

## 2009-10 AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

*A compilation of statistics from the 2009-10 Annual Report of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)*

### Refugee and Humanitarian Program visa grants, 2009-10

Offshore refugee visas: 6003 (6499 in 2008-09)

Offshore Special Humanitarian visas: 3233 (4511)

Onshore protection and humanitarian visas: 4534 (2497)

Total refugee and humanitarian visas: 13,770 (13,507)

### Visa grants by subclass

Refugee visas (*subclass 200*) 5173; In-country Special Humanitarian (*201*) 24; Emergency Rescue (*203*) 0; Woman at Risk (*204*) 806; Global Special Humanitarian (*202*) 3244\*; Resolution of status (*851*) 8; Protection (*866*) 4515; Temporary Humanitarian Concern (*786*) 0.

(\* Includes 11 visas granted in Australia through ministerial intervention)

### Offshore refugee and humanitarian program

- Regions of origin for offshore refugee and humanitarian visa entrants: Asia-Pacific 38.6%, Middle East and South-West Asia 31.8%, Africa 29.2%, Europe and the Americas 0.4%.
- Top countries of origin: Burma 1959, Iraq 1688, Bhutan 1144, Afghanistan 951, Congo (DRC) 584, Ethiopia 392, Somalia 317, Sudan 298, Liberia 258, Sierra Leone 237

### Protection Visas

- Protection visa applications lodged: 8150  
Countries of origin: Afghanistan 1561, China 1288, Sri Lanka 652, Fiji 559, Iran 448, Zimbabwe 371, Iraq 362, Pakistan 348, India 301, Malaysia 254, Other 2006.  
Applications decided within 90 days: 71.8%
- Protection visas granted: 4515 (grant rate 66.5%)  
Afghanistan 1514 (grant rate 99.7%), Sri Lanka 505 (87.8%), China 492 (42.0%), Iraq 321 (97.3%), Iran 282 (98.3%), Zimbabwe 255 (85.3%), Pakistan 218 (84.2%), Stateless 192 (98.5%), Egypt 79 (71.2%), Burma 78 (96.3%), Other 579 (29.4%).

### Offshore asylum seeker management

#### Arrivals 2009-10

- 5647 irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) were intercepted in Australian waters during 2009-10 (up from 1043 in 2008-09). They arrived in 117 vessels and included 300 crew.
- IMAs intercepted in Australian waters by gender: Adult males 4563; adult females 265; male accompanied minors 181; female accompanied minors 130; male unaccompanied minors 470; female unaccompanied minors 6.

#### IMAs in detention

- Total number of IMAs held in immigration detention at some stage during 2009-10: 6412 (1050 in 2008-09).
- At 30 June 2010, 3867 IMAs were held in immigration detention (782 at 30 June 2009).

#### Refugee status assessment and independent merits review

- 3966 Refugee Status Assessments were initiated and 2914 completed. Of these, 2126 were assessed to be refugees. 786 were found not to be refugees.
- 572 requests for independent merits review were received and 184 completed. Of these, 81 were found to be refugees and 103 were found not to be refugees.

#### Settlement and removal

- IMAs granted visas and settled on Australian mainland: 2156.  
State/territory of settlement: Victoria 874 (41%), New South Wales 420 (20%), Queensland 326 (15%), South Australia 323 (15%), Western Australia 178 (8%), ACT 31 (1%), Northern Territory 4 (0.2%).
- IMAs removed from Australia: 139.

### **Immigration detention**

- During 2009-10, 8749 people were taken into immigration detention (compared to 3977 in 2008-09). 7116 people (81%) were unauthorised arrivals (1489 by air and 5627 by boat), 1356 (15%) were people who overstayed or breached visa conditions, 139 (2%) were foreign fishers, 138 (2%) in other categories.
- As at 30 June 2010, 4077 people were in immigration detention – 3867 irregular maritime arrivals, 61 unauthorised air arrivals, 136 people who had breached visa conditions, 6 foreign fishers and 7 others such as stowaways and ship deserters. A year earlier, 1036 were in immigration detention.
- During 2009-10, 161 people were held in community detention (residence arrangements), 130 of them irregular maritime arrivals. As at 30 June 2010, 30 people were living in community detention arrangements – 18 adults and 12 children (4 family groups plus 11 individual adults).

### **Ministerial intervention**

- Requests received 2446; requests finalised 3037; requests finalised by the Minister 1937; visas granted 558.
- Intervention requests by country of citizenship: China 569, India 289, Indonesia 176, Malaysia 171, Fiji 137, Korea 131, Sri Lanka 124, Bangladesh 122, Lebanon 117, Pakistan 62, Other 548.
- Visa grants by country of citizenship: Indonesia 78, China 64, Bangladesh 56, Sri Lanka 40, Fiji 36, Lebanon 26, Korea 21, Pakistan 20, Philippines 18, Tonga 17, Turkey 17, Other 165.
- Visa grants by visa subclass: Former Resident (subclass 151) 336; Tourist (676) 78; Employer Nomination Scheme (856) 33; Five Year Resident Return (155) 24; Carer (836) 23; Aged Dependent Relative (838) 16; Spouse (801) 15; Global Special Humanitarian (202) 14; Remaining Relative (835) 9; Other 10.

### **Departures and removals**

- In 2009-10, DIAC assisted or managed the departure of 8825 people from Australia (including assisted voluntary returns, monitored departures and voluntary and involuntary removals). This was a 29% increase on the previous year.
- In 2009-10, a total of 5843 people (not including irregular maritime arrivals, illegal foreign fishers or airport turnarounds) resolved their status by departing voluntarily.
- Referrals to the Assisted Voluntary Return Program (funded by DIAC and conducted by IOM) increased from 49 per month in 2008-09 to more than 80 per month in 2009-10. 464 people departed through the program, an increase from 387 in 2008-09 and 143 in 2007-08.

### **Government-funded assistance to asylum seekers**

- Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme: 9900 services provided at a cost of \$3.035 million. Application assistance to people in immigration detention and eligible clients in the community: 1144 people. General immigration advice: 8756 services. In addition, 3425 irregular maritime arrivals received assistance on Christmas Island and onshore detention facilities at a cost of \$8.79 million.
- Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme: Assistance provided to 2802 people at a cost of \$9.058 million.
- Community Assistance Support program: Assisted 237 cases (449 people) in 2009-10. As at 30 June 2010, 30 cases (39 people) were in transitional support, released from immigration detention to remain lawfully in Australia; 108 cases had been closed, of which 62 cases were closed due to a visa grant.

### **Support to refugee and humanitarian entrants**

- Australian Cultural Orientation program: Delivered to 5297 participants, through 234 courses in 17 countries.
- Travel assistance and health screening: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided travel assistance to 6194 refugee entrants, at a cost of \$11.708 million. IOM also conducted medical screening for 6003 refugee visa applications and 5433 pre-departure medical checks at a cost of \$4.277 million.
- Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy: 12,578 people assisted – 6194 refugee visa holders, 3730 Special Humanitarian entrants, 2564 Protection Visa holders. Total number of cases (households rather than individuals) supported by IHSS: 5348. Of these

cases, 56% were single clients (up from 33% in 2008-09).

The number of refugee and humanitarian entrants settling in regional areas increased to 2196 (up from 1571 in 2008-09).

- Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (UHMs): As at 30 June 2010, 744 UHMs were in DIAC's UHM program, 529 who arrived under the offshore refugee and humanitarian program and 215 who were granted Protection Visas in Australia. During 2009-10, 447 UHMs entered the program and 247 left the program.
- Complex Case Support program: 556 cases referred to program, 429 cases accepted (covering 1566 clients). This was a 66% increase on 2008-09, the inaugural year of the program.
- Settlement Grants Program: 328 projects operated during 2009-10. In the 2009-10 funding round, 219 projects were funded at a cost of \$36 million.

### Adult Migrant English Program

- 57,343 clients, 66% female; 193 countries of birth, 255 languages spoken (most common first languages Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese).
- Age groups: 16-24 years 14.1%, 25-44 years 62.3%, 45-64 years 20.2%, 65+ years 3.5%. 4317 clients in rural/regional areas, 50,985 in metropolitan areas.
- Proportion of eligible humanitarian entrants in AMEP: 87% (up from 82% in 2008-09).
- AMEP is delivered through 18 contracts at more than 250 locations around Australia.

### Interpreting services

- The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) provided 831,108 telephone interpreting services in 2009-10, an increase of 13.1% on the previous year. Non-English speaking clients initiated 55% of requests for a telephone interpreter.
- Onsite interpreting increased by 19.5% to 53,150 services.
- TIS National's coverage of languages and dialects increased to 174. During 2009-10, 387 interpreters were recruited.
- The number of free translating and interpreting services increased by 27,000 to 197,060. Of these, 170,317 were telephone services and 26,743 were on site. In addition, 10,015 documents were translated.

### DIAC spending by outcome area

Outcome area	Funds administered by DIAC (\$m)	DIAC spending (\$m)	Total (\$m)
1. Visa and migration	0.05	540.096	540.146
2. Refugee and humanitarian assistance	31.063	82.309	113.372
3. Border management	4.102	182.576	186.678
4.1 Visa compliance and status resolution	7.038	131.126	138.164
4.2 Onshore detention network	69.957	36.119	106.076
4.3 Offshore asylum seeker management	210.909	81.309	292.218
4.4 Illegal foreign fishers	6.898	5.416	12.314
5. Settlement services for migrants and refugees	329.739	102.388	432.127
6. Multicultural and citizenship services	2.778	80.978	83.756
<b>Total</b>	<b>662.534</b>	<b>1,242.317</b>	<b>1,904.850</b>

Compiled by  
Refugee Council of Australia  
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