

## REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SUNDAY 28 AUGUST 2011 FACT SHEETS

Information and figures are taken from the website of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship: [www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets](http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets). Further information can be obtained from consulting the fact sheets indicated below, as well as others available on the website.

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Australia's permanent immigration program has two components — **Migration**, for Skilled, Family and Special Eligibility Stream migrants and **Humanitarian**, for refugees and others in humanitarian need.

The planning level for the 2010–11 Migration Program is set at 168 700 places. The Humanitarian Program is set at 13 750 places.

This maintains the government's commitment to an immigration policy which seeks to balance social, economic, humanitarian and environmental objectives.

The Australian Government provides settlement support to around 13 750 refugees and others in humanitarian need who arrive under the Humanitarian Program each year. This includes people resettled under the Refugee program, the Special Humanitarian program and asylum seekers who are granted protection visas in Australia.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship administers the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) program which provides intensive settlement support to these clients on arrival, and throughout their initial settlement period. This support could include meeting them when they arrive, help finding suitable accommodation, initial orientation and a package of basic household goods such as simple furnishings, linen, some white goods and kitchen equipment. Clients are helped to gain access to Centrelink, Medicare, health services and banking as well as assisted to understand Australian society, including Australian laws and culture. The department expects that most clients will have reached their initial settlement outcomes within 6–12 months after arrival.

Refugees are also provided with English language courses through the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and may be referred, if required, to other specialist and mainstream services.

Along with HSS, refugees may be referred to migrant resource centres and organisations funded under the Settlement Grants Program (SGP). These programs help newly arrived refugees become self-reliant and participate in the Australian community as soon as possible.

The government allocated \$315 million in 2010–11 towards these direct settlement programs.

**See:**

[Fact Sheet 66 – Humanitarian Settlement Services](#)

[Fact Sheet 92 – Settlement Grants Program](#)

When refugees arrive in Australia through the Humanitarian Program, they can immediately gain access to income support payments under the same eligibility criteria as any other Australian.

Refugees do not receive higher benefits than other social security recipients. They have the same entitlements as all other Australian permanent residents. Refugees do not have their rental bonds automatically paid for by the government, nor do they receive a lump sum payment from the government upon arrival.

Refugees must also meet the same requirements as other Australians to be eligible for public housing. They are not given preferential treatment and must remain on waiting lists, as do other Australians in need of public housing.

Asylum seekers who arrive by boat and are found to be owed protection are granted protection visas under the Humanitarian Program and are provided with the same entitlements as any other newly arrived refugee.

Other Fact Sheets:

Fact Sheet 20 – Migration Program Planning Levels: *Humanitarian Program; Migration Program; Program Range; Caps*

Fact Sheet 98 – Settlement Services for Refugees

Fact Sheet 6 – Australia’s Multicultural Policy: *Parliamentary statement on racial tolerance; A brief history of Australia’s multicultural policies*

Fact Sheet 60 – Australia’s Refugee and Humanitarian Program: *Background information; Humanitarian Program; Composition of the offshore resettlement program; outcomes of 2009-10 program; Humanitarian Program figures; 2010 -2011 program; Settlement services*

Fact Sheet 62 – Assistance for Asylum Seekers in Australia: *Who is an asylum seeker?; Assistance for asylum seekers; Asylum-seeker Assistance Scheme; Professional visa application advice and assistance; permission to work; Medicare eligibility.*