



Australian Government

**Department of Immigration and
Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs**

Australia's Support for Humanitarian Entrants

Second Edition

This edition corrects an error in Figure 1, Page 5 of the First Edition.

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The Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs:
www.immi.gov.au

Comprehensive information on Australia's Humanitarian Program is available in the booklet *Refugee and Humanitarian Issues - Australia's Response*.

Data Sources

Data provided in this booklet is as recorded in the Immigration Records Information System (IRIS), the Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS) and the Humanitarian Settlement Client Information database (HuSCI). Demographic data, such as ethnicity, education and English proficiency, are as stated by the entrant at time of visa interview.

Foreword

It is my great pleasure to introduce this booklet, which details the assistance Australia provides to people settling in Australia under the Australian Government's Humanitarian Program.

Australia is one of the few countries with a dedicated resettlement program for people in circumstances of humanitarian need. Each year approximately 12000 humanitarian visas are granted.



Hon Gary Hardgrave MP

As international circumstances change, so too do the international refugee environment and the overall profile of Australia's Humanitarian Program. Many of those coming to Australia today come with high levels of poverty, larger families and lower levels of education and lower English proficiency.

The ever changing needs of humanitarian entrants to Australia require ongoing refinement of the delivery of settlement services provided by the Australian Government. The recent *Review of Settlement Services for Migrants and Humanitarian Entrants* by the Government identified a number of areas for improvement and some new approaches.

As part of the improvements to settlement services, I was pleased to have recently announced a number of enhancements to the assistance available to humanitarian entrants under my Department's Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS).

These included:

- a major enhancement to the package of goods available under the Household Formation Support service of the IHSS;
- improved assistance to refugees needing to access immediate medical care;
- support for refugees in fulfilling their obligations as tenants in Australia; and
- provision of a phone card to entrants on arrival so they can contact emergency and other services if the need arises.

These enhancements will further improve the assistance currently offered by IHSS service providers to humanitarian settlers in Australia.

I would once again like to extend my thanks to the many dedicated volunteer groups who devote time and energy to assisting humanitarian entrants settle in Australia. The high level of settlement support that is available to humanitarian entrants is greatly improved by their efforts.

I trust that this publication will prove to be a useful resource for service providers, volunteer groups and the many people within the community who share a commitment to assisting humanitarian entrants rebuild their lives in Australia. I commend this booklet to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary Hardgrave". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Hardgrave
Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister

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CHAPTER 1 – Assistance Available to Humanitarian Entrants and Protection Visa Holders

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that people settling in this country under the Humanitarian Program have the support and assistance necessary to successfully rebuild their lives. Intensive initial settlement support is provided to humanitarian entrants under the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS).

Entrants are also eligible for a number of mainstream services, including those targeted at migrants generally and those designed for the entire Australian community. The eligibility for particular services and entitlements is tailored to meet the specific needs of clients in each of the streams of the Program.

The IHSS assists the following categories:

- **Refugees** – Visa Subclasses 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
Refugees are people who are subject to persecution in their home country and have a strong need for resettlement. Many do not have any family or friends in Australia.
- **Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) Entrants** – Visa Subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian).
SHP entrants are people who are outside their home country and have experienced substantial discrimination amounting to a gross violation of human rights. SHP entrants have proposers in Australia who are expected to provide support and assistance.
- **Permanent Protection Visa (PPV) Holders** – Visa Subclass 866 (Protection).
PPV holders are people to whom Australia has protection obligations. In most cases PPV holders have already spent some time living or staying within the Australian community. As such, their need for intensive initial settlement assistance is generally less than Refugees and SHP entrants.
- **Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) Holders** – Visa Subclasses 447 (Secondary Movement Offshore Entry *Temporary*), 451 (Secondary Movement Relocation *Temporary*), 785 (Temporary Protection) and 786 (Temporary *Humanitarian Concern*).
TPV holders are also people to whom Australia has protection obligations. Due to the temporary nature of their visas, TPV holders are provided with assistance to meet their immediate needs, but can not access settlement services.

Eligibility for specific services and entitlements by Humanitarian Program Stream is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1:

Eligibility for Services and Entitlements of Humanitarian Entrants and PV Holders				
IHSS Services	Refugees	SHP Entrants	PPV Holders	TPV Holders
Initial Information and Orientation Assistance	✓	✗	✗	✗
Accommodation Support	✓	✗	✗	✗
Household Formation Support	✓	✓	✗	✗
Early Health Assessment and Intervention (EHAI)	✓	✓	✓*	✓*
Proposer Support	✗	✓	✗	✗
Community Support for Refugees	✓	✓	✗	✗
Longer-term Settlement Services				
Migrant Resource Centres/Migrant Service Agencies/Community Settlement Services Scheme	✓	✓	✓	✗
Adult Migrant English Program	✓	✓	✓	✗
ESL-NA for minors	✓	✓	✓	✓
Immigration				
Commonwealth funded airfare	✓	✗	NA	NA
Family reunion	✓	✓	✓	✗
Right of Re-entry	✓	✓	✓	✗
Permanent residence	✓	✓	✓	✗
Employment				
Work rights	✓	✓	✓	✓
Job Network: Job matching **	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rent Assistance **	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health				
Medicare **	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health Care Card **	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maternity Allowance **	✓	✓	✓	✓
Program of Assistance for the Survivors of Torture and Trauma (PASTT)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education				
Public Education (school-aged)	✓	✓	✓	✓
HECS ***	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Apprenticeship **	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Benefits				
Newstart Allowance **	✓	✓	✓	✗
Rent Assistance **	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family Tax Benefit **	✓	✓	✓	✓

Entrants may also be eligible for other social benefits. Further information on entitlements can be obtained from www.centrelink.gov.au or contact Centrelink on 13 1021. For information in other languages call 13 1202.

* Only PV holders released from Immigration Detention are eligible for EHAI.

** If assessed as otherwise eligible.

*** Special conditions apply, see www.hecs.gov.au

The Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS)

The IHSS provides intensive initial settlement support to newly-arrived humanitarian entrants. The aim of the IHSS is to ensure that all of these entrants have access to the information, personal tools, services and basic material requirements that they need to rebuild their lives in Australia. IHSS services are delivered through a national network of contractors with assistance from volunteers registered under the Community Support for Refugees (CSR) service.

IHSS support is normally provided for around six months, although this period may be extended for particularly vulnerable clients with special needs. The IHSS focuses strongly on equipping entrants to gain access to mainstream services. However, some entrants may require further assistance from other DIMIA-funded services, such as MRCs/MSAs and the CSSS.

The suite of services provided under the IHSS includes Initial Information and Orientation Assistance (IIOA), Accommodation Support (AS), Household Formation Support (HFS), Early Health Assessment and Intervention (EHAI), Proposer Support (PS) and Service Support.

- **Initial Information and Orientation Assistance (IIOA).**
IIOA links entrants to the services they need in the initial stages of settlement. This includes meeting entrants at the airport, taking them to register for Centrelink benefits and health support such as Medicare. IIOA also has a role in coordinating with other IHSS services;
- **Accommodation Support (AS).**
AS ensures that entrants have accommodation on arrival and have assistance to secure long-term accommodation as soon as possible;
- **Household Formation Support (HFS).**
HFS provides entrants with some material goods necessary to start establishing a household in Australia;
- **Early Health Assessment and Intervention Assistance (EHAI).**
EHAI offers entrants information on health services available to them, a physical health screening and psychological/psychosocial assessment, and referral to other health services including torture and trauma counselling where required.
- **Proposer Support (PS).**
PS provides information and a post-arrival 'help' service to assist proposers of SHP entrants to meet their responsibilities to entrants.
- **Community Support for Refugees (CSR).**
Under the CSR service, registered volunteer community groups provide friendship and social support to humanitarian entrants and may choose to assist with the provision of IHSS services.
- **Service Support.**
Service Support Providers (SSP) deliver support and training to IHSS service providers to assist them to meet the service needs of entrants and their obligations as contractors. SSP is also responsible for the recruitment, coordination and registration of CSR groups and for providing them with support and training.

Longer-term Settlement Services

Humanitarian entrants and PPV holders are eligible to access a number of mainstream settlement services designed for both humanitarian and non-humanitarian migrants. These include the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs), Migrant Service Agencies (MSAs) and organisations funded under the Community Settlement Services Scheme.

➤ **Adult English Migrant Program (AMEP).**

The AMEP has two core functions:

- to assist new arrivals to develop English language skills; and
- to provide general orientation to new arrivals to help them participate in wider Australian society and access available services.

The AMEP currently provides up to 510 hours of English tuition to help migrants participate in and settle into Australian society. A range of learning options is available for clients to choose from: classroom or community based tuition (full time or part time), distance learning, or 'one on one' tuition with the help of a volunteer home tutor. Free childcare is also available. Up to an additional 100 hours is also available to some humanitarian entrants who qualify for special assistance under the Special Preparatory Program.

As well as learning basic English skills, AMEP students learn about Australian society, culture and customs and are linked with other services and agencies which are vital for their successful settlement. AMEP classes also provide a place in which friendships develop between people from all over the world, affirming respect for differences in an encouraging and non-threatening environment. In this way, the AMEP facilitates participation in the Australian community.

➤ **Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS).**

TIS provides telephone and on-site interpreting and translations and is an important safety net for people facing language barriers to successful participation in the community.

TIS is an important tool which assists government agencies and government-funded organisations (including IHSS contractors) to provide their services to non-English speaking members of the community. TIS interpreting services are available on a user-pays or fee-free basis, depending on circumstances.

➤ **Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs) and Migrant Service Agencies (MSAs) and Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS).**

MRCs/MSAs and CSSS organisations provide settlement assistance to migrants and humanitarian entrants through the:

- provision of settlement information and referral services to individuals;
- facilitation of community capacity building; and
- promotion of client needs to mainstream service providers.

It is not intended that MRCs or MSAs should duplicate the services provided under the IHSS. Nonetheless they may provide complementary services to humanitarian entrants concurrent with IHSS assistance.

Many MRCs and MSAs are also CSSS funded agencies.

CHAPTER 2 – Assistance to Humanitarian Entrants under the IHSS

Increase in Number of Humanitarian Entrants Assisted under the IHSS

The IHSS has been progressively implemented since 2000 and since that time there has been a steady increase in the number of people assisted annually. The number of people assisted in each of the past three years is:

- 2000-01 - 5297
- 2001-02 - 7885 (an increase of 49%)
- 2002-03 - 10 041(a further increase of 27%)

There has also been a change in the proportion of people assisted under the IHSS from each visa category (see Figure 2). In 2002-03 the number of Refugees assisted increased by 24% compared to 2001-02. The number of Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) entrants assisted more than doubled (+112%). The number of Protection Visa (PV) holders assisted by the EHAI service decreased by 78% as a result of the decline in unauthorised boat arrivals.

As Figure 3 shows, in most states more people were assisted under the IHSS in 2002-03 than in previous years. The largest proportional increase was in Tasmania (TAS), where 74% more people were assisted in 2002-03 compared to 2001-02. New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (VIC) assisted 48% and 43% more people respectively, mainly due to increases in the SHP category. It is anticipated that in 2003-04 there will be a further increase in the number of Refugees assisted in Queensland (QLD).

Despite a general overall increase in the numbers of Refugees and SHP entrants assisted, the decline in PV numbers had a negative impact upon the total number of people assisted in all states. This was particularly apparent in South Australia (SA), Northern Territory (NT) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) where the reduction in PV numbers resulted in net decreases in the total number of people assisted. The Canberra bushfires also reduced the number of people able to be accommodated in the ACT.

Figure 2:

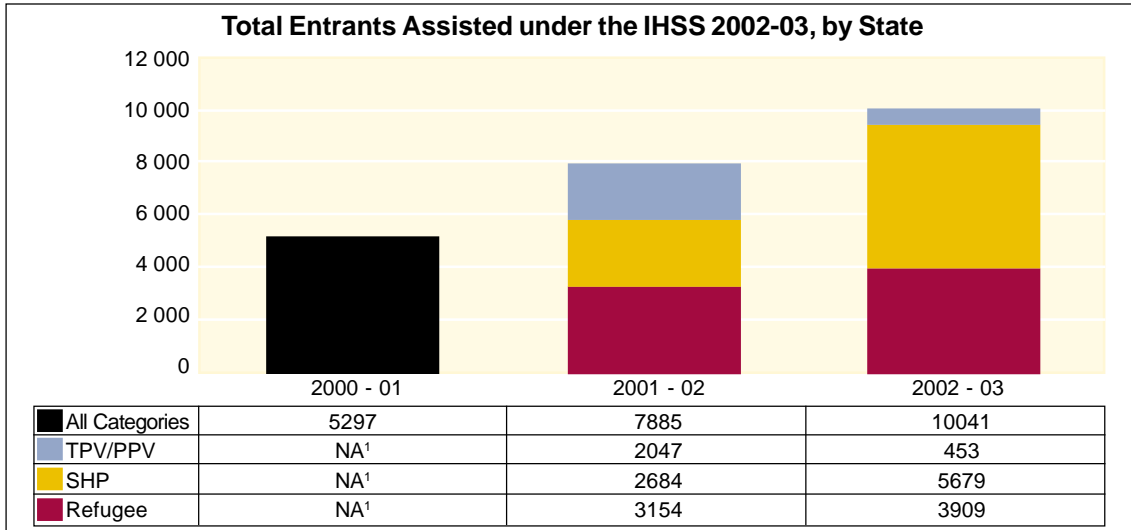


Figure 3:

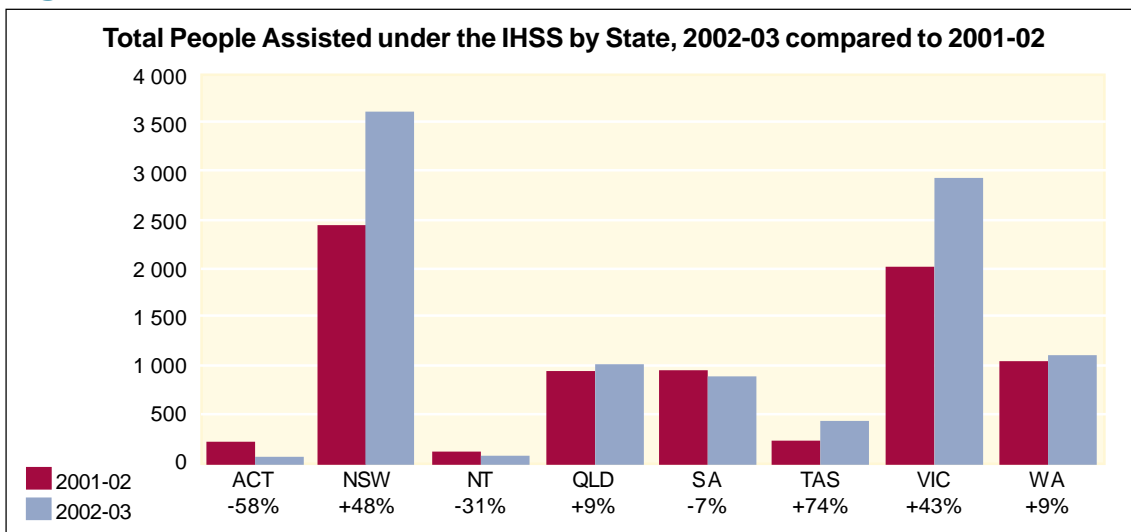


Figure 4:

People assisted under the IHSS, 2001-02 compared to 2002-03, by category

State	Refugees		SHP Entrants		PV Holders		Total	
	2001-2	2002-3	2001-2	2002-3	2001-2	2002-3	2001-2	2002-3
ACT	58	50	57	33	93	5	208	88
NSW	951	1023	1007	2436	482	143	2440	3602
NT	83	79	3	20	57	0	143	99
QLD	337	582	216	380	336	10	889	972
SA	335	493	197	280	389	82	921	855
TAS	187	354	21	44	21	1	229	399
VIC	797	719	921	2058	318	134	2036	2911
WA	406	609	262	428	351	78	1019	1115
National	3154	3909	2684	5679	2047	453	7885	10 041

¹ Disaggregated data is not available for 2000-01.

National Distribution of People Assisted under IHSS

Almost all SHP entrants settle near their proposer, who is expected to provide them with settlement support and assistance. Where possible, DIMIA seeks to also settle Refugees who have links in Australia, such as family or friends, close to those people as they provide social support and enhance entrants' settlement prospects. For those entrants who do not have links in Australia, DIMIA makes an assessment of the most suitable settlement location based upon the wishes and needs of the entrants, and the services and opportunities to meet those needs in each location.

Approximately 45% of Refugees assisted in 2002-03 were unlinked. Most of the Refugees assisted in NSW and VIC were linked, whereas most of the Refugees in other states and territories were unlinked. Figure 5 shows the linked status of Refugees assisted under IHSS in each state and territory.

Figures 6 – 9 show the proportion of people from each eligible visa category assisted under IHSS in 2002-03 by state.

Figure 7 shows that more than 75% of all SHP entrants were settled in NSW and VIC. QLD, Western Australia (WA) and SA assisted a similar number of SHP entrants, with relatively few settled in the smaller states and territories. As described above, the settlement destination of SHP entrants is determined by the existence of migrant communities and others willing to propose SHP applications.

Figure 8 shows that the distribution of Refugees among states and territories was generally more evenly spread than that of SHP entrants. WA, SA, QLD and VIC all assisted around 15% of Refugees. For WA and SA, this proportion was considerably higher than their share of the national population (9.9% and 7.8% respectively). TAS also assisted a very high proportion of Refugees compared to its share of the national population (9% of Refugees compared to 2.4% of national population). NSW assisted fewer Refugees relative to its share of the national population (26% of Refugees compared to 34% of national population). Unlinked Refugees were generally not referred to Sydney or Melbourne, to relieve pressure on accommodation and infrastructure.

Figure 9 shows that the four main states where PV holders were assisted by the EHAI component of the IHSS were NSW, VIC, SA and WA.

Figure 5:

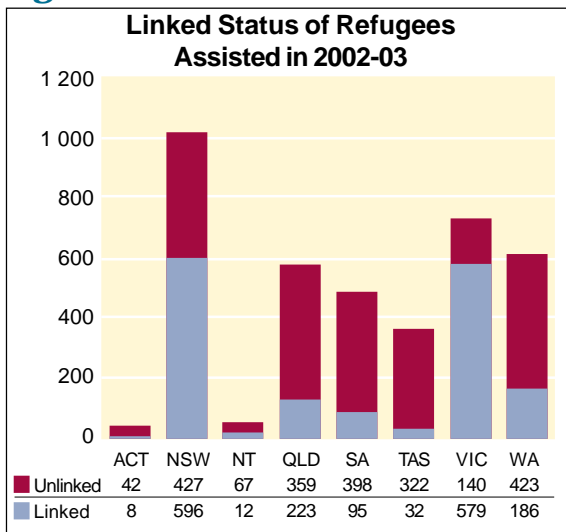


Figure 6:

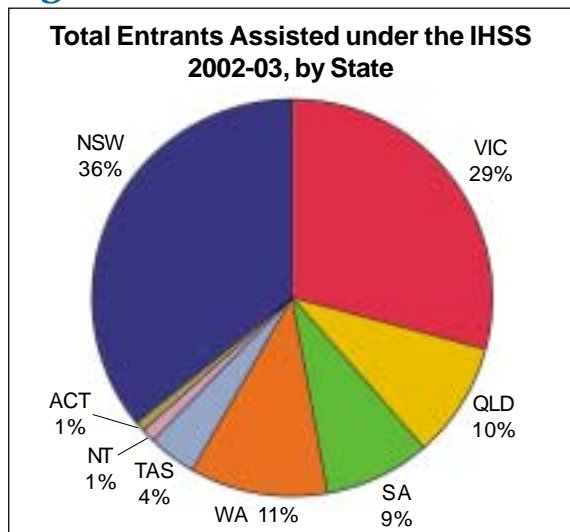


Figure 7:

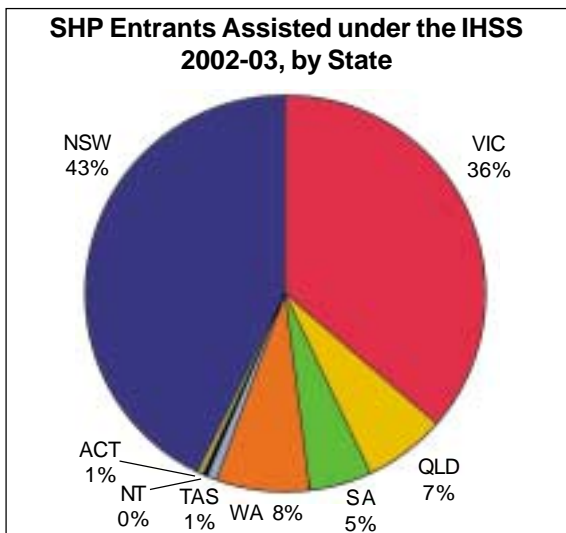


Figure 8:

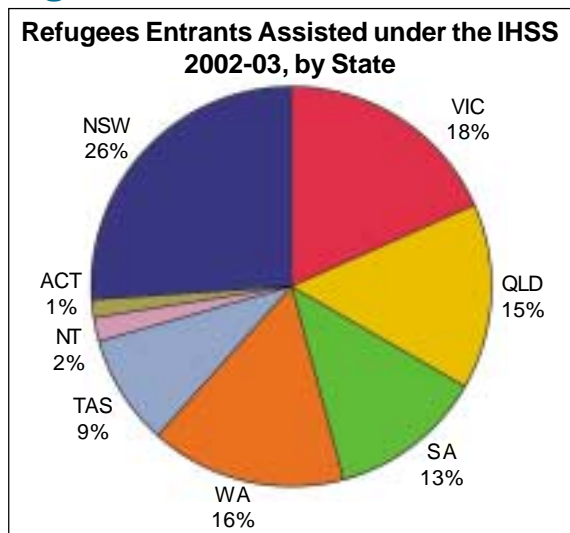


Figure 9:

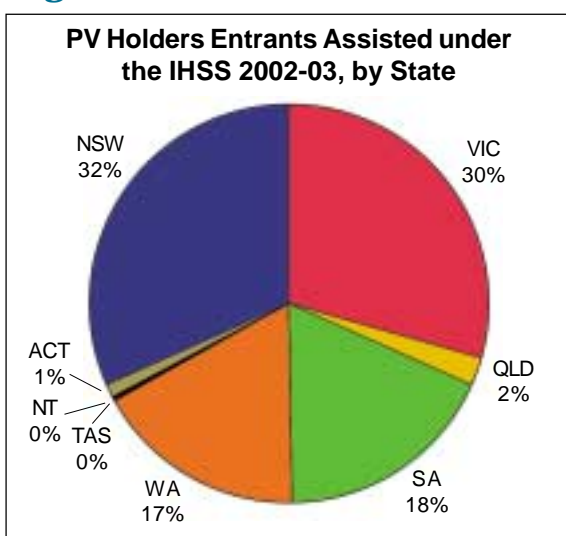
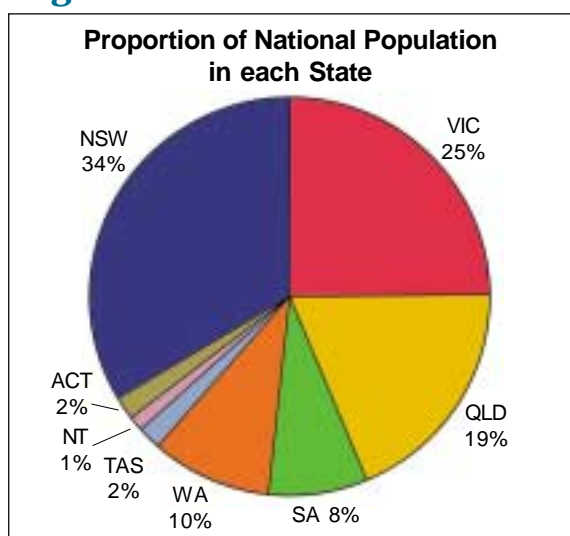


Figure 10:



Regional Settlement of Humanitarian Entrants

In 2002-03 the IHSS assisted people to settle in the following locations:

Figure 11:

Settlement Location of People Assisted under the IHSS 2002-03				
State/ Territory	Settlement Location	Refugee	SHP	Total ²
NSW	Sydney Metro	873	2384	3257
	Coffs Harbour	0	7	7
	Newcastle	0	9	9
	Wollongong	150	36	186
VIC	Melbourne Metro	665	2009	2674
	Geelong	43	21	64
	Sheparton	11	28	39
QLD	Brisbane Metro	383	262	645
	Logan/Beenleigh/Woodridge	97	49	146
	Toowoomba	40	53	93
	Townsville	30	6	36
	Cairns	24	0	24
	Gold Coast	8	10	18
SA	Adelaide Metro	493	280	773
WA	Perth Metro	609	428	1037
TAS	Hobart Metro	200	43	243
	Launceston	113	1	114
	North West Coast	41	0	41
NT	Darwin Metro	77	16	93
	Alice Springs	2	4	6
ACT	Canberra Metro	42	32	74
	Wagga Wagga ³	8	1	9
Total Metro		3342	5454	8796
Total Regional		567	225	792
Grand Total		3909	5679	9588

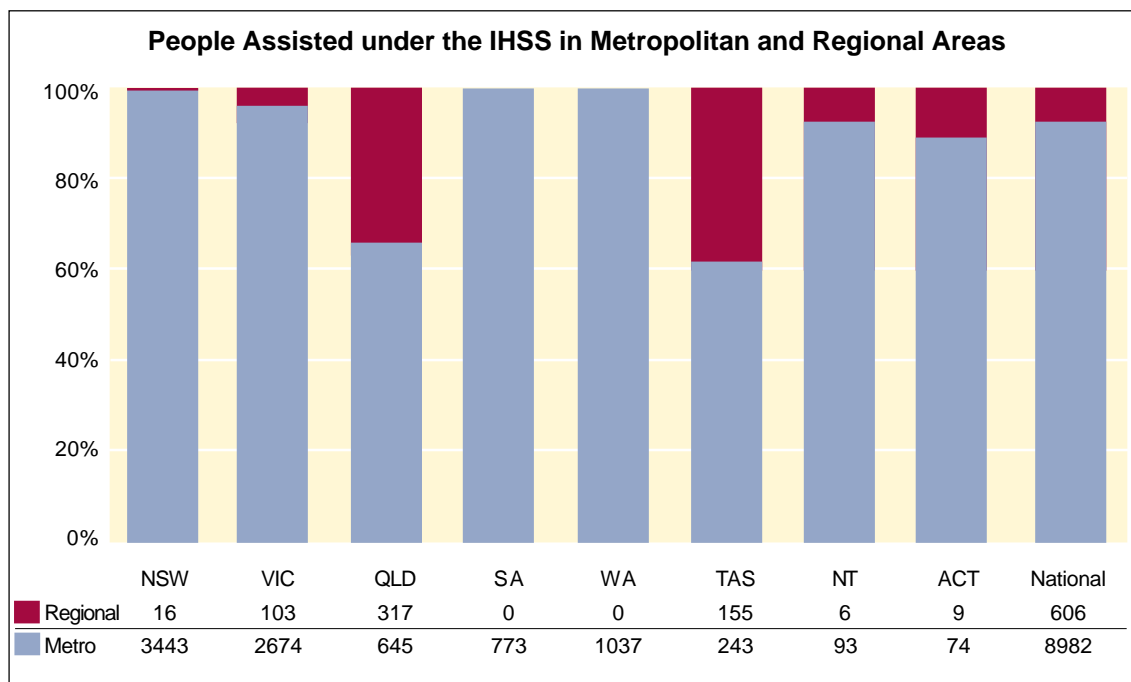
²Note - These figures do not include TPV/PPV holders for whom data on settlement location is not available.

³IHSS is administered in Wagga Wagga by the DIMIA ACT Regional Office.

In 2003-04 IHSS will also assist humanitarian entrants settle in Mandurah, WA and Goulburn, NSW and potentially Griffith, NSW.

In 2002-03 six percent of humanitarian entrants settled in regional and rural Australia. Figure 12 shows that the states in which the highest proportion of humanitarian entrants was settled outside of metropolitan areas were TAS and QLD.

Figure 12:



Number of People Assisted Each Month

Figure 13 shows the number of people assisted under the IHSS each month in 2002-03. The peak in numbers of people assisted in June- July and the slow down in December - January are annual cyclical trends. There was an increase in arrivals during March - April as travel of clients was fast-tracked amidst concerns over the impending conflict in Iraq.

Source Region

In 2002-03 the IHSS assisted people from the following source regions:

- 44% from Africa;
- 39% from the Middle East and South West Asia;
- 15% from Europe; and
- 2% from Asia.

Figures 14 and 15 show the shift in source region of people assisted under the IHSS between 2001-02 and 2002-03. In this period, there were large increases in the caseloads from the Middle East/South West Asia and Africa. The proportion of people assisted from Middle East/ South West Asia increased by 13% and the proportion from Africa increased by 10%. Concurrently the proportion of people assisted from Europe decreased by 21%.

It is anticipated that the number of people from Africa who will be assisted under the IHSS will continue to increase in 2003-04. It is also expected that as the residual caseload from the former Yugoslavia is processed, the downward trend in the number humanitarian entrants from Europe will continue.

Figure 13:

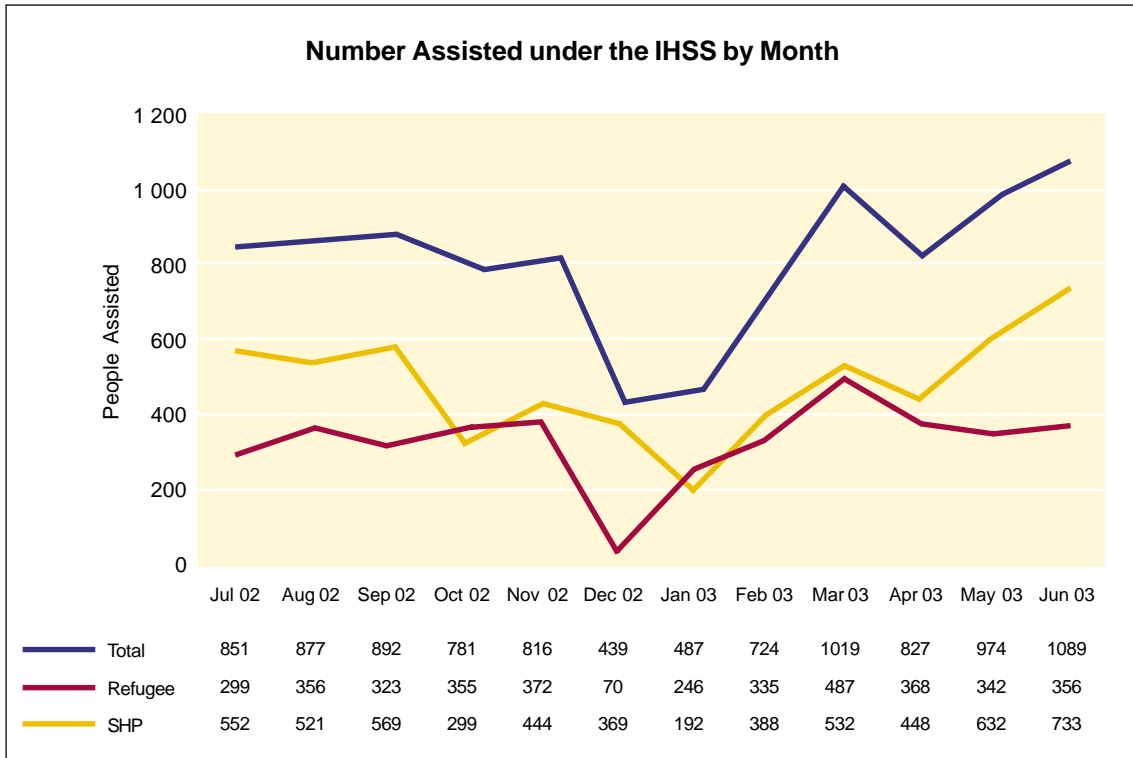


Figure 14:

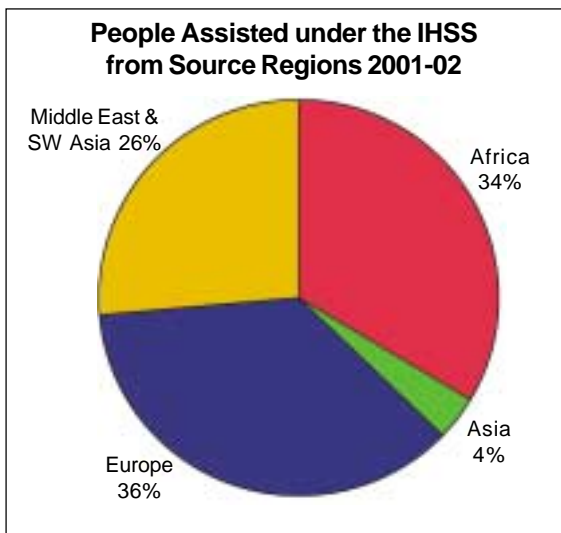
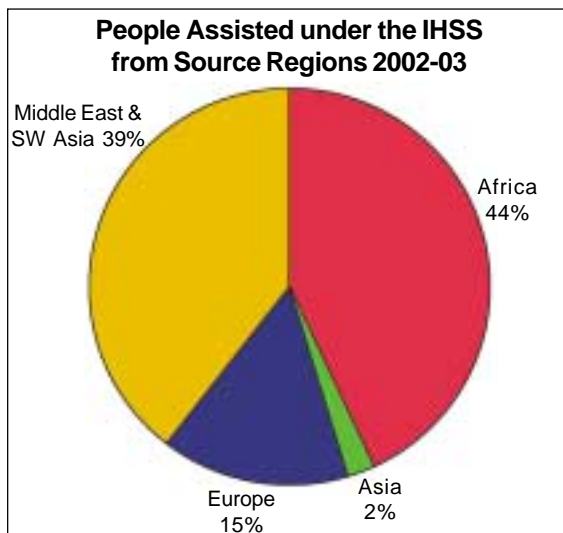


Figure 15:



Note – Figures 13, 14 and 15 do not include data for PV Holders assisted.

Nationality

In 2002-03 the IHSS assisted people from 42 nationality groups.

Figure 16 shows the five largest nationality groups assisted under the IHSS in 2002-03. Country profiles for each of these five nationality groups appear in Chapter 3. In 2002-03 the five largest nationality groups comprised 76% of all entrants assisted under the IHSS.

By contrast, in 2001-02 there was a larger spread of source countries with the five largest nationality groups in 2001-02 making up only 58% of all entrants assisted.

Figure 17 shows the proportion of people assisted from each of the 10 largest nationality groups in 2002-03, and how these have changed compared to 2001-02. In 2002-03 the 10 largest nationality groups comprised 88.8% of all people assisted, while in 2001-02 this figure was 82.9%.

The proportion of people assisted from Sudan and Iraq approximately doubled in 2002-03, together making up 56% of all people assisted under the IHSS. During this year there was also a large increase in the number of stateless people assisted (from 1.9% in 2001-02 to 6.0% in 2002-03).

Conversely, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of people from the former Yugoslavia. The proportion of Macedonians assisted decreased from 10.2% in 2001-02 to 1.0% in 2002-03. The proportion of Bosnians/Herzegovinians assisted decreased from 10% to just over two percent.

The proportion of Sierra Leone assisted also decreased 5.3% in 2001-02 to 1.7% in 2002-03 and the proportion of Somalis decreased from 3.2% to 1.3%.

Figure 16:

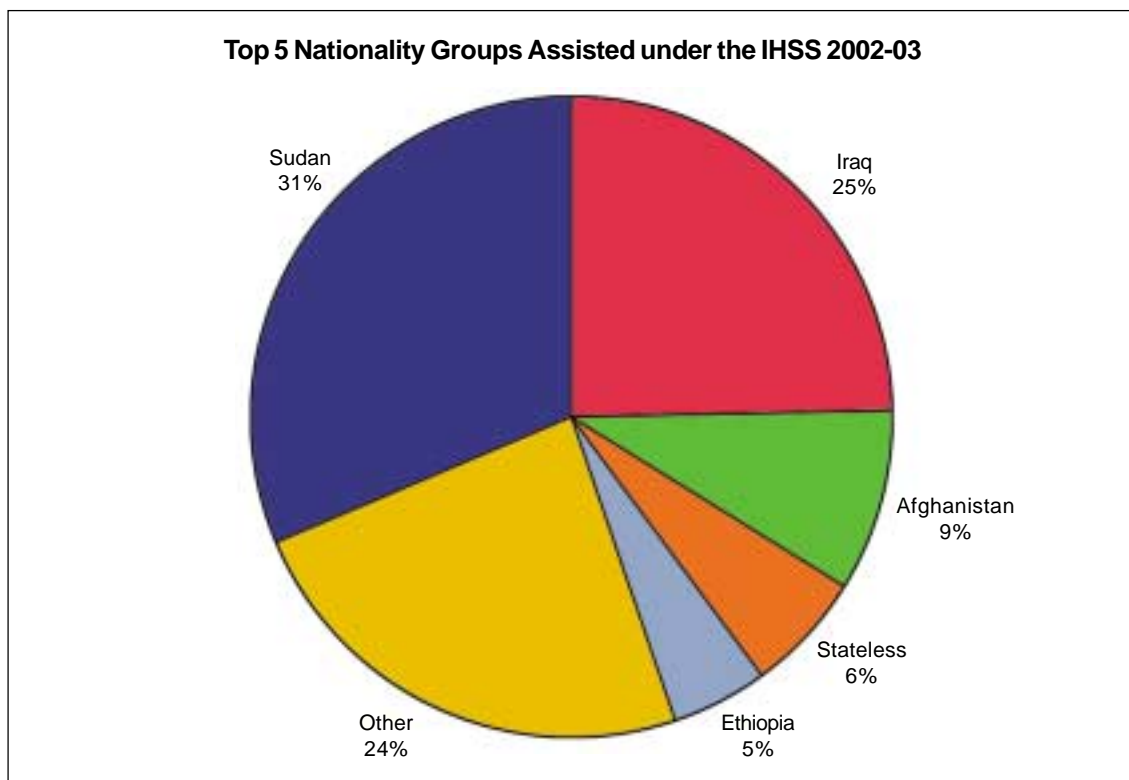


Figure 17:

Proportion of People Assisted under the IHSS from the 10 Largest Nationality Groups		
Nationality	Assisted 2002-03	Assisted 2001-02
Sudanese	31.5%	16.4%
Iraqi	24.6%	14.2%
Afghani	9.3%	8.2%
Stateless	6.0%	1.9%
Ethiopian	4.7%	3.5%
Iranian	3.6%	3.1%
Bosnian & Herzegovinan	2.7%	10.3%
Former Yugoslavia	2.6%	1.5%
Croatian	2.0%	3.1%
Liberian	1.8%	1.9%
Other	11.2%	35.9%

Note — Figures 16 and 17 do not include data for PV Holders assisted.

Ethnicity

In 2002–03 the people assisted under the IHSS identified as belonging to over 70 different ethnic groups.

There is considerable overlap between nationality groups and ethnicity groups. Each nationality group may comprise a number of ethnic groups while each ethnic group may cross a number of national borders.

Figure 18 shows the top 10 ethnic groups assisted under the IHSS in 2002-03. Figure 19 shows a comparison with the ethnic groups assisted in 2001-02.

Consistent with increases in the proportions of Africans assisted in 2002-03, Sudanese nationals in particular, the proportion of total clients identifying themselves as ethnically Sudanese or Dinka (primarily located in Sudan) rose significantly in 2002–03 from 5.9% to 10.8% and from 4.7% to 11.4% respectively.

There were also significant increases in the proportion of clients identifying as part of ethnic groups traditionally located in the Middle East and South West Asia (Iraqi 3.9% to 11.7%, Arab 1.2% to 4.1%, Persian/Farsi 0.6% to 3.0%, and Assyrian 2.3% to 2.9%).

The number of people identifying as Bosnian/Bosnaic dramatically decreased (from 14.6% to 2.9%) during the same period. The number of people identifying as Serbian also decreased (from 16.2% to 10.3%).

Figure 18:

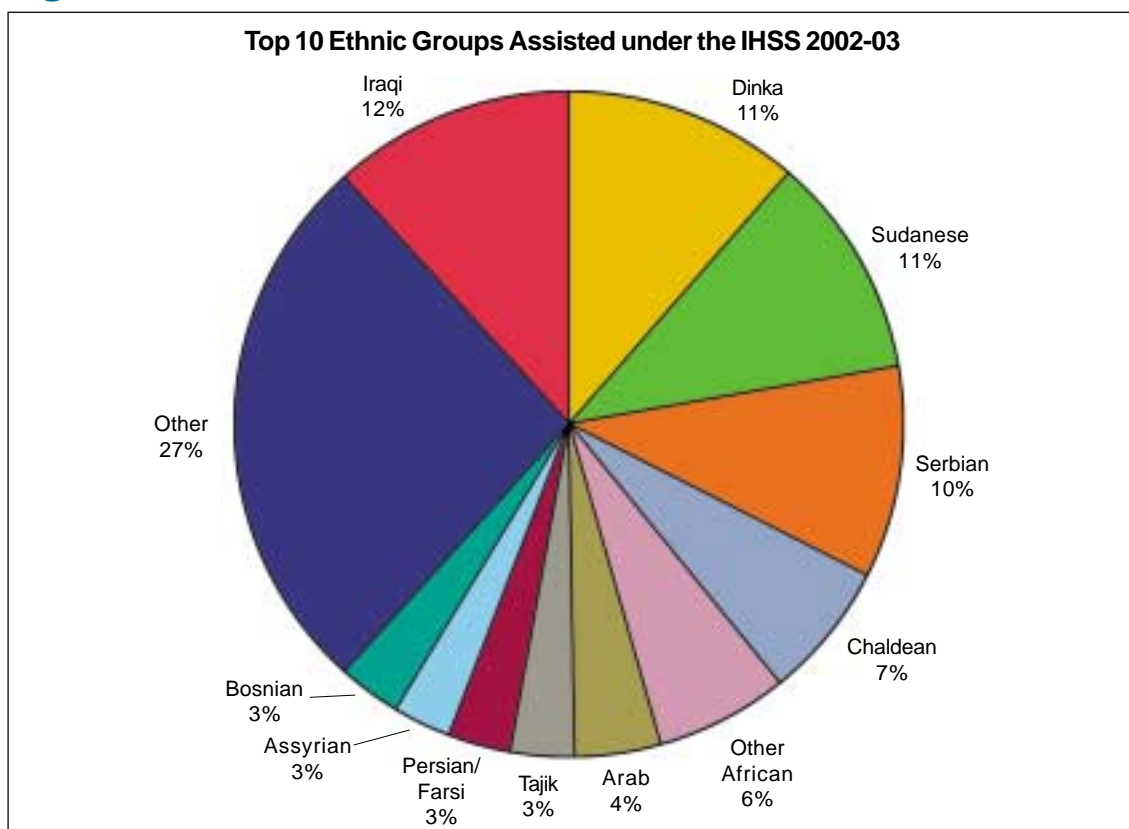


Figure 19:

Proportion of People Assisted under the IHSS by Ethnic Group		
Nationality	Assisted 2002-03	Assisted 2001-02
Iraqi	11.7%	3.9%
Dinka	11.4%	4.7%
Sudanese	10.8%	5.9%
Serbian	10.3%	16.2%
Chaldean	6.7%	5.7%
African/Other African	6.3%	10.7%
Arab	4.1%	1.2%
Tajik	3.2%	4.1%
Persian/Farsi	3.0%	0.6%
Assyrian	2.9%	2.3%
Bosnian	2.9%	14.6%
Other	26.7%	30.1%

Note – Figures 18 and 19 do not include data for PV Holders assisted.

Education

Years of Schooling

Figure 20 shows the average number of years of schooling for IHSS clients in 2002-03, by age group and source region. There has been an overall decrease in the education levels of humanitarian entrants compared to 2001-02. In 2002-03 the average number of years of schooling that all refugee and SHP entrants had received was 6.4, a reduction from 6.9 in 2001-02. The least educated group were entrants from Africa, who had an average of 5.3 years schooling in 2002-03, a decline from 6.5 in 2001-02.

The above figures are slightly depressed by the humanitarian entrants who have not yet reached school age. Discounting these, the average number of years of schooling for people assisted in 2002-03 who were aged five years and over was 7.0. For African entrants assisted, the average number of years schooling for people aged five years and over was 6.0.

For young people assisted under the IHSS aged between 16 and 24, the average number of years of schooling was 7.8 years. For African youth it was 6.9 years.

Reading Ability in Own Language

Figure 21 shows the breakdown of IHSS clients' reading ability in their own language, for 2002-03. Forty-two percent of all entrants assisted had poor to nil reading ability in their own language. Only 27% of all entrants had good to very good reading ability in their own language with 31% not stating their reading ability. Only 13% of clients from Africa stated that they had good to very good reading ability in their own language.

Figure 20:

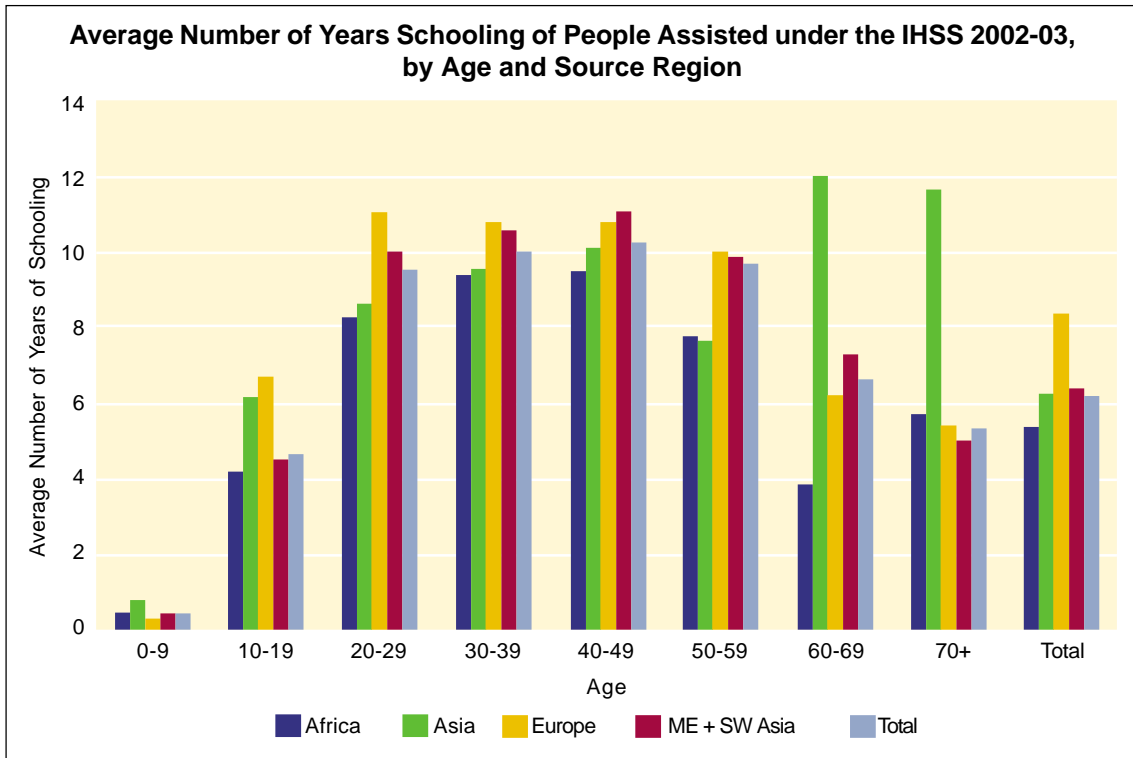
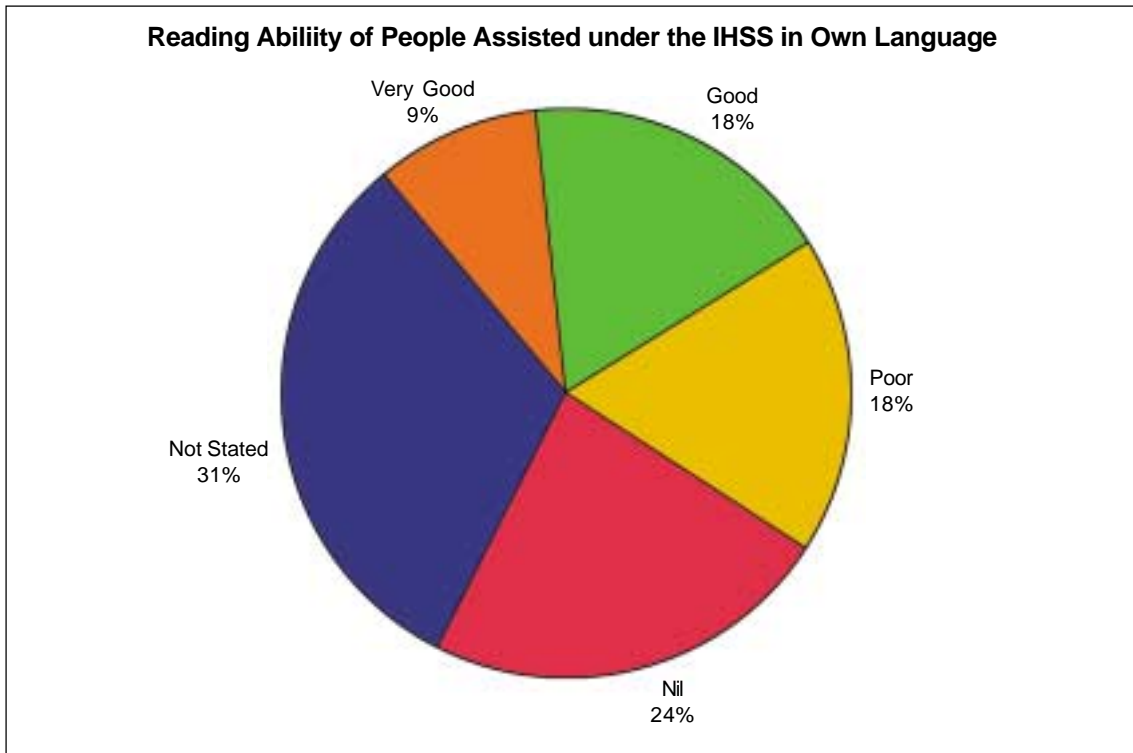


Figure 21:



Note – Figures 20 and 21 do not include data for PV Holders assisted.

Language

First Language

In 2002–03, the IHSS assisted people speaking over 60 different languages. Arabic was by far the most common first language spoken with 48% of all clients using Arabic as their first language.

The top five languages spoken by IHSS clients in 2002-03 are shown in Figure 22. These five languages were used by 73% of IHSS clients. People speaking Amharic (Ethiopia), Assyrian (northern Iraq and surrounding areas) and Tigrinya (Ethiopia and Eritrea) were also highly represented each being used by approximately 2% of IHSS clients. The remaining 21% of clients used more than 50 languages. This poses significant challenges for the provision of translating and interpreting services.

Interpreter

Sixty-four percent of all entrants assisted under the IHSS in 2002–03 stated that they required an English language interpreter. Figure 23 shows the number of clients requiring an interpreter by source region in 2002-03.

People from the regions of Africa and the Middle East and South West Asia had the highest proportion of people who required an interpreter at 65.5% and 78.3% respectively. Just under half (46.6%) of the people assisted from the rest of Asia required an interpreter. The proportion of people from Europe requiring an interpreter was the lowest at 27.3%.

AMEP

Figure 24 shows the number of humanitarian entrants who enrolled in AMEP in each state in 2002-03.

Figure 22:

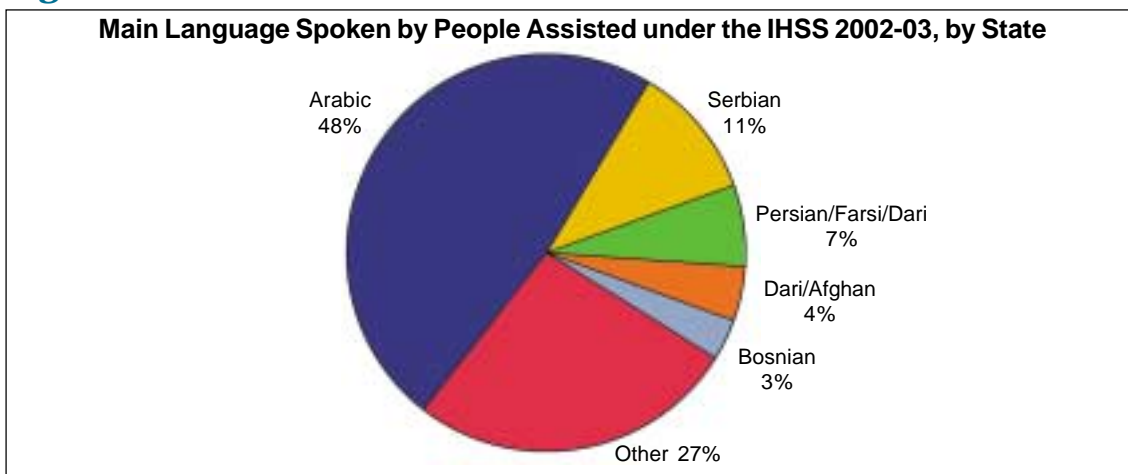


Figure 23:

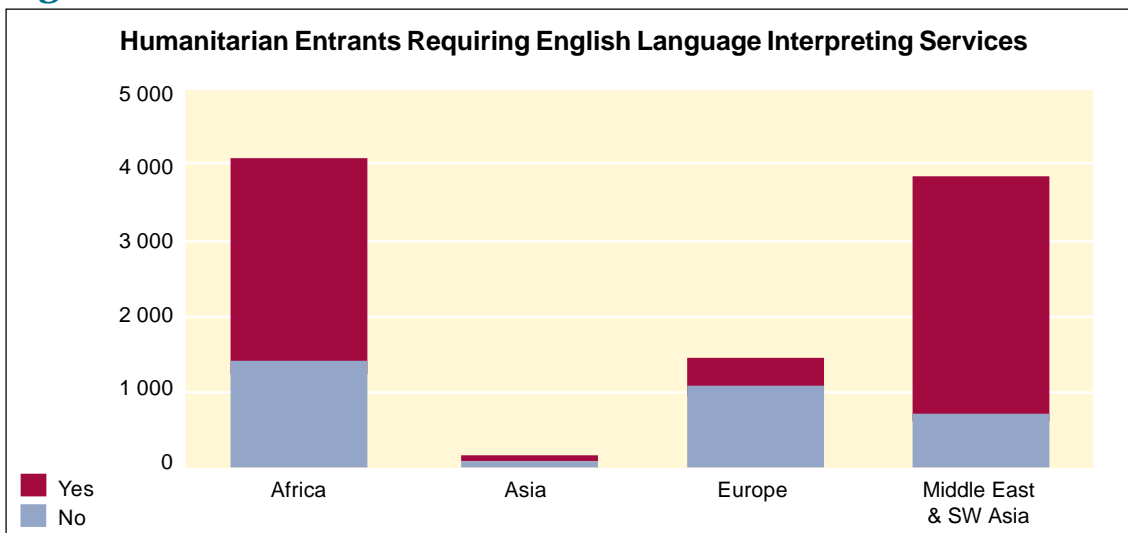
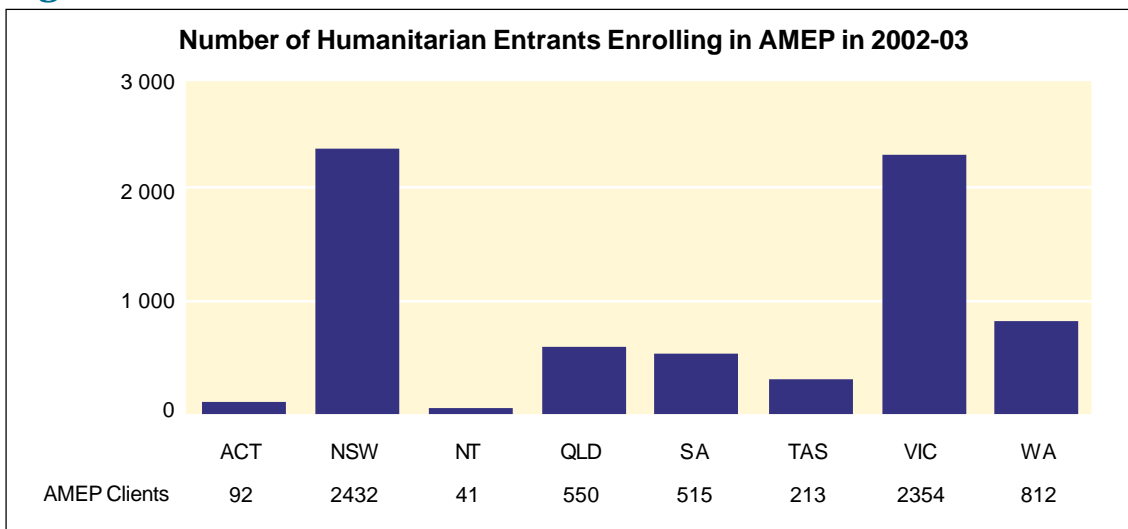


Figure 24:



Note – Figures 22 and 23 do not include data for PV Holders assisted. Figure 24 does not include data for TPV holders as they are not eligible for AMEP.

Age and Gender

In 2002-03 the gender distribution of humanitarian entrants assisted under IHSS was:

- 48% female
- 52% male
- The average age was 24 years.
- The median age was 21 years.

Forty-two percent of people assisted in 2002-03 were under the age of 18. As such, there is a growing need to ensure that service delivery is adequately tailored to meet the needs of young people.

Approximately 20% more male humanitarian entrants in the 10-24 age brackets were assisted than females. It appears that these are largely single male entrants coming from Africa.

Approximately 10% more females in the 25-34 age brackets were assisted than males. This may be due to the fact that the largest proportion of Woman at Risk (Visa Subclass 204) principle applicants were in these age brackets.

Figure 25:

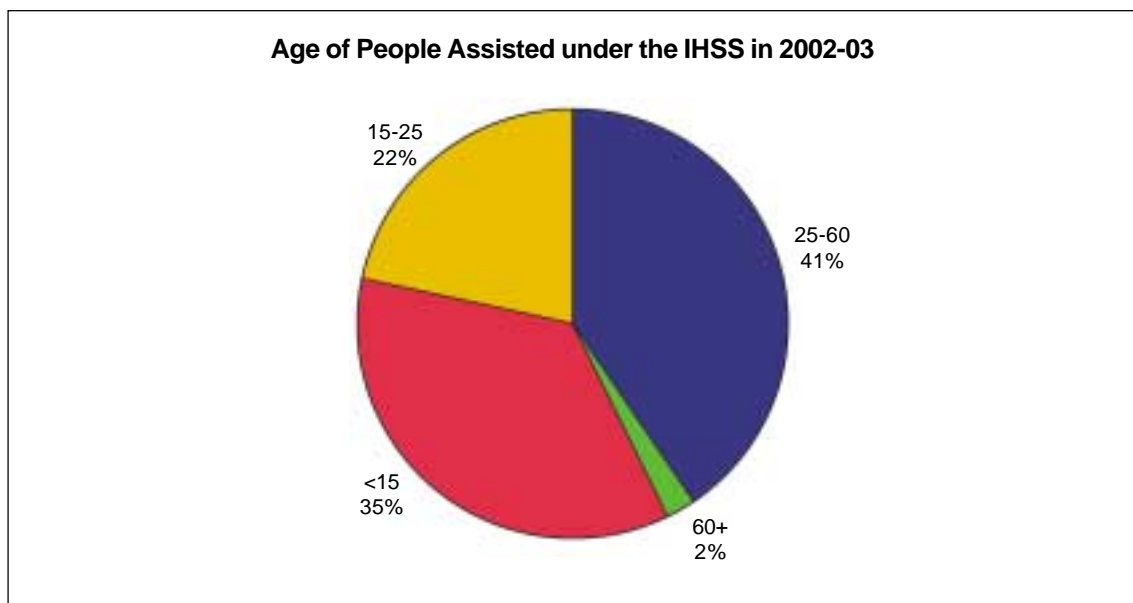
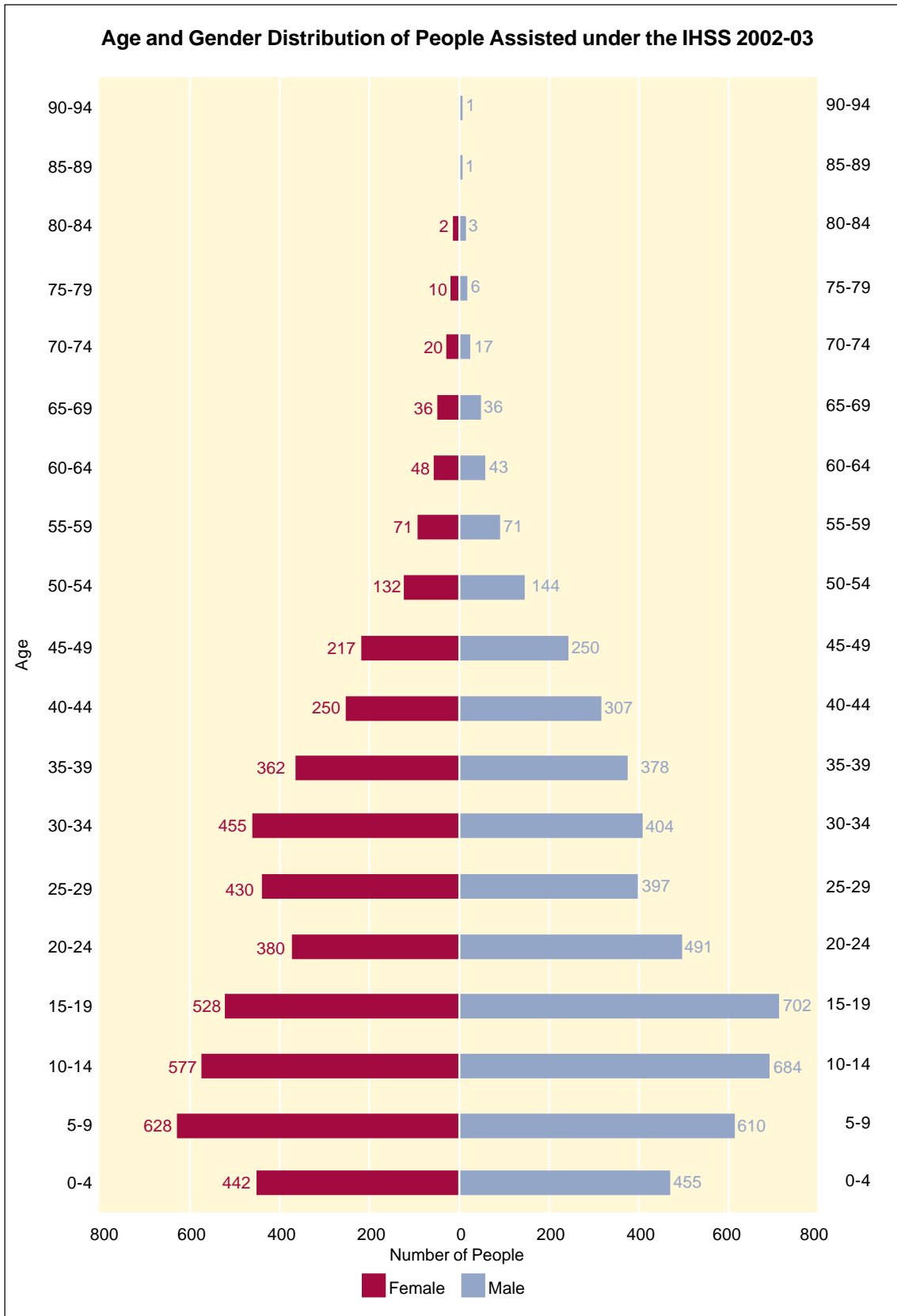


Figure 26:



Note - Figures 25 and 26 do not include data for PV Holders assisted.

Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors

Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minor (UHM) is the broad term used to describe a non-citizen, under 18 years of age, who does not have a parent to care for them in Australia. Three hundred and thirty-eight UHMs were assisted in 2002-03.

UHMs often travel to Australia with adults who provide undertakings to care for these children in the absence of their parents (Non-Wards). Those UHMs who do not have an adult to care for them in Australia are considered wards of the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs under the *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946*. UHM wards are assisted by state and territory government welfare agencies.

Years in a Refugee Camp

There is an increase in the number of people assisted by the IHSS who have spent a large part of their life in refugee camps. These people experience significant settlement challenges. In 2002-03, 15.4% of all Refugee and SHP entrants assisted had lived in refugee camps. Of these, 85% were from Africa. Figure 27 shows the number of years that these people had spent in refugee camps.

Family Composition

As Figure 28 shows, 63% of all cases assisted under the IHSS in 2002–03 included children. Thirty percent of cases were single adults. Seventeen percent of cases assisted were families headed by single parents, while 45% of families had more than one adult caring for children. Approximately 1% of all cases assisted in 2002–03 consisted of children who travelled to Australia without an accompanying adult (including children who travelled alone to join an adult relative in Australia).

Figure 27:

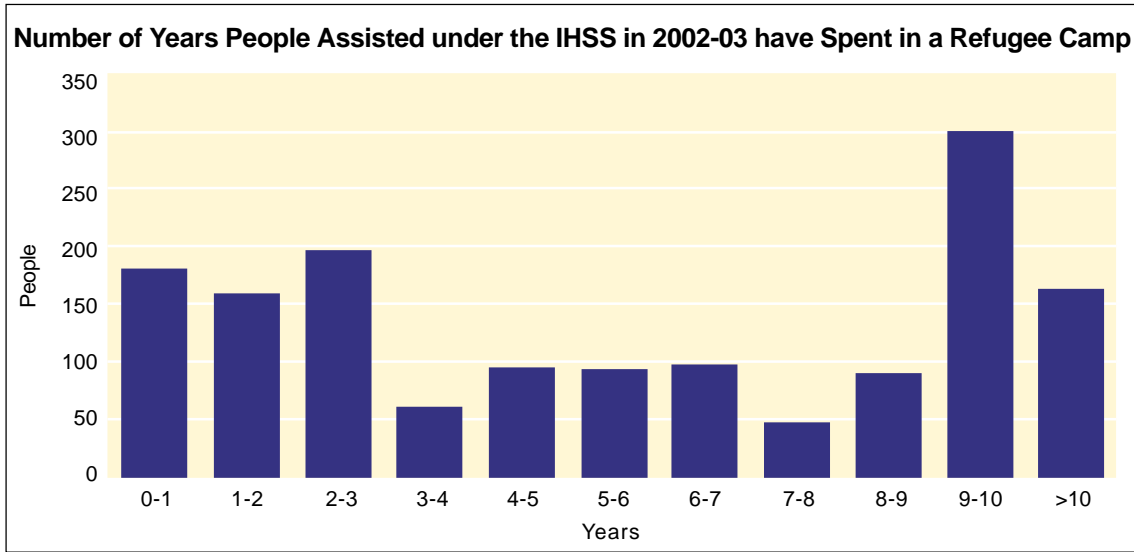
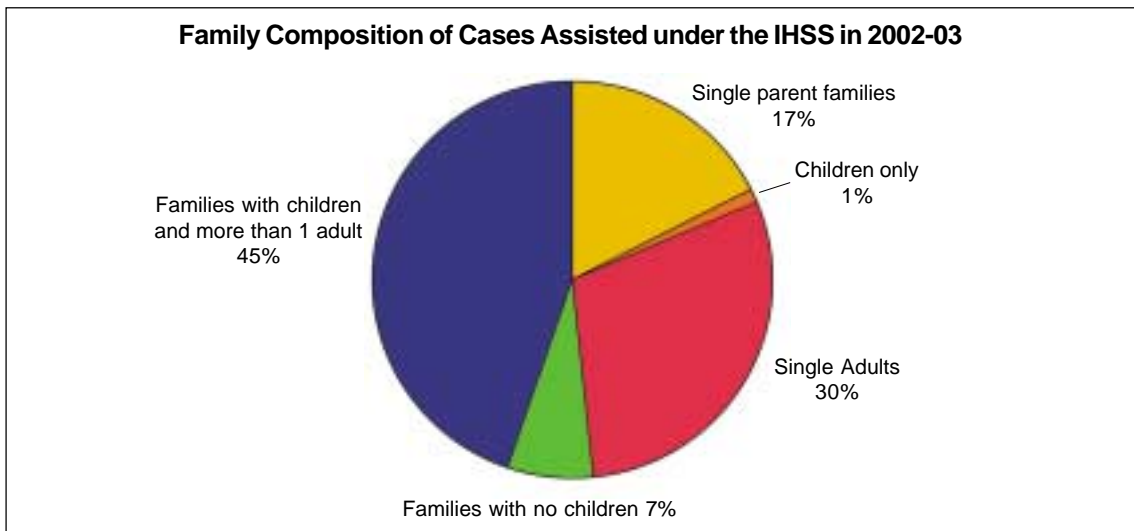


Figure 28:



Note – Figures 27 and 28 do not include data for PV Holders assisted.

Family Size

The average family size of cases assisted under the IHSS in 2002–03 was 3.3 persons and the median family size was four persons. Figure 29 shows the distribution of cases by family size in each state and territory.

Figure 29:

Family Size by State or Territory										
Family Size	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total Families	Total People
1	14	277	3	93	82	41	248	129	887	887
2	6	115	2	33	27	16	103	39	341	682
3	2	162	1	27	26	27	112	54	411	1233
4	9	198	0	41	48	12	130	62	500	2000
5	3	130	4	24	26	9	104	28	328	1640
6		79	6	26	18	11	70	15	225	1350
7		46	1	15	6	5	35	15	123	861
8		14	2	10	5	5	19	3	58	464
9		8	0	6	4	0	10	3	31	279
10		1	1	2	0	1	4	1	10	100
11		2		1	1	0		1	5	55
12		1		1		0		0	2	24
13								1	1	13
Total Families	34	1033	20	279	243	127	835	351	2922	–
Total People	83	3459	99	962	773	398	2777	1037	–	9588
Average Family Size	2.4	3.3	5.0	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.3	–

Figure 30 shows the proportion of cases assisted nationally under the IHSS in 2002-03, by family size grouping. Figure 31 shows the proportion of total people assisted within each of these family size groupings. Figures 28-31 show this breakdown by source region. Large families and single entrants pose the greatest challenges for service providers to assist finding long-term housing.

In 2002-03 50% of people assisted were part of large families with between five and 13 members, compared to 42% in 2001-02. The most difficult large families to assist are those very large families with more than nine members. In 2002-03 IHSS assisted 40 families with more than nine members, comprising 471 people. This is an increase from 27 families with more than nine members, comprising 266 people in 2001-02. The majority of very large families assisted were from Africa.

There was also an increase in the proportion of single entrants. Of the entrants assisted in 2002-03, 9.3% were single. This accounted for 31.5% of all cases assisted and is an increase from 7.9% of entrants or 25.8% of cases in 2001-02.

Figure 30:

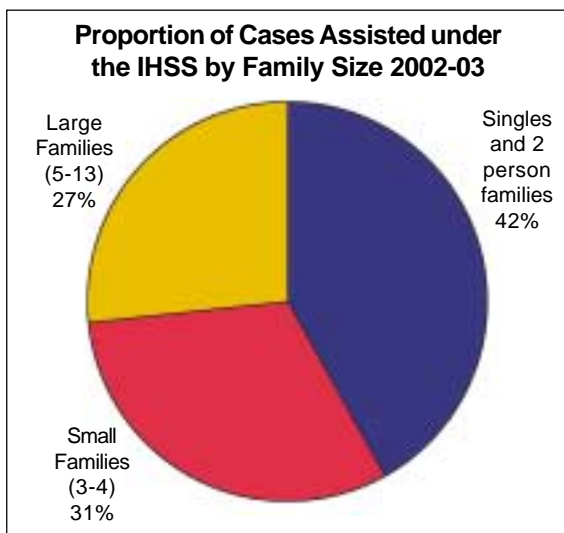
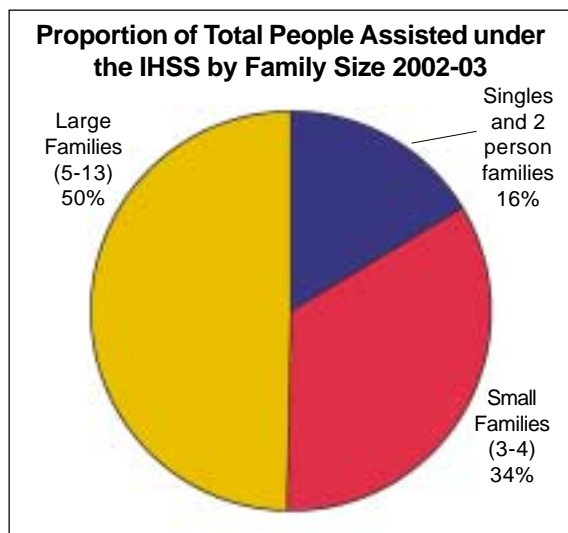


Figure 31:



Note – Figures 30 and 31 do not include data for PV Holders assisted.

Figure 32:

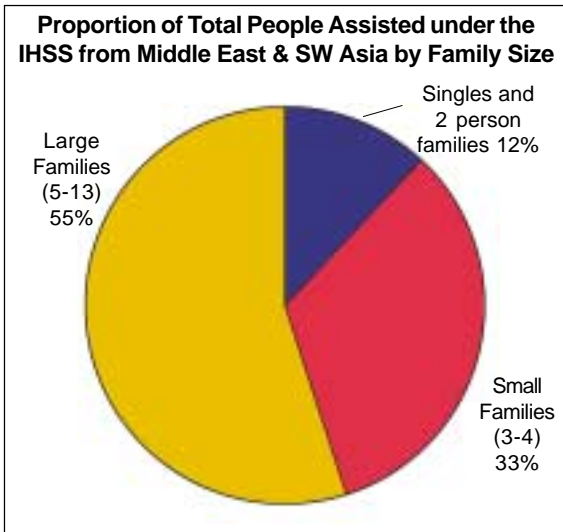


Figure 33:

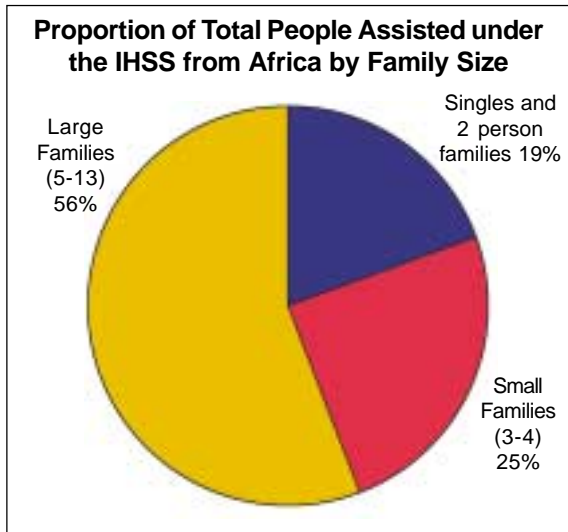


Figure 34:

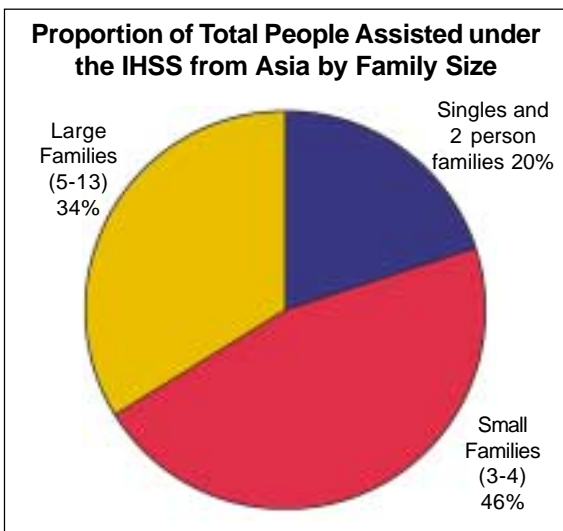
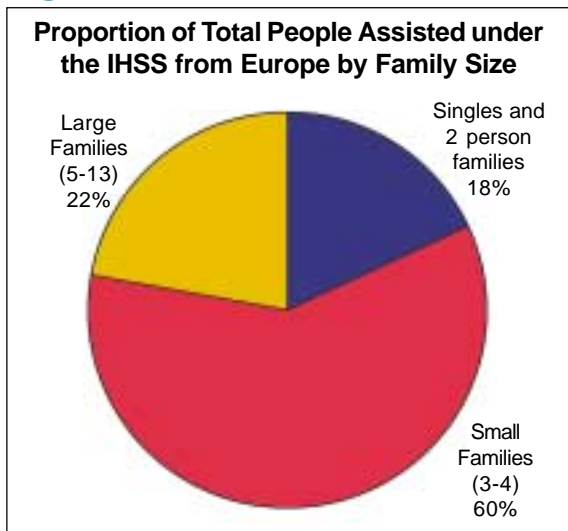


Figure 35:



Note – Figures 32 to 35 do not include data for PV Holders assisted.

CHAPTER 3 – Top Five Source Country Profiles

The following are profiles of the top five source countries of people assisted under the IHSS in 2002-03.

Sudan

Recent History

Sudan has been governed by authoritarian military regimes and embroiled in almost continuous civil war between its dominant Muslim Arab north and its mainly African and Christian or animist south for several decades. Following a short respite, southern forces intensified their war with the north when Shari'a law was declared nationally in 1983. War and famine have led to more than two million deaths and the displacement of over four million people.

Since 1999, the conflict has been exacerbated by struggles for control of oil fields and other resources. The general human rights situation in Sudan is poor. Ongoing conflict between Islamist government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army and other armed opposition groups has resulted in severe human rights abuses by all parties in war zones, including executions, torture, abductions, sexual violence, forcible recruitment of child soldiers and slavery. Wide-scale drought and famine have made Sudan heavily dependent on international aid.

Demographics

In 2001, the overall population of Sudan was estimated at 36 080 373 people. Sudan is a predominantly rural country, with around 78% of its population living in rural areas. Sudan has more than 500 ethnic groups who are mainly divided into Arab Muslim groups (39%) and other African groups (52%). Approximately 70% of the population are Sunni Muslims, while 25% hold traditional animist beliefs and five percent are Christians.

Community in Australia

The 2001 Census recorded 4 911 Sudan-born people living in Australia, an increase of 104.9% from the 1996 Census. This was the largest increase of all overseas born. The Sudan-born community is a small and emerging community and is often identified with other Horn of Africa refugee communities. The majority of the community are Christians from the south of Sudan or Egyptian or European minorities. Some Sudanese arrivals join migrant communities other than the Sudanese community. Many are from the educated middle class of Sudanese society. The majority have settled in Sydney and Melbourne.

Community concerns are principally settlement issues similar to those facing other predominantly refugee communities, such as low English proficiency, unemployment, accommodation, health issues, cultural transition, and the transition of children to Australian schools following long periods of disrupted education. Accommodation difficulties can be compounded by family sizes larger than the Australian norm. The community is preoccupied with reunion of families through the Humanitarian Program and with assisting family members on arrival.

Iraq

Recent History

Iraq has been governed by authoritarian military regimes since 1958, the latest being that of Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime. An eight-year border war with Iran between 1980-1988 was followed by an invasion of Kuwait that was repelled by United Nations coalition forces in 1991. Under the Ba'athist regime, both the human rights and the economic situation was poor. Iraqi forces suppressed rebellions in the south by the Shi'a Muslims and in the north by the Kurds. Twelve years of international economic sanctions devastated the Iraqi economy.

It is claimed that thousands died due to shortages of food and medicines. General human rights issues included the use of chemical weapons against Kurdish towns in 1988, repression of political opposition, summary executions, mass deportations and the systematic use of torture. An invasion by the United States and allied forces in March 2003 led to the fall of the regime. Iraq is currently governed on an interim basis by a United States civilian authority until a viable Iraqi government can be established. Many of the nearly one million Iraqis currently displaced across the world are now likely to return to Iraq.

Demographics

In 2003, the overall population of Iraq was estimated at 25.1 million people. Iraq is a predominantly urban society, with 74% of its population living in urban areas. The major ethnic groupings are Arabs (75-80%) and Kurds (15-20%).

Other ethnic groups include Turkmen, Assyrians and Jews. Most Iraqis are either Shi'a (53%) or Sunni (42%) Muslims. There are also small numbers of Yazidis, Sabeans, Jews, Bahais and a number of Christian sects.

Community in Australia

The 2001 Census recorded 24 760 Iraq-born people living in Australia, an increase of 77% over 1996. Many came to Australia as refugees following the 1991 Gulf War and repression of Kurds and Shi'a. The community includes Kurds, Assyrians, Armenians, Turks, Turkmen and Jews. More recent arrivals have entered as family or skilled migrants and others have entered by boat as unauthorised arrivals and been subsequently granted protection.

The majority are skilled or semi-skilled workers and have settled in Sydney. Iraqi organisations provide members with settlement, educational, cultural and social activities. Community concerns include unemployment, accommodation and recognition of overseas qualifications. Access to Arabic-speaking doctors and to female doctors for women is a key issue, particularly because many Iraqis have been victims of torture and trauma. Concerns for the welfare of relatives in Iraq are continuing, as violence against Chaldean and Assyrian communities, in particular, is escalating in Iraq.

Afghanistan

Recent History

More than two decades of internal conflict have led to millions of Afghans fleeing to neighbouring countries. Invasion by the Soviet Union in 1979 resulted in a decade of war between Soviet troops and Mujahidin resistance groups. The withdrawal of the Soviet Union in 1989 was followed by civil war between rival Mujahidin factions.

The fundamentalist Islamic Taliban militia took control in 1996, placing severe restrictions on the rights of women and girls, in particular. Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, almost two million refugees have returned to Afghanistan, many assisted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. However, factional, ethnic and tribal rivalries and violence have impeded re-establishment of the rule of law, elimination of human rights abuses and broader reconstruction efforts in parts of the country.

Demographics

In 2001, the overall population in Afghanistan was estimated at 26 813 057 people. Afghanistan is a predominantly rural country, with 78% of its population living in rural areas. The major ethnic groups include: Pashtuns (38%), Tajiks (25%), Hazaras (19%), and Uzbeks (6%). Other ethnic groups include Aimaks, Turkmen and Balochis (12%). Most Afghans are Sunni (84%) or Shi'a (15%) Muslims, and only 1% are Jews, Hindus, or Sikhs.

Conflict between Afghans has occurred predominantly along ethnic and religious lines. Taliban forces were ethnic Pashtuns and Sunni Muslims and persecuted minority groups such as the Hazaras, who are mainly Shia Muslims. Since the fall of the Taliban, there are continuing reports of retaliatory violence against Pashtuns in non-traditional Pashtun areas.

Community in Australia

The 2001 Census recorded 11 264 Afghanistan-born people living in Australia, an increase of 93.3% over 1996. A number of Afghan refugees came to Australia in the early 1980s. More recent Afghan refugees have fled the Taliban regime. Afghan arrivals have decreased since the fall of the Taliban and the introduction of border protection legislation in Australia in 2001. Many are from the middle class of Afghan society and the majority have settled in New South Wales and Victoria.

Afghan community organisations are generally based on ethnic, religious and clan groupings, and provide members with cultural, educational, religious, social and welfare activities. Community concerns are principally settlement issues similar to those facing other predominantly refugee communities, such as low English proficiency, unemployment, accommodation, health issues and educational opportunities for children. The continuing instability in Afghanistan gives rise to concerns for the welfare of family members.

Ethiopia

Recent History

Between 1974 and 1991, Ethiopia was governed by a military dictatorship, and experienced successive coups and uprisings, severe human rights abuses and wide-scale drought and famine. Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians fled to neighbouring countries during this period. Following the overthrow of the Mengistu regime in 1991, Ethiopia held a referendum on granting independence to Eritrea, ending a long-running civil war. Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

Multi-party elections in 1995 established a government based on ethnic federalism, although Ethiopia still has a number of internal armed opposition groups. The 1998-2000 border war with Eritrea resulted in thousands of deaths and devastated both economies. Thousands of people forcibly expelled from both countries have unresolved nationalities and are subject to human rights abuses. The general human rights situation in Ethiopia is poor, especially in southern Ethiopia. Specific human rights issues include: targeting of students, teachers and other intellectuals; arbitrary arrest, detention and violence by security forces; intimidation of the political opposition; and the trafficking of women and children.

Demographics

In 2002, the overall population of Ethiopia was estimated at 67 673 031 people. Ethiopia is a predominantly rural country, with around 85% of its population living in rural areas. There are over 70 different ethnic groupings in Ethiopia and Ethiopian politics and political parties are generally ethnically based.

The major ethnic groups include: Oromos (40%), Amharas and Tigres (32%), Sidamos (9%), Shankellas (6%) and Somalis (6%). Approximately 45% of the population are Muslims and 40% are members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Around 12% follow traditional African religions and 3% are Protestants or Roman Catholics.

Community in Australia

The 2001 Census recorded 6 868 Ethiopia-born people living in Australia, an increase of 29.9% over 1996. The Ethiopia-born community is a small and emerging community and is often identified with other Horn of Africa refugee communities. The majority of Ethiopian arrivals have settled in Melbourne. Most of the community are semi-skilled or unskilled workers, and many are illiterate in their own language.

Ethiopian organisations are generally based on ethnic identity and provide members with settlement, educational, cultural and social activities. Community concerns are principally settlement issues similar to those facing other predominantly refugee communities, such as low English proficiency, unemployment, accommodation, health issues, cultural transition, family reunion and the transition of children to Australian schools following long periods of disrupted education.

Stateless

A stateless person is someone who, under national laws, does not have the legal bond of nationality with any State⁴.

A stateless person may be a refugee if they have been forced to leave their country of habitual residence because of persecution. Not all stateless persons are refugees, however and many stateless persons never leave their country of residence. Similarly, some refugees may be stateless, but not all.

Six percent of all people assisted under the IHSS in 2002-03 were classed as being stateless. They were comprised of the following ethnicities:

- 90% Serbian;
- 2.9% Kinh Vietnamese;
- 2.5% Iraqi; and
- 1.6% Croatian.

This group also included ethnic Kuwaitis, Afghans, Tajiks, Somali, Darood Somali, Chinese, Uzbek and Arabs who together comprised less than 3% of stateless people assisted by the IHSS.

Statelessness in the former republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

In the legal regime of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), every Yugoslav citizen possessed both federal citizenship and internal citizenship of one of the six republics. As a result of the subsequent armed conflict in the late 1990's, the territory was divided into a number of independent republics. There was no longer a 'Yugoslavian' nationality as it previously existed and unless they have acquired the nationality of one of the new republics they have been considered stateless.

The United Nations has pointed to problems of statelessness throughout the former SFRY as being political as well as legal in nature. This is because some of the newly established states have, by means of various legal devices, attempted to exclude from their nationality, or at least delay the acquisition of their nationality, persons who have been residing in their territory for considerable lengths of time.⁵

⁴ UNHCR, *What Would Life be Like if you had no Nationality?*, UNHCR.

⁵ UNHCR, *The State of the World's Refugees 1997-98: A Humanitarian Agenda*, UNHCR, 1997.