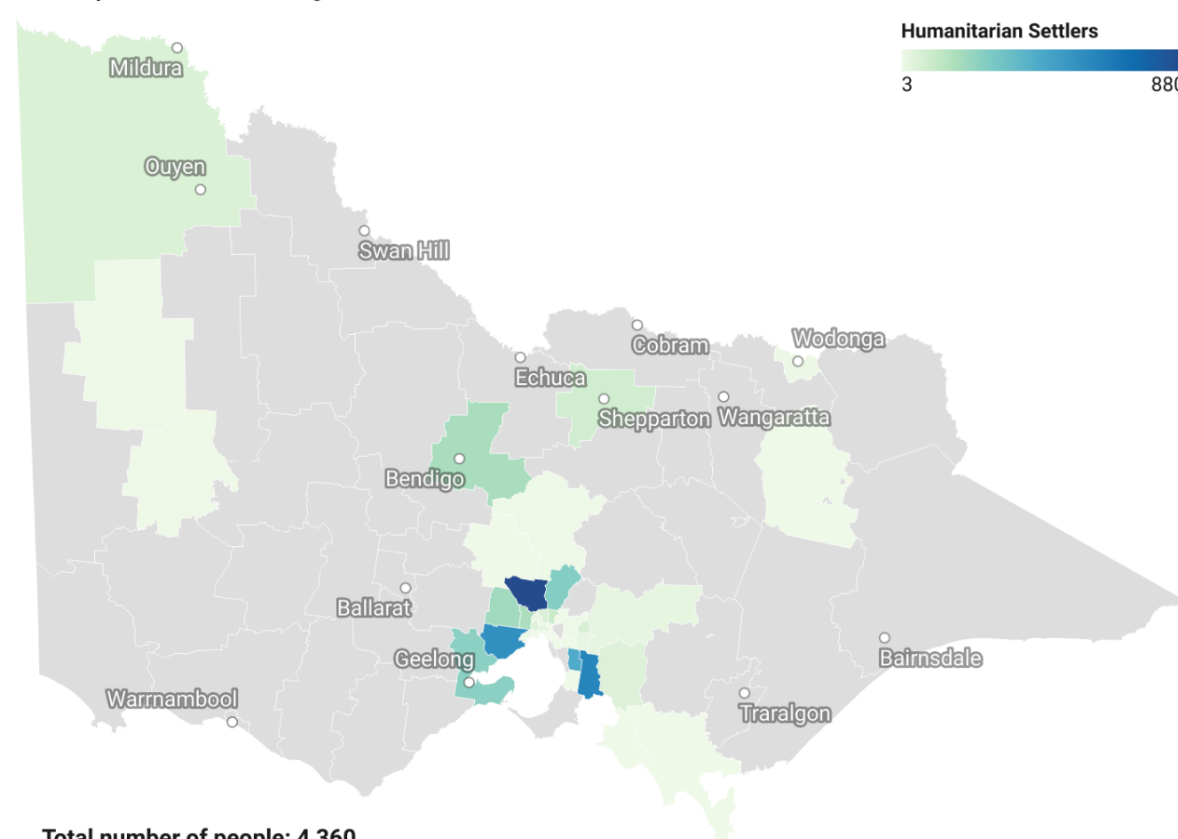
Please note that this data set from DHA only include those who have received refugee and humanitarian visas prior to travelling to Australia (subclasses 200, 201, 202, 203 & 204). This data does not include people who currently reside in Victoria who are on a temporary protection visa (449, 786, 790, 785), bridging visas or without a valid visa.

Table 4: Local Government Areas in Victoria where people live who arrived in the past year: Top 15*

Local Government Area	Visa Numbers				
	200	201	202	203	204
Hume	335	8	520	0	17
Casey	232	17	311	0	47
Wyndham	172	16	287	60	21
Greater Dandenong	177	12	199	<5	38
Whittlesea	130	16	106	0	16
Greater Geelong	159	0	71	0	20
Melton	59	<5	126	<5	8
Greater Bendigo	16	0	160	<5	<5
Brimbank	54	<5	102	6	10
Darebin	65	11	18	<5	<5
Greater Shepparton	59	0	20	0	6
Maroondah	<5	0	54	5	5
Mildura	57	0	<5	0	0
Moreland	16	<5	34	<5	6
Cardinia	0	0	52	0	<5
Grand Total of all recorded LGA's	1,654	96	2,298	<90	221
	4,360				

Humanitarian settlers who reside in Victorian Local Government Areas and arrived in the past year

Visa Subclass (200, 201, 202, 203, 204) with a Date of Arrival between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2023 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2023



Total number of people: 4,360

* These figures are approximations as any cells that have been suppressed (<5) were changed to a numerical value (3) to present data in this map.

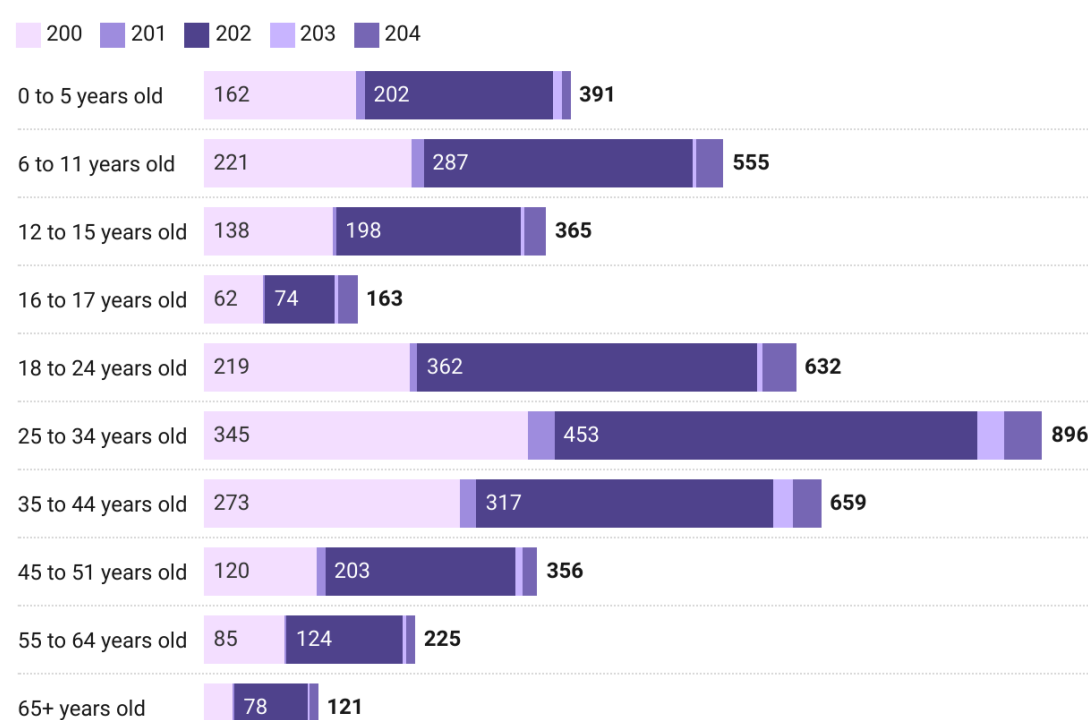
Map: Victorian Refugee Health Network • Source: Department of Home Affairs - Settlement Data • Map data: ABS • Created with Datawrapper

Interactive Map available at: <https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/qQdvH/4/>

There are **4,360 people on Visa Subclass (200, 201, 202, 203, 204)** who have arrived in the past year and recorded as **residing in Victoria**.

Age group of people who arrived in Australia over the past year and currently reside in Victoria

Visa subclasses (200 series) with a Date of Arrival between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2023 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2023



* These figures are approximations as any cells that have been suppressed (<5) were changed to a numerical value (3) to present data in this map.

Chart: Victorian Refugee Health Network • Source: Department of Home Affairs Settlement Database • Created with Datawrapper

Table 5: Country of birth of people who arrived in the past year and live in Victoria: Top 15

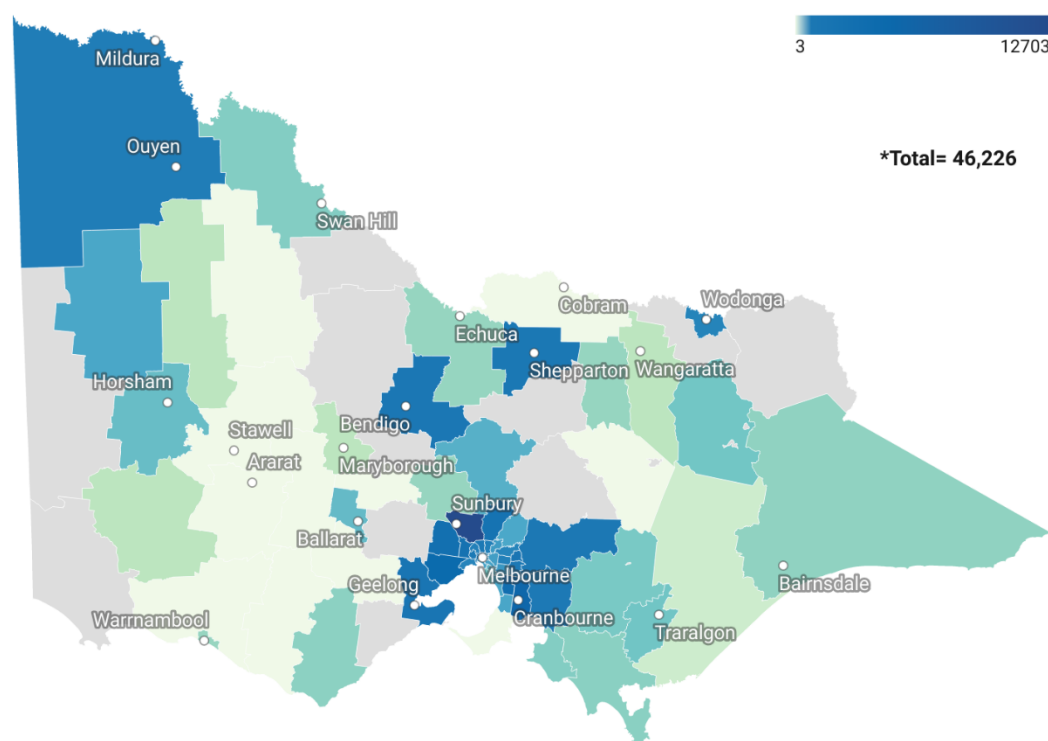
Country of Birth	Visa numbers				
	200	201	202	203	204
AFGHANISTAN	643	55	519	0	105
IRAQ	300	36	546	0	13
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	350	0	202	0	32
MYANMAR	21	0	375	85	11
THAILAND	18	0	286	0	<5
PAKISTAN	112	0	36	0	<5
IRAN	49	0	55	0	27
ERITREA	9	0	64	0	6
MALAYSIA	9	0	67	0	<5
LEBANON	32	0	18	0	<5
CONGO, DEM REPUBLIC OF THE	32	0	7	0	8
TURKEY	26	0	<5	<5	<5
INDIA	0	0	29	0	0
SUDAN	5	0	18	0	<5
ETHIOPIA	7	0	13	0	<5
Grand Total	1,654	96	2,298	<90	221

³ Settlement Database, Australian Government Department of Home Affairs: settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au

People who arrived in Australia in the past 10 years living in Victoria⁴

Humanitarian settlers in Victorian Local Government Areas over the last 10 years

Humanitarian settlers with a Date of Arrival between 01/01/2013 and 31/03/2023 are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/05/2023.



*555 Humanitarian settlers had not recorded their LGA

* These figures are approximations as any cells that have been suppressed (<5) were changed to a numerical value (3) to present data in this map.

Map: Victorian Refugee Health Network • Source: Australian Government- Settlement Database • Map data: ABS • Created with Datawrapper

Interactive Map available at: <https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/GYtx2/1/>

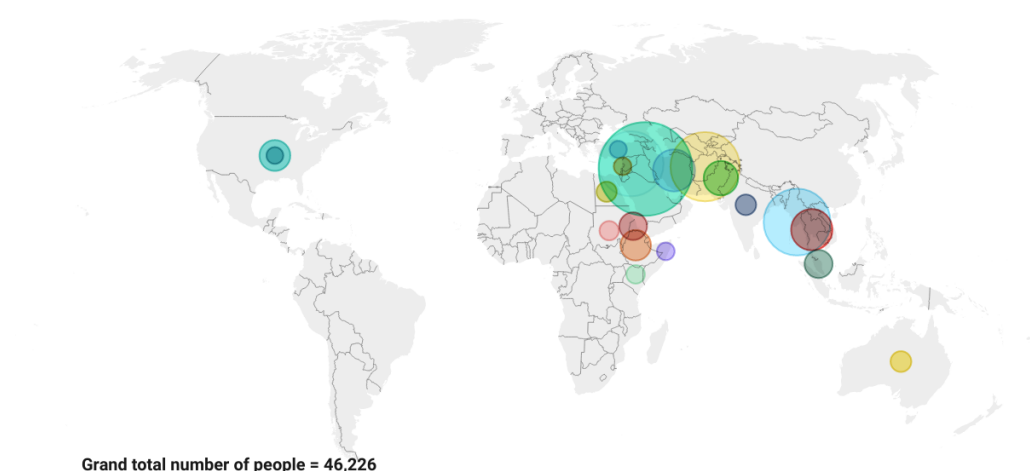
Table 7: Recorded Gender for people who reside in Victoria and arrived in the past 10 years.

Gender	200	201	202	203	204	866	Total
Female	8,187	615	10,134	87	2,052	2,110	23,185
Male	9,058	679	9,999	79	817	2,408	23,040
(Blank)	0	0	0	0	0	<5	<5
Grand Total	17,245	1,294	20,133	166	2,869	4,519	46,226

Country of Birth (Top 20): Humanitarian Settlers who reside in Victoria and arrived in the past 10 years

People on Refugee Category Visas (200 series & 866) with a Date of Arrival between 01/01/2013 and 31/03/2023 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/05/2023.

AFGHANISTAN AUSTRALIA CHINA, PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CONGO, DEM REPUBLIC OF THE
EGYPT ERITREA ETHIOPIA INDIA IRAN IRAQ KENYA LEBANON
MALAYSIA MYANMAR PAKISTAN SOMALIA SUDAN SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
THAILAND TURKEY



* These figures are approximations as any cells that have been suppressed (<5) were changed to a numerical value (3) to present data in this map.

Map: Victorian Refugee Health Network • Source: Department of Home Affairs- Settlement Data • Created with Datawrapper

Interactive Map available at: <https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/fF2bW/1/>

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/01/2013 and 31/03/2023 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/05/2023. Note that 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. 'Total' values provided are the best approximation from available information. This is due to the Department of Home Affairs' privacy policy.

There are **46,226 people** who arrived through the Refugee and Humanitarian Program or were granted a permanent protection visa (i.e., 200 series and visa subclass 866) in the past 10 years and are now recorded as residing in Victoria.

Please note that these data sets from DHA only include those 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). This data does not include people who currently reside in Victoria who are on a temporary protection visa (449, 786, 790, 785), bridging visas or without a valid visa.

Table 6: Top 10 Local Government Areas where people are recorded to live who have arrived in the past 10 years.

Local Government Area	Visa number					
	200	201	202	203	204	866
Hume	4,301	40	7,648	9	329	376
Casey	2,374	494	1,406	0	495	472
Wyndham	1,653	46	1,749	113	296	450
Greater Dandenong	1,210	448	939	13	408	388
Melton	1,250	44	1,444	<5	106	172
Brimbank	851	19	1,152	8	127	170
Whittlesea	699	53	946	0	71	386
Maroondah	494	6	858	7	66	58
Greater Geelong	742	<5	381	0	293	44
Greater Bendigo	402	0	630	<5	46	9
Grand Total of all LGA's	17,245	1,294	20,133	166	2,869	4,519
	46,226					

The map to the left shows the number of people who arrived in Australia over the last 10 years and hold a visa subclass 200, 201, 202, 203, 204 or 866 according to country of birth. It shows the top 20 countries where people were born and arrived in Australia between 01/01/2013 and 31/03/2023 and are now recorded as residing in Victoria. You can find the interactive map available [here](#). Iraq, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Syria are the countries with the largest number of people who arrived in Australia over this period and live in Victoria. This has been attributable to a sharp peak in arrivals during 2015/2016 due to Australia's response to the conflict in the Middle East. "Australia made a special pledge to resettle 12,000 extra refugees from Syria and Iraq. As a result, in 2016-17, Australia granted its highest ever number of refugee visas to more than 24,000 people". In 2022, the Australian government pledged a "special allocation of 16,500 visas for Afghan refugees over four years"⁵.

⁴ Settlement Database, Australian Government Department of Home Affairs: settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au

⁵ 'Get the facts: How many refugees make Australia their home each year?' <https://asylumseekerscentre.org.au/australia-refugee-intake/#:~:text=As%20a%20result%2C%20in%202016,the%20cap%20increased%20to%2018%2C750>

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 experience a long wait to hear the outcome of their application. You may read more about asylum application pathways here:

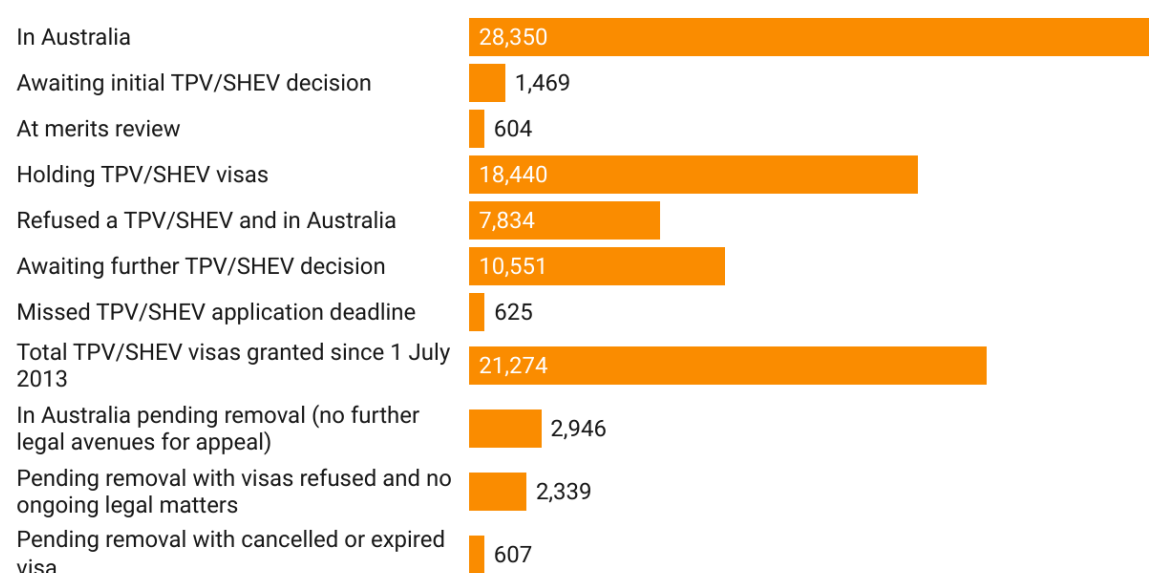
<https://www.racs.org.au/causes/factsheets/>

Those who do not have a visa granted at primary stage may have their application reviewed. People seeking asylum who are eligible for a Permanent Protection Visa (PPV) have their appeals heard through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) Migration and Refugee Division. The AAT reported 50% of cases are finalised within 1,373 days from lodgement to finalisation of applications made under Protection Case Categories between 1/10/22 and 31/03/23, 95% of lodgements were finalised within 2,018 days⁶.

Chart: Snapshot of Legacy Caseload processing
As of 10th March 2023.⁷

Snapshot of Legacy Caseload processing

As at 8 February 2023, other than for numbers missing deadline (as at 10 March 2023)



Data on those pending removal does not specify date.

Chart: Refugee Council of Australia • Source: Answers to Question on Notice SE23-516, SE23-527 • Created with Datawrapper

Table 8: Number of people in the UMA Legacy Caseload who:

- ✓ have submitted a valid application that is currently being processed; or
- ✓ had their application finalised – either granted or refused

Processing Stage ⁸	2023	
	March	February
Applied and on hand or at review	1,657	1,670
Applications Finalised	29,586	29,565
Total	31,243	31,235

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 below. Data collected from the monthly Departmental updates⁹ on the processing of onshore protection claims for the financial year 2022-2023 (July 2022 to March 2023) show there has been **13,605 protection visa lodgements** made onshore during the period. This data also shows the number of individuals who have been granted a Final Protection Visa during this period- for example, there have been **276 PPV grants for people from Myanmar** over this period.

Table 9: Protection visa application lodgements and PPV grants, Australia-wide by financial year

Component	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-22	2022-2023*
Permanent Protection Visa (PPV) lodgement	12,617	18,290	27,931	24,566	23,266	11,684	10,564	13,605
PPV grants	2,003	1,711	1,425	1,650	1,650	1,389	1,762	1,570

* Financial year to date (31 March 2023)

⁶ 'Migration and Refugee Division processing times' at <https://www.aat.gov.au/resources/migration-and-refugee-division-processing-times>

⁷ 'Fast tracking and 'Legacy Caseload' statistics' <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fast-tracking-statistics/2/>

⁸ UMA Legacy Caseload | Report on the Processing Status and Outcomes: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/uma-legacy-caseload-march-2023.pdf>

⁹ Monthly Update: Onshore Protection (Subclass 866) Visa Processing – July 2022 to March 2023 at <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/humanitarian-program>

Appeals heard by the AAT: PPV applications¹⁰

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 2022/23 (until 31 March 2023) and does not take into account people who received a PPV at the primary decision.

Table 10: Active Refugee cases by country and by Victoria region* as of 31 March 2023: Top 10

Country	Number
Malaysia	8,456
China	1,829
Vietnam	1,500
India	497
Indonesia	611
Thailand	578
Fiji	96
Philippines	223
Taiwan	286
Pakistan	300
Sri Lanka	275
Bangladesh	50

Table 11: Refugee decisions by country Australia-wide (Financial year to 31 March 2023): Top 10

Country	Number of decisions		Set aside***
	UMA	non-UMA	
Malaysia	0	1,806	69
China	0	1,232	26
Vietnam	41	316	47
Thailand	0	240	1
Fiji	0	178	10
India	1	177	2
Taiwan	0	131	0
Pakistan	7	106	38
Sri Lanka	59	45	48
Indonesia	0	96	0
Bangladesh	23	59	18
Grand total of all decisions by country	188	5,061	482

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

People in detention¹¹

The following data is about people in immigration detention and under residence determination (formerly community detention) as of 31 March 2023. Values that have not been provided and cannot be calculated are given as 'N.P.' (not provided).

As of 31 March 2023, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities (including people detained due to S501 visa cancellations and other reasons) in Australia was recorded **as 732 days**. As of 31 March 2023, there were **1,117 people** in Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs), Alternative Places of Detention (APODs) and Immigration Transit Accommodation (ITA) in Australia. Of these 1,089 people, 24.5 per cent had been detained for 91 days or less and 48.1 per cent had been detained for 365 days or less¹².

Table 12: People in detention in Victoria

Place of immigration detention	Number of people held in immigration detention
Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation	203
Alternative Places of Detention (APODs)	<5
Total	N.P*

Table 13: People under residence determination in Victoria

	Men	Women	Children	Total
Number	82	53	51	186 (57.9 percent of national total)
National Total	538			

¹⁰ Administrative Appeals Tribunal Migration and Refugee Division Caseload Report Financial year to 31 March 2023:

<https://www.aat.gov.au/AAT/media/AAT/Files/Statistics/MRD-Detailed-Caseload-Statistics-2022-23.pdf>

¹¹ Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/immigration-detention-statistics-31-december-2022.pdf>

¹² 'Time In Immigration Detention Facilities' at <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/immigration-detention-statistics-31-december-2022.pdf> (pg. 12)

Temporary Protection visa and Safe Haven Enterprise visa holders

People seeking asylum who arrived by boat without a valid visa are only allowed to apply for Temporary Protection Visa (subclass 785) (TPV) or a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (subclass 790) (SHEV), if the Minister has made a decision that it is in the public interest to lift a legislative bar on making a valid visa application in Australia. Where the Minister lifts the bar, the Department will advise the person who is classified as an Unauthorised Maritime Arrival (UMA) that they are eligible to apply for a TPV or a SHEV¹⁴.

The following data is about people who arrived by boat before 2014 without a valid visa living in Australia as of March 2023¹⁵. Total data as of November 2022 is shown for comparison.

Visa Subclass Information ¹³		
Visa subclass number	Visa name	Details
785	Temporary Protection	Temporary Visa to stay in Australia for 3 years. With access to government services such as Centrelink as well as work and study rights.
790	Safe-Haven Enterprise	Temporary Visa to stay in Australia for 5 years. With access to government services such as Centrelink as well as work and study rights.

As of March 2023, **7,566 temporary protection visas (SHEV and TPV) had been granted to people living in Victoria**, 760 people were awaiting an outcome of their application.

Table 14: Main Citizenships: TPV and SHEV grants, Australia-wide

Country of Citizenship	March 2023	February 2023
Iran	519	520
Stateless	272	270
Sri Lanka	245	249
Vietnam	177	180
Bangladesh	129	132
Afghanistan	99	100
Pakistan	58	61
Iraq	32	36
Other	126	122
Total	1,657	1,670

Table 15: TPV and SHEV applications by processing status, Australia-wide

Processing Status	March 2023			February 2023
	TPV	SHEV	Total	
On hand at Primary*	139	715	854	868
Review and other	197	606	803	802
Total	336	1,321	1,657	1,670
Applications Finalised	TPV	SHEV	Total	February 2023
Finalised grants	5,393	14,332	19,725	19,725
Finalised refusals	3,053	6,808	9,861	9,840
Total	8,446	21,140	29,586	29,565

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: CONVERSION OF TPVs/SHEVs TO A PERMANENT VISA

The Federal Government has announced that from 14 February 2023 people who currently hold, previously held or have applied for a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) or Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) may be eligible for a permanent Resolution of Status Visa (RoS visa). People granted a permanent RoS visa will have the same rights and benefits as all permanent residents, including access to family reunion.

It is essential that people seek legal assistance in relation to their rights to the RoS visa.

For free legal help in Victoria and South Australia, contact Refugee Legal at:

- Refugee Legal TPV/SHEV Conversion Hotline - Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm on (03) 9413 0133
- Email: RoSVisa@refugeelegal.org.au
- Website: www.refugeelegal.org.au

For further information on the policy change please refer to the Refugee Council of Australia site at: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/information-about-end-of-tpvs-shevs/>.

¹³ Visa Subclass Information <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing>

¹⁴ 'Coverage' <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/uma-legacy-caseload-march-2023.pdf>

¹⁵ 'UMA Legacy Caseload – Processing status' <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-stats/files/uma-legacy-caseload-march-2023.pdf> (pg. 5)



The Refugee Health Network obtains the data for this report from the DHA Settlement unit. Please see below an outline of the caveats provided by the DHA on the settlement data provided.

Caveats to data sources from the Settlement Database (SDB)¹⁶

- The data in your reports are sourced from the Settlement Database (SDB). There are limitations in the data capture and the actual data.
- Where applicable, with regards to Immigration data - as per current privacy guidelines, the Department's policy is to mask numbers which are less than five as <5
and/or if there is only one '<5' in any column, the next lowest value will be masked as less than to its upper limit (ie. if it is 8 then will be masked as '<10' or 88 will be masked as '<90') , noting we are reviewing the confidentiality method for the future.
- The Department of Home Affairs must be consulted regarding any requests to use the data for purposes not originally intended or discussed.

Data Capture

SDB collects data concerning settlers who have been granted a permanent (or provisional) visa.

SDB data is compiled from a number of sources including Department of Home Affairs, other Commonwealth agencies and service providers.

Data Limitations

The Settlement Database has not been adjusted to reflect settlers who:

- are deceased.
- have permanently departed Australia.
- have had their visas cancelled.

The settlement Database includes:

- some duplicate settler records.
- the number of settlers who are currently recorded as residing in a particular location. It cannot provide information on settlement patterns or trends.
- many data items that are not mandatory.
- only the settler's latest known residential (or intended residential) address. Address information is only updated if the Department is notified. Some settlers have no address details recorded.
- only the latest permanent (or provisional) visa for a settler.

The Settlement Database location data is based on the 2011 Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC).

Reporting Limitations

- Reports including numbers of settlers in specified locations may be inaccurate due to limitations in address data.
- Settlers with an existing permanent (or provisional) visa may appear in different reporting categories over time if they are granted a subsequent permanent (or provisional) visa.
- Data suppression rules have been applied for client confidentiality.
- Reports including 'not stated', 'invalid' or 'not recorded' labels indicate that the data is unavailable.

Settlement Date

Settlement Date uses a combination of either arrival date or grant date depending on where the settler was when their current SDB visa was granted.

If a settler was offshore when their current SDB visa was granted then arrival date is used. If a settler was onshore when their current SDB visa was granted then visa grant date is used.

Report Usage

Please attribute Australian Government as the data source.

Updated by DHA on 15 August 2019

¹⁶ For the full data set please contact our team at the Victorian Refugee Health Network (refugeehealth@foundationhouse.org.au).
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