



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Australia's Offshore Humanitarian Program: 2022–23

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Executive summary

For 2022–23, Australia's annual Humanitarian Program was set at ceiling of 17,875 places, which included 4,125 additional places for Afghans.

A total of 17,875 resettlement visas were granted, comprising:

- 15,875 offshore humanitarian visas
 - 9,760 Refugee category visas
 - 4,824 Global Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) visas
 - 1,291 Community Support Program (CSP) visas
- 2,000 permanent Protection visas

Of the 15,785 visas granted offshore, 61.5 per cent were granted under the Refugee category, 30.4 per cent were granted under the SHP and 8.1 per cent were granted under the CSP.

In 2022–23, 61 per cent of all offshore visas were granted to persons originating from Asia, 22 per cent to persons from the Middle East, 14 per cent to persons from Africa, and 3 per cent to persons from the Americas.

Afghan citizens were prioritised in the Humanitarian Program, with 7,962 visas (50 per cent of all offshore visas) granted to Afghan nationals in 2022–23.

The main groups resettled were:

- Afghans located in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Afghan applicants that arrived in Australia on a Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) (Subclass 449) visa as part of the evacuation process in August 2021 for vulnerable Afghans with enduring links to Australia;
- Iraqis predominantly located in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey;
- Myanmar citizens located in camps along the Thai–Myanmar border, Malaysia and India;
- Citizens of the Democratic Republic of the Congo located in Malawi, Kenya and Burundi; and
- Syrians located in Iraq, Lebanon and Türkiye.

In 2022–23, the resettlement of highly vulnerable women and their families continued to be a priority, with 17 per cent (2,645) of visas granted to vulnerable women and their families.

Up to 1,400 places were set aside for the Community Support Program (CSP), which falls under the Special Humanitarian Program, of which 1,291 visas were granted. Almost 80 per cent of all CSP grants were to Afghan Nationals.

In 2022–23, 66,179 applicants lodged applications. Of these, 68 per cent were from persons originating from Asia, 23 per cent from the Middle East, 8 per cent from Africa, and less than 1 per cent from the Americas.

Around 65 per cent of all persons who lodged applications in 2022–23 were under 30 years of age.

The gender balance has remained relatively unchanged over the past five program years with 49.8 per cent of applicants in 2022–23 being female.

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; and
- 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)

In accordance with Australian government priorities, the majority of applications that are assessed as eligible for further processing are referred by the UNHCR, or meet Afghan Locally Engaged Employee requirements.

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 subclass:

- 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 resettlement priorities and visa criteria.
- The application will be refused or proceed to next stage of processing.

Further Assessment



- Applicants who proceed to the next stage are then further assessed by an Australian visa processing officer, who considers the application against requirements in the Migration Regulations and may include an interview.
- The assessment explores 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 also 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 66,179 applicants that lodged applications in 2022–23, 49 per cent were for the Refugee category, 46 per cent for the Global Special Humanitarian Program and 4 per cent for the Community Support Program.

Table 1: Number of persons lodging visa applications, by subclass and year of lodgement, 2018–19 to 2022–23

Subclass	Program year of lodgement				
	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Number					
Refugee					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	16,550	21,238	7,016	17,186	14,349
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	9,411	7,627	2,912	113,888	17,402
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	11	21	74	472	17
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	924	1503	311	633	769
<i>Total Refugee</i>	<i>26,896</i>	<i>30,389</i>	<i>10,313</i>	<i>132,179</i>	<i>32,537</i>
SHP					
Subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian)	47,673	39,471	28,278	58,666	30,999
Subclass 202 (Community Support Program)	1,087	761	870	1,047	2,643
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	<i>48,760</i>	<i>40,232</i>	<i>29,148</i>	<i>59,713</i>	<i>33,642</i>
Total	75,656	70,621	39,461	191,892	66,179
Per cent					
Refugee					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	21.9%	30.1%	17.8%	9.0%	21.7%
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	12.4%	10.8%	7.4%	59.4%	26.3%
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	1.2%	2.1%	0.8%	0.3%	1.2%
<i>Total Refugee</i>	<i>35.6%</i>	<i>43.0%</i>	<i>26.1%</i>	<i>68.9%</i>	<i>49.2%</i>
SHP					
Subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian)	63.0%	55.9%	71.7%	30.6%	46.8%
Subclass 202 (Community Support Program)	1.4%	1.1%	2.2%	0.5%	4.0%
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	<i>64.4%</i>	<i>57.0%</i>	<i>73.9%</i>	<i>31.1%</i>	<i>50.8%</i>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

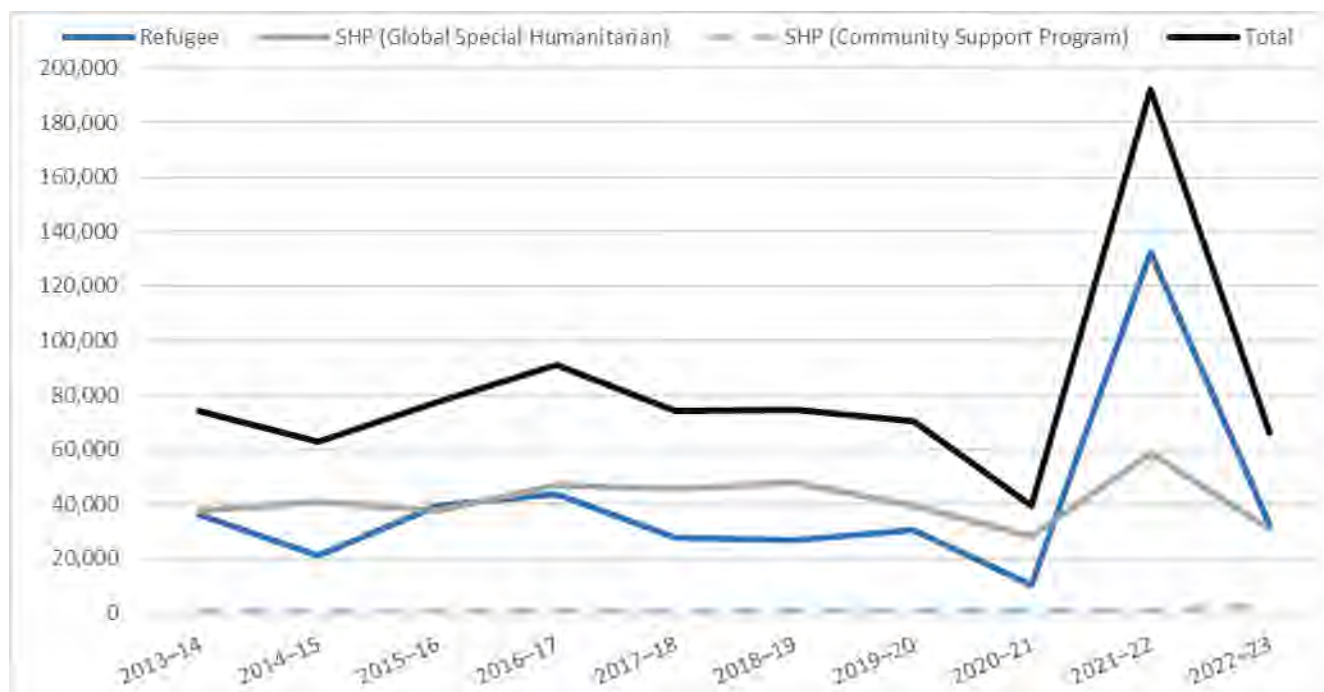
Notes:

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
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:

- Lodgements in 2022–23 decreased with numbers similar to those reported prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Afghan crisis.
- The 386 per cent increase in lodgments in 2021–22, as compared to 2020–21, occurred due to the Afghan crisis.
- The 44 per cent decrease in offshore lodgements in 2020–21 compared to 2019–20 was likely due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Refugee lodgements increased in 2015–16 and 2017–18 following the former 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 4,500 places from 500 places in 2012–13.

Figure 1: Number of persons lodging visa applications, by visa category and year of lodgement, 2013–14 to 2022–23



Notes:

1. Refugee includes subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk). SHP includes subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program) and subclass 202 (Community Support Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Lodgements by region of origin

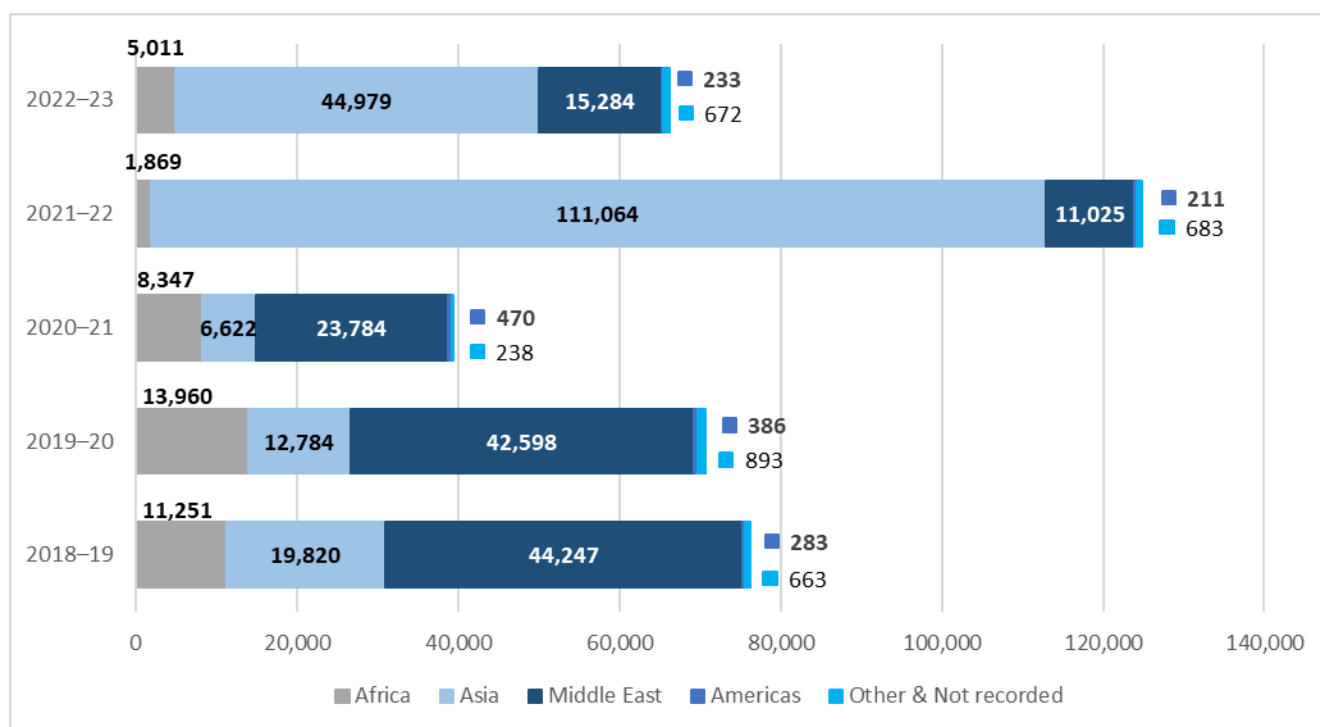
Table 2: Persons lodging visa applications, by region of origin and year of lodgement, 2018–19 to 2022–23

	Africa		Asia		Middle East		Americas		Other & Not recorded	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
2018–19	11,225	14.8%	19,314	25.5%	44,171	58.4%	283	0.4%	663	0.9%
2019–20	13,960	19.8%	12,784	18.1%	42,598	60.3%	386	0.5%	893	1.3%
2020–21	8,346	21.2%	6,622	16.8%	23,769	60.3%	470	1.2%	238	0.6%
2021–22	3,658	1.9%	164,826	85.9%	22,514	11.7%	211	0.1%	683	0.4%
2022–23	5,011	7.6%	44,979	68.0%	15,284	23.1%	233	0.4%	672	1.0%

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Statistics for Country of Origin up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship. The Country of Origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
- Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Figure 2: Persons lodging visa applications, by region of origin and year of lodgement, 2018–19 to 2022–23



Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Statistics for Country of Origin up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship. The Country of Origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Lodgements by country of origin

Table 3: Top ten countries of origin for persons lodging visa applications, 2018–19 to 2022–23

2022–23		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	40,383	61.0%
Syria	8,175	12.4%
Iraq	4,594	6.9%
Myanmar	4,089	6.2%
Sudan	2,190	3.3%
Iran	1,944	2.9%
Ethiopia	703	1.1%
Eritrea	513	0.8%
South Sudan	351	0.5%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	324	0.5%
Other	2,913	4.4%
Total	66,179	100%

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%
Total	39,461	100%

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%
Total	75,656	100%

2021–22		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	159,348	83.0%
Iraq	9,519	5.0%
Syria	8,956	4.7%
Myanmar	5,223	2.7%
Iran	2,893	1.5%
Ethiopia	1,017	0.5%
Eritrea	1,003	0.5%
Lebanon	554	0.3%
Ukraine	520	0.3%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	431	0.2%
Other	2,428	1.3%
Total	191,892	100%

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%
Total	70,621	100%

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Statistics for Country of Origin up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship. The Country of Origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
- Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Lodgements by country of residence

Table 4: Top ten countries of residence for persons lodging visa applications, 2018–19 to 2022–23

2022–23		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	14,508	21.9%
Iran	6,564	9.9%
Türkiye	6,381	9.6%
Pakistan	5,764	8.7%
Lebanon	4,837	7.3%
Malaysia	4,675	7.1%
India	3,981	6.0%
Iraq	3,729	5.6%
Jordan	2,757	4.2%
Egypt	2,607	3.9%
Other	10,376	15.7%
Total	66,179	100%

2020–21		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Türkiye	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%
Total	39,461	100%

2018–19		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Iraq	13,865	18.3%
Lebanon	12,452	16.5%
Malaysia	11,561	15.3%
Türkiye	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%
Total	75,656	100%

2021–22		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	107,894	56.2%
Pakistan	21,894	11.4%
Iran	13,108	6.8%
Türkiye	9,290	4.8%
Lebanon	6,873	3.6%
Jordan	6,496	3.4%
Iraq	4,229	2.2%
Australia*	3,844	2.0%
Malaysia	3504	1.8%
Thailand	2299	1.2%
Other	12,461	6.5%
Total	191,892	100%

*Afghans who arrived onshore holding a subclass 449 visa and applied for a Class XB visa.

2019–20		
Country of residence	Number	Per cent
Türkiye	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%
Total	70,621	100%

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- The Country of Residence of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
- Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Other characteristics of persons included in visa applications

Table 5: Number of persons included in visa applications, by age group, gender and year of lodgement, 2018–19 to 2022–23

	2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Age group										
0–17	28,877	38.2%	25,254	35.8%	13,972	35.4%	76,421	39.8%	26,211	39.6%
18–29	18,320	24.2%	18,173	25.7%	9,252	23.4%	48,763	25.4%	16,231	24.5%
30–49	20,817	27.5%	19,859	28.1%	11,711	29.7%	44,256	23.1%	17,243	26.1%
50–69	6,500	8.6%	6,176	8.7%	3,954	10.0%	19,067	9.9%	5,688	8.6%
70+	1,142	1.5%	1,159	1.6%	572	1.4%	3,076	1.6%	762	1.2%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	309	0.2%	44	0.1%
Total	75,656	100%	70,621	100%	39,461	100%	191,892	100%	66,179	100%
Gender										
Male	38,586	51.0%	36,445	51.6%	20,339	51.5%	93,665	48.8%	33,187	50.1%
Female	37,070	49.0%	34,176	48.4%	19,114	48.4%	98,165	51.2%	32,959	49.8%
Indeterminate	12	<1%	13	<1%	8	0.0%	<65	<1%	19	<1%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<5	<1%	14	<1%
Total	75,656	100%	70,621	100%	39,461	100%	191,892	100%	66,179	100%

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In–Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
- 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, 2022–23

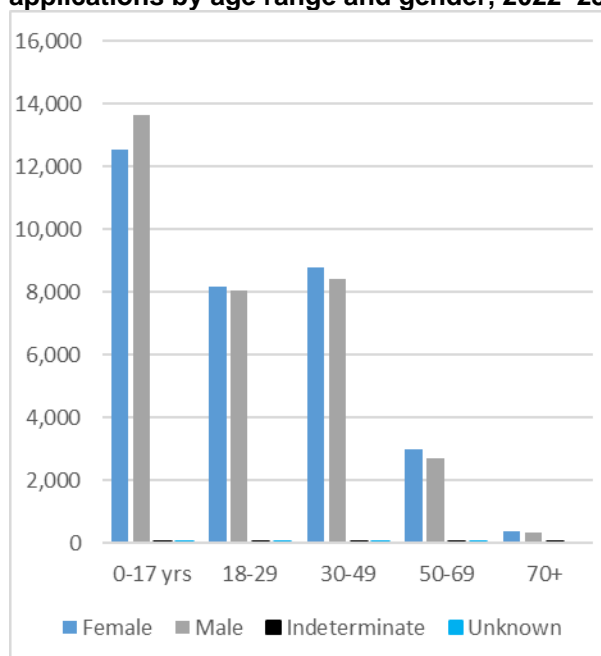
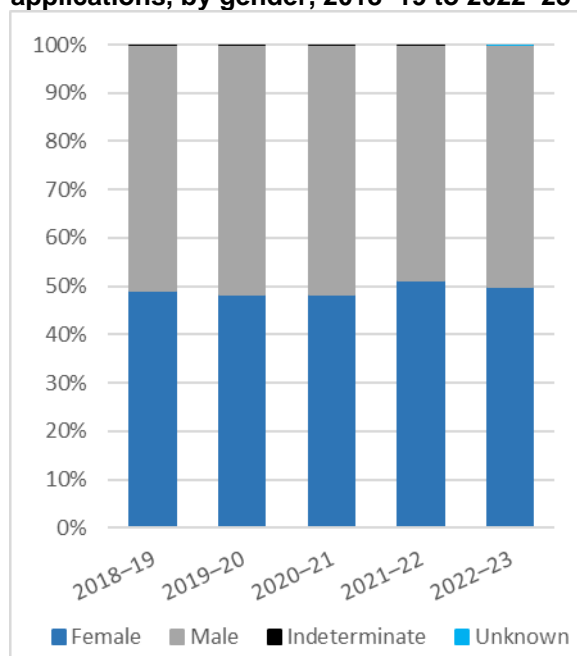


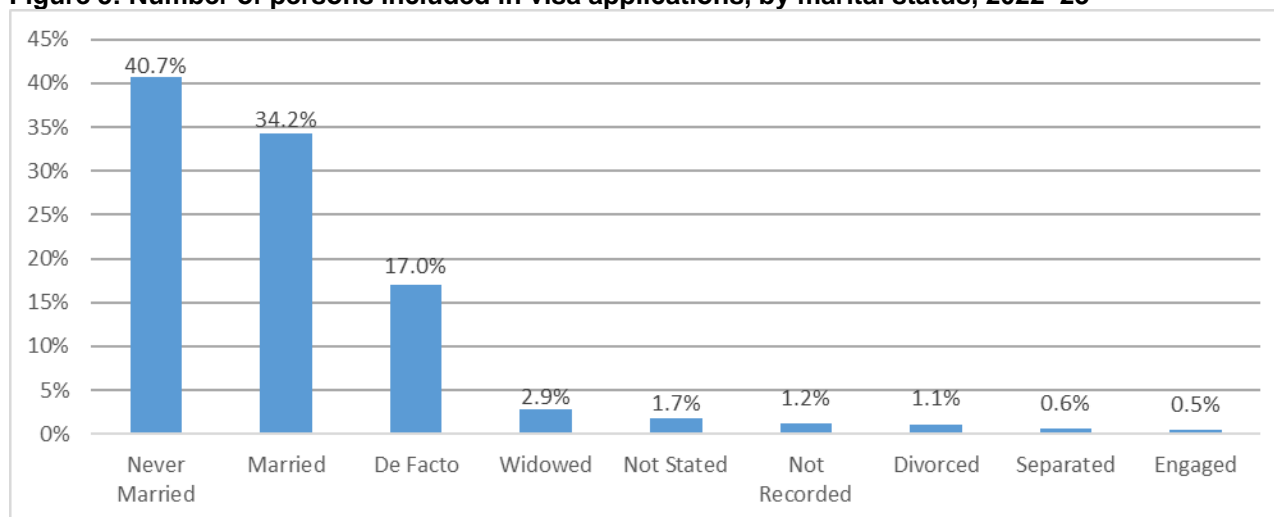
Figure 4: Number of persons included in visa applications, by gender, 2018–19 to 2022–23



Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In–Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Figure 5: Number of persons included in visa applications, by marital status, 2022–23



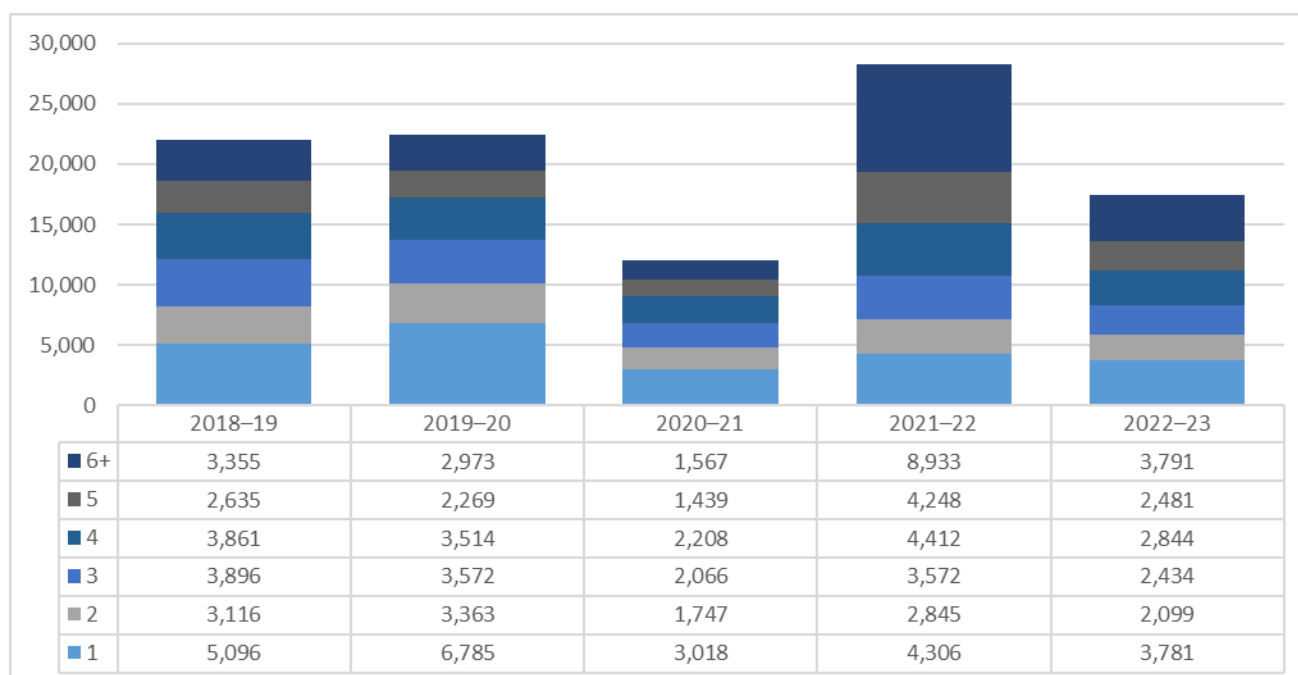
Notes:

1. Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
3. Several 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, 2018–19 to 2022–23

Applications lodged for family groups with 6 or more family members were the largest group in 2022–23, with Afghan citizens comprising 70.5 per cent of this group.



Notes:

1. Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

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, 2018–19 to 2022–23

Visa category	Finalisation	Program year of finalisation				
		2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Refugee	Granted	9,451	6,422	2,053	7,233	9,760
	Refused	25,914	23,081	18,652	8,042	44,207
	Withdrawn/Other	613	447	326	686	1,123
	Total	35,978	29,950	21,031	15,961	55,090
SHP - Global Special Humanitarian	Granted	7,098	4,682	2,298	3,889	4,824
	Refused	40,765	46,616	24,998	5,371	1,645
	Withdrawn/Other	714	1,069	522	559	1,032
	Total	48,577	52,367	27,818	9,819	7,501
SHP - Community Support Program	Granted	563	417	207	423	1,291
	Refused	35	84	27	9	35
	Withdrawn/Other	36	33	24	17	53
	Total	634	534	258	449	1,379
All categories	Granted	17,112	11,521	4,558	11,545	15,875
	Refused	66,714	69,781	43,677	13,422	45,887
	Withdrawn/Other	1,363	1,549	872	1,262	2,208
	Total	85,189	82,851	49,107	26,229	63,970
Refugee	Granted	11.1%	7.8%	4.2%	27.6%	15.3%
	Refused	30.4%	27.9%	38.0%	30.7%	69.1%
	Withdrawn/Other	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%	2.6%	1.8%
	Total	42.2%	36.1%	42.8%	60.9%	86.1%
SHP - Global Special Humanitarian	Granted	8.3%	5.7%	4.7%	14.8%	7.5%
	Refused	47.9%	56.3%	50.9%	20.5%	2.6%
	Withdrawn/Other	0.8%	1.3%	1.1%	2.1%	1.6%
	Total	57.0%	63.2%	56.6%	37.4%	11.7%
SHP - Community Support Program	Granted	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	1.6%	2.0%
	Refused	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
	Withdrawn/Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
	Total	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	1.7%	2.2%
All categories	Granted	20.1%	13.9%	9.3%	44.0%	24.8%
	Refused	78.3%	84.2%	88.9%	51.2%	71.7%
	Withdrawn/Other	1.6%	1.9%	1.8%	4.8%	3.5%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%

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) and 202 (Community Support Program).
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

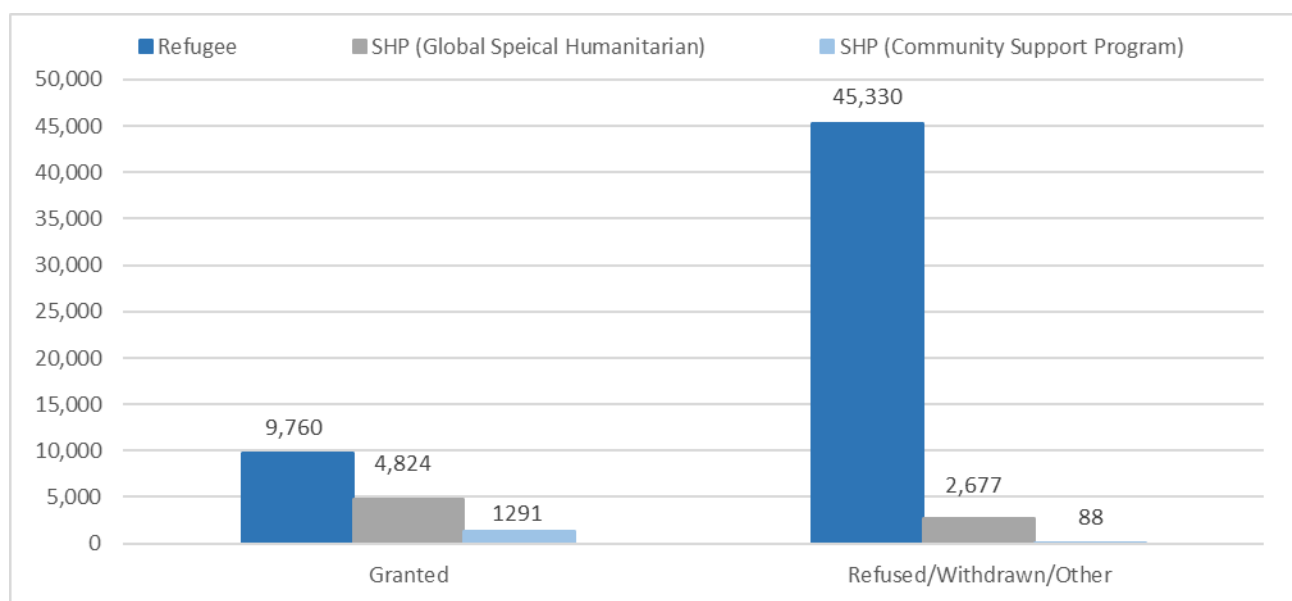
The 2022-23 program was delivered in full at 17,875 places, demonstrating Australia’s commitment to contribute to global resettlement efforts which were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic during previous program years.

The 2022-23 program successfully negotiated the many challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and saw a return to near normal, pre-pandemic, functionality. Many refugee camps reopened after the strict health and safety measures imposed by host governments were lifted. At other locations, client interactions such as interviews, biometrics enrolments and medical examinations were able to recommence. Innovative new processes such as conducting client interviews through video conferencing platforms were established and created significant efficiencies in remote humanitarian visa processing.

A significant number of people were granted humanitarian visas in the time leading up to, and during the COVID- 19 pandemic, however, Australian and international border restrictions had prevented these visa holders from traveling to Australia. To address this issue, the 2022-23 program focussed a considerable work effort on engaging with these visa holders to facilitate their travel to Australia.

The 2022-23 program also continued to see Departmental resources diverted to assist with visa processing and resettlement of Afghan citizens. Australia delivered its commitment to support and resettle people from Afghanistan with 7,692 humanitarian visas granted to Afghans with a focus on certified former Locally Engaged Employees (LEE) and their immediate family members as well as women and girls, ethnic minorities, LGBTIQ+ and other identified minority groups.

Figure 7: Persons receiving finalisations, by visa category and decision, 2022–23

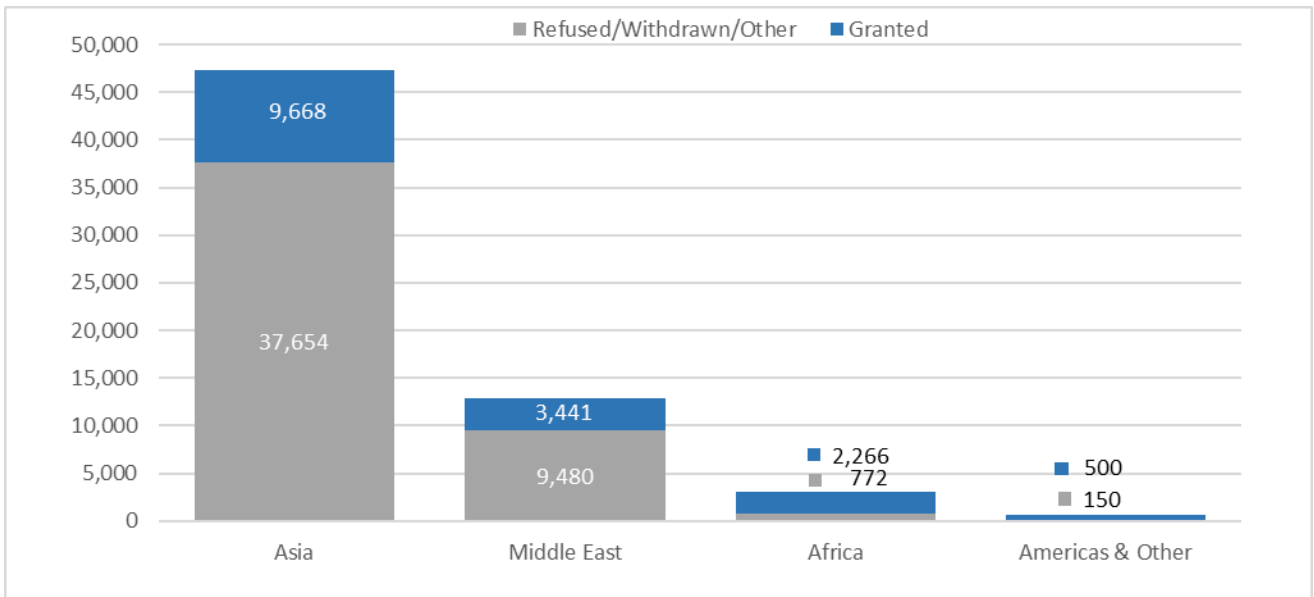


Notes:

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) and 202 (Community Support Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Finalisations by region of origin

Figure 8: Persons receiving finalisations by region of origin, 2022–23



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) and 202 (Community Support Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
3. The region of origin of the principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.

Offshore Humanitarian Grants

The 15,875 visas granted under the offshore Humanitarian Program in 2022–23 comprised:

- 9,760 Refugee category visas
- 4,824 Global Special Humanitarian Program visas
- 1,291 Community Support Program visas.

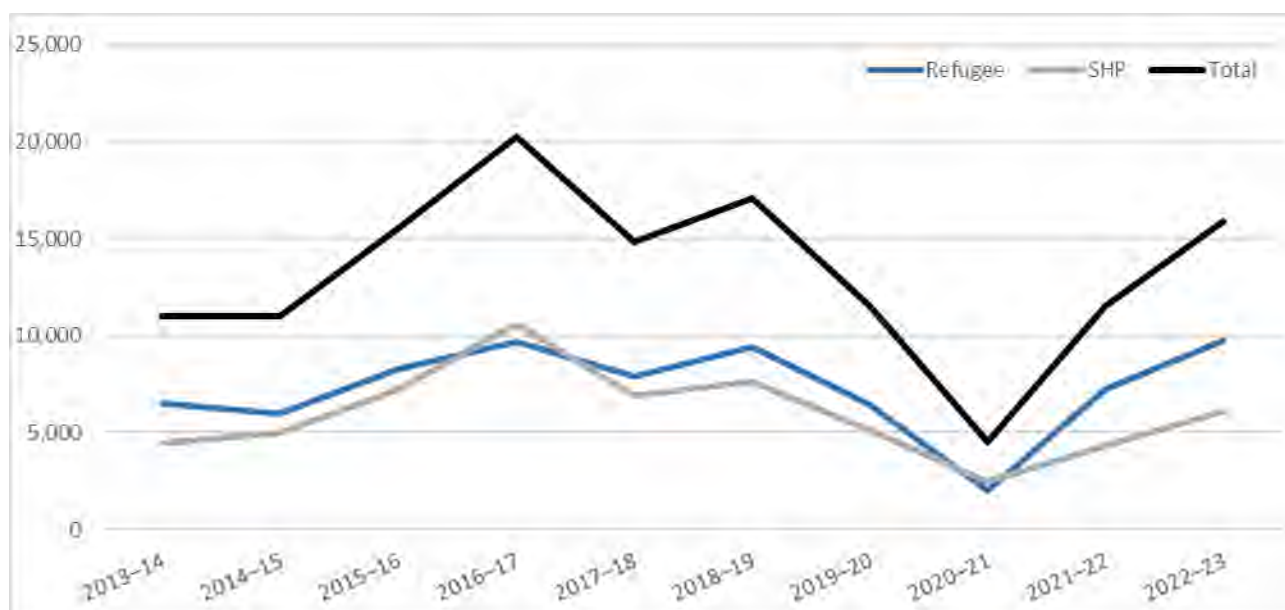
Table 7: Number of persons granted visas, by subclass and year of grant, 2018–19 to 2022–23

Subclass	Program year of grant				
	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	Number				
Refugee					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	6,666	4,326	1,157	2,946	4,773
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	1,861	1,195	518	3,549	3,242
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	7	20	29	246	45
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	917	881	349	492	1,700
<i>Total Refugee</i>	<i>9,451</i>	<i>6,422</i>	<i>2,053</i>	<i>7,233</i>	<i>9,760</i>
SHP					
Subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian)	7,098	4,682	2,298	3,889	4,824
Subclass 202 (Community Support Program)	563	417	207	423	1,291
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	<i>7,661</i>	<i>5,099</i>	<i>2,505</i>	<i>4,312</i>	<i>6,115</i>
Total	17,112	11,521	9,738	11,545	15,875
	Per cent				
Refugee					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	39.0%	37.5%	25.5%	25.5%	30.1%
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	10.9%	10.4%	30.7%	30.7%	20.4%
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	0.0%	0.2%	2.1%	2.1%	0.3%
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	5.4%	7.6%	4.3%	4.3%	10.7%
<i>Total Refugee</i>	<i>55.2%</i>	<i>55.7%</i>	<i>62.7%</i>	<i>62.7%</i>	<i>61.5%</i>
SHP					
Subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian)	41.5%	40.6%	23.6%	33.7%	30.4%
Subclass 202 (Community Support Program)	3.3%	3.6%	2.1%	3.7%	8.1%
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	<i>44.8%</i>	<i>44.3%</i>	<i>37.3%</i>	<i>37.3%</i>	<i>38.5%</i>
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Notes:

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
2. 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, 2013–14 to 2022–23



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) and 202 (Community Support Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Over the past ten years, the number of persons granted has varied (see Figure 9) as explained below:

- The size of the 2022-23 Humanitarian Program (the Program) was set at a target of 17,875 places. This was an increase on the previous program years which were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The 2022-23 Program was delivered in full with 15,875 visas granted in the Offshore Humanitarian Program and 2,000 visas granted in the Onshore (Protection visa) program, this marked the highest number of Humanitarian visas grants in the last seven years.
- Reflecting Australia's sustained commitment following two decades of operations in Afghanistan and in response to the Afghan crisis, 6,935 permanent visas were granted to Afghan nationals in the 2022–23 Program year. A further 1,027 visas were delivered to Afghans through the Community Support Program (CSP). This combined total of 7,962 humanitarian and CSP visa grants to Afghan nationals forms over 50 per cent of total visa grants in the 2022-23 Humanitarian Program.
- The offshore program continued to focus on resettling people from four priority regions of Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas. After Afghanistan, the nationalities in receipt of the most grants under the Offshore Humanitarian Program in 2022-23 were Iraq (2,028) followed by Myanmar (1,475), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1,332), Syria (1,192), Ethiopia (479), and Iran (174).
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020–21 and 2021–22 Humanitarian Programs were set at a ceiling of 13,750 places. This reduction balanced ongoing program delivery constraints, the need to support those humanitarian visa holders who remained offshore and offered flexibility to respond to ongoing uncertainty around the pandemic.
- The 2019–20 Humanitarian Program remained at 18,750 places, but could not be delivered in full due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with 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 to focus on resettling people from the three priority regions of Middle East, Asia and Africa, and delivered on key commitments including resettlement from protracted refugee situations in line with the commitment made by the then Government at the New

York Leaders' Summit on Refugees in September 2016 as well as surpassing the target of 2,565 places for vulnerable women and children.

- The 2018–19 program continued to focus on resettling refugees in the Middle East region who are from persecuted minorities with the 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 then Government, visas granted to Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals (UMAs) 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.

Grants by region of origin

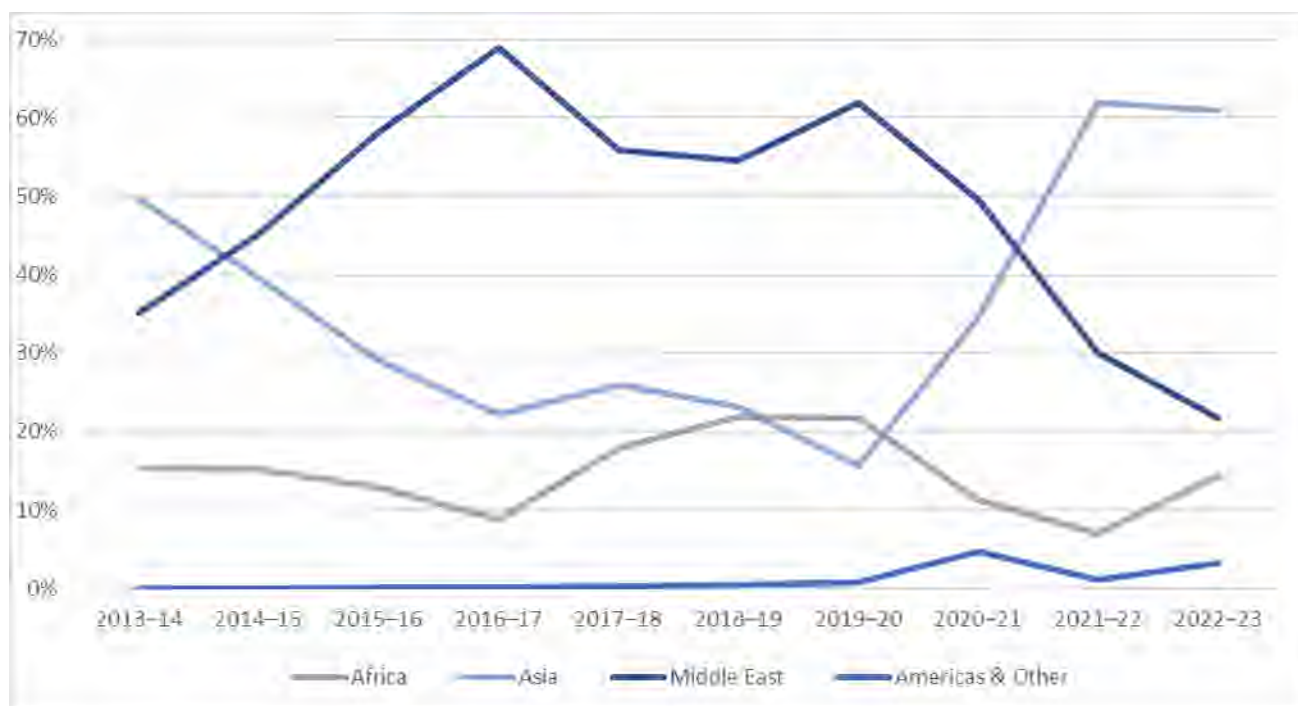
Table 8: Number of persons granted visas, by year of grant and region of origin, 2018–19 to 2022–23

Program Year	Africa	Asia	Middle East	Americas & Other
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
2021–22	805	7,145	3,475	120
2022–23	2,266	9,668	3,441	500

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Statistics for Country of Origin up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship. The Country of Origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Figure 10: Proportion of visa grants by region of origin and year of grant, 2013–14 to 2022–23



Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Statistics for Country of Origin up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship. The Country of Origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Grants by country of origin

Table 9: Top ten countries of origin for persons granted visas, 2018–19 to 2022–23

2022–23		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	7,962	50.2%
Iraq	2,028	12.8%
Myanmar	1,475	9.3%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1,332	8.4%
Syria	1,192	7.5%
Ethiopia	479	3.0%
Venezuela	176	1.1%
Iran	174	1.1%
Central African Republic	136	0.9%
Pakistan	129	0.8%
Other	792	5.0%
Total	15,875	100%

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%
Total	4,558	100%

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%
Total	17,112	100%

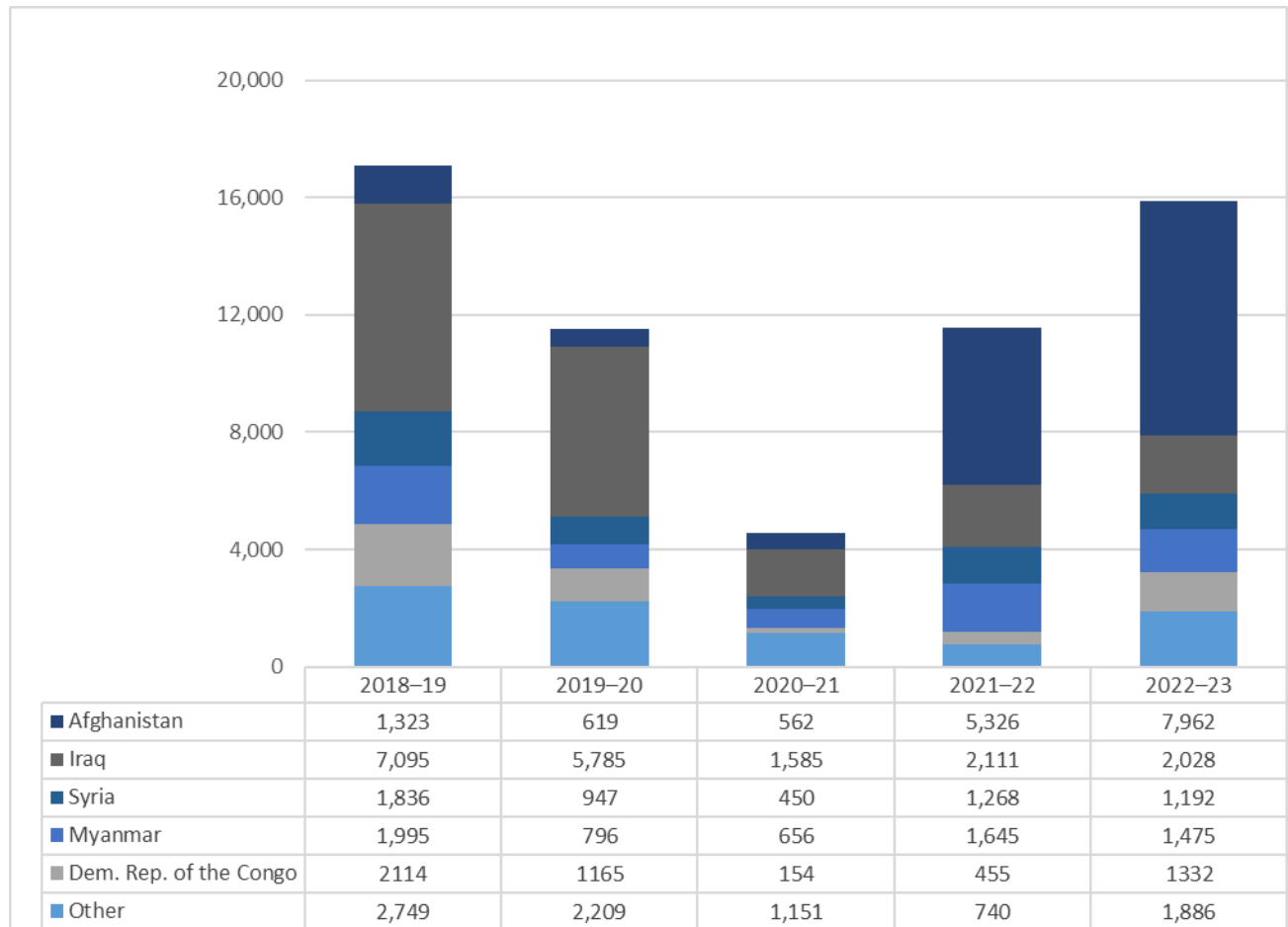
2021–22		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	5,326	46.1%
Iraq	2,111	18.3%
Myanmar	1,645	14.2%
Syria	1,268	11.0%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	455	3.9%
Pakistan	134	1.2%
Eritrea	99	0.9%
Ethiopia	94	0.8%
Central African Republic	84	0.7%
Iran	70	0.6%
Other	259	2.2%
Total	11,545	100%

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%
Total	11,521	100%

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Statistics for Country of Origin up to 2018–19 are based on country of birth. From 2019–20 they are based on citizenship. The Country of Origin of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
- Data was extracted from Departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Figure 11: Number of persons granted visas by top five countries of origin, 2018–19 to 2022–23



Notes:

1. This graph is based on the top 5 countries of origin for grants in 2021–22.
2. Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In–Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
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 2023.

Grants by country of residence

Table 10: Top ten countries of residence for persons granted visas, 2018–19 to 2022–23

2022–23		
Person Location	Number	Per cent
Pakistan	2,659	16.7%
Australia*	2,593	16.3%
Türkiye	1,372	8.6%
Malaysia	1,047	6.6%
Iraq	963	6.1%
Kenya	955	6.0%
Thailand	953	6.0%
India	840	5.3%
Lebanon	814	5.1%
Iran	627	3.9%
Other	3,052	19.2%
Total	15,875	100%

2020–21		
Person Location	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%
Türkiye	274	6.0%
India	205	4.5%
Sudan	179	3.9%
Pakistan	151	3.3%
Other	625	13.7%
Total	4,558	100%

2018–19		
Person Location	Number	Per cent
Lebanon	3,365	19.7%
Iraq	2,528	14.8%
Jordan	1,906	11.1%
Kenya	1,312	7.7%
Türkiye	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%
Total	17,112	100%

2021–22		
Person Location	Number	Per cent
Australia*	2,882	25.0%
Jordan	1,318	11.4%
Lebanon	1,226	10.6%
Thailand	881	7.6%
Iraq	750	6.5%
Türkiye	712	6.2%
Malaysia	682	5.9%
Pakistan	680	5.9%
Afghanistan	552	4.8%
India	475	4.1%
Other	1,387	12.0%
Total	11,545	100%

2019–20		
Person Location	Number	Per cent
Lebanon	2,573	22.3%
Jordan	2,080	18.1%
Iraq	1,357	11.8%
Türkiye	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%
Total	11,521	100%

*Afghans who arrived onshore holding a subclass 449 visa and applied for a Class XB visa.

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- 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 2023.

Other characteristics of persons granted visas

Table 11: Number of persons granted visas, by age group, gender and program year of grant, 2018–19 to 2022–23

	2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Age group										
0–17	6,870	40.1%	4,526	39.3%	1,591	34.9%	4,428	38.4%	5,968	37.6%
18–29	3,900	22.8%	2,528	21.9%	1,034	22.7%	2,715	23.5%	4,265	26.9%
30–49	4,268	24.9%	3,022	26.2%	1,377	30.2%	3,159	27.4%	3,994	25.2%
50–69	1,748	10.2%	1,227	10.7%	483	10.6%	1,079	9.3%	1,407	8.9%
70+	326	1.9%	218	1.9%	73	1.6%	164	1.4%	241	1.5%
Total	17,112	100%	11,521	100%	4,558	100%	11,545	100%	15,875	100%
Gender										
Male	8,447	49.4%	5,549	48.2%	2,249	49.3%	5,745	49.8%	<7,710	48.5%
Female	8,665	50.6%	5,972	51.8%	2,309	50.7%	5,800	50.2%	8,169	51.5%
Indeterminate	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	<5	<0.1%
Total	17,112	100%	11,521	100%	4,558	100%	11,545	100%	15,875	100%

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In–Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

In 2021–22, 37.6 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 2018–19 to 2022–23.

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

Figure 12: Number of persons granted visas, by age range and gender, 2022–23

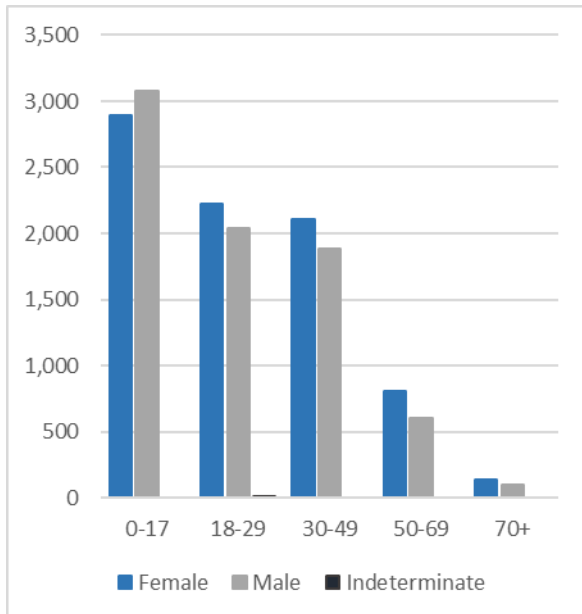
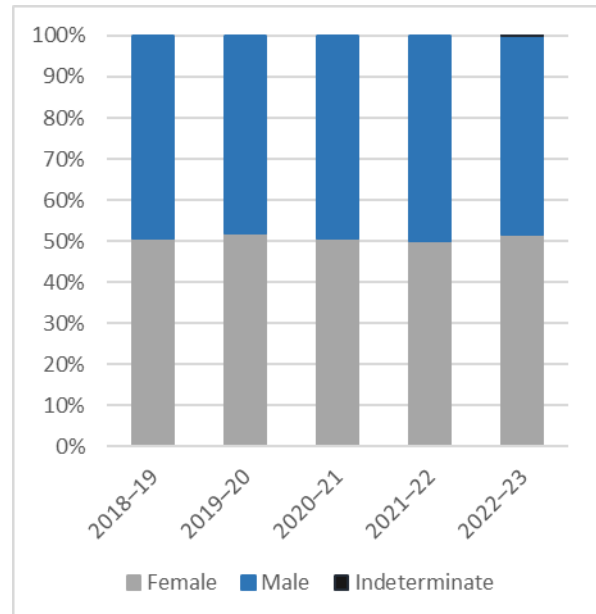


Figure 13: Number of persons granted visas, by gender, 2018–19 to 2022–23



Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In–Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Community Support Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Processing Times

Table 12: Average processing time (in weeks) of finalised cases, by visa category, decision type and year of finalisation, 2018–19 to 2022–23

Visa category	Decision type	Program year of finalisation				
		2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Refugee	Granted	57.1	51.4	70.3	42.5	72.0
	Refused/Withdrawn/Other	38.8	26.6	49.1	38.8	77.9
	<i>Total</i>	<i>43.5</i>	<i>30.7</i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>40.4</i>	<i>76.6</i>
SHP - Global Special Humanitarian	Granted	81.5	71.4	104.9	131.1	127.0
	Refused/Withdrawn/Other	23.8	25.7	24.4	32.1	97.2
	<i>Total</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>29.4</i>	<i>31.2</i>	<i>70.1</i>	<i>117.2</i>
SHP - Community Support Program	Granted	46.5	49.3	88.8	125.8	112.7
	Refused/Withdrawn/Other	94.8	59.8	75.4	114.1	107.4
	<i>Total</i>	<i>51.3</i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>87.3</i>	<i>125.0</i>	<i>112.4</i>
All visa categories	Granted	68.0	59.7	87.8	74.1	90.9
	Refused/Withdrawn/Other	29.2	26.1	24.8	37.3	79.2
	Total	36.7	30.1	39.9	52.0	82.8

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) and 202 (Community Support Program).
2. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

An application cannot be granted until health, character and security clearances requirements are satisfied. Application finalisation timeframes are also affected by the number of applications on-hand. 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 finalisations.

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 suitable 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').

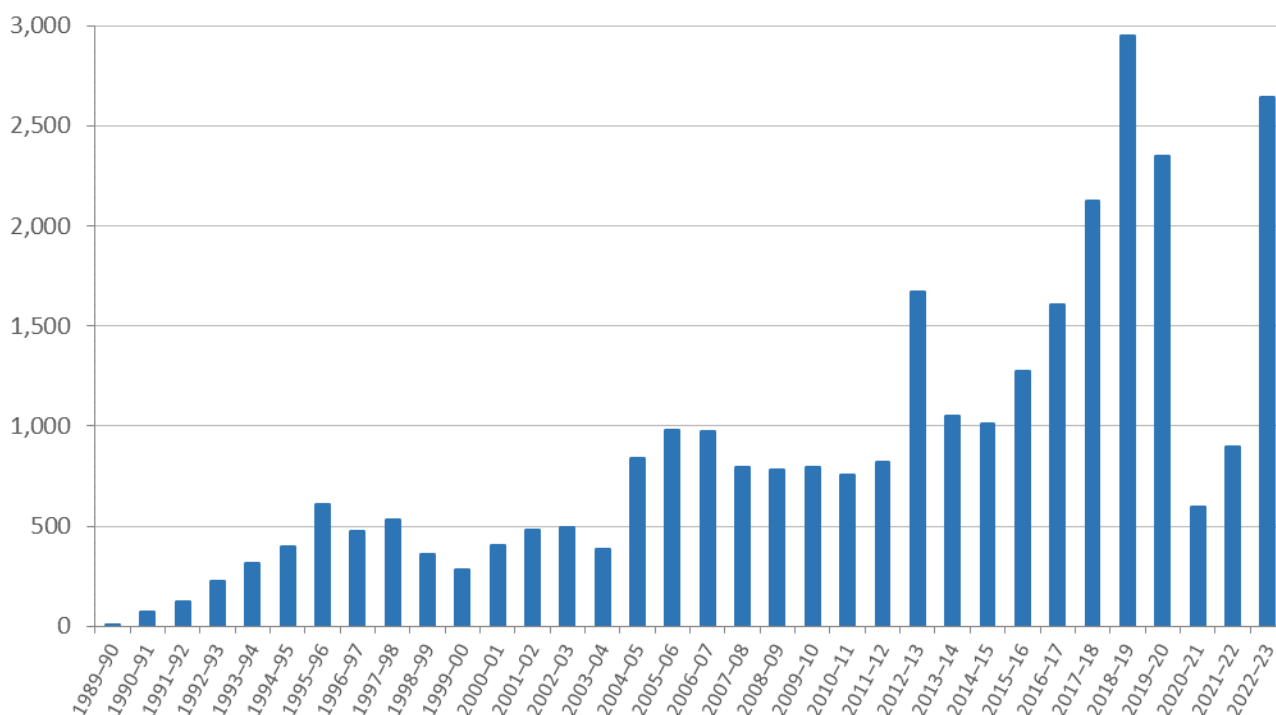
The Woman at Risk visa subclass was established in recognition of the priority given by UNHCR to the protection of refugee women in particularly vulnerable situations. Its introduction was intended to provide a pathway for the resettlement of vulnerable women refugees and their dependants living without 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 30,000 visas have been granted to vulnerable women and their dependants since the establishment of the Woman at Risk visa in 1989.

In 2022-23, the numbers of visas granted to VWC returned to pre-pandemic levels with 2,645 visas being granted. Reflecting the priority placed on Afghan refugees in the overall program, grants to Afghan VWC made up almost half of the visas granted to the group overall.

Figure 14: Number of visas granted to Vulnerable Women and Children, by year of grant, 1989–90 to 2022–23



Notes:

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
2. 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.

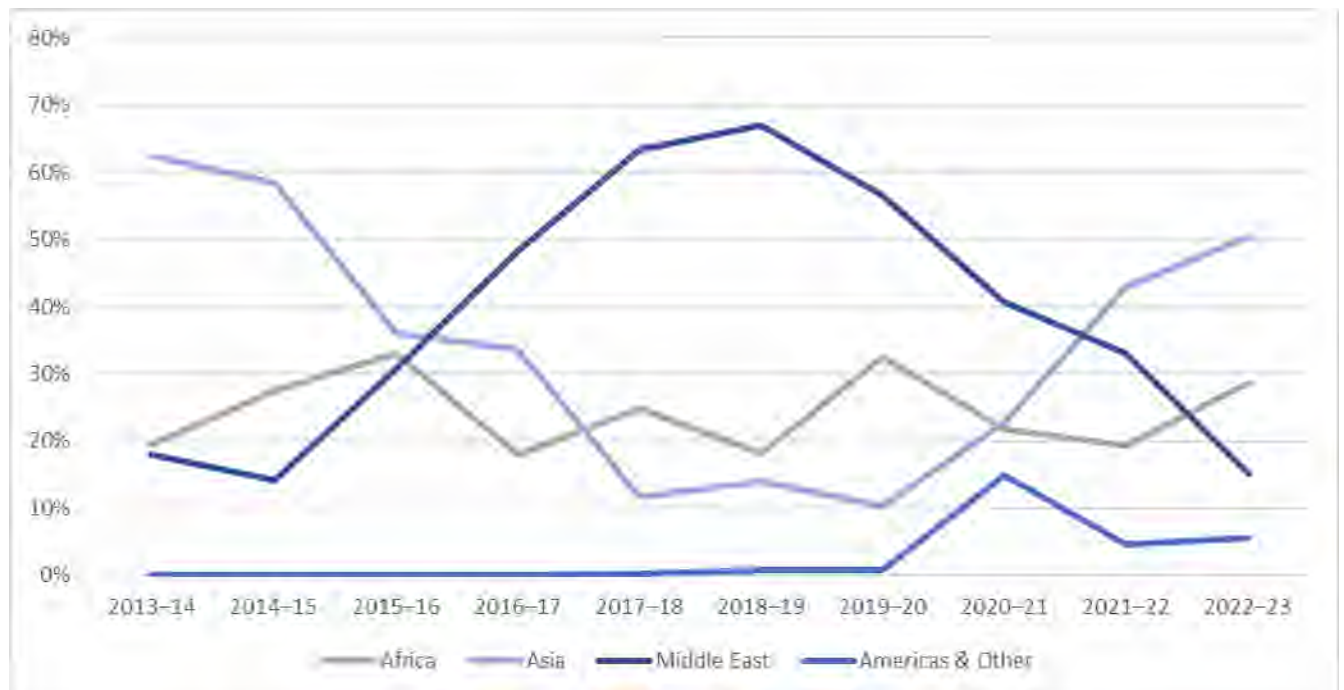
Table 13: Number of visas granted to Vulnerable Women and Children, by age group and year of grant, 2018–19 to 2022–23

Age group	Program year of grant				
	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Number					
0–17 years	1,443	1,057	238	340	1,087
18–29 years	667	560	132	230	759
30–49 years	586	504	151	202	577
50–69 years	198	179	64	94	180
70+ years	53	45	10	31	42
Total	2,947	2,345	595	897	2,645
Per cent					
0–17 years	49.0%	45.1%	5.2%	37.9%	41.1%
18–29 years	22.6%	23.9%	2.9%	25.6%	28.7%
30–49 years	19.9%	21.5%	3.3%	22.5%	21.8%
50–69 years	6.7%	7.6%	1.4%	10.5%	6.8%
70+ years	1.8%	1.9%	0.2%	3.5%	1.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Notes:

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
2. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

Figure 15: Proportion of grants to Vulnerable Women and Children, by region of origin and year of grant, 2013–14 to 2022–23



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 2023.

Table 14: Top ten countries of origin for Vulnerable Women and Children, 2018–19 to 2022–23

2022–23		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	1,182	44.7%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	506	19.1%
Iraq	226	8.5%
Syria	147	5.6%
Ethiopia	130	4.9%
Myanmar	99	3.7%
Venezuela	84	3.2%
Central African Republic	59	2.2%
Pakistan	49	1.9%
Colombia	40	1.5%
Other	123	4.7%
Total	2,645	100%

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%
Total	595	100%

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%
Total	2,947	100%

2021–22		
Country of Origin	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	307	34.2%
Iraq	142	15.8%
Syria	136	15.2%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	111	12.4%
Myanmar	67	7.5%
Venezuela	29	3.2%
Central African Republic	27	3.0%
Burundi	12	1.3%
Iran	11	1.2%
Ethiopia	11	1.2%
Other	44	4.9%
Total	897	100%

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%
Total	2,345	100%

Notes:

1. Subclasses included are 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 2023.

Community Support Program

The Community Support Program (CSP) is intended to provide a sustainable model for private sponsorship for humanitarian entrants that complements existing resettlement pathways.

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.

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.

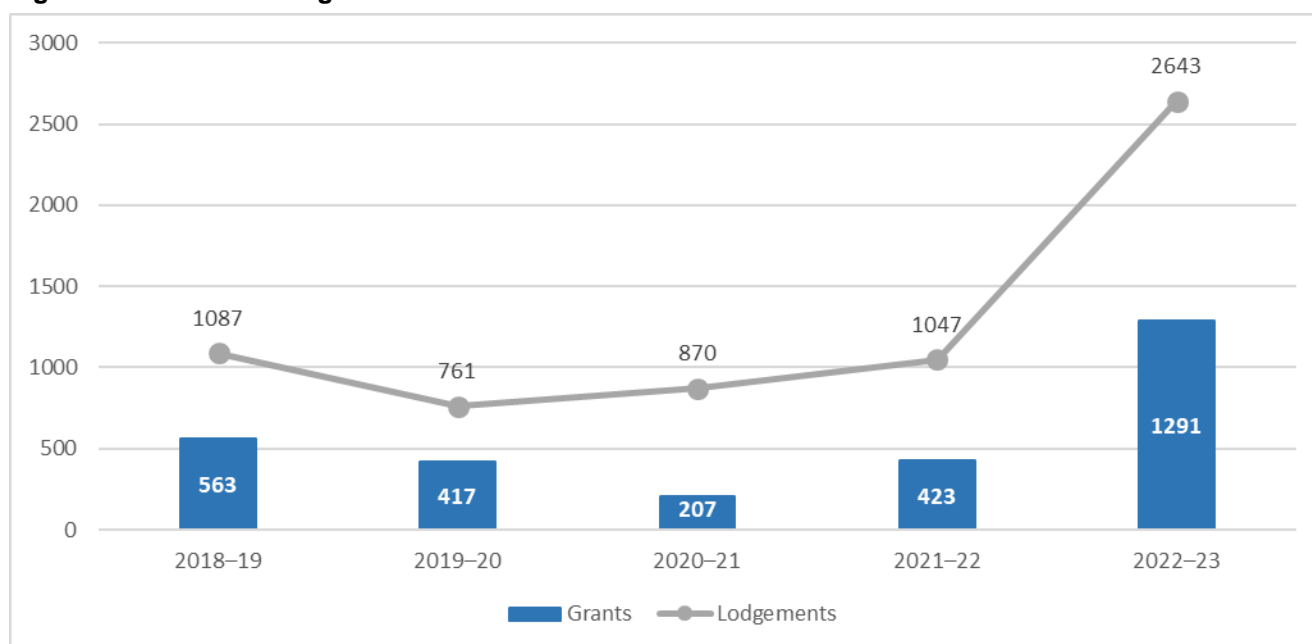
The 12 appointed APOs are:

- AMES Australia
- Assyrian Australian Association
- Australian Migrant Resource Centre
- Australian Refugee Association
- *The Brotherhood of St Laurence (concluded 01 February 2022)*
- Cultura (formerly known as 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 1,400 places were set aside for the CSP in 2022–23.

The top five citizenships of people who applied and were granted visas through the CSP in 2022–23 were Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Eritrea, and Myanmar.

Figure 16: CPP/CSP Lodgements and Grants 2018–19 to 2022–23



Notes:

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
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.

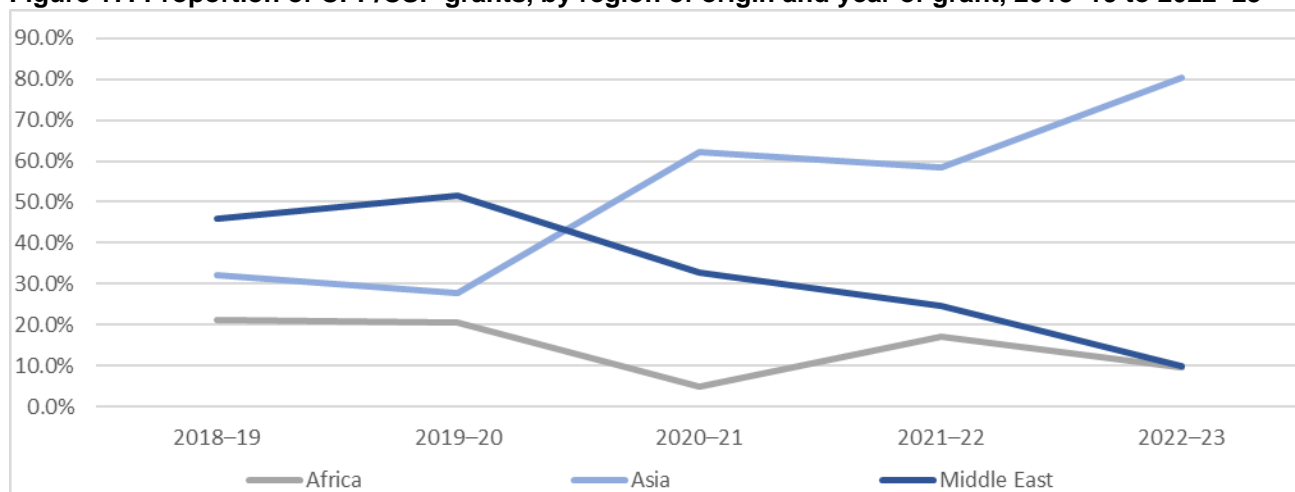
Table 15: Number of visas granted to CPP/CSP applicants, by age group and year of grant, 2018–19 to 2022–23

	2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Age group										
0–17	206	36.5%	145	34.8%	71	34.3%	125	29.6%	399	30.9%
18–29	132	23.5%	112	26.9%	56	27.1%	136	32.2%	432	33.5%
30–49	176	31.3%	129	30.9%	66	31.9%	124	29.3%	347	26.9%
50–69	43	7.7%	27	6.5%	13	6.3%	35	8.3%	100	7.7%
70+	6	1.1%	4	1.0%	1	0.5%	3	0.7%	13	1.0%
Total	563	100%	417	100%	207	100%	423	100%	1,291	100%
Gender										
Male	276	49.0%	210	50.4%	108	52.2%	221	52.2%	671	52.0%
Female	287	51.0%	207	49.6%	99	47.8%	202	47.8%	620	48.0%
Indeterminate	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	563	100%	417	100%	207	100%	423	100%	1,291	100%

Notes:

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
2. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

Figure 17: Proportion of CPP/CSP grants, by region of origin and year of grant, 2018–19 to 2022–23



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 2023.

Table 16: Top five countries of origin for CPP/CSP applicants, 2018–19 to 2022–23

2022–23		
Nationality	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	1,027	79.6%
Eritrea	110	8.5%
Iraq	101	7.8%
Syria	27	2.1%
Myanmar	11	0.9%
Other	15	1.2%
Total	1,291	100%

2021–22		
Nationality	Number	Per cent
Afghanistan	240	56.7%
Iraq	88	20.8%
Eritrea	71	16.8%
Syria	12	2.8%
Myanmar	7	1.7%
Other	5	1.2%
Total	423	100%

2020–21		
Nationality	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%
Total	207	100%

2019–20		
Nationality	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%
Total	417	100%

2018–19		
Nationality	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%
Total	563	100%

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 2023.

Afghanistan

Australia has been resettling Afghans through the Humanitarian Program since the late 1990's.

Following the fall of Kabul on 15 August 2021, the Australian Government conducted a military air evacuation operation.

- Between 18 and 26 August 2021, over 4,100 people were evacuated on 32 flights from Kabul.

Following the initial evacuation phase, Australia has continued to facilitate the movement of Afghan nationals, to Australia from Pakistan and other countries. In total, over 7,400 subclass 449 visas were granted to Afghan evacuees, with almost 6,200 having arrived in Australia as at 30 June 2023.

As at 30 June 2023, almost 5,500 Class XB visas had been granted to Afghan Citizens in Australia who had previously held a Subclass 449 visa, with processing of the remaining onshore Subclass 449 holders continuing in the 2023–24 program year. In addition, more than 471 non-Humanitarian visas have been granted to applicants that arrived in Australia on a Subclass 449 visa.

The Locally Engaged Employee (LEE) Program offers resettlement to eligible LEE at risk of harm as a result of their employment by the Australian Defence Force, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australian Agency for International Development or the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in Afghanistan. Eligibility is extended to family members of the LEE.

- Since the announcement of this program (to 30 June 2023), more than 2,500 visas have been granted to Afghan LEE and their family members, with almost 250 granted in 2022–23.

A range of mechanisms have been put in place to give Afghan evacuees who have arrived in Australia the best possible start to their settlement journey. These include:

- Immediate settlement support through the Humanitarian Settlement Program to access essential services and integrate into Australian life;
- \$27.1 million for a Settlement Support Package for Afghan nationals, which provides direct funding to cater for the specific needs of the Afghan evacuee cohort, to support grassroots community organisations, provide legal assistance for visa applications, maximise economic participation and establish pathways to work and skills recognition, and for mental health support;
- Extending the Subclass 449 visas of those in Australia to provide sufficient time to transition to a permanent visa and ensure continuity of support and access to benefits; and
- Regulatory change to enable Subclass 449 visa holders in Australia to apply for an offshore humanitarian visa.

There are 10,000 places allocated to Afghan nationals within the offshore Humanitarian Program between 2021–22 and 2024–25. Further, an additional 16,500 places for Afghan nationals have been allocated and will be delivered over four years (4,125 places per year between 2022–23 and 2025–26). This brings the total number of places available to Afghan nationals to 31,500, which comprise 26,500 places under the Humanitarian Program and 5,000 under the Family stream of the Migration Program.

Within the 26,500 places under the Program, priority will be given to those outside of Afghanistan who are:

- former certified Locally Engaged Employees (LEE) and their immediate family members;
- refugees who have been referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Australia for resettlement and
- women and girls, ethnic minorities, and LGBTQI+ and other identified minority groups that are referred by the UNHCR or are proposed by a close family member in Australia.

Lodgements

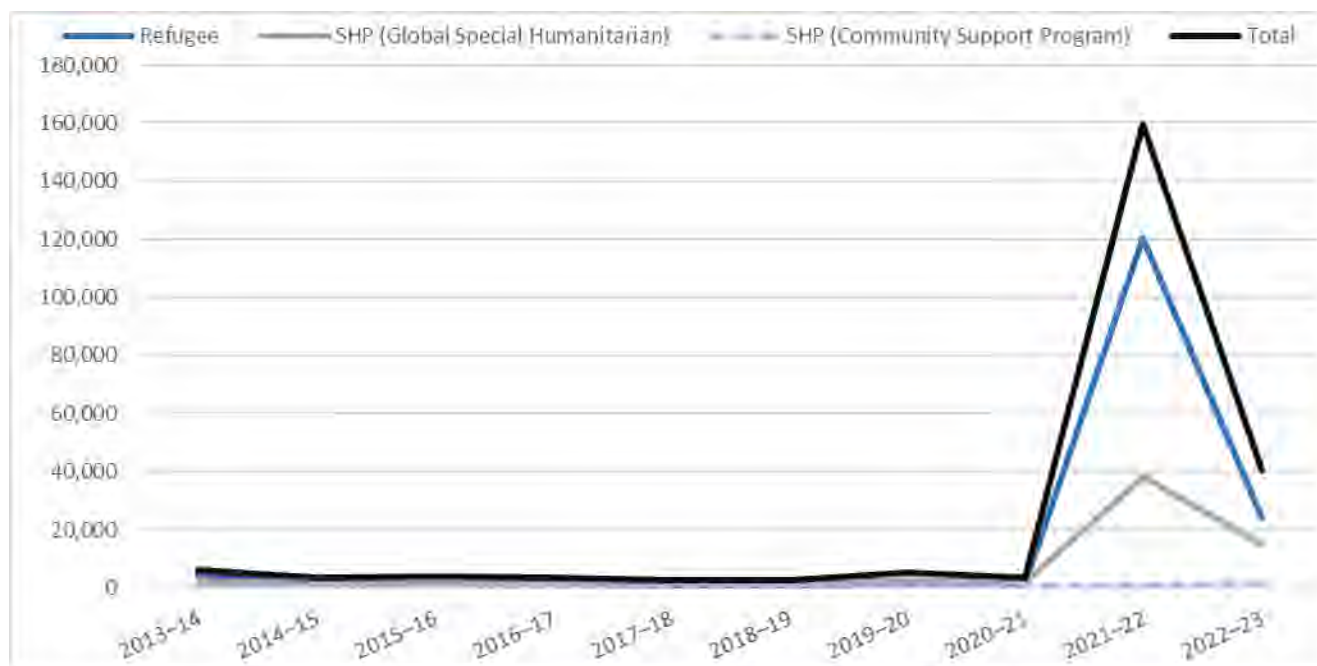
Table 17: Number of Afghans lodging visa applications, by subclass and year of lodgement, 2018–19 to 2022–23

Subclass	Program year of lodgement				
	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	Number				
Refugee					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	609	1,220	791	8,256	7,273
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	295	555	446	111,329	16,148
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	3	11	0	4	1
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	55	78	13	476	574
<i>Total Refugee</i>	962	1,864	1,250	120,065	23,996
SHP					
Global Special Humanitarian Program	1,289	2,729	1,745	38,343	14,740
Community Support Program	523	435	591	940	1,647
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	1,812	3,164	2,336	39,283	16,387
Total	2,774	5,028	3,586	159,348	40,383
	Per cent				
Refugee					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	22.0%	24.3%	22.1%	5.2%	18.0%
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	10.6%	11.0%	12.4%	69.9%	40.0%
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	2.0%	1.6%	0.4%	0.3%	1.4%
<i>Total Refugee</i>	34.7%	37.1%	34.9%	75.3%	59.4%
SHP					
Global Special Humanitarian Program	46.5%	54.3%	48.7%	24.1%	36.5%
Community Support Program	18.9%	8.7%	16.5%	0.6%	4.1%
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	65.3%	62.9%	65.1%	24.7%	40.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Notes:

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
2. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

Figure 18: Number of Afghans lodging visa applications, by visa category and year of lodgement, 2013–14 to 2022–23



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).
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Table 18: Number of Afghans included in visa applications, by age group, gender and year of lodgement, 2018–19 to 2022–23

	2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Age group										
0–17	1,107	39.9%	2,039	40.6%	1,475	41.1%	65,489	41.1%	16,431	40.7%
18–29	827	29.8%	1,450	28.8%	972	27.1%	41,376	26.0%	10,525	26.1%
30–49	548	19.8%	1,054	21.0%	822	22.9%	34,355	21.6%	9,593	23.8%
50–69	257	9.3%	409	8.1%	271	7.6%	15,365	9.6%	3,341	8.3%
70+	35	1.3%	76	1.5%	46	1.3%	2,763	1.7%	493	1.2%
Total	2,774	100%	5,028	100%	3,586	100%	159,348	100%	40,383	100%
Gender										
Male	1,314	47.4%	<2,420	48.1%	1,761	49.1%	77,021	48.3%	20,016	49.6%
Female	1,460	52.6%	2,609	51.9%	1,825	50.9%	82,278	51.6%	20,344	50.4%
Indeterminate	0	0.0%	<5	<0.1%	0	0.0%	<50	0.0%	12	<0.1%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<5	<0.1%	11	<0.1%
Total	2,774	100%	5,028	100%	3,586	100%	159,347	100%	40,383	100%

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
- Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

Grants

Table 19: Number of Afghans granted visas, by subclass and year of grant, 2018–19 to 2022–23

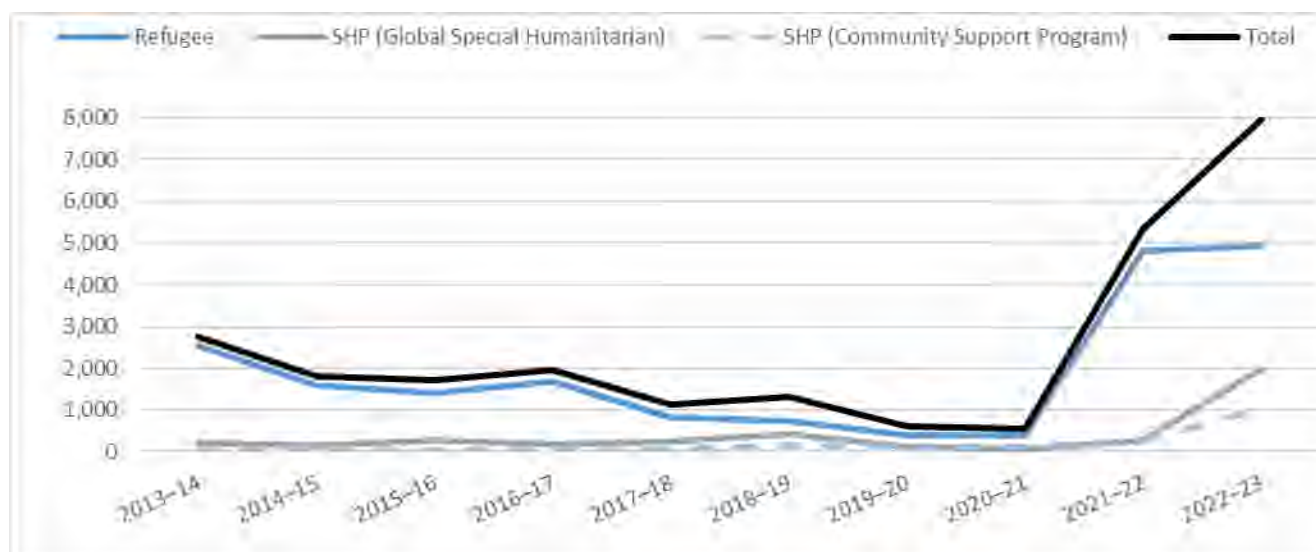
Subclass	Program year of grant				
	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
	Number				
Refugee					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	458	157	99	1,167	1,593
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	143	123	268	3,439	2,639
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	3	11	0	4	0
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	139	95	34	215	712
<i>Total Refugee</i>	743	386	401	4,825	4,944
SHP					
Global Special Humanitarian Program	423	128	43	261	1,991
Community Support Program	157	105	118	240	1,027
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	580	233	161	501	3,018
Total	1,323	619	562	5,326	7,962
	Per cent				
Refugee					
Subclass 200 (Refugee)	34.6%	25.4%	17.6%	21.9%	20.0%
Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)	10.8%	19.9%	47.7%	64.6%	33.1%
Subclass 203 (Emergency Rescue)	0.2%	1.8%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Subclass 204 (Woman at Risk)	10.5%	15.3%	6.0%	4.0%	8.9%
<i>Total Refugee</i>	56.2%	62.4%	71.4%	90.6%	62.1%
SHP					
Global Special Humanitarian Program	32.0%	20.7%	7.7%	4.9%	25.0%
Community Support Program	11.9%	17.0%	21.0%	4.5%	12.9%
<i>Total Special Humanitarian Program</i>	43.8%	37.6%	28.6%	9.4%	37.9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Notes:

1. Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.
2. Any discrepancies between per cent totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

Figure 19: Number of Afghans granted visas, by visa category and year of grant, 2013–14 to 2022–23

Between 2013–14 and 2022–23, more than 19,600 Class XB visas had been granted to Afghan citizens.



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).
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

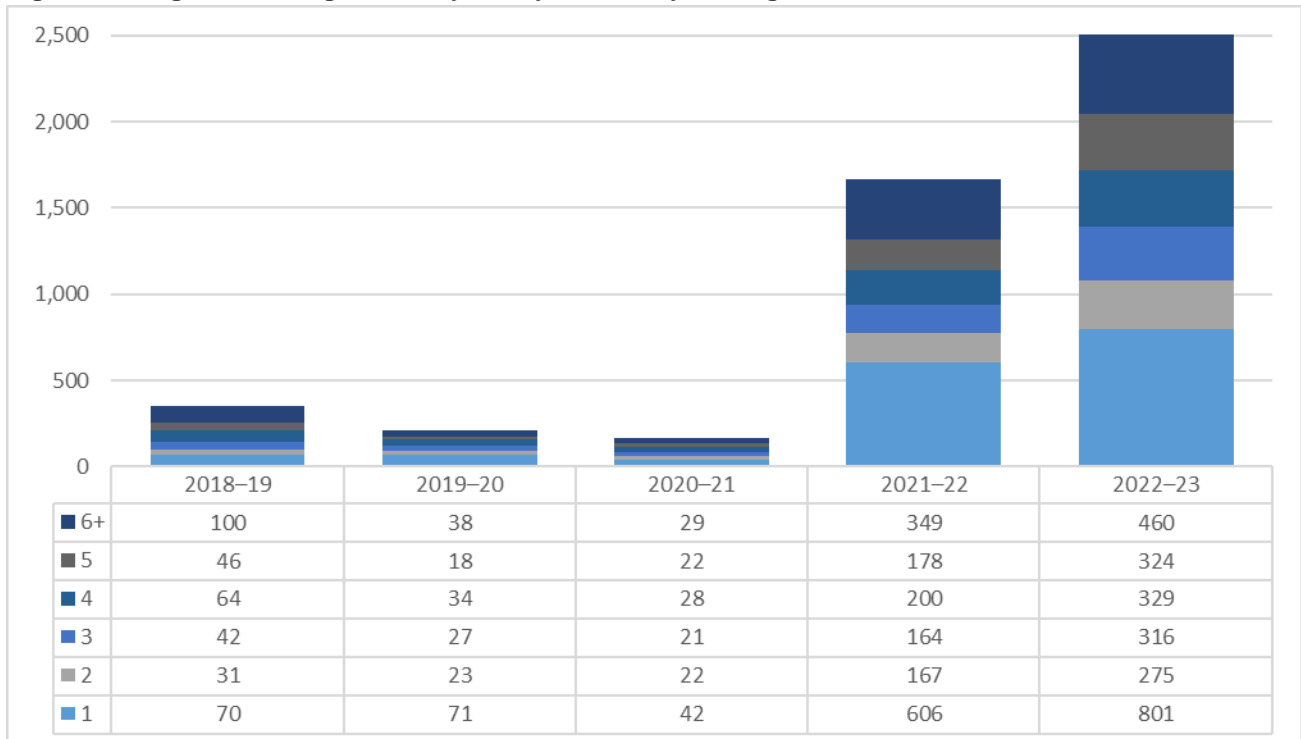
Table 20: Number of Afghans granted visas, by age group, gender and year of grant, 2018–19 to 2022–23

	2018–19		2019–20		2020–21		2021–22		2022–23	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Age group										
0–17	615	46.5%	239	38.6%	251	44.7%	2,146	40.3%	2,974	37.4%
18–29	350	26.5%	184	29.7%	126	22.4%	1,408	26.4%	2,359	29.6%
30–49	248	18.7%	139	22.5%	160	28.5%	1,332	25.0%	1,869	23.5%
50–69	97	7.3%	44	7.1%	22	3.9%	395	7.4%	662	8.3%
70+	13	1.0%	13	2.1%	3	0.5%	45	0.8%	98	1.2%
Total	1,323	100%	619	100%	562	100%	5,326	100%	7,962	100%
Gender										
Male	572	43.2%	275	44.4%	297	52.8%	2,650	49.8%	4,181	52.5%
Female	751	56.8%	344	55.6%	265	47.2%	2,676	50.2%	<3,785	47.5%
Indeterminate	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<5	<0.1%
Total	1,323	100%	619	100%	562	100%	5,326	100%	7,962	100%

Notes:

- Subclasses included are 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 202 (Global Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
- Data was extracted from departmental systems on 05 July 2023.

Figure 20: Afghan cases granted, by family size and year of grant, 2018–19 to 2022–23



Notes:

1. Subclasses included are 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 2023.

Reference Material

Glossary

Term	Definition
ABS	The Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Class XB Subclasses	<p>There are 5 permanent visas under the offshore component of the Humanitarian Program.</p> <p>The four visa subclasses under the Refugee category are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subclass 200 (Refugee)—for applicants who have fled persecution in their home country and are living outside their home country. • Subclass 201 (In-country Special Humanitarian)—for applicants living in their home country who are subject to persecution. • 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. • 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. <p>The only subclass under the SHP is:</p> <p>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.</p>
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.

Term	Definition
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"> • the main applicant must be a member of the proposer's immediate family, and • the proposer must have declared this relationship to the department before the grant of their visa, and • the application must be made within five years of the grant of the proposer's visa. <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"> • SHP visa (subclass 202) • Protection visa (subclass 866)*, or • Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851)*. <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"> • their spouse or de facto partner • dependent children • parents (if the proposer is under 18 years of age). <p>A dependent child is the proposer's biological, adopted or step child who is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not married, in a de facto relationship or engaged to be married; and • under 18 years of age, or • aged 18 years or over and wholly or substantially reliant on the main applicant for financial, psychological or physical support.
Subclass 449 – Humanitarian Stay (Temporary)	<p>Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) (subclass 449) visa is a subclass of the Temporary Safe Haven (Class UJ) visa which can be utilised to respond to emergency humanitarian situations, where people face, or have faced, a strong likelihood of being displaced from their residence, and are in grave fear of their personal safety because of their personal circumstances.</p> <p>These visas facilitate the movement of large numbers of people under imminent threat of harm. Application for this visa is made by accepting an offer from the Australian Government (usually made by the Minister responsible for immigration) for temporary stay in Australia.</p>
The Department	The Department of Home Affairs.
The Offshore Program	<p>Australia's Offshore Humanitarian program, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee Program: the component which provides resettlement to Australia for people outside their home country subject to persecution in their home country • 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.
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>

Term	Definition
Visa process	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.

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	Türkiye	Yemen	

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