



TALKING POINTS

LEAD AGENCY: DIBP

Subject	Resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia
Date	19 November 2014

ISSUE

Talking points to assist Posts regarding the announcement of a resettlement cut-off date for refugees registered with UNHCR in Indonesia.

TALKING POINTS

- Australia will no longer consider for resettlement anyone who has registered with UNHCR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014.
- This is designed to reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to seek resettlement in countries of first asylum.
- We know that people smugglers continue to market Indonesia as a convenient place to seek resettlement to Australia, which places a heavy burden on Indonesia as asylum seekers continue to arrive there.
- Australia will continue to resettle refugees who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia before 1 July 2014, however, there will be fewer places available than in previous years.
- The Government's policies under Operation Sovereign Borders have not only saved lives at sea, but have also allowed more places under our humanitarian programme for the world's most desperate and vulnerable refugees.
 - It is important to ensure these places are not taken by people trying to exploit the programme by shopping around for resettlement opportunities in transit countries.
- This measure will be a further blow to the people smugglers. It sends a clear signal that there is no point in people travelling to Indonesia to seek resettlement in Australia.



Q&A (If asked):

Why has the date of 1 July 2014 been chosen?

- This date has been chosen because it aligns with the beginning of our Humanitarian programme year (as well as the beginning of our financial programme year).
- A retrospective date has been chosen so it does not cause an influx of asylum seekers to Indonesia.

What about people who arrived in Indonesia before July 1 but did not register with UNHCR Indonesia until after this date?

- People in this situation will not be considered for resettlement in Australia.
- The date people registered with UNHCR is the only date that will determine eligibility for consideration of resettlement in Australia.

Has the Indonesian Government been consulted regarding the measure?

- The Indonesian Government has been briefed on the measure.
- We continue to work with the Government of Indonesia to find solutions to the shared problem of people smuggling and illegal movement of people.
- Following the success of Operation Sovereign Borders, we are also keen to ensure that people smugglers stop targeting Indonesia as a transit destination.
- This change to our humanitarian programme in Indonesia is an important step to achieve this objective.

Has UNHCR Indonesia been consulted regarding the measure?

- UNHCR Indonesia has been briefed regarding the changes.
- The Australian Government has ongoing dialogue with UNHCR on a range of matters.

By introducing this measure, is Australia leaving Indonesia to deal with the asylum seeker burden?

- No, this measure is designed to decrease the asylum seeker burden on Indonesia.
- Decreasing resettlement incentives from Indonesia is expected to lead to a decrease in the number of asylum seekers travelling to Indonesia.



How many refugees will Australia resettle in 2014-15?

- Australia has allocated 450 places for resettlement of refugees from Indonesia in 2014-15.
- This is a reduction from the 600 places per year that were provided in the last two programme years.

Why has Australia reduced the number of places available for refugees in Indonesia in 2014-15?

- To reduce incentives for asylum seekers hoping to seek resettlement in Australia from Indonesia.
- In 2014-15, Australia's Humanitarian Programme includes a minimum of 11 000 places for people overseas.
 - These places are for the most desperate and vulnerable people in countries of first asylum, not people seeking to exploit the programme by travelling to transit countries to seek resettlement.

Is there a possibility asylum seekers who register with UNHCR after 1 July 2014 could be resettled in another resettlement country?

- Other resettlement countries (such as the US and New Zealand) do have modest resettlement programmes from Indonesia, but Australia has by far been the leading resettlement country in the last decade.
- Should UNHCR refer refugees to other resettlement countries, I expect the waiting period for resettlement will be greatly increased now that Australia's programme has been halted for those who registered with UNHCR on or after 1 July 2014.

Will Australia continue to fund IOM in Indonesia for asylum seeker and refugee support arrangements?

- Australia will continue to fund support arrangements – such as housing, food, and medical assistance - for asylum seekers and refugees in IOM care in Indonesia.



Is there a possibility this announcement will seek asylum seekers in Indonesia who registered with UNHCR after 1 July 2014 decide to risk an illegal maritime venture to Australia?

- This announcement reinforces Australia's tough border protection controls to protect its border and combat maritime people smuggling.
- There still remains only two options for people who travel by boat to Australia – they will be intercepted and safely removed from Australian waters or sent to another country for offshore processing. Processing or resettlement in Australia will never be an option.
- The rules apply to everyone. There are no exceptions.

BACKGROUND (not for public release)

On 18 November 2014, the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection issued a media release indicating that Australia would impose a resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia. In addition, the Minister announced that Australia has reduced the allocation for resettlement of refugees from Indonesia. Details of the new allocation were not provided in the media release. However, the allocation in 2014-15 has been reduced to 450 places, from the 600 places that were provided in the previous two programme years.

Both measures are designed to reduce asylum seeker pull factors in Indonesia. Despite the decrease in irregular maritime arrivals to Australia, asylum seekers continue to arrive in Indonesia where they are pooling, many in the hope of achieving resettlement outcomes in Australia. As at 30 September 2014, there were over 10,000 asylum seekers registered with UNHCR in Indonesia.

s. 33(a)(iii)

POINT OF CONTACT (POC)

POC Name	Daniel Boyer
Title	Assistant Secretary
Mobile	s. 47E(d)
Landline	s. 47E(d)
Date Cleared	19 November 2014



CLEARANCE:

Drafted by	Title	Time/Date
s. 47E(d)	Assistant Director, Humanitarian Branch, Department of Immigration & Citizenship	3.30pm, 19 November 2014

Cleared by	Title	Time/Date
Daniel Boyer	Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Branch Department of Immigration & Citizenship	4pm, 19 November 2014



TALKING POINTS

LEAD AGENCY: DIBP

Subject	Resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia
Date	22 October 2014
Media Officer	s. 47E(d)

ISSUE

Talking points to assist the minister on the announcement of a resettlement cut-off date for refugees registered with UNHCR in Indonesia.

TALKING POINTS

- I am announcing today that Australia will no longer consider for resettlement anyone who has registered with UNHCR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014.
- This is designed to reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to seek resettlement in countries of first asylum.
- We know that people smugglers continue to market Indonesia as a convenient place to seek resettlement to Australia, which places a heavy burden on Indonesia as asylum seekers continue to arrive there.
- Australia will continue to resettle refugees who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia before 1 July 2014, however, there will be fewer places available than in previous years.
- The Government's policies under Operation Sovereign Borders have not only saved lives at sea, but have also allowed more places under our humanitarian programme for the world's most desperate and vulnerable refugees.
 - It is important to ensure these places are not taken by people trying to exploit the programme by shopping around for resettlement opportunities in transit countries.
- This measure will be a further blow to the people smugglers. It sends a clear signal that there is no point in people travelling to Indonesia to seek resettlement in Australia.



Q&A (If asked):

Why has the date of 1 July 2014 been chosen?

- This date has been chosen because it aligns with the beginning of our Humanitarian programme year (as well as the beginning of our financial programme year).
- A retrospective date has been chosen so it does not cause an influx of asylum seekers to Indonesia.

What about people who arrived in Indonesia before July 1 but did not register with UNHCR Indonesia until after this date?

- People in this situation will not be considered for resettlement in Australia.
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Has the Indonesian Government been consulted regarding the measure?

- The Indonesian Government has been briefed on the measure.
- We continue to work with the Government of Indonesia to find solutions to the shared problem of people smuggling and illegal movement of people.
- Following the success of Operation Sovereign Borders, we are also keen to ensure that people smugglers stop targeting Indonesia as a transit destination.
- This change to our humanitarian programme in Indonesia is an important step to achieve this objective.

Has UNHCR Indonesia been consulted regarding the measure?

- UNHCR Indonesia has been briefed regarding the changes.
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By introducing this measure, is Australia leaving Indonesia to deal with the asylum seeker burden?

- No, this measure is designed to decrease the asylum seeker burden on Indonesia.
- Decreasing resettlement incentives from Indonesia is expected to lead to a decrease in the number of asylum seekers travelling to Indonesia.



How many refugees will Australia resettle in 2014-15?

- Australia has allocated 450 places for resettlement of refugees from Indonesia in 2014-15.
- This is a reduction from the 600 places per year that were provided in the last two programme years.

Why has Australia reduced the number of places available for refugees in Indonesia in 2014-15?

- To reduce incentives for asylum seekers hoping to seek resettlement in Australia from Indonesia.
- In 2014-15, Australia's Humanitarian Programme includes a minimum of 11 000 places for people overseas.
 - These places are for the most desperate and vulnerable people in countries of first asylum, not people seeking to exploit the programme by travelling to transit countries to seek resettlement.

Is there a possibility asylum seekers who register with UNHCR after 1 July 2014 could be resettled in another resettlement country?

- Other resettlement countries (such as the US and New Zealand) do have modest resettlement programmes from Indonesia, but Australia has by far been the leading resettlement country in the last decade.
- Should UNHCR refer refugees to other resettlement countries, I expect the waiting period for resettlement will be greatly increased now that Australia's programme has been halted for those who registered with UNHCR on or after 1 July 2014.

Will Australia continue to fund IOM in Indonesia for asylum seeker and refugee support arrangements?

- Australia will continue to fund support arrangements – such as housing, food, and medical assistance - for asylum seekers and refugees in IOM care in Indonesia.



BACKGROUND (*not* for public release)

A media release has been provided to the Minister's Office to announce the resettlement cut-off measure.

s. 33(a)(iii)

POINT OF CONTACT (POC)

POC Name	Daniel Boyer
Title	Assistant Secretary
Mobile	s. 47E(d)
Landline	s. 47E(d)
Date Cleared	21 December 2014

CLEARANCE:

Drafted by	Title	Time/Date
s. 47E(d)	Assistant Director, Humanitarian Branch, Department of Immigration & Citizenship	12pm, 21 October 2014

Cleared by	Title	Time/Date
Alison Larkins	First Assistant Secretary, Refugee, Humanitarian and International Policy Division Department of Immigration & Citizenship	2pm, 21 October 2014

For info copies	Title	Time/Date
s. 47E(d)	People Smuggling Ambassador, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	21 October 2014
	Minister Counsellor Australian Embassy Jakarta Department of Immigration and Citizenship	21 October 2014
	Second Secretary Australian Embassy Jakarta Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	21 October 2014
	Advisor Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet	21 October 2014


Inter-Agency Meeting to discuss Humanitarian Resettlement from Indonesia

Date: 2.30-3:30pm (Canberra time), Wed 2 July 2014

Venue: Casuarina Room, DFAT Barton (entry through front foyer on John McEwan Crescent, which runs between Brisbane and Sydney Avenues).

Expected Attendance

s. 47E(d)



s. 47E(d)



Objectives


- To seek agencies' views on proposal to impose a registration cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia
- Views of agencies to inform a submission currently being prepared for the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.

Talking Points


Introduction

- Thank you to agencies in Canberra and at Post Jakarta for agreeing to meet today.
- A special thank you to DFAT for hosting the meeting, and thereby providing the opportunity for us to also include Post Jakarta by teleconference.
- We were keen to get agencies together in order to discuss humanitarian resettlement from Indonesia.
- Following the decrease in irregular maritime arrivals to Australia, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection has been examining current arrangements in Indonesia and whether there is **further scope to reduce asylum seeker pull factors and pooling in Indonesia**. This includes:

s. 33(a)(iii)




s. 33(a)(iii)




- In regards to the Humanitarian Resettlement Programme, the Minister has recently finalised allocations for the 2014-15 offshore Humanitarian Programme
 - and has already agreed to **reduce the allocation to 450 places compared to 600 places** (as delivered in 2012-13 and 2013-14)

s. 47E(d), s. 33(a)(iii)




s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47E(d)



Views of Department of Immigration and Citizenship

- Before we start, just wanted to provide a few thoughts on our current thinking.

s. 33(a)(iii)



Agenda Item 1: Agencies views on proposed resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia

- Keen to hear from other agencies.
- Suggest we start with Agenda Item 1 and go around the room and ask that agencies provide their views on the proposal.

Handling Note: Invite following agencies or representatives to present views:

Post

DFAT Canberra

PM&C

JATF

Office of National Assessments


Agenda Item 2: Timing for Implementation

- Interested in whether agencies have a view on timing for implementation of the proposal.


Agenda Item 3: Retrospective of future registration cut-off date

- Interested in whether agencies have a view on whether proposed registration cut-off should be retrospective or in the future.
- As mentioned earlier, our current view is that the cut-off date should be in the future.

s. 33(a)(iii)



s. 33(a)(iii)



- How best to take forward with your minister
 - Exchange of letters?
 - National Security Council?
 - Other?

Background - Resettlement from Indonesia under the offshore Humanitarian Programme

Resettlement from Indonesia prior to 2010

Australia resettled around 550 refugees from Indonesia between 2001 and 2009. This “intercepted caseload” included groups, such as Afghans and Iraqis, considered likely to seek further movement to Australia.


Although 11 other countries (most significantly Canada, Sweden, New Zealand and Norway) accepted around a further 850 refugees from this caseload during this period, Australia has resettled the largest number overall, taking around 40 per cent of those referred by UNHCR.

Agreement to accept 500 refugees – January 2010

In January 2010, as part of broader considerations on irregular migration, the Government (Border Protection Committee) decided to establish an allocation of 500 places within the existing Humanitarian Program for the resettlement of UNHCR mandated refugees from Indonesia across the remainder of the 2009–10 Program and into the 2010–11 Program.

The increase in resettlement places was intended to supplement other regional engagement strategies on irregular migration movements by providing a “credible resettlement pathway”.

s. 33(a)(iii)



Merak vessels

There have been two vessels of primarily Sri Lankan asylum seekers disembarked in the Indonesian port of Merak, West Java. The first was in October 2009, and the second in April 2012.

Australia agreed to resettle a small number of those found to be refugees where they had links to Australia. Visas have been granted to these cohorts from the 2010–11 Programme through to 2013-14.

Return to smaller resettlement Programme – 2011–12

The size of the Indonesia resettlement allocation returned to previous (lower) levels in the 2011–12 Programme with some 181 visas granted.

Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers – August 2012

In the context of the Panel's recommendation that there be an increase in the size of Australia's offshore Humanitarian Program, the Panel also recommended that there be a 'substantial' increase in the size of the resettlement from Indonesia to be negotiated with the Indonesian Government and UNHCR. It was further recommended that the scope for further increases be determined annually in consultation with the Indonesian government.

In responding to the Expert Panel's Report, the government announced that an additional 400 places would be made available for resettlement from Indonesia in the 2012–13 offshore Programme. Based on the previous resettlement level of 181 grants, this was translated into an allocation of 600 Refugee places for Jakarta in the 2012–13 Programme.

2013–14 offshore Humanitarian Programme

The current Minister of Immigration and Border Protection agreed that there continue to be around 600 places for resettlement of UNHCR referred refugees from Indonesia, matching the intake in 2012–13. The Minister also initially sought to set aside 200 additional contingency places. These were never drawn upon and these places were rolled into the offshore Programme.

2014-15 offshore Humanitarian Programme

The Minister recently agreed to reduce the allocation for refugees from Indonesia in 2014-15 to 450 places. This decision was made in response to the 2014-15 offshore Humanitarian Programme submission from Humanitarian Branch. The decision has not yet been publically announced.

Resettlement from Indonesia under the offshore Humanitarian Programme – visa grants by stream 2006–07 to 2013–14 YTD (30 June 2014)

	Refugee*	SHP	Total	Subclass 449**
2013–14	600	0	600	0
2012–13	605	0	605	0
2011–12	181	0	181	0
2010–11	471	20	491	0
2009–10	109	29	138	0
2008–09	33	3	36	5
2007–08	6	0	6	83
2006–07	1	0	1	31

* The seven Refugee stream visas granted between 2006–07 and 2007–08 were subclass 451 (Secondary Movement Relocation (Temporary)) visas. Subclass 451 has been repealed.

**Subclass 449 (Humanitarian Stay (Temporary)) visas are not counted as part of the offshore Humanitarian Program. These visas were counted against the onshore Programme when holders entered Australia and were considered for permanent residence.

UNHCR referred Refugee cases (persons) on hand

Country of birth case	Total
AFGH	377
IRAN	116
IRAQ	34
SRIL	23
PKSN	11
SYRI	3
SOMA	1
Total	565

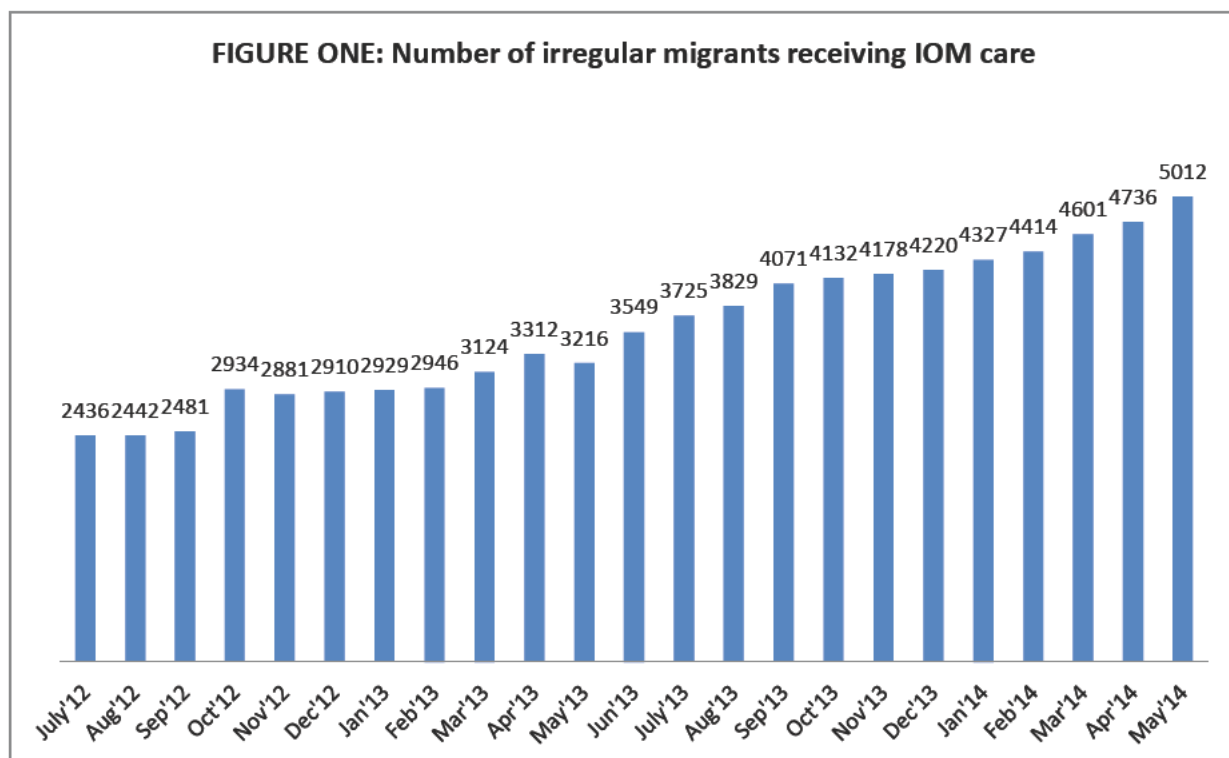
Grants by Jakarta (country of birth) in 2013-14

Country of birth case	Total
AFGH	431
IRAN	84
SRIL	35
IRAQ	33
PKSN	9
ETHI	5
CONG	1
INDO	1
KUWA	1
Total	600

UNHCR Indonesian Statistics

As at 31 May 2014, there were 10,500 persons registered with UNHCR in Indonesia. This includes 3,489 persons recognised as refugees, and a further 7,020 persons registered but not yet assessed.

MAJOR TRENDS IN INDONESIA'S IRREGULAR MIGRANT POPULATION

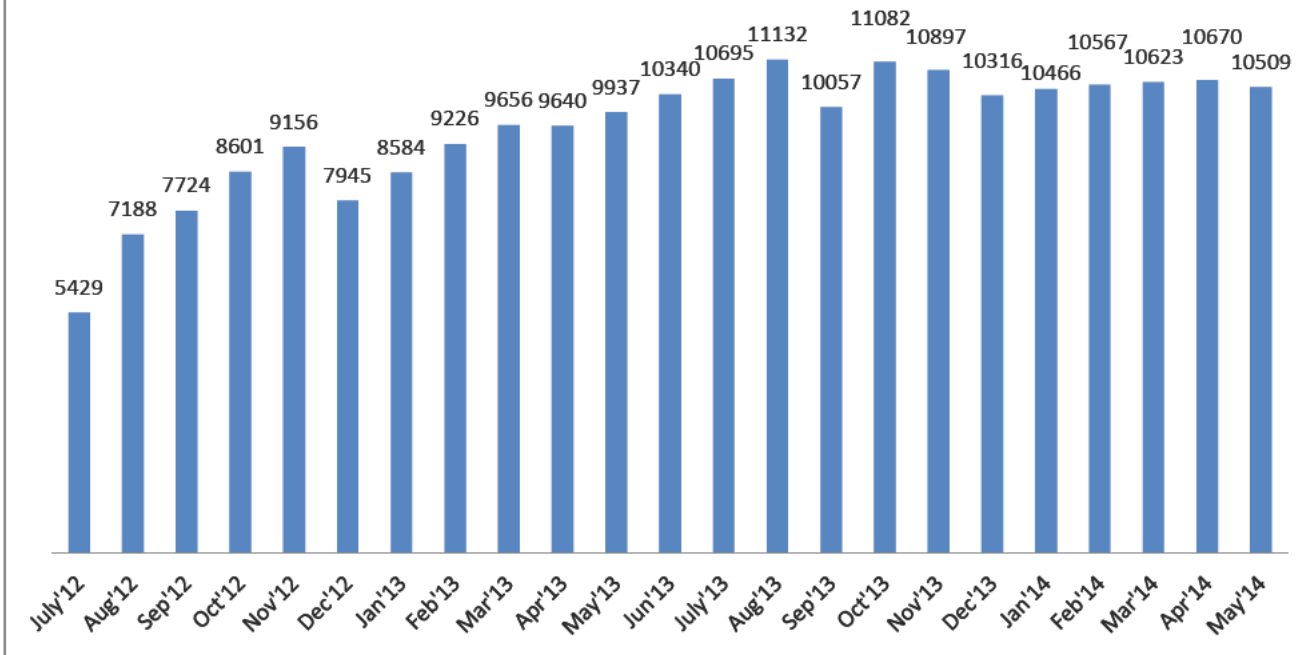


Since July 2012 there has been a steady increase in the number of irregular migrants receiving care under the RCA in Indonesia, with a total of 5012 irregular migrants receiving care in May 2014. This is the first time in the life of the RCA that more than 5000 persons have received IOM care. Of those receiving care: 1640 migrants were in immigration detention centres (IDCs) (33 per cent); 2483 were in community accomodation (50 per cent); and 889 migrants who received ad hoc humanitarian assistance were in temporary interception sites (18 per cent).

Due to this growth, Indonesian IDC capacity is being stretched. Nominal capacity is 1586 persons, but IDCs now contain 1640 persons. Two IDCs are holding double their official capacity.

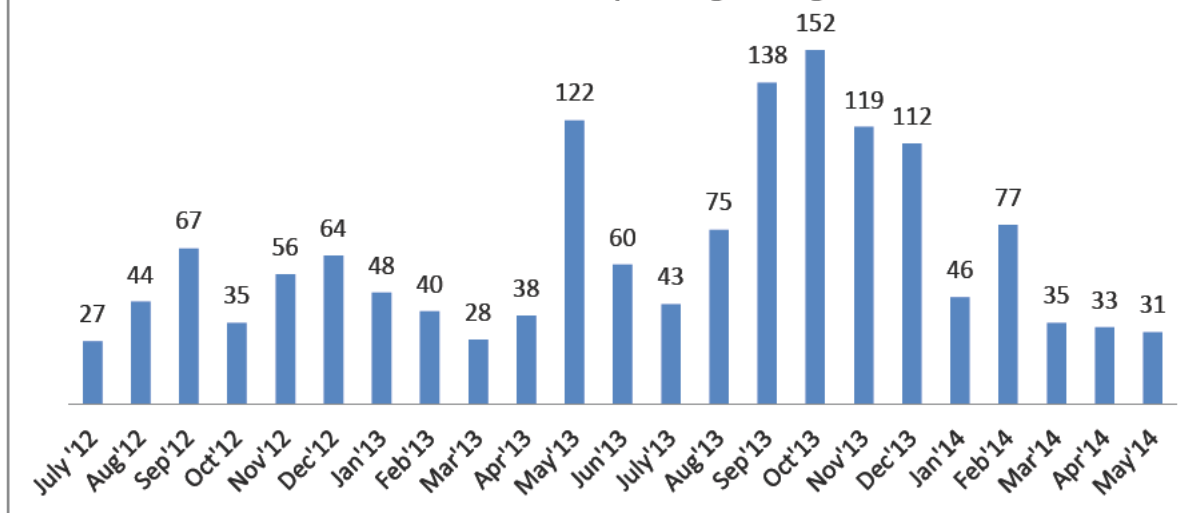
Major nationality groups receiving IOM care are: Afghan (39 per cent); Burma (14 per cent); Iran (13 per cent); Sri Lanka (9 per cent); Somalia (6 per cent); Iraq (3 per cent).

FIGURE TWO: Cumulative number of active persons of concern registered with UNHCR Indonesia

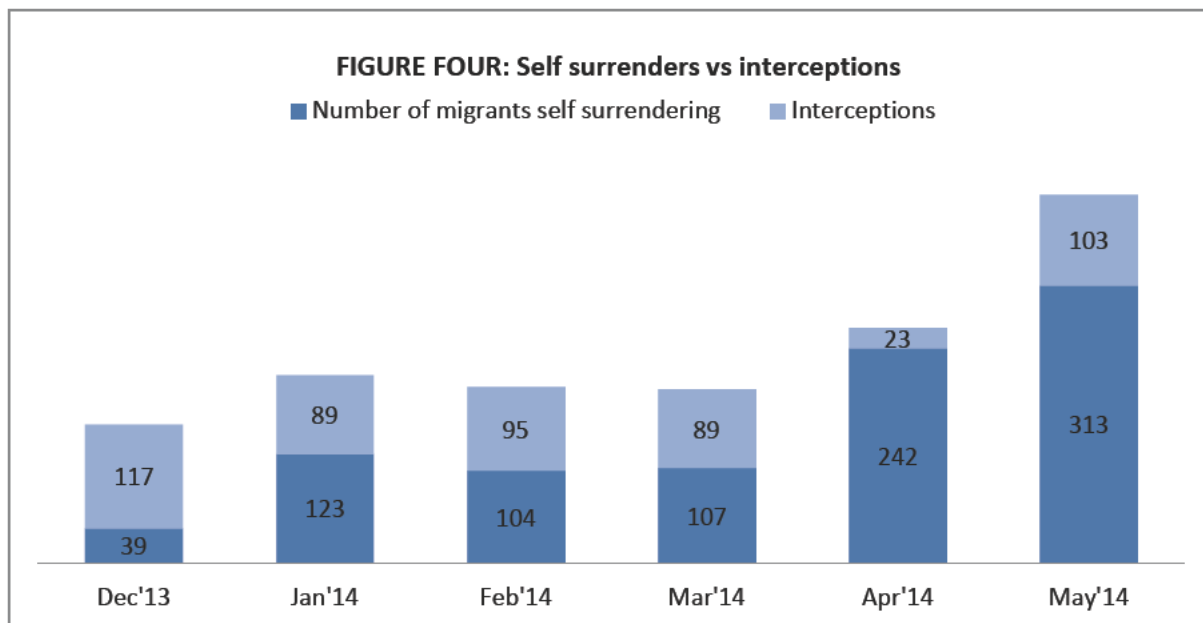


As at 31 May 2014, there were 10509 persons of concern registered with UNHCR Indonesia, comprising 7020 asylum seekers and 3489 refugees. Monthly registrations with UNHCR Indonesia remain steady, with 389 new registrations in May 2014. Registrations by Afghans continue to outstrip registrations by all other nationalities.

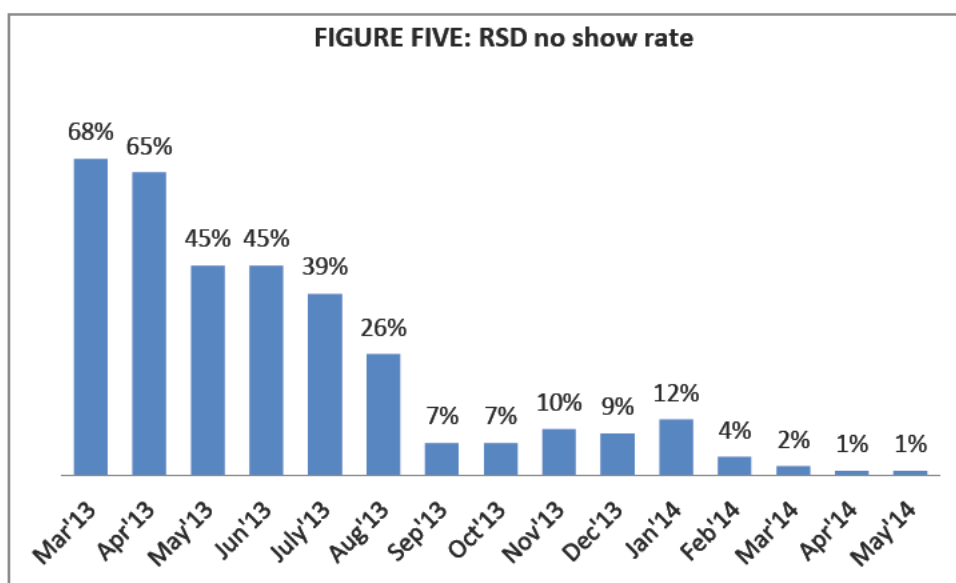
FIGURE THREE: AVR take-up of irregular migrants



AVR numbers remain low at 31 for May 2014. This is less than the 2014 average (year thus far) which is 44.



In May 2014, 313 persons (mostly Afghans) in 38 separate incidents self-surrendered to Indonesian authorities. The remaining 103 people were located/ arrested by Indonesian authorities. In the current operation environment, the primary driver for surrender appears to be lack of financial resources.



The abandonment rate represents the average number of asylum seekers who failed to appear for first instance refugee status determination (RSD) interview. The May figure remains at 1 per cent. A year ago, it was 68 per cent. This means that the vast majority of asylum seekers registered with UNHCR are remaining in Indonesia to pursue their RSD processing in the hope of being determined a refugee and obtaining a resettlement outcome.

**DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION
SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS
27 NOVEMBER 2014**

ISSUE: RESETTLEMENT FROM INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA

RESPONSIBLE SES OFFICER:

s. 47E(d) [REDACTED],
Acting Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Branch
s. 47E(d) [REDACTED]

TALKING POINTS:

INDONESIA

How many asylum seekers are there in Indonesia?

- As at 30 September 2014 (the latest figures available from UNHCR), there were **10,029 persons registered with UNHCR** in Indonesia
 - this includes 4,202 UNHCR mandated refugees and 5,827 asylum seekers.
- The largest nationality groups are Afghans (4,874), Iranians (920), Burmese (900), Somalis (701), and Sri Lankans (603)

How many refugees has Australia resettled from Indonesia?

- Jakarta Post has granted **2081 visas** under the offshore Humanitarian Programme in the last 5 programme years (ie. since **2010-11**).
- Reflecting the nationalities of those mandated by UNHCR, the main groups resettled have been Afghans, Iraqis, Iranians and Sri Lankans.

How many refugees will Australia resettle from Indonesia in 2014-15?

- Around **450 refugees** will be resettled from Indonesia in 2014-15
 - this is a reduction on the 600 places that were provided in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 programme years.
- As at 31 October 2014, **180 visas** have been granted.
- The majority of persons resettled in 2014-15 are expected to be Afghans.

Why has Australia reduced the number of resettlement places from Indonesia in 2014-15?

- In 2014-15, additional places provided for Syrians and Iraqis from the Middle East has led to a reduction in the number of places for refugees from Indonesia.
- In addition, the reduction is designed to reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to instead seek resettlement in countries of first asylum.
- Note Australia has had the largest resettlement programme from Indonesia over the last decade
 - Despite the reduction we are still expected to have the largest resettlement programme from Indonesia this year.

If raised: Why has Australia imposed a resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia?

- On 18 November 2014, the Government announced Australia will not consider for resettlement anyone who has registered with UNHCR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014.
- This measure is designed to reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to seek resettlement in countries of first asylum.
 - In 2013–14 Afghans made up more than 70% of all refugee visa grants in Indonesia.
 - People smugglers and asylum seekers believe that resettlement outcomes to Australia are faster and better in Indonesia compared with other locations, which provides an unintended pull factor.
 - This measure will assist Indonesia by reducing pull factors and subsequently the number of asylum seekers who travel illegally to Indonesia to seek an Australian resettlement outcome.
- Australia will continue to resettle refugees who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia before 1 July 2014.

If raised: Was the Indonesian Government consulted regarding the resettlement cut-off measure?

- Yes, the Australian Embassy Jakarta briefed relevant senior Indonesian government counterparts regarding the measure in September 2014.
- A further briefing was provided to relevant counterparts in November 2014
 - After the inauguration (on 20 September) of the new Indonesian President, Joko Widodo
 - This was to ensure the new Indonesian administration were aware of the forthcoming measure.
- UNHCR Indonesia were also briefed prior to the announcement.

If raised: How many persons have registered with UNHCR Indonesia since July 2014

- As at end of October 2014, around 1900 persons have registered with UNHCR Indonesia since July 2014
 - This includes 391 persons in July, 311 persons in August, and 644 persons in September, and around 565 persons in October (note the Department is still waiting on UNHCR final advice regarding October statistics)


Are other countries resettling refugees from Indonesia?

- Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States also currently resettle refugees from Indonesia, although in smaller numbers than Australia.

Who decides which refugees are resettled in Australia?

- The Australian Government works with UNHCR to identify refugees in Indonesia who are in need of resettlement in a third country.
- The Australian Government, however, decides which refugees are to be resettled in Australia.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



BACKGROUND:**INDONESIA**Which nationalities are being considered?

Australia receives refugee referrals from UNHCR from a range of nationalities. The majority of refugees referred are from Afghanistan, reflecting existing populations in Indonesia.

s. 47E(d)

Comparison with other countries' programmes



Australia is the leading country in resettling refugees from Indonesia. In 2013, the only other countries resettling refugees from Indonesia were New Zealand (78 persons resettled in 2013), Sweden (7 persons resettled in 2013), and USA (5 persons resettled in 2013).

It is understood that in 2014, the USA and New Zealand may cumulatively resettle up to 500 persons from Indonesia. Canada is also expected to have a small resettlement programme from Indonesia in 2014. As at 30 September 2014, a total of 186 persons have been resettled by other resettlement countries in 2014.

Resettlement Cut-Off Date

On 18 November 2014, the Government announced Australia will impose a resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia. This followed consultation between the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Joint-Agency Taskforce.

s. 33(a)(iii)

Released by DIBP under the
Freedom of Information Act 1982

Statistics – Indonesia

Visa grants by Jakarta post by Programme Year (2010–11 to 31 October 2014)

Humanitarian Programme Year	Number of visas granted		
	Refugee	SHP	Total
2014-15 to 31 October 2014	180	0	180
2013–14	600	0	600
2012–13	605	0	605
2011–12	181	0	181
2010–11	471	20	491


Visa grants by Jakarta post in 2014–15 (to 31 October 2014)
By country of birth

Country of birth	Number of visas granted
Afghanistan	113
Iran	48
Iraq	12
Pakistan*	3
Sri Lanka	3
Syria	1
Total	180

**visas granted to Afghans born in Pakistan*

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)





Australian Government

CHANGES TO AUSTRALIA'S REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME FROM INDONESIA

The Australian Minister for Immigration and Border Protection has announced changes to Australia's refugee resettlement programme from Indonesia.

If you or your family registered with the UNHCR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014, you will NOT be considered for resettlement in Australia.

In addition, Australia has reduced the number of places allocated to refugees who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia before 1 July 2014.

Australia has allocated 450 places for resettlement of refugees from Indonesia in 2014-15. This is a reduction from the 600 places that were provided in each of the last two programme years. As a result, the waiting period in Indonesia will be much longer.

If you are in Indonesia and did not register with UNHCR on or before 1 July this year, you should think about your options, as Australia will not consider you or your family for resettlement.

You may wish to consider contacting IOM to discuss voluntary return packages that are available for asylum seekers in Indonesia.

Under the Australian Government's tough stance against people smuggling, anyone who travels to Australia illegally by boat without a visa will not be resettled in Australia, and you will be prevented from arriving in Australia. The rules apply to everyone. There are no exceptions.

These changes are designed to reduce the number of asylum seekers travelling to and remaining in Indonesia and to disrupt the trade of people smugglers.

More information on the Australian Government's Operation Sovereign Borders policy can be found at: www.australia.gov.au/novisa

AUSTRALIA'S RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME FROM INDONESIA

TALKING POINTS

- The Australian Government is in the process of implementing a number of changes to Australia's resettlement programme from Indonesia.
- The changes are designed to reduce asylum seekers pull factor and pooling in Indonesia.

Reduction in Humanitarian Resettlement from Indonesia

- The first measure involves a small reduction to Australia's resettlement programme from Indonesia
 - in 2014-15, it is proposed to provide places for 450 refugees from Indonesia
 - compared to 600 places that were provided in the last two programme years.
- This is designed to reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to seek resettlement in countries of first asylum.

Resettlement Cut-Off Date

- Consistent with this first measure, the Australian Government is considering a resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia.
 - subject to discussions with the Government of Indonesia and UNHCR.
- As part of this measure, Australia will no longer consider for resettlement anyone who has registered with UNHCR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014.
- The date of 1 July 2014 has been chosen because it aligns with Australia's Humanitarian Programme year.
- Australia is committed to continuing to provide assistance to Indonesia to combat people smuggler and manage asylum seekers in Indonesia
 - this includes our ongoing support for care and management of asylum seekers in Indonesia

- as well as continued resettlement of refugees from Indonesia who registered with UNHCR before 1 July 2014
- This measure is again designed to prevent pull factors and pooling of asylum seekers in Indonesia
 - we expect it will reduce the number of irregular migrants who travel to Indonesia to seek third country resettlement outcomes
 - and also increase the take up of voluntary return packages.

Discussions with the Government of Indonesia and UNHCR

- It has always been our intention to discuss these measures with the Government of Indonesia and UNHCR before any announcement was made.
- I regret that information about the measures has entered the public domain before these discussions could take place.
- It is our intention to discuss the measures shortly with the Government of Indonesia and UNHCR.
- An announcement regarding implementation of the measures, and the precise details of the measures, will be made following these discussions.
- The Australian Government is committed to continuing to work with Indonesia and other governments in the region to respond to people smuggling and irregular migration.



The Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

MEDIA STATEMENT

Tuesday 18 November 2014

CHANGES TO RESETTLEMENT ANOTHER BLOW TO PEOPLE SMUGGLERS

Asylum seekers who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014 will no longer be eligible for resettlement in Australia, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon. Scott Morrison said today.

Minister Morrison said the change was part of the Government's ongoing work in the region to strip people smugglers of a product to sell to vulnerable men, women and children.

"While nine of ten months of 2014 have passed without a successful people smuggling venture to Australia, we know smugglers continue to encourage asylum seekers to travel illegally to Indonesia for the purpose of seeking resettlement in Australia," Minister Morrison said.

"These changes should reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to seek resettlement in or from countries of first asylum."

Australia will continue to resettle some refugees who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia before 1 July 2014, however there will not be as many places allocated, meaning the waiting period in Indonesia to be resettled in Australia will be much longer.

Minister Morrison said the Government does not support asylum seekers travelling illegally to transit countries in search of more favourable resettlement destinations.

"The Government's policies under Operation Sovereign Borders have not only saved lives at sea, but also allowed more places under our humanitarian programme for the world's most desperate and vulnerable refugees. It is important that these places are not taken up by people seeking to exploit the programme by shopping for resettlement through a transit country."

In 2014–15, Australia's Humanitarian Programme will provide 13,750 places. These will include 11,000 places for people overseas, nearly all of whom will be in countries of first asylum.

The Indonesian government has been briefed on this decision, which is designed to reduce the burden, created by people smugglers, of asylum seekers entering Indonesia.

19/11/2014

**CHANGES TO RESETTLEMENT ANOTHER
BLOW TO PEOPLE SMUGGLERS**

TALKING POINTS

- As announced on 18 November 2014, Australia will no longer consider for resettlement anyone who has registered with UNCHR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014.
- This is designed to reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to seek resettlement in countries of first asylum.
 - In 2013-14, Afghans made up more than 70% of all refugee visa grants in Indonesia.
- People smugglers continue to market Indonesia as a place to seek resettlement to Australia. This places a heavy burden on Indonesia.
- This measure sends a clear signal that there is no point in people travelling to Indonesia to seek resettlement in Australia.
- The Indonesian Government were briefed regarding these changes in September and again in November 2014.
- The changes assist the Government's policy to ensure that the majority of places under Australia's Humanitarian Programme go to those in countries of first asylum who are most in need of resettlement.
- The Government does not support asylum seekers travelling illegally to transit countries in search of more favourable resettlement destinations.
 - Instead, asylum seekers should seek resettlement in or from countries of first asylum.

MAXIMUM ONE PAGE ONLY

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IMMIGRATION

19/11/2014

**CHANGES TO RESETTLEMENT ANOTHER
BLOW TO PEOPLE SMUGGLERS**

KEY FACTS/KEY FIGURES

- Australia will no longer consider for resettlement anyone who has registered with UNCHR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014.
- This date was chosen because it aligns with the beginning of the Humanitarian Programme year.
 - A retrospective date also reduces the possibility of an influx of asylum seekers to Indonesia.
- The Indonesian Government and UNCHR were briefed on the measure in September 2014. The Indonesian Government was briefed again in November 2014.
- Australia continues to work with Indonesia to find solutions to the shared problem of people smuggling and the illegal movement of people.
- This measure is designed to decrease the asylum seeker burden on Indonesia and is expected to lead to a decrease in the number of asylum seekers travelling to Indonesia.
- Australia has allocated 450 places for resettlement of refugee from Indonesia in 2014-15, a reduction from the 600 places per year provided in the last two programme years.
- Australia will continue to fund support arrangements - such as housing, food and medical assistance for asylum seekers and refugees under the care of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Indonesia.
- In 2014-15 Australia's Humanitarian Programme, will provide 13,750 places, 11,000 of these places are for people overseas, nearly all of whom will be in countries of first asylum.
- In 2014-15 up to 1500 places will be available for Afghans in countries of first asylum.

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IMMIGRATION

19/11/2014

**CHANGES TO RESETTLEMENT ANOTHER
BLOW TO PEOPLE SMUGGLERS**

BACKGROUND

Australia receives refugee referrals from UNHCR Indonesia which include a range of nationalities. The majority of refugees referred are from Afghanistan, reflecting existing populations in Indonesia.

s. 47E(d)

Comparison with other countries' programmes

Australia is the leading country in resettling refugees from Indonesia. In 2013, the only other countries resettling refugees from Indonesia were New Zealand (78 persons resettled in 2013), Sweden (7 persons resettled in 2013), and USA (5 persons resettled in 2013).

It is understood that in 2014, the USA and New Zealand may cumulatively resettle up to 500 persons from Indonesia.

Resettlement Cut-Off Date

The Minister agreed to impose a resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia, following consultation with the Prime Minister's Office, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Joint-Agency Taskforce.

Indonesian government counterparts and UNHCR Indonesia were briefed regarding the measure at the end of September 2014.

Humanitarian Programme Year	Number of visas granted		
	Refugee	SHP	Total
2014-15 to 31 October 2014	180	0	180*
2013-14	600	0	600
2012-13	605	0	605
2011-12	181	0	181
2010-11	471	20	491

*This includes 113, Afghans, 48 Iranians and 12 Iraqis

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Policy
Date first prepared: 19 November 2014
Originating Source: MO

Phone: s. 47E(d)
Action Officer: s. 47E(d)

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TALKING POINTS

LEAD AGENCY: DIBP

Subject	Resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia
Date	22 October 2014
Media Officer	s. 47E(d)

ISSUE

Talking points to assist the minister on the announcement of a resettlement cut-off date for refugees registered with UNHCR in Indonesia.

TALKING POINTS

- I am announcing today that Australia will no longer consider for resettlement anyone who has registered with UNHCR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014.
- This is designed to reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to seek resettlement in countries of first asylum.
- We know that people smugglers continue to market Indonesia as a convenient place to seek resettlement to Australia, which places a heavy burden on Indonesia as asylum seekers continue to arrive there.
- Australia will continue to resettle refugees who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia before 1 July 2014, however, there will be fewer places available than in previous years.
- The Government's policies under Operation Sovereign Borders have not only saved lives at sea, but have also allowed more places under our humanitarian programme for the world's most desperate and vulnerable refugees.
 - It is important to ensure these places are not taken by people trying to exploit the programme by shopping around for resettlement opportunities in transit countries.
- This measure will be a further blow to the people smugglers. It sends a clear signal that there is no point in people travelling to Indonesia to seek resettlement in Australia.



Q&A (If asked):

Why has the date of 1 July 2014 been chosen?

- This date has been chosen because it aligns with the beginning of our Humanitarian programme year (as well as the beginning of our financial programme year).
- A retrospective date has been chosen so it does not cause an influx of asylum seekers to Indonesia.

What about people who arrived in Indonesia before July 1 but did not register with UNHCR Indonesia until after this date?

- People in this situation will not be considered for resettlement in Australia.
- The date people registered with UNHCR is the only date that will determine eligibility for consideration of resettlement in Australia.

Has the Indonesian Government been consulted regarding the measure?

- The Indonesian Government has been briefed on the measure.
- We continue to work with the Government of Indonesia to find solutions to the shared problem of people smuggling and illegal movement of people.
- Following the success of Operation Sovereign Borders, we are also keen to ensure that people smugglers stop targeting Indonesia as a transit destination.
- This change to our humanitarian programme in Indonesia is an important step to achieve this objective.

Has UNHCR Indonesia been consulted regarding the measure?

- UNHCR Indonesia has been briefed regarding the changes.
- The Australian Government has ongoing dialogue with UNHCR on a range of matters.

By introducing this measure, is Australia leaving Indonesia to deal with the asylum seeker burden?

- No, this measure is designed to decrease the asylum seeker burden on Indonesia.
- Decreasing resettlement incentives from Indonesia is expected to lead to a decrease in the number of asylum seekers travelling to Indonesia.



How many refugees will Australia resettle in 2014-15?

- Australia has allocated 450 places for resettlement of refugees from Indonesia in 2014-15.
- This is a reduction from the 600 places per year that were provided in the last two programme years.

Why has Australia reduced the number of places available for refugees in Indonesia in 2014-15?

- To reduce incentives for asylum seekers hoping to seek resettlement in Australia from Indonesia.
- In 2014-15, Australia's Humanitarian Programme includes a minimum of 11 000 places for people overseas.
 - These places are for the most desperate and vulnerable people in countries of first asylum, not people seeking to exploit the programme by travelling to transit countries to seek resettlement.

Is there a possibility asylum seekers who register with UNHCR after 1 July 2014 could be resettled in another resettlement country?

- Other resettlement countries (such as the US and New Zealand) do have modest resettlement programmes from Indonesia, but Australia has by far been the leading resettlement country in the last decade.
- Should UNHCR refer refugees to other resettlement countries, I expect the waiting period for resettlement will be greatly increased now that Australia's programme has been halted for those who registered with UNHCR on or after 1 July 2014.

Will Australia continue to fund IOM in Indonesia for asylum seeker and refugee support arrangements?

- Australia will continue to fund support arrangements – such as housing, food, and medical assistance - for asylum seekers and refugees in IOM care in Indonesia.



BACKGROUND (*not* for public release)

A media release has been provided to the Minister's Office to announce the resettlement cut-off measure.

s. 47E(d), s. 33(a)(iii)

[Redacted]

POINT OF CONTACT (POC)

POC Name	Daniel Boyer
Title	Assistant Secretary
Mobile	s. 47E(d)
Landline	s. 47E(d)
Date Cleared	21 December 2014

CLEARANCE:

Drafted by	Title	Time/Date
s. 47E(d)	Assistant Director, Humanitarian Branch, Department of Immigration & Citizenship	12pm, 21 October 2014

Cleared by	Title	Time/Date
Alison Larkins	First Assistant Secretary, Refugee, Humanitarian and International Policy Division Department of Immigration & Citizenship	2pm, 21 October 2014

For info copies	Title	Time/Date
s. 47E(d)	People Smuggling Ambassador, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	21 October 2014
	Minister Counsellor Australian Embassy Jakarta Department of Immigration and Citizenship	21 October 2014
	Second Secretary Australian Embassy Jakarta Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	21 October 2014
	Advisor Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet	21 October 2014



TALKING POINTS

LEAD AGENCY: DIBP

Subject	Resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia
Date	19 November 2014

ISSUE

Talking points to assist Posts regarding the announcement of a resettlement cut-off date for refugees registered with UNHCR in Indonesia.

TALKING POINTS

- Australia will no longer consider for resettlement anyone who has registered with UNHCR in Indonesia on or after 1 July 2014.
- This is designed to reduce the movement of asylum seekers to Indonesia and encourage them to seek resettlement in countries of first asylum.
- We know that people smugglers continue to market Indonesia as a convenient place to seek resettlement to Australia, which places a heavy burden on Indonesia as asylum seekers continue to arrive there.
- Australia will continue to resettle refugees who registered with UNHCR in Indonesia before 1 July 2014, however, there will be fewer places available than in previous years.
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Will Australia continue to fund IOM in Indonesia for asylum seeker and refugee support arrangements?

- Australia will continue to fund support arrangements – such as housing, food, and medical assistance - for asylum seekers and refugees in IOM care in Indonesia.



Is there a possibility this announcement will seek asylum seekers in Indonesia who registered with UNHCR after 1 July 2014 decide to risk an illegal maritime venture to Australia?

- This announcement reinforces Australia's tough border protection controls to protect its border and combat maritime people smuggling.
- There still remains only two options for people who travel by boat to Australia – they will be intercepted and safely removed from Australian waters or sent to another country for offshore processing. Processing or resettlement in Australia will never be an option.
- The rules apply to everyone. There are no exceptions.

BACKGROUND (not for public release)

On 18 November 2014, the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection issued a media release indicating that Australia would impose a resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia. In addition, the Minister announced that Australia has reduced the allocation for resettlement of refugees from Indonesia. Details of the new allocation were not provided in the media release. However, the allocation in 2014-15 has been reduced to 450 places, from the 600 places that were provided in the previous two programme years.

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 47E(d), s. 33(a)(iii)

POINT OF CONTACT (POC)

POC Name	Daniel Boyer
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Date Cleared	19 November 2014



CLEARANCE:

Drafted by	Title	Time/Date
s. 47E(d)	Assistant Director, Humanitarian Branch, Department of Immigration & Citizenship	3.30pm, 19 November 2014

Cleared by	Title	Time/Date
Daniel Boyer	Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Branch Department of Immigration & Citizenship	4pm, 19 November 2014

Inter-Agency Meeting – Humanitarian Resettlement from Indonesia

Date: 2.30-3:30pm (Canberra time), Wed 2 July 2014

Venue: Casuarina Room, DFAT Barton (entry through front foyer on John McEwan Crescent, which runs between Brisbane and Sydney Avenues).

Agenda

1. Agencies' views on proposed resettlement cut-off date for refugees in Indonesia
2. Timing for implementation
3. Retrospective or future cut-off date
4. Engagement with Indonesian Government, UNHCR, and IOM.
5. Media Strategy