



Data Bulletin 2024

Victorian Refugee Health Network
Data Bulletin: Q1 2024



Table of Contents

DATA BULLETIN 2024	2
HUMANITARIAN SETTLEMENT DATA FOR VICTORIA	4
THE FOLLOWING REPORT PROVIDES DATA ON PEOPLE FROM REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS, INCLUDING PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM SETTLING IN VICTORIA	4
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM STATISTICS	4
PEOPLE WHO ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024 LIVING IN VICTORIA	4
TABLE 1: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS WHERE PEOPLE LIVE WHO ARRIVED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024: TOP 10.....	4
TABLE 2: RECORDED GENDER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN VICTORIA WHO ARRIVED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024	4
TABLE 3: MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN FOR THOSE WHO ARRIVED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024: TOP 5.....	4
PEOPLE WHO ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA IN THE PAST YEAR LIVING IN VICTORIA	5
TABLE 4: COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF PEOPLE WHO ARRIVED IN THE PAST YEAR AND LIVE IN VICTORIA: TOP 15	5
.....	5
TABLE 6: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA RECORDED FOR PEOPLE ARRIVING IN VICTORIA IN THE PAST YEAR: TOP 15.....	5
TABLE 5: ETHNICITY RECORDED FOR PEOPLE ARRIVING IN VICTORIA IN THE PAST YEAR	5
PEOPLE WHO ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA IN THE PAST 10 YEARS LIVING IN VICTORIA	6
TABLE 8: TOP 10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS WHERE PEOPLE ARE RECORDED TO LIVE WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.....	6
.....	6
TABLE 7: RECORDED GENDER FOR PEOPLE WHO RESIDE IN VICTORIA AND ARRIVED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS.	6
PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM	7
TABLE 9: NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY ON A BRIDGING VISA E	7
PEOPLE IN DETENTION	7
TABLE 10: PEOPLE IN DETENTION IN VICTORIA.....	7
TABLE 11: PEOPLE UNDER RESIDENCE DETERMINATION IN VICTORIA.....	7
PEOPLE WHO ARRIVED BY PLANE	7
TABLE 12: PROTECTION VISA APPLICATION LODGEMENTS AND PPV GRANTS, AUSTRALIA-WIDE BY FINANCIAL YEAR	7
APPEALS HEARD BY THE AAT: PPV APPLICATIONS	8
.....	8
TABLE 13: ACTIVE REFUGEE CASES (NOT YET DECIDED) BY COUNTRY AND VICTORIA REGION* AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024: TOP 10.....	8
TABLE 14: REFUGEE DECISIONS BY COUNTRY AUSTRALIA-WIDE (FINANCIAL YEAR TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024): TOP 10.....	8
UMA LEGACY CASELOAD	8
TEMPORARY PROTECTION VISA AND SAFE HAVEN ENTERPRISE VISA HOLDERS	9
RESOLUTION OF STATUS VISA HOLDERS	9
TABLE 15: MAIN CITIZENSHIPS: VISA HOLDERS, AUSTRALIA-WIDE	9
TABLE 16: NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE UMA LEGACY CASELOAD WHO:	9
IMPORTANT INFORMATION: CONVERSION OF TPVs/SHEVs TO A PERMANENT VISA	10
SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE FLEEING THE CONFLICT IN ISRAEL-GAZA	10
LEGAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT.....	10
EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE FLED THE CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE.....	10
CAVEATS TO DATA SOURCES FROM THE SETTLEMENT DATABASE (SDB)	11

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 2024 living in Victoria²

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/01/2024 and 31/03/2024 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2024. 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 2024: Top 10

Local Government Area	Visa Numbers			
	200	201	202	204
Casey	23	41	212	41
Hume	93	0	161	12
Greater Dandenong	69	39	83	25
Wyndham	65	<5	74	20
Not Recorded	<10	7	127	<5
Darebin	57	0	13	18
Greater Shepparton	37	0	15	11
Greater Geelong	45	0	9	5
Moreland	37	9	<5	<5
Wodonga	33	0	14	0
Grand Total	1,695 people			

As of 04/04/2024, over 74% of people on Visa Subclass (200, 201, 202, 203, 204) who settled in Victoria in the first quarter of 2024 were under 35 years of age.

Table 3: Main language spoken for those who arrived in the first quarter of 2024: Top 5

Main Language Spoken	Visa Numbers			
	200	201	202	204
Dari	131	42	246	61
Arabic	165	<5	169	11
Hazaragi	39	<15	157	15
Pashto	49	53	54	0
Swahili	63	0	27	19

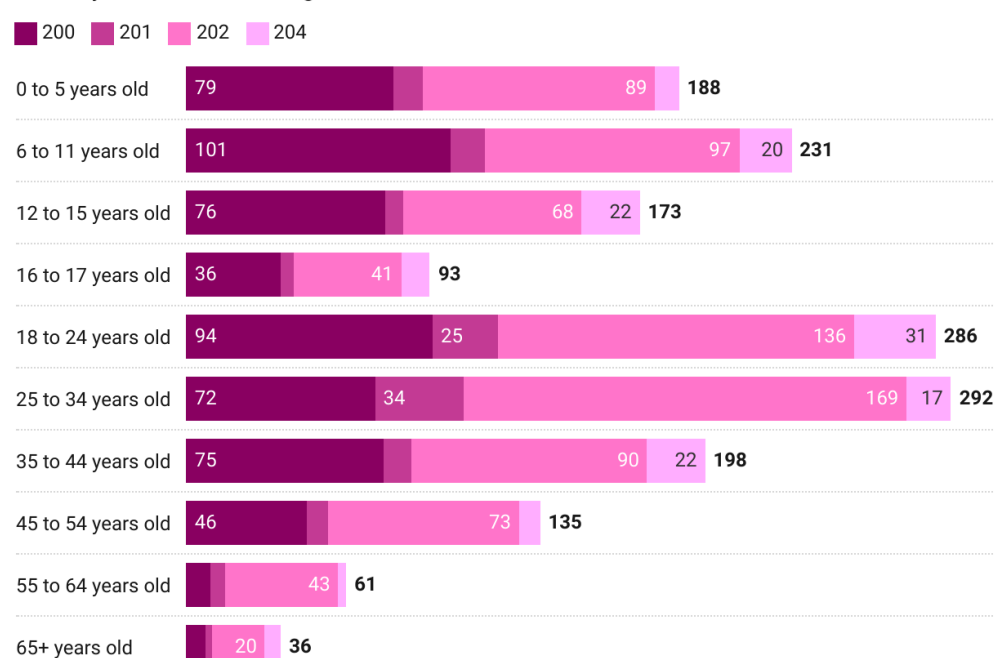
Visa Subclass Information ¹		
Visa subclass number	Visa name	Details
200	Refugee	for people who the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has referred to Australia for assistance
201	In-Country Special Humanitarian	for people who are still living in their country and have been unable 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 2024

Gender	Visa Numbers			
	200	201	202	204
Female	300	67	410	113
Male	295	58	416	36
Total	595	125	826	149
Grand total	1,695 people			

Number of people who arrived in Australia in the first quarter of 2024 and currently reside in Victoria according to age group.

Visa subclasses (200 series) with a Date of Arrival between 01/01/2024 and 31/03/2024 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2024



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

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

Interactive Map available at: https://www.datawrapper.de/_/7VOd6/

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 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2024 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2024. 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.

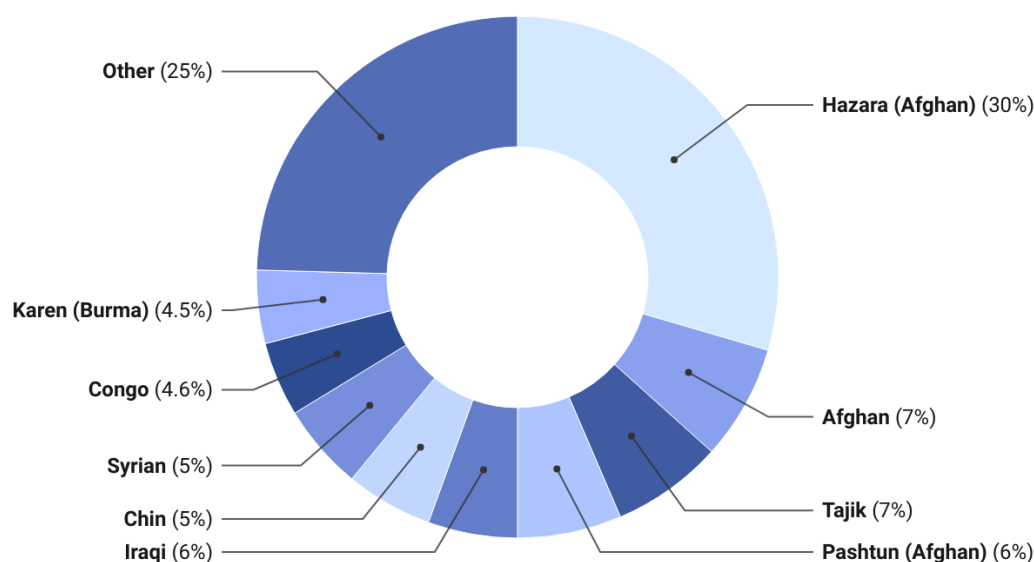
Table 4: Country of birth of people who arrived in the past year and live in Victoria: Top 15

Country of Birth	Visa Numbers				
	200	201	202	203	204
Afghanistan	681	351	1,665	0	239
Myanmar	65	0	413	38	14
Iraq	107	13	409	0	6
Syrian Arab Republic	276	0	159	0	35
Iran	109	<5	49	0	94
Thailand	8	0	222	0	0
Congo, Dem Republic Of The	104	0	50	0	51
Pakistan	77	<5	100	0	7
Ethiopia	39	0	60	0	5
Eritrea	25	0	47	0	<5
Malaysia	6	0	65	0	0
Lebanon	60	0	6	0	0
India	17	0	42	0	<5
Kenya	38	0	14	0	<5
Turkey	26	0	14	0	<5
Grand Total of all recorded LGA's	1,753	383	3,375	48	516
	6,099 people				

Table 5: Ethnicity recorded for people arriving in Victoria in the past year

Ethnicity recorded for those who arrived in the past year

People on Visa subclass (200 series & 866) who arrived in Australia between 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2024 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2024



* 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.

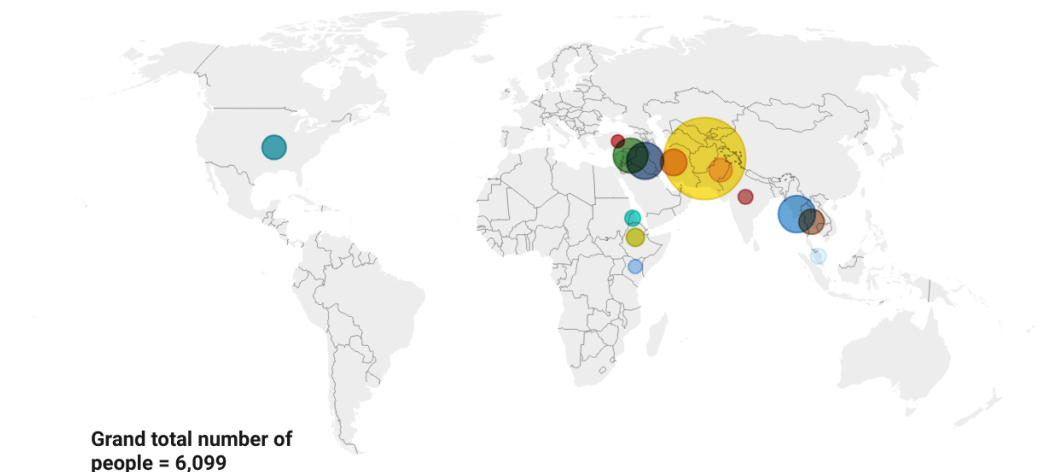
Chart: Victorian Refugee Health Network • Source: Settlement Data Request- Department of Home Affairs • Created with Datawrapper

Country of Birth (Top 15) Humanitarian Settlers who reside in Victoria and arrived in the past year

People on Refugee Category Visas (200 series & 866) with a date of arrival between 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2024 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2024

Country of birth:

- AFGHANISTAN
- CONGO, DEM REPUBLIC OF THE
- ERITREA
- ETHIOPIA
- INDIA
- IRAN
- IRAQ
- KENYA
- LEBANON
- MALAYSIA
- MYANMAR
- PAKISTAN
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
- THAILAND
- TURKEY



Grand total number of people = 6,099
* 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://www.datawrapper.de/#/5Qr9x/>

There are **6,099 people on Visa Subclass (200, 201, 202, 203, 204)** who have arrived in the past year and recorded as residing in Victoria.

Table 6: Local Government Area recorded for people arriving in Victoria in the past year: Top 15

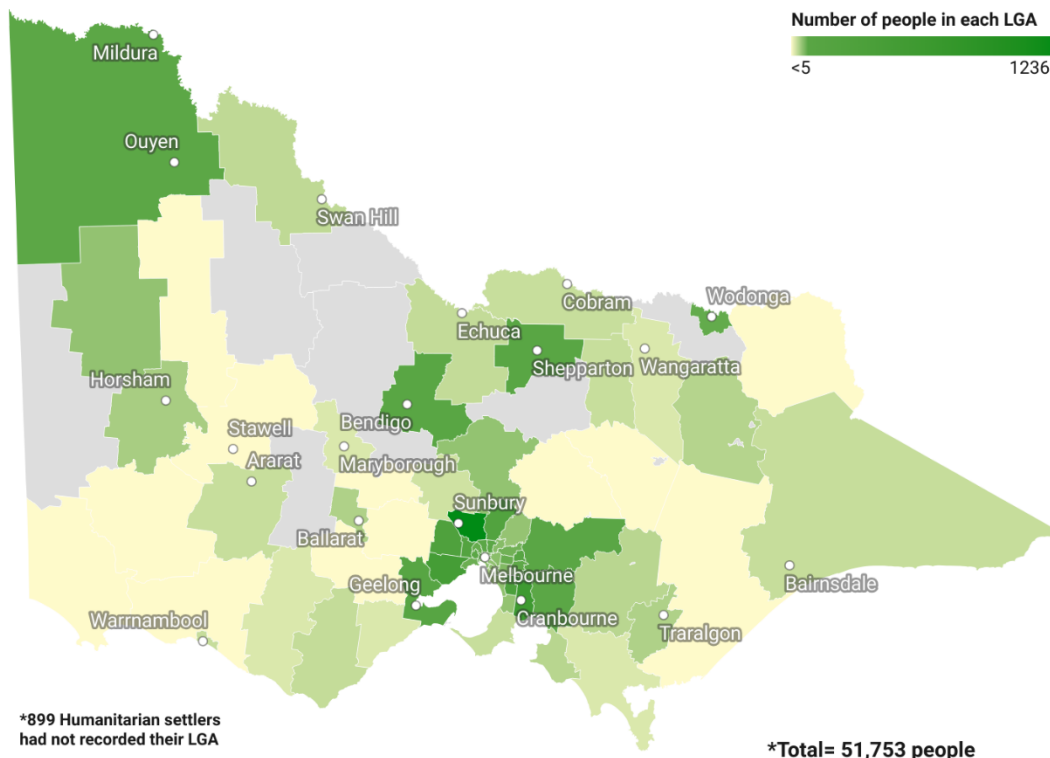
Local Government Area	Visa numbers				
	200	201	202	203	204
Casey	225	140	996	0	115
Greater Dandenong	206	95	356	<5	84
Hume	195	7	488	0	27
Wyndham	195	11	387	28	75
Greater Geelong	82	0	126	0	22
Melton	75	7	124	5	14
Whittlesea	83	13	110	0	12
Darebin	131	<5	43	0	37
Greater Shepparton	136	0	49	0	28
Not Recorded	10	30	155	0	<5
Brimbank	89	13	54	10	13
Mildura	57	<5	18	0	31
Wodonga	61	0	23	0	21
Greater Bendigo	7	0	90	0	0
Maroondah	10	0	80	0	<5
Grand Total of all recorded LGA's	1,753	383	3,375	48	516
	6,099 people				

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 01/04/2013 and 31/03/2024 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2024



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

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

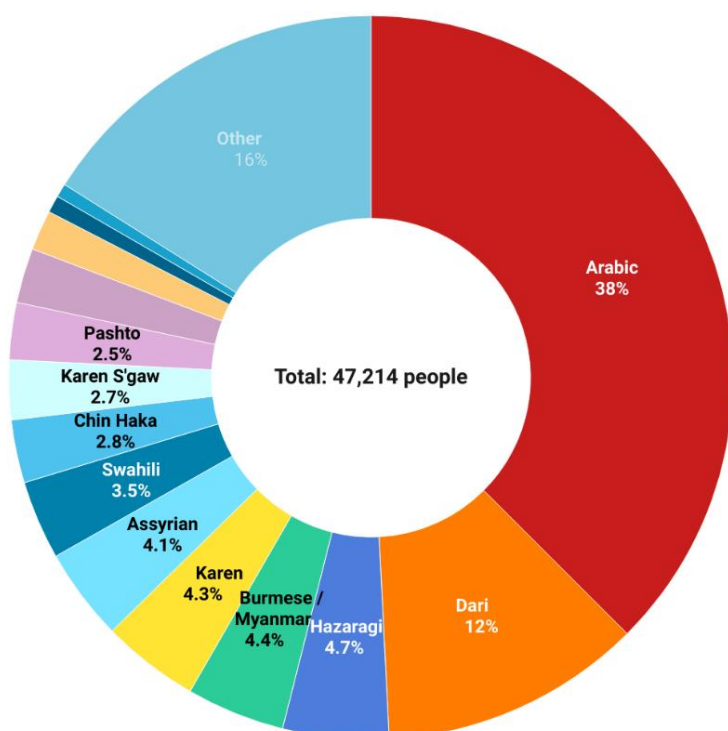
Interactive Map available at: https://www.datawrapper.de/_/PcCBJI/

This chart below shows the main language spoken for those who arrived to Australia in the past 10 years and currently reside in Victoria. As you can see the top languages are Arabic, Dari, Hazaragi, Burmese, Karen, Assyrian, and Swahili. With a high number of people settling in Victoria, it is important that the number of interpreters are also increasing to meet the needs of the local population.

Main Language Spoken for those who arrived in the past 10 years: Top 30

People on Visa subclass (200 series & 866) who arrived in Australia between 01/04/2013 and 31/03/2024 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2024

Arabic, Dari, Hazaragi, Burmese / Myanmar, Karen, Assyrian, Swahili, Chin Haka, Karen S'gaw, Pashto, Farsi (Afghan), Farsi (Persian), Somali, Dinka, Other



* 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: Settlement Data Request- Department of Home Affairs • Created with Datawrapper

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/04/2013 and 31/03/2024 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/04/2024. 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.

As of 4th April 2024, there are approximately 51,753 people who were granted a permanent protection visa (i.e., 200 series, visa subclass 866 or 851) 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 and 851). 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 8: 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	851
Hume	3,631	38	8,116	13	291	345	316
Casey	2,193	605	2,327	0	485	381	664
Wyndham	1,501	51	2,149	136	326	521	240
Greater Dandenong	1,050	483	1,248	15	382	385	805
Melton	1,093	26	1,554	7	98	155	155
Whittlesea	748	68	1,068	0	77	293	611
Brimbank	708	25	1,118	20	132	222	272
Greater Geelong	638	<5	511	0	232	30	266
Maroondah	325	6	873	7	29	81	46
Greater Bendigo	249	0	719	<5	41	7	11
Grand Total of all LGA's	15,186	1,502	23,239	215	2,763	4,309	4,539
	51,753 people						

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

Gender	200	201	202	203	204	866	851	Total
Female	7,342	740	11,678	109	2,000	2,058	1,378	23,927
Male	7,844	762	11,561	106	762	2,250	3,161	n.p
Not Stated	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	<5
Grand Total	15,186	1,502	23,239	215	2,763	4,309	4,539	47,214

The Australian Commonwealth government has recently announced that Palestinians and Israelis have been granted 'temporary visas' to Australia. Visas that have been granted are 'visitor visas' which fall under visa subclass 600. The arrival numbers for this cohort are not available through the Settlement Database.

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

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](#).

Depending on the year a person arrived, many people seeking asylum by boat have been living in the community on a visa called a bridging visa E (BVE).

As of 31 December 2023, there is a total of 37,934 people who granted a bridging visa E. There are 2,249 people who are living in the Australian community and are waiting for further BVE.⁵

“Bridging visas may expire while a person is waiting for a grant of another bridging visa. People in the community who are waiting for the grant of further Bridging Visa E do not have rights to work, study or access Medicare, because they do not hold a valid visa. This often happens because of delays in renewing a visa. In some cases, their visas can only be renewed after the Minister personally allows for the grant of a further visa.”⁶

Table 9: Number of people in the community on a bridging visa E⁶

How many people are on bridging visas E?

As at 31 December 2023

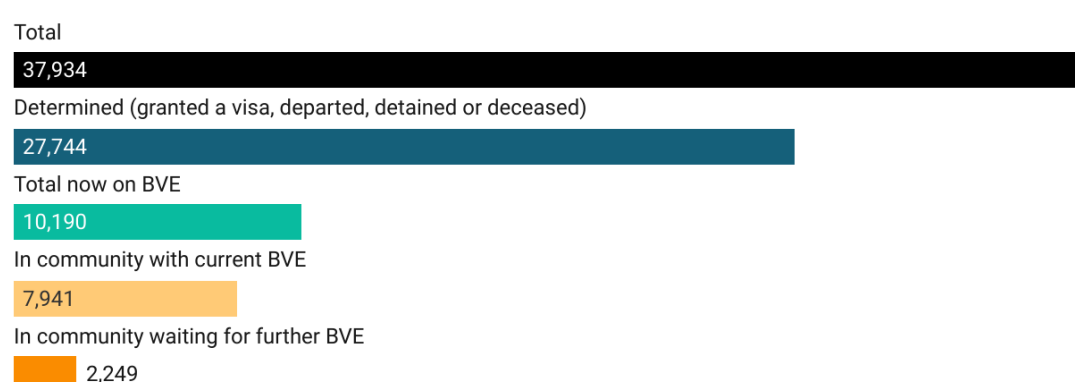


Chart: Refugee Council of Australia • Source: Department of Home Affairs, Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals on Bridging E visa • Created with Datawrapper

People in detention⁷

The following data is about people in immigration detention and under residence determination (formerly community detention) as of 31 December 2023. Values that have not been provided and cannot be calculated are given as ‘N.P.’ (not provided). As of 31 December 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 **625 days**.

As of 31 December 2023, there were **872 people** in Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs) and Alternative Places of Detention (APODs) across Australia. Of these 872 people, 23.9 per cent had been detained for 91 days or less and 56.2 per cent had been detained for 365 days or less⁸.

Table 10: People in detention in Victoria

Place of immigration detention	Number of people held in immigration detention
Melbourne Immigration Detention Centres	1183
Alternative Places of Detention (APODs)	0
Total	183

Table 11: People under residence determination in Victoria

	Men	Women	Children	Total
Number of people in Victoria	62	39	36	137 (54.4 percent of national total)
National Total	252			

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 2023-2024 (up until February 2024) show there has been **12,185 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 approximately **428 PPV grants for people from Myanmar** over this period.

Table 12: Protection visa application lodgements and PPV grants, Australia-wide by financial year

Component	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024*
Permanent Protection Visa (PPV) lodgement	18,290	27,931	24,566	23,266	11,684	10,564	18,738	12,185
PPV grants	1,711	1,425	1,650	1,650	1,389	1,762	2,000	2,945

⁵ ‘How many people are on bridging visas E?’ <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/asylum-community/6/>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/immigration-detention>

⁸ ‘Time In Immigration Detention Facilities’: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/immigration-detention> (pg. 13)

⁹ Monthly Update: Onshore Protection (Subclass 866) Visa Processing – July 2023 to February 2024 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. 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 1,762 days from lodgement to finalisation of applications made under Protection Case Categories between 1st September 2023 and 29th February 2024, 95% of lodgements were finalised within 2,256 days¹¹ which is an increase of 44 days since this was last recorded in December.

The data below is from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Migration and Refugee Division Caseload Report for financial year 2023/24 (until 29 February 2024) and does not take into account people who received a PPV at the primary decision.

Table 13: Active Refugee cases (not yet decided) by country and Victoria region* as of 29 February 2024: Top 10

Country	Number
Malaysia	7,895
China	2,178
Vietnam	1,820
India	633
Indonesia	911
Thailand	871
Fiji	90
Philippines	214
East Timor	437
Taiwan	259
Tonga	93
Pakistan	281
Grand Total in Victoria	17,338 people

Table 14: Refugee decisions by country Australia-wide (Financial year to 29 February 2024): Top 10

Country	Number of decisions		Decisions	Set aside***
	UMA	non-UMA		
Malaysia	0	1,591	1,591	120
China	0	1,047	1,047	48
Vietnam	47	190	237	38
Fiji	0	234	234	16
Thailand	0	295	195	1
India	4	163	167	17
East Timor	0	122	122	0
Indonesia	0	122	122	3
Pakistan	18	99	117	55
Vanuatu	0	102	102	0
Tonga	0	100	100	0
Grand total of all decisions by country	187	4,738	4,925	571

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

UMA Legacy Caseload

According to the department, an Unauthorised Maritime Arrival (UMA) is a person who entered Australia by sea without authority and became an unlawful non-citizen upon entry. All babies born to UMA parents are also classified as UMAs.

The two main groups in the 'Legacy Caseload' included:

- people who came by boat before 13 August 2012, but whose applications for a protection visa (the visa given to refugees who apply in Australia) had not been finalised by 18 September 2013, when the Liberal and Nationals came into power.
- people who came by boat on or after 13 August 2012, whose visa applications were processed in Australia (and not in Papua New Guinea or Nauru)¹³.

Visa Subclass Information ¹²		
Visa subclass number	Visa name	Details
785	Temporary Protection (TPV)	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 (SHEV)	Temporary Visa to stay in Australia for 5 years. With access to government services such as Centrelink as well as work and study rights.
851	Resolution of Status Visa (RoS)	Permanent visa for holders of a TPV or SHEV who first arrived in Australia before 14 February 2023 and are not subject to an application bar (46a bar for Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals). The RoS visa allows the person to live, work and study in Australia permanently.

¹⁰ Administrative Appeals Tribunal Migration and Refugee Division Caseload Report Financial year to 29 February 2024:

<https://www.aat.gov.au/AAT/media/AAT/Files/Statistics/MRD-detailed-caseload-statistics-2023-24.pdf>

¹¹ 'Migration and Refugee Division processing times' at <https://www.aat.gov.au/resources/migration-and-refugee-division-processing-times>

¹² Visa Subclass Information <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing>

¹³ Who was included in the 'Legacy Caseload'? <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fast-tracking-statistics/>

UMA Legacy Caseload

Temporary Protection Visa and Safe Haven Enterprise Visa Holders

People seeking asylum who arrived by boat without a valid visa, until recently, have only been 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 UMA that they are eligible to apply for a TPV or a SHEV¹⁴.

As of 29 February 2024, **646 applications are on hand (initial TPV and SHEV) or at merits review for people living in Victoria**,¹⁵

Resolution of Status Visa Holders

UMAs who applied for or held a TPV or SHEV before 14 February 2023 are eligible to apply for a permanent Resolution of Status (subclass 851) (RoS) visa. Anyone who had a TPV or SHEV application already on-hand with the Department, including subsequent TPV/SHEV applications, did not need to apply for a RoS visa (their application was/will automatically be converted to a RoS visa application). Anyone that enters Australia irregularly on or after 14 February 2023 is not eligible for a RoS visa.

The following data sources for this report are based on a range of departmental systems. As data has been drawn from a dynamic system environment, the information is correct at the time of publication and figures may differ slightly from previous or future reporting. As an end of month report, the data date used is the closest to the end of the calendar month¹⁶.

As of 29 February 2024, **15,491 Resolution of Status (RoS) Visas had been granted to people across Australia, 6,103 people were granted to people living in Victoria**.

Table 15: Main Citizenships: Visa Holders, Australia-wide¹⁷

Country of Citizenship	TPV/SHEV	RoS Visa
Iran	666	6,043
Afghanistan	1,587	2,980
Stateless	1,341	1,035
Sri Lanka	173	2,110
Pakistan	97	1,188
Iraq	180	911
Sudan	53	327
Somalia	117	177
Palestinian Authority	15	176
Vietnam	31	414
Other	270	403
Total	4,530	15,491

Table 16: Number of people in the UMA Legacy Caseload who:

- ✓ have submitted a valid visa application that is currently being processed;
- ✓ had their visa application finalised – either granted (including expired or cancelled) or refused; and
- ✓ are considered otherwise resolved (for example, have become Australian citizens or departed Australia).

Processing Stage ¹⁸	TOTAL
Applied for initial TPV and on-hand with the Department	190
Applied for initial SHEV and on-hand with the Department ¹	1,130
Applied for/converted to RoS visa and on-hand with the Department ¹	4,324
Total applications on hand	5,644
TPV Holder	1,177
SHEV Holder*	3,353
RoS visa holder	15,491
Total Visa Holders	20,021*
Refused TPV/SHEV/RoS visa by the Department and at merits review	249
Refused TPV/SHEV/RoS visa and at judicial review	4,667
TPV/SHEV/RoS visa cancelled or expired (onshore)	159
Refused TPV/SHEV/RoS visa no immigration matters ongoing	2,451
Total refused, cancelled, or expired onshore	7,526
Otherwise resolved	3,108
Total	31,975

* Most RoS visa applicants are also TPV/SHEV holders so are not counted twice in the grand total

¹⁴ 'UMA Legacy Caseload Report on Status and Processing Outcomes February 2024' on <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/humanitarian-program>

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

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/>

Translated copies of the information sheet can be found here: <https://refugeelegal.org.au/get-help/tpvs-shevs-conversion-to-a-permanent-visa/>

Who is the legal service provider in your state or territory?

Service Provider	State	Website
Refugee Legal	VIC	www.refugeelegal.org.au
Refugee and Casework Support (RACS)	NSW	www.racs.org.au
Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC)- cases referred by RACS NSW	NSW	www.iarc.org.au
Legal Aid	ACT	www.legalaidact.org.au
Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS)	QLD	www.rails.org.au
Circle Green	WA	www.circlegreen.org.au
Legal Services Commission	SA	www.lsc.sa.gov.au
Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service	TAS	www.trls.org.au
Legal Aid	NT	www.legalaid.nt.au

Source: Department of Home Affairs

Support for People Fleeing the Conflict in Israel-Gaza¹⁹

There are currently several hundred people who have recently left Israel or Gaza in recent months fleeing the ongoing conflict. Most of these people have travelled to Australia on Visitor Visas and other short-term visas. While it is welcome news that people have been able to travel to safety in Australia, unfortunately, these visas are not designed to support people fleeing conflict. As such, most people do not have work rights, access to Medicare, access to income support or study rights. This has placed people fleeing the conflict in very precarious circumstances.

Legal advice and support

A number of specialist refugee legal clinics are providing specialist advice for people who have fled the Israel/Gaza conflict and which to seek asylum in Australia. We recommend that you contact a [specialist refugee law service](#) that has expertise in refugee law.

Factsheets:

- [Current options for those trying to leave Gaza/the Occupied Palestinian Territories/Israel](#) (from the Refugee Advocacy and Casework Service)
- [Refugee Legal Israel-Gaza Crisis Information Sheet](#)

Emergency financial assistance for people who have fled the conflict in Israel and Palestine

The Federal Government has allocated funding as support for temporary visa holders for people from Israel and Palestine who are experiencing financial hardship and unable to meet their basic needs.

People can apply through the existing emergency relief online portal on the Red Cross website. As part of the application process, applicants need to demonstrate their financial need, including sharing information about funds held in bank accounts.

- Red Cross emergency relief portal: <https://www.redcross.org.au/migration/emergency-relief/>
- Funding announcement: <https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/AndrewGiles/Pages/funding-for-communities-affected-by-hamas-Israel-conflict.aspx>
- Information on Home Affairs' website: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/hamas-israel-conflict/community-information>
- Refugee Council is hosting a resource page here: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/support-israel-gaza-conflict/>

For additional resources related to supporting communities impacted by the ongoing events in Palestine and Israel, please visit the Networks regularly uploaded list of resources [here](#).

¹⁹ RCOA (2024) 'Support for People Fleeing the Conflict in Israel-Gaza' <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/support-israel-gaza-conflict/>
Page | 10

Caveats to data sources from the Settlement Database (SDB)²⁰

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.

- 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

²⁰ For the full data set please contact our team at the Victorian Refugee Health Network (refugeehealth@foundationhouse.org.au).