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# Summary of Responses to the Consultations on the 2022-23 Humanitarian Program

Each year, the Australian Government seeks the views of the Australian public on the management and composition of the Humanitarian Program (the Program). A total of 115 written submissions were received following the publication of the [Humanitarian Program 2022-23 Discussion Paper](#) between 15 July and 12 August 2022. The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Andrew Giles MP, also hosted a number of consultation meetings. The consultations sought views from peak refugee bodies and community organisations on the management and composition of the 2022-23 Program. This document provides an overview of central issues raised regarding the composition of the Program by the range of stakeholders who participated.

## Context

The size of the Program remains set at 13,750 places in 2022-23. Further, an additional 16,500 places for Afghan nationals will be delivered over the next four years in addition to the annual Program intake (4,125 places this year). The Government aspires to progressively increase Australia's humanitarian intake. Prior to and during the consultation process, Minister Giles stated that the Government aspires to increase the Program intake to 27,000 places over time, with an additional 5,000 community sponsored places outside the Program. Minister Giles has also indicated the Government's preference for the Program to be non-discriminatory and re-focus on prioritising those caseloads most in need for resettlement in line with guidance and referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

## 2022-23 Consultation Responses

### Size and objectives of the Program

Stakeholders were universally supportive of the Government's plan to increase the size of the Program, and voiced concerns about the continued use of a Program 'ceiling' rather than a target or quota. Stakeholders indicated support for increases to the Special Humanitarian Program and Woman at Risk visa category, with particular emphasis on progressing the caseload from Afghanistan. Stakeholders also proposed the creation of a specific cohort under the Program for managing emergency responses, such as the response to the situations in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

### Cohorts for prioritisation

Stakeholders affirmed the proposed non-discriminatory principles of the Program, noting that intake should be directed towards those in greatest need. Stakeholders called for the Program to remove discrimination based on nationality or country of origin.

Stakeholders raised concerns about those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those who had been granted humanitarian visas but had been unable to travel to Australia.

Stakeholders have identified cohorts for prioritisation based on country of origin, ethnicity, religion and location. While stakeholders generally made submissions regarding the community which they represent, which are listed at the end of the document (in no particular order), a number of cohorts were identified by the majority of stakeholders as being at significant risk, including:

- **Africa** – It was noted that the intake from Africa has declined over the past years and recommended that the intake increase as the humanitarian situation continues to be dire.
- **Afghanistan** – Stakeholders raised concerns regarding the delays processing applications from Afghan nationals. There were calls to increase the overall intake from Afghanistan and to prioritise locally engaged employees, women, children, Hazaras, and family members of visa holders.

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- **Indonesia** – Stakeholders called for the policy settings to be lifted which restrict access to the Program for those refugees registered in Indonesia after 1 July 2014.
- **Myanmar** – Stakeholders suggested Myanmar nationals should be prioritised under the Program.
- **Uyghurs** – Stakeholders indicated Uyghurs should be prioritised under the Program and raised concerns for Uyghurs who may be deported to face persecution in China.
- **Women and children** – Stakeholders requested an increase in proportion of Woman at Risk visas and the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors program.

### Community Support Program (CSP) / Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP)

Stakeholders were supportive of the introduction of the CRISP and the proposed increase in community sponsored places. Stakeholders affirmed their support for the recent amendments to the CSP to reduce the visa application charge and called for further reforms to align CSP criteria more closely with the CRISP, removing limits on country of origin and applicant age.

### Onshore component

Stakeholders proposed that the onshore component of the Program should be separate to the offshore component. Stakeholders were supportive of the abolishment of Temporary Protection visas (TPVs) and Safe Haven Enterprise visas (SHEVs), with current holders moving to permanent Protection visas.

Stakeholders also encouraged a quick resolution to the TPV/SHEV caseload and called for an end to restrictions on entrants based on their method of arrival in Australia, such as not allowing irregular maritime arrivals to remain in Australia permanently or sponsor family members.

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Cohorts identified by stakeholders during the Consultation, based on country of origin, ethnicity, religion and location (listed in no particular order or characteristics):

Rohingya	Christian minorities	Chaldeans	Syrians
Climate change refugees	Ahmadiyya Muslims	Chins	Tamils
Kachins	Tibet	Uyghurs	Nepal
Myanmar	Africa	Somalia	Ethiopia
South Sudan	Sri Lanka	Yemen	Bangladesh
Indonesia	Afghanistan	Hazaras	Middle East
Bhutan	Eritrea	Libya	Tigray
Cameroon	Tutsis	Yazidi	Baha'i
Democratic Republic of Congo	Iraq	Armenians	Assyrians
Iran	Horn of Africa	Thailand	Malaysia
Turkey	Lebanon	Jordan	Oromos
Kurds	Hutus		