**Stats & Facts: Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

A person seeking asylum is a person seeking protection in another country because they have a well-founded fear of being persecuted in their country of origin on the basis of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group.

A refugee is a person who requested protection and has been granted refugee status.

It is legal to seek asylum. Everyone has the right to seek asylum and be protected from persecution, no matter how they arrive in another country. These rights are protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 1951 Refugee Convention.

# **Demographics**

* Since the end of World War II, Australia has welcomed nearly 1 million refugees and others in humanitarian need.[[1]](#endnote-1)
* As at mid-2023, 110 million people were forcibly displaced as a result of conflict or persecution.
* 62.5 million are displaced within their own countries
* 36.4 million are recognised as refugees awaiting resettlement
* 6.1 million are seeking asylum in another country[[2]](#endnote-2)

# **How people come to Australia**

* In the 10 years to December 2022, Australia recognised or resettled 180,073 refugees. This was less than 1% of all asylum applications made globally.[[3]](#endnote-3)
* Most people who seek asylum in Australia do not arrive by boat.[[4]](#endnote-4)
* In the 10 years to December 2023, 49 boats arrived in Australia, with a total of 1114 people on board.[[5]](#endnote-5)
* Between 7 September 2013 and 21 May 2022, 143,749 people arrived by plane and made an application for a permanent Protection visa in Australia.[[6]](#endnote-6)

# **Where people are arriving from**

* The top 3 source countries for humanitarian arrivals to Australia in 2022 – 2023 were:
* Afghanistan: 8,045
* Iraq: 2,108
* Myanmar: 1,902[[7]](#endnote-7)

# **Family separation and barriers to reunification**

* 1 in 3 adult refugees have experienced forced separation from family, and over half are concerned for the safety of family overseas.[[8]](#endnote-8)
* When families are separated, it can greatly affect the mental, financial, and social wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers.[[9]](#endnote-9)
* Once settled in Australia, many refugees face barriers to reuniting their families. Visa options for relatives are limited and can be costly and slow.[[10]](#endnote-10)
  + The cost of a Partner visa is around $9,000[[11]](#endnote-11)
  + The cost for a Contributory Parent visa is over $40,000[[12]](#endnote-12)
  + Parent & Aged Parent visas take around 30 years to be processed[[13]](#endnote-13)
  + The average processing time for a permanent protection visa is over 900 days.[[14]](#endnote-14)

# **Experiences of discrimination**

* The settings where refugees report experiencing discrimination in Australia are mainly:
  + The workplace (31%)
  + On the street (26%)
  + When looking for work (25%)
  + On public transport (24%)[[15]](#endnote-15)

# **Consequences of climate change**

* By 2050, 216 million people could be displaced in 6 world regions because of climate change. The top three regions are:
  + Sub-Saharan Africa (86 million)
  + East Asia and the Pacific (49 million)
  + South Asia (40 million).[[16]](#endnote-16)
* People displaced by climate change are not directly covered by the Refugee Convention.[[17]](#endnote-17)

## **Suggested citation**

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