



Australian Government  
Department of Home Affairs

# Australia's Offshore Humanitarian Program: 2020–21

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# Executive summary

In 2020–21, 39,461 persons lodged an application for an offshore humanitarian visa. Around 60 per cent of all applications lodged in 2020–21 were from persons originating from the Middle East, 21 per cent from Africa, 17 per cent from Asia, and 1 per cent from the Americas.

Around 59 per cent of all persons who lodged applications in 2020–21 were under 30 years of age. The gender balance has remained relatively unchanged over the past five program years with 48.4 per cent of applicants in 2020–21 being female.

For 2020–21, Australia's annual Humanitarian Program was set at 13,750 places, with an indicative 11,750 places for the offshore component of the program.

Consistent with other decisions of the Government to limit the spread of COVID-19 within Australia, the granting of all Class XB (offshore) Humanitarian visas was deprioritised on 19 March 2020. After the Minister's interim approval on the specific composition of the program on 5 December 2020, the Department formally commenced processing of visa grants for the 2020–21 program.

As a result, 5947 resettlement visas were granted, comprising:

- 4558 offshore humanitarian visas
  - 2053 Refugee category visas
  - 2505 Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) visas
- 1389 permanent Protection visas

Of the 4558 visas granted offshore, 45.0 per cent were granted under the Refugee category and 55.0 per cent were granted under the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP).

In 2020–21, 49.5 per cent of all offshore visas were granted to persons originating from the Middle East, 34.6 per cent to persons from Asia, 11.2 per cent to persons from Africa, and almost 5 per cent to persons from the Americas.

The main groups resettled were:

- Iraqis predominantly located in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey
- Myanmar located in camps along the Thai–Myanmar border and Malaysia
- Afghans located in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India and Malaysia
- Syrians located in Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan

In 2020–21, the Government continued its commitment to resettling highly vulnerable women and their families, with 13.1 per cent (595) of visas granted to vulnerable women and their families.

Up to 750 places were set aside for the CSP, however measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic led to a shortfall in delivery, with 207 visas granted.

# Overview

## Process for setting the Humanitarian Program

Each year, the Australian Government undertakes a comprehensive consultation process to formulate the composition of the Humanitarian Program. This includes:

- engaging with the Australian community, by publishing a discussion paper seeking the views of the Australian public;
- consultation with state and territory governments and Commonwealth agencies
- Minister's meeting with peak refugee and humanitarian interest groups and community organisations
- consideration of advice on global resettlement need and priorities from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In planning the program, the Government also considers Australia's capacity to facilitate the entry and settlement of humanitarian entrants to ensure they are successfully integrated into Australian society.

## Program Components

The Humanitarian Program has two components:

- The offshore component of the program provides for the resettlement of people who were subject to persecution or discrimination that amounts to a gross violation of their human rights.
- The onshore component provides protection for people who have arrived in Australia lawfully and who are found to be a refugee and meet other visa criteria for permanent stay in Australia.

The focus of this report is the offshore component of the Humanitarian Program.

## Refugee and Humanitarian (Class XB) visa processing

Australia's offshore Humanitarian Program includes the following categories:

### Refugee category

For people who are subject to persecution in their home country and are in need of resettlement. They are usually referred by the UNHCR, but may also be self-referred. Applications are lodged at an Australian mission overseas.

Refugee visas include:

- Refugee (Subclass 200)
- In-country Special Humanitarian (Subclass 201)
- Emergency Rescue Visa (Subclass 203)
- Woman at Risk (Subclass 204)

### Special Humanitarian Program

For people who are subject to substantial discrimination amounting to gross violation of human rights in their home country and have a link to Australia. The SHP stream also includes the Community Support Program (CSP).

Applications must be lodged at the Special Humanitarian Processing Centre (SHPC) in Sydney and be proposed by:

- an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen, or an Australian organisation – for SHP applications; or
- an Approved Proposing Organisation (APO) – for CSP applications.

Applications assessed as eligible for further processing are referred to an Australian mission overseas. There is only one SHP visa:

- Global Special Humanitarian (Subclass 202)

The stages of processing a visa application through to visa grant are:

### Initial Assessment

- An initial assessment is undertaken on the basis of information provided in the application form, Government settlement priorities and visa criteria.
- The application will be refused or proceed to next stage of processing.

### Interview

- Applicants who proceed to next stage are interviewed by an Australian visa processing officer, who assesses the case against requirements in the Migration Regulations.
- Interviews explore identity, family composition, humanitarian claims, character / national security and settlement information.

### Public Interest Criteria Assessments

- Character and security checks are undertaken including checks relating to national security, criminality, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Department works closely with other Australian agencies and international partners in conducting checks. Health checks are conducted to identify any health concerns including those that may need to be treated or monitored.

### Visa grant

- Travel to Australia
- Humanitarian Settlement Program on arrival

# Offshore Humanitarian Lodgements

Of the 39,461 offshore humanitarian applications lodged in 2020–21, 26.1 per cent were for the Refugee category and 73.9 per cent for the SHP.

**Table 1: Number of persons lodging visa applications, by subclass and year of lodgement, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

Subclass	Program year of lodgement				
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	<b>Number</b>				
<b>Refugee</b>					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	37,276	21,456	16,550	21,238	7,016
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	4,651	5,764	9,411	7,627	2,912
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	16	15	11	21	74
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	1,539	609	924	1,503	311
<i>Total Refugee</i>	<i>43,482</i>	<i>27,844</i>	<i>26,896</i>	<i>30,389</i>	<i>10,313</i>
<b>SHP</b>					
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	<i>47,695</i>	<i>46,236</i>	<i>48,760</i>	<i>40,232</i>	<i>29,148</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,177</b>	<b>74,080</b>	<b>75,520</b>	<b>70,621</b>	<b>39,461</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>				
<b>Refugee</b>					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	40.9%	29.0%	21.9%	30.1%	17.8%
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	5.1%	7.8%	12.4%	10.8%	7.4%
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	1.7%	0.8%	1.2%	2.1%	0.8%
<i>Total Refugee</i>	<i>47.7%</i>	<i>37.6%</i>	<i>35.6%</i>	<i>43.0%</i>	<i>26.1%</i>
<b>SHP</b>					
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	<i>52.3%</i>	<i>62.4%</i>	<i>64.4%</i>	<i>57.0%</i>	<i>73.9%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

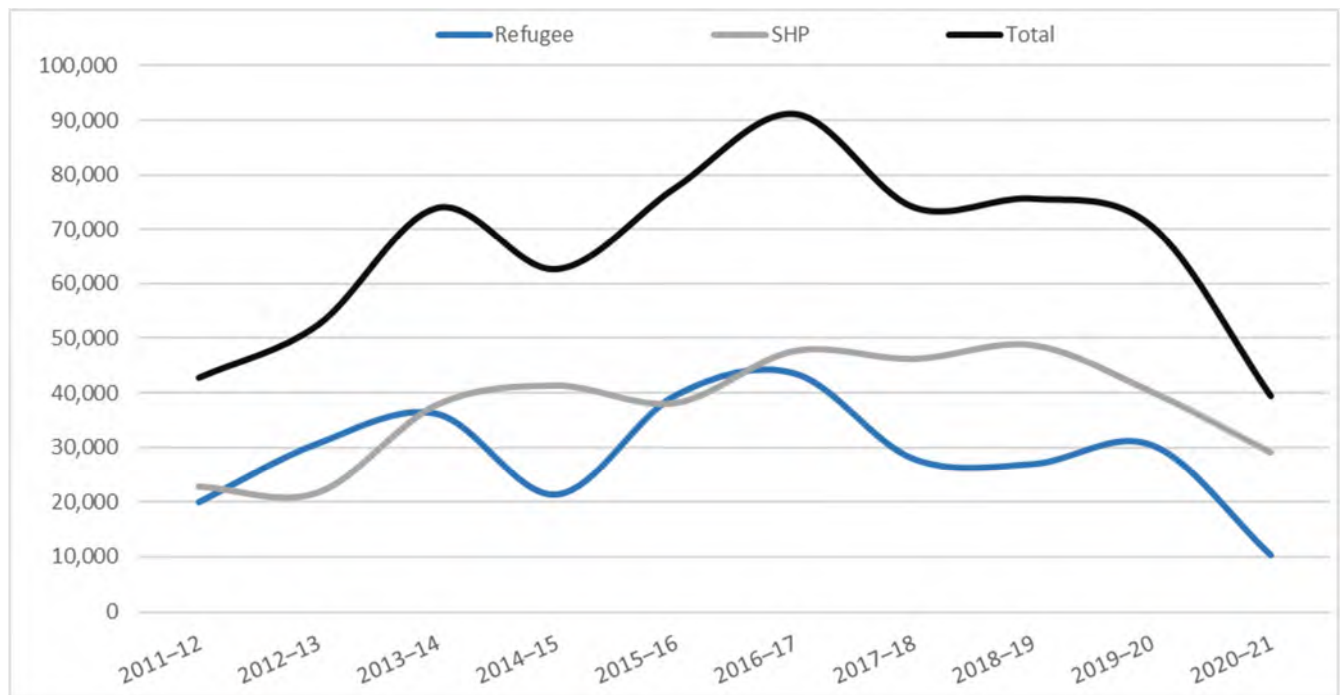
**Notes:**

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
2. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

Over the past ten years, the number of persons lodging applications has varied (see Figure 1) as explained below:

- The 44 per cent decrease in lodgements in 2020–21 was a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Refugee lodgements increased in 2015–16 and 2016–17 following the Government's announcement in September 2015 of the additional 12,000 places for Syrians and Iraqis, which has since been delivered.
- In 2013–14, the number of SHP applications rose, as a result of the SHP being increased to 4500 places from 500 places in 2012–13.
- In 2013-14, the increase in applications for the Refugee category was as a result of the one-off increase to 12,000 places in 2012–13.

**Figure 1: Number of persons lodging visa applications, by visa category and year of lodgement, 2011–12 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.



## Lodgements by region of origin

In 2020–21, the Middle East accounted for 60.3 per cent of all lodgements by region of origin, followed by Africa (21.2 per cent), Asia (16.8 per cent), and the Americas (1.2 per cent).

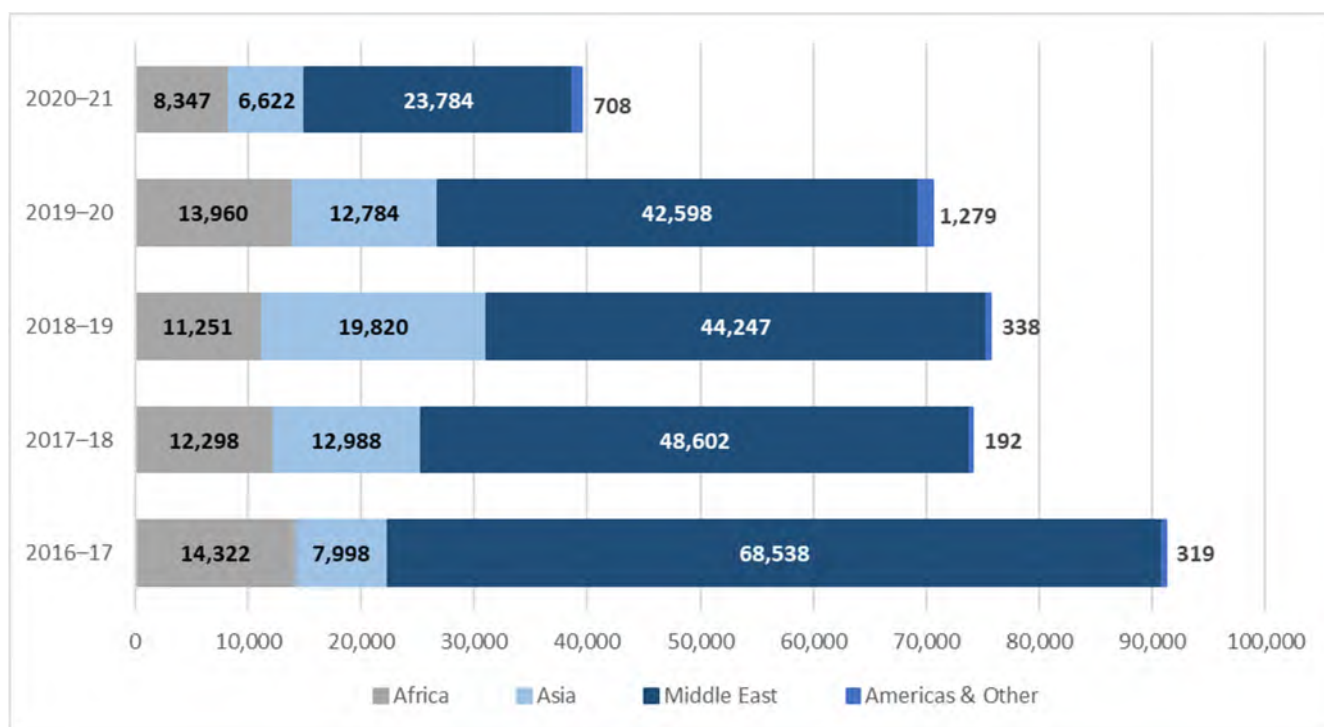
**Table 2: Persons lodging visa applications, by region of origin and year of lodgement, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

	Africa		Asia		Middle East		Americas & Other	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
2016–17	14,322	15.7%	7,998	8.8%	68,538	75.2%	319	0.3%
2017–18	12,298	16.6%	12,988	17.5%	48,602	65.6%	192	0.3%
2018–19	11,251	14.9%	19,820	26.2%	44,247	58.5%	338	0.4%
2019–20	13,960	19.8%	12,784	18.1%	42,598	60.3%	1,279	1.8%
2020–21	8,347	21.2%	6,622	16.8%	23,784	60.3%	708	1.2%

**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Statistics up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship. The country of birth or citizenship of the principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
3. Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

**Figure 2: Persons lodging visa applications, by region of origin and year of lodgement, 2016–17 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Statistics up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship. The country of birth or citizenship of the principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
3. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

## Lodgements by country of origin

Table 3: Top ten countries of origin for persons lodging visa applications, 2016–17 to 2020–21

2020–21		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	12,021	30.5%
Syria	6,903	17.5%
Eritrea	5,672	14.4%
Iran	3,772	9.6%
Afghanistan	3,586	9.1%
Myanmar	2,684	6.8%
Ethiopia	847	2.1%
Lebanon	816	2.1%
Dem. Rep of the Congo	557	1.4%
Congo	380	1.0%
Other	2,223	5.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,461</b>	<b>100%</b>

2018–19		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	29,068	38.4%
Myanmar	15,023	19.9%
Syria	9,711	12.8%
Iran	4,619	6.1%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2,911	3.8%
Ethiopia	2,855	3.8%
Afghanistan	2,774	3.7%
Eritrea	2,441	3.2%
Pakistan	634	0.8%
Central African Republic	511	0.7%
Other	5,109	6.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,656</b>	<b>100%</b>

2016–17		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Syria	41,188	45.2%
Iraq	24,974	27.4%
Myanmar	3,633	4.0%
Afghanistan	3,384	3.7%
South Sudan	3,219	3.5%
Ethiopia	2,672	2.9%
Sudan	2,422	2.7%
Eritrea	2,209	2.4%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1,864	2.0%
Bhutan	657	0.7%
Other	4,955	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,177</b>	<b>100%</b>

2019–20		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	23,275	33.0%
Syria	10,703	15.2%
Iran	8,223	11.6%
Myanmar	6,728	9.5%
Ethiopia	5,207	7.4%
Afghanistan	5,028	7.1%
Eritrea	3,827	5.4%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2,797	4.0%
Stateless	872	1.2%
Pakistan	531	0.8%
Other	3,430	4.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,621</b>	<b>100%</b>

2017–18		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	25,832	34.9%
Syria	19,153	25.9%
Myanmar	9,447	12.8%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	3,585	4.8%
Afghanistan	2,487	3.4%
Ethiopia	2,020	2.7%
Eritrea	1,782	2.4%
South Sudan	1,593	2.2%
Sudan	981	1.3%
Burundi	924	1.2%
Other	6,276	8.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,080</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Notes:

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Statistics for the offshore component up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship.
3. The Country of Origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
4. Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

## Lodgements by country of residence

Table 4: Top ten countries of residence for persons lodging visa applications, 2016–17 to 2020–21

2020–21		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Turkey	7,583	19.2%
Jordan	7,370	18.7%
Lebanon	5,925	15.0%
Sudan	3,832	9.7%
Iraq	3,654	9.3%
Malaysia	2,143	5.4%
Egypt	1,508	3.8%
Pakistan	1,255	3.2%
Ethiopia	965	2.4%
Afghanistan	573	1.5%
Other	4,653	11.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,461</b>	<b>100%</b>

2019–20		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Turkey	14,498	20.5%
Lebanon	11,359	16.1%
Iraq	10,029	14.2%
Jordan	7,816	11.1%
Egypt	7,270	10.3%
Malaysia	4,919	7.0%
Kenya	2,046	2.9%
Thailand	1,691	2.4%
India	1,601	2.3%
Pakistan	1,399	2.0%
Other	7,993	11.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,621</b>	<b>100%</b>

2018–19		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Iraq	13,865	18.3%
Lebanon	12,452	16.5%
Malaysia	11,561	15.3%
Turkey	9,427	12.5%
Jordan	7,177	9.5%
Egypt	3,601	4.8%
Thailand	2,877	3.8%
Kenya	2,575	3.4%
India	2,499	3.3%
Sudan	1,156	1.5%
Other	8,466	11.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,656</b>	<b>100%</b>

2017–18		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Lebanon	14,855	20.1%
Jordan	9,870	13.3%
United Arab Emirates	9,112	12.3%
Iraq	7,984	10.8%
Malaysia	6,845	9.2%
Turkey	5,441	7.3%
Kenya	3,835	5.2%
India	2,311	3.1%
Egypt	2,289	3.1%
Uganda	2,164	2.9%
Other	9,374	12.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,080</b>	<b>100%</b>

2016–17		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Lebanon	42,727	46.9%
Jordan	11,063	12.1%
Turkey	7,536	8.3%
Egypt	6,331	6.9%
Iraq	3,223	3.5%
Kenya	3,221	3.5%
United Arab Emirates	1,896	2.1%
Uganda	1,893	2.1%
Thailand	1,790	2.0%
Malaysia	1,787	2.0%
Other	9,710	10.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,177</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Notes:

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. The Country of residence of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
3. Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

## Other characteristics of persons included in visa applications

A single application can include members of the family unit such as children, a spouse or other dependant relatives of the primary applicant.

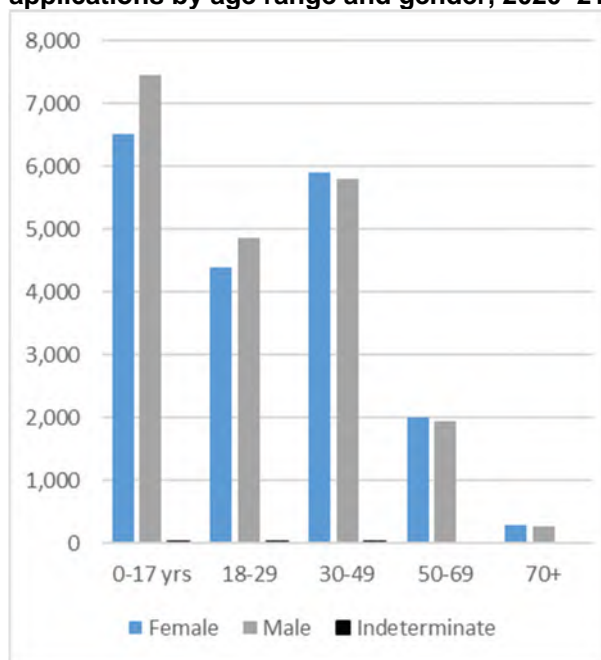
**Table 5: Number of persons included in visa applications, by age group, gender and year of lodgement, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

	2016–17		2017–18		2018–19		2019–20		2020–21	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>Age group</b>										
0–17	33,861	37.1%	29,130	39.3%	28,877	38.2%	25,254	35.8%	13,972	35.4%
18–29	20,068	22.0%	16,868	22.8%	18,320	24.2%	18,173	25.7%	9,252	23.4%
30–49	25,137	27.6%	19,422	26.2%	20,817	27.5%	19,859	28.1%	11,711	29.7%
50–69	10,357	11.4%	7,369	9.9%	6,500	8.6%	6,176	8.7%	3,954	10.0%
70+	1,754	1.9%	1,291	1.7%	1,142	1.5%	1,159	1.6%	572	1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,177</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>74,080</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75,656</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>70,621</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>39,461</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Gender</b>										
Male	46,899	51.4%	37,984	51.3%	38,586	51.0%	36,445	51.6%	20,339	51.5%
Female	44,278	48.6%	36,096	48.7%	37,070	49.0%	34,176	48.4%	19,114	48.4%
Indeterminate	2	<1%	1	<1%	12	<1%	13	<1%	8	>1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,177</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>74,080</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75,656</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>70,621</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>39,461</b>	<b>100%</b>

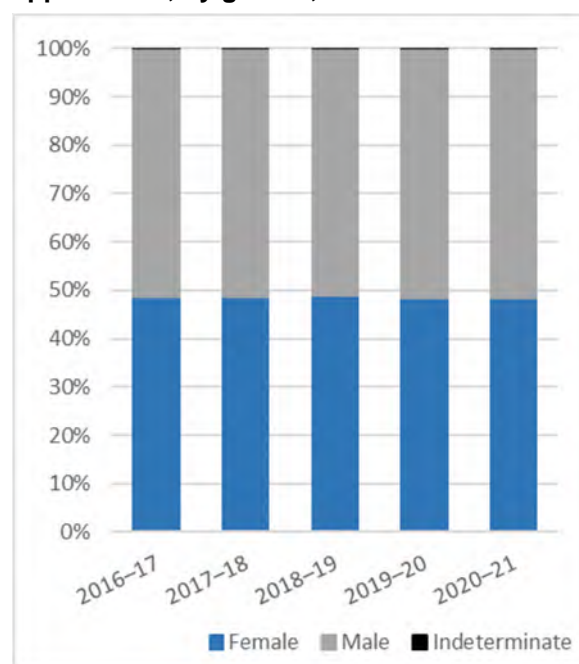
**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. Numbers for previous program years may differ due to changes in reporting processes.
4. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

**Figure 3: Number of persons included in visa applications by age range and gender, 2020–21**



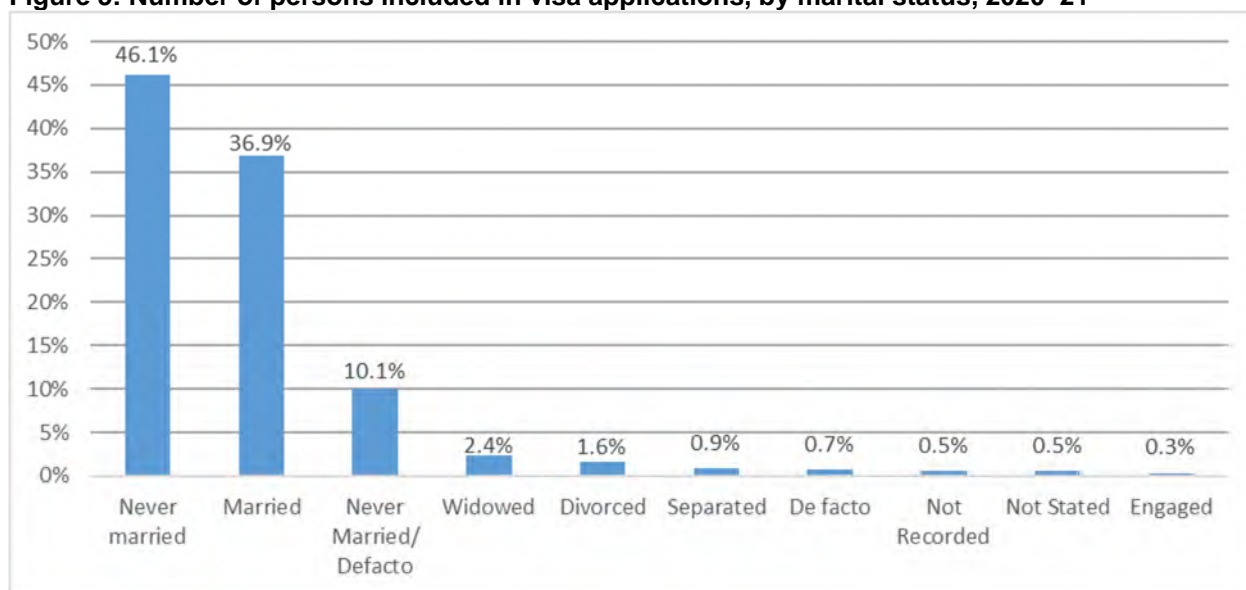
**Figure 4: Number of persons included in visa applications, by gender, 2016–17 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

**Figure 5: Number of persons included in visa applications, by marital status, 2020–21**



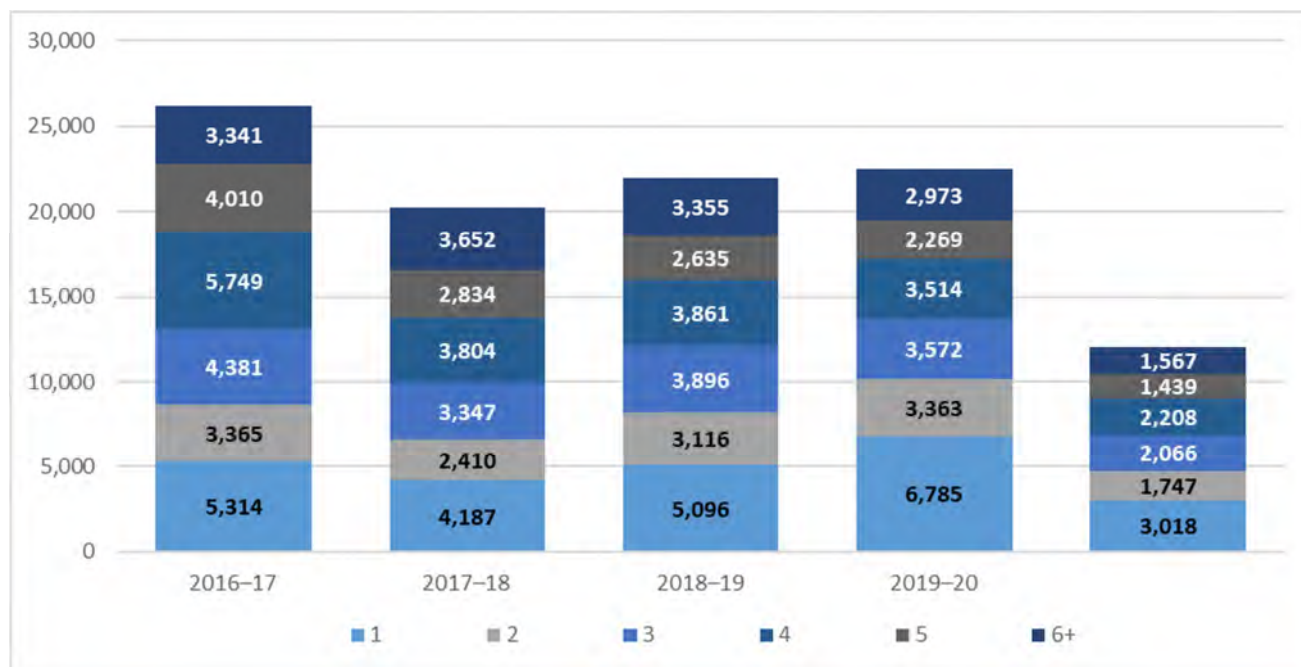
**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. Multiple departmental systems are used for processing visa applications. Marital status is represented in the above graph as recorded in the system of processing, therefore there may be duplication or overlap.

## Lodgements by case size

**Figure 6: Cases lodged, by case size and year of lodgement, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

Applications lodged for single applicants were the largest group in 2020–21, with people born in Eritrea comprising 30.0 per cent of this group.



**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

# Offshore Humanitarian Finalisations

The finalisation of an application refers to a decision to grant or refuse the visa, or to the application being withdrawn or otherwise finalised.

**Table 6: Number of persons receiving a finalisation, by visa category, decision type and year of finalisation, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

Visa category	Program year of finalisation				
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
<b>Refugee</b>					
Granted	9,653	7,909	9,451	6,422	2,053
Refused	42,375	20,210	25,914	23,081	18,652
Withdrawn/Other	1,097	760	613	447	326
<i>Total Refugee</i>	<i>53,125</i>	<i>28,879</i>	<i>35,978</i>	<i>29,950</i>	<i>21,031</i>
<b>SHP</b>					
Granted	10,604	6,916	7,661	5,099	2,505
Refused	59,418	46,447	40,800	46,700	25,025
Withdrawn/Other	1,385	453	750	1,102	546
<i>Total SHP</i>	<i>71,407</i>	<i>53,816</i>	<i>49,211</i>	<i>52,901</i>	<i>28,076</i>
<b>All categories</b>					
Granted	20,257	14,825	17,112	11,521	4,558
Refused	101,793	66,657	66,714	69,781	43,677
Withdrawn/Other	2,482	1,213	1,363	1,549	872
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,532</b>	<b>82,695</b>	<b>85,189</b>	<b>82,851</b>	<b>49,107</b>
<b>Refugee</b>					
Granted	7.8%	9.6%	11.1%	7.8%	4.2%
Refused	34.0%	24.4%	30.4%	27.9%	38.0%
Withdrawn/Other	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%
<i>Total Refugee</i>	<i>42.7%</i>	<i>34.9%</i>	<i>42.2%</i>	<i>36.1%</i>	<i>42.8%</i>
<b>SHP</b>					
Granted	8.5%	8.4%	9.0%	6.2%	5.1%
Refused	47.7%	56.2%	47.9%	56.4%	51.0%
Withdrawn/Other	1.1%	0.5%	0.9%	1.3%	1.1%
<i>Total SHP</i>	<i>57.3%</i>	<i>65.1%</i>	<i>57.8%</i>	<i>63.9%</i>	<i>57.2%</i>
<b>All categories</b>					
Granted	16.3%	17.9%	20.1%	13.9%	9.3%
Refused	81.7%	80.6%	78.3%	84.2%	88.9%
Withdrawn/Other	2.0%	1.5%	1.6%	1.9%	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.
4. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

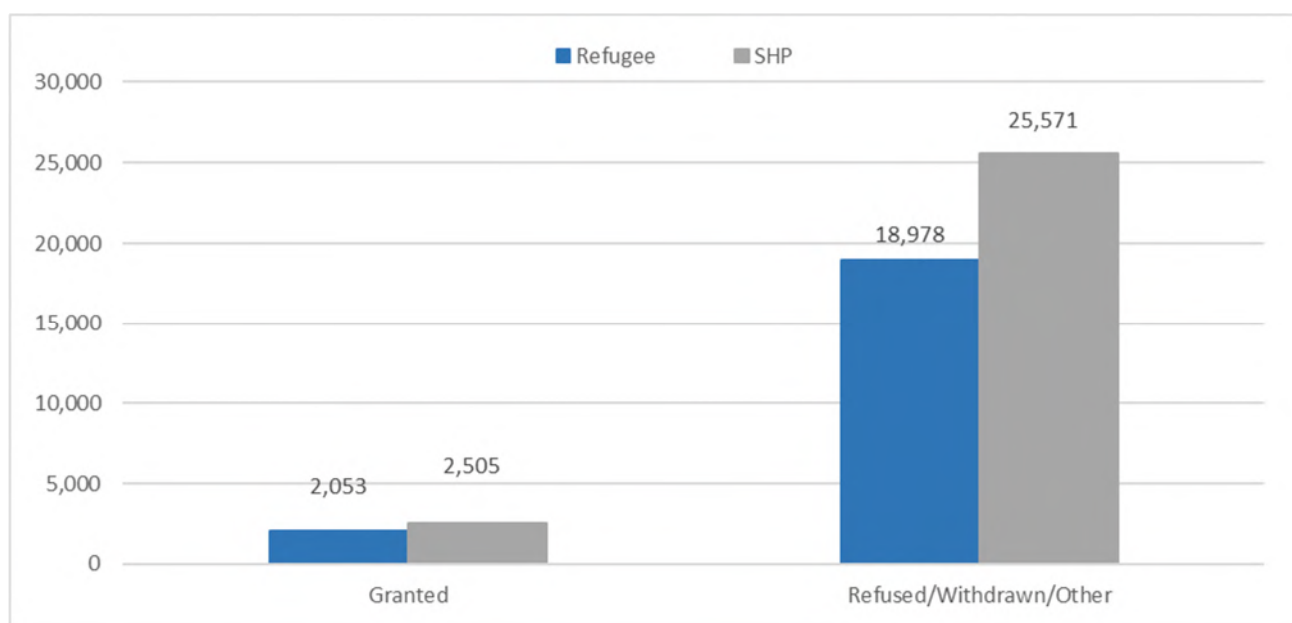
Consistent with other decisions of the Government to limit the spread of COVID-19 within Australia, the granting of all Class XB (offshore) Humanitarian visas was deprioritised on 19 March 2020. A small number of emergency cases were granted in the final quarter of 2019–20 program year.

The Department formally commenced processing of visa grants for the 2020–21 program year on 05 December 2020. The Department faced significant program delivery challenges due to the pandemic-induced restrictions across many refugee-hosting countries, which resulted in a decrease in finalisations.

Processing activities in 2017–18 and 2018–19 reverted to business as usual following the delivery of the additional Syrian and Iraqi program (see below), resulting in finalisations similar to 2014–15.

The availability of an additional 12,000 places across 2015–16 and 2016–17 for Syrians and Iraqis displaced by conflict in their home countries resulted in a significant increase in the number of applications lodged. In order to ensure delivery of all places under the increased program, departmental posts and the SHPC efforts were focused on processing applications to visa grant and therefore fewer refusal decisions.

**Figure 7: Persons receiving finalisations, by visa category and decision, 2020–21**

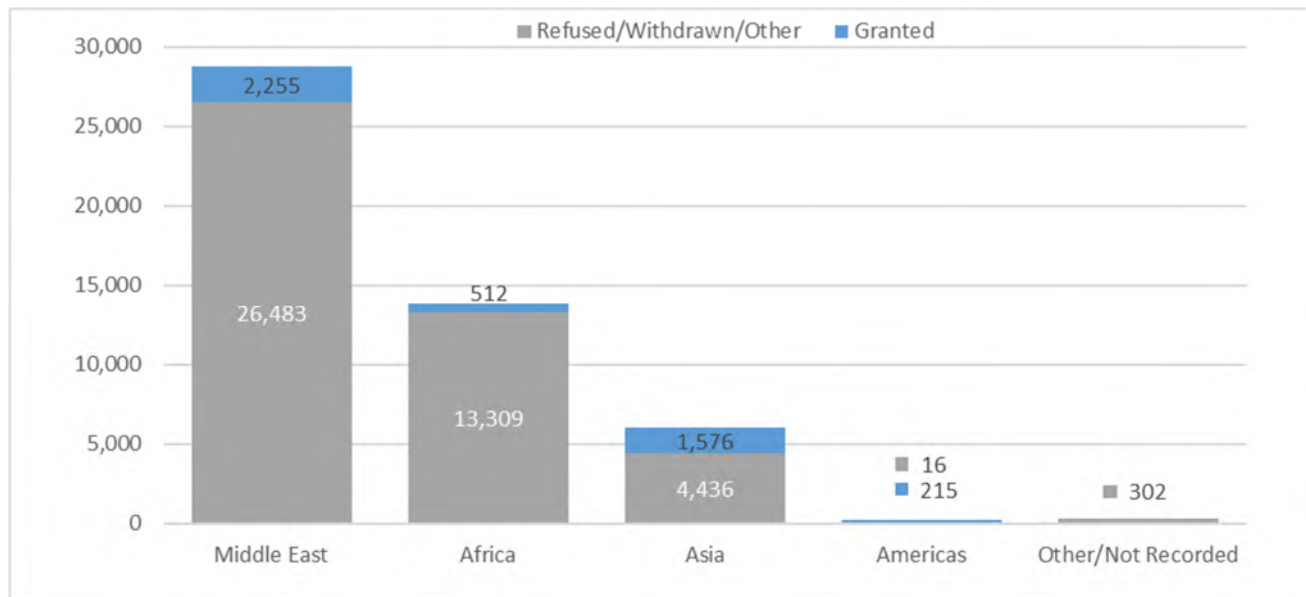


**Notes:**

1. Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

## Finalisations by region of origin

Figure 8: Persons receiving finalisations by region of origin, 2020–21



**Notes:**

1. Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. The region of origin of the principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.



# Offshore Humanitarian Grants

The 4558 visas granted under the offshore Humanitarian Program in 2020–21 comprised:

- 2053 Refugee category visas
- 2505 Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) visas.

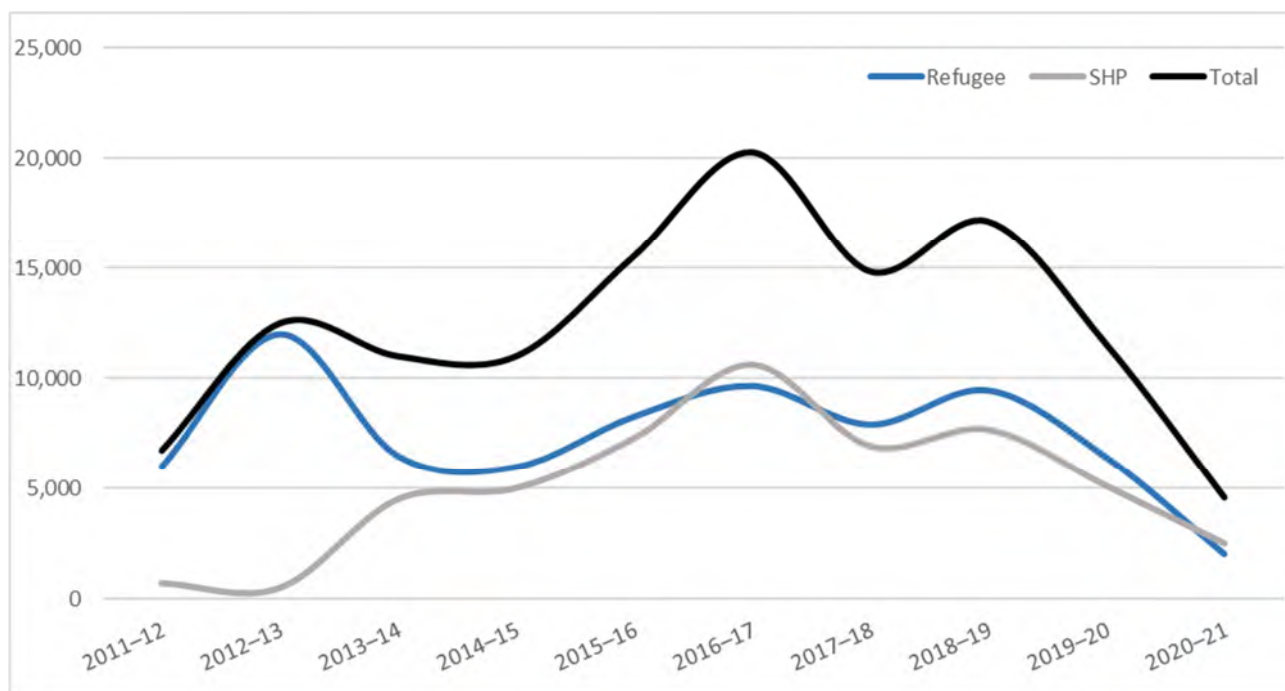
**Table 7: Number of persons granted visas, by subclass and year of grant, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

Subclass	Program year of grant				
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	<b>Number</b>				
<b>Refugee</b>					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	8,328	5,890	6,666	4,326	1,157
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	265	1,078	1861	1,195	518
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	16	1	7	20	29
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	1,044	940	917	881	349
<i>Total Refugee</i>	9,653	7,909	9,451	6,422	2,053
<b>SHP</b>					
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	10,604	6,916	7,661	5,099	2,505
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,257</b>	<b>14,825</b>	<b>17,112</b>	<b>11,521</b>	<b>4,558</b>
	<b>Per cent</b>				
<b>Refugee</b>					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	41.1%	39.7%	39.0%	37.5%	25.4%
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	1.3%	7.3%	10.9%	10.4%	11.4%
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	5.2%	6.3%	5.4%	7.6%	7.7%
<i>Total Refugee</i>	47.7%	53.3%	55.2%	55.7%	45.0%
<b>SHP</b>					
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	52.3%	46.7%	44.8%	44.3%	55.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
2. The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.
3. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

**Figure 9: Number of persons granted visas, by visa category and year of grant, 2011–12 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. The 2015–16 and 2016–17 statistics in this graph includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

The 2020–21 Humanitarian Program was reduced to 13,750 places due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department formally commenced processing of visa grants for the 2020–21 program on 05 December 2020, with a total of 4558 visas granted as at 30 June 2021.

The offshore program continued the Government’s focus on resettling people from four priority regions of the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Americas, with the key nationality groups being resettled including Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Myanmarese, Congolese from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopians, Eritreans and Venezuelans.

The 2019–20 Humanitarian Program remained at 18,750 places, but could not be delivered in full due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent with other decisions of the Government to limit the spread of COVID-19 within Australia, the granting of all Class XB (offshore) Humanitarian visas was deprioritised on 19 March 2020. This resulted in 11,521 of the 17,100 offshore places being delivered.

The increased Humanitarian Program in 2018–19 of 18,750 places comprised 17,100 places for the offshore component that were fully delivered.

In 2018-19, the offshore program continued the Government’s focus on resettling people from the three priority regions of Middle East, Asia and Africa, and delivered on key Government commitments including resettlement from protracted refugee situations in line with the commitment made at the New York Leaders’ Summit on Refugees in September 2016 as well as surpassing the target of 2565 places for vulnerable women and children.

The 2018–19 program continued to deliver on the Government’s focus on resettling refugees in the Middle East region who are from persecuted minorities with least prospect of safe return, with an increase in the number of Yazidis granted visas. The significant increase in in-country (subclass 201) visas compared with previous years, reflects the increased grants to Yazidis in Iraq.

The increased Humanitarian Program in 2017–18 of 16,250 places comprised 14,825 places for the offshore component that were fully delivered.

The increased Refugee and SHP grants in 2015–16 and 2016–17, reflects delivery of the annual Humanitarian Program as well as the additional 12,000 places for Syrians and Iraqis.

Prior to the 2013–14 program year, the SHP was linked numerically to the onshore protection component of the Humanitarian Program. The high numbers of protection visa grants in that period resulted in lower numbers of SHP visa grants.

In 2013–14, as a result of changes introduced by the newly-elected Government, visas granted to IMAs were no longer counted towards the Humanitarian Program. This allowed the SHP to be restored as a result of which 4,500 visas were granted under the SHP.

The Refugee allocation returned to 6000 places in 2013–14, following the one off increase in 2012–13 to the Humanitarian program to 20,000 places, in line with the recommendation of the Expert Panel on Asylum seekers. The increase in 2012–13 comprised 12,000 Refugee category places, and 8,000 places for the SHP and onshore protection component.

## Grant rates

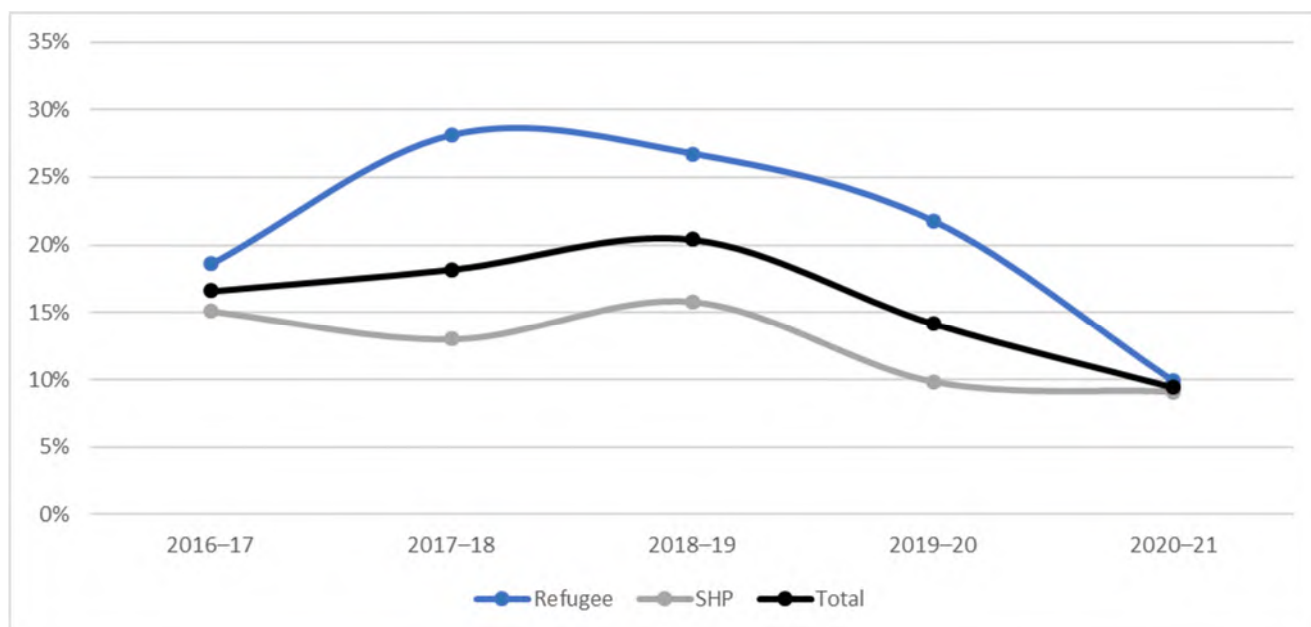
**Table 8: Grant rate by visa category and year of finalisation, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

Visa Category	Program year of finalisation				
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Refugee	18.6%	28.1%	26.7%	21.8%	9.9%
SHP	15.1%	13.0%	15.8%	9.8%	9.1%
<b>Both categories combined</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

**Figure 10: Grant rate by visa category and year of finalisation, 2016–17 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. The 2016–17 statistics in this graph includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.
- 4.

Consistent with other decisions of the Government to limit the spread of COVID-19 within Australia, the granting of all Class XB (offshore) Humanitarian visas was deprioritised on 19 March 2020. After the Minister's interim approval on the specific composition of the program on 5 December 2020, the Department formally commenced processing of visa grants for the 2020–21 program.

The decrease in grants and increase in refusals resulted in lower grant rates in 2019–20 and 2020–21.

Grant rates in 2018–19 were slightly higher than 2017–18 resulting from the 2275 place increase to the offshore component of the program.

Grant rates in 2017–18 increased to 28.1 per cent for Refugee as a result of a reduction in refusal activity.

## Grants by region of origin

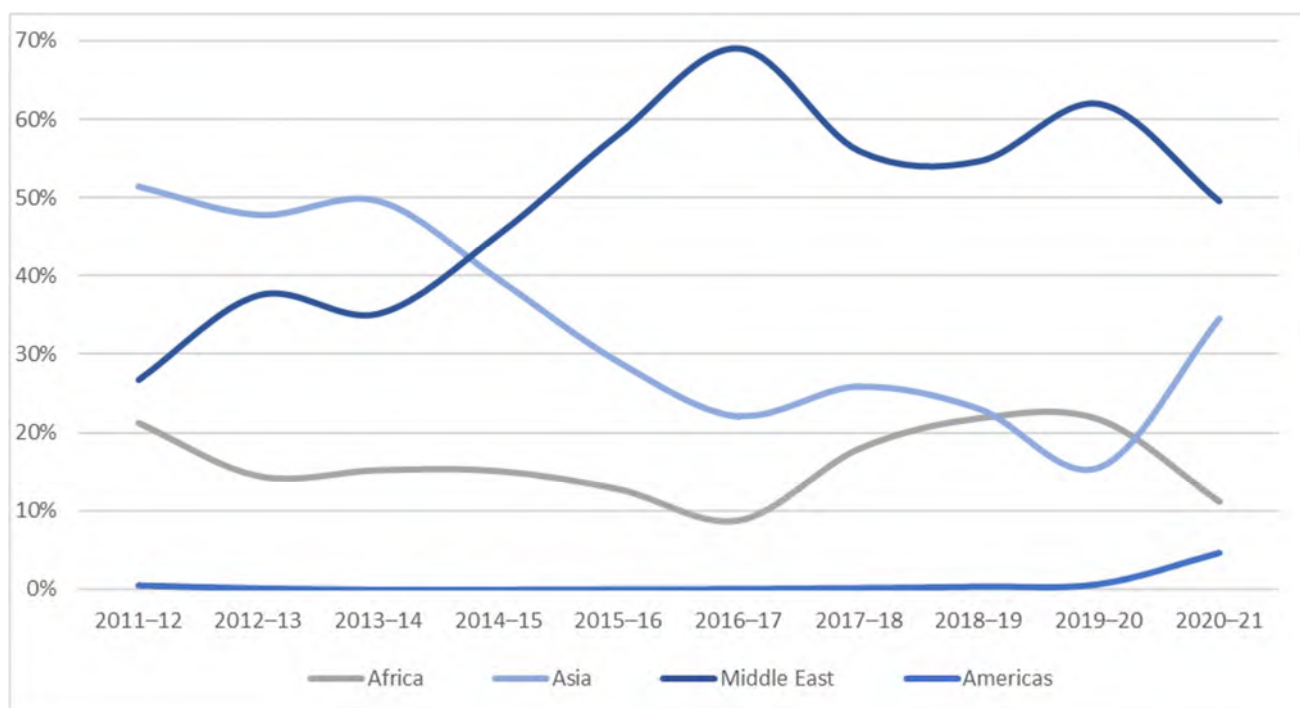
**Table 9: Number of persons granted visas, by year of grant and region of origin, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

Program Year	Africa	Asia	Middle East	Americas
2016–17	1,785	4,477	13,974	21
2017–18	2,667	3,840	8,285	33
2018–19	3,741	3,945	9,336	90
2019–20	2,054	1,801	7,132	84
2020–21	512	1,576	2,255	215

**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Statistics up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth region. From 2020–21 they are based on citizenship region. The country of birth region or citizenship region of the principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
3. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
4. The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

**Figure 11: Proportion of visa grants by region of origin and year of grant, 2011–12 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Statistics up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth region. From 2020–21 they are based on citizenship region. The country of birth region or citizenship region of the principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
3. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
4. The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

## Grants by country of origin

In 2020–21 the top five countries of origin for persons granted visas were Iraq, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Syria and Eritrea. Around 45 per cent of the grants were to persons from Iraq and Syria. Of the 68,237 visas granted over the last 5 program years, 57.6 per cent were granted to persons from Iraq or Syria.

**Table 10: Top ten countries of origin for persons granted visas, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

2020–21		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	1,585	34.8%
Myanmar	656	14.4%
Afghanistan	562	12.3%
Syria	450	9.9%
Eritrea	241	5.3%
Pakistan	213	4.7%
Iran	188	4.1%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	154	3.4%
Stateless	144	3.2%
Venezuela	104	2.3%
Other	261	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,558</b>	<b>100%</b>

2019–20		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	5,785	50.2%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1,165	10.1%
Syria	947	8.2%
Myanmar	796	6.9%
Afghanistan	619	5.4%
Eritrea	434	3.8%
Ethiopia	360	3.1%
Central African Republic	333	2.9%
Iran	317	2.8%
Stateless	204	1.8%
Other	561	4.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,521</b>	<b>100%</b>

2018–19		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	7,095	41.5%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2,114	12.4%
Myanmar	1,995	11.7%
Syria	1,836	10.7%
Afghanistan	1,323	7.7%
Ethiopia	635	3.7%
Eritrea	555	3.2%
Iran	367	2.1%
Bhutan	254	1.5%
Tibet (so stated)	189	1.1%
Other	749	4.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,112</b>	<b>100%</b>

2017–18		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	4,630	31.2%
Syria	3,227	21.8%
Myanmar	2,043	13.8%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1,355	9.1%
Afghanistan	1,130	7.6%
Eritrea	494	3.3%
Ethiopia	481	3.2%
Bhutan	308	2.1%
Iran	218	1.5%
Tibet (so stated)	200	1.3%
Other	739	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,825</b>	<b>100%</b>

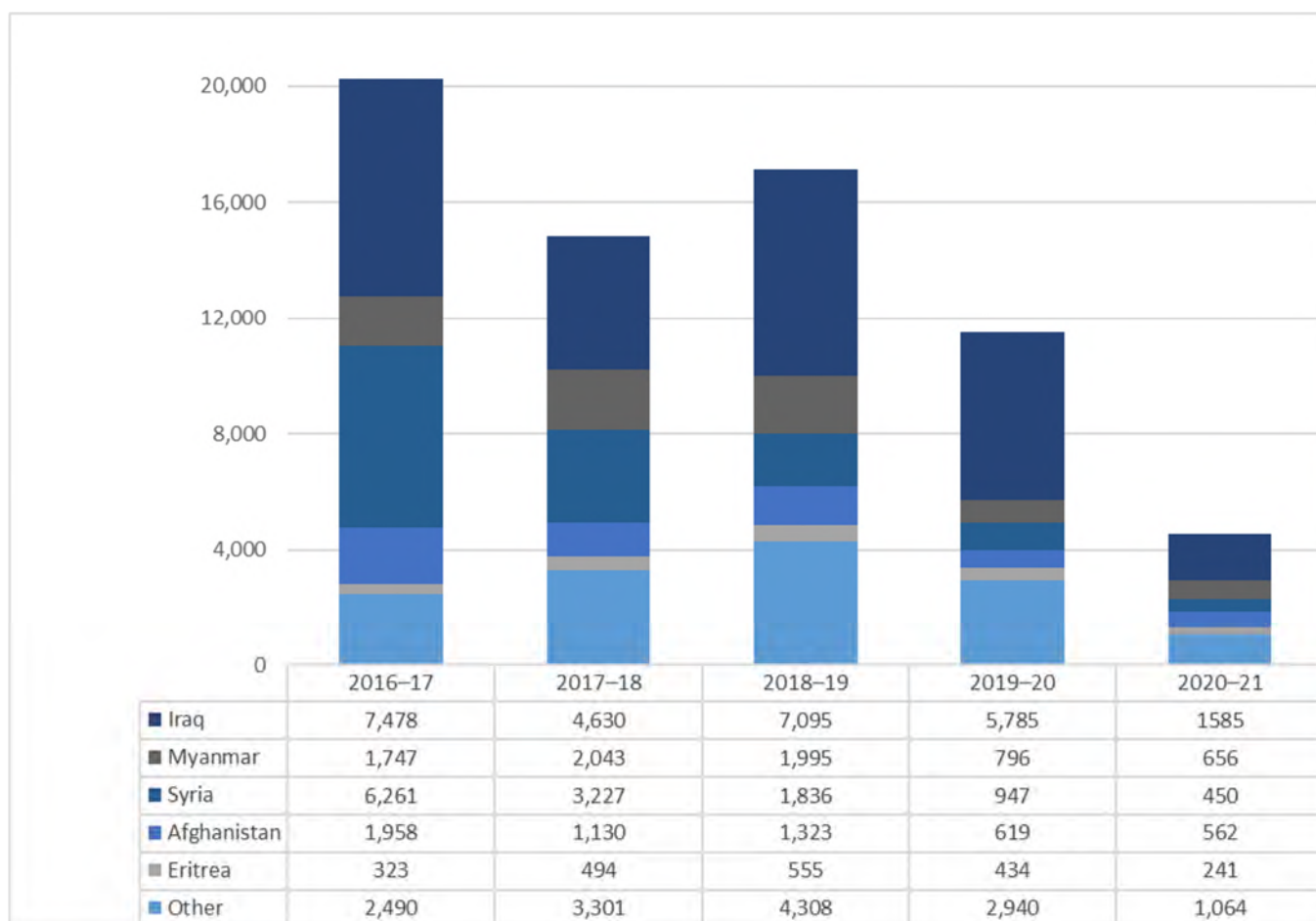
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2016–17		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	7,478	36.9%
Syria	6,261	30.9%
Afghanistan	1,958	9.7%
Myanmar	1,747	8.6%
Bhutan	555	2.7%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	336	1.7%
Eritrea	323	1.6%
Ethiopia	323	1.6%
South Sudan	316	1.6%
Somalia	162	0.8%
Other	798	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,257</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Statistics for the offshore component up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship.
3. The Country of origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
4. Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
5. The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

**Figure 12: Number of persons granted visas by top five countries of origin, 2016–17 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) 204 (Woman at Risk) and 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. This figure is based on the top 5 countries of origin for grants in 2020–21.
3. Statistics up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship. The country of birth or citizenship of the principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
4. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
5. The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

## Grants by country of residence

Table 11: Top ten countries of residence for persons granted visas, 2016–17 to 2020–21

2020–21		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Jordan	981	21.5%
Lebanon	534	11.7%
Thailand	499	10.9%
Malaysia	415	9.1%
Iraq	411	9.0%
Afghanistan	284	6.2%
Turkey	274	6.0%
India	205	4.5%
Sudan	179	3.9%
Pakistan	151	3.3%
Other	625	13.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,558</b>	<b>100%</b>

2018–19		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Lebanon	3,365	19.7%
Iraq	2,528	14.8%
Jordan	1,906	11.1%
Kenya	1,312	7.7%
Turkey	1,254	7.3%
Malaysia	998	5.8%
India	922	5.4%
Thailand	707	4.1%
Pakistan	638	3.7%
Egypt	447	2.6%
Other	3,035	17.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,112</b>	<b>100%</b>

2016–17		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Lebanon	6,132	30.3%
Jordan	4,211	20.8%
Turkey	2,057	10.2%
Thailand	1,065	5.3%
Pakistan	966	4.8%
Iraq	944	4.7%
Kenya	792	3.9%
Malaysia	630	3.1%
India	585	2.9%
Iran	585	2.9%
Other	2,290	11.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,257</b>	<b>100%</b>

2019–20		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Lebanon	2,573	22.3%
Jordan	2,080	18.1%
Iraq	1,357	11.8%
Turkey	1,013	8.8%
Kenya	842	7.3%
Malaysia	485	4.2%
India	465	4.0%
Thailand	335	2.9%
Sudan	331	2.9%
Burundi	299	2.6%
Other	1,741	15.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,521</b>	<b>100%</b>

2017–18		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Lebanon	2,782	18.8%
Jordan	2,079	14.0%
Iraq	1,682	11.3%
Turkey	1,247	8.4%
Kenya	1,218	8.2%
Malaysia	940	6.3%
India	853	5.8%
Thailand	852	5.7%
United Arab Emirates	474	3.2%
Pakistan	421	2.8%
Other	2,277	15.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,825</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Notes:

- Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
- Country of residence refers to the country in which the applicant was residing during the processing of their application.
- The country of residence of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
- The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.



## Other characteristics of persons granted visas

**Table 12: Number of persons granted visas, by age group, gender and program year of grant, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

	2016–17		2017–18		2018–19		2019–20		2020–21	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>Age group</b>										
0–17	7,701	38.0%	5,872	39.6%	6,870	40.1%	4,526	39.3%	1,591	34.9%
18–29	3,971	19.6%	3,226	21.8%	3,900	22.8%	2,528	21.9%	1,034	22.7%
30–49	5,374	26.5%	3,775	25.5%	4,268	24.9%	3,022	26.2%	1,377	30.2%
50–69	2,595	12.8%	1,620	10.9%	1,748	10.2%	1,227	10.7%	483	10.6%
70+	616	3.0%	332	2.2%	326	1.9%	218	1.9%	73	1.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,257</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,825</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>17,112</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,521</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,558</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Gender</b>										
Male	9,976	49.2%	9,976	49.2%	8,447	49.4%	5,549	48.2%	2,249	49.3%
Female	10,281	50.8%	10,281	50.8%	8,665	50.6%	5,972	51.8%	2,309	50.7%
Indeterminate	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,257</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20,257</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>17,112</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,521</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,558</b>	<b>100%</b>

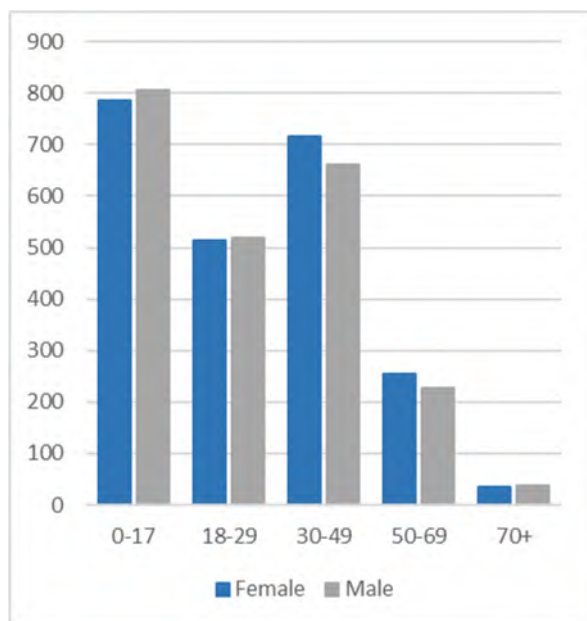
**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

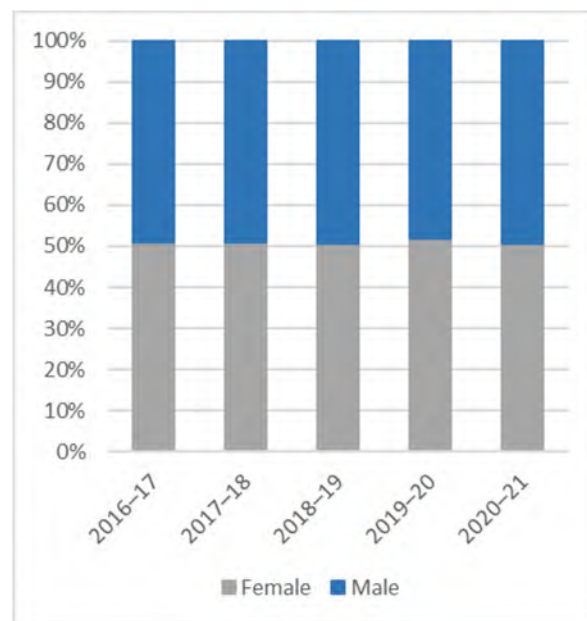
In 2020–21, 34.9 per cent of all persons granted visas were in the age group 0 to 17 years. Persons in this age group have been granted the majority of Humanitarian visas in each year from 2016–17 to 2020–21.

The proportion of males and females granted visas has remained steady at around 50 per cent.

**Figure 13: Number of persons granted visas, by age range and gender, 2020–21**



**Figure 14: Number of persons granted visas, by gender, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

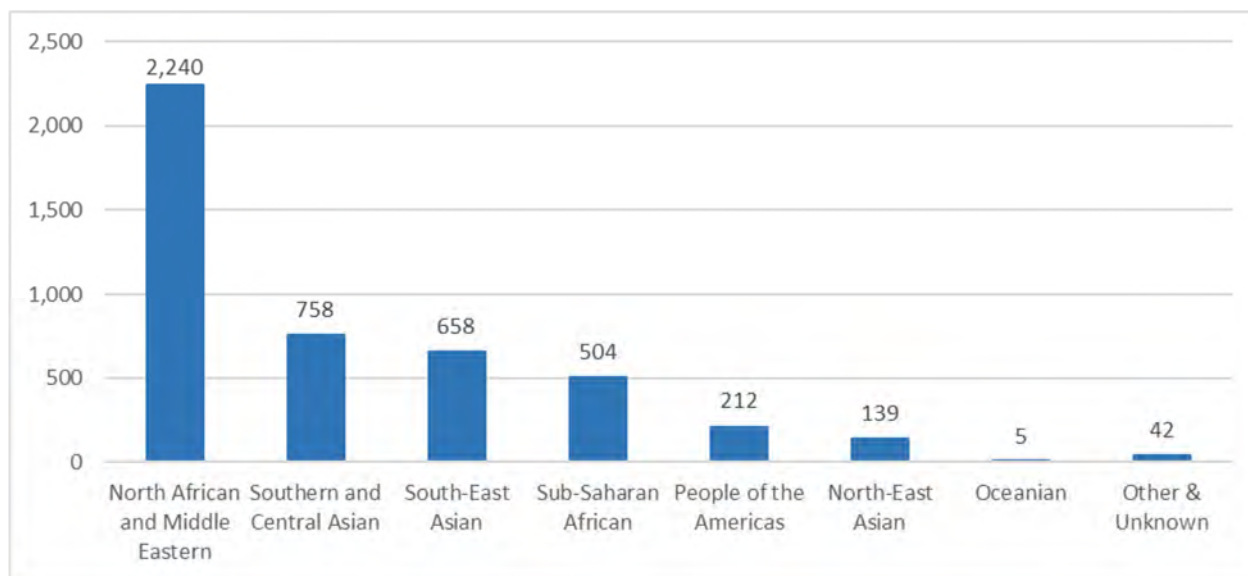


**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. The 2016–17 statistics in Figure 14 includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

**Figure 15: Number of persons granted visas, by broader ethnic grouping, 2020–21**

In 2020–21, visas were granted to 63 different ethnic groups for Refugee visas and 37 different ethnic groups for SHP visas. In total, persons from 76 different ethnic groups were granted visas.

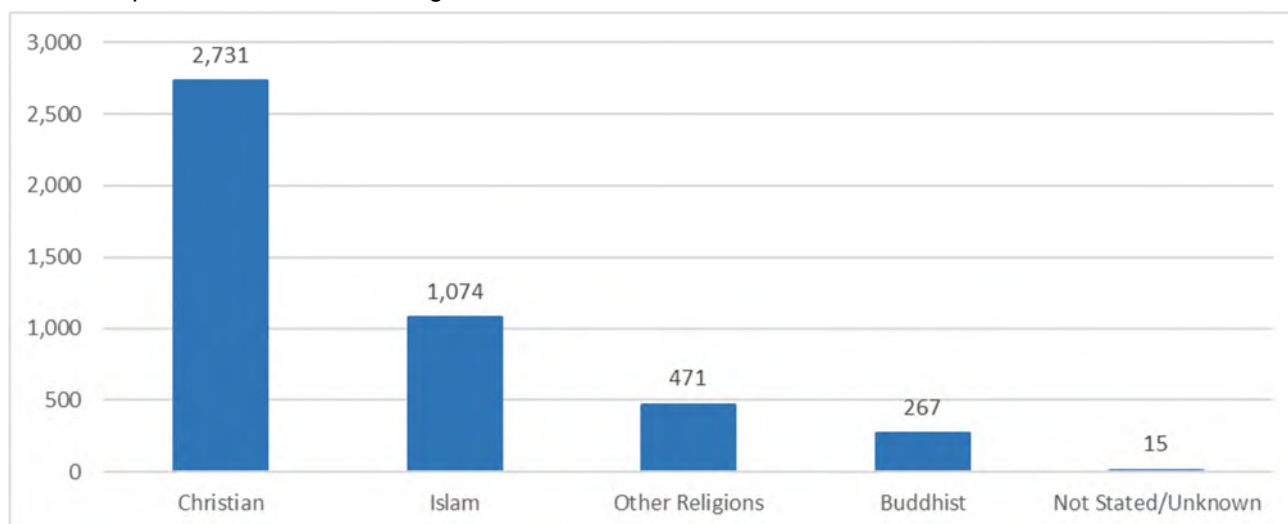


**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) 204 (Woman at Risk) and 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. The ethnicity of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants. Broader ethnic grouping is as classified by 1249.0 - Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 2011.
3. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

**Figure 16: Number of persons granted visas, by religion group, 2020–21**

In 2020–21, 59.9 per cent of all grants were to persons identifying as Christian, 23.6 per cent to persons identifying as Islamic, 10.3 per cent to applicants self-identifying other religions and 5.9 per cent identifying as Buddhist. In total, persons from 45 religious groups were granted visas in 2020–21. It is noted that applicants are not required to indicate their religion.



**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) 204 (Woman at Risk) and 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. The religion of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
3. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

# Vulnerable Women and Children

The 'Vulnerable Women and Children' (VWC) group is an extension of the Woman at Risk visa (subclass 204), which is specific to female applicants and their dependants who are subject to persecution or are otherwise of concern to UNHCR, are living outside their home country without the protection of a male relative and are in danger of victimisation, harassment or serious abuse because of their gender. The VWC group primarily comprises 'Women at Risk' but also includes vulnerable women and their families, without male protection, who might have been resettled under other visa subclasses such as 201 ('in-country') and 202 ('split family').

The Woman at Risk visa subclass was established in recognition of the priority given by UNHCR to the protection of refugee women in particularly vulnerable situations. Its introduction was intended to provide a pathway for the resettlement of vulnerable women refugees and their dependants living without the effective protection of male relatives.

Woman at Risk visa applicants may be unmarried, divorced or widowed and have no male relative who can provide effective protection, or separated from their partners or male relatives due to conflict or other circumstances.

Over 26,500 visas have been granted to vulnerable women and their dependants since the establishment of the Woman at Risk visa in 1989.

Up until to 2012–13, 12 per cent of refugee places were allocated to Woman at Risk applicants.

In 2013–14 and 2014–15, a commitment was made to grant at least 1000 Woman at Risk visas under the offshore program.

In 2015–16, 1200 refugee places were allocated to Woman at Risk applicants.

In 2016–17 (and continuing into 2017–18) the proportion of the program for people facing particular vulnerabilities was expanded to include Vulnerable Women and Children from persecuted minority groups such as the Yazidis, who are living in their home country and otherwise may not be eligible under the subclass 204 criteria, in recognition of the vulnerabilities they faced.

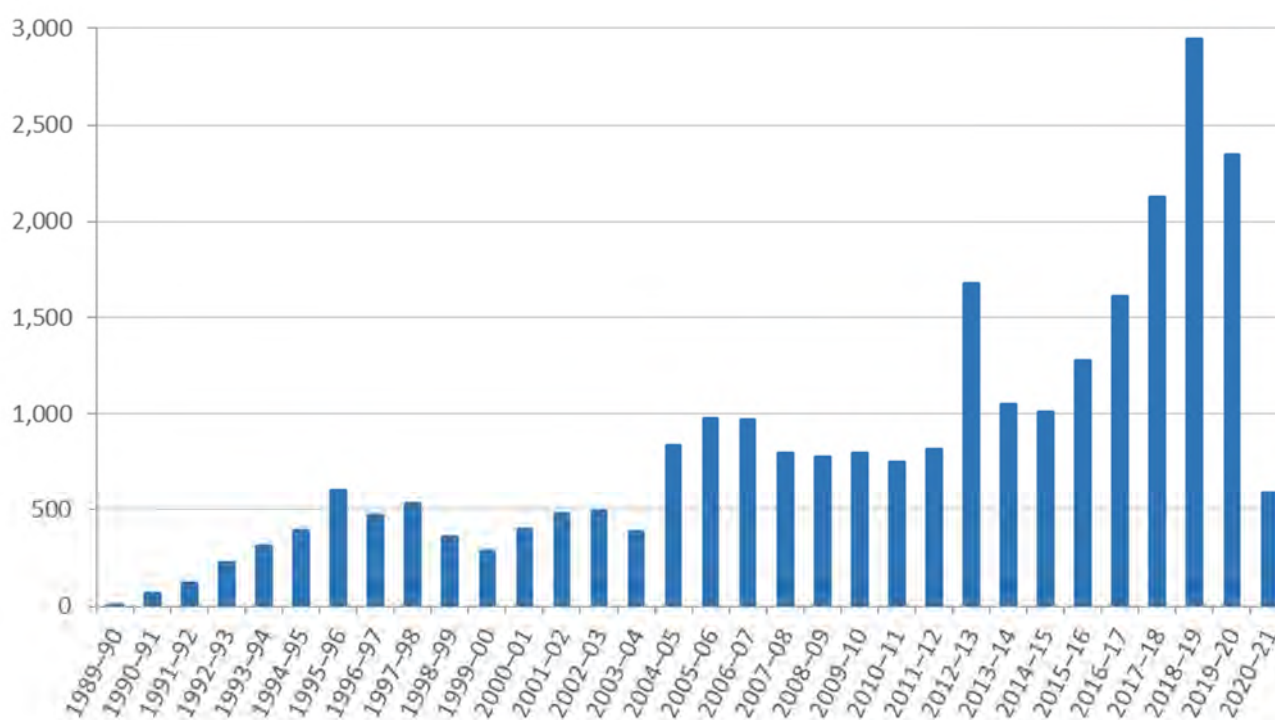
In 2017–18, the target for vulnerable women and children of 1550 places was exceeded with more than 2120 visas granted to this group.

In 2018–19, the Government continued its commitment to resettling highly vulnerable women by setting aside at least 2565 places for vulnerable women and their families. This was exceeded with more than 2940 visas granted.

In 2019–20, the Government set aside at least 20 per cent of the program (3500 places) for vulnerable women and their families. Consistent with other decisions of the Government to limit the spread of COVID-19 within Australia, the granting of all Class XB (offshore) Humanitarian visas was deprioritised on 19 March 2020. As a result, 2345 of the 3500 places were granted equating to 20.4 per cent of the delivered program.

The Department formally commenced processing of visa grants for the 2020–21 program on 5 December 2020. In 2020–21, the Government continued its commitment to resettling highly vulnerable women and their families, with 13.1 per cent (595) of visas granted to vulnerable women and their families.

**Figure 17: Number of visas granted to Vulnerable Women and Children, by year of grant, 1989–90 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
2. The 2015–16 statistics in this graph includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

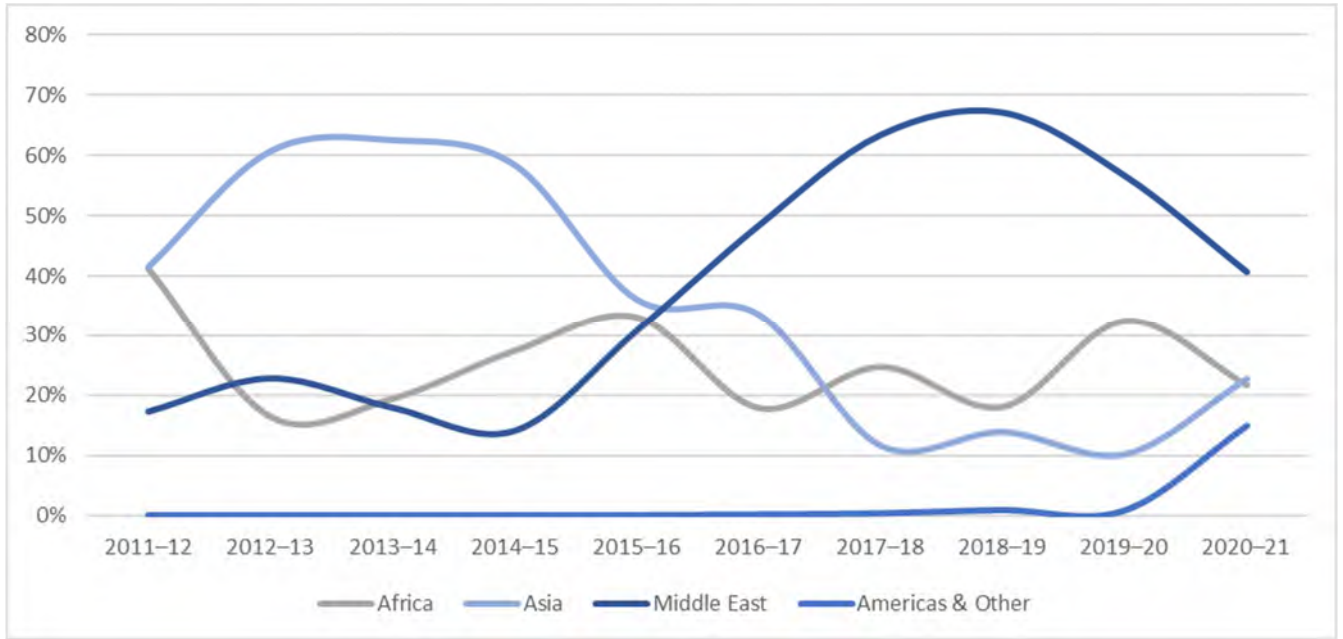
**Table 13: Number of visas granted to Vulnerable Women and Children, by age group and year of grant, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

Age group	Program year of grant				
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
<b>Number</b>					
0–17 years	788	1,081	1,443	1,057	238
18–29 years	257	463	667	560	132
30–49 years	330	428	586	504	151
50–69 years	108	126	198	179	64
70+ years	24	28	53	45	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>2,947</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>595</b>
<b>Per cent</b>					
0–17 years	49.0%	50.8%	49.0%	45.1%	5.2%
18–29 years	22.2%	21.8%	22.6%	23.9%	2.9%
30–49 years	20.5%	20.1%	19.9%	21.5%	3.3%
50–69 years	6.7%	5.9%	6.7%	7.6%	1.4%
70+ years	1.5%	1.3%	1.8%	1.9%	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
2. The 2015–16 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.
3. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

**Figure 18: Proportion of grants to Vulnerable Women and Children, by region of origin and year of grant, 2011–12 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. The region of origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. The 2015–16 statistics in this graph includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

**Table 14: Top ten countries of origin for Vulnerable Women and Children, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

2020–21		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	187	31.4%
Eritrea	66	11.1%
Afghanistan	66	11.1%
Venezuela	65	10.9%
Myanmar	52	8.7%
Syria	33	5.5%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	27	4.5%
Ethiopia	22	3.7%
Iran	21	3.5%
Pakistan	19	3.2%
Other	37	6.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>100%</b>

2019–20		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	1,196	51.0%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	444	18.9%
Afghanistan	156	6.7%
Central African Republic	107	4.6%
Ethiopia	100	4.3%
Eritrea	79	3.4%
Syria	76	3.2%
Myanmar	58	2.5%
Iran	46	2.0%
Pakistan	22	0.9%
Other	61	2.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>100%</b>

2018–19		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	1827	62.0%
Afghanistan	354	12.0%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	311	10.6%
Syria	115	3.9%
Ethiopia	87	3.0%
Eritrea	78	2.6%
Myanmar	42	1.4%
Burundi	27	0.9%
Iran	27	0.9%
Honduras	11	0.4%
Other	68	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,947</b>	<b>100%</b>

2017–18		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	985	46.3%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	276	13.0%
Afghanistan	206	9.7%
Syria	202	9.5%
Eritrea	103	4.8%
Ethiopia	98	4.6%
Myanmar	58	2.7%
Somalia	51	2.4%
South Sudan	44	2.1%
Burundi	27	1.3%
Other	76	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>100%</b>

2016–17		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	460	28.6%
Syria	309	19.2%
Iraq	196	12.2%
South Sudan	123	7.7%
Bhutan	79	4.9%
Myanmar	77	4.8%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	75	4.7%
Ethiopia	66	4.1%
Somalia	56	3.5%
Eritrea	56	3.5%
Other	110	6.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Visas counted include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Statistics for the offshore component up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship.
3. The Country of Origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
4. Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
5. The 2015–16 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

# Community Support Program

The Community Support Program (CSP) is intended to provide a sustainable model of private support for those in humanitarian need that complements existing resettlement pathways. The CSP provides a pathway for those in humanitarian need who are of working age, have adequate English language skills and can become financially self-sufficient within 12 months of arrival in Australia.

To ensure CSP entrants are well positioned to enter the workforce shortly after arrival in Australia, they must:

- be aged 18–50
- have adequate English language, and
- have an offer of employment or a pathway to achieve self-sufficiency within 12 months of arrival.

In addition, eligible applicants who are willing to live and work in a regional location receive priority.

Under the CSP, Approved Proposing Organisations (APOs) are responsible for managing the visa application lodgement process, securing employment, and overseeing the settlement of CSP entrants.

The 12 appointed APOs are:

- AMES Australia
- Assyrian Australian Association
- Australian Migrant Resource Centre
- Australian Refugee Association
- The Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Diversitat
- Eastern Christian Welfare Australia
- Illawarra Multicultural Services
- International Organization for Migration
- Multicultural Australia (formerly known as Multicultural Development Australia)
- Settlement Services International
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre

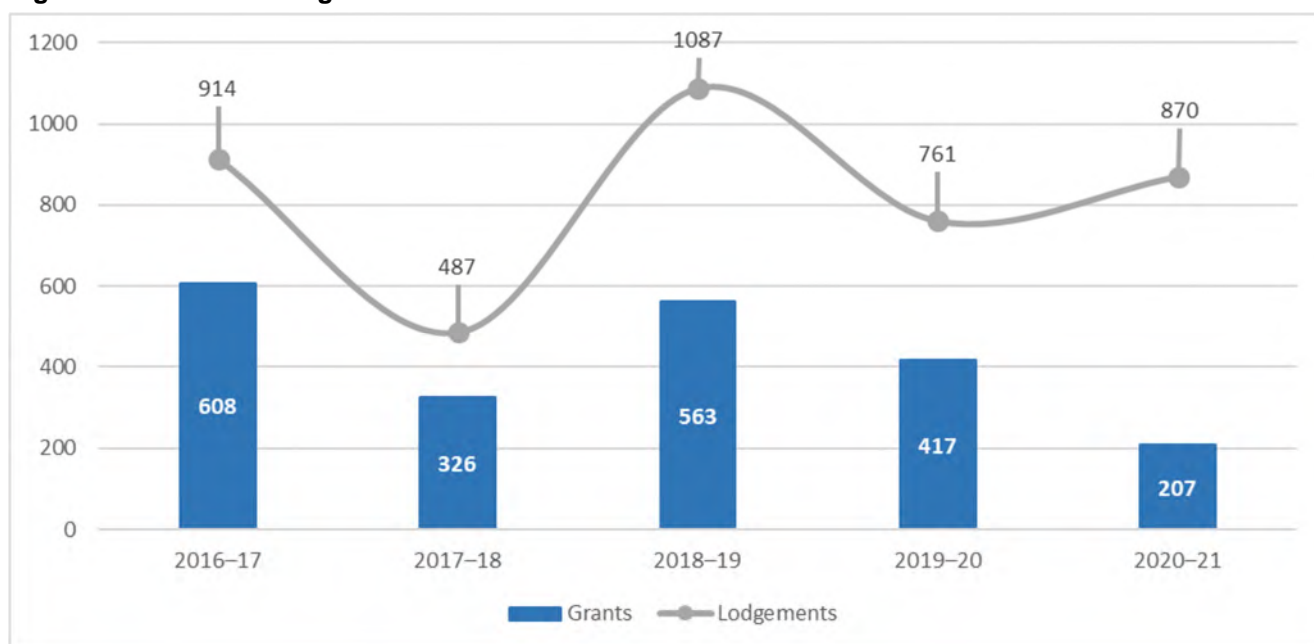
The 2018–19 program year was the CSP's first full year of operation. Legislation for the CSP commenced on 1 July 2017, with APOs entering into Deeds of Agreement with the Department in March 2018.

Up to 750 places were set aside for the CSP in 2020–21, however measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic led to a shortfall in delivery, with 207 visas granted.

The top five citizenships of people who applied through the CSP in 2020–21 were Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq, Syria and Myanmar.

The top five citizenships of people granted community supported visas (CSP and CPP) in 2020–21 were Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Eritrea and Myanmar.

**Figure 19: CPP/CSP Lodgements and Grants 2016–17 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
2. Applications lodged in one program year may not be finalised in the same program year. Therefore, data relating to lodgements and finalisations (grants and refusals) in a program year cannot be directly compared.

**Table 15: Number of visas granted to CPP/CSP applicants, by age group and year of grant, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

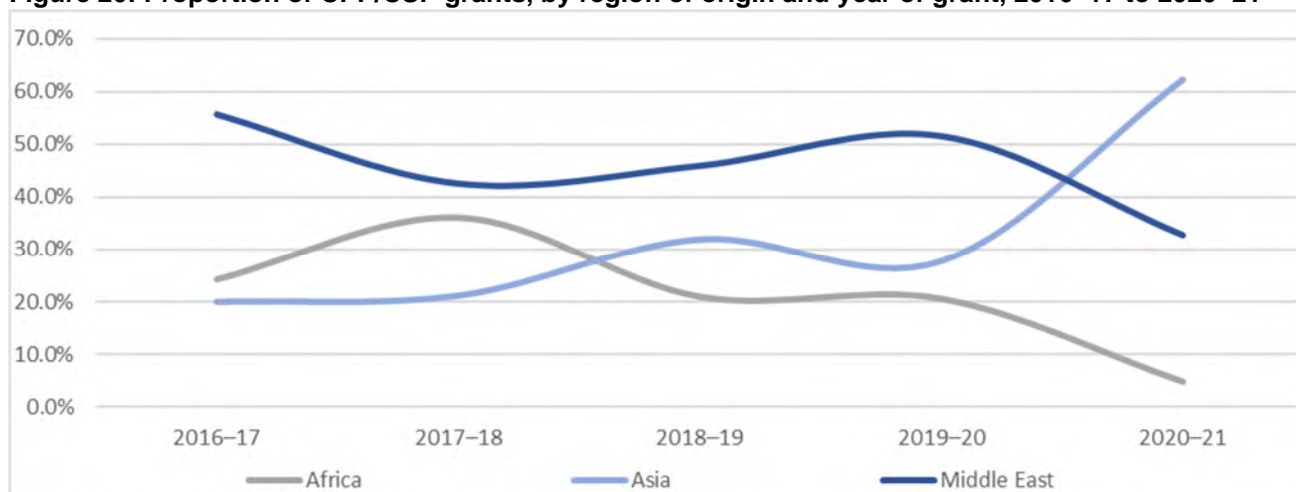
	2016–17		2017–18		2018–19		2019–20		2020–21	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>Age group</b>										
0–17	223	36.7%	100	30.7%	206	36.5%	145	34.8%	71	34.3%
18–29	146	24.0%	90	27.6%	132	23.5%	112	26.9%	56	27.1%
30–49	139	22.9%	86	26.4%	176	31.3%	129	30.9%	66	31.9%
50–69	80	13.2%	39	12.0%	43	7.7%	27	6.5%	13	6.3%
70+	20	3.3%	11	3.4%	6	1.1%	4	1.0%	1	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Gender</b>										
Male	311	51.2%	149	45.7%	276	49.0%	210	50.4%	108	52.2%
Female	297	48.8%	177	54.3%	287	51.0%	207	49.6%	99	47.8%
Indeterminate	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
2. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.



**Figure 20: Proportion of CPP/CSP grants, by region of origin and year of grant, 2016–17 to 2020–21**



**Notes:**

1. The region of birth of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

**Table 16: Top five countries of origin for CPP/CSP applicants, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

2020–21		
Country of origin	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	118	57.0%
Iraq	42	20.3%
Syria	21	10.1%
Eritrea	9	4.3%
Myanmar	7	3.4%
Other	10	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>100%</b>

2019–20		
Country of origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	199	47.7%
Afghanistan	105	25.2%
Eritrea	81	19.4%
Syria	13	3.1%
Myanmar	11	2.6%
Other	8	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>100%</b>

2018–19		
Country of origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	235	41.7%
Afghanistan	157	27.9%
Eritrea	93	16.5%
Syria	23	4.1%
Ethiopia	15	2.7%
Other	40	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>100%</b>

2017–18		
Country of origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	76	23.3%
Afghanistan	59	18.1%
Eritrea	54	16.6%
Somalia	34	10.4%
Myanmar	30	9.2%
Other	73	22.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>100%</b>

2016–17		
Country of origin	Number	Per cent
Iraq	221	36.3%
Eritrea	133	21.9%
Afghanistan	98	16.1%
Syria	44	7.2%
Myanmar	31	5.1%
Other	81	13.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:**

1. The Country of origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
2. Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2021.

# Processing Times

**Table 17: Average processing time (in weeks) of finalised cases, by visa category, decision type and year of finalisation, 2016–17 to 2020–21**

Visa category and decision type	Program year of finalisation				
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
<b>Refugee</b>					
Granted	47.6	60.3	57.1	51.4	70.3
Refused/Withdrawn/Other	24.3	49.8	38.8	26.6	49.1
<i>Total</i>	28.4	52.6	43.5	30.7	51.4
<b>SHP</b>					
Granted	71.1	95.8	79.7	69.6	103.4
Refused/Withdrawn/Other	51.1	34.3	24.0	25.8	24.2
<i>Total</i>	53.9	40.8	32.4	29.7	31.3
<b>All visa categories</b>					
Granted	59.4	64.3	68.0	59.7	87.8
Refused/Withdrawn/Other	39.7	42.2	29.2	26.1	34.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>39.9</b>

**Notes:**

1. Refugee visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP visas include subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2021.
3. The 2016–17 statistics in this table includes visas granted towards the annual offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program, and the additional 12,000 places for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq.

An application cannot be granted until health, character and security clearances requirements are satisfied. Other issues such as restricted access to clients due to instability in the countries in which they reside, the need for additional or specialist health and character checks and other variables, can delay visa grants.

# Reference Material

## Glossary

Term	Definition
ABS	The Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Program year	The period beginning from 1 July to 30 June of the following year.
Refugee	<p>Individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; its 1967 Protocol; the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa; those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute; individuals granted complementary forms of protection; or, those enjoying temporary protection. The refugee population also includes people in a refugee-like situation.</p> <p>A person who has been found to be a refugee as defined in the Refugee Convention. Article 1 of the 1951 Refugee Convention defines a 'refugee' as:</p> <p>'a person who is outside their country of nationality and unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. It obliges signatories not to expel or return refugees to a country where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion'</p>
Refugee Convention	The United Nations 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.
Refusal	A decision that an applicant does not meet the legal criteria for the grant of a visa.
SHPC	<p>Special Humanitarian Processing Centre.</p> <p>The SHPC in Sydney contributes to the delivery of the offshore Humanitarian Program, supporting the operations of Australia's missions overseas. The SHPC registers and acknowledge all new applications with an Australian proposer. Refugee applications referred by UNHCR are lodged directly with Australian missions overseas. SHPC makes a preliminary assessment against legislative requirements.</p>
Split Family	<p>Applications made by immediate family members of a person who holds or held a permanent Humanitarian Program visa are commonly referred to as 'split family' applications.</p> <p>For an applicant to be eligible for a visa under 'split family' provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the main applicant must be a member of the proposer's immediate family, and</li> <li>the proposer must have declared this relationship to the department before the grant of their visa, and</li> <li>the application must be made within five years of the grant of the proposer's visa.</li> </ul> <p>To propose an immediate family member under the 'split family' provisions of the SHP, the proposer must have been granted one of the following visas within the last five years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SHP visa (subclass 202)</li> <li>Protection visa (subclass 866)*, or</li> <li>Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851)*.</li> </ul> <p>* IMAs who arrived on or after 13 August 2012 are not eligible to propose.</p> <p>A member of the proposer's 'immediate family' may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>their spouse or de facto partner</li> <li>dependent children</li> <li>parents (if the proposer is under 18 years of age).</li> </ul> <p>A dependent child is the proposer's biological, adopted or step child who is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not married, in a de facto relationship or engaged to be married; and</li> <li>under 18 years of age, or</li> <li>aged 18 years or over and wholly or substantially reliant on the main applicant for financial, psychological or physical support.</li> </ul>

Term	Definition
Subclass	<p>The four visa subclasses under the Refugee category are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subclass 200 (Refugee)—for applicants who have fled persecution in their home country and are living outside their home country.</li> <li>• Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)—for applicants living in their home country who are subject to persecution.</li> <li>• Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)—for applicants who are living in or outside their home country and who are in urgent need of protection because there is an immediate threat to their life and security.</li> <li>• Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)—for female applicants and their dependants who are subject to persecution or are people of concern to UNHCR, are living outside their home country without the protection of a male relative and are in danger of victimisation, harassment or serious abuse because of their gender. This subclass recognises the priority given by UNHCR to the protection of refugee women who are in particularly vulnerable situations.</li> </ul> <p>The only subclass under the SHP is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Subclass 202 (Special Humanitarian Program) —the applicant must be subject to substantial discrimination amounting to gross violation of their human rights in their home country, living outside their home country at the time of application and have links with Australia. If the application is successful, SHP proposers help the applicant organise and pay for their travel to Australia and assist with their accommodation and initial orientation in Australia. SHP proposers must be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or eligible New Zealand citizen over the age of 18, or an organisation operating in Australia.</li> </ul>
The Department	The Department of Home Affairs.
The Offshore Program	<p>Australia's Offshore Humanitarian program, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee Program: the component which provides resettlement to Australia for people outside their home country subject to persecution in their home country</li> <li>• Special Humanitarian Program: the component is for people who have been subject to substantial discrimination amounting to gross violation of their human rights in their home country, are living outside their home country at the time of application and have links with Australia. Substantial discrimination involves the deprivation of their basic human rights such as access to education and employment, freedom of speech and freedom to practice one's religion.</li> </ul>
UNHCR	<p>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.</p> <p>The UNHCR leads and coordinates international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. It was established by United Nations General Assembly on 14 December 1950.</p>
Visa process	<p>All offshore visa applications are registered and then assessed against visa criteria. Following assessment, applications are finalised, either being granted or refused. At any stage a visa application may be withdrawn by the applicant. Delays in processing may be caused by circumstances in the country of residence, the need for additional or specialist health and character checks and other variables.</p>

## Appendix A: Country of Origin regions

Africa			
Algeria	Burundi	Cameroon	Central African Republic
Chad	Congo	Cote D'Ivoire	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Egypt	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Gambia
Ghana	Guinea	Kenya	Liberia
Libya	Malawi	Mali	Nigeria
Rwanda	Senegal	Sierra Leone	Somalia
South Africa	South Sudan	Sudan	Tunisia
Uganda	Zambia	Zimbabwe	

Americas			
Canada	Colombia	Cuba	El Salvador
Guatemala	Haiti	Honduras	Jamaica
St Vincent & The Grenadines	Trinidad & Tobago	United States	Venezuela

Asia			
Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	China
Hong Kong	India	Laos	Malaysia
Myanmar	Nepal	Pakistan	Philippines
Sri Lanka	Thailand	Vietnam	

Middle East			
Gaza Strip	Iran	Iraq	Israel
Jordan	Lebanon	Palestinian Authority	Saudi Arabia
Syria	Turkey	Yemen	

Other			
British Overseas Territories Citizen	Estonia	Greece	Morocco
Norway	Russian Federation	Slovakia	Spain
United Kingdom			