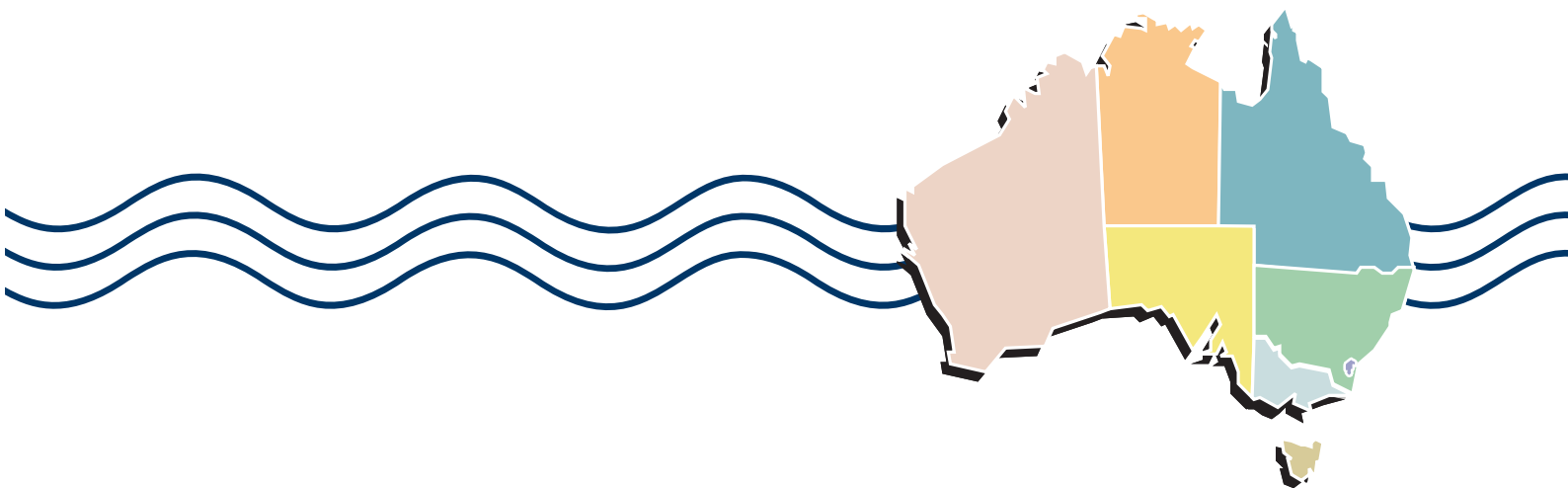


## Chapter 7

### Citizenship, Settlement and Cultural Diversity

- Since the Australian Citizenship Act was introduced in 1948, over 3.5 million people have become Australian citizens.
- Over 100,000 people became Australian citizens in 2005–06.
- Over 75 per cent of those residentially eligible to take up Citizenship have acquired it.
- In 2005–06, 12,036 Humanitarian entrants received specialised support to assist them to settle in Australia.





# Citizenship, Settlement and Cultural Diversity

According to the 2001 Census, 23 per cent of the population were born overseas, and a further 20 per cent born in Australia have a parent born overseas. With current and future migration, diversity will continue to be a feature of the Australian population.

Citizenship, settlement services and cultural diversity policy share the common purpose of strengthening our society by inclusion and equal participation of all Australians, with a balance of entitlements and responsibilities.

## Australian Citizenship

Australian citizenship, which encompasses shared civic values, acts as a strong unifying force in the Australian community. These shared civic values include loyalty to Australia and its people, a belief in the democratic process, respect for the rights and liberties of others and a commitment to uphold and obey Australia's laws. It is the commitment to these values that is one of the great strengths of the Australian community. Australian citizenship is the common bond which unites us all.

Acquiring Australian citizenship is an important way of showing pride in being part of Australia's dynamic and diverse society. Australian citizenship allows full participation in the Australian community. Australia's approach to citizenship is inclusive and non-discriminatory.

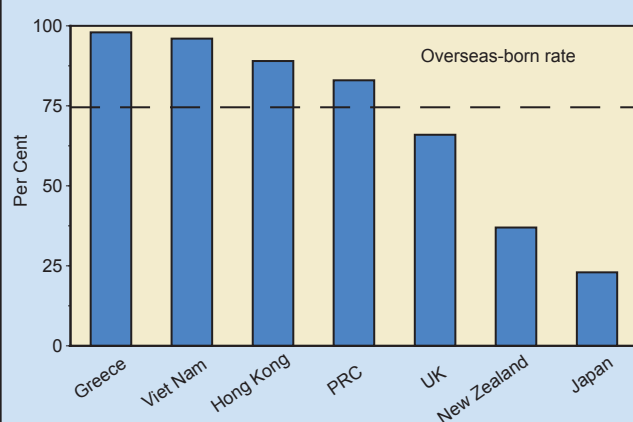
The take-up of Australian citizenship by migrants is measured by their citizenship rates. The rates measure the percentage of eligible migrants from different countries who become Australian citizens.

The take-up of Australian citizenship has risen steadily over the past 15 years. Of those people living in Australia who were born overseas, just over 75 per cent of those residentially eligible have acquired citizenship.

Information from the 2001 Census indicates that the take-up of Australian citizenship by migrants varies significantly. The five countries with the highest take-up rates are Greece (98.0 per cent), Hungary (97.1 per cent), Lebanon (97.0 per cent), Egypt (96.3 per cent) and Viet Nam (96 per cent).

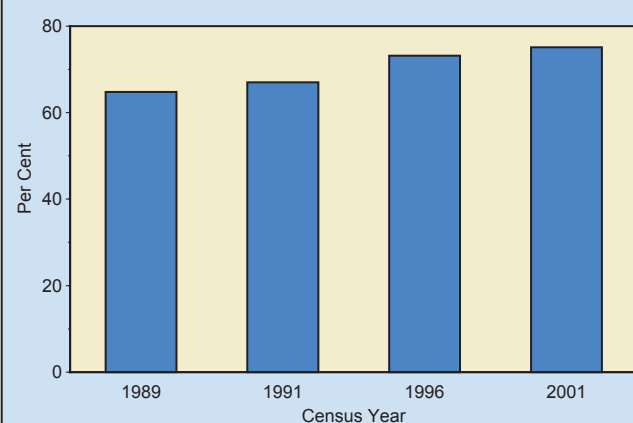
The 2001 Census data indicates that more than half of the permanent residents residentially eligible to acquire Australian citizenship were from just two countries - the United Kingdom (UK) and New Zealand. Other nationalities with sizeable numbers of eligible non-citizens are Italy, Malaysia, Germany and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC).

**Fig. 7-1: Estimated Citizenship Rate for Selected Birthplaces**



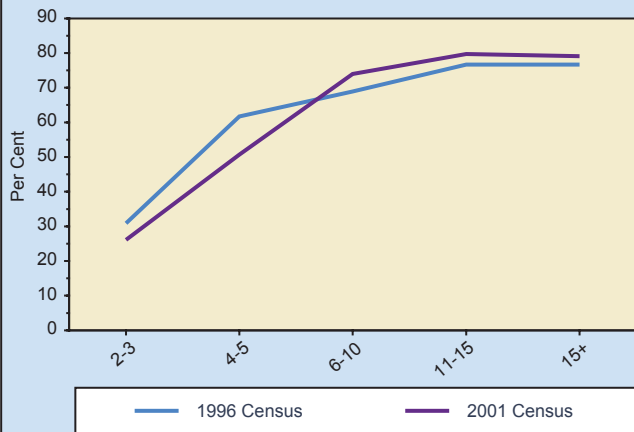
Source: DIMA estimate based on the 2001 Census

**Fig. 7-2: Estimated Take-up Rate of Citizenship**



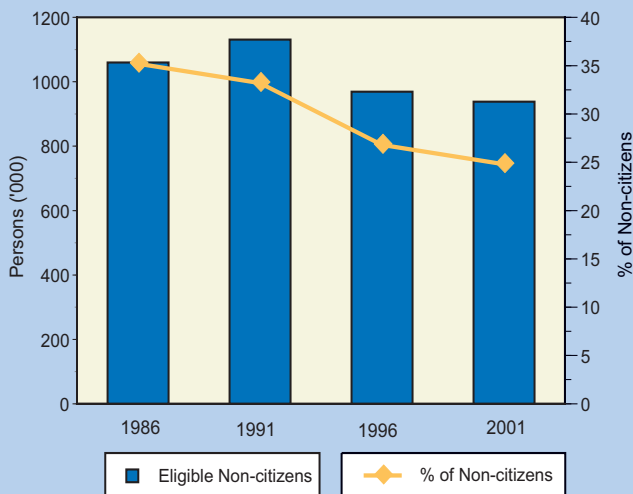
Source: DIMA estimate based on the 2001 Census

**Fig. 7-3: Citizenship Rate of Overseas-born by Period of Residence in Australia**



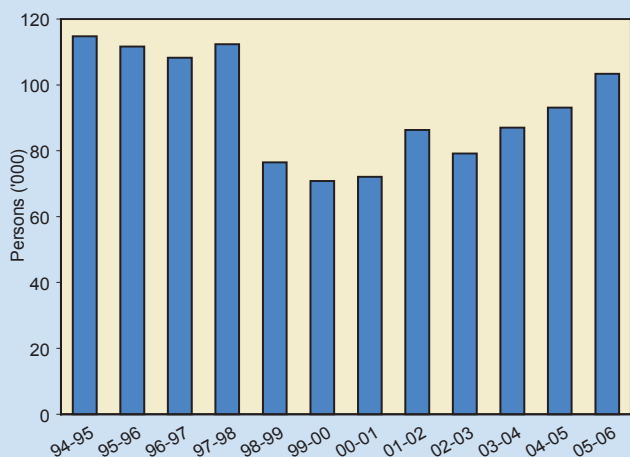
Source: DIMA estimate based on the 2001 Census

**Fig. 7-4: Eligible Non-citizens**



Source: DIMA estimate based on the 2001 Census

**Fig. 7-5: Conferrals of Australian Citizenship**



Source: Annual Report

## Promotion of Australian Citizenship

The Australian government continued to promote Australian citizenship in 2005–06.

The objectives of the Australian Citizenship Promotion campaign are to promote the acquisition of Australian citizenship among eligible non-citizens and to enhance the profile and significance of Australian citizenship in the community among existing Australian citizens.

There were 103,350 new citizens conferred in 2005–06, an 11 per cent increase over the 2004–05 result.

Many significant citizenship ceremonies were held in 2005–06. A record number of 14,000 new citizens were conferred with citizenship at ceremonies across the country on Australia Day 2006. For the second consecutive year the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, presided at an Australia Day citizenship ceremony in the national capital.

## Changes to Citizenship Law

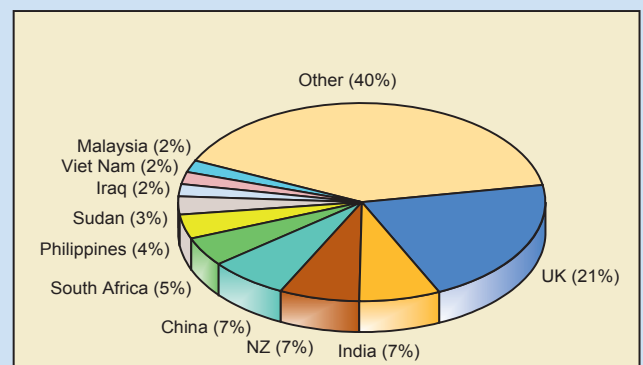
### Amendments currently before the parliament – *The Australian Citizenship Bill 2005*

The *Australian Citizenship Bill 2005*, introduced to Parliament in November 2005, seeks to replace the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*.

The proposed changes include:

- amending the residence requirement from two years permanent residence to 4 years lawful residence;
- prohibiting the approval of an applicant whose identity can not be verified or who is assessed by Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) as a security risk to Australia;
- extending revocation provisions to include serious criminal offences for offences committed in the period between approval of an application and acquisition of citizenship, and

**Fig. 7-6: Former Country of Citizenship of Persons Conferred Australian Citizenship 2005–06**



Source: IMIRS

- applications approved on the basis of third party fraud;
- ensuring consistency and simplicity in the provisions relating to citizenship by descent and resumption of citizenship;
  - giving children of former Australian citizens who lost their citizenship under the former s17 of the Act the opportunity to apply for Australian citizenship;
  - giving persons born in Papua before 16 September 1975 to an Australian citizen parent who was born in mainland Australia the opportunity to apply for Australian citizenship; and
  - providing for children who were adopted under full and permanent Hague convention arrangements to be registered as Australian citizens.

Further details can be found at [www.citizenship.gov.au](http://www.citizenship.gov.au).

## Settlement

### Settlement Grants Programme (SGP)

As recommended by the Review of Settlement Services for Migrants and Humanitarian entrants conducted in May 2003, a new Settlement Grants Programme (SGP) funds projects to assist newly arrived Migrants and Humanitarian entrants during the early settlement period.

The new programme commenced on 1 July 2006 and provides grants to eligible organisations to deliver settlement services. The SGP replaces funding previously provided under the Community Settlement Services Scheme and core funding to Migrant Resource Centres and Migrant Service Agencies.

In 2005–06, the Australian government provided funding for grants to organisations under the Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS) and core funding to the national network of Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs) and Migrant Service Agencies (MSAs).

These services were intended principally for:

- permanent residents who had arrived in the previous five years as Humanitarian entrants and Family Stream migrants with low English proficiency; and
- communities receiving significant numbers of new arrivals that required assistance to develop their capacity to organise, plan and advocate for services to meet their own needs.

In 2005–06, a total of 307 CSSS grants were funded, including 213 new and 94 ongoing grants. Core funding was also provided to 28 MRCs/MSAs.

### Settlement Information

Information to assist new arrivals settle in Australia is provided through DIMA's *Living in Australia* website, [www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/](http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/). The information is aimed at:

- prospective migrants;
- newly-arrived migrants and their sponsors;
- service providers;
- permanent residents (Citizenship); and
- the general Australian public.

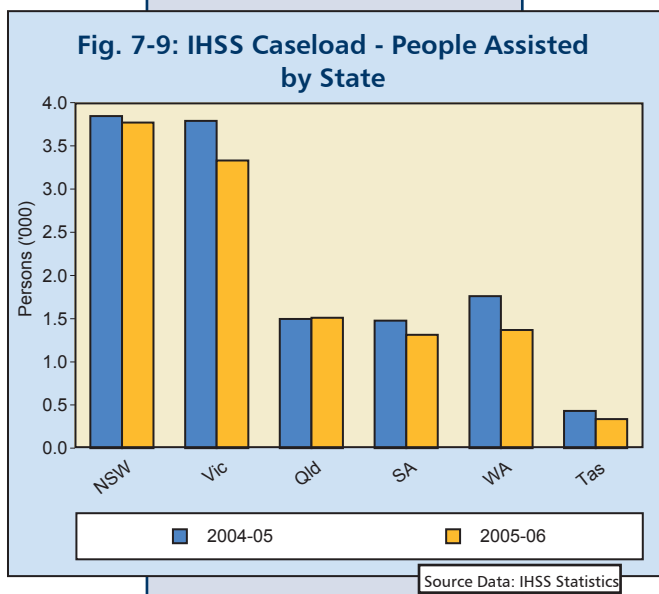
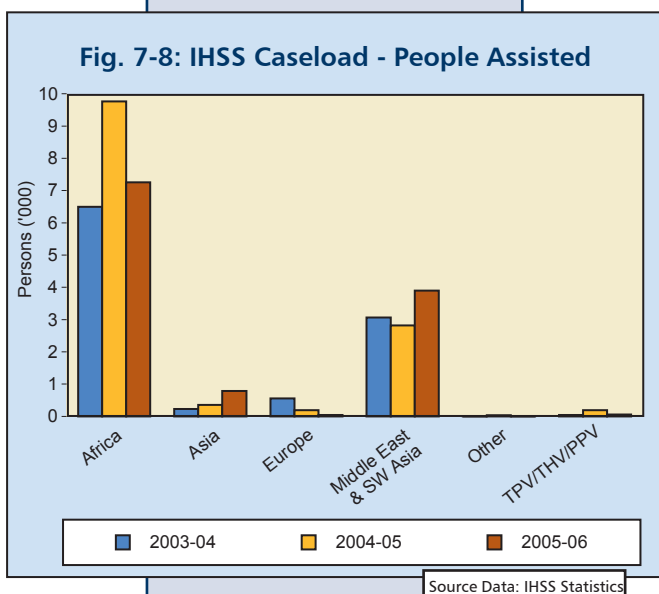
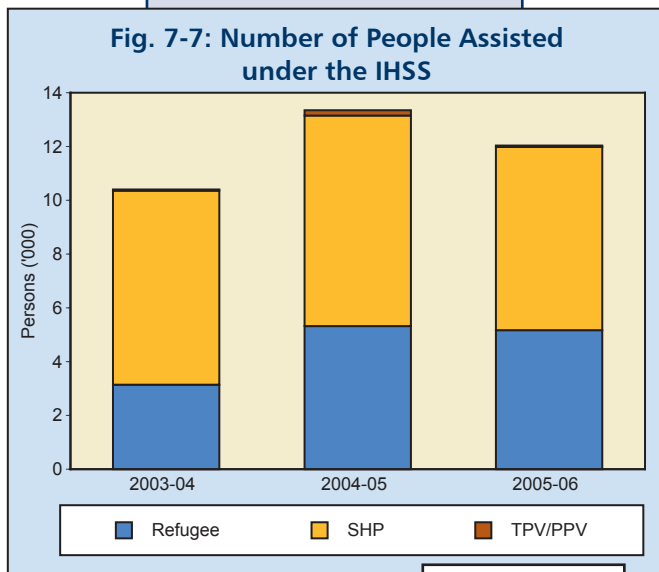
Topics that can be accessed include:

- Adult Migrant English Programme (AMEP);
- Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS);
- Settlement Grants Programme (SGP);
- Life in Regional Australia; and
- A Diverse Australia.

Following is a link to the Australian Citizenship website, [www.citizenship.gov.au](http://www.citizenship.gov.au).

In addition, the web pages have information booklets called *Beginning a life in Australia*, which can be downloaded. The booklets contain information on the types of services available to new migrants and advice on where to go for assistance. The booklets also contain specific information for each State and Territory and are translated into 24 community languages. The booklets are updated every six months.

The department also provides demographic reports and community profiles on Humanitarian entrants to State and Territory governments on a quarterly basis. Interested persons and organisations are able to access settlement statistics via the Settlement Reporting Facility - [www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/settlement-database](http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/settlement-database).



## Specialised Settlement Support for Humanitarian Entrants

The Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS) provides initial, intensive, on arrival settlement support to refugees and Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) entrants. The IHSS aims to help these Humanitarian entrants achieve self-sufficiency as soon as possible by providing them with specialised services on a needs basis. Services provided under the IHSS are:

- **Case Coordination, Information and Referrals**, which includes a case coordination plan based on an initial needs assessment, information about, and referral to, other service providers and mainstream agencies, and help for proposers to fulfil their role of assisting SHP entrants;
- **On Arrival Reception and Assistance**, which includes meeting eligible entrants on arrival, taking them to accommodation, providing initial orientation and meeting any emergency needs for medical attention or clothing and footwear;
- **Accommodation Services**, which helps entrants to find appropriate and affordable accommodation and provides them with basic household goods to start establishing their own household in Australia; and
- **Short Term Torture and Trauma Counselling Services**, which provides an assessment of needs, a case plan, referral for torture and trauma counselling and raises awareness among other health care providers of health issues arising from torture and trauma experiences.

IHSS services are delivered by service providers contracted to the department. Volunteer groups also work with service providers to support entrants and assist them to settle into the local community.

The intensive assistance provided under the IHSS is intended for the initial settlement period, which, in most cases, is about six months. Once Humanitarian entrants exit the IHSS, they are referred to general settlement services provided by organisations funded under the SGP.

In 2005–06 12,036 people were assisted under the IHSS. Of these, 5,168 were Refugee entrants and 6,814 were SHP entrants. A further 54 Temporary Protection Visa/Temporary Humanitarian Visa/Permanent Protection Visa holders also received assistance under the IHSS.

The IHSS caseload during 2005–06 was primarily from Africa. The proportion of the caseload from this region decreased from 74 per cent in 2004–05 to 60 per cent in 2005–06. Other source regions included the Middle East and South West Asia (32 per cent) and Asia (6 per cent).

Within the African component, the largest caseload was from Sudan (33 per cent), followed by Liberia (6 per cent), Burundi (6 per cent), Sierra Leone (5 per cent), Ethiopia (2 per cent), and Eritrea (2 per cent).

## Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (UHMs)

The Australian government provides specialised support for UHMs. A UHM is a person who has been granted a visa under the Humanitarian Programme, is under the age of 18 years and does not have a parent to care for them in Australia.

As at 30 June 2006 there were 684 UHMs in the UHM Programme, under which State welfare authorities provide welfare supervision and support through cost sharing agreements between the Commonwealth and the States.

## Adult Migrant English Programme (AMEP)

English language tuition is provided under the AMEP for migrants and Humanitarian entrants who do not have functional English. Refugee and Humanitarian entrants under the age of 25, with low levels of schooling, are eligible for up to 910 hours of English language tuition, while those over 25 are eligible for up to 610 hours of tuition, and other migrants are eligible for up to 510 hours of tuition. Tuition is designed to provide clients with basic language skills to assist them to settle successfully in Australia.

## Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

The department's TIS provides a national 24 hour, seven days per week telephone and on site interpreting service. TIS provides interpreting on a fee-for-service basis to individuals, Commonwealth and State and Territory government agencies, community organisations and the private sector.

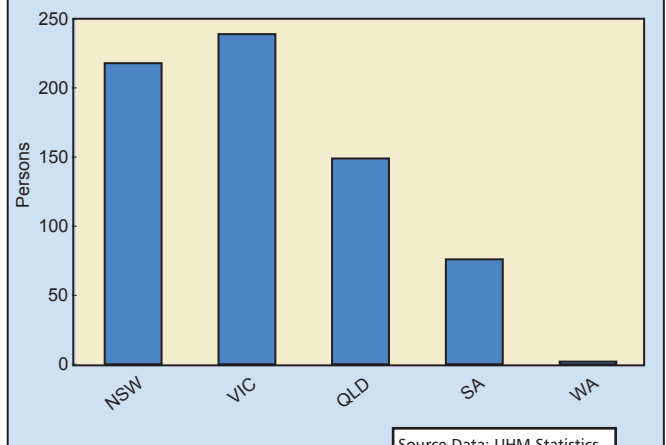
The Australian government funds the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) to provide fee free translating and interpreting services to approved individuals and community organisations

Interpreting services are provided by a contractor panel of approximately 1500 interpreters covering more than 100 languages and dialects. TIS engages National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) accredited/recognised interpreters wherever possible to facilitate high quality service provision. During 2005–06, 91 per cent of all interpreting services and 100 per cent of all translating services were undertaken by NAATI accredited/recognised interpreters and translators.

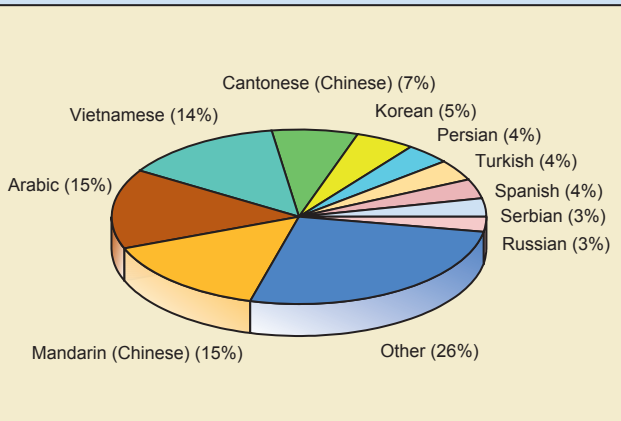
In 2005–06, the 10 highest in demand languages were Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Korean, Turkish, Persian, Spanish, Serbian and Russian.

TIS continued its focus on recruiting interpreters in new and emerging languages in 2005–06. In all, 113 new interpreters were recruited to meet needs for languages where interpreters are in demand. These new interpreters provide additional capacity for the TIS contractor panel in 63 languages and dialects, including 44 interpreters in new and emerging African languages.

Fig. 7-10: Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors in Australia at 30 June 2006



**Fig. 7-11: Main Languages Used by Interpreters  
(On Site and Phone) 2005–06**



Source: TIS Statistics

### Telephone Interpreting

TIS provides facilities that allow for a three-way conversation between English-speaking and non-English-speaking parties and a TIS interpreter through the use of a national telephone number – 13 14 50. TIS also provides priority lines for emergency services and medical practitioners.

A total of 731,629 telephone enquiries were received in the TIS National Contact Centre, of which 501,000 telephone interpreting services were delivered. Since the consolidation of TIS State offices into a single site in Melbourne in early 2002, over all call volumes to the National Contact Centre have increased by 73 per cent.

This growth in call volume and the continuing reduction in the number of on-site services indicate that TIS clients are increasingly utilising the more cost-effective telephone interpreting service.

During 2005–06, TIS answered calls to its 13 14 50 number within 30 seconds on 84 per cent of occasions and 91 per cent of calls were connected to an interpreter in a major community language within three minutes.

### On-site Interpreting

TIS arranges for an interpreter to attend at a specified location and time where a face-to-face service is requested. In 2005–06, 91 per cent of requests for an on-site interpreter resulted in a confirmed appointment within three working days.

On-site interpreting requests continued to decrease this year. A total of 43,473 on-site interpreting assignments were completed in 2005–06 compared with 46,575 assignments in 2004–05. Factors behind the decline included:

- the continuing low demand for on-site interpreters associated with the processing of applications for protection by asylum seekers;
- competitors capturing market share by offering lower prices; and
- clients moving towards telephone interpreting as a more cost-effective service.

## Australia's Cultural Diversity

Australia is a nation built on immigration. We have a proud history of welcoming people from around the world. Since 1945, more than six million migrants have come to Australia. Australians speak over 200 languages in addition to our national language of English, identify with more than 160 ancestries and practise a range of religions. Australia's cultural diversity is a reality which will continue.

### Cultural diversity policy

The government's cultural diversity policy responds to the opportunities and challenges arising from Australia's cultural diversity. It works alongside citizenship and settlement policy to encourage the full participation of all Australians in Australian society and enhance mutual respect. Within the framework of Australian law, everyone has the right to express and share their cultural heritage and personal beliefs. This is balanced by the responsibilities we all have to maintain a unifying commitment to Australia and to support the basic structures and values that guarantee us our freedom and equality. They include respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual, our commitment to the rule of law and democracy, the equality of men and women, the spirit of a 'fair go', mutual respect and compassion for those in need.

A revised statement of the government's cultural diversity policy is due to be released in 2006.

### Social cohesion

Domestic and international events such as the Indian Ocean tsunami, Cronulla riots, London and Bali bombings and conflict in the Middle East have an impact on social cohesion in Australia. Maintaining good community relations is a key goal of cultural diversity policy and DIMA liaises extensively with a large number of community organisations and individuals through its State and Territory offices to strengthen linkages between government and communities. Ministerial engagement with community leaders and organisations supports Australian communities and helps to reduce inter-community tensions.

The Ministerial Council on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs has endorsed the general directions being taken by governments to implement a National Action Plan to build on social cohesion, harmony, and security, developed at the request of the Council of Australian governments. The National Action Plan is focused on education, employment, integrating communities and enhancing national security. DIMA coordinates action under the Plan and has a key role in helping disadvantaged Australians identify and address problems affecting their community, through continued consultation, projects promoting inter-faith dialogue and supporting women and youth to give people a clear sense of Australian identity and build on understanding and respect.

The Australian government established the Living in Harmony programme in 1998 to help develop a cohesive society united by a common set of values. The programme promotes mutual respect and acceptance as shared responsibilities and funds projects that create opportunities to help people fully participate in Australian life. The programme has four key components:

- funded community projects (304 since 1999);
- a partnership programme (53 to date);
- ad hoc projects; and
- a public information strategy

### Working with the public and private sectors

The government aims to ensure that its services are delivered in a way that is sensitive to the language and cultural needs of all Australians. The *Charter of Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society* (the Charter) is the key document that guides governments on planning, delivery and evaluation of services that integrate consideration of cultural diversity issues. The seven principles of the Charter are:

- access;
- equity;
- communication;
- responsiveness;
- effectiveness;
- efficiency; and
- accountability.

Its Performance Management Framework is used for monitoring and reporting the progress of departments and agencies on implementing the Charter. Agencies report against performance indicators for relevant government roles:

- Policy advisor;
- Regulator;
- Purchaser; and
- Provider.

The number of agencies reporting has increased from 46 in 2002 to 84 in 2005.

The Australian government also promotes the utilisation of Australia's competitive advantage that arises from its linguistic and cultural diversity, and encourages the removal of impediments to the effective participation of Australia's diverse population in the workforce. (See [www.diversityaustralia.gov.au](http://www.diversityaustralia.gov.au))