



# Humanitarian Settlement Data Bulletin: Quarter 1 2026

JANUARY – MARCH

Victorian Refugee Health Network  
Data Bulletin: Quarter 1 2026





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# Guide to visa subclasses

The following report provides data and reference to people who have settled in Victoria on the following visa subclasses. More information on these visa subclasses can be seen on the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

| Visa Subclass Information <sup>1</sup> |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Visa subclass number                   | Visa name                       | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 050                                    | Bridging Visa E                 | For people to stay lawfully in Australia while they make arrangements to leave or they are waiting for an immigration decision or finalisation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 051                                    |                                 | For people to stay in Australia while their protection visa application is being processed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 200                                    | Refugee                         | For people referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Australia for assistance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 201                                    | In-Country Special Humanitarian | For people who are still living in their country and have been unable to leave. The Department of Home Affairs mainly use this visa subclass for Afghan Locally Engaged Employees who were employed with the Australian Government in Afghanistan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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                | For people referred by the UNHCR to Australia for emergency resettlement. The Department of Home Affairs reserves this visa for a few applicants annually whose life or liberty is 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. The Department of Home Affairs grants most Woman at Risk visas to those referred by the UNHCR or proposed by a close family member in Australia.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 449                                    | Temporary Humanitarian Stay     | For people who are forced to flee their home country or are likely to be displaced. These visas are only granted at invitation from the Federal Minister for Immigration.<br><b>Update (Nov 2024):</b> Available visa pathway for Palestinian and Israeli nationals in Australia as part of two-step process with subclass 449 <sup>2</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 785                                    | Temporary Protection (TPV)      | For people who arrived in Australia without a visa or were not immigration cleared on arrival and want to seek asylum. Provides stay for up to three years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 786                                    | Temporary Humanitarian Concern  | Available for Ukrainian temporary visa holders in Australia and those who were arriving to stay in Australia for a more extended period of time for humanitarian reasons with access to government services such as Centrelink as well as work and study rights.<br><b>Update (Nov 2024):</b> Available visa pathway for Palestinian and Israeli nationals in Australia as part of two-step process with subclass 449 <sup>3</sup>                                                                                                                                         |
| 790                                    | Safe Haven Enterprise (SHEV)    | For people who arrived in Australia without a valid visa or were not immigration cleared on arrival and want to seek asylum. Provides stay for up to five years with access to government services such as Centrelink as well as work and study rights.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 851                                    | Resolution of Status (RoS)      | For the permanent resolution of status for certain visa holders, including TPV and SHEV holders who arrived in Australia before 14 February 2023 and are not subject to an application car (46a bar for Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals). The RoS visa allows the person to live, work and study in Australia permanently.<br><b>Update (Oct 2024):</b> Department of Home Affairs have offered a Resolution of Status (subclass 851) pathway to Ukrainian nationals currently on a Temporary Humanitarian Stay (subclass 786) visa, on a case-by-case basis <sup>4</sup> . |
| 866                                    | Protection                      | For people who arrived in Australia on a valid visa and have sought asylum.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

<sup>1</sup> Department of Home Affairs. (2024). *Refugee and humanitarian program*. <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/refugee-and-humanitarian-program>

<sup>2</sup> Department of Home Affairs. (2025). *Hamas-Israel Conflict: Temporary Humanitarian Stay pathway for Palestinians and Israelis in Australia*. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/hamas-israel-conflict/information-for-palestinian-israeli-nationals-temporary-humanitarian-stay>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Home Affairs. (2025). *Offer of a Resolution of Status Visa (subclass 851) to Ukrainian Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786) visa holders*. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/ukraine-visa-support/offer-of-resolution-status-visa-case-by-case-basis-ukrainian-786-temp-humanitarian-concern-visa-holders>

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# Statistics on refugee and humanitarian visa holders



This population group includes people who have received refugee and humanitarian visas prior to travelling to Australia (subclasses 200, 201, 202, 203 & 204). Where indicated, some data sets include people who have received protection visas (subclass 866) after arrival to Australia.

## People who arrived in Australia in the first quarter of 2026 living in Victoria<sup>5</sup>

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/01/2026 and 31/03/2026 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/05/2026.

**Note.** The data below reflects actual totals (blue tables) provided by the Australian Government, and estimated totals (orange tables). As some figures provided by Department of Home Affairs are suppressed due to privacy guidelines (i.e., where numbers are low and could be identifiable), suppressed figures have been calculated as a median numerical value. **Thus, estimated totals may differ from actual totals.**

Table 1. Number of people who arrived in Australia in the first quarter of 2026 and are recorded as residing in Victoria, by visa subclass

| Visa subclass               | 200          | 201 | 202 | 204 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of people            | 602          | 121 | 678 | 11  |
| Grand total of all arrivals | 1,412 people |     |     |     |

A total of 1,412 people arrived in Australia over the first quarter of 2026 as a refugee or humanitarian entrant (visa subclass 200, 201, 202, 204) and were recorded as residing in Victoria. Of this,

- 41% were under 18 years of age;
- 35+ different languages were spoken;
- approximately 12% settled in rural or regional areas of Victoria.

Table 2. Estimated number of people who arrived in Australia in the first quarter of 2026 and are recorded as residing in Victoria, by LGA

| Local Government Area (LGA) | Visa Subclass |     |     |     | Estimated total |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
|                             | 200           | 201 | 202 | 204 |                 |
| Casey                       | 103           | 52  | 143 | <5  | 301             |
| Wyndham                     | 108           | 9   | 119 | <10 | 241             |
| Greater Dandenong           | 108           | 34  | 67  | 0   | 209             |
| Hume                        | 68            | <5  | 83  | 0   | 154             |
| Whittlesea                  | 31            | 9   | 22  | <5  | 65              |
| Greater Geelong             | 24            | 0   | 38  | 0   | 62              |
| Brimbank                    | 25            | <5  | 35  | 0   | 63              |
| Greater Bendigo             | 14            | 0   | 39  | 0   | 53              |
| Darebin                     | 25            | 0   | 23  | 0   | 48              |
| Greater Shepparton          | 32            | 0   | <5  | 0   | 35              |
| All other LGAs (n=23)       | 71            | 18  | 110 | 3   | 202             |
| Estimated total             | 609           | 128 | 682 | 14  | 1,433           |

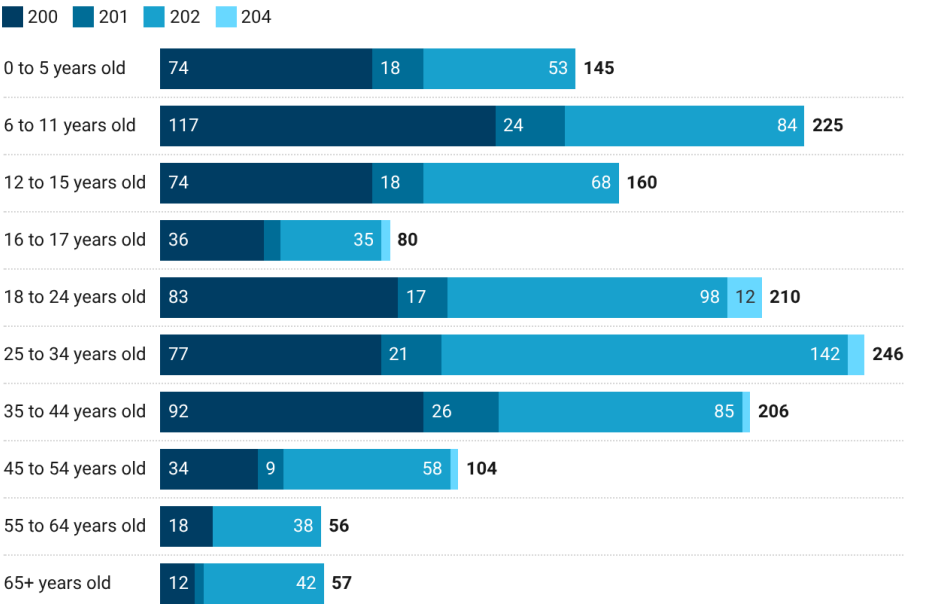
Table 3. Estimated number of people who arrived in Australia in the first quarter of 2026 and are recorded as residing in Victoria, by main language spoken

| Main Language Spoken       | Estimated total |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Dari                       | 390             |
| Pashto                     | 206             |
| Arabic                     | 194             |
| Karen                      | 92              |
| Hazaragi                   | 84              |
| Farsi (Afghan)             | 56              |
| Burmese / Myanmar          | 37              |
| Karen S'gaw                | 33              |
| Farsi (Persian)            | 32              |
| Not stated                 | 29              |
| All other languages (n=30) | 275             |
| Estimated total            | 1,428           |

Please note that this data captures main language spoken and does not capture data related to multilingualism.

## Number of people who arrived in Australia in the first quarter of 2026 and currently reside in Victoria according to age group

Visa subclasses (200 series) with a Date of Arrival between 01/01/2026 and 31/03/2026 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/05/2026



\* 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/\\_/55bG0/](https://www.datawrapper.de/_/55bG0/)

<sup>5</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs (2026). Settlement Database. Data request via [settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au)

# People who arrived in Australia in the past year living in Victoria<sup>6</sup>

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/05/2026.



**Note.** The data below reflects actual totals (blue tables) provided by the Australian Government, and estimated totals (orange tables). As some figures provided by Department of Home Affairs are suppressed due to privacy guidelines (i.e., where numbers are low and could be identifiable), suppressed figures have been calculated as a median numerical value. **Thus, estimated totals may differ from actual totals.**

**Table 4.** Number of people who arrived in Australia in the past year and are recorded as residing in Victoria, by visa subclass

| Visa subclass               | 200          | 201 | 202   | 204 | 866 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| Number of people            | 3,204        | 629 | 3,456 | 135 | 22  |
| Grand total of all arrivals | 7,446 people |     |       |     |     |

A total of 7,446 people arrived in Australia over the past year as a refugee or humanitarian entrant (visa subclass 200, 201, 202, 204, 866) and are recorded as residing in Victoria. Of this,

- an estimated 42% were under 18 years of age;
- 70+ different languages were spoken, with 83.7% people recorded to have limited proficiency in English and;
- approximately 10% settled in rural or regional areas of Victoria.

**Table 5:** Estimated number of people who arrived in Australia in the past year and are recorded as residing in Victoria, by LGA

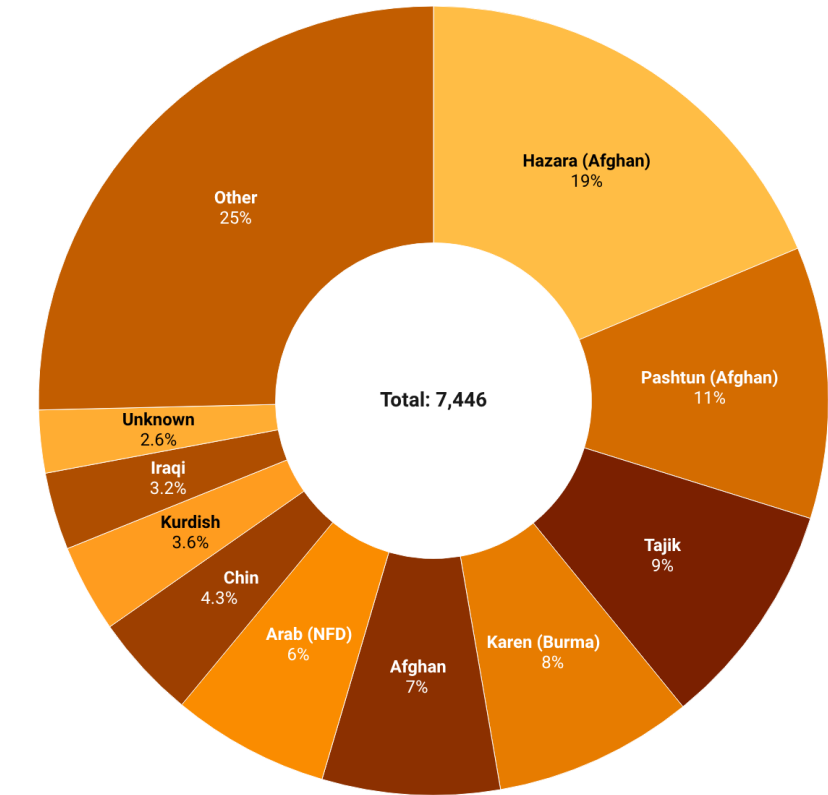
| Local Government Area | Visa numbers |     |       |     |     | Estimated total |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----------------|
|                       | 200          | 201 | 202   | 204 | 866 |                 |
| Casey                 | 639          | 255 | 808   | 21  | <5  | 1,726           |
| Greater Dandenong     | 619          | 227 | 350   | 16  | 7   | 1,219           |
| Hume                  | 538          | 37  | 536   | 15  | <5  | 1,129           |
| Wyndham               | 386          | 32  | 527   | 25  | 0   | 970             |
| Whittlesea            | 171          | 33  | 99    | 9   | 0   | 312             |
| Greater Bendigo       | 44           | 0   | 230   | 0   | 0   | 274             |
| Melton                | 96           | 8   | 146   | <5  | 0   | 253             |
| Brimbank              | 86           | 11  | 136   | 14  | 0   | 247             |
| Greater Geelong       | 90           | 0   | 84    | 7   | 0   | 181             |
| Darebin               | 106          | 5   | 48    | <5  | 0   | 162             |
| Not recorded          | 27           | <5  | 123   | 0   | 0   | 153             |
| All other LGAs (n=31) | 406          | 33  | 377   | 33  | 20  | 461             |
| Estimated total       | 3,208        | 644 | 3,464 | 146 | 33  | 7,495           |

**Table 6:** Estimated number of people who arrived in Australia in the past year and are recorded as residing in Victoria, by country of birth

| Country of Birth                    | Estimated total |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Afghanistan                         | 3,397           |
| Myanmar                             | 707             |
| Iraq                                | 645             |
| Syrian Arab Republic                | 586             |
| Thailand                            | 446             |
| Iran                                | 296             |
| Eritrea                             | 224             |
| Pakistan                            | 184             |
| Democratic Republic of Congo        | 108             |
| Malaysia                            | 106             |
| Ethiopia                            | 101             |
| Turkey                              | 79              |
| Jordan                              | 75              |
| Sudan                               | 44              |
| Kenya                               | 43              |
| All other countries of birth (n=36) | 431             |
| Estimated total                     | 7,472           |

## Ethnicity recorded for those who arrived in the past year

People on Visa subclass (200 series & 866) who arrived in Australia between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/05/2026



\* 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

Interactive Map available at: [https://www.datawrapper.de/\\_/Q0RFm/](https://www.datawrapper.de/_/Q0RFm/)

<sup>6</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs (2026). Settlement Database. Data request via [settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au)

# People who arrived in Australia in the past 10 years living in Victoria<sup>7</sup>

The following data is about Refugee and Humanitarian Program entrants who have arrived in Australia between 01/04/2016 and 31/03/2026 and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/05/2026.



**Note.** The data below reflects actual totals (blue tables) provided by the Australian Government, and estimated totals (orange tables). As some figures provided by Department of Home Affairs are suppressed due to privacy guidelines (i.e., where numbers are low and could be identifiable), suppressed figures have been calculated as a median numerical value. **Thus, estimated totals may differ from actual totals.**

**Table 7.** Number of people who arrived in Australia in the past ten years and are recorded as residing in Victoria, by visa subclass

| Visa subclass               | 200           | 201   | 202    | 204 | 866   |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------|--------|-----|-------|
| Number of people            | 19,383        | 2,509 | 25,779 | 230 | 2,755 |
| Grand total of all arrivals | 56,817 people |       |        |     |       |

A total of **56,817 people** arrived in Australia over the past ten years as a refugee or humanitarian entrant (visa subclass 200, 201, 202, 204, 866) and are recorded as residing in Victoria. Of this,

- the highest number of arrivals occurred in 2016/2017, when the Australian Government committed to addressing the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq through increased resettlement;
- 160+ different languages were spoken and;
- approximately 9.1% settled in rural or regional areas of Victoria.;

**Table 8:** Estimated number of people who arrived in Australia in the past ten years and are recorded as residing in Victoria, by LGA

| Local Government Area | Visa number |       |        |     |       |       | Estimated total |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------|--------|-----|-------|-------|-----------------|
|                       | 200         | 201   | 202    | 203 | 204   | 866   |                 |
| Hume                  | 4,391       | 88    | 8,197  | 8   | 310   | 441   | 13,435          |
| Casey                 | 3,120       | 1,127 | 3,837  | 0   | 476   | 613   | 9,173           |
| Wyndham               | 2,176       | 110   | 2,476  | 162 | 421   | 745   | 6,090           |
| Greater Dandenong     | 2,125       | 741   | 1,534  | 18  | 355   | 802   | 5,575           |
| Melton                | 1,095       | 32    | 1,565  | 7   | 149   | 255   | 3,103           |
| Whittlesea            | 1,122       | 129   | 1,139  | 0   | 89    | 274   | 2,753           |
| Brimbank              | 653         | 37    | 1,091  | 11  | 124   | 307   | 2,223           |
| Greater Geelong       | 701         | 6     | 536    | 0   | 151   | 27    | 1,421           |
| Not Recorded          | 451         | 23    | 779    | 0   | 23    | 53    | 1,329           |
| Greater Bendigo       | 275         | <5    | 806    | <5  | 37    | 13    | 1,137           |
| All other LGAs (n=59) | 3283        | 225   | 3830   | 27  | 631   | 2644  | 10,640          |
| Estimated total       | 19,392      | 2,521 | 25,790 | 236 | 2,766 | 6,174 | 56,879          |

For an interactive map of humanitarian settlement based on LGAs, please visit: <https://datawrapper.dwcdn.net/u7yXP/1/>

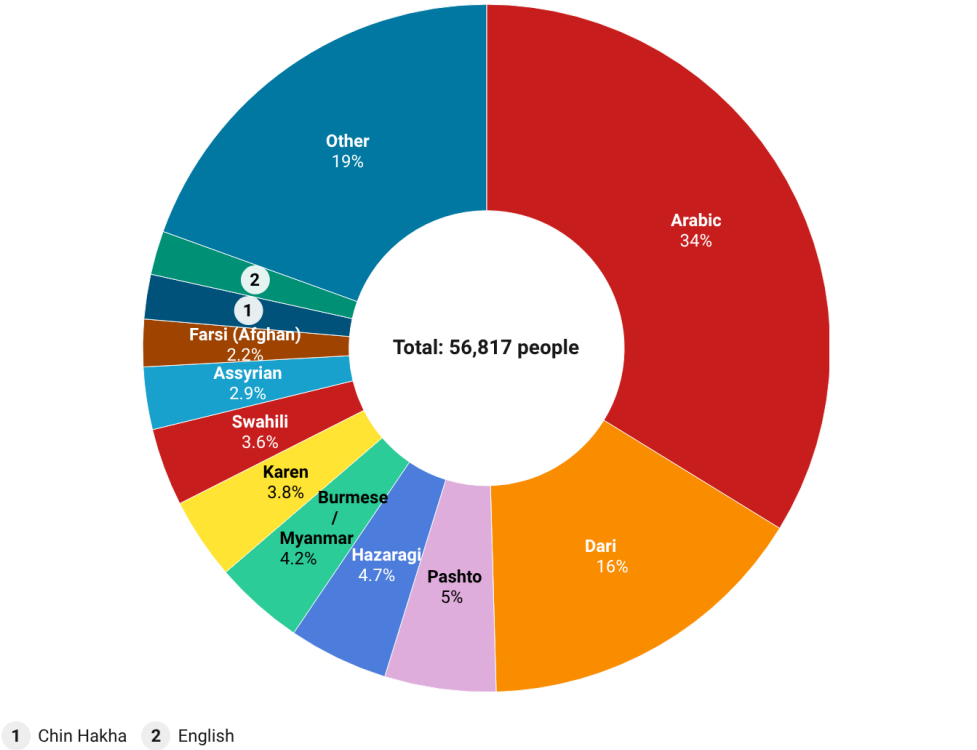
**Table 9:** Estimated number of people who arrived in Australia in the past ten years and are recorded as residing in Victoria, by financial year of arrival

| Financial year of arrival | Estimated total |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 2015/16                   | 1,989           |
| 2016/17                   | 9,264           |
| 2017/18                   | 5,460           |
| 2018/19                   | 5,924           |
| 2019/20                   | 5,113           |
| 2020/21                   | 286             |
| 2021/22                   | 3,443           |
| 2022/23                   | 5,454           |
| 2023/24                   | 7,293           |
| 2024/25                   | 6,527           |
| 2025/26                   | 6,066           |
| Estimated total           | 56,819          |

The visual chart (right) shows the main language spoken for those who arrived in Australia in the past 10 years and currently reside in Victoria. The top languages are Arabic, Dari, Pashto, Hazaragi, Burmese, Karen, 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 and 866) who arrived in Australia between 01/04/2016 and 31/03/2026, and are currently recorded as residing in Victoria as at 04/05/2026



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

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

Interactive Map available at: [https://www.datawrapper.de/\\_/9obzp/?v=2](https://www.datawrapper.de/_/9obzp/?v=2)

<sup>7</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs (2026). Settlement Database. Data request via [settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au)

# Statistics on 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](#).

**Note.** The data for people seeking asylum has been collated from a range of public reports published by the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs. Please refer to the relevant reference for original data source.

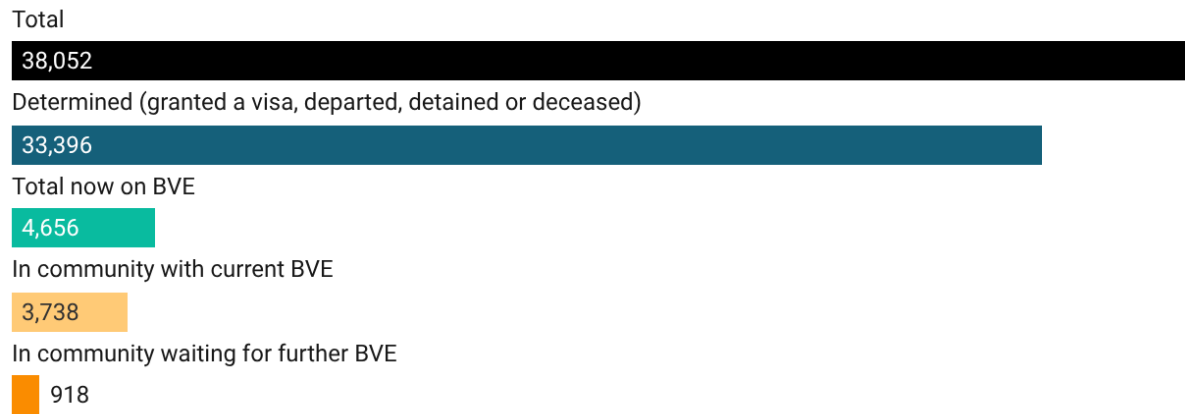
## People on Bridging Visa E (BVE)

Bridging Visa E (BVE) visas allow a person to stay lawfully in Australia while arrangements to leave, immigration decisions are being finalised or Protection visa applications are being processed. Depending on the year a person arrived, many people seeking asylum by boat have been living in the community on bridging visa Es (BVE).<sup>8</sup>

**Between 25 November 2011 and 31 March 2026, 38,052 people arrived to Australia by boat and sought protection and were granted a bridging visa E. Of these, 4,656 people remain in the community, with 1,930 people living in Victoria<sup>9</sup>.**

## How many people are on bridging visas E?

As at 31 March 2026



Total does not equal total on BVE and determined, as in original.  
Chart: Refugee Council of Australia • Source: Department of Home Affairs, Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals on Bridging E visa • Created with Datawrapper

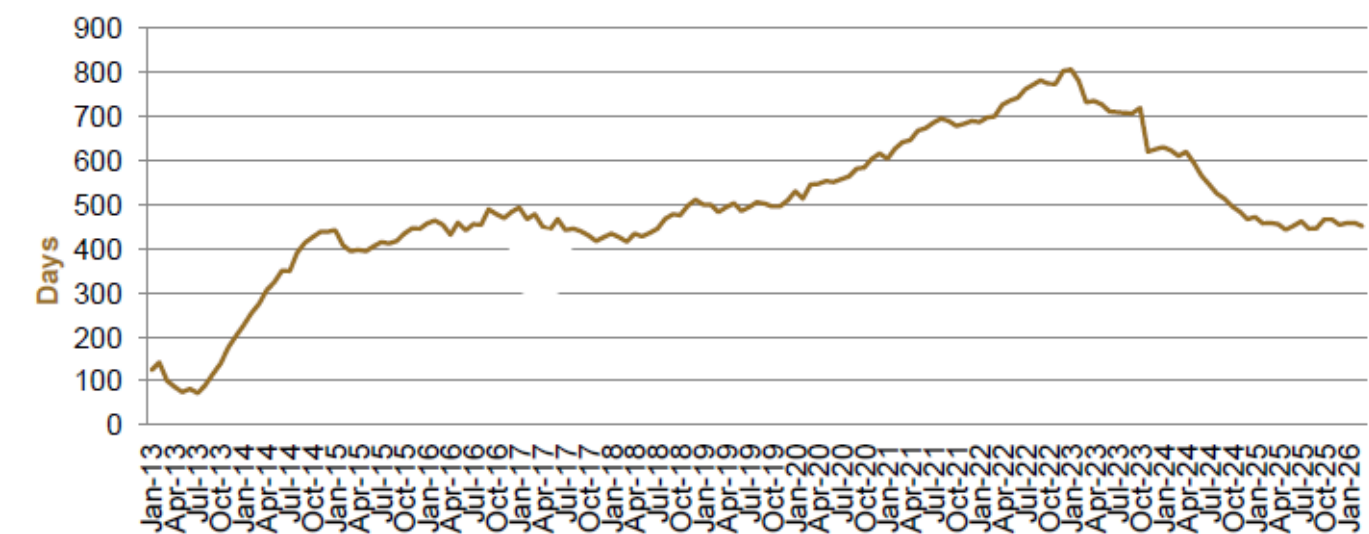
Interactive Map of ‘How many people are on bridging visas E?’ available at: [https://www.datawrapper.de/\\_/sKjG7/](https://www.datawrapper.de/_/sKjG7/)

## People in detention<sup>10</sup>

The following data is about people in immigration detention and under residence determination (formerly community detention) as of 31 March 2026. Values that have not been provided and cannot be calculated are given as ‘N.P.’ (not provided). As of 31 March 2026, 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 451 days**.

**As of 31 March 2026, there were 1,096 people in Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs) and Alternative Places of Detention (APODs) across Australia. Of these 1,096 people, 33.0% had been detained for 91 days or less and 65.4% had been detained for 365 days or less<sup>10</sup>.**

**Figure 1.** Average Number of Days of People in Held Immigration Detention Facilities (Department of Home Affairs, 2026)<sup>10</sup>.



This figure shows the average days in held immigration detention at the end of each month from January 2013 to the date of this report. The average period of time for people held in detention facilities steadily increased from July 2013 to January 2015. Between November 2018 and December 2019, the average number of days remained at around 500. Since January 2020, the average period of time for people held in detention facilities has steadily increased until January 2023, after which there has been an overall decrease.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>9</sup> Refugee Council of Australia. (2026). *Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community*. <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/asylum-community/6/>  
<sup>10</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs (2026). *Immigration detention statistics for 31 March 2026*. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/immigration-detention>



Table 10: People in immigration detention in Victoria as of 31 March 2026

| Place of immigration detention          | Number of people held in immigration detention |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Melbourne Immigration Detention Centres | 177                                            |
| Alternative Places of Detention (APODs) | <15                                            |
| National Total                          | 1,096                                          |

Table 11: People under residence determination in Victoria as of 31 March 2026

|                              | Men | Women | Children | Total                           |
|------------------------------|-----|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Number of people in Victoria | 17  | <15   | <15      | 43<br>(51.2% of national total) |
| National Total               | 84  |       |          |                                 |

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 updates on the processing of onshore protection claims for the financial year 2025-2026 show there has been **16,670 protection visa lodgements** made onshore to date (Mar 26) <sup>11</sup>. Monthly data also shows the number of individuals who have been granted a Final Protection Visa and the grant rate.

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

| Component                                 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-2021 | 2021-22 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026* |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Permanent Protection Visa (PPV) lodgement | 18,290  | 27,931  | 24,566  | 23,266  | 11,684    | 10,564  | 18,738    | 25,210    | 23,576    | 16,670     |
| PPV grants                                | 1,711   | 1,425   | 1,650   | 1,650   | 1,389     | 1,762   | 2,000     | 3,250     | 4,036     | 3,400      |

\*2025-2026 Financial Year figures (July 2025 to March 2026)

Appeals heard by the ART: PPV applications<sup>13</sup>

The Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) undertakes independent reviews of decisions made by the Australian Government. People who do not have a protection visa granted at primary stage or have their visa cancelled may choose to have their application reviewed by the ART.

The ART has recently published statistics related to processing times to finalise reviews in certain caseloads over the past 6 months<sup>14</sup>. Of all **protection (refugee)** reviews finalised between 1 November 2025 and 30 April 2026, half were finalised within **2 years and 11 months** from the day the application was submitted (lodgement). Most (95%) were finalised within **5 years and 4 months** from lodgement<sup>15</sup>.

Figure 2. Processing times for all protection (refugee) reviews finalised between 1 November 2025 and 30 April 2026 (Administrative Review Tribunal, 2026)<sup>16</sup>.



<sup>11</sup> Department of Home Affairs (2026). *Monthly Update: Onshore Protection (Subclass 866) Visa Processing – July 2025 to March 2026*. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/humanitarian-program>

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Administrative Review Tribunal (2026). *Immigration and citizenship*. [Immigration and citizenship | Administrative Review Tribunal](#)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.



## Unauthorised Maritime Arrival (UMA) Legacy Caseload

According to the Department of Home Affairs, 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)<sup>17</sup>.

## 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 for Immigration and Citizenship 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 for Immigration and Citizenship 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 SHEV<sup>18</sup>.

As of 31 March 2026, 718 applications are on-hand (initial TPV and SHEV) or at merits review for people living in Victoria<sup>19</sup>

## Important Information: Conversion of TPVs/SHEVs to a Permanent Resolution of Status 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](mailto:RoSVisa@refugeelegal.org.au)
- Website: [www.refugeelegal.org.au](http://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   | <a href="http://www.refugeelegal.org.au">www.refugeelegal.org.au</a> |
| Refugee and Casework Support (RACS)                                     | NSW   | <a href="http://www.racs.org.au">www.racs.org.au</a>                 |
| Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC)- cases referred by RACS NSW | NSW   | <a href="http://www.iarc.org.au">www.iarc.org.au</a>                 |
| Legal Aid                                                               | ACT   | <a href="http://www.legalaidact.org.au">www.legalaidact.org.au</a>   |
| Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS)                           | QLD   | <a href="http://www.rails.org.au">www.rails.org.au</a>               |
| Circle Green                                                            | WA    | <a href="http://www.circlegreen.org.au">www.circlegreen.org.au</a>   |
| Legal Services Commission                                               | SA    | <a href="http://www.lsc.sa.gov.au">www.lsc.sa.gov.au</a>             |
| Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service                                         | TAS   | <a href="http://www.trls.org.au">www.trls.org.au</a>                 |
| Legal Aid                                                               | NT    | <a href="http://www.legalaid.nt.au">www.legalaid.nt.au</a>           |

Source: Department of Home Affairs

<sup>17</sup> Refugee Council of Australia. (2026). Who was included in the ‘Legacy Caseload’? <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/fast-tracking-statistics/>

<sup>18</sup> Department of Home Affairs (2026). ‘UMA Legacy Caseload Report on Status and Processing Outcomes November 2025’. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/humanitarian-program>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

# Resolution of Status Visa Holders (UMA Legacy Caseload)



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 month<sup>20</sup>.

As of 31 March 2026, 24,200 Resolution of Status (RoS) Visas had been granted to people across Australia. 10,097 visas were granted to people living in Victoria.

**Table 13:** Main Citizenships: Visa Holders, Australia-wide<sup>21</sup>

| Country of Citizenship | TPV/SHEV | RoS Visa |
|------------------------|----------|----------|
| Australia              | 6        | 11,435   |
| Sri Lanka              | 429      | 3,042    |
| Iran                   | 795      | 2,377    |
| Afghanistan            | 169      | 2,562    |
| Stateless              | 182      | 1,827    |
| Pakistan               | 89       | 995      |
| Iraq                   | 118      | 574      |
| Vietnam                | 67       | 293      |
| Bangladesh             | 83       | 150      |
| Myanmar                | 22       | 192      |
| Other                  | 98       | 752      |
| Total                  | 2,058    | 24,200   |

**Table 14:** 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 <sup>22</sup>                                                 | TOTAL   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Applied for initial TPV and on-hand with the Department <sup>1</sup>           | 2155    |
| Applied for initial SHEV and on-hand with the Department <sup>1</sup>          | 563     |
| Applied for/converted to RoS visa and on-hand with the Department <sup>1</sup> | 2,007   |
| Total applications on hand                                                     | 2,725   |
| TPV holder                                                                     | 177     |
| SHEV holder*                                                                   | 1,881   |
| RoS visa holder                                                                | 24,200  |
| Total Visa holders                                                             | 26,258* |
| Refused TPV/SHEV/RoS visa by the Department and at merits review               | 45      |
| Refused TPV/SHEV/RoS visa and at judicial review                               | 610     |
| TPV/SHEV/RoS visa cancelled or expired (onshore)                               | 48      |
| Refused TPV/SHEV/RoS visa no immigration matters ongoing <sup>2</sup>          | 463     |
| Total refused, cancelled or expired onshore                                    | 1,166   |
| Otherwise resolved <sup>3</sup>                                                | 3,787   |
| Total                                                                          | 31,929  |

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

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

## Temporary Humanitarian Stay (subclass 449) and Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786) Visa Pathway



Over the years, the Australian Government has responded to humanitarian emergencies in various ways<sup>23</sup>. In recent years, the Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) (subclass 449) and Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) Visa (subclass 786) visa pathways have been utilised to respond to people seeking safety in humanitarian emergencies.

This temporary humanitarian stay pathway is a two-step process and is offered on a case-by-case basis, by invitation from the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. Firstly, a Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) (subclass 449) visa is granted, followed by a Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786) visa. Visa subclass 786 is granted for three years.

### Ukrainian nationals

In 2022, the Australian Government offered a temporary humanitarian stay to Ukrainians in Australia. All Ukrainians in Australia who accepted this offer were granted a subclass 786 visa<sup>24</sup>.

Since then, the Australian Government has announced that Ukrainian Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786) visa holders who accepted the Australian Government offer of temporary humanitarian stay before 31 July 2022 are now eligible for the offer of a permanent stay in Australia through the grant of a Resolution of Status (RoS, subclass 851) visa. The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship will make an offer of a permanent stay in Australia, on a case-by-case basis, to Ukrainian nationals who hold a Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786) visa which was offered in 2022<sup>25</sup>.

**As of 4 May 2026, there are 1,055 Resolution of Status visa holders who were born in Ukraine, living in Victoria**<sup>26</sup>.

### People Fleeing the Conflict in Israel-Gaza

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. Visitor visas are not designed to support people fleeing conflict as eligibility to work rights, access to Medicare, access to income support or study rights is limited.

As of November 2024, the Australian Government is offering a temporary humanitarian stay visa pathway to eligible Palestinians and Israelis on a case-by-case basis.<sup>27</sup>

The temporary humanitarian stay pathway is by invitation from the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship only. You cannot apply for this visa without an invitation.

Please contact the Victorian Refugee Health Network ([refugeehealth@foundationhouse.org.au](mailto:refugeehealth@foundationhouse.org.au)) if you are interested in requesting data and statistics for population groups impacted by global humanitarian events.

<sup>23</sup> Jane McAdam AO and Regina Jefferies (2024). *Policy Brief 15: Ensuring protection in humanitarian emergencies: A framework for Australia*. <https://www.unsw.edu.au/kaldor-centre/our-resources/legal-and-policy-resources/policy-briefs-series>

<sup>24</sup> Department of Home Affairs (2025). *Temporary Humanitarian Stay pathway for eligible Ukrainians in Australia* <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/ukraine-visa-support/australian-government-offer-for-temporary-humanitarian-stay-in-australia>

<sup>25</sup> Department of Home Affairs (2025). *Offer of a Resolution of Status Visa (subclass 851) to Ukrainian Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786) visa holders* <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/ukraine-visa-support/australian-government-offer-for-temporary-humanitarian-stay-in-australia>

<sup>26</sup> Australian Government Department of Home Affairs (2026). Settlement Database. *Data request via* [settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:settlement.data.request@homeaffairs.gov.au)

<sup>27</sup> Department of Home Affairs. (2025). *Hamas-Israel Conflict: Temporary Humanitarian Stay pathway for Palestinians and Israelis in Australia*. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/hamas-israel-conflict/information-for-palestinian-israeli-nationals-temporary-humanitarian-stay>



## Caveats to data sources from the Settlement Database (SDB)<sup>28</sup>

The Victorian Refugee Health Network obtains the data for this report from the Department of Home Affairs 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 either directly or via Medicare (post arrival). 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*

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<sup>28</sup> For the full data set please contact our team at the Victorian Refugee Health Network ([refugeehealth@foundationhouse.org.au](mailto:refugeehealth@foundationhouse.org.au)).