

## Humanitarian Arrivals

Refugees are people fleeing conflict or persecution. They are defined and protected in international law, and must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk.<sup>1</sup> Asylum-seekers are also fleeing conflict and persecution, however their request for sanctuary has yet to be processed and they may not be settled. Every year, around one million people around the world seek asylum,<sup>2</sup> and there were over 50 million refugees living throughout the world in June 2016.<sup>3</sup> Australia’s permanent immigration program consists of two components: the Migration Program and the Humanitarian Program. The Humanitarian Program includes refugees, special Humanitarian Visas and asylum seekers who have subsequently received a visa to remain – also referred to as Humanitarian Arrivals.<sup>4</sup> Migration based on humanitarian reasons formed 12% of arrivals to Victoria in 2011. The Department of Border Protection Settlement Database provides more recent statistics on the humanitarian migration program. From 2010-2015 most entrants came from Afghanistan, Iraq, Burma/Myanmar and Iran. As seen in the heat Map, large populations of Victorian humanitarian arrivals live within the Local Government Areas of Greater Dandenong, Hume, Casey, Brimbank and Wyndham.<sup>5</sup>

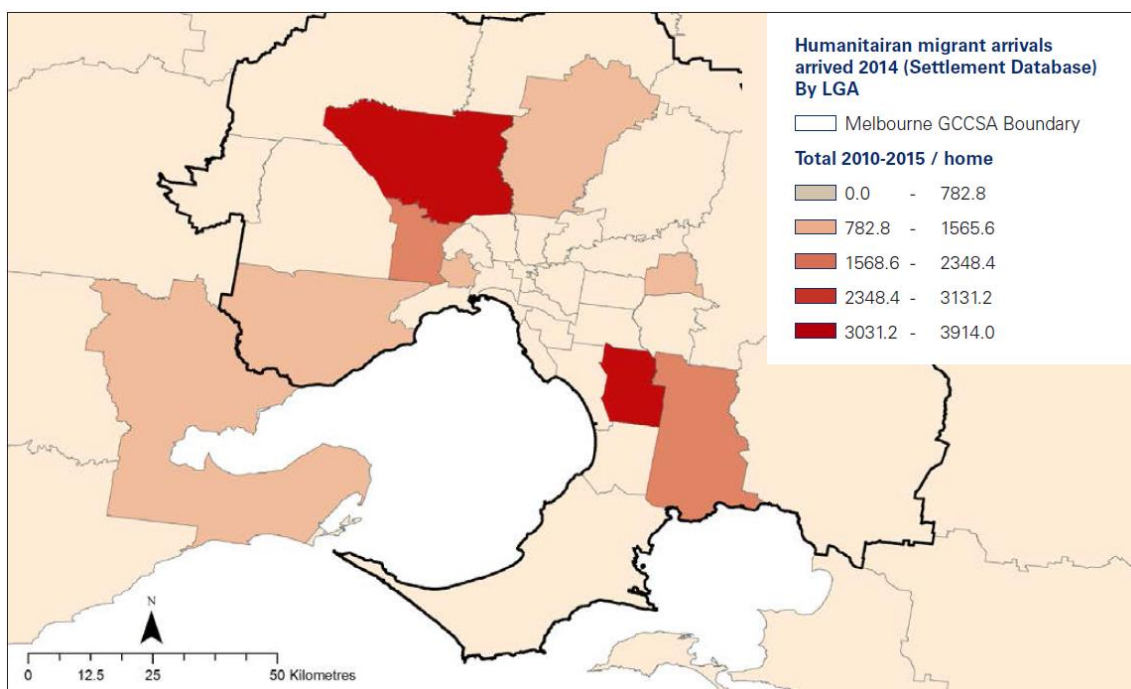
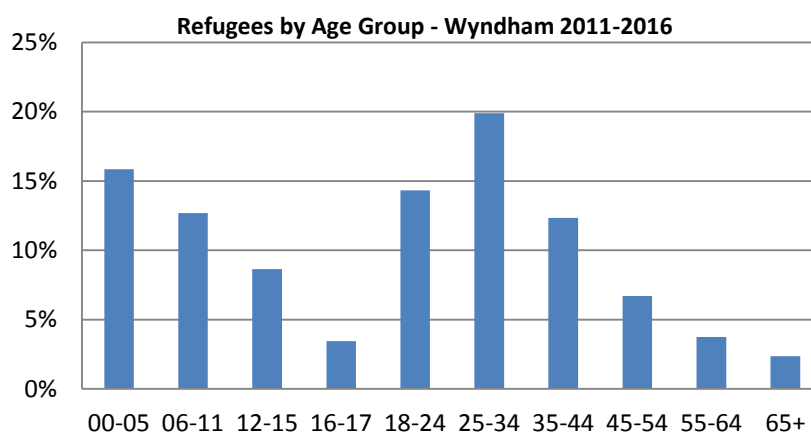


Figure 1: Humanitarian entrants by LGA, 2010-15 - Settlement Database<sup>6</sup>

Between 2011 and 2016, 1,654 people settled in Wyndham on a humanitarian visa. A large proportion of these people were young adults between the ages of 18 and 34 (34%). There were also a high proportion of children aged 0 to 15 years (29%). Older adults and teenagers are the least represented groups of refugees in Wyndham. Based on these figures, it is likely that the majority of refugees settled in Wyndham belong to families with dependent children.



<sup>1</sup> Un Refugee Agency, viewed June 2016, from [UNHCR](#)

<sup>2</sup> Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Fact Sheet, viewed June 2016 [Department of Immigration and Border Protection](#)

<sup>3</sup> The UN Refugee Agency Australia for UNHCR, viewed 30 June 2016, from: [UNRefugees](#)

<sup>4</sup> Davern, M., Warr, D., Block, K., La Brooy, C., Taylor, E. & Hosseini, A. (2016). Humanitarian Arrivals in Melbourne: A spatial analysis of population distribution and health service needs. Extended Report. University of Melbourne: Melbourne, Victoria.P14

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.P4

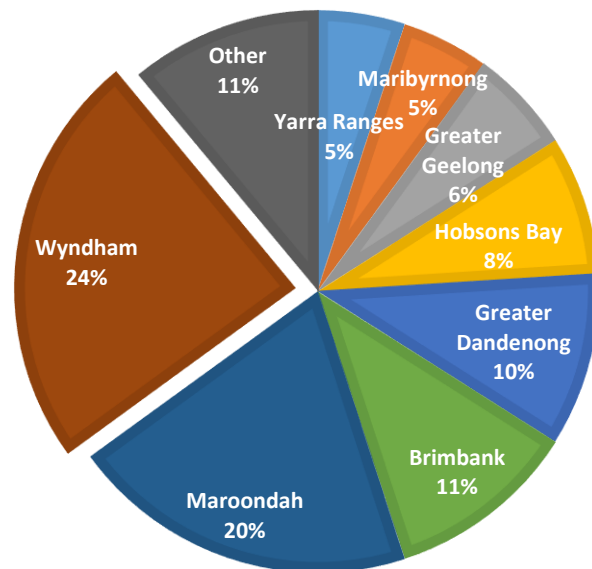
<sup>6</sup> Ibid. P48, Fig 29

	Country of Birth	%		Language Spoken	%
1	Myanmar (Burma)	36	1	Karen and related languages	42
2	Thailand	20	2	Burmese and related	11
3	Iran	5	3	Arabic	8
4	Ethiopia	5	4	Amharic	5
5	Iraq	4	5	Dinka	4

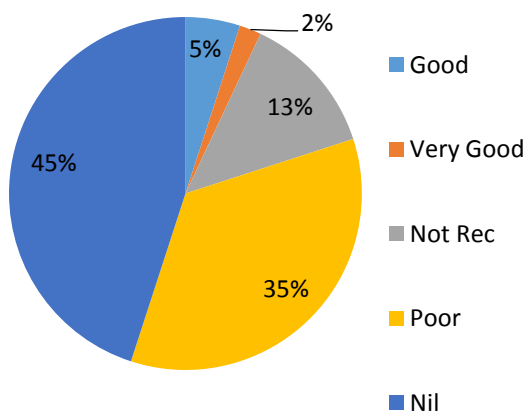
Wyndham residents granted humanitarian visas between 2011 and 2016 were from 49 different countries around the world.<sup>7</sup> As shown in the table provided, the most common Country of Birth (COB) of Wyndham’s refugee population is Myanmar, formerly Burma, where approximately 36% Humanitarian arrivals in Wyndham were born. Thailand was the next most common COB (20%), and it is highly likely that the majority of these people were born in Burmese refugee communities in Thailand, as reflected in the language figures also provided. The majority of refugees settled in Wyndham (56%) are therefore from ethnic groups originally from Burma (including the Karen and Chin groups). The other refugees settled in Wyndham are from a range of countries, including Iran, Ethiopia, and Iraq.

As shown in the chart, in 2011 more humanitarian arrivals born in Burma lived in Wyndham (24%) than any other Victorian LGA. At the smaller level, Werribee was the most common suburb of residence for this community, with 11% of the Victorian humanitarian arrivals of Burmese origin residing there.<sup>8</sup>

**Victorian humanitarian visa holders - born in Burma - ACMID 2011 - LGA of residence**



**English proficiency - Wyndham humanitarian arrivals**



According to data sourced from the Settlement Reporting Facility Database (SRFD)<sup>9</sup>, approximately 80% of people on humanitarian visas who arrived in Wyndham between 2011 and 2016 could speak little or no English at all. As seen in the chart provided, only 7% of refugees are able to speak English well or very well. Thus a large number of individuals will require support within the community to learn English.

<sup>7</sup> Australia Government Department of Social Services, viewed June 2016, [Department of Social Services](#)  
<sup>8</sup> Davern, M., Warr, D., Block, K., La Brooy, C., Taylor, E. & Hosseini, A. op. cit..  
<sup>9</sup> Australian Government Settlement Reporting Facility Database, viewed June 2016, [Settlement Reporting](#)