

# FACT SHEET:

## Australia's Humanitarian & Migration Programme

Australia's population is comprised of diverse cultures and ethnicities. People come to Australia for a variety of reasons, including to seek protection from persecution in their home country, to be reunited with family, to access the rich opportunities available, or to enjoy the quality of life here. They may reach Australia by airplane or by boat. The Australian government's humanitarian and migration programs are targeted towards meeting Australia's international human rights obligations, as well as the economic, labour and population needs of the country through providing a specific allocation of visa places to humanitarian and migrant entrants each year. The number of allocated places change every year and are increasing.

### HUMANITARIAN STREAM // 13,750 places offered in 2014/2015 for:

#### OFFSHORE RESETTLEMENT: 11,000 visas

- ❖ **Refugee Visa:** People subject to *persecution* in their own country
- ❖ **Special Humanitarian Program:** People subject to *substantial discrimination* amounting to a gross violation of human rights
- ❖ **Community Proposal Pilot:** People in a humanitarian situation proposed by an approved organisation

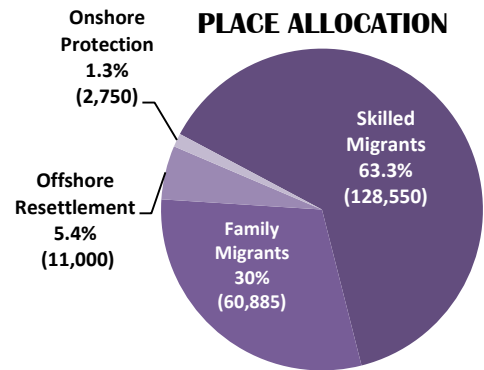
#### ONSHORE PROTECTION: 2750 visas

- ❖ **Protection Visa:** People applying within Australia who are found to be refugees
- ❖ **Temporary Protection Visa:** People who have arrived in Australia without a visa and who are found to be a refugees

#### 2015 HUMANITARIAN VISA FEES (\$AUD):

Offshore Resettlement -	\$0
Community Proposal Pilot -	\$2680
Onshore Protection -	\$35

Humanitarian visas are reserved for those people **experiencing persecution**, such as refugees. According to UNHCR, a **refugee** is someone who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."  
- UNHCR 1951 Refugee Convention

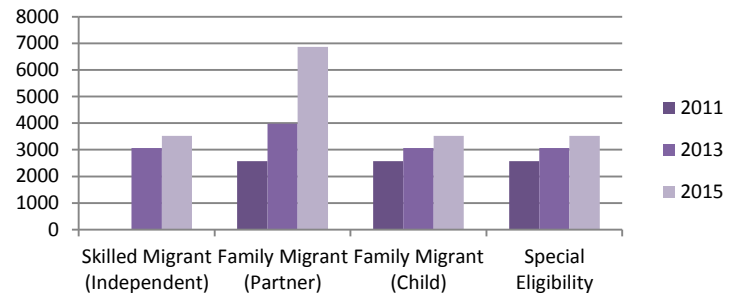


### MIGRANT STREAM //

**190,000** places offered in 2014/2015 for:

- ❖ **Skilled Migrants:** People with specific skill sets to contribute to the labour force
- ❖ **Family Migrants:** People sponsored by a family member already in Australia
- ❖ **Special Eligibility Migrants:** Former permanent residents of Australia

#### 2011-2015 MIGRANT VISA FEES (\$AUD)



### PURPOSE //

Australia's humanitarian and migration programs are designed to meet international human rights obligations, address the economic and social needs of the country and sustain growth and diversity.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

Australia has obligations under International Human Rights Law to protect and respect the rights of individuals seeking asylum. The humanitarian stream is intended to meet these obligations.

#### FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Family visas are intended to facilitate reunification of family members that may have been separated as a result of fleeing conflict and to bring together migrant families.

#### MULTICULTURALISM

Australia's non-discriminatory migration program and multiculturalism policy have been complementary since the 1970s, and have enabled diverse cultures to flourish.

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Migration contributes to the overall GDP of Australia and is forecast as an essential component of Australia's long-term economic growth.

#### LABOUR MARKET

Skilled migration visas target specific skill shortages and aim to increase labour market participation and skill level of the labour force.

### CONTRIBUTION // By 2050, migrants will be contributing:

- ❖ **\$1.6 trillion** to Australia's GDP
- ❖ **15.7%** to workforce participation rate
- ❖ **21.9%** increase in after tax real wages for low skilled workers
- ❖ **5.9%** in GDP per capita growth

On average, individual migrants will contribute approximately **10% more** to Australia's economy than existing residents