



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs



Australian
BORDER FORCE

Illegal maritime arrivals on Bridging E visa

30 September 2020

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About this report

This report provides an overview of the number of illegal maritime arrivals (IMAs) who have been granted a Bridging E visa (BVE) to allow them to remain lawfully in Australia while their immigration status is being resolved.

The data is sourced from several departmental processing and recording systems. All reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this information; however, it is subject to revision.

The report presents some basic statistics on IMAs who had been granted BVEs and were living in the community at the time of reporting.

The Department of Home Affairs has a policy of not publishing figures, for individuals, which total less than ten. This is done to protect the privacy of individuals.

The December quarter report is expected to be released in early February 2021.

Release of IMAs on Bridging E visa (BVE)

Key program concepts

Since 25 November 2011, successive Ministers have used their non-compellable, non-delegable intervention power under s195A of the *Migration Act 1958* to grant a Bridging E Visa (BVE) to some illegal maritime arrivals (IMAs).

For further information about the IMA BVE program please see [Fact Sheet – Bridging visas for illegal maritime arrivals](#).

Overall program numbers and current location by State and Territory

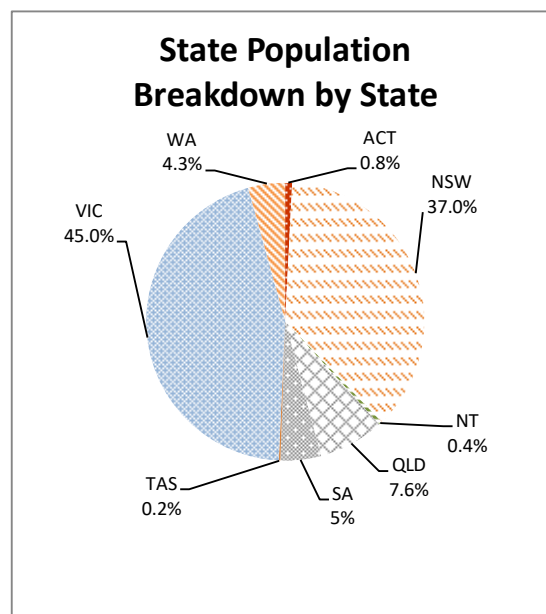
As at 30 September 2020, a total of 37,312 Bridging E Visas have been granted to IMAs. Of these, 12,579 remain in the community, (10,360 with a current BVE and 2219 awaiting grant of a further BVE). The remaining 24,733 IMAs, who were granted BVEs have either been granted a substantive visa, departed Australia, returned to immigration detention or are deceased.

BVE holders are free to choose where they live. The largest numbers of IMAs are in Victoria (VIC), followed by New South Wales (NSW), Queensland (QLD), South Australia (SA), Western Australia (WA), Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Northern Territory (NT), and Tasmania (TAS). (Table 1).

Table 1: Current location of IMA BVE holders

| State and Territory | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| NSW | 4,660 |
| VIC | 5,655 |
| QLD | 958 |
| SA | 592 |
| WA | 540 |
| TAS | 23 |
| NT | 51 |
| ACT | 100 |
| TOTAL | 12,579 |

Chart 1: Pie chart showing the percentage of IMA BVE holders by state and territory



Visa holder location by State and Territory

The following tables provide a breakdown by state and territory, then by gender, age group, citizenship and current location for IMA holders of bridging visas as at 30 September 2020. People who arrived as IMAs and who hold a bridging visa are free to live wherever they choose in Australia.

New South Wales

Table 2: IMA BVE holders by postcode in NSW

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 2145 | 646 |
| 2195 | 371 |
| 2144 | 367 |
| 2160 | 321 |
| 2161 | 243 |
| 2146 | 208 |
| 2142 | 167 |
| 2166 | 153 |
| 2170 | 135 |
| 2165 | 110 |
| 2147 | 107 |
| 2150 | 95 |
| 2141 | 93 |
| 2140 | 86 |
| 2216 | 72 |
| 2196 | 70 |
| 2118 | 68 |
| 2151 | 66 |
| 2148 | 63 |
| 2200 | 62 |
| 2650 | 43 |
| 2162 | 42 |
| 2164 | 40 |
| 2199 | 40 |
| 2168 | 35 |
| 2163 | 34 |

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 2190 | 32 |
| 2112 | 30 |
| 2770 | 29 |
| 2153 | 27 |
| 2154 | 27 |
| 2117 | 23 |
| 2152 | 23 |
| 2176 | 22 |
| 2143 | 20 |
| 2197 | 19 |
| 2767 | 19 |
| 2680 | 18 |
| 2114 | 18 |
| 2800 | 17 |
| 2155 | 16 |
| 2192 | 16 |
| 2768 | 13 |
| 2763 | 13 |
| 2194 | 13 |
| 2122 | 12 |
| 2171 | 12 |
| 2456 | 12 |
| 2127 | 12 |
| 2116 | 11 |
| 2128 | 11 |
| 2760 | 11 |
| 2766 | 10 |
| 2795 | 10 |

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|---|---------------------------|
| 154 postcodes with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 427 |
| Total | 4,660 |

Table 3: IMA BVE holders by age group in NSW

| Age Group | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0 to 4 | 131 |
| 5 to 11 | 251 |
| 12 to 15 | 97 |
| 16 to 17 | 32 |
| 18 to 25 | 287 |
| 26 to 35 | 2,086 |
| 36 to 45 | 1,297 |
| 46+ | 479 |
| Total | 4,660 |

Table 4: IMA BVE holders by citizenship in NSW

| Citizenship | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|---|---------------------------|
| AFGHANISTAN | 255 |
| BANGLADESH | 436 |
| INDIA | 16 |
| INDONESIA | 10 |
| IRAN | 1,332 |
| IRAQ | 357 |
| LEBANON | 83 |
| MYANMAR | 21 |
| NEPAL | 14 |
| PAKISTAN | 199 |
| PALESTINIAN | 15 |
| SOMALIA | 16 |
| SRI LANKA | 1,408 |
| STATELESS | 345 |
| SUDAN | 30 |
| SYRIA | 12 |
| VIETNAM | 72 |
| 13 citizenships with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 39 |
| Total | 4,660 |

Table 5: IMA BVE holders by gender in NSW

| Gender | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Female | 657 |
| Male | 4,003 |
| Total | 4,660 |

Victoria

Table 6: IMA BVE holders by postcode in VIC

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 3175 | 730 |
| 3020 | 527 |
| 3021 | 346 |
| 3076 | 197 |
| 3047 | 188 |
| 3177 | 185 |
| 3171 | 180 |
| 3075 | 174 |
| 3029 | 141 |
| 3174 | 141 |
| 3074 | 135 |
| 3023 | 124 |
| 3046 | 121 |
| 3064 | 118 |
| 3082 | 97 |
| 3073 | 85 |
| 3030 | 85 |
| 3976 | 68 |
| 3214 | 64 |
| 3803 | 59 |
| 3752 | 59 |
| 3805 | 57 |
| 3072 | 57 |
| 3977 | 56 |
| 3083 | 51 |
| 3802 | 51 |
| 3022 | 47 |
| 3048 | 44 |
| 3754 | 42 |
| 3108 | 40 |

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 3011 | 40 |
| 3109 | 39 |
| 3215 | 38 |
| 3750 | 38 |
| 3019 | 38 |
| 3034 | 36 |
| 3044 | 33 |
| 3012 | 32 |
| 3028 | 31 |
| 3037 | 29 |
| 3150 | 27 |
| 3850 | 25 |
| 3216 | 24 |
| 3172 | 23 |
| 3173 | 23 |
| 3107 | 22 |
| 3630 | 22 |
| 3058 | 22 |
| 3060 | 22 |
| 3337 | 21 |
| 3049 | 21 |
| 3975 | 20 |
| 3131 | 19 |
| 3810 | 19 |
| 3081 | 18 |
| 3056 | 18 |
| 3024 | 17 |
| 3033 | 17 |
| 3133 | 17 |
| 3978 | 16 |
| 3500 | 16 |
| 3840 | 15 |
| 3134 | 14 |

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|---|---------------------------|
| 3032 | 13 |
| 3042 | 13 |
| 3038 | 13 |
| 3061 | 12 |
| 3169 | 12 |
| 3350 | 12 |
| 3130 | 11 |
| 3152 | 11 |
| 3025 | 11 |
| 3043 | 11 |
| 3170 | 11 |
| 3153 | 11 |
| 143 postcodes with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 433 |
| Total | 5,655 |

Table 7: IMA BVE holders by age group in VIC

| Age Group | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0 to 4 | 209 |
| 5 to 11 | 505 |
| 12 to 15 | 238 |
| 16 to 17 | 96 |
| 18 to 25 | 568 |
| 26 to 35 | 2,022 |
| 36 to 45 | 1,428 |
| 46+ | 589 |
| Total | 5,655 |

Table 8: IMA BVE holders by citizenship in VIC

| Citizenship | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|---|---------------------------|
| AFGHANISTAN | 459 |
| BANGLADESH | 72 |
| INDIA | 28 |
| IRAN | 1,847 |
| IRAQ | 171 |
| LEBANON | 123 |
| MYANMAR | 69 |
| NOT RECORDED | 18 |
| PAKISTAN | 531 |
| SRI LANKA | 1,575 |
| STATELESS | 541 |
| SUDAN | 13 |
| VIETNAM | 156 |
| 20 citizenships with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 52 |
| Total | 5,655 |

Table 9: IMA BVE holders by gender in VIC

| Gender | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Female | 1,310 |
| Male | 4,345 |
| Total | 5,655 |

Queensland

Table 10: IMA BVE holders by postcode in QLD

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| 4077 | 153 |
| 4114 | 104 |
| 4343 | 41 |
| 4110 | 38 |
| 4131 | 38 |
| 4132 | 32 |
| 4127 | 28 |
| 4103 | 24 |
| 4076 | 22 |
| 4122 | 20 |
| 4105 | 19 |
| 4701 | 19 |
| 4109 | 17 |
| 4034 | 16 |
| 4065 | 16 |
| 4350 | 14 |
| 4151 | 13 |
| 4102 | 13 |
| 4133 | 12 |
| 4013 | 12 |
| 4300 | 12 |
| 4104 | 11 |
| 4118 | 11 |
| 4123 | 10 |
| 4078 | 10 |
| 72 postcodes with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 253 |
| Total | 958 |

Table 11: IMA BVE holders by age group in QLD

| Age Group | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0 to 4 | 42 |
| 5 to 11 | 88 |
| 12 to 15 | 48 |
| 16 to 17 | 19 |
| 18 to 25 | 110 |
| 26 to 35 | 333 |
| 36 to 45 | 218 |
| 46+ | 100 |
| Total | 958 |

Table 12: IMA BVE holders by citizenship in QLD

| Citizenship | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| AFGHANISTAN | 42 |
| BANGLADESH | 64 |
| INDIA | 11 |
| IRAN | 228 |
| IRAQ | 44 |
| PAKISTAN | 18 |
| SOMALIA | 19 |
| SRI LANKA | 302 |
| STATELESS | 76 |
| VIETNAM | 122 |
| 9 citizenships with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 32 |
| Total | 958 |

Table 13: IMA BVE holders by gender in QLD

| Gender | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| FEMALE | 257 |
| MALE | 701 |
| Total | 958 |

South Australia

Table 14: IMA BVE holders by postcode in SA

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| 5084 | 98 |
| 5108 | 45 |
| 5085 | 39 |
| 5086 | 29 |
| 5013 | 22 |
| 5113 | 22 |
| 5107 | 21 |
| 5012 | 20 |
| 5098 | 20 |
| 5095 | 19 |
| 5114 | 17 |
| 5087 | 15 |
| 5268 | 14 |
| 5112 | 12 |
| 5271 | 11 |
| 61 postcodes with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 188 |
| Total | 592 |

Table 15: IMA BVE holders by age group in SA

| Age Group | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0 to 4 | 28 |
| 5 to 11 | 50 |
| 12 to 15 | 21 |
| 16 to 17 | <10 |
| 18 to 25 | 36 |
| 26 to 35 | 223 |
| 36 to 45 | 170 |
| 46+ | <60 |
| Total | 592 |

Table 16: IMA BVE holders by citizenship in SA

| Citizenship | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| AFGHANISTAN | 75 |
| BANGLADESH | 16 |
| IRAN | 145 |
| PAKISTAN | 67 |
| SRI LANKA | 163 |
| STATELESS | 32 |
| VIETNAM | 69 |
| 8 citizenships with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 25 |
| Total | 592 |

Table 17: IMA BVE holders by gender in SA

| Gender | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Female | 128 |
| Male | 464 |
| Total | 592 |

Western Australia

Table 18: IMA BVE holders by postcode in WA

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| 6061 | 57 |
| 6110 | 52 |
| 6064 | 52 |
| 6107 | 37 |
| 6109 | 32 |
| 6108 | 28 |
| 6147 | 27 |
| 6062 | 16 |
| 6112 | 14 |
| 6105 | 14 |
| 6065 | 13 |
| 6063 | 12 |
| 6059 | 12 |
| 6104 | 12 |
| 6060 | 11 |
| 6155 | 10 |
| 52 postcodes with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 141 |
| Total | 540 |

Table 19: IMA BVE holders by age group in WA

| Age Group | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0-4 | <10 |
| 5-11 | 38 |
| 12-15 | 12 |
| 16-17 | <10 |
| 18-25 | 51 |
| 26-35 | 207 |
| 36-45 | 139 |
| 46+ | 75 |
| Total | 540 |

Table 20: IMA BVE holders by citizenship in WA

| Citizenship | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| AFGHANISTAN | 96 |
| IRAN | 75 |
| IRAQ | 17 |
| PAKISTAN | 38 |
| SRI LANKA | 171 |
| STATELESS | 22 |
| VIETNAM | 104 |
| 9 citizenships with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 17 |
| Total | 540 |

Table 21: IMA BVE holders by gender in WA

| Gender | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Female | 102 |
| Male | 438 |
| Total | 540 |

Tasmania

Table 22: IMA BVE holders by postcode in TAS

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| 11 postcodes with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 23 |
| Total | 23 |

Table 23: IMA BVE holders by age group in TAS

| Age Group | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0 to 4 | 0 |
| 5 to 11 | <10 |
| 12 to 15 | 0 |
| 16 to 17 | 0 |
| 18 to 25 | <10 |
| 26 to 35 | <10 |
| 36 to 45 | <10 |
| 46+ | 0 |
| Total | 23 |

Table 24: IMA BVE holders by citizenship in TAS

| Citizenship | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| 7 citizenships with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 23 |
| Total | 23 |

Table 25: IMA BVE holders by gender in TAS

| Gender | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Female | <10 |
| Male | >20 |
| Total | 23 |

Northern Territory

Table 26: IMA BVE holders by postcode in NT

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|---|---------------------------|
| 810 | 18 |
| 812 | 10 |
| 9 postcodes with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 23 |
| Total | 51 |

Table 27: IMA BVE holders by age group in NT

| Age Group | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0 to 4 | 0 |
| 5 to 11 | <10 |
| 12 to 15 | <10 |
| 16 to 17 | <10 |
| 18 to 25 | <10 |
| 26 to 35 | 15 |
| 36 to 45 | 16 |
| 46+ | <10 |
| Total | 51 |

Table 28: IMA BVE holders by citizenship in NT

| Citizenship | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| SRI LANKA | 21 |
| VIETNAM | 18 |
| 8 citizenships with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 12 |
| Total | 51 |

Table 29: IMA BVE holders by gender in NT

| Gender | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Female | <10 |
| Male | >40 |
| Total | 51 |

Australian Capital Territory

Table 30: IMA BVE holders by postcode in ACT

| Postcode | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| 2913 | 16 |
| 2617 | 12 |
| 2602 | 12 |
| 2614 | 11 |
| 2611 | 10 |
| 16 postcodes with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 39 |
| Total | 100 |

Table 31: IMA BVE holders by age group in ACT

| Age Group | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 0 to 4 | <10 |
| 5 to 11 | <10 |
| 12 to 15 | <10 |
| 16 to 17 | <10 |
| 18 to 25 | <10 |
| 26 to 35 | 39 |
| 36 to 45 | 28 |
| 46+ | 10 |
| Total | 100 |

Table 32: IMA BVE holders by citizenship in ACT

| Citizenship | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--|---------------------------|
| IRAN | 19 |
| IRAQ | 16 |
| SRI LANKA | 41 |
| 7 citizenships with less than 10 IMA BVE holders | 24 |
| Total | 100 |

Table 33: IMA BVE holders by gender in ACT

| Gender | Number of IMA BVE holders |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Female | 21 |
| Male | 79 |
| Total | 100 |