



Refugee Council of Australia

2016-17 FEDERAL BUDGET: WHAT IT MEANS FOR REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION

KEY POINTS

- *No change to the number of places in the Refugee and Humanitarian Program beyond what has previously been announced by the Federal Government.*
- *Settlement service funding, as previously announced, will increase in 2016-17 by \$122 million on current year's forecast, largely to support refugees arriving as part of the 12,000 additional resettlement places for Syrian and Iraqi refugees.*
- *\$10.9 million will be allocated over three years to support the economic and social participation of humanitarian entrants, including \$5.2 million set aside for a new career pathways pilot program supporting newly-arrived, skilled humanitarian entrants with vocational level English proficiency.*
- *Three detention facilities will close – the Maribyrnong centre in Melbourne, Perth Immigration Residential Housing and the Blaxland facility within the Villawood detention centre – and the lease of the Wickham Point detention near Darwin facility will not be renewed in November 2016. Christmas Island's North West Point detention centre will shift to contingency mode in 2018.*

REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM

- Plans for the Refugee and Humanitarian Program remain as previously announced. The annual Refugee and Humanitarian Program will remain at 13,750 places in 2016-17, increasing to 16,250 places in 2017-18 and 18,750 places in 2018-19. The additional allocation of 12,000 resettlement places for Syrian and Iraqi refugees, announced by the Federal Government in September, will continue to proceed, with no time limit set on the completion of this allocation.
- \$12.1 million will be provided over two years (\$7.4 million in 2016-17 and \$4.7 million in 2017-18) for the supervision and welfare of unaccompanied humanitarian minors, supporting the settlement of humanitarian entrants under the age of 18 who arrive in Australia without a guardian. This is not a new measure but continues a program funded in the 2014-15 Budget.
- *Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) spending in 2016-17 on Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance \$153.4 million (down from \$175.7 million in 2015-16.)*

GENERAL MIGRATION PROGRAM

- In 2016-17, up to 190,00 places will be available for permanent migration – including up to 128,550 places for skilled migration (no change on 2015-16), 57,400 for family migration (a cut of 3485 places on 2015-16) and 565 under the Special Eligibility stream (no change). At least 3485 places will be provided for child category migrants, continuing the transition of the child category to a fully demand-driven model by 2019-20 as recommended by the Interdepartmental Committee on Intercountry Adoption.
- The Government will achieve efficiencies of \$180.0 million over three years from 2017-18 by “reforming the visa and migration framework, improving automation in visa processing, providing self-service options and using more sophisticated assessment capabilities”.
- *DIBP spending in 2016-17 on Migration \$262.8 million and Visas \$366.6 million.*

SETTLEMENT SERVICES

- The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) will be redesigned to improve client participation, English language proficiency and employment outcomes. Key changes include offering additional hours of English tuition to eligible clients, introducing better monitoring of

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improvements in client English skills and establishing two new AMEP service streams – Social English and Pre-Employment English. The cost of the measure will be met within the existing resources of the Department of Education and Training.

- \$10.9 million will be allocated over three years from 2016-17 (\$3.8 million in 2016-17, \$3.5 million in 2017-18 and \$3.6 million 2018-19) to provide additional support to recently arrived humanitarian migrants “to strengthen their sense of belonging to Australian society and to increase their social and economic participation”. Of this, \$5.7 million will increase the number of Community Hubs – a programme that helps migrants and humanitarian entrants connect with their communities. The remaining \$5.2 million is set aside for a new career pathways pilot program supporting newly-arrived, skilled humanitarian entrants with vocational level English proficiency. The pilot will provide targeted support to help humanitarian entrants find employment in jobs that match their skills.
- *Department of Social Services spending in 2016-17 on settlement services \$264.1 million (up from \$141.9 million in 2015-16). Department of Education and Training spending on AMEP \$299.7 million (up from \$293.3 million) and on Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program \$125.4 million (down from \$134.8 million).*

IMMIGRATION DETENTION, STATUS RESOLUTION AND OFFSHORE PROCESSING

- Three immigration detention facilities – Melbourne’s Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre, Perth Immigration Residential Housing and the Blaxland facility within Villawood Immigration Detention Centre – will close, saving \$68.2 million over five years from 2015-16. The lease of the Wickham Point facility near Darwin will not be renewed beyond November 2016. The North West Point facility on Christmas Island will be put into contingency from 1 January 2018, joining the Phosphate Hill and Construction Camp facilities on Christmas Island, which were put into contingency in 2015-16. Commonwealth-owned land at Maribyrnong and Villawood will be sold to raise revenue but the Department will not reveal the expected revenue “for commercial confidentiality reasons”. The Budget Papers note that 17 detention facilities have closed since 2013, with the number of people in detention dropping from 6400 in September 2013 to fewer than 1700 in April 2016.
- \$39.8 million allocated in 2016-17 to continue the provision of asylum seeker assistance to support eligible asylum seekers who entered Australia on valid visas.
- An additional allocation of \$61.5 million in 2016-17 will support the operation of regional processing centres and settlement outcomes for people found to be refugees in these centres. This includes payments on increased taxes and charges.
- *DIBP spending in 2016-17 on Onshore Compliance and Detention \$1.691 billion (down from \$1.712 billion in 2015-16) and on Offshore Detention and Offshore Processing \$880.5 million (down from \$1.078 billion).*

BORDER ENFORCEMENT AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

- \$55.4 million will be provided in 2016-17 to continue funding the Regional Cooperation Arrangements in Indonesia, to support “regional partners to manage their asylum seeker populations”.
- \$9.1 million allocated over two years from 2016-17 for international engagement activities to prevent and disrupt maritime people smuggling. Australian Border Force officials will continue to be stationed in Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, to assist agencies “in source and transit countries to better address the threat of people smuggling”.
- \$2.2 million in continued funding will be provided to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to maintain outreach offices across Indonesia, assisting the Indonesian Government to monitor migration flows and coordinate its responses to irregular maritime activity.
- \$1.3 million will be provided annually to continue funding the Regional Support Office which supports the work in the Asia-Pacific region of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime and Regional Cooperation Framework.
- In the Foreign Affairs portfolio, \$9.2 million has been allocated over four years (\$2.3 million p.a.) to continue the People Smuggling Taskforce, the Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking and Ministerial and senior officials meetings of the Bali Process.

- *DIBP spending in 2016-17 on Border Enforcement \$1.044 billion (up from \$1.013 billion in 2015-16), Border Management \$237.0 million (down from 259.8 million) and Regional Cooperation \$107.9 million (up from \$87.4 million).*

OVERSEAS AID AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

- Foreign aid has been reduced by \$224 million to \$3.8 billion. At just 0.23% of Gross National Income (GNI), this number represents one of the lowest levels of aid allocation in Australia's history. While the aid to countries in the Pacific region has mostly remained stable since last year, it has dropped by \$15 million for Indonesia. Papua New Guinea remains the largest aid recipient (\$477 million) despite the announcement that the Manus Island detention centre will be closed. South Asian countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal are due to receive the same amount of aid as last year with a slight reduction to South and West Asia Regional areas. African and Middle Eastern countries also see a reduction of \$0.6 million in aid.

SPENDING IN 2016-17 BUDGET

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION

1. BORDER ENFORCEMENT	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1.1 Border Enforcement	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental expenses	1,013,137	1,043,515	1,058,083	1,053,864	1,075,668
Total	1,013,137	1,043,515	1,058,083	1,053,864	1,075,668
1.2 Border Management					
External expenses	9,706	8	8	8	8
Departmental expenses	250,129	236,995	232,638	224,949	226,462
Total	259,835	237,003	232,646	224,957	226,470
1.3 Onshore Compliance and Detention					
External expenses	1,131,415	1,211,422	762,300	651,883	625,066
Departmental expenses	580,381	479,196	428,831	379,470	361,378
Total	1,711,796	1,690,618	1,191,131	1,031,353	986,444
1.4 IMA Offshore Management					
External expenses	1,036,111	842,955	327,840	351,199	340,686
Departmental expenses	41,953	37,554	29,204	29,374	29,666
Total	1,078,064	880,509	357,044	380,573	370,352
1.5 Regional Cooperation					
External expenses	73,498	87,761	27,196	27,878	28,576
Departmental expenses	13,860	20,139	19,425	14,882	14,947
Total	87,358	107,900	46,621	42,760	43,523
1. Total for Border Enforcement					
Total External expenses	2,250,730	2,142,146	1,117,344	1,030,968	994,336
Total Departmental expenses	1,899,460	1,817,399	1,768,181	1,702,539	1,708,121
Total	4,150,190	3,959,545	2,885,525	2,733,507	2,702,457
2. CITIZENSHIP, MIGRATION, VISAS, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
2.1 Citizenship	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental expenses	66,396	61,718	59,784	60,691	59,151
Total	66,396	61,718	59,784	60,691	59,151

2.2 Migration	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental expenses	279,404	262,863	254,115	232,660	219,908
Total	279,404	262,863	254,115	232,660	219,908
2.3 Visas	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental expenses	381,691	366,537	347,877	329,462	318,048
Total	381,691	366,537	347,877	329,462	318,048
2.4 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
External expenses	77,196	51,550	33,067	32,864	33,514
Departmental expenses	98,471	101,817	98,471	100,980	101,070
Total	175,667	153,367	131,538	133,844	134,584
2. Total for Citizenship, Migration, Visas and Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance					
External expenses	77,196	51,550	33,067	32,864	33,514
Departmental expenses	825,962	792,935	760,247	723,793	698,177
Total	903,158	844,485	793,314	756,657	731,691
3. BORDER REVENUE COLLECTION & TRADE FACILITATION					
3.1 Border Revenue Collection	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
External expenses	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
Departmental expenses	77,768	73,437	66,981	67,198	62,458
Total	91,268	86,937	80,481	80,698	75,958
3.2 Trade Facilitation and Industry Engagement	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental expenses	53,507	59,978	65,139	65,024	63,049
Total	53,507	59,978	65,139	65,024	63,049
3. Total Border Revenue Collection and Trade Facilitation					
External expenses	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
Departmental expenses	131,275	133,415	132,120	132,222	125,507
Total	144,775	146,915	145,620	145,722	139,007
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON DIBP'S 3 OUTCOME AREAS	5,198,123	4,950,945	3,824,459	3,635,886	3,573,155

SETTLEMENT RELATED PROGRAMS IN OTHER PORTFOLIOS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
2.1 Families and Communities	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Settlement Services	141,870	264,065	177,139	198,520	170,501
Total	141,870	264,065	177,139	198,520	170,501
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
2.8.3 Access to Training	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Adult Migrant English Program	293,342	299,730	300,729	304,467	304,981
National Foundation Skills Strategy	195	61	50		
Skills for Education and Employment Program	134,808	125,413	90,152	119,720	121,632
Workplace English Language and Literacy	4,763	293			
Total	433,108	425,497	390,931	424,187	426,613