

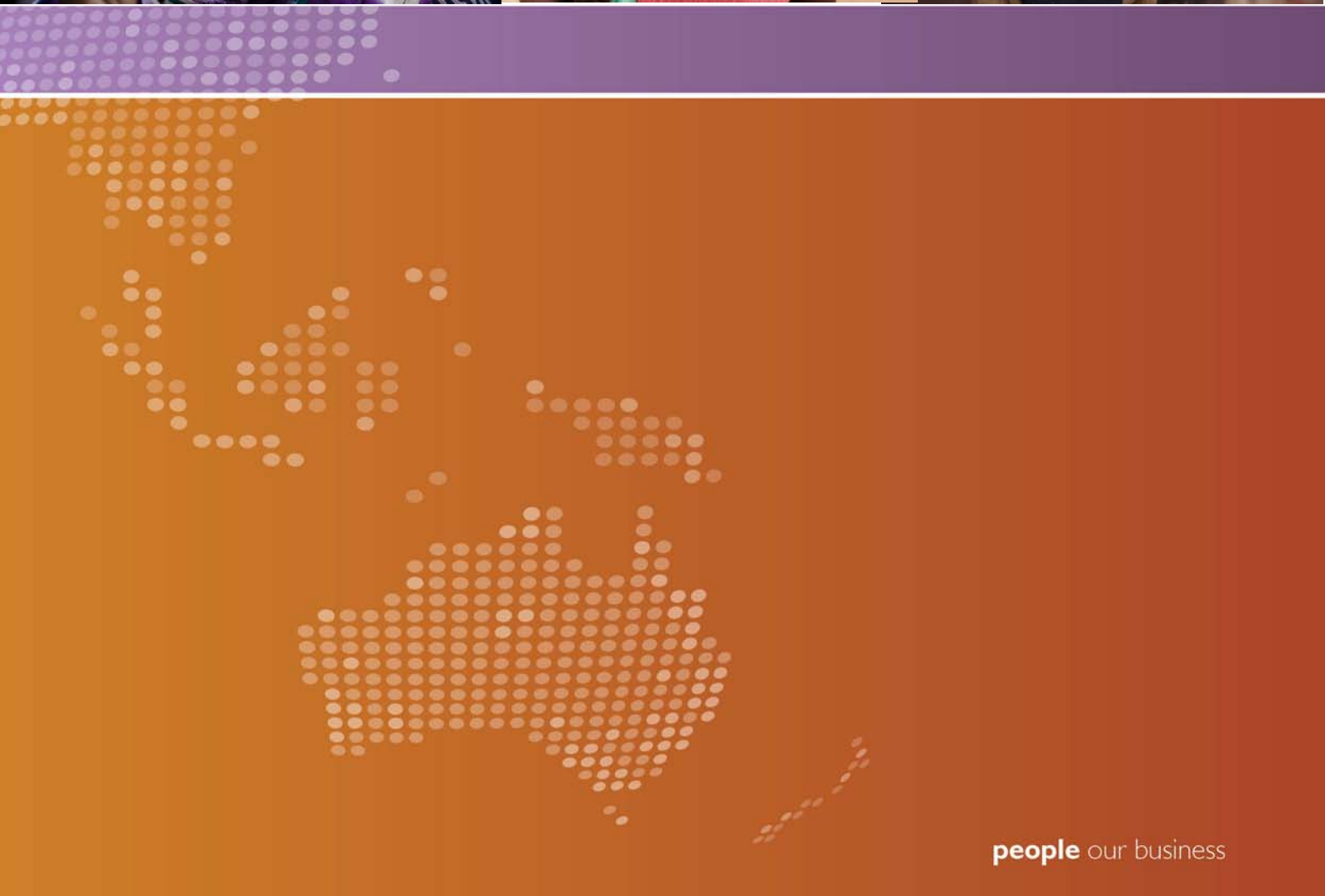


Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

Asylum Trends

Australia

2010-11 – Annual Publication



Asylum Trends – Australia: 2010-11 Annual Publication was prepared by Systems, Program Evidence and Knowledge Section of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) in Australia.

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All figures in this publication (including RRT statistics) are as officially revised at the end of the 2010-11 program year and hence may differ from previously published statistics in other reports.

Background

An asylum seeker is someone outside their country who is seeking international protection and who may or may not be a refugee.

A refugee is someone who would face persecution in their home country on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. The definition does not include people who leave their country because of generalised civil disturbance or war, famine, natural disasters or in order to seek a better life.

Australia considers the claims of asylum seekers under the provisions of the Migration Act 1958 and the Migration Regulations 1994. There is also a separate non-statutory refugee status determination process for people who arrive at places in Australia known as excised offshore places (usually irregular maritime arrivals). Where a person is found to be a refugee, health, character and security checks are required before a visa may be granted.

The determination of a claim for asylum is based on the specific and particular circumstances of the applicant. Country of origin information from a wide range of sources is relied upon to assist in the assessment of each person's circumstances and claims.

Asylum seekers – the numbers in context

When the Refugees Convention was established in 1951 there were approximately 1.5 million refugees globally. According to UNHCR, at the end of 2010 there were an estimated 43.7 million refugees and other people of concern worldwide, including 15.4 million refugees, 837 500 asylum seekers and 27.5 million internally displaced people.

The number of people seeking asylum in Australia each year has fluctuated widely over the past decade, with the lowest point in 2004-05.

Table 1: People seeking Australia's protection

Program Year	Non-IMA ¹ Protection visa (PV) applications ² lodged	IMA refugee status determination requests received ³	Total
2001-02	7026	2222	9248
2002-03	4959	60	5019
2003-04	3485	87	3572
2004-05	3062	146	3208
2005-06	3191	101	3292
2006-07	3723	23	3746
2007-08	3986	21	4007
2008-09	5072	690	5762
2009-10	5987	4591	10 578
2010-11	6316	5175	11 491

Source: DIAC Systems

¹ Non irregular maritime arrivals. Non-IMA generally refers to Protection visa applicants who arrived by air and are already in Australia's migration zone.

² Number of PV applications refers to the number of people (including family members) who made a valid application claiming protection in Australia.

³ Refugee status determination requests counted by people screened into a determination process for IMAs. Figures prior to 2008-09 are asylum seekers who lodged Protection visa applications and do not include 1637 asylum seekers processed at the offshore processing centres in Nauru and Manus, of whom 1518 were transferred in 2001-02.

Australia received about 3.5 per cent of asylum applications made in industrialised countries in 2010 and 2.5 per cent in the first six months of 2011. The United States and Canada received 24 per cent of asylum applications during the first half of the 2011 calendar year, while France, Germany, Sweden and United Kingdom received 36 per cent.

Table 2: Asylum applications submitted in 15 major receiving countries

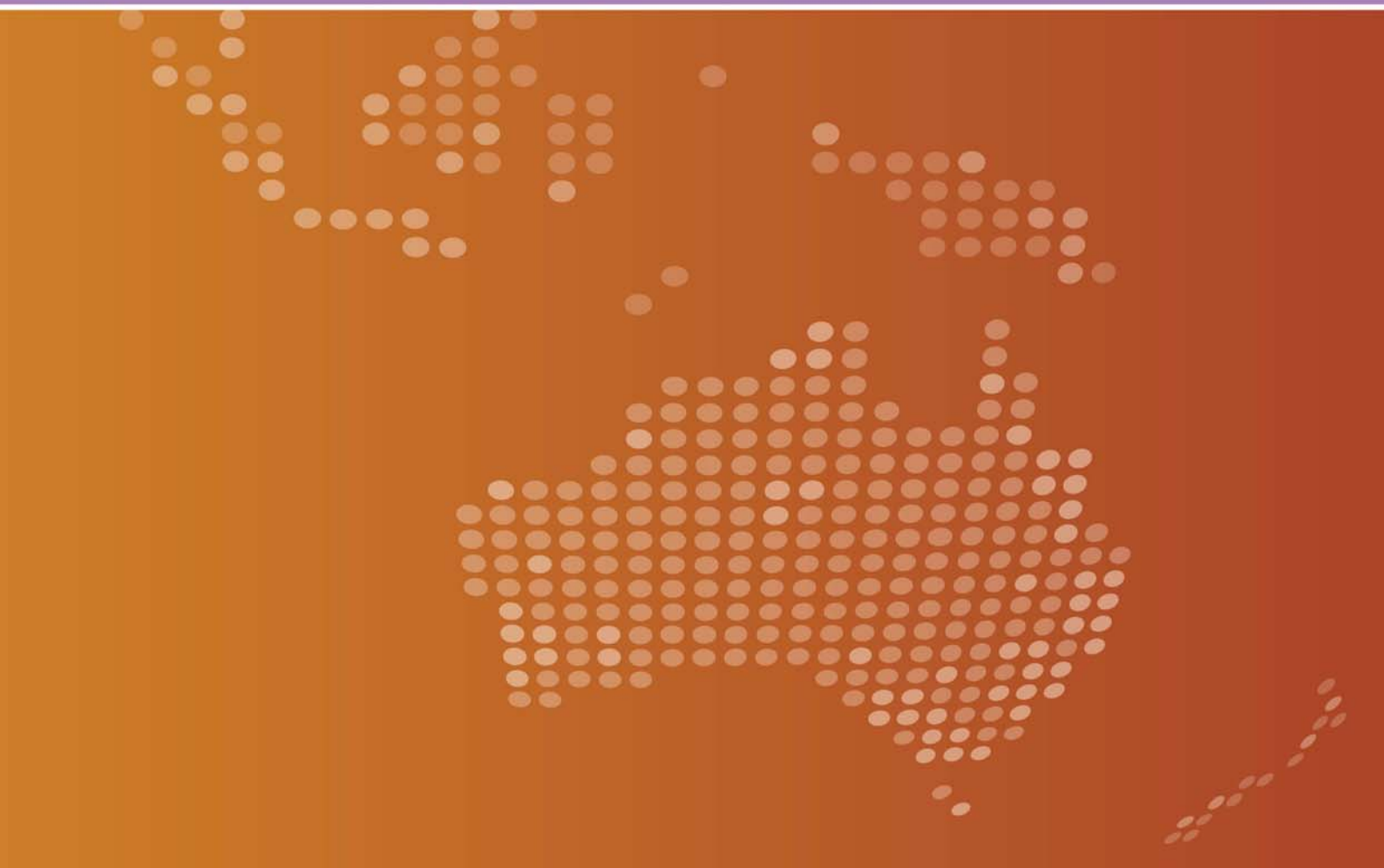
Receiving country	2010 calendar year	2011 first six months
United States	55532	36370
France	47791	26120
Germany	41332	20119
Sweden	31819	12597
United Kingdom	22085	12175
Belgium	21756	11979
Canada	23157	11510
Italy	10052	10860
Switzerland	13521	8480
Austria	11012	5817
Netherlands	13333	5710
Turkey	9226	5185
Australia	12673	4955
Norway	10064	4708
Greece	10273	4482
Other	43596	21718
Total (44 industrialised countries)	366949	198303

Source: UNHCR



Section 1

Non irregular maritime arrivals



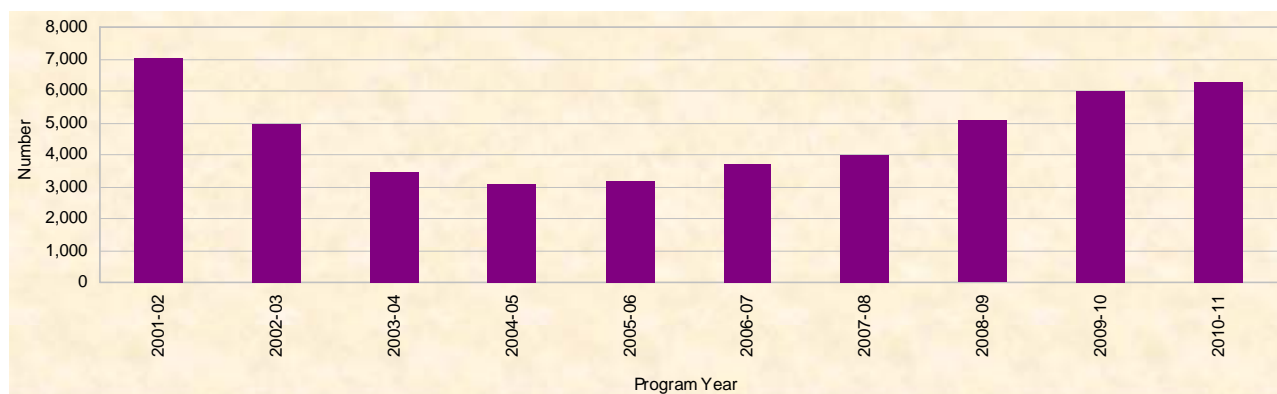
Non irregular maritime arrivals (non-IMA)

Applications – overall

In 2010-11 there were 6316 applications for asylum by people who originally arrived by air, an increase of five per cent on the preceding program year. Almost all arrived on a valid visa, with only 27 people raising a protection claim after arriving at an Australian airport without documentation.

The number of people arriving by air and seeking protection has been rising since 2004-05 after falling from just over seven thousand in 2001-02 as shown in the chart below drawing on figures set out in Table 1.

Figure 1: Protection visa applications lodged (non-IMA)



The increase in recent years has coincided with strong growth in the number of international students in Australia, with applications for protection by students accounting for 42 per cent of the total in 2010-11. Applications by people on other types of visas (such as tourists) declined in 2009-10 and in 2010-11.

Table 3: Protection visa applications lodged by major visa groups (arrival visa)

Major visa group	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Students	420	681	1125	2132	2670
Visitors and Working Holiday Makers	2597	2597	3008	2834	2603
Temporary Residents (Economic)	96	173	236	221	151
Family Migration	69	73	103	89	110
Bridging Visa	18	21	31	46	65
Temporary Residents (Non-Economic)	89	44	62	73	58
Other	434	397	507	592	659
Total	3723	3986	5072	5987	6316

Source: ICSE

Applications – regions of citizenship

Around seven out of ten applicants in 2010-11 came from Southern and Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East or North East Asia, a proportion that has stayed relatively constant over the past five years.

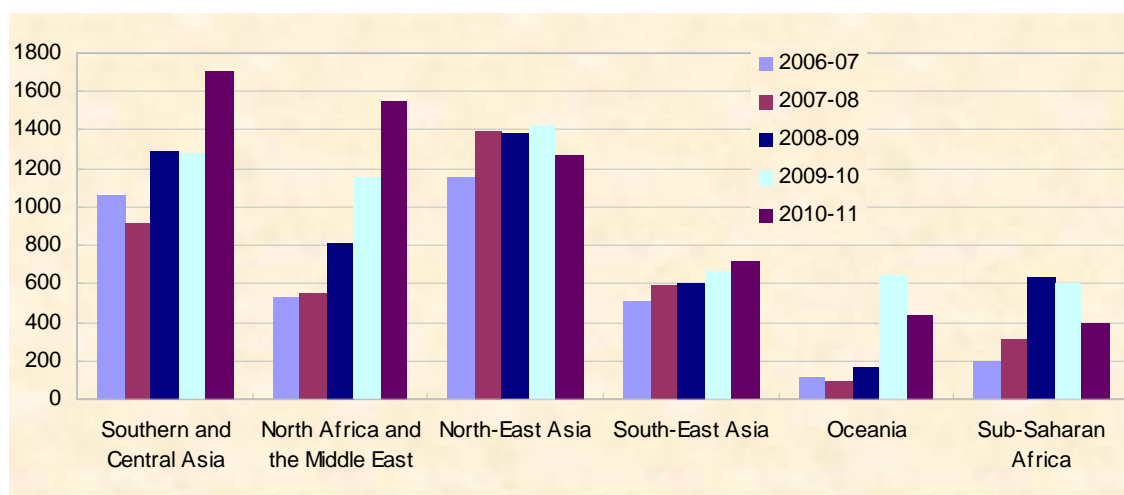
The distribution of asylum claims by region of origin in industrialised countries overall was broadly similar in 2010, with 26 per cent of asylum seekers originating from Africa and 45 per cent originating from Asia, according to UNHCR.

Table 4: Protection visa applications lodged by region (non-IMA)

Region	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Southern and Central Asia	1061	914	1290	1283	1707
North Africa and the Middle East	526	550	813	1158	1550
North-East Asia	1157	1390	1380	1425	1268
South-East Asia	513	589	600	667	719
Oceania	117	98	167	648	442
Sub-Saharan Africa	194	311	635	602	397
Americas	47	39	66	74	92
Southern and Eastern Europe	96	66	69	75	70
Other	12	29	52	55	71
Total	3723	3986	5072	5987	6316

Source: ICSE

Figure 2: Protection visa applications lodged by region (non-IMA)



Applications – countries of citizenship

The top five countries of citizenship for applications in 2010-11 were China, India, Pakistan, Egypt and Iran which accounted for 48 per cent of all lodgements (40 per cent excluding students).

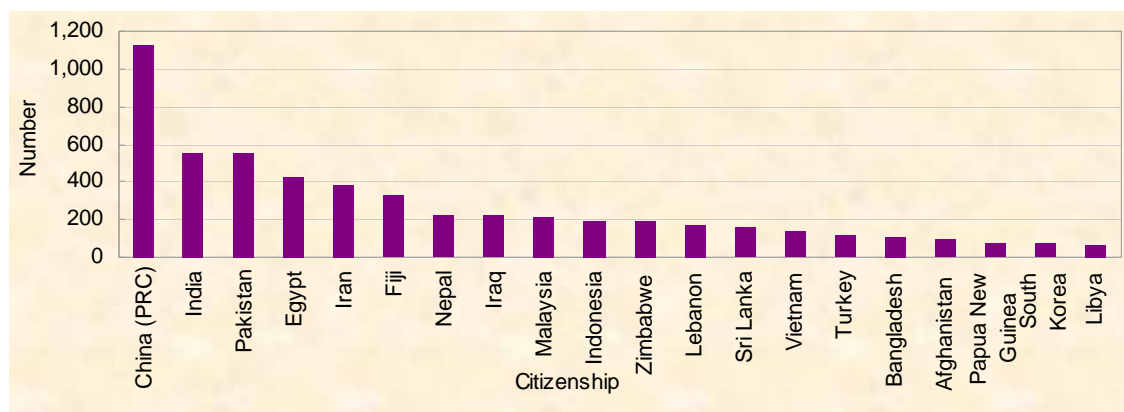
Applications by citizens of Fiji, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe were significantly lower than in previous years.

Table 5: Protection visa applications lodged by top 20 countries of citizenship⁴ (non-IMA)

Citizenship	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
China (PRC)	1039	1250	1186	1293	1122
India	378	195	353	301	555
Pakistan	93	180	221	349	547
Egypt	49	53	113	207	427
Iran	74	115	203	378	384
Fiji	78	44	116	563	329
Nepal	43	35	42	93	226
Iraq	197	186	233	223	220
Malaysia	102	219	207	257	212
Indonesia	182	219	211	178	195
Zimbabwe	64	140	317	378	190
Lebanon	89	84	102	157	175
Sri Lanka	460	397	478	327	158
Vietnam	30	45	34	44	133
Turkey	28	39	49	76	118
Bangladesh	56	82	116	86	106
Afghanistan	20	20	71	113	97
Papua New Guinea	22	32	24	42	76
South Korea	81	93	153	86	70
Libya	0	..	7	6	66
Other	638	..	836	830	910
Total	3723	3986	5072	5987	6316

Source: ICSE

Figure 3: Protection visa applications lodged by top 20 countries of citizenship in 2010-11 (non-IMA)



⁴ Top 20 countries of citizenship are based on 2010-11 program year lodgements.

Applications – demographics

Most non-IMA applicants for asylum are unaccompanied. Sole applicants accounted for 81 per cent of principal applicants in 2010-11, a proportion that has not changed significantly over the past half decade. In 2010-11, there were about two dependants for each principal applicant with dependants.

Table 6: Protection visa applications by type of applicants (non-IMA)

Program Year	Principal applicants		Total principal applicants	Dependants	Total
	Sole applicants	Accompanied applicants			
2006-07	2432	470	2902	821	3723
2007-08	2585	522	3107	879	3986
2008-09	3242	666	3908	1164	5072
2009-10	3767	812	4579	1408	5987
2010-11	3856	894	4750	1566	6316

Source: ICSE

The proportions in the caseload comprised by male and female applicants have remained relatively constant over the past half decade in both aggregate and by role type. In 2010-11, around 30 per cent of principal applicants and 57 per cent of dependants were female.

Figure 4: Breakdown of principal applicants by sole applicants and accompanied applicants (non-IMA)

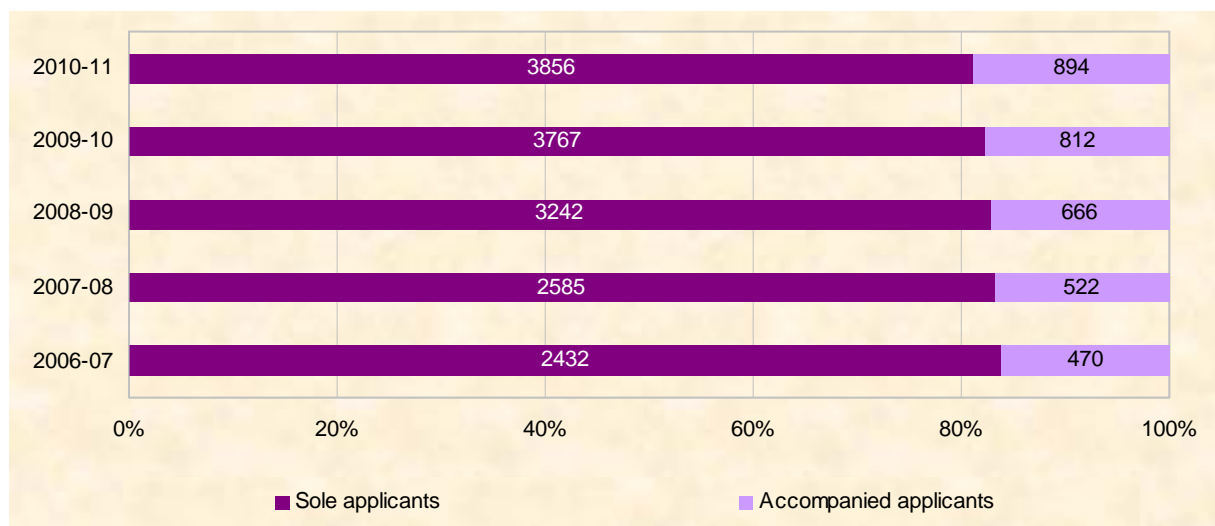


Table 7: Protection visa applications lodged by sex (non-IMA)

Sex	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
All non-IMA asylum seekers					
Female	1340	1517	1851	2292	2325
Male	2383	2469	3221	3695	3991
Total	3723	3986	5072	5987	6316
Principal applicants					
Female	822	1003	1181	1506	1425
Male	2080	2104	2727	3073	3325
Total	2902	3107	3908	4579	4750
Dependants					
Female	518	514	670	786	900
Male	303	365	494	622	666
Total	821	879	1164	1408	1566

Source: ICSE

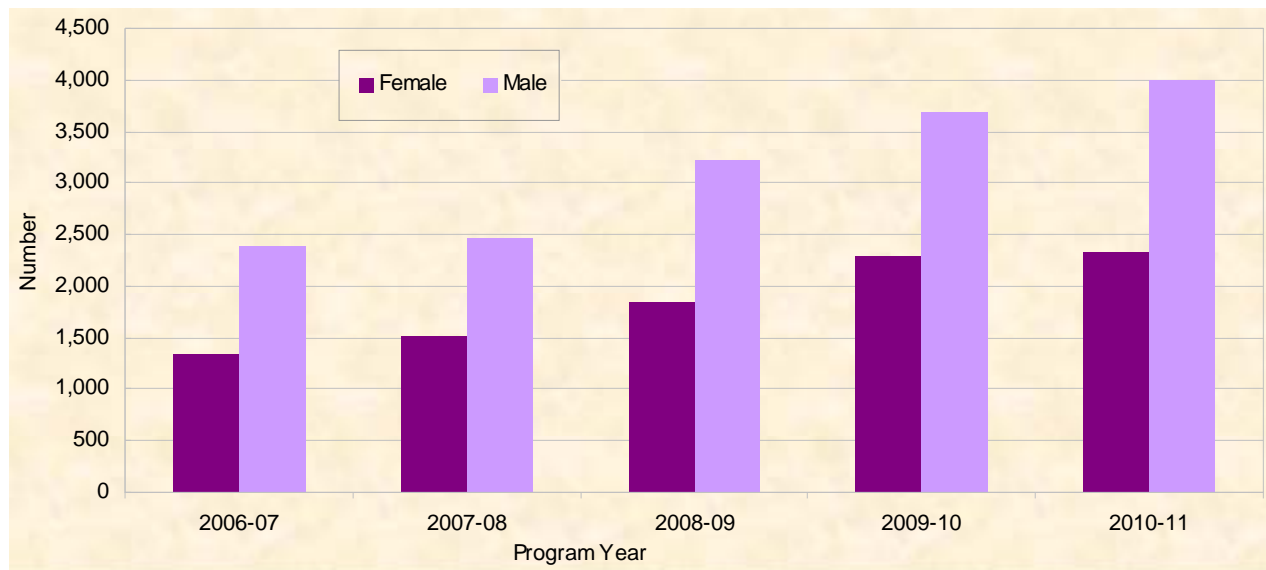
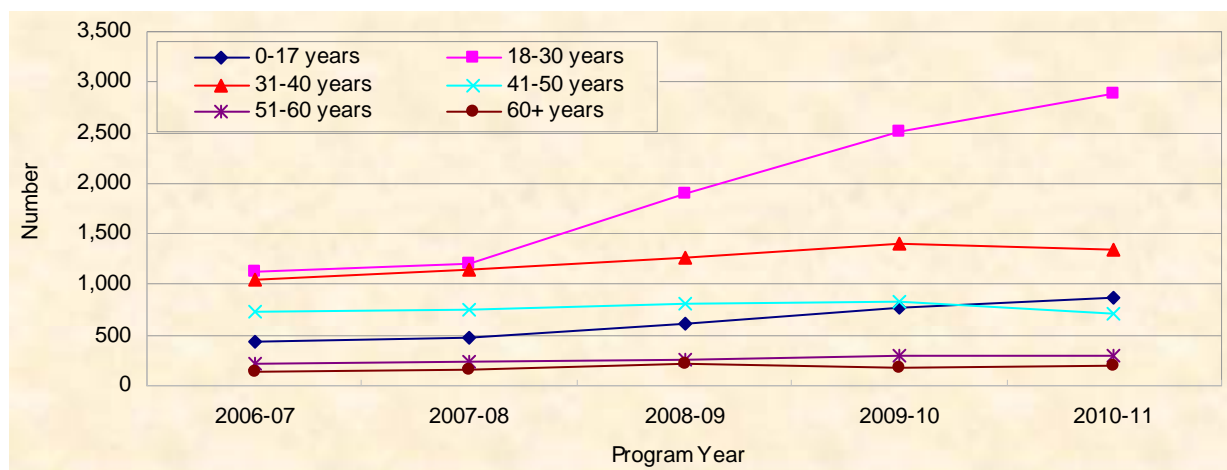
Figure 5: Protection visa applications lodged by sex (non-IMA)

Figure 6: Protection visa applications lodged by age group (non-IMA)

In 2010-11, about 59 per cent of non-IMA applicants were 30 years of age or younger compared with 42 per cent in 2006-07. The shift in the age profile in recent years reflects the increase in the number of students in the caseload.

Table 8: Protection visa applications lodged by age group and role of applicant (non-IMA)

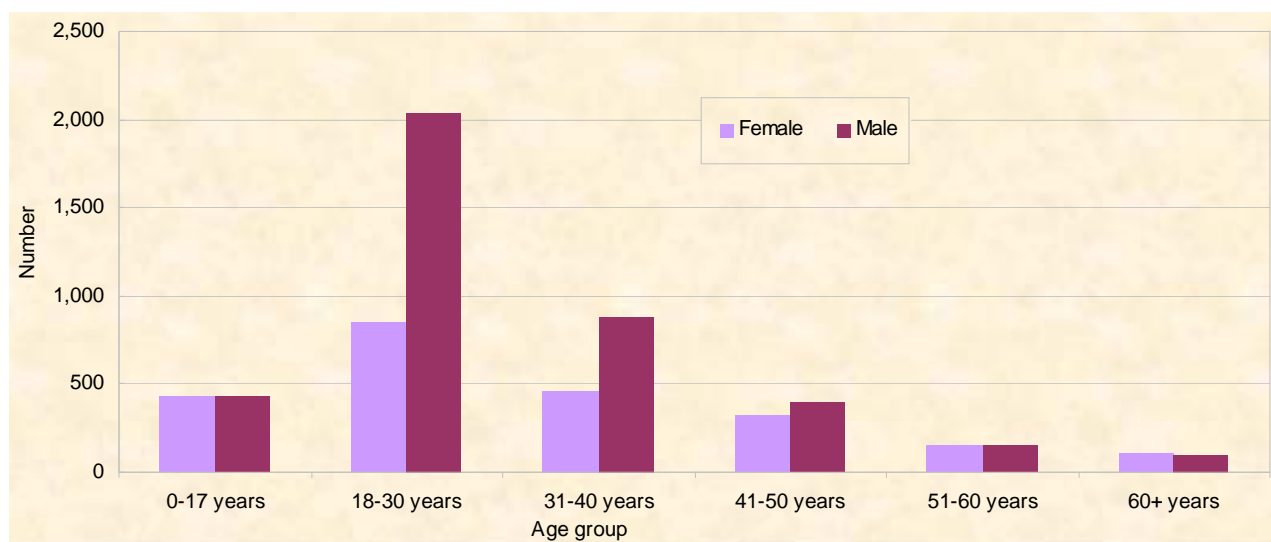
Age at lodgement	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
All asylum seekers					
0-17 years	443	473	621	764	863
18-30 years	1133	1212	1898	2508	2890
31-40 years	1051	1151	1267	1396	1343
41-50 years	733	753	803	840	716
51-60 years	221	236	265	293	303
60+ years	142	161	218	186	201
Total	3723	3986	5072	5987	6316
Principal applicants					
0-17 years	51	55	62	104	105
18-30 years	987	1033	1649	2156	2513
31-40 years	923	1039	1111	1202	1122
41-50 years	653	667	710	728	621
51-60 years	186	198	217	247	245
60+ years	102	115	159	142	144
Total	2902	3107	3908	4579	4750
Dependants					
0-17 years	392	418	559	660	758
18-30 years	146	179	249	352	377
31-40 years	128	112	156	194	221
41-50 years	80	86	93	112	95
51-60 years	35	38	48	46	58
60+ years	40	46	59	44	57
Total	821	879	1164	1408	1566

Source: ICSE

Table 9: Protection visa applications lodged by age group and sex (non-IMA)

Age at lodgement	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
All asylum seekers					
0-17 years	443	473	621	764	863
18-30 years	1133	1212	1898	2508	2890
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41-50 years	733	753	803	840	716
51-60 years	221	236	265	293	303
60+ years	142	161	218	186	201
Total	3723	3986	5072	5987	6316
Female					
0-17 years	209	219	285	355	432
18-30 years	318	386	540	757	851
31-40 years	362	404	439	524	462
41-50 years	264	309	312	396	320
51-60 years	103	110	142	156	154
60+ years	84	89	133	104	106
Total	1340	1517	1851	2292	2325
Male					
0-17 years	234	254	336	409	431
18-30 years	815	826	1358	1751	2039
31-40 years	689	747	828	872	881
41-50 years	469	444	491	444	396
51-60 years	118	126	123	137	149
60+ years	58	72	85	82	95
Total	2383	2469	3221	3695	3991

Source: ICSE

Figure 7: Protection visa applications lodged by age group and sex in 2010-11 (non-IMA)

Primary decisions - overall

There were 5496 applications considered and decided in the first instance by officials in 2010-11, an increase of 16 per cent on 2009-10.

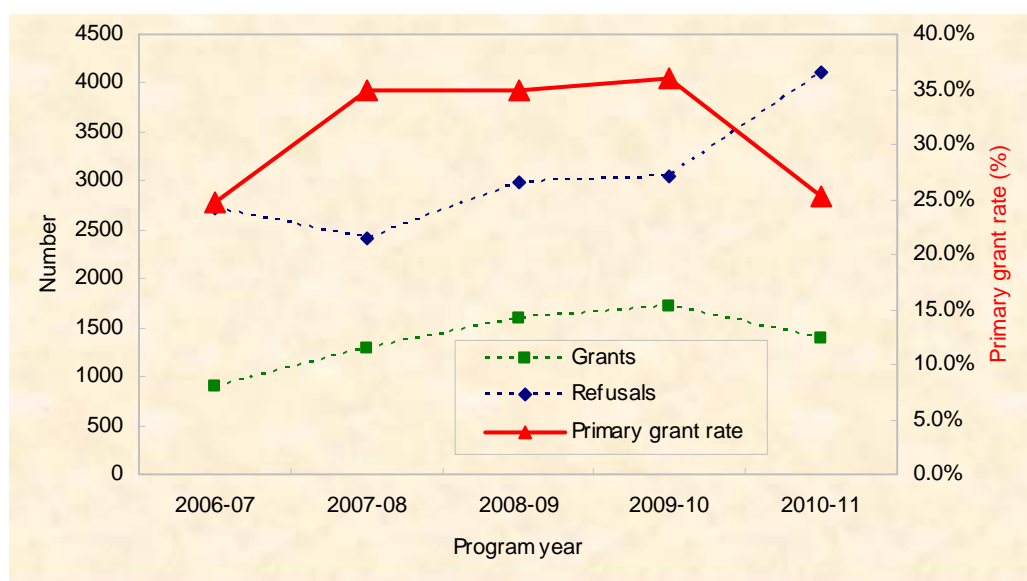
Table 10: Primary decisions and primary grant rates (non-IMA)

Decision	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Grants	896	1295	1597	1710	1389
Refusals	2719	2413	2982	3040	4107
Total primary decisions	3615	3708	4579	4750	5496
Primary grant rate	24.8%	34.9%	34.9%	36.0%	25.3%

Source: ICSE

A quarter of applicants whose cases were decided at the primary stage in 2010-11 were found to be refugees, down from 36 per cent in 2009-10. The percentage has fluctuated over the past half decade as circumstances in countries of origin or the nature of the types of claims have changed.

Figure 8: Primary decisions and primary grant rates (non-IMA)



Primary decisions – countries of citizenship

The decline in the average primary grant rates was, with variations in extent, across the board for key citizenships.

For the top five countries by volume of primary (or first instance) grants in 2010-11, the primary grant rates were Iran (79 per cent), Pakistan (54 per cent), China (11 per cent), Zimbabwe (50 per cent) and Egypt (28 per cent). The non-IMA primary grant rates for other citizenships prominent in the IMA caseload were Afghanistan (69 per cent), Iraq (67 per cent) and Sri Lanka (45 per cent), all of which were significantly down on 2009-10.

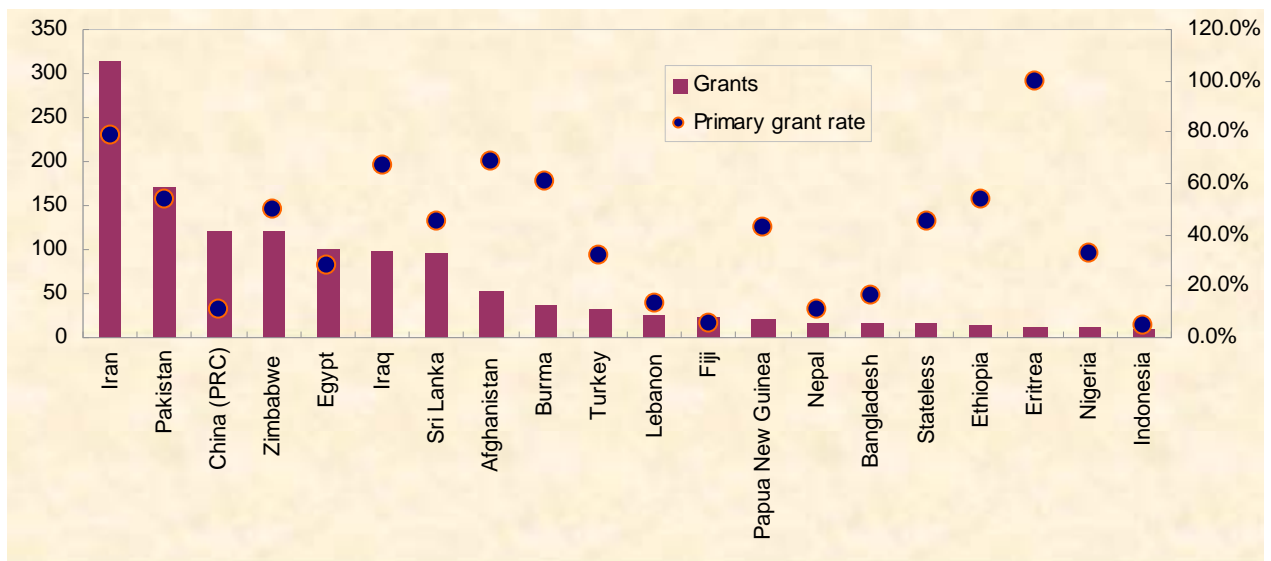
Table 11: Primary grants and primary grant rates by top 20 countries of citizenship⁵ in 2010-11 (non-IMA)

Citizenship	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	Grants	Primary grant rate	Grants	Primary grant rate	Grants	Primary grant rate	Grants	Primary grant rate	Grants	Primary grant rate
Iran	37	56.1%	72	75.8%	132	83.5%	199	88.1%	314	78.5%
Pakistan	38	44.7%	99	63.5%	138	65.7%	183	71.8%	170	54.0%
China (PRC)	132	12.0%	186	16.7%	175	14.5%	229	19.9%	121	10.6%
Zimbabwe	18	45.0%	63	51.6%	191	75.8%	225	74.3%	120	50.2%
Egypt	16	38.1%	26	57.8%	38	41.8%	62	45.9%	100	28.2%
Iraq	147	93.0%	200	96.6%	153	88.4%	175	91.1%	97	66.9%
Sri Lanka	275	73.7%	389	88.0%	335	80.3%	165	67.9%	96	45.3%
Afghanistan	11	100.0%	17	89.5%	47	92.2%	75	86.2%	53	68.8%
Burma	23	65.7%	50	87.7%	70	76.1%	61	80.3%	36	61.0%
Turkey	..	16.0%	14	38.9%	14	37.8%	23	51.1%	32	32.0%
Lebanon	10	12.2%	6	8.7%	20	21.1%	9	9.7%	25	13.2%
Fiji	21	35.0%	5	12.2%	10	9.6%	14	3.3%	22	5.6%
Papua New Guinea	6	35.3%	15	46.9%	18	72.0%	17	70.8%	20	42.6%
Nepal	..	9.8%	..	7.1%	12	41.4%	16	24.6%	16	10.5%
Bangladesh	12	21.8%	14	18.2%	38	35.2%	21	30.4%	16	16.7%
Stateless	..	50.0%	..	50.0%	12	66.7%	14	73.7%	15	45.5%
Ethiopia	8	32.0%	15	48.4%	26	63.4%	11	57.9%	14	53.8%
Eritrea	9	100.0%	17	94.4%	..	80.0%	8	88.9%	12	100.0%
Nigeria	5	21.7%	0	0.0%	..	15.2%	17	56.7%	11	32.4%
Indonesia	7	3.3%	6	3.0%	9	5.1%	22	12.0%	10	5.0%
Other	110	...	95	...	150	...	164	...	89	...
Total	896	24.8%	1295	34.9%	1597	34.9%	1710	36.0%	1389	25.3%

Source: ICSE

⁵ Top 20 countries of citizenship are based on 2010-11 program year grants.

Figure 9: Primary grants and primary grant rates by top 20 countries of citizenship in 2010-11 (non-IMA)



Primary decisions – demographics

Table 12: Primary decisions and primary grant rates by sex (non-IMA)

Sex and decision	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Primary decision					
Female grants	347	537	621	699	545
Female refusals	962	847	1059	1157	1467
Total	1309	1384	1680	1856	2012
Male grants	549	758	976	1011	844
Male refusals	1757	1566	1923	1883	2640
Total	2306	2324	2899	2894	3484
Primary grant rate					
Female grant rate	26.5%	38.8%	37.0%	37.7%	27.1%
Male grant rate	23.8%	32.6%	33.7%	34.9%	24.2%

Source: ICSE

Table 13: Primary grants by age group and role of applicant (non-IMA)

Age at decision	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
All asylum seekers					
0-17 years	162	251	213	297	232
18-30 years	292	433	658	725	582
31-40 years	175	265	314	324	312
41-50 years	132	156	156	172	127
51-60 years	62	88	127	89	54
60+ years	73	102	129	103	82
Total	896	1295	1597	1710	1389
Principal applicants					
0-17 years	10	14	23	29	17
18-30 years	259	357	555	594	491
31-40 years	147	225	273	273	265
41-50 years	114	118	141	144	103
51-60 years	49	71	103	71	43
60+ years	51	72	88	77	59
Total	630	857	1183	1188	978
Dependants					
0-17 years	152	237	190	268	215
18-30 years	33	76	103	131	91
31-40 years	28	40	41	51	47
41-50 years	18	38	15	28	24
51-60 years	13	17	24	18	11
60+ years	22	30	41	26	23
Total	266	438	414	522	411

Source: ICSE

Reviews by Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT)

Asylum seekers arriving by air whose applications have been refused may appeal to the Refugee Review Tribunal. In 2010-11, nearly 90 per cent of refused applicants sought such review, a rate that has been largely constant for the past half decade.

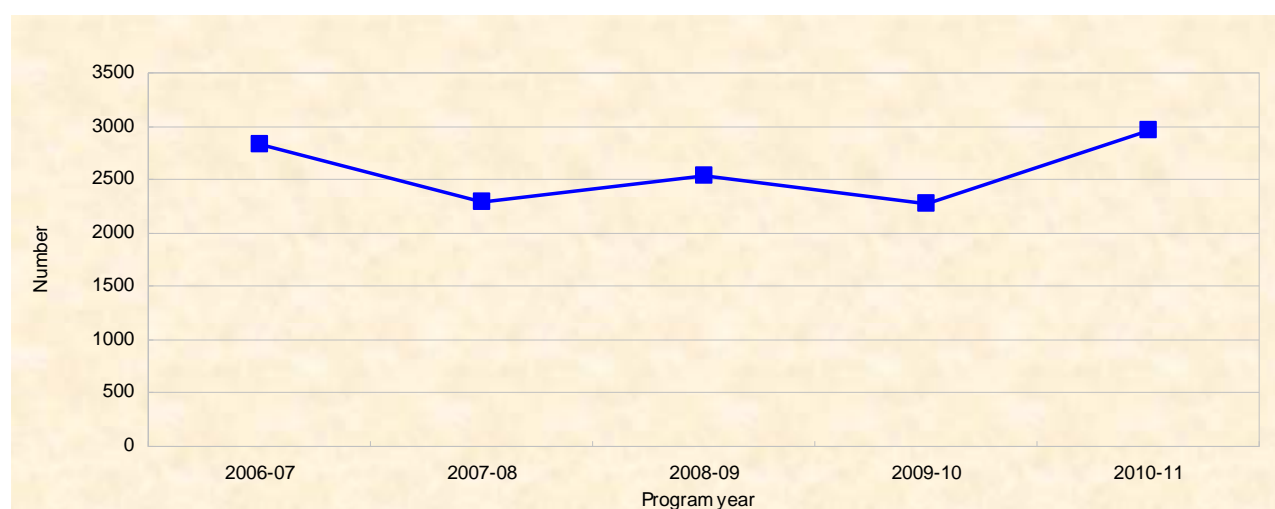
Table 14: Primary refusals and RRT take up rate⁶ (non-IMA)

Citizenship	2009-10		2010-11	
	Number of primary refusals	Take up rate (%)	Number of primary refusals	Take up rate (%)
China (PRC)	921	92.5%	1025	92.0%
Fiji	404	82.9%	371	85.8%
India	189	86.8%	350	80.2%
Egypt	73	91.8%	255	95.2%
Malaysia	237	94.5%	201	84.1%
Indonesia	161	80.1%	190	85.3%
Lebanon	84	98.8%	164	96.3%
Pakistan	72	87.5%	145	91.3%
Nepal	49	71.4%	136	89.3%
Zimbabwe	78	82.1%	119	81.4%
Other	772	...	1151	...
Total	3040	88.4%	4107	89.5%

Source: ICSE

Broadly consistent with the 35 per cent increase in the absolute number of primary refusals in 2010-11, there was a 31 per cent increase in the number of cases lodged with the RRT. Note that DIAC statistics count all individuals on an application whereas RRT statistics count cases which may cover several people.

Figure 10: Cases lodged with RRT (non-IMA)



⁶ The RRT take up rate is the percentage of primary refusals in the program year where a review application was subsequently lodged.

Table 15: Cases lodged with RRT (non-IMA)

RRT cases	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Country of citizenship					
China (PRC)	1078	890	999	751	819
Fiji	48	38	59	243	252
India	364	215	287	138	221
Egypt	28	18	39	52	181
Malaysia	86	126	165	201	172
Indonesia	171	164	115	115	146
Lebanon	56	51	80	84	125
Nepal	58	48	25	28	107
Pakistan	57	67	58	53	102
Zimbabwe	16	31	40	52	84
Other	871	635	671	554	757
Total	2 833	2 283	2 538	2 271	2 966

Source: RRT

Figure 11: Cases lodged with RRT by country of citizenship in 2010-11 (non-IMA)

In considering an appeal, the RRT may affirm the original primary refusal, remit the case back to DIAC for reconsideration or the client may withdraw.

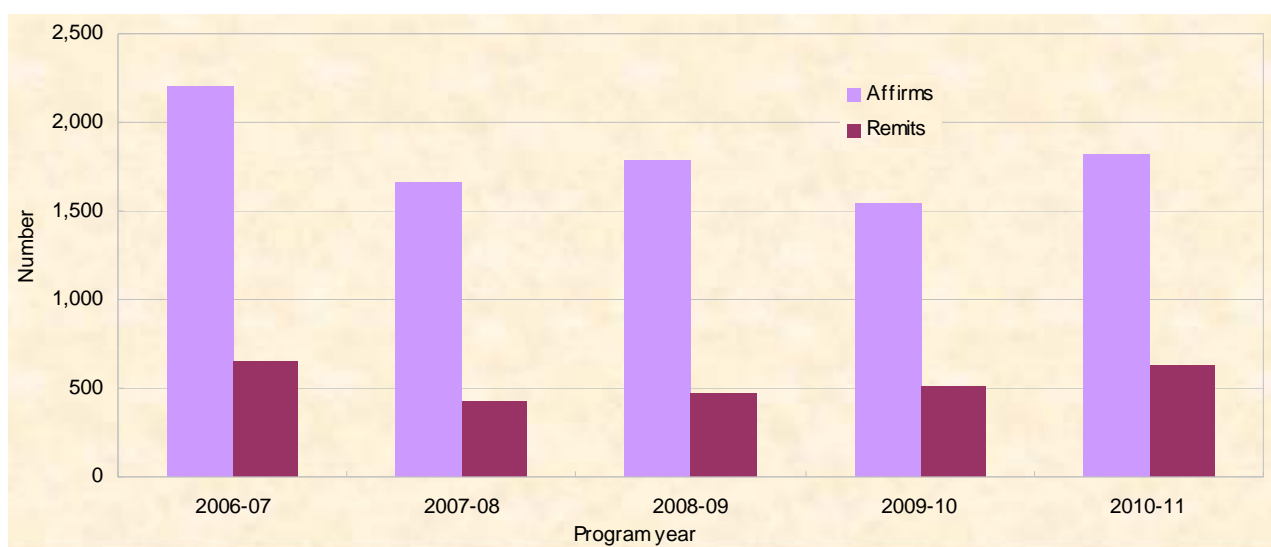
The reasons for remittal vary and can be for reasons such as the provision by applicants of new information to substantiate their claims and changes in circumstances in the country of origin.

Table 16: RRT outcomes and remit rates ⁷(non-IMA)

RRT outcomes	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Affirms	2202	1661	1787	1540	1815
Remits	649	422	468	514	626
Withdrawals	52	33	29	21	53
No jurisdiction to review	199	202	178	82	110
Total	3102	2318	2462	2157	2604
Remit rate	22.8%	20.3%	20.8%	25.0%	25.6%

Source: RRT

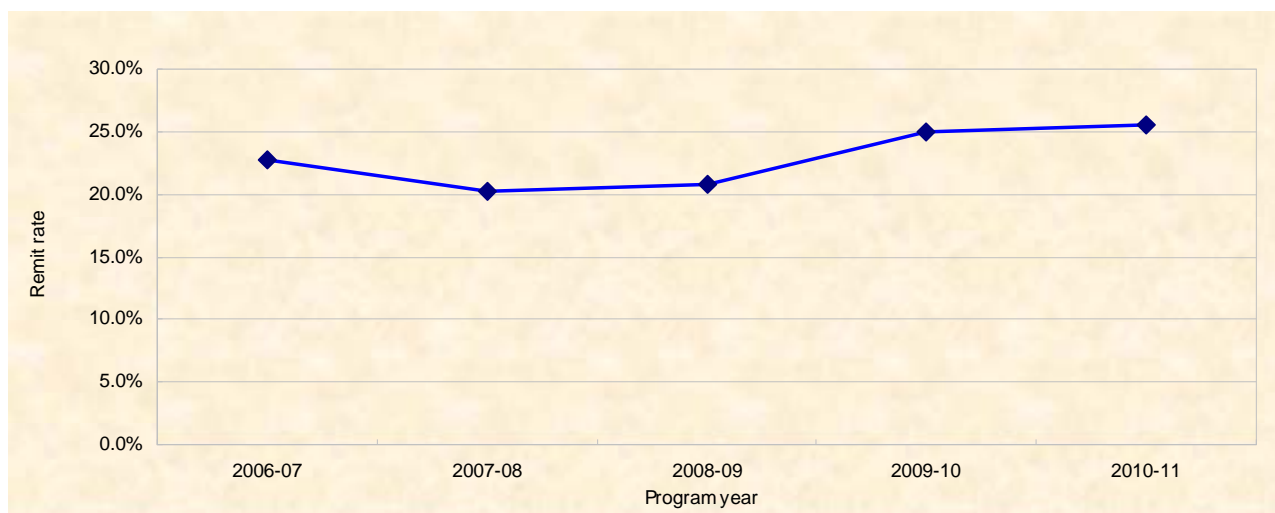
Figure 12: Primary decisions affirmed or remitted by RRT (non-IMA)



⁷ Remit rates measure the ratio of remit findings as a proportion of total remit and affirm findings made in a given period

Around 26 per cent of RRT reviews in 2010-11 resulted in remittal of the case back to DIAC for reconsideration. This rate is comparable to review outcomes in other countries with similar refugee status determination processes

Figure 13: Remit rates (non-IMA)



As with primary grant rates, RRT remit rates vary quite widely across citizenships. Overturn rates for citizenships prominent in both the non-IMA and IMA caseloads (Iran, Iraq and Sri Lanka) are similar.

Table 17: RRT remit rate by countries of citizenship (non-IMA)

Citizenship	2010-11		
	Remits	Affirms	Remit rate (%)
China (PRC)	169	545	23.7%
Zimbabwe	47	29	61.8%
Fiji	42	234	15.2%
Iran	39	12	76.5%
Sri Lanka	33	20	62.3%
Egypt	31	50	38.3%
Lebanon	29	64	31.2%
Iraq	26	1	96.3%
Pakistan	21	38	35.6%
Turkey	21	7	75.0%
Other	168	815	17.1%
Total	626	1815	25.6%

Source: RRT

Final decisions - overall

Table 18: Final decisions and final grant rates (non-IMA)

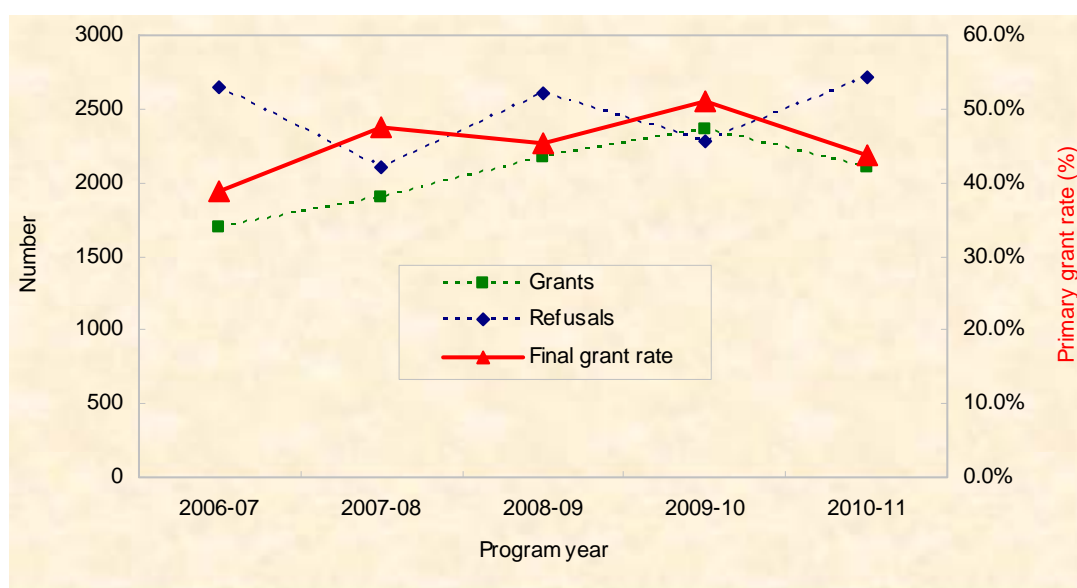
In 2010-11 there were 4810 Protection visa applications finally determined following RRT or judicial review.

Decision	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Grants	1692	1898	2173	2367	2101
Refusals	2651	2104	2611	2275	2709
Total final decisions	4343	4002	4784	4642	4810
Final grant rate	39.0%	47.4%	45.4%	51.0%	43.7%

Source: ICSE

The average final grant rate in 2010-11 was 44 per cent, down from an unusual peak of 51 per cent in 2009-10. The decline in final grant rates was, with variations in extent, across the board for most key citizenships.

Figure 14: Final decisions and final grant rates (non-IMA)



Final decisions – countries of citizenship

For the top five countries by volume of final grants, the final grant rates in 2010-11 were Iran (96 per cent), China (30 per cent), Pakistan (79 per cent), Zimbabwe (77 per cent) and Egypt (66 per cent).

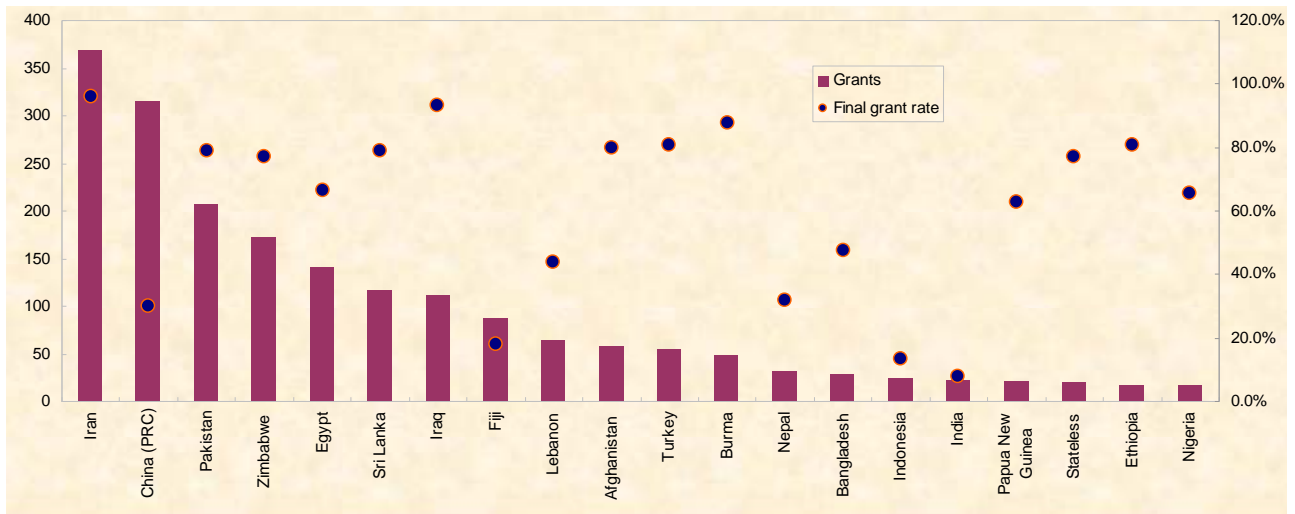
The non-IMA final grant rates for other citizenships prominent in the IMA caseload were Afghanistan (80 per cent), Iraq (93 per cent) and Sri Lanka (79 per cent).

Table 19: Final grants and final refusals by top 20 countries of citizenship of grants in 2010-11 (non-IMA)

Citizenship	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	Grants	Refusals	Grants	Refusals	Grants	Refusals	Grants	Refusals	Grants	Refusals
Iran	58	14	96	8	142	18	210	..	369	15
China (PRC)	416	911	415	683	426	926	494	678	315	738
Pakistan	53	54	115	42	158	48	212	38	208	55
Zimbabwe	28	..	87	22	215	23	255	42	172	51
Egypt	50	20	37	22	45	35	79	31	142	72
Sri Lanka	362	80	432	44	359	40	190	59	117	31
Iraq	154	0	204	7	157	7	183	7	113	8
Fiji	23	60	7	54	27	63	38	198	87	395
Lebanon	22	53	27	44	36	60	33	59	64	82
Afghanistan	20	..	24	..	48	..	75	..	59	15
Turkey	12	18	26	16	25	14	31	13	55	13
Burma	43	7	56	5	78	5	79	..	50	7
Nepal	18	49	24	26	26	23	22	27	32	69
Bangladesh	39	97	40	77	49	98	37	48	30	33
Indonesia	22	250	14	172	17	190	32	163	24	158
India	37	378	27	316	23	343	34	224	23	269
Papua New Guinea	16	..	22	13	22	7	17	6	22	13
Stateless	4	..	5	..	14	..	17	..	20	6
Ethiopia	18	5	21	8	32	..	25	..	17	..
Nigeria	17	14	5	17	11	12	27	13	17	9
Other	280	633	214	524	263	689	277	650	165	..
Total	1692	2651	1898	2104	2173	2611	2367	2275	2101	2709

Source: ICSE

Figure 15: Final grants and final grant rates by top 20 countries of citizenship of grants in 2010-11 (non-IMA)



Final decisions – demographics

Table 20: Final decisions and final grant rates by sex (non-IMA)

Sex and decision	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Final decision					
Female grants	668	783	867	964	842
Female refusals	821	693	877	846	929
Total	1489	1476	1744	1810	1771
Male grants	1024	1115	1306	1403	1259
Male refusals	1830	1411	1734	1429	1780
Total	2854	2526	3040	2832	3039
Final grant rate					
Female grant rate	44.9%	53.0%	49.7%	53.3%	47.5%
Male grant rate	35.9%	44.1%	43.0%	49.5%	41.4%

Source: ICSE

Figure 16: Final grant rates by sex (non-IMA)

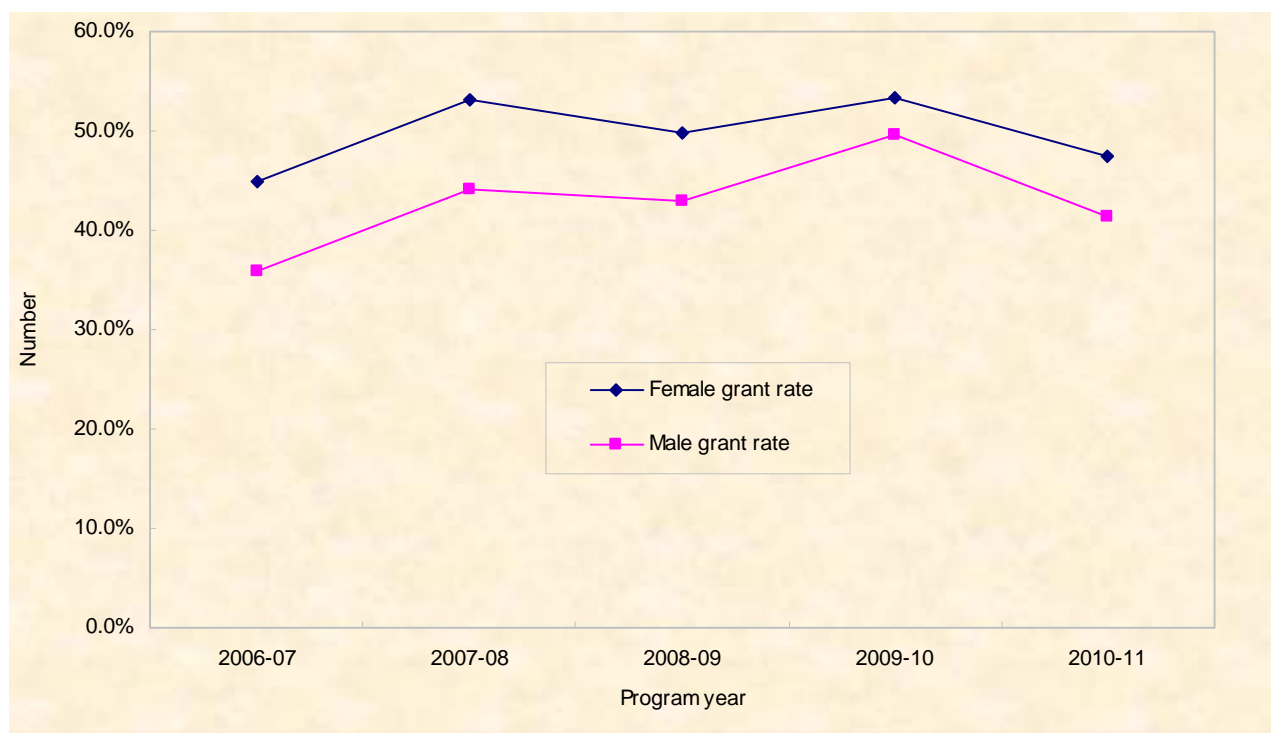
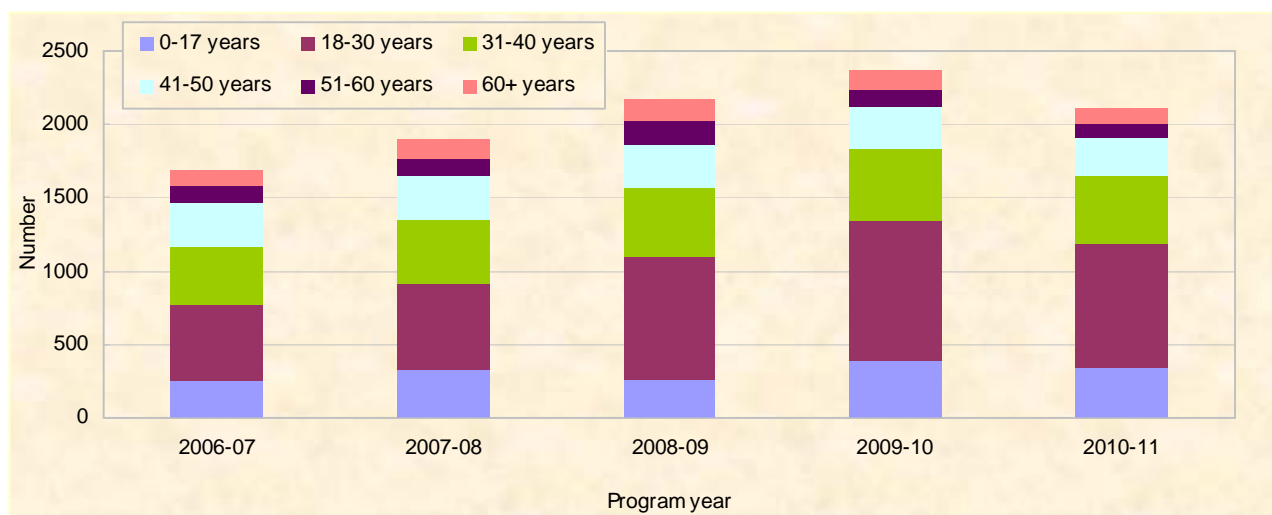


Table 21: Final grants by age group and role of applicant (non-IMA)

Age at decision	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
All non-IMA asylum seekers					
0-17 years	246	333	264	391	345
18-30 years	524	578	831	951	841
31-40 years	389	442	471	490	466
41-50 years	311	295	291	291	253
51-60 years	108	125	170	115	96
60+ years	114	125	146	129	100
Total	1692	1898	2173	2367	2101
Principal applicants					
0-17 years	18	23	31	40	35
18-30 years	453	481	688	776	719
31-40 years	338	381	412	421	394
41-50 years	268	234	253	250	206
51-60 years	84	100	140	91	77
60+ years	81	86	101	97	72
Total	1242	1305	1625	1675	1503
Dependants					
0-17 years	228	310	233	351	310
18-30 years	71	97	143	175	122
31-40 years	51	61	59	69	72
41-50 years	43	61	38	41	47
51-60 years	24	25	30	24	19
60+ years	33	39	45	32	28
Total	450	593	548	692	598

Source: ICSE

Figure 17: Final grants by age group (non-IMA)





Section 2

Irregular maritime arrivals



Irregular maritime arrivals (IMA)

Refugee status determination requests received

Only those persons arriving as irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) who seek Australia's protection are screened into a refugee status determination process (in general, crew members do not seek asylum).

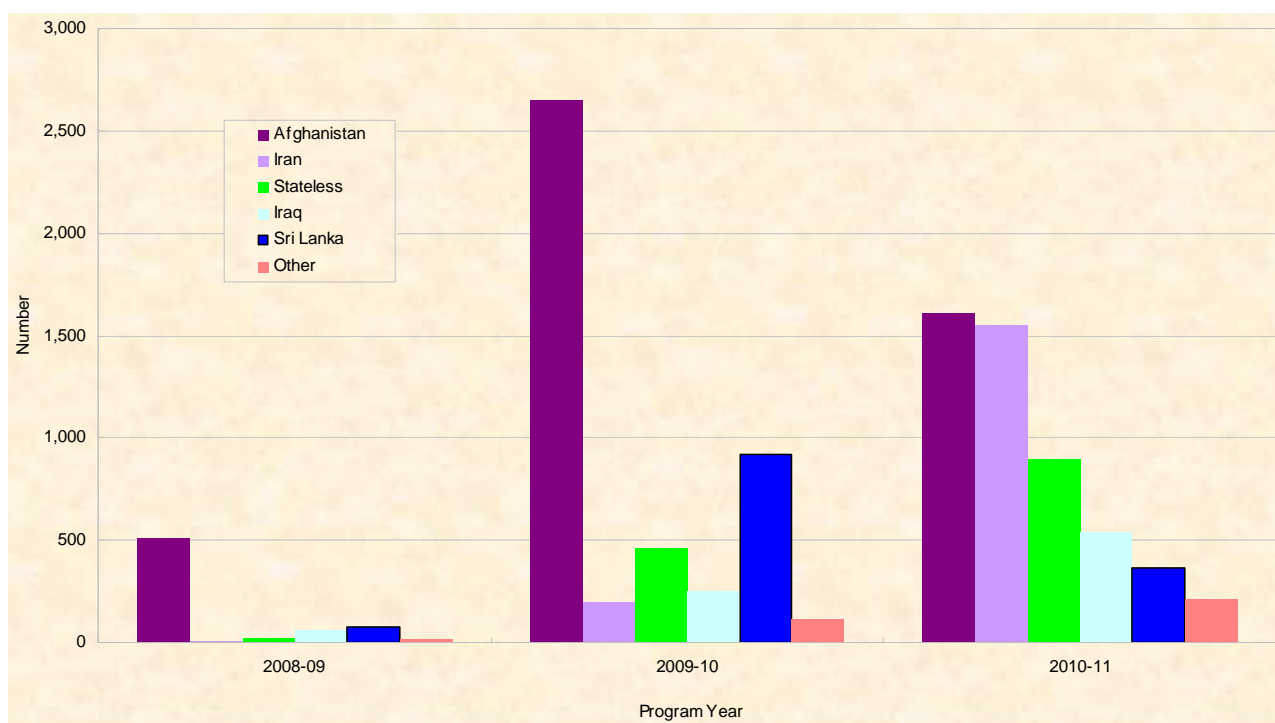
In 2010-11, a total of 5175 people who arrived by sea were screened into a refugee status determination process. Approximately 31 per cent were from Afghanistan (compared to 58 per cent in 2009-10) and 30 per cent were from Iran (compared to 4 per per cent in 2009-10).

Table 22: Refugee status determination requests received by top 5 countries of citizenship⁸ (IMA)

Citizenship	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Afghanistan	506	2650	1612
Iran	9	197	1549
Stateless	25	460	895
Iraq	59	248	542
Sri Lanka	78	919	362
Other	13	117	215
Total	690	4591	5175

Source: DIAC Systems

Figure 18: Refugee status determination requests received (IMA)



⁸ Top 5 countries of citizenship are based on 2010-11 program year refugee status determination requests from IMAs received.

Refugee status determination requests received - demographics

About 83 per cent of those screened into a refugee status determination process in 2010-11 were male, compared to 93 per cent in 2009-10. The shift in composition reflects the increase in the number of Iranian citizens.

Table 23: Refugee status determination requests received by sex (IMA)

Sex	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Female	40	320	867
Male	650	4271	4308
Total	690	4591	5175

Source: DIAC Systems

Figure 19: Refugee status determination requests by sex (IMA)



Table 24: Refugee status determination requests received by age group (IMA)

Age at request	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
0-17 years	135	616	1082
18-30 years	299	2051	2296
31-40 years	161	1286	1241
41-50 years	70	500	394
51-60 years	21	118	142
60+ years	4	20	20
Total	690	4591	5175

Source: DIAC Systems

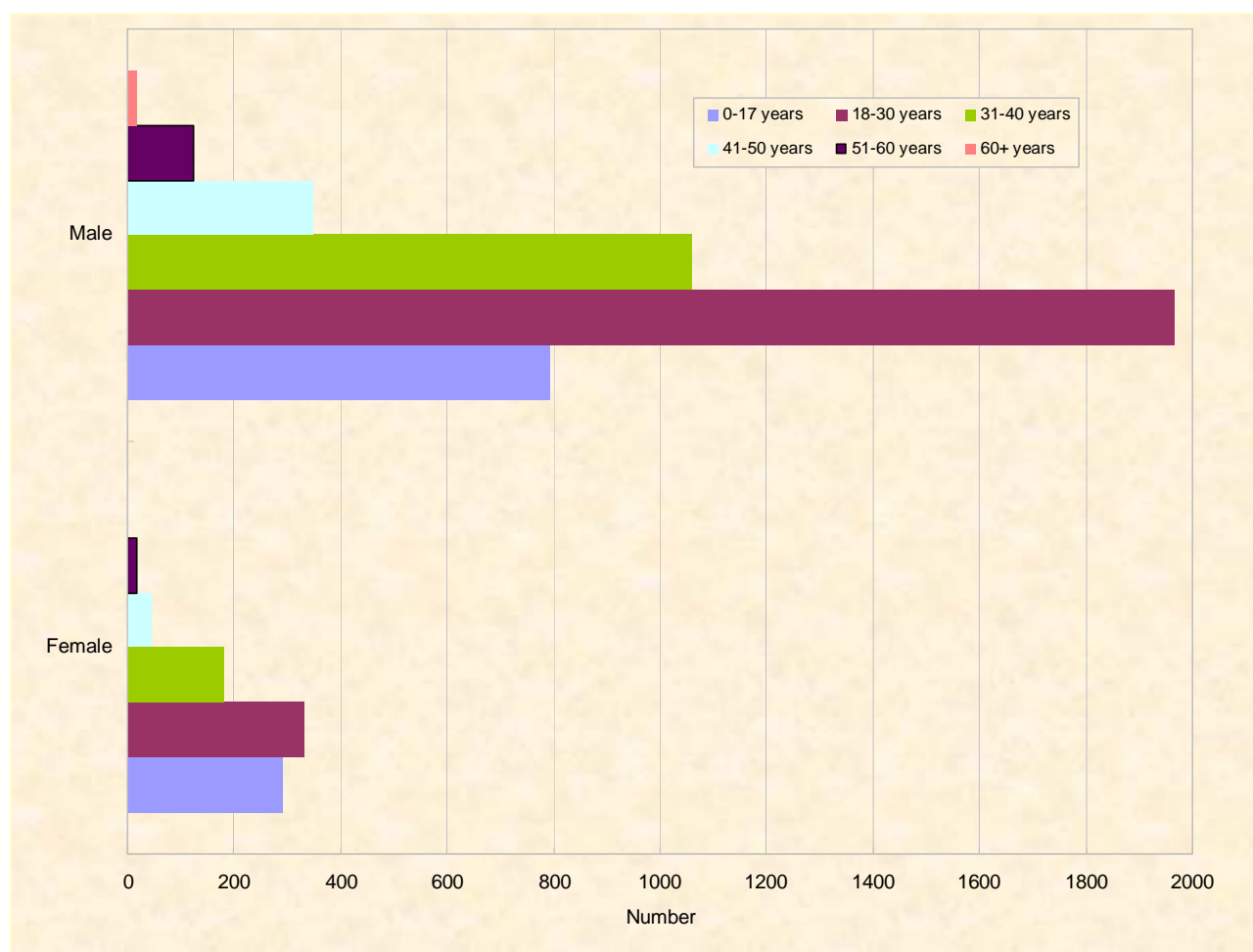
About 44 per cent of those screened into a refugee determination process in 2010-11 were aged 18-30 years (compared to 44 per cent in 2009-10) and a further 21 per cent were aged 0-17 years (13 per cent in 2009-10).

Figure 20: Refugee status determination requests received by age group (IMA)

Table 25: Refugee status determination requests received in 2010-11 by age group and sex (IMA)

Age at request	Female	Male	Total
0-17 years	290	792	1082
18-30 years	330	1966	2296
31-40 years	181	1060	1241
41-50 years	45	349	394
51-60 years	17	125	142
60+ years	4	16	20
Total	867	4308	5175

Source: DIAC Systems

Figure 21: Refugee status determination requests received in 2010-11 by age group and by sex (IMA)

Primary decisions

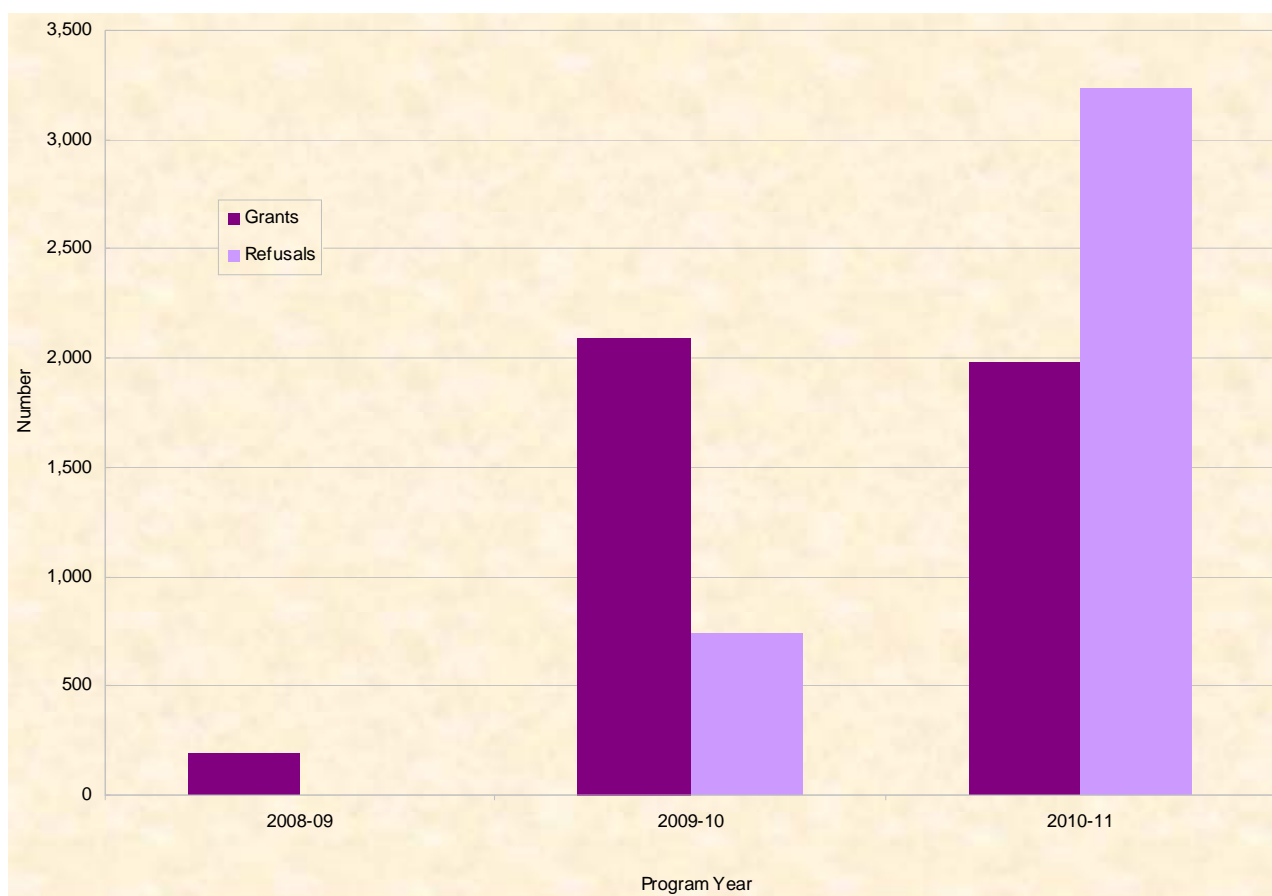
About 38 per cent of asylum seekers who arrived by sea whose claims were considered and decided in the first instance by officials in 2010-11 were found to be refugees.

Table 26: Primary Protection visa grants⁹ and refusals by top 5 countries of citizenship¹⁰ (IMA)

Citizenship	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	Grants	Refusals	Grants	Refusals	Grants	Refusals
Afghanistan	166	0	1417	403	862	1425
Sri Lanka	4	0	313	95	228	263
Stateless	5	0	169	82	371	513
Iraq	13	0	129	85	176	268
Iran	1	0	49	45	275	693
Other	0	0	13	26	63	69
Total	189	0	2090	736	1975	3231

Source: DIAC Systems

Figure 22: Primary decisions (IMA)



⁹ A primary Protection visa grant to an IMA is a Protection visa granted to an irregular maritime arrival following a positive refugee status determination made by a departmental delegate.

¹⁰ Top 5 countries of citizenship are based on 2010-11 program year Protection visa grants to IMAs.

For the top five countries by volume of primary (or first instance) grants in 2010-11, the primary grant rates were Afghanistan (38 per cent), Sri Lanka (46 per cent), Stateless (42 per cent), Iraq (40 per cent) and Iran (28 per cent).

Table 27: Primary Protection visa grant rates¹¹ (IMA)

Citizenship	2009-10	2010-11
Afghanistan	77.9%	37.7%
Sri Lanka	76.7%	46.4%
Stateless	67.3%	42.0%
Iraq	60.3%	39.6%
Iran	52.1%	28.4%
Total	74.0%	37.9%

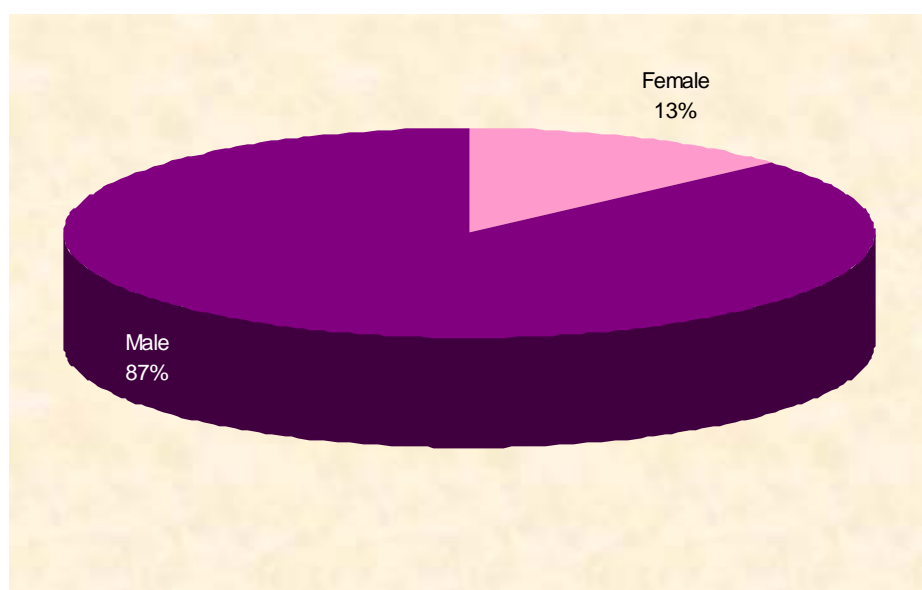
Source: DIAC Systems

Table 28: Protection visa grants after primary processing by sex (IMA)

Sex	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Female	5	131	263
Male	184	1959	1712
Total	189	2090	1975

Source: DIAC Systems

Figure 23: Primary grants in 2010-11 by sex (IMA)

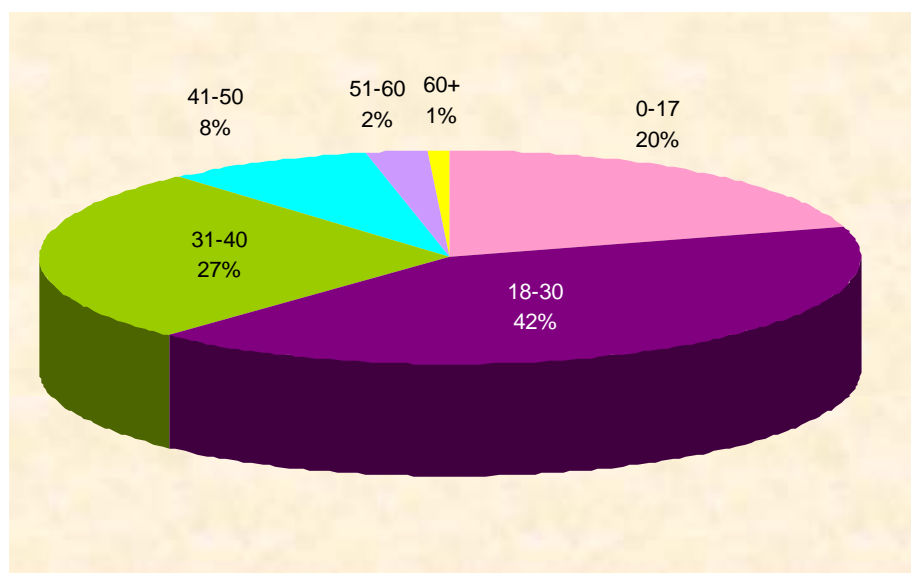


¹¹ The percentage of IMAs who were found to be a refugee and granted a Protection visa expressed as a proportion of all primary decisions (grants and refusals) in a given period.

Table 29: Protection visa grants after primary processing by age group (IMA)

Age at decision	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
0-17 years	46	312	399
18-30 years	83	941	826
31-40 years	39	521	525
41-50 years	16	247	161
51-60 years	4	60	49
60+ years	1	9	15
Total	189	2090	1975

Source: DIAC Systems

Figure 24: Primary grants in 2010-11 by age group (IMA)**Table 30: Primary Protection visa grants by role type (IMA)**

Program Year	Principal applicants	Dependants	Total
2008-09	180	9	189
2009-10	1996	94	2090
2010-11	1768	207	1975

Source: DIAC Systems

Review process

There is a review process known as Independent Merits Review/Independent Protection Assessment.

Table 31: Review recommendations by countries of citizenship (IMA)

Citizenship	2009-10		2010-11	
	Refugees	Not refugees	Refugees	Not refugees
Afghanistan	6	2	605	164
Sri Lanka	16	70	59	54
Stateless	15	2	120	44
Iraq	19	9	69	30
Iran	21	3	74	21
Other	4	6	14	17
Total	81	92	941	330

Source: DIAC Systems

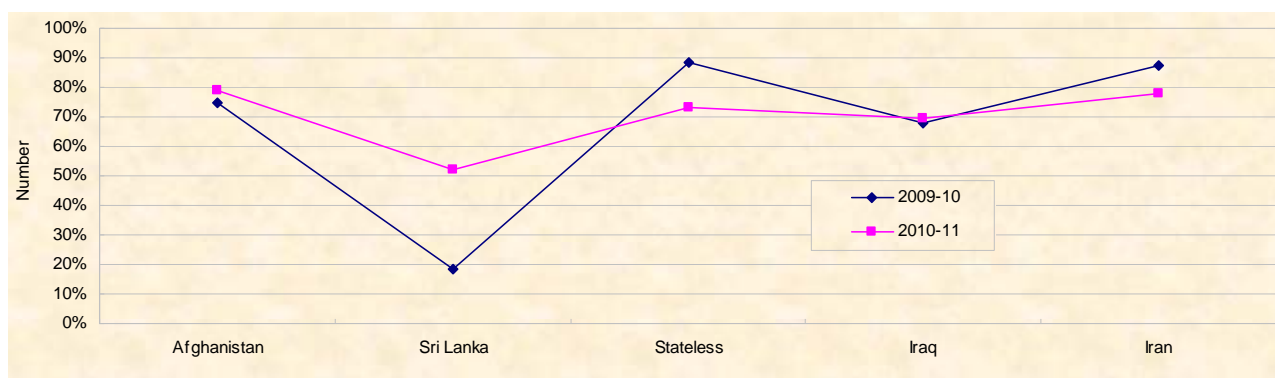
Independent reviewers conduct a fresh consideration of all aspects of a case, including new information or claims raised by a client. In 2010-11, 74 per cent of refused applicants whose claims were reviewed were subsequently found to be refugees.

Table 32: Overturn rate¹² by countries of citizenship (IMA)

Citizenship	2009-10	2010-11
Afghanistan	75.0%	78.7%
Sri Lanka	18.6%	52.2%
Stateless	88.2%	73.2%
Iraq	67.9%	69.7%
Iran	87.5%	77.9%
Other	40.0%	45.2%
Total	46.8%	74.0%

Source: DIAC Systems

Figure 25: Overturn rate by countries of citizenship (IMA)



¹² Overturn rate is a percentage of recommendations to consider as refugees compared to the total number of review recommendations during the period.

Final decisions

A total of 2696 Protection visas were granted to irregular maritime arrivals in 2010-11, representing 56 per cent of all such grants. Afghan citizens accounted for half the total.

Table 33: Final Protection visa grants by top 5 countries of citizenship¹³ (primary and review processes completed) (IMA)

Citizenship	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	Grants	Refusals	Grants	Refusals	Grants	Refusals
Afghanistan	166	0	1419	2	1335	160
Sri Lanka	4	0	315	34	236	50
Stateless	5	0	172	0	481	40
Iraq	13	0	137	8	239	28
Iran	1	0	63	2	333	22
Other	0	0	13	4	72	13
Total	189	0	2119	50	2696	313

Source: DIAC Systems

Figure 26: Final Protection visa determinations (primary and review processes completed) (IMA)

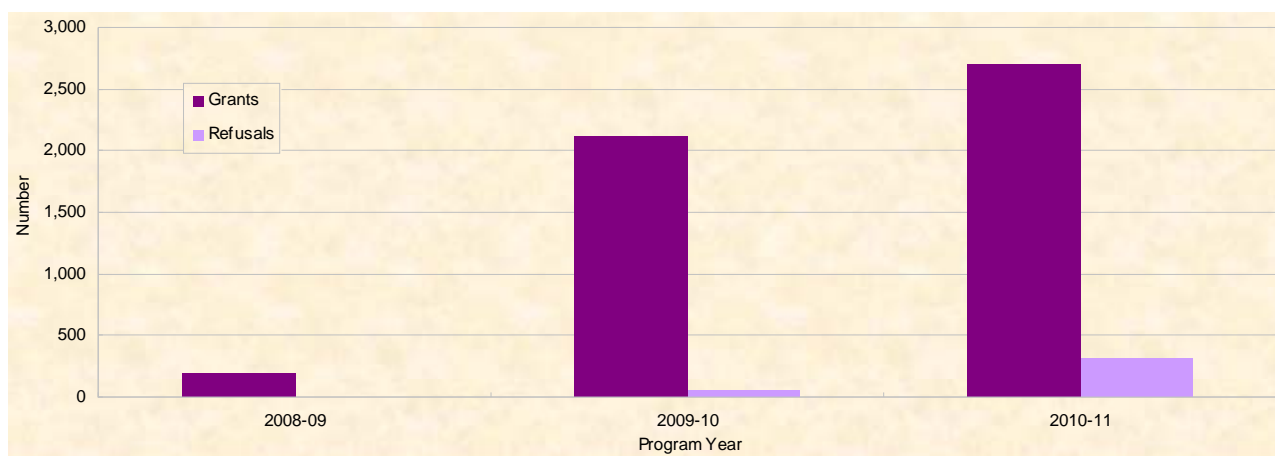
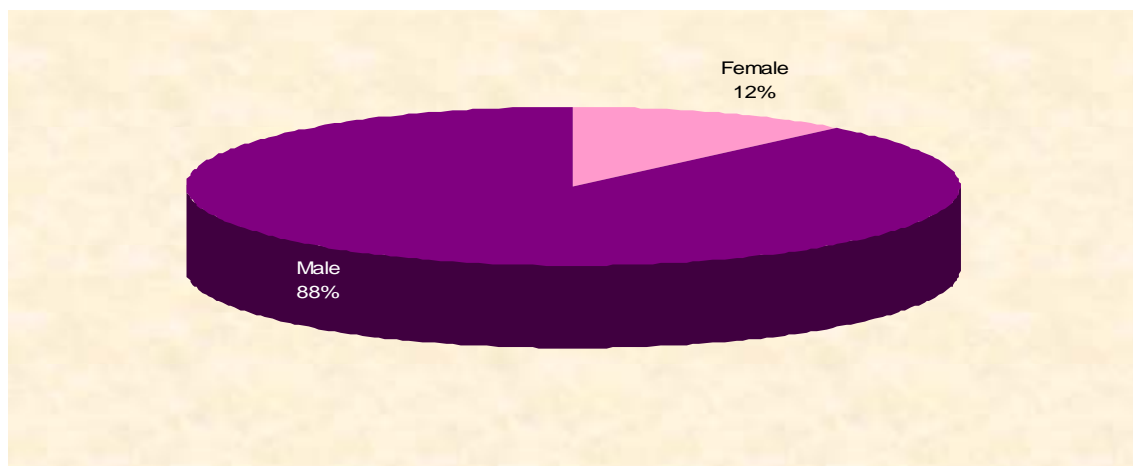


Table 34: Final Protection visa grants by sex (IMA)

Sex	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Female	5	135	325
Male	184	1984	2371
Total	189	2119	2696

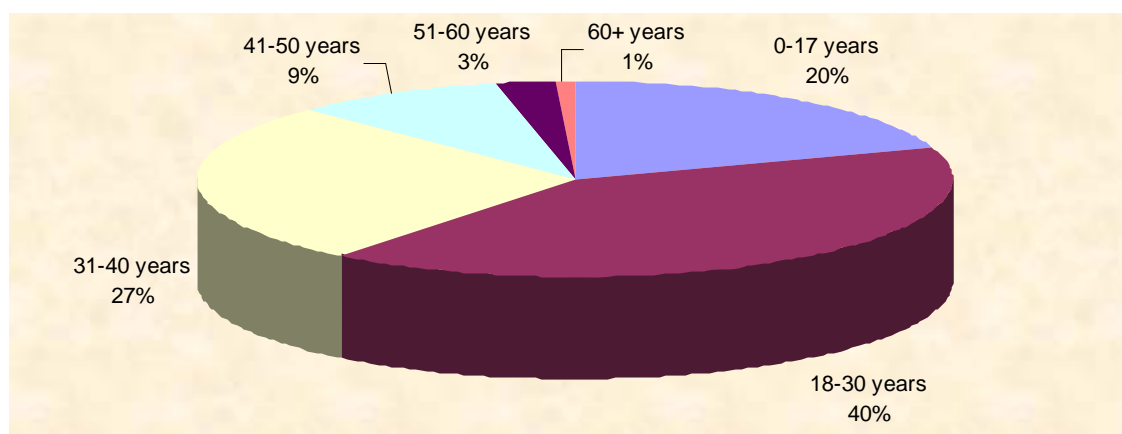
Source: DIAC Systems

¹³ Top 5 countries of citizenship are based on 2010-11 program year refugee status determination Protection visa grants to IMAs.

Figure 27: Final Protection visa grants in 2010-11 by sex (IMA)**Table 35: Final Protection visa grants by age group (IMA)**

Age at decision	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
0-17 years	46	313	535
18-30 years	83	958	1099
31-40 years	39	529	725
41-50 years	16	249	245
51-60 years	4	60	72
60+ years	1	10	20
Total	189	2119	2696

Source: DIAC Systems

Figure 28: Final Protection visa grants in 2010-11 by age group (IMA)**Table 36: Final Protection visa grants by role type (IMA)**

Program Year	Principal applicants	Dependants	Total
2008-09	180	9	189
2009-10	2023	96	2119
2010-11	2436	260	2696

Source: DIAC Systems

Glossary

Asylum seeker

A person who has left their country of origin, has applied for recognition as a refugee in another country and is awaiting a decision on their application.

Citizenship

Citizenship is based on passports/travel documents at the time of application for protection. If the applicant has no travel documents, citizenship determination is based on information supplied in the application. A formal process is then undertaken to verify information supplied.

Departmental delegate

An employee of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship who is a delegate of the Minister for the purposes of the Migration Act 1958.

Dependant

Member of the same family unit who is included in the application of the principal applicant.

DIAC

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Final decision

A decision made at the end of primary processing where no review has been sought, or after the conclusion of all review processes, by a departmental delegate to grant a visa or refuse a claim for protection.

Final grant

A Protection visa grant made after the conclusion of all review processes.

ICSE

Integrated Client Services Environment.

IMA

Irregular Maritime Arrival.

Lodgement

The receipt of a Protection visa application.

Primary decision

A decision made at the end of initial processing by the departmental delegate to grant a visa or refuse a claim for protection.

Primary grant

A visa granted by the departmental delegate at the primary stage of processing.

Primary grant rate

The ratio of visa grants at the initial processing stage in the Protection visa process as a proportion of total decisions (grants and refusals) made in a given period.

Principal applicant

The main applicant for a Protection visa with specific asylum claims.

Program Year

The period beginning from 1 July to 30 June of the following year.

Protection visa

A visa issued to a non-citizen in Australia to whom the Minister is satisfied Australia has protection obligations under the Refugees Convention, as defined in s.36 of the Migration Act.

Refugee

A person who has been found to be a 'refugee' as defined in the Refugees Convention (i.e. a person who is unable to return to their home country owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for one of the Convention grounds).

Refusal

A decision that an applicant does not meet the legal criteria for the grant of a visa.

Stateless

A stateless person is an individual who self identifies as stateless, who lacks identity as a national of a state for the purpose of law and is not entitled to the rights, benefits or protection ordinarily available to a country's nationals.

Valid application

A valid application is one that meets the validity criteria specified in the Migration Act and Regulations.

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.. Not published

The department has a policy of not publishing citizenship breakdown of asylum figures (non-IMA) that total less than five. This is to protect the privacy of applicants.

... Not applicable