

Afghan Migrant and Refugee Numbers in Australia Breakdown

- There are about 50,000 Afghanistan-born people in Australia total.¹
- The government has granted about 8,500 humanitarian visas to Afghans since 2013, including 1,800 visas to Afghan nationals employed by the Australia military or government in Afghanistan and their family members.²
- 83 Afghan nationals granted permanent protection last year (2019-20)³ who had arrived via plane 'legally'.
- About 30 approvals this year for permanent protection since January 2021 for people who arrived 'legally' (via plane) from Afghanistan and did an 'onshore' application for protection⁴
- 53 Afghans are currently in immigration detention⁵
- **4,271 'Finalised Grants' for Afghan boat arrivals (Approved - Refugee Status but only with 3 or 5-year temporary protection)⁶ - no chance for family reunion under the humanitarian program⁷ although we consider them refugees here**
- **403 on hand or at review applications for Afghan nationals (boat arrivals)⁸**
- 865 Afghan country of origin Boat arrival BVE holders⁹ (who are in various stages of being processed/deported and are in the community – these are March numbers and so may be dated, a big push for processing happened in June, but the August report isn't out yet – some of these may be caught up in the above two bolded stats)
- 'Act for Afghanistan' have estimated 5100 temporary protection visa holders – this may include Afghans who have arrived from another country (possibly from Pakistan or the like)¹⁰

The Liberal Government has a legacy they could uphold:

- This is a moment of opportunity. The Fraser Government, between 1976 and 1982 resettled nearly 70,000 Indochinese in Australia and approximately 80,000 came afterwards via the orderly departure scheme and immigration channels established by the Fraser Government¹¹
- Fraser and his Ministers were acting under a similar set of constraints, with similar motivations to [Australian] government's past and present.¹²

Australia has not taken as many refugees as we have places for due to COVID in our humanitarian program:

- Australian intake of arrivals on humanitarian visas consistent with priorities set were suspended on 19 March 2020. This has meant that the 2019-20 by the Government Humanitarian Program of 18,750 places was not fully delivered. In 2019-20, the Department delivered 13,171 humanitarian program places out of the total 18,750 for the 2019-20 reporting year.¹³

¹ <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/mca/files/2016-cis-afghanistan.PDF>

² [Afghans in Australia won't be sent back while security situation remains dire, minister says | Australian immigration and asylum | The Guardian](#)

³ [Onshore Humanitarian program 2019-20 - as at 30 June 2020-.docx \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

⁴ <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/humanitarian-program#content-index-1>

⁵ [Immigration Detention and Community Statistics Summary 31 May 2021 \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

⁶ [IMA Legacy Caseload \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

⁷ [News \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

⁸ [IMA Legacy Caseload \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

⁹ [Illegal Maritime Arrivals on Bridging E visa - 31 Mar 2020 \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#) last available stats – March 2021

¹⁰ <https://www.actionforafghanistan.com.au/>

¹¹ <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/welcome-to-australia-the-fraser-governments-approach-to-refugees/>

¹² <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/welcome-to-australia-the-fraser-governments-approach-to-refugees/>

¹³ <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-pubs/Annualreports/home-affairs-annual-report-2019-20.pdf>