



Fact Sheet 4 Australia's Humanitarian Program

Refugees arrive in Australia by two ways: either through the offshore Refugee and Special Humanitarian program or as onshore asylum seekers.

The Australian Government's Refugee and Special Humanitarian Program currently accepts approximately 13,000 refugees every year.

Refugees and humanitarian entrants arrive directly from overseas and some arrive as onshore asylum seekers.

The Refugee Program is for people subject to persecution in their home country and in need of resettlement. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) refers most applicants under this category for resettlement.

The main refugee visa categories are:

- **Refugee (visa subclass 200)**
Applicants require referral from UNHCR, must meet health and character requirements, their medical and travel costs are paid and have eligibility for a full range of Australian Government settlement services
- **In-country Special Humanitarian (visa subclass 201)**
This visa is rarely used and is for applicants unable to leave their own country. These visa applicants have the same entitlements as SHP entrants
- **Emergency Rescue (visa subclass 203)**
Also rarely used and for emergency cases only where an applicant has an immediate threat. There is referral from UNHCR with less than 48 hours from referral to removal. Health and character tests apply and applicants have the same visa rights as a Refugee visa
- **Woman at Risk (visa subclass 204)**
This visa is for especially vulnerable women and children such as female headed households, single mothers, abandoned or single women. Most applicants have been subjected to extreme violence, they are referred by UNHCR and other agencies, health and character tests apply. Applicants have the same entitlements as Refugee visa entrants.

The Special Humanitarian Program (SHP 202) targets people who are outside their home country and are subject to substantial persecution and/or discrimination in their home country amounting to a gross violation of their human rights. Applications for the SHP visa (subclass 202) must be supported by a proposer who is an Australian citizen, permanent resident or a community organisation based in Australia. SHP entrants must meet health and character tests. They receive less support than Refugee visa entrants. For example they do not receive free airflights into Australia however are entitled to a modified initial settlement package provided by the Government.

Refugees also arrive in Australia as onshore asylum seekers.

With the introduction of the 785 temporary protection visa (TPV) in 1999, (NOTE: this form of visa has since been abolished) a total of 10,800 have been granted to recognised refugees. Many TPV holders have now been issued with permanent protection visas. As of February 12, 2007 a total of 8,900 permanent visas had been issued to former TPV and temporary humanitarian visa (THV) holders.

For families with children, unaccompanied minors, or people with special needs community detention is applied as another mean to deal with unlawful migration. People who belong to these categories are placed in specific addresses in the community and are provided with adequate support from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship with the help of non-government organisations (NGOs).

In the past 60 years, more than 660,000 refugees and displaced people have been resettled in Australia. Many had close family or other ties to Australia.

Numbers coming to Australia

Nationally, Australia accepts 13,000 people each year under the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP)

WA expects around 10-12%.

Other states proportions vary but an approximation is

ACT	1-2 %
NSW	27-29%
NT	0.5%-1%
QLD	12-15%
SA	6-8%
TAS	0.8-1%
VIC	23-26%

(Sourced from settlement database figures)

For information in your area on the number of migrants and humanitarian entrants go to the settlement database provided by DIAC. This is accessible at <http://www.settlement.immi.gov.au/settlement/enterSelectReport.do>