

Humanitarian Program

Program Outcomes

In 2001–02 Australia's Humanitarian Program has been maintained at 12,000 new places, the same number as in 2000–01. In addition, there are a further 1,640 places available, comprising: the rollover of unused places at the end of 2000–01, 207 places to compensate for visas granted during 1999–2000 but not used to travel to Australia, and the re-credit of TPV places back to the Humanitarian Program as a result of TPV holders who left Australia during 2000–01. As it is difficult to predict the number of places required onshore in 2001–02 as a result of the increase in unauthorised arrivals, the size of the offshore component of the Humanitarian Program for 2001–02 is currently being considered.

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 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) 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.

Fig. 2-20: Humanitarian Program Outcomes: Visas Granted 1991–92 to 2000–01

Category	91–92	92–93	93–94	94–95	95–96	96–97	97–98	98–99	99–00	00–01
Refugee	3,200	3,200	4,300	3,990	4,640	3,330	4,010	3,990	3,800	4,000
Special Humanitarian Program	3,550	2,300	2,500	3,680	3,500	2,580	4,640	4,350	3,050	3,120
Special Assistance Category	2,350	5,400	5,800	5,550	6,910	3,730	1,820	1,190	650	880
Onshore Humanitarian ^(a)	2,900	900	100	50	—	—	—	—	—	160 ^(g)
Onshore Refugees ^(b)	—	—	—	—	—	2,250	1,590	1,830	2,460	5,580
Safe Haven ^(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,930	1,980	20
Total Grants^(d)	12,000	11,800	12,700	13,270	15,050^(e)	11,900^(e)	12,060	15,290	11,940	13,750
Rollover ^(f)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	840	3,130	1,640

(a) Persons granted permanent residence status on humanitarian grounds on the basis of applications lodged prior to December 1989, or granted Temporary Humanitarian Concerns (subclass 786) visas in 2000–01.

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

(c) In total 5,915 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

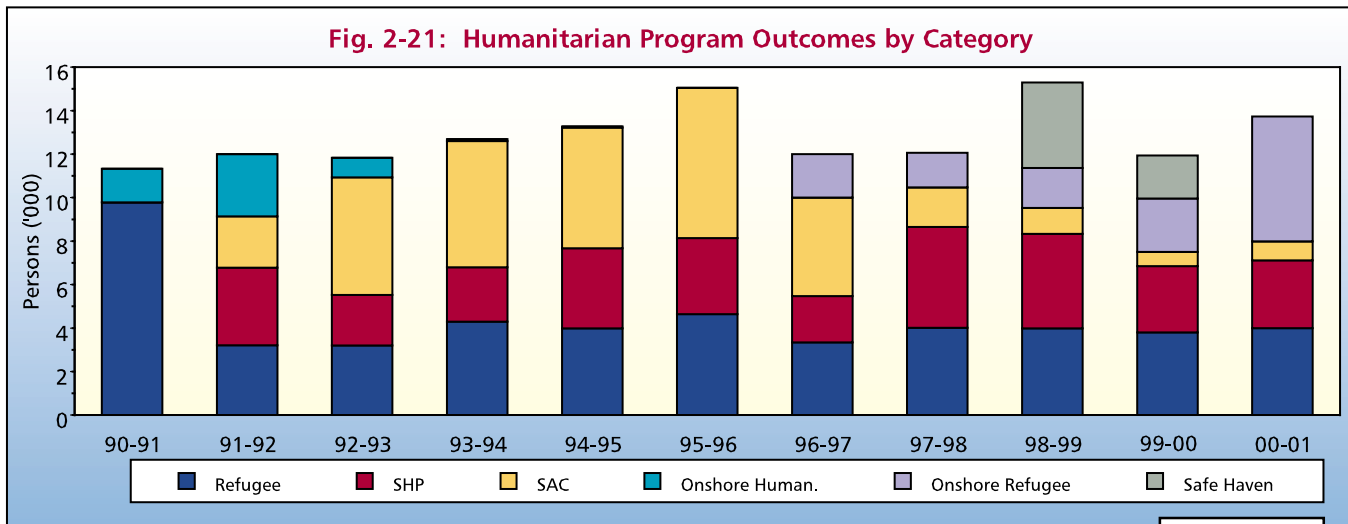
In 2000–01 the offshore component of the Humanitarian Program retained its regional focus on the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East and South West Asia, and Africa.

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 been 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 years. Similarly visas issued to applicants but not used for

entry to Australia may be re-allocated 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.

In 2000–01, a total of 13,733 visas were granted under the Humanitarian Program(excluding Safe Haven). This comprised 7,992 visas under the offshore component, and 5,741 visas under the onshore component comprising 4,452 Temporary Protection Visas, 1,125 Permanent Protection Visas and 164 visas of Temporary Humanitarian Concern. The Temporary Humanitarian Concern visa was introduced in July 2000 for Safe Haven visa holders in need of continuing medical attention allowing them to remain in Australia for a further three years.

Fig. 2-21: Humanitarian Program Outcomes by Category



Source Data: IMIRS

Humanitarian Program (Offshore)

Offshore Humanitarian Visa Grants

Of the 7,992 visas granted, 3,997 visas or 50 per cent of the total were Refugee visas. 3,116 visas or 39 per cent of the total were SHP visas and 879 visas or 11 per cent of the total were 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 2000–01 program year with 2,032 visas or 25 per cent of all offshore Humanitarian Program grants. 3,462 or 43 per cent of visas were granted to people from Europe (mainly the Former Yugoslavia) and 2,155 or 27 per cent of all visas were granted to people from the Middle East and South West Asia region.

Of the 3,997 visas granted under the Refugee category, 1,712 visas (43 per cent) were granted to people from Europe, 1,123 visas (28 per cent) were granted to people from the Middle East and South West Asia and 1,102 visas (28 per cent) were granted to people from Africa.

The Special Humanitarian Program comprised 1,205 visas to people from Europe (39 per cent), 973 visas (31 per cent) to people from the Middle East and South West Asia, and 780 visas (25 per cent) to people from Africa. The former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Afghanistan were the major source countries, followed by Sudan, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

Of those granted Special Assistance Category visas, 545 were from the former Yugoslavia (62 per cent), 150 were from Sudan (17 per cent) and a further 184 (21 per cent) were granted to the Ahmadis and Burmese in Asia. The Special Assistance Category was closed during the 2000–01 program year.

2001–02 Offshore Program

The recent influx in the number of unauthorised arrivals into Australia has necessitated careful management of the Humanitarian Program. The estimate of the number of places required onshore in 2001–02 as a result of the surge in unauthorised arrivals may translate to a reduction in the number of places available for use offshore. While the offshore component of the program will retain its focus on the former Yugoslavia, Africa and the Middle East and South West Asia regions, it is expected that the number of places available will need to be reduced to cater for the demand for places onshore.

Fig. 2-22: Offshore Humanitarian Visa Grants

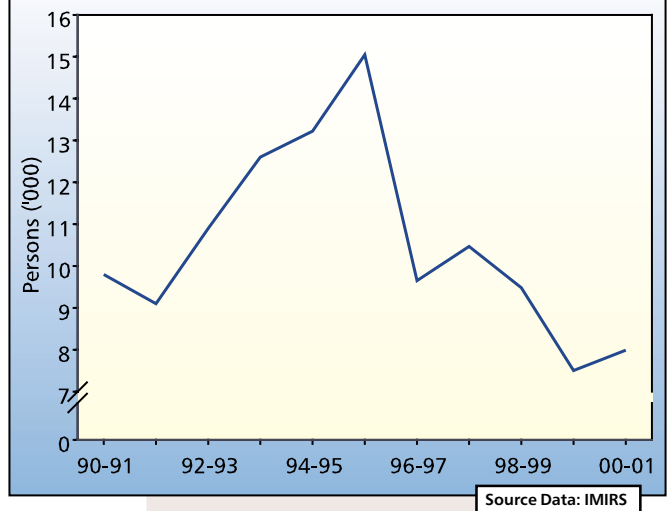


Fig. 2-23: Offshore Humanitarian Visa Grants by Region 2000-01

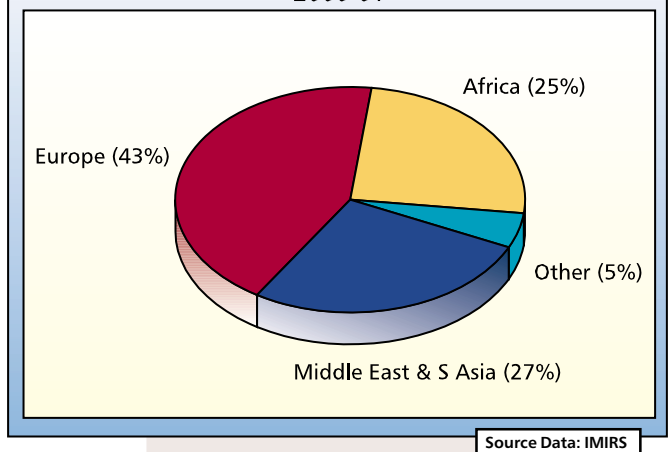
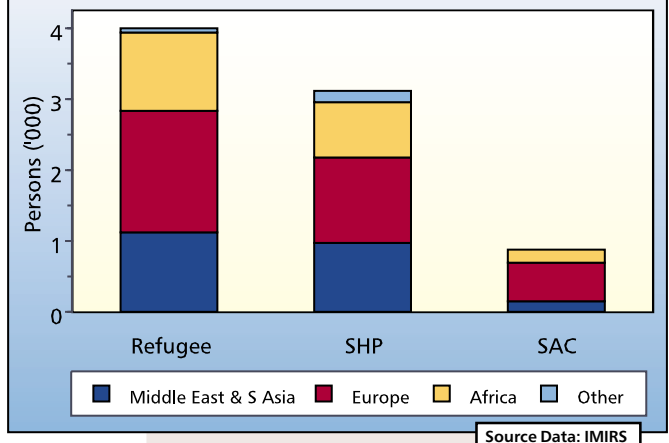


Fig. 2-24: Offshore Humanitarian Visa Grants by Category and Region 2000-01



Humanitarian Program (Onshore)

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

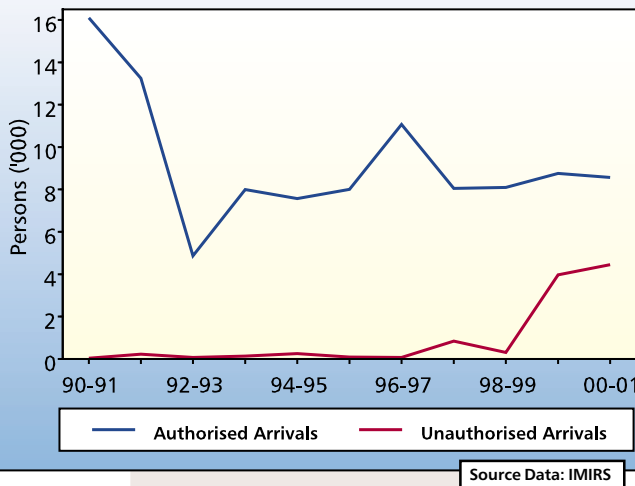


Fig. 2-26: Protection Visas Applicants by Citizenship 2000-01

Afghanistan	2,239
Iraq	1,252
China, PRC	1,191
Indonesia	957
Fiji	935
Iran	716
India	661
Sri Lanka	452
Philippines	349
Malaysia	282
Other	4,066
Total	13,100

Source Data: IMIRS

Fig. 2-27: Protection Visa Grants by Citizenship 2000-01

	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Iraq	61	2,338	2,399
Afghanistan	13	1,685	1,698
Iran	79	198	277
Sri Lanka	185	36	221
Burma	127	-	127
Yugoslavia, Fed Rep of	91	-	91
Turkey	39	23	62
Other	532	172	704
Total	1,127	4,452	5,579

Source Data: IMIRS

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 2000–01, 5,579 applicants were granted Protection Visas. 4,651 of these were granted at the completion of the primary stage of processing. Of the total applicants, 4452 were granted TPVs. In addition, there were a total of 851 Protection Visas granted following Refugee Review Tribunal remittal of cases for reconsideration. A further 77 applicants were granted a visa through Ministerial intervention on the grounds that the grant was in the public interest.

At 30 June 2001 there were 5,343 applications for Protection Visas on hand at the primary stage and some 8,263 applications on hand at the Review stage.

Source Countries

13,076 applications for Protection Visas were lodged in 2000–01, which marked an increase of 2.9 per cent in comparison with the 1999–2000 figure of 12,713 applicants.

Asylum seekers from Afghanistan represented 17 per cent of applicants in 2000–01. Other major source countries were Iraq (9.5 per cent) and the PRC (9 per cent).