

Humanitarian Program

Program Outcomes

In 2000–01 Australia's Humanitarian Program has been maintained at 12,000 places, the same number as in 1999–2000. In addition, there a further 3,134 places available, comprising the rollover of unused places at the end of 1999–2000 plus a number of places to compensate for 'leakage' of visas granted but not used to travel to Australia. Of the total 15,134 places a notional allocation of 8,000 places has been made for the offshore component. The remaining places will be available to meet onshore requirements, for use offshore, other contingencies that may arise, or to be rolled into the next program year.

The onshore component of the Humanitarian Program allows Australia to fulfil its international obligations under the United Nations' 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. People in Australia who seek recognition of their claims in accordance with the Convention and the Protocol can apply for a Protection Visa.

The offshore component of the Humanitarian Program resettles refugees in need of resettlement and others who are in humanitarian need and have close links to Australia. In this way Australia assists the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

to resettle those identified in UNHCR's assessment of worldwide resettlement needs.

There are two main categories within the offshore component of the Humanitarian Program.

- The Refugee category (4,000 places in 2000–01, including approximately 420 places for women at risk) is for people who are outside their country of nationality or usual residence who have suffered, or hold a well-founded fear of persecution, and who are in humanitarian need of resettlement. The Australian Government pays the costs of medical examination and travel for Refugee entrants.
- The Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) and the Special Assistance Category (SAC) (4,000 places in 2000–01), enables Australia to provide assistance to those people who are outside their country of nationality or usual residence, who have experienced substantial discrimination amounting to a gross violation of human rights, and for whom resettlement is the appropriate solution. Links with Australia are a requirement for applicants to be considered. The SAC is being wound down during the course of the year.

Fig. 2-20: Humanitarian Program Outcomes: Visas Granted 1990-91 to 1999-00

Category	90 91	91 92	92 93	93 94	94 95	95 96	96 97	97 98	98 99	99 00
Refugee	9,800	3,200	3,200	4,300	3,990	4,640	3,330	4,010	3,990	3,800
Special Humanitarian Program		3,550	2,300	2,500	3,680	3,500	2,580	4,640	4,350	3,050
Special Assistance Category		2,350	5,400	5,800	5,550	6,910	3,730	1,820	1,190	650
Onshore Humanitarian(a)	1,500	2,900	900	100	50					
Onshore Refugees(b)							2,250	1,590	1,830	2,460
Safe Haven(c)									3,930	1,980
Total Grants(d)	11,300	12,000	11,800	12,700	13,270	15,050(e)	11,900(e)	12,060	15,290	11,940
Rollover(f)									840	3,130

(a) Persons granted permanent residence status on humanitarian grounds on the basis of applications lodged prior to December 1989.

(b) Prior to 1996 97, Onshore Refugees were not counted against the Humanitarian Program.

(c) In total 5,900 Temporary Safe Haven visas were issued to Kosovars and East Timorese who were in need of temporary safe haven.

(d) Note that figures have been rounded and that, due to rounding, total may not be the exact sum of components.

(e) These totals reflect the decision to bring forward, into 1995 96, 2,000 places from the 1996 97 Program.

(f) The total number of places rolled over reflects the number of places unfilled in the program year plus a number to compensate for leakage of visas granted but not used for travel to Australia.

Source Data: IMIRS

In 1999–2000 the offshore component of the Humanitarian Program retained its regional focus on the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Africa.

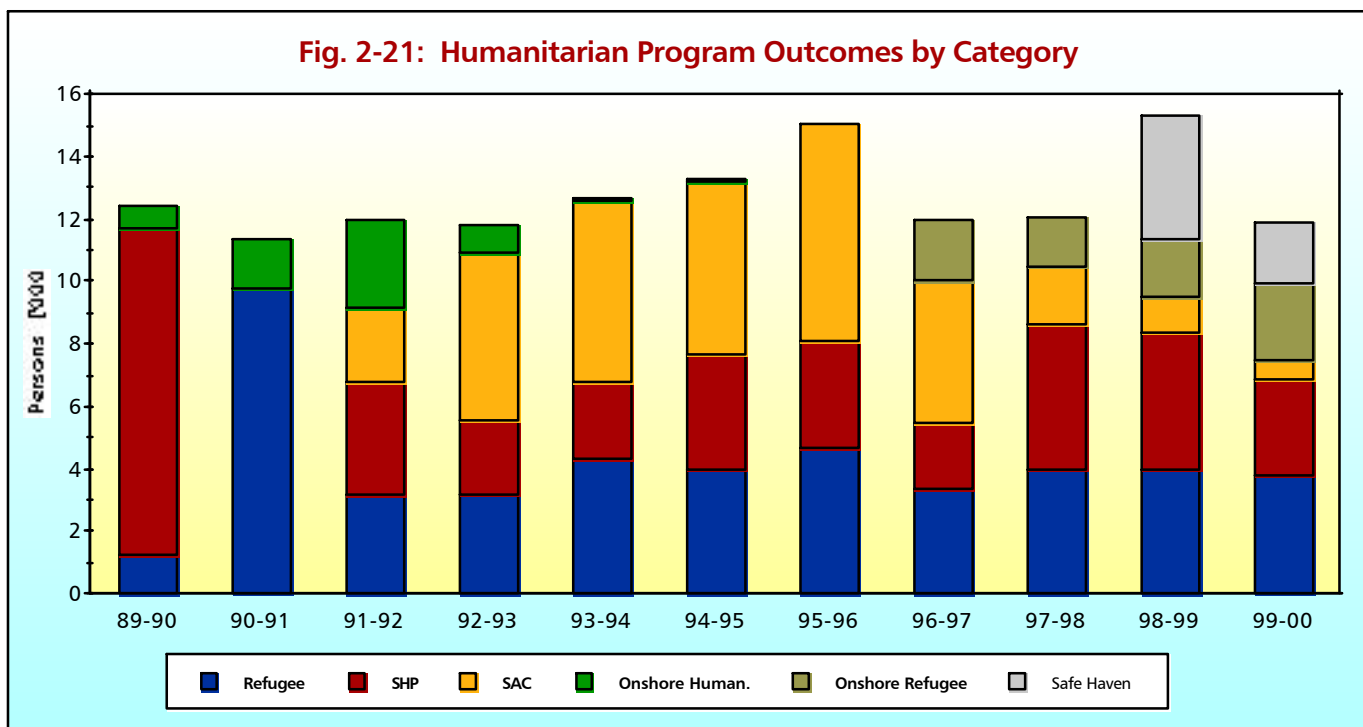
The Government has flexibility in managing the Humanitarian Program to maximise Australia’s contribution to humanitarian resettlement. Where places in one program year have not used, those places may be rolled over into the following program year. Places can also be moved between the offshore and onshore components of the program as required. This means that where planning levels are higher than actual take-up rates (grants), those unused places are not lost but are available for use in the following year or outyears. Similarly visas issued to applicants but not used for entry to Australia may be reallocated in the following program year to ensure that all places under the program are fully utilised, thus ensuring that no places under the program are wasted. Additionally, where a humanitarian crisis requires resettlement places in excess of those available, the Minister may bring forward places from future program years.

The management of the program during the year was effected by the surge in unauthorised arrivals and the related increase in the number of onshore grants of protection visas. This meant that the offshore notional allocation was reduced resulting in an outcome of 7,502 grants offshore. Onshore 2,460 visas were granted. This allowed for a rollover of 3,134 places to be used for the likely increase in the number of onshore protection visa grants in the 2000–01 program year.

In 1999 a further 5,900 Temporary Safe Haven visas were issued to Kosovar and East Timorese who were in need of temporary protection while conditions in their home countries were unstable. This represented almost a 50 per cent increase to our Humanitarian Program and ran in parallel with it.

In 2000–01 the offshore component of the Humanitarian Program will retain its regional focus on the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Africa.

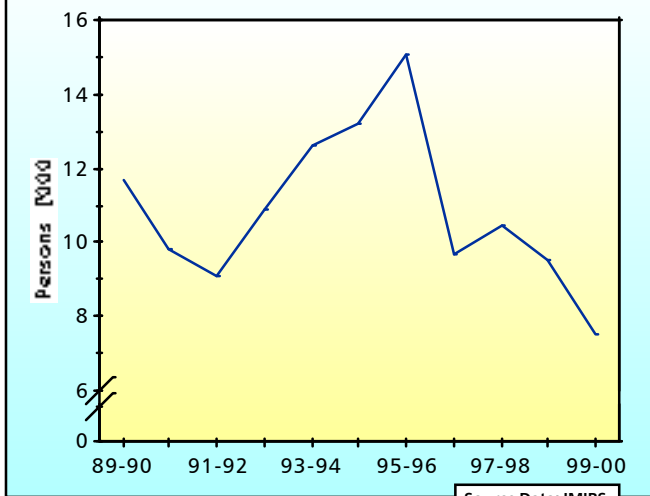
Fig. 2-21: Humanitarian Program Outcomes by Category



Source Data: IMIRS

Humanitarian Program (Offshore)

Fig. 2-22: Offshore Humanitarian Visa Grants



Offshore Humanitarian Visa Grants

In 1999–2000, there were 7,502 people granted visas under the offshore categories of the Humanitarian Program (excluding Safe Haven visas granted to Kosovars and East Timorese).

The decrease in offshore grants in 1999–2000 was the result of an influx of unauthorised arrivals which required places to be made available for grants onshore.

Refugees accounted for 50.7 per cent (3,802 people) of all offshore Humanitarian visas granted in 1990–2000; 40.7 per cent (3,051 people) were granted visas under the Special Humanitarian Program; and 8.6 per cent (649 people) were granted Special Assistance Category visas.

Source Regions and Countries

During the 1990s the focus of the offshore component of the Humanitarian Program has shifted to meet changing resettlement needs. The program currently focuses on resettlement needs in the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and Africa.

There has been an increase in the number of Humanitarian Program visas granted to people from Africa in the 1999–2000 program year with 1,736 visas or 23.1 per cent of all Humanitarian Program grants. Of the remaining grants, 3,424 or 45.6 per cent went to Europe, 2,208 or 29.4 per cent went to the Middle East and Southern Asia.

Of the 3,802 places granted under the Refugee category, 1,924 grants (50.6 per cent) were from Europe, 1,014 grants (26.7 per cent) were from the Middle East and Southern Asia and 839 grants (22.1 per cent) were from Africa.

The Special Humanitarian Program also comprised a large proportion of visa grants from Europe (1,110 people or 36.4 per cent), the Middle East and Southern Asia (1,164 people or 38.2 per cent) and Africa (708 people or 23.2 per cent). The former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan were the major source countries, followed by Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Of those granted Special Assistance Category visas, 390 were from the former Yugoslavia (60.1 per cent), 189 were from Sudan (29.1 per cent) and a further 70 (10.8 per cent) came from Southeast and Southern Asia (mainly Burmese and Ahmadis).

The figures above exclude the Safe Haven visas granted to Kosovars and East Timorese in 1999.

Fig. 2-23: Offshore Humanitarian Visa Grants by Region of Birth

1999-00

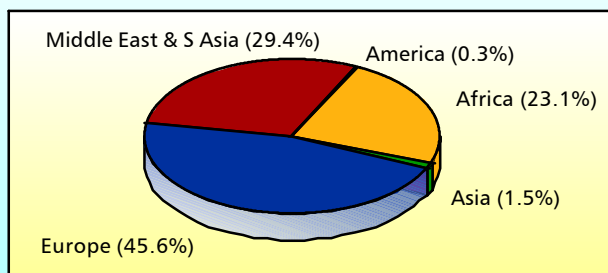
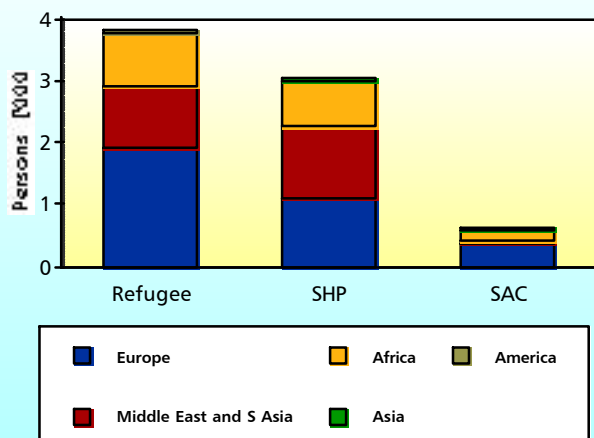


Fig. 2-24: Offshore Humanitarian Visa Grants by Category and Region of Birth

1999-00



Humanitarian Program (Onshore)

Applications Made in Australia

People who are already in Australia, but who are not permanent residents, may be eligible for the grant of a Protection Visa if they are found to engage Australia's protection obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (Refugees Convention).

As a signatory to the Refugees Convention, Australia provides sanctuary to any person who is found to engage our protection obligation under the Convention. Each application for a Protection Visa is assessed on its individual merits, and all information supplied by applicants is taken into account.

Applicants for a Protection Visa who are rejected at the primary stage of processing may apply for review to the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT).

Applicants may be granted two types of Protection Visas – a Permanent Protection Visa (PPV - subclass 866) or a Temporary Protection Visa (TPV - subclass 785):

- Persons who enter lawfully and are found to engage Australia's protection obligations are granted a PPV.
- Persons who enter Australia in an unauthorised manner and are subsequently found to engage Australia's protection obligations are granted TPVs. The three-year TPV was introduced in October 1999 as a result of the unprecedented increase in the number of unauthorised arrivals into Australia in recent years.

Applications and Approvals

Fig. 2-25 shows a significant increase in protection applications from people in the community in the early 1990s, largely attributable to events in the PRC in 1989. Also shown is the significant increase in numbers of applications lodged by unauthorised arrivals in detention in 1999–2000, reflecting the substantial increase in numbers of unauthorised boat arrivals in that period.

In 1999–2000, 2,458 applicants were granted Protection Visas. 1,684 of these were granted at the completion of the primary stage of processing. Of the total applicants, 874 were granted TPVs. In addition, there were a total of 679 Protection Visas granted following Refugee Review Tribunal remittal of cases for reconsideration. A further 76 applicants were granted a visa through Ministerial intervention on the grounds that the grant was in the public interest.

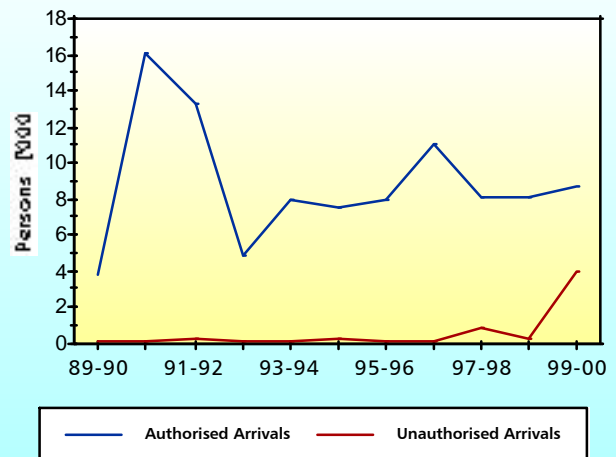
At 30 June 2000 there were 6,500 applications for Protection Visas on hand at the primary stage and some 7,828 applications on hand at the Review stage.

Source Countries

12,713 applications for Protection Visas were lodged in 1999–2000, which marked a significant increase of 54.0 per cent in comparison with the 1998–99 figure of 8,257 applicants.

Asylum seekers from Iraq represented 18.8 per cent of applicants in 1999–2000. Other major source countries were Afghanistan (13.9 per cent), the PRC (6.8 per cent), and the Philippines (6.4 per cent).

Fig. 2-25: Applicants for Protection Visas in Australia



Source Data: IMIRS

Fig. 2-26: Protection Visas Applicants by Citizenship 1999 00

Iraq	2,394
Afghanistan	1,765
PRC	866
Phillipines	815
India	671
Indonesia	638
Sri Lanka	453
Fiji	371
Malaysia	321
Korea	262
Other	4,157
Total	12,713

Source Data: IMIRS

Fig. 2-27: Protection Visa Grants by Citizenship 1999 00

	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Afghanistan	124	576	700
Iraq	384	231	615
Sri Lanka	235	29	264
Iran	124	23	147
Turkey	110	3	113
Columbia	52		52
Former USSR	46		46
Other	509	12	521
Total	1,584	874	2,458

Source Data: IMIRS