

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN Australia)

Submission to
Department of Home Affairs on
'Managing Australia's Migrant Intake'

February 2018

About MYAN

The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) is the national peak body representing the rights and interests of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

MYAN works in partnership with young people, government and non-government agencies at the state and territory and national levels to ensure that the particular needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds are recognised, and to support a coherent and consistent approach to addressing these needs in policy and service delivery.

MYAN works with the mainstream youth and broader settlement sectors in order to achieve good settlement outcomes for young people. MYAN has partners in each of Australia's states and territories through which it facilitates a national approach to youth settlement and a multicultural youth specialist approach across Australia. MYAN works directly with young people to build their leadership and advocacy skills and supports a national Youth Ambassador's Network, with representatives from each of Australia's states and territories.

The MYAN has developed the *National Youth Settlement Framework* to support a targeted and consistent approach to addressing the needs of newly arrived young people settling in Australia.

About this submission

The MYAN welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Department of Home Affairs' Discussion Paper on Managing Australia's Migrant Intake. This submission provides a national perspective, drawing on the MYAN's breadth of experience working with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, their communities and the youth and settlement sectors across Australia. It has a focus on the rights and interests of young people (12 to 24 year olds) from migrant and refugee backgrounds in the Australian Migration and Humanitarian Programmes.

This submission does not respond directly to individual questions posed in the Discussion Paper, but rather makes recommendations for consideration in future planning and programming of Australia's migrant intake that MYAN would like to bring to the Department's attention. The recommendations made here should not be considered in isolation from each other, but should be read as complementary. Annex I provides a snapshot of current data on young people arriving in Australia under different migration categories.

Australia has a well-established and valued Migration Programme that aims to strike a balance between both national interest and international responsibility, recognising migrants and refugees make significant social, cultural and economic contributions to Australia. Australia's migration and settlement programmes are generally working well to achieve this balance and these programs are generally well supported by those who they directly service and the broader community.¹ Strengths of the Migration Programme of Australia have been recognized internationally in relation to integration and skills of migrants and their children in Australia, compared to other immigration countries.²

¹ MYAN (2017) *Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration: Inquiry into Settlement Outcomes*. Melbourne: Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), p. 2.

² OECD (2017) *Building Skills for All in Australia: Policy Insights from the Survey of Adult Skills*. Paris: OECD Publishing, p. 31-32.

Introduction and Summary of Recommendations

Young people migrate to Australia with enormous potential to be active participants in and contributors to Australian society. They have enormous strengths and capabilities, and are remarkably resilient in negotiating the various challenges of building a new life in Australia. Many arrive in Australia speaking multiple languages, including English, are highly aspirational and motivated to engage in education and employment and contribute to the future of Australia. They also play an important role in supporting successful settlement of their families. We know that most young people are doing well and navigate the settlement journey successfully. However, they commonly face particular challenges in accessing the support and opportunities they need to navigate the demands of settling in a new country and have particular needs distinct from adults and children. This is due to their age, the critical developmental stage of adolescence (negotiating these developmental tasks in the context of the migration and settlement experience) and the role they play in supporting their families in the settlement journey. They require targeted support that recognises their capabilities and addresses their particular needs.³ MYAN has developed Australia's first *National Youth Settlement Framework* to support and measure good settlement outcomes for young people.

The most effective responses to supporting young people to settle well in Australia are those that fully invest in and support services and systems to remain flexible and responsive to the changing needs and challenges facing newly arrived young people over time. While Australia's settlement services system is globally recognised, MYAN would like to see a stronger focus on more targeted, coordinated and nationally consistent support for young people across settlement services, entering Australia through all migration categories.⁴ The lived experience of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds provide valuable insights into the design of policies, programs and services that meet their needs and create a more inclusive Australian society.⁵

With these considerations in mind, MYAN makes three key recommendations to the Department of Home Affairs;

- Recommendation 1: Continue to ensure young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds have opportunities to benefit from the Migration Programme, and provide support for young people from refugee-like backgrounds arriving under the Migration Programme
- Recommendation 2: Facilitate Family stream of the Migration Programme as a complementary pathway to protection to ensure family reunification of young people from refugee backgrounds
- Recommendation 3: Adopt a long term view when planning for the migrant intake for ensuring successful settlement outcomes for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds

While not explored as part of this submission, MYAN also believes that enhancing access to student visas and making scholarships more accessible to young people from refugee and refugee-like backgrounds may be important ways to provide complementary pathways to protection.

³ MYAN (2017) *Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration: Inquiry into Settlement Outcomes*. Melbourne: Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), p. 2.

⁴ MYAN (2017) *Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration: Inquiry into Settlement Outcomes*. Melbourne: Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), p. 1.

Recommendation 1: Continue to ensure young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds have opportunities to benefit from the Migration Programme, and provide support for young people from refugee-like backgrounds arriving under the Migration Programme

Young people arrive in Australia using different migration pathways

Young people made up an important part of the Migration and Humanitarian Programmes of Australia. In the 2016/17 financial year⁶;

- Young people continued to make up an important portion of arrivals under the Humanitarian Programme (23%), and Family stream (21%) and Skill stream (16%) of the Migration Programme comprising 19% of all arrivals under all migration categories.
- Young people arriving under the Humanitarian Programme made up 22% of all youth arriving under all migration categories.
- Young people aged 18-24 make up 71% of youth arrivals in all migration categories -) and almost half (49%) of the humanitarian youth arrivals.

In addition to the Migration and Humanitarian Programmes, at least 3,485 additional child places were allocated in 2016/17.⁷ MYAN welcomes the announcement that these child places will be demand driven starting from 1 July 2019, as it will allow more young people to arrive in Australia to join their family and community.

Many young people who arrive in Australia through the Family and Skill streams of the Australian Migration Programme may also come from refugee or refugee-like situations, with their experiences reflecting those of young people entering through the Humanitarian Programme. They may however have less formal structures and supports in place when they begin their settlement journey in Australia. For example, young people arriving on 115 (Remaining Relative) and 117 (Orphan Relative) visas are typically living in Australia in kinship care arrangements. These young people may experience particular vulnerabilities related to their pre-migration experiences, and their transition to a new country and culture. As these young people have arrived through the Family stream of the Migration Programme they are not eligible for the same services as those arriving through the Humanitarian Programme. This can place additional pressure on family and community supports and may mean that the needs of this group of young people are particularly complex.⁸

⁶ According to data covering the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 provided by the Department of Social Services to MYAN on the 25 October 2017.

⁷ DIBP (2017) *Fact Sheet: 2017-18 Migration Programme planning levels*.

⁸ Service providers may be unclear about what supports they can provide and what referral options exist, resulting in young people not accessing the support they need to navigate the settlement journey. In a 2013 report exploring the unique migration experience of young people on 117 visas, International Social Service (ISS) Australia recommended collaboration between kinship care services and the refugee and migrant settlement sector to specifically support the needs of this newly arrived group of young people. See Kavanagh (2013) *Home safe home: A report on children who migrate to Australia*. Available at <http://iss-ssi.org/2009/assets/files/news/ISSAustralia-HomeSafeHomeReport-May2013-web.pdf>, p. 5. Building on this study, in their 2016 study on the 117 visa holders, ISS also recommended greater recognition for the issues and needs of Orphan Relative visa holders and their carers in government policy, given multiple challenges faced related to lack of financial and other resources, accommodation, emotional and psychological issues and cultural differences. See Serr & Rose (2016) *New Beginnings: Issues and Needs in International Kinship Care*. North Melbourne, VIC: Australian Scholarly Publishing, pp. 60- 69. The Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) in Victoria have also developed a resource providing information about young people on a 117 or a 115 visa, their entitlements and referral options available to them. See, CMY (2014) *Young People on Remaining Relative visas (115) and Orphan Relative visas (117)*. Available at <http://www.cmy.net.au/publications/young-people-remaining-relative-visas-115-and-orphan-relative-visas-117>.

In the financial year 2016/17⁹, almost a quarter (23%) of all youth arrivals under the Family stream was from the top ten countries of birth of humanitarian youth arrivals. Comparing the number of young people who arrived from the top ten countries of birth for humanitarian youth arrivals with those under the Migration Programme, data reveals that high numbers of young people also arrived from the same countries of birth under the Migration Programme as in the Humanitarian Programme. Accordingly, youth arrivals from Afghanistan under the Family stream was almost double the number, and from South Sudan was almost the same number of humanitarian youth arrivals in 2016/17¹⁰. The top four countries of birth for young people arriving with Orphan (117) visas under the Family stream were Afghanistan, Ethiopia, South Sudan followed by Somalia, making up 61% of all youth arrivals under this visa category.¹¹ Young people arriving with a Child visa (101), Child visa (802), Adoption visa (102) or a Dependent Child visa (455) and who originate from the top ten countries of birth of humanitarian youth arrivals, also made up almost one-fifth (16%) of all youth arrivals under these visa categories. The majority (78%) of youth arrivals with one of these four visa types, coming from the top ten countries of birth of humanitarian youth arrivals, arrived in Australia with a Child visa (101).¹²

This data clearly indicates that young people from refugee-like backgrounds also arrive in Australia under the Migration Programme, and the programme is utilised widely for young people to unify with their family members in Australia. In this respect, as noted above, MYAN welcomes the development that child places will become demand driven as of 1 July 2019¹³, as it will potentially facilitate more access to young people from refugee-like backgrounds to arrive and settle in Australia permanently. MYAN however considers that targeted support should accompany this increase, to ensure better settlement outcomes for young people.

Various factors influence and contribute to better settlement outcomes for young people

While various elements are mentioned in the Discussion Paper in relation to likelihood of successful settlement¹⁴, there is not one objective indicator to measure 'integration potential' of migrants before their arrival to Australia. In addition, settlement outcomes cannot be considered independent from the experiences faced upon arrival to Australia. As put forward by the Productivity Commission, "... social cohesion also depends on the extent to which immigrants themselves and the Australian-born population accept diverse ethnic identities as consistent with a common 'national' identity, which itself evolves over time. A high level of acceptance is conducive to better integration."¹⁵ Research also suggests that integration is closely related to experiences after arriving to country, is not solely depend on the prospective immigrant's own traits. Experiences of racism and discrimination can lead to mental health and wellbeing problems, including anxiety, stress, depression and poor quality of life.¹⁶

In the recent years, there has been an increase in the reported experience of discrimination on the basis of skin colour, ethnic origin and religion (20% in 2017), from the previous years (15% in 2015). 22% of young people between 18-24 years of age reported such discrimination and, young people from non-English speaking backgrounds reported highest experience of discrimination (34%). This is an indicator that more should be done for better settlement outcomes for young people upon arrival to

⁹ According to data covering the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 provided by the Department of Social Services to MYAN on the 25 October 2017.

¹⁰ For more see Annex – I, Table 1.

¹¹ For more see Annex – I, Table 2.

¹² For more see Annex – I, Table 3.

¹³ DIBP (2017) *2016-17 Migration Programme Report*. Available at: <http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/statistics/report-on-migration-program-2016-17.pdf>, p.15.

¹⁴ Department of Home Affairs (2018) *Managing Australia's Migrant Intake*. Available at: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/discussion-papers/managing-australias-migrant-intake.pdf>, p.1.

¹⁵ Productivity Commission (2016) *Inquiry Report: Migrant Intake Into Australia, No. 77*. Canberra: Productivity Commission, p.11.

¹⁶ VicHealth, Data61, CSIRO & MYAN (2017) *Bright Futures: Spotlight on the wellbeing of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds*. Melbourne: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, p. 13

Australia to ensure social cohesion.¹⁷ As a multicultural society, Australia can provide more spaces for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds to find a sense of belonging in their new country and community.¹⁸

As mentioned by the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, migrants may achieve better settlement outcomes if they could access the same support provided to the entrants arriving Australia under the Humanitarian Programme¹⁹, and more effective settlement services could be provided to enhance the integration of immigrants once they are in Australia, as suggested by the Productivity Commission.²⁰ Such support is especially vital for young people from refugee-like backgrounds who arrive in Australia under the Migration Programme.

Recommendation 2: Facilitate Family stream of the Migration Programme as a complementary pathway to protection²¹ to ensure family reunification of young people from refugee backgrounds

In conjunction with the above recommendation on providing more support to young people from refugee-like backgrounds who arrive in Australia under the Migration Programme equal to those youth arrivals under the Humanitarian Programme, MYAN recommends facilitation of the Family stream of the Migration Programme to ensure family reunification of humanitarian entrants in Australia, rather than using a substantial component of the Humanitarian Programme for family reunification purposes.²² Preserving family reunification as a complementary yet distinct pathway for refugees and developing family reunification programmes outside of Australia's current resettlement quota to preserve resettlement for vulnerable individuals with significant protection needs, would be consistent with the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants which was adopted in September 2016 by all member states of the United Nations, including Australia²³.

As put forward by the Australian Human Rights Commissioner, there are significant opportunities within the Family stream of the Migration Programme to expand the range of migration pathways available to refugees. While there are barriers which hamper access to these visas by people in need of international protection, (such as high costs, robust documentations needs, eligibility requirements, long processing times, limited access to entitlements compared to humanitarian arrivals), these could be addressed with a protection-sensitive migration lens.²⁴

¹⁷ Markus, A (2017), Mapping Social Cohesion: The Scanlon Foundation surveys 2017. Caulfield East: Monash University, pp. 59-60.

¹⁸ VicHealth, Data61, CSIRO & MYAN (2017) *Bright Futures: Spotlight on the wellbeing of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds*. Melbourne: Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, p. 13. Also see, Mansouri, F & Kirpitchenko, L 2016, 'Practices of active citizenship among migrant youth: Beyond conventionalities', *Social Identities*, vol. 22, no. 3, pp. 307–23.

¹⁹ Joint Standing Committee on Migration (2017) *No one teaches you to become an Australian: Report of the inquiry into migrant settlement outcomes*. Canberra: Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, p. 35.

²⁰ Productivity Commission (2016) *Inquiry Report: Migrant Intake Into Australia, No. 77*. Canberra: Productivity Commission, p.2.

²¹ Complementary pathways serve to increase the range of safe and regulated means by which refugees may reach sustainable solutions to their international protection needs. Complementary pathways may offer permanent solutions immediately or contribute to durable solutions realized progressively through the use of a series of residency permits or visas. Complementary pathways thus afford refugees a wider range of mechanisms – study, work or family reunion – through which they may achieve protection and solutions. Complementary pathways may be a series or suite of mobility schemes or visa options that can be made available to refugees, including through the removal of administrative and other barriers, so they can reach a solution that is durable. For more see, UNHCR (2016) *The 10-Point Plan in Action, 2016 Update, Chapter 7: Solutions for Refugees*. Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/583714a44.html>, p.195.

²² Australian Human Rights Commission (2016) *Pathways to Protection: A human rights-based response to the flight of asylum seekers by sea*. Canberra: Australian Human Rights Commission, p. 38.

²³ Under the New York Declaration member states of the UN committed to “expand the number and range of legal pathways available for refugees to be admitted to or resettled in third countries” and to “consider making available or expanding, ... complementary pathways for admission of refugees through such means as ... family reunification” For more see, UN General Assembly (2016) New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, A/RES/71/1. Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/57ceb74a4.html>, p.15 and 21.

²⁴ Australian Human Rights Commission (2016) *Pathways to Protection: A human rights-based response to the flight of asylum seekers by sea*. Canberra: Australian Human Rights Commission, p. 38-39.

In this regard, an innovative example to overcome such challenges is the *Family Assistance Program* (FAP) of Germany. FAP facilitates family reunion of Syrians and Iraqis located in Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq with their family members in Germany. UNHCR had mentioned the Program as an example of complementary pathways to protection and solutions²⁵, as it aims to address existing practical, administrative, and legal obstacles to family reunification, including responding to difficulties with providing documentation to establish family links²⁶. Under the Program, International Organization of Migration (IOM) operates FAP offices in Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq to guide Syrian and Iraqi refugee families through the visa application process.²⁷ Under the Program, 25,000 family members have been able to join their relatives in Germany, eighty-five percent of which were women. Successful FAP applicants received residency permits valid for the same duration as those of their family members in Germany. The Program allowed refugees to access a simplified visa process to reunite with their families even if they did not possess adequate financial resources or sufficient living space in case they submitted applications in a given period.²⁸ This program has been developed to respond to the need of refugees who apply for and are granted protection in Germany, and also those refugees resettled in Germany. Some aspects of the program could be applied in Australia to utilize the Family stream for family reunification of humanitarian arrivals through simplified and faster procedures.

In addition, MYAN recommends adoption of a broader definition of 'family' in making arrangements for family reunification to include young people who are over 18 years old for as well as parents of young people over 18 years old. UNHCR in its most recent Procedural Standards mentions that a relationship of social, emotional and/or economic dependency (including mutual or partial dependence) between family members (regardless of the direction of dependency) should suffice to establish grounds to apply for family reunification.²⁹ UNHCR provides more detail in its Resettlement Handbook on the family members that should be considered for family reunification in accordance with the principle of family unity.³⁰

Families who have refugee experiences often have high levels of resilience and coping skills, and can be a great source of strength and support to each other in recovering from the impact forced migration and navigating the settlement journey in a new country. However migration, and particularly forced migration and the refugee experience, can have a profound impact on family units and lead to families being separated. The lack of family support networks for young people further contributes to settlement challenges, on top of navigating developmental tasks of adolescence. Family supports are critical in negotiating a range of settlement pressures and in the absence of such support, participating in employment or other community activities become difficult. Concern about family members left

²⁵ UNHCR (2017) *Global Trends in Forced Displacement in 2016*. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/5943e8a34.pdf>, p. 29.

²⁶ See, IOM (2017) IOM's Family Assistance Programme. Available at: http://germany.iom.int/sites/default/files/FAP/FAP_Infosheet_ENGLISH_2017-04-04.pdf

²⁷ German Federal Foreign Office data indicated that the majority of Syrian and Iraqi families arrived for their German family reunification visa interview, unprepared and ill-informed, with most submitting incomplete applications, often lacking the required supporting documentation. To avoid delays in process created due to such situations, IOM assists by providing comprehensive support to ensure that applications are complete prior to interview, e.g.; completion and printing of the required online visa application forms; visa application completeness checks; facilitation of contact with recognised refugee sponsors in Germany (Skype, phone, email); assistance with scheduling/re-scheduling visa interview appointments; passport photos, printing, photocopying and translation referral assistance. The services provided by IOM under FAP are free of charge. IOM also provides voluntary, Arabic language integration classes free of charge, to better prepare Syrian families for their arrival and successful integration into German society. For more see, IOM (2017) IOM's Family Assistance Programme. Available at: http://germany.iom.int/sites/default/files/FAP/FAP_Infosheet_ENGLISH_2017-04-04.pdf

²⁸ For more on the FAP see, Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany (2018) *Family Reunification for Syrian Refugees*. Available at <https://familyreunion-syria.diplo.de/webportal/desktop/index.html#start>. Applications for family reunion made within three months of being granted protection in Germany or granted residence permit as resettled refugees by Germany are exempted from these requirements. To further simplify the process of application within these three months, an online timely notification form is used. However, applications of those who apply after this initial three month period is also processed and refugees may still be exempted from meeting these requirements. For more see, Grote, J. (2017) *Family Reunification of third-country nationals in Germany: Focus-Study by the German National Contact Point for the European Migration Network (EMN)*. Nuremberg: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, p. 24.

²⁹ UNHCR (2016) *UNHCR RSD Procedural Standards - Processing Claims Based on the Right to Family Unity*. Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/577e17944.html>, p. 3.

³⁰ UNHCR (2011) *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook*. Available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ecb973c2.html>, p. 271-274.

behind in conflict regions or refugee camps place additional stress, and sometimes feelings of guilt, for young people and their families. This can be compounded by financial pressures, particularly if families are sending money overseas to support those left behind³¹.

At the international level, the UN Human Rights Committee has found that relations between parents and their adult children can constitute family relations.³² Furthermore, at the European level, it has been accepted that “where young adults have not yet founded a family of their own, their relationship with their parents and other close family members can constitute “family life”³³, including with adult siblings.³⁴

MYAN recognizes the direct link between family reunification, mental health and successful integration, and the need to overcome legal and practical obstacles to family reunification³⁵ to ensure better settlement outcomes for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. MYAN recommends consideration of simplified pathways for utilizing Family stream, while ensuring support to the family members arriving in Australia under family reunification procedures.

Recommendation 3: Adopt a long term view when planning for the migrant intake for ensuring successful settlement outcomes for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds

It is important to take a long-term view of settlement, recognising that the needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds continue beyond the first five years of settlement. This requires an investment in structures, policy and programs that ensure all young people, regardless of cultural background or migration history, can access the support and opportunities they need to feel they belong, and be active participants in and contributors to all aspects of Australian society.³⁶

Predictability is an important aspect of the migration process for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, who at the same time are experiencing significant physical, psychological and intellectual growth as they navigate the critical developmental stage of adolescence. The adolescence period is a distinct transitional stage in a young person's life, and is characterised by separation and individuation from parents and caregivers, major physical changes such as growth spurts and sexual maturation, identity formation, emotional and cognitive development and determining career and other life goals. This is a critical life stage, where these changes inform the development of a sense of identity, and where the brain undertakes significant growth. The refugee and migration experience, and the challenges of settling in a new country already add into the challenge of navigating adolescence³⁷. Rather than adopting a long view of settlement, focusing on short-term and temporary migration only adds further unpredictability and uncertainty for young people from refugee and

³¹ Centre for Multicultural Youth (2014) *Migrant & Refugee Young People Negotiating Adolescence in Australia*. Carlton: Centre for Multicultural Youth, p. 9.

³² UN Human Rights Committee (2011) *Jama Warsame v. Canada*, CCPR/C/102/D/1959/2010, UN HRC, 1 September 2011. Available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ee0f0302.html>, paras. 8.8 and 8.10.

³³ Council of Europe: European Court of Human Rights (2007) *Maslov v. Austria*, Application no. 1638/03, ECtHR, 22 March 2007. Available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/464423e22.html> and Council of Europe: European Court of Human Rights (2008) *Maslov v. Austria*, Application no. 1638/03, ECtHR, Grand Chamber. Available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5852a8b97.html>, para. 62. This position was confirmed by the court in *A.A. v. United Kingdom* when it ruled: “An examination of the Court's case-law would tend to suggest that the applicant, a young adult of 24 years old, who resides with his mother and has not yet founded a family of his own, can be regarded as having “family life””. See, Council of Europe: European Court of Human Rights (2011) *A.A. v. United Kingdom*, Application no. 8000/08, ECtHR, 20 September 2011. Available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/583edcf1124.html>, para. 49.

³⁴ The ECtHR has also recognized that family life can exist between adult siblings, although again it requires “further elements of dependency involving more than the normal emotional ties” for family life to be recognized.” See Council of Europe: European Court of Human Rights (1991) *Moustaquim v. Belgium*, Application no. 12313/86, ECtHR, 18 February 1991. Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b7018.html>, para. 36 and Council of Europe: European Court of Human Rights (1996) *Boughanemi v. France*, Application no. 16/1995/522/608, ECtHR, 27 March 1996. Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b6f24.html>, para. 35.

³⁵ UNHCR (2016) *Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally: UNHCR's proposals to rebuild trust through better management, partnership and solidarity*. Available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/58385d4e4.html>, p.6.

³⁶ MYAN (2017) *Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration: Inquiry into Settlement Outcomes*. Melbourne: Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), p. 2.

³⁷ MYAN (2016) *National Youth Settlement Framework*. Melbourne: Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), p. 2.

migrant backgrounds to this mix. This has been supported by research with refugee families, where the importance of understanding and having confidence in the stability and predictability of one's environment has been highlighted³⁸.

While the Discussion Paper states "to achieve the maximum benefit from migration, Australia must strive to attract and retain the best and brightest migrants"³⁹, predictability of policy environments highly impact the decision making process of migrants when choosing their destination⁴⁰, whether they are skilled or not. Clear, fair, non-discriminatory and transparently applied immigration rules and pathways to permanent residency and citizenship⁴¹ can turn Australia into a more conducive environment that best supports all young people to settle well and achieve good settlement outcomes.

In Australia, contrary to many other countries, second generation migrants⁴² have skills comparable to skills of those who were born in Australia and whose both parents were born in Australia⁴³. In international research, the first strength of Australia has been identified as having "a large population of relatively skilled and well educated migrants that bring highly desirable and much-needed skills to the workforce."⁴⁴ This large population is mainly young and they perform very well in terms of the level of basic skills they possess. The only exception to this is migrants from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, including from refugee and refugee-like backgrounds, and this may be improved through targeted policy interventions⁴⁵. Looking into how immigrants and their children integrated into the Australian society, this data provides evidence that the migration policies with a long term view of settlement had worked for Australia in the past.⁴⁶

³⁸ Centre for Multicultural Youth (2014) *Facilitating the Transition to Employment for Refugee Young People*. Carlton: Centre for Multicultural Youth, p. 29.

³⁹ Department of Home Affairs (2018) *Managing Australia's Migrant Intake*. Available at: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/discussion-papers/managing-australias-migrant-intake.pdf>, p.3.

⁴⁰ Papademetriou, D. G., Somerville W. and Tanaka, H. (2008) *Talent in the 21st Century Economy*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, pp. 4-5.

⁴¹ Papademetriou, D. G., Somerville W. and Tanaka, H. (2008) *Talent in the 21st Century Economy*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, p. 26.

⁴² That is native-born children of migrants and refugees.

⁴³ This finding is based on Australia's overall performance in the PIAAC Survey of Adult Skills, which is a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), across literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments. PIAAC Survey of Adult Skills was conducted in Australia from October 2011 to March 2012, and Australia specific findings were released in a 2017 OECD report. For more see, OECD (2017) *Building Skills for All in Australia: Policy Insights from the Survey of Adult Skills*. Paris: OECD Publishing.

⁴⁴ OECD (2017) *Building Skills for All in Australia: Policy Insights from the Survey of Adult Skills*. Paris: OECD Publishing, p. 31.

⁴⁵ OECD (2017) *Building Skills for All in Australia: Policy Insights from the Survey of Adult Skills*. Paris: OECD Publishing, p. 35.

⁴⁶ This comparison is considered as an indicator for integration as children of immigrants born in Australia have been raised and educated in the host country and they should not be facing the same obstacles as their immigrant parents and outcomes similar to those of their peers of native-born parentage may be expected. For more see OECD/European Union (2015), *Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015: Settling In*, OECD Publishing, Paris, p.16.

Annex – I

Table 1: Youth arrivals under different migration categories from the top ten countries of birth of humanitarian youth, 2016/17

Country of Birth	Humanitarian	Family	Skill	Grand Total
Iraq	1,967	149	13	2,129
Syrian Arab Republic	1,679	43	5	1,727
Afghanistan	401	801	7	1,209
Myanmar	315	34	22	371
Thailand	227	275	48	550
Iran	215	58	115	388
Nepal	155	201	377	733
Republic of South Sudan	95	89	0	184
Eritrea	80	12	0	92
Democratic Republic of the Congo	75	25	0	100
Total	5,209	1,687	587	7,483
Grand total of all youth arrivals	5,646	7,488	12,102	25,236

Table 2: Youth arrivals under 117 (Orphan Relative) visas by top ten countries of birth, 2016/17

Country of Birth	No. of youth
Afghanistan	60
Ethiopia	43
Republic of South Sudan	29
Somalia	25
Zimbabwe	12
Democratic Republic of the Congo	11
Guinea	7
Sierra Leone	7
Kenya	6
Tanzania	6
Others	52
Total	258

Table 3: Youth arrivals under Child (101), Child (802), Adoption (102) and Dependent Child (455) visas from the top ten countries of birth of humanitarian youth, 2016/17

Country of Birth	No. of youth
Iraq	4

Syrian Arab Republic	2
Afghanistan	23
Myanmar	2
Thailand	129
Iran	11
Nepal	13
Republic of South Sudan	7
Eritrea	4
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4
Total	199