

Information Sheet

Humanitarian and Migrant Youth Arrivals to Australia July 2015 – June 2016

1. Introduction

1.1 The MYAN

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN Australia) is the national peak body on multicultural youth issues – Australia’s only national voice representing the needs 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 national levels, to promote the interests of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and to support a nationally consistent, targeted approach to addressing these in policy and practice. MYAN provides advice and capacity building to those who work with young people, supports the development of young people’s skills and networks to engage in advocacy and influence the national agenda, and undertakes a range of policy and advocacy activities.

1.2 Background

This Information Sheet provides an overview of the settlement trends and basic demographic data for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds arriving in Australia between July 2015 and June 2016. It is based on data from the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 provided by the Department of Social Services on the 10 March 2017. It should be read in conjunction with the stated caveats found under Important Notes at the end of this document.

While this Information Sheet has a focus on young people arriving through Australia’s Humanitarian Programme, some of the data presents youth settlement trends across the entire Migration Programme (i.e. Family, Skilled and Humanitarian streams). It also includes a brief overview of some of the issues facing young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds during the settlement process. These issues have been identified by MYAN through its national policy and advocacy work. This Information Sheet may also be read in conjunction with previous MYAN Humanitarian Youth Arrivals to Australia Information Sheets. These and other MYAN resources are available at www.myan.org.au.

1.3 The refugee experience and settlement

Young people from refugee, asylum seeking, and migrant backgrounds have enormous potential to be active participants in Australian society. They settle in Australia with a range of strengths and capabilities, including broad international and cross-cultural knowledge, multilingual skills, adaptability and resourcefulness. However, they often face particular challenges in accessing the support and opportunities they need. Their particular needs, distinct from adults and many of

their Australian-born counterparts, often go unrecognised as they are a sub-set of the broader youth and settlement sectors.

While young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds share common experiences as a result of the migration process, important differences also exist. Migrants may not be fleeing persecution or experiencing threats to safety and security, and have generally made the planned decision to move to Australia, often for employment or educational opportunities. It is important to note however, that many young people migrating as part of a family unit may not have had a choice in this.

Young people from refugee and refugee-like backgrounds who settle in Australia through the Humanitarian Programme (humanitarian youth arrivals), regardless of their mode of arrival, are likely to have experienced long-term insecurity, separation from family, exposure to violence and associated physical and mental health issues. They are also likely to have had limited access to services and opportunities, including education, employment, health and housing.

Many humanitarian youth arrivals will have been through the experience of seeking asylum which is highly stressful and marked by periods of acute uncertainty, often compounding the effects of trauma and adding to the complexity of the settlement process. Unlike those young people arriving through the offshore Humanitarian Programme, young people seeking asylum in Australia have not had access to pre-arrival orientation, and may face additional vulnerabilities and challenges as a result of the asylum seeking process, including experiences of immigration detention.

Many young people who arrive in Australia through the Family and Skilled Migration Programmes 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 and 117 visas (Last Remaining and Orphan Relative) are typically living in Australia in kinship care arrangements and may have 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 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.¹

Young people experience settlement in ways distinct from adults due to their age, developmental stage and position within the family, and often face additional and more complex transitions than their Australian-born counterparts. The particular issues facing young people from refugee backgrounds in the settlement context include: learning a new language, adjusting to a new culture and education system

¹ 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. 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>

(often with disrupted or limited schooling prior to Australia); finding work and establishing themselves in the Australian workforce; negotiating family relationships in the context of (new concepts of) independence, freedom and child and youth rights; negotiating cultural identity and expectations from family and community; and establishing new peer relationships.²

During their settlement journey young people also commonly face a range of barriers to accessing services and opportunities. These include: language, culture, limited social and cultural capital (including unfamiliarity with the service system), age, gender, racism and discrimination, and a lack of culturally responsive practice from service providers. A targeted approach in policy and service delivery is essential to addressing the needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and ensuring they achieve their potential as active and engaged members of Australian society. This Information Sheet is one of many resources produced by MYAN Australia to support this targeted approach in youth settlement. For more information and resources, see the MYAN's National Youth Settlement Framework and associated resources available at www.myan.org.au.

2. Young people settling in Australia

2.1 Age and visa types

The Australian Government allocated 190,000 permanent migration places for the 2015/16 year. Of these, 128,550 were Skilled stream places, 57,400 were Family stream places and 565 Special Eligibility stream places.³ A further 13,750 permanent places were also available in 2015/16 for those arriving through the Humanitarian Programme.⁴ In addition to these, the Australian Government planned for at least 3,485 additional child places in 2015/16⁵ and 12,000 extra places for permanent humanitarian entrants displaced by the conflict in Syria.⁶

Table 1 provides an overview of all permanent arrivals to Australia between financial years 2010/11 and 2015/16. As of March 2017, 142,451 permanent (or provisional) settlers arrived under Australia's Migration Programme between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016, see Table 1.

² MYAN (2016) National Youth Settlement Framework. Available at www.myan.org.au; CMY (2013) Settling or surviving: Unaccompanied Young Adults Aged 18-25 Years. CMY: Carlton. Available at <http://cmy.net.au/publications/settling-or-surviving>

³ See DIBP (2016) Migration Planning Fact Sheet. Available at <https://www.border.gov.au/about/corporate/information/fact-sheets/20planning>. See also, DIBP (2016) Special Eligibility Fact sheet. Available at <https://www.border.gov.au/about/corporate/information/fact-sheets/40special>

⁴ See DIBP (2016) Australia's Humanitarian Programme 2016-17: Discussion Paper. Available at https://www.border.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/discussion-papers/discussion-paper-humanitarian-programme_2016-17.pdf, p. 4

⁵ DIBP (2016) Migration Planning Fact Sheet.

⁶ DIBP report that in 2015/16 "3,790 were granted from the additional 12,000 humanitarian places" allocated for those displaced by the conflict in Syria. DIBP (2017) Australia's response to the Syrian and Iraqi humanitarian crisis. Available at <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Refu/response-syrian-humanitarian-crisis>. See Important Notes for further information and links to relevant sources.

Table 1: Arrivals by migration stream and year (2010/11 to 2015/16)

	Humanitarian	Family	Skilled	Other	Total
2010/11	14,368 (8%)	60,898 (33%)	106,821 (59%)	33	182,120
2011/12	16,574 (8%)	63,216 (29%)	136,212 (63%)	14	216,016
2012/13	13,929 (7%)	62,835 (31%)	127,545 (62%)	23	204,332
2013/14	13,894 (8%)	55,759 (32%)	105,247 (60%)	10	174,910
2014/15	11,791 (10%)	39,099 (33%)	66,805 (57%)	0	117,695
2015/16	11,208 (8%)	43,901 (31%)	87,341 (61%)	<5	142,451

Table 2: Youth arrivals (aged 12 - 24) by migration stream and year (2010/11 to 2015/16)

	Humanitarian	Family	Skilled	Other	Total
2010/11	3,965 (10%)	14,993 (37%)	22,047 (54%)	6	41,011
2011/12	4,580 (10%)	14,885 (34%)	24,521 (56%)	0	43,986
2012/13	3,676 (10%)	13,745 (36%)	20,393 (54%)	11	37,825
2013/14	3,923 (12%)	11,563 (36%)	16,421 (51%)	<5	31,911
2014/15	3,176 (16%)	8,432 (42%)	8,245 (42%)	0	19,853
2015/16	2,996 (12%)	8,618 (34%)	13,824 (54%)	<5	25,439

Table 2 provides an overview of all permanent settlers arriving to Australia between financial years 2010/11 and 2015/16 who were aged 12 to 24 years. As Table 2 shows, almost five times the number of young people settled permanently in Australia in 2015/16 via the Skilled Stream than the Humanitarian Programme. However, humanitarian youth arrivals made up a much larger percentage of all arrivals via this stream than young people in the Skilled Programme.

This can be seen in Table 3, which shows the percentage of arrivals in each migration stream who were aged 12 to 24 years across the financial years 2010/11 to 2015/16. Young people, aged 12 to 24 years, represented 18% of all permanent arrivals to Australia in 2015/16. While the percentage of youth arrivals within the Humanitarian Programmes has remained steady over the last six years, since 2010/11 the percentage of arrivals aged 12 to 24 years in the Family and Skilled Programmes has fallen.

Table 3: Percentage of migration stream aged 12-24 years, by year (2010/11 to 2015/16)

	Humanitarian	Family	Skilled	All programmes
2010/11	28%	25%	21%	23%
2011/12	28%	24%	18%	20%
2012/13	26%	22%	16%	19%
2013/14	28%	21%	16%	18%
2014/15	27%	22%	12%	17%
2015/16	27%	20%	16%	18%

As can be seen from Tables 1, 2 & 3, while the overall number of people settling via the Humanitarian Programme means this programme is the smallest, one in every four humanitarian entrants to Australia each year is a young person.

Table 4 presents the number of young people arriving in Australia during the financial year 2015/16 by age group. Table 4 shows that of the 25,439 young people aged 12 to 24 years (youth arrivals) who settled permanently in Australia in 2015/16, just over one in ten (12%) were granted permanent visas under the Humanitarian Programme (humanitarian youth). This compares to more than one in three (34%) young people entering via the Family Programme and more than one in every two (54%) young people arriving via the Skilled Programme.

Table 4: Youth arrivals by age group and migration stream, 2015/16

	Humanitarian	Family	Skilled	Total
12-15	1,010	1,544	1,850	4,404
16-17	482	926	607	2,015
18-24	1,504	6,148	11,367	19,020
Youth arrivals	2,996	8,618	13,824	25,439

Just a quarter of all youth arrivals to Australia in 2015/16 were of school age (25% aged between 12 and 17 years, Table 4). Less than one in five young people arriving via the Skilled stream (18%) and less than one in three in the Family stream (29%) were of school age, while almost half (49.7%) of all humanitarian youth arrivals were in the 12 to 17 year age group.

Table 5: Humanitarian youth arrivals by year and visa sub-class⁷

Visa Sub-class	2014/15	2015/16
200 Refugee	1,244	1,567
201 In-country Special Humanitarian	35	25
202 Global Special Humanitarian	1,586	978
203 Emergency Rescue	<5	0
204 Women at Risk	297	406
866 Onshore Protection	12	20
Total	3,176	2,996

⁷ See Important Notes, pages 15 and 16, for description of humanitarian visas.

Table 5 presents the number of humanitarian youth arrivals for the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 by visa sub-class. Table 5 figures show an increase in youth arrivals from the previous year through the Refugee (200), Women at Risk (204) and Onshore Protection (866) visa sub-classes, and a decrease in the Global Special Humanitarian (202) visa. The increase in Refugee (200) visa holders is somewhat offset by a decline in the number of young people arriving on Global Special Humanitarian (202) visas, as well as by the overall decline in the number of arrivals.

The small number of 201 and 203 visa holders reflects consistency in the granting of visas within these categories over the five years from July 2010 to June 2015.⁸

Table 6: Onshore Protection visas, 12 to 24 year olds, by year

Visa Sub-class	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
866	2,352	1,401	109	12	20

Table 6 provides a five year overview of the number of young people who were granted an Onshore Protection visa. As can be seen in Table 6, in the five years to 2015/16 there was a dramatic decrease in the number of young people receiving 866 visas – protection visas granted to those who apply for refugee protection on arrival in Australia (or Australian territories such as Christmas Island). This is due to legislative and policy changes in Australian border management resulting in a decrease in the number of asylum seekers arriving by boat, as well as delays in processing their protection claims and changes in their eligibility for permanent visas.

Asylum seekers living in the community on bridging visas

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has reported that between 25 November 2011 and 30 September 2016, a total of 35,834 Bridging Visa class E (BVE) were granted to asylum seekers who had arrived irregularly to Australia by boat. As of 30 September 2016, 26,842 BVE holders were living in the community (24,496 with a current BVE and 2,346 awaiting grant of a further BVE). The remaining 8,992 had either been granted a substantive visa (either a temporary or permanent visa), departed Australia, returned to immigration detention or were deceased.⁹

Table 7 presents the number of BVE holders by age group and state/territory. As Table 7 shows, approximately 21% of all BVE holders were aged between 12 and 25 years.¹⁰ More than three quarters (79%) of all BVE holders aged 12 to 25 years were residing in either Victoria (40%) or New South Wales (39%).

⁸ MYAN (2016) Humanitarian and Migrant Youth Arrivals to Australia – 2014/15.

⁹ These are the most up-to-date publicly available figures at the time of publishing. It is important to note that temporary protection visas TPVs and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEVs) have been introduced and are being issued to asylum seekers living in the community on bridging visas. While official figures are not available, MYAN understand anecdotally that some young people have been granted these visas. For more information on these temporary visas and asylum seekers living in the community in Australia please visit www.ima.border.gov.au

¹⁰ These figures are the average across all states and territories. Where the figure was not available (e.g. <10) the sum was calculated using only the available figures. As a result, these are likely underestimates.

Table 7. BVE holders by age group and state/territory, September 2016

	WA	VIC	TAS	SA	QLD	NT	NSW	ACT	
12 to 15	29	278	<10	45	82	<10	152	<10	586
16 to 17	14	126	<10	26	37	<10	80	<10	283
18 to 25	314	1,983	18	259	397	30	1,917	37	4955
Total BVE aged 12 to 25 yrs	357	2,387	>18	330	516	>30	2,149	>37	5,739
% BVE aged 12 to 25 yrs	24%	23%	25%	19%	20%	25%	21%	22%	21%
Total BVE	1,490	10,421	73	1,779	2,552	120	10,236	171	26,842

Last Remaining and Orphan Relative Visas

Last Remaining Relative (115) and Orphan Relative (117) visas are granted to young people who:

- are under 18 years upon application, and
- are orphans or whose parents are unable to care for them because of severe disability or because their whereabouts is unknown, and
- who have no other legal guardians, and
- may be sponsored by near relatives who are Australian residents.¹¹

Table 8: Youth arrivals by 117 and 115 visa sub-class and year

Visa Sub-class	2014/15	2015/16
115 Last Remaining Relative	18	27
117 Orphan Relative	356	308
Total	374	335

Table 8 presents the number of youth arrivals settling in Australia on a 117 or 115 visa in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years. In 2015/16, Australia granted 39 fewer visas to young people in these two visa categories compared to 2014/15. However, the number of visas has remained relatively consistent as a percentage of youth migration over the last five years (around 1% to 2%) (see Table 9)¹².

Table 9: Youth arrivals with 115 and 117 visa by year

Year	Number of arrivals
2011/12	378
2012/13	297
2013/14	423
2014/15	374
2015/16	335

¹¹ These figures do not include the very small (less than 10 each year for the last five years) number of 837 visa holders, who are granted orphan relative visas onshore. For more information on these visa subclasses see <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/117-https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/115>, <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/837->

¹² See <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/programs-policy/settlement-services/settlement-reporting-facility> for detailed overview.

2.2 Settlement locations

Table 10 presents the number of youth arrivals, broken down by migration stream, settling in each state and territory during the 2015/16 financial year. Victoria and New South Wales settled the largest numbers of young people from the Humanitarian Programme during 2015/16. This is consistent with data from the last five years and directly reflects broader settlement trends across Australia for 2015/16, with the majority of all new arrivals across all migration programmes settling in New South Wales and Victoria. Significantly, over 40% of all young people settling in Tasmania came via the Humanitarian Programme. Consistent with the 2014/15 data, Tasmania was the only jurisdiction that settled a higher number of youth arrivals from the Humanitarian stream than from either the Family or Skilled streams.

Table 10: Number youth arrivals by state/territory and migration stream 2015/16

Current State	Humanitarian	Family	Skilled	Grand Total
Australian Capital Territory	35	119	306	460
External Territories	0	<5	<5	<5
New South Wales	780	2,888	4,354	8,023
Northern Territory	20	100	123	243
Not Recorded	0	91	141	232
Queensland	527	1,191	1,566	3,284
South Australia	348	584	767	1,699
Tasmania	108	44	100	252
Victoria	957	2,498	4,919	8,374
Western Australia	221	1,102	1,545	2,868
Grand Total	2,996	8,618	13,824	25,439

Table 11, (row 1) presents the number of young people settling in each state and territory through the Humanitarian Program who are of school age (12 to 17 years). Table 11 (row 2) presents the percentage of all humanitarian youth arrivals (aged 12 to 24 years) who are of school age.

(The data from Tables 10 & 11 show that in the Northern Territory for example, during 2015/16, 20 young people aged 12 to 24 years settled under the Humanitarian Programme. Of these young people, 70% (or 14) were of school age.)

Table 11: Humanitarian school aged youth arrivals (12 to 17 years) by state/territory, 2015/16

State / Territory	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
Number	19	404	14	271	202	48	429	105	1,492
As a % of humanitarian youth arrivals	54%	52%	70%	51%	58%	44%	45%	48%	50%

2.3 Countries of birth

Table 12 presents the number of humanitarian youth arrivals by recorded country of birth for the 2015/16 financial year. Table 12 shows that 87% of all young people settling in Australia under the Humanitarian Programme were born in one of ten countries. Iraq, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Syria were the top four countries of birth for young people arriving under the Humanitarian Programme in 2015/16, and comprised 61% of all youth refugee entrants.

Table 12: Humanitarian youth arrivals by top 10 countries of birth 2015/16

Country of Birth	Humanitarian	%
Iraq	555	19%
Afghanistan	429	14%
Myanmar	425	14%
Syrian Arab Republic	424	14%
Congo, Dem. Rep. of the	203	7%
Iran	150	5%
Thailand	121	4%
Somalia	111	4%
Pakistan	101	3%
Nepal	89	3%
Other	388	13%
TOTAL	2,996	

Table 13 presents the top ten countries of birth for all youth arrivals in 2015/16. One in five newly arrived young people migrated to Australia from China, during this period, and one in ten from India. Together, Tables 12 & 13, show that not all young people arriving from a particular country or region will have entered Australia via the Humanitarian Programme. For example, in 2015/16 more than half of all young people who recorded Afghanistan as their country of birth entered Australia via the Family or Skilled Programmes.

Table 13: Youth arrivals by top 10 countries of birth 2015/16

Country Of Birth	Total	%
China	5,422	21%
India	3,128	12%
Philippines	1,525	6%
Vietnam	1,161	5%
Afghanistan	1,066	4%
Malaysia	992	4%
Pakistan	863	3%
Iraq	748	3%
United Kingdom	712	3%
Nepal	576	2%
Other	9,246	36%
Total	25,439	

Note:

Country of birth does not necessarily reflect cultural background, even though young people were born and/or have lived most of their lives in these other countries. For example, the families of a number of the young people born in Thailand have originally come from Myanmar but are Karen Burmese; young people from Nepal are commonly Bhutanese, while many of the young people born in Pakistan and Iran are Hazara or Pashtun originally from Afghanistan.

Understanding cultural background, as distinct from country of birth or even language or ethnicity, is important because culture is an essential part of every individual's identity. While recognising that every young person is unique and their experiences diverse, the cultural background of refugee and migrant young people is likely to shape both pre- and post-migration experiences (including persecution based on culture as the reason for seeking protection), influencing how young people negotiate cultural values and norms in the settlement context and how they access and engage with services and supports. Knowing and understanding the cultural backgrounds of newly arrived young people and Australian services, and how they interact, is essential to developing effective service responses.

2.4 Gender

The percentage of male and female humanitarian youth arrivals for 2015/16 is presented in Table 14. 49% of all humanitarian youth arriving in 2015/16 were female and 51% male.

Table 14: Percentage of youth arrivals by gender and migration stream, 2015/16

Gender	Humanitarian	Family	Skilled	All
Female	49%	66%	55%	58%
Male	51%	34%	45%	42%

Interestingly, the youth gender profile varied considerably by migration stream during this period. More females than males arrived under both Family and Skilled streams, however, the gender difference was greater in the Family than the Skilled stream. Young females comprised 58% of youth arrivals across all streams in the 2015/16 period. Among youth arrivals in the skilled stream, 55% were female and 45% male, while family youth arrivals were 66% female and 34% male.

2.5 Languages spoken

Table 15: Main languages spoken by humanitarian youth arrivals 2015/16

Languages	Number
Arabic, Assyrian, Chaldaean, Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	979
Afghan, Kurdish, Pashto, Dari, Farsi (Afghan), Farsi (Persian), Persian, Hazaragi	678
Oromo, Somali, Swahili, Amharic, Bemba, Dinka, Nuer, Tigre, Tigrinya, Anuak, Bari, Bassa, Kinyarwanda / Rwanda, Kirundi / Nyarwandwa / Rundi, Kpelle, Lingala, African Languages (nec)	581
Burmese and Related Languages (nfd/nec), including Chin, Chin Haka, Eastern Kayah, Karen, Karen Pwo, Karen S'gaw, Rohinga, Chin Zome, Karen Bwe, Arakanese, Burmese / Myanmar, Chin Falam, Chin Mara, Chin Mro, Chin Teddim, Chin Zotong, Kachin, Lisu	515
Bengali, Nepali, Sindhi, Urdu	109
Not recorded, not stated	9
Other	125
TOTAL	2,996

Table 15 presents the main languages spoken by young people arriving via the Humanitarian Programme in the 2015/16 financial year. One in three humanitarian youth arrivals in the 2015/16 period reported Arabic, Assyrian, Chaldean, or Chaldean Neo-Aramaic as their main language. Afghan, Hazaragi and Dari languages common to Afghanistan comprise the second highest languages reported, followed by Somali, Swahili, Nepali, and Chin, Karen and other languages from Myanmar.

The main languages reported by humanitarian youth closely reflect the top countries of birth across the same period - with some exceptions. This is because the main language reported by a newly arrived humanitarian young person may not reflect their country of birth, just as country of birth may not reflect cultural or ethnic identity.¹³

For example, Thailand is a top 10 country of birth for newly arrived young people however Thai does not appear in the top 20 main languages of humanitarian youth arrivals over the same period. This is because Thailand is a major source country for young humanitarian arrivals who speak Karen, Chin and Burmese languages. Similarly, Dari, Arabic, Assyrian, Hazaragi and Farsi are spoken throughout Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Iran, as well as by humanitarian youth arrivals born in Pakistan. Arabic is also widely spoken in the countries of birth of other newly arrived young people, including for example those born in Eritrea and Ethiopia. Nepali is spoken by arrivals from Nepal and Bhutan, Somali is spoken by Somali's from Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti, while Swahili is mostly spoken by young people who report their country of birth as the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as by those from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

¹³ See Section 2.2 for more on this.

Table 16: Main languages spoken by youth arrivals 2015/16

Language	Grand Total
English	3,127
Mandarin (Chinese, nec)	4,107
Arabic	1,164
Vietnamese	645
Dari	509
Not stated	8,187
Other	7,700
Total	25,439

Table 16 presents the top 5 languages spoken by young people settling permanently in Australia during the 2015/16 financial year. The top five main languages spoken by youth arrivals across all three migration streams in 2015/16 were English, Mandarin (including Chinese not elsewhere classified – nec), Arabic, Vietnamese and Dari. These figures reflect the top countries of birth for those arriving in Australia under the overall Migration Programme. While the main language of humanitarian youth was recorded for the vast majority of young people (99.69%), almost one third of all youth arrivals under the Family and Skilled streams did not have a main language recorded (32%).

2.6 English language proficiency

Table 17 provides an overview of the English language proficiency among humanitarian youth arrivals by age group. In 2015/16, 85% of all humanitarian youth arrived in Australia with 'nil' or 'poor' English language proficiency. There was little variation across age groups; 90% for 12 to 15 years, 82% for 16 to 17 years, and 85% for 18 to 24 years. However, the percentage of humanitarian youth with 'nil' or 'poor' recorded for their English language proficiency did vary considerably from state to state (Table 18).

Table 17: Humanitarian youth arrivals by recorded English language proficiency and age band, 2015/16

English Proficiency	12-15yrs	16-17yrs	18-24yrs	Grand Total
Nil	733	259	664	1,656
Poor	169	138	606	913
Good	58	56	159	273
Very Good	5	9	29	43
Not Recorded	45	20	46	111
Grand Total	1,010	482	1,504	2,996

Table 18 presents the levels of English language proficiency among humanitarian youth arrivals in the 2015/16 financial year by state/territory. The percentage of humanitarian youth with 'nil' or 'poor' recorded for their English language proficiency ranged from 69% in Australian Capital Territory to 91% in Tasmania.

Table 18: Humanitarian youth arrivals by recorded English language proficiency and state/territory, 2015/16

English	Nil	Poor	Good	Very Good	Not Recorded	Grand Total
ACT	15	9	5	<5	<5	35
	(43%)	(26%)	(14%)	(6%)	(11%)	
NSW	452	224	68	10	26	780
	(58%)	(29%)	(9%)	(1%)	(3%)	
NT	5	13	0	<5	0	20
	(25%)	(65%)	(0%)	(10%)	(0%)	
QLD	291	164	56	6	10	527
	(55%)	(31%)	(11%)	(1%)	(2%)	
SA	215	94	25	5	9	348
	(62%)	(27%)	(7%)	(1%)	(3%)	
TAS	75	24	5	<5	<5	108
	(69%)	(22%)	(5%)	(2%)	(2%)	
VIC	477	328	100	14	38	957
	(50%)	(34%)	(10%)	(1%)	(4%)	
WA	126	57	14	<5	22	221
	(57%)	(26%)	(6%)	(1%)	(10%)	
Total	1656	913	273	43	111	2996
	55%	30%	9%	1%	4%	

2.7 Religion

Table 19 reflects the top ten recorded religious denominations for humanitarian youth arrivals in the 2015/16 financial year. These were (in order): Christian (nfd), Shia, Islam, Sunni, Chaldean Catholic, Buddhism, Assyrian Church of the East, Hinduism, Sabeian Mandeian/Sabian, Catholic (nec). Almost 90% of all humanitarian youth recorded Christianity (46%) or Islam (42%) as their religion in 2015/16. This continues a trend of recent years that has seen Australia settling roughly equal numbers of humanitarian youth from these two religions.¹⁴

Table 19: Humanitarian youth arrivals by recorded religion, 2015/16¹⁵

Religion		Humanitarian
Christianity	Anglican, Baptist, Maronite Catholic, Melkite Catholic, Chaldean Catholic, Catholic (nec), Jehovahs Witnesses, Armenian Apostolic Church, Coptic Orthodox Church, Syriac Catholic, Syriac Orthodox Church, Syrian (Jacobite) Church, Assyrian Catholic, Assyrian Church, Assyrian Church of the East, Ancient Church of the East, Greek Orthodox, Romanian Orthodox, Seventh-Day Adventist, Pentecostal (NEC/NFD), Other Protestant (NFD/NEC), Born Again Christian, Christian (NFD), Oriental Christian (NFD), Other Christian (NEC)	1,378
Islam	Ahmadi, Islam, Shia, Sunni	1,255
Buddhism	Buddhism	113
Other Religions	Animism, SabeianMandeian/Sabian, Yazidism	103
Hinduism	Hinduism	63
Secular Beliefs and other spiritual beliefs and no religious affiliation	No religion (NFD), Atheism, Orthodox (NEC/NFD), Other non-Christian, Religious belief (NFD)	53
Judaism	Judaism	0
NA	Not recorded/not stated	31
Total		2,996

¹⁴ The proportion of humanitarian youth from these two religions was quite different in the period 2010 to 2013, and shifted significantly in 2014/15. For more on this, see MYAN (2015). Information Sheet 2014/15

¹⁵ The classification follows the ABS 1266.0 Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, 2016. (NEC – not elsewhere classified. NFD – not further defined.) Religion was not recorded for almost 90% of youth arrivals entering Australia via the Family and Skilled Programmes.

Important notes

- The term 'young people' refers to those aged between 12 to 24 years – data available through existing Government reporting facilities only allows a breakdown of 12–24 years.
- While this Information Sheet provides an overview primarily of young people settling under Australia's Humanitarian Programme, it is important to note that some young people arriving in Australia under the Family and Skilled Programmes may come from situations, countries or regions where they may have experienced refugee-like situations.
- Data was provided by the Department of Social Services on 10 March 2017. Data includes all permanent (or provisional) settlers who arrived between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016. All data presented is accurate as at this date within noted caveats of the Settlement Database (SDB).¹⁶
- Many young people and their families move between states in the months and years after first arriving in Australia. The data presented here reflects information about young people's residence as updated at 10 March 2017. Given the mobility of many newly arrived young people and the challenges of maintaining up-to-date data in this area, the data provided here should be considered a guide only.
- After arriving in Australia young people move for a variety of reasons, including:
 - ◊ Housing affordability and availability
 - ◊ Educational and employment opportunities (this includes both interstate and intrastate rural-urban migrations)
 - ◊ The availability of accessible and appropriate services.
- The statistics provided refer to financial years and not calendar years.

* Department of Immigration and Border Protection have recently released revised figures on the number of permanent settlers to Australia for the 2015/16 financial year, this information is available at:

- Family and Skilled - www.border.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/statistics/2015-16-migration-programme-report.pdf
- Humanitarian - www.border.gov.au/ReportsandPublications/Documents/statistics/humanitarian-programme-outcomes-offshore-2015-16.pdf

Brief description of humanitarian visas

The visa sub-classes included under the Humanitarian stream in this Information Sheet include 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian Programme), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Programme), 203 (Emergency Rescue), 204 (Woman at Risk) and 866 (Protection visa).¹⁷

Refugee visa (Subclass 200) is for people who are subject to persecution in their home country and are in need of resettlement. The majority of applicants who are considered under this category are identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and referred to the Australian Government for resettlement consideration.

¹⁶ For full list of stated caveats for this data, see www.dss.gov.au/settlement

¹⁷ For more information on these visas please visit <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Refu/Offs/Refugee-and-Humanitarian-visas>

The In-country Special Humanitarian Programme visa (Subclass 201) offers resettlement to people who have suffered persecution in their country of nationality or usual residence and who have not been able to leave that country to seek refuge elsewhere. It is for those living in their home country and subject to persecution in their home country.

The Global Special Humanitarian Programme visa (Subclass 202) (or the Special Humanitarian Programme – SHP) visa is for people who, while not being refugees, are subject to substantial discrimination and human rights abuses in their home country. People who wish to be considered for a SHP visa must be proposed for entry by an Australian citizen or permanent resident over the age of 18, an eligible New Zealand citizen or an organisation operating in Australia.

Emergency rescue visa (Subclass 203) offers an accelerated processing arrangement for people who satisfy refugee criteria and whose lives or freedom depend on urgent resettlement. It is for those subject to persecution in their home country and assessed to be in a situation such that delays due to normal processing could put their life or freedom in danger.

Woman at risk visa (Subclass 204) is for female applicants, and their dependents, who are subject to persecution or are of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), are living outside their home country without the protection of a male relative and are in danger of victimisation, harassment or serious abuse because of their gender. The majority of applicants who are considered under this category are identified and referred to the Australian Government by the UNHCR.

The Protection Visa (Subclass 866) is granted to individuals found to be owed protection under the Refugee Convention or Australia's Complimentary Protection criteria when applying onshore in Australia. In some cases, the 866 visa may also be granted to family members of those found to be owed protection who are also onshore in Australia.

For more information on visa subclasses please visit www.border.gov.au/Trav/Refu/Offs/Refugee-and-Humanitarian-visas