

Fact Sheet 7 New and Emerging Communities

Definitions of new and emerging communities

The Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship, DIAC, (formerly the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs) characterises small and emerging communities as those that have an Australia-wide population of fewer than 15,000, of whom 30% or more have arrived in the past five years.

In its 1999 report, *New Country, New Stories*, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) considers the potential risks to human rights of people in new and emerging communities. For the purposes of that report, emerging groups were defined as “communities with less than 20,000 people in Australia most of whom had been in Australia for less than 10 years (HREOC 9).”

Needs of new and emerging communities

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities in Australia are not homogenous but are so diverse that it is difficult, if not impossible, to consider the needs of all CaLD communities as having a common basis.

The larger more established CaLD communities (eg the Italians, Greeks, Vietnamese, etc) have developed significant community infrastructure, including specialist ethno-specific services, cultural organisations, aged care and youth programs as well as ethnic newspapers and radio.

The new and emerging refugee and humanitarian communities (eg Bosnian, Sudanese, Somali and West African) from countries with relatively small numbers of people from a common ethnic group may be particularly disadvantaged, as they have yet to establish infrastructure within their communities. For these groups settlement is much more difficult without the support of a large network of community, family members, financially secure community members and businesses able to offer employment and support.

Identification of new and emerging communities

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) provides information on migrant and humanitarian settlement in Australia including trends in arrival, demographic characteristics, and potential settlement challenges to assist service providers to understand and respond to the likely needs of new arrivals.

DIAC identified national small and emerging communities Australia-wide to be:

2005/6	2006/7
Afghan	Burundian
Eritrean	Liberian
Ethiopian	Ethiopian
Somali	Rawandan
Sudanese	Sierra Leonian
Kurdish	Congolese (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Information for each Australian state and territory is available from the DIAC website.

Basic background information on various countries is available in the form of Community Profiles (Bhutanese, Burmese, Congolese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Liberian, Sierra Leonean, Sudanese, Togolese, Uzbek). The Profiles contain information on key settlement locations, demographic characteristics of recent arrivals, likely settlement needs and cultural and country backgrounds.

IMPORTANT:

Be aware that some of this information will not be tribe specific. E.g. Sudan consists of one geographical country but is populated by > 200 different language groups and ethnicities can have very different cultures and practices which will not all be described.

Encounters with new and emerging communities

There can be some difficulties in organising encounters with new and emerging communities compared with established communities.

The Greek and Italian communities are well established in Australia, having been here for many years in high numbers. There is a large amount of integration with mainstream communities, with second and third generation migrants growing up and sending their children to Australian schools.

Many of the African communities are still very new to Australia and highly visible within the mainstream, due to differences in dress, religion, colour, food etc.

New and emerging communities are not well established and may be suspicious of an encounter with someone whom they are not familiar or who has not been introduced through a trusted source.

For many of the new communities the atrocities that they have experienced are still very fresh in their minds, due to their short time in Australia and the time and space required to heal has not yet been sufficient.

Sources of further information

Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Settlement Trends and Needs of New Arrivals 2007

<http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/government-programs/settlement-planning/trends-needs-reports.htm>

<http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/government-programs/settlement-planning/community-profiles.htm>

Dept of the Premier and Cabinet, Multicultural Affairs Queensland. *New and Emerging Communities in Queensland: A Profile and Needs analysis of New and Emerging communities in Queensland*, 2000

<http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/library/media/Document/id/851>

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