

# REFUGEE WEEK 2021

## School fact sheet

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### What is the difference between a person seeking asylum and a refugee?

- A *person seeking asylum* is a person who is outside their country of origin and is seeking protection from persecution or significant harm, but has not yet had their claim determined in the country in which they have sought protection.
- A *refugee* is a person who is outside their country of origin and is seeking protection from persecution or significant harm; their claim may have been recognised under Australian law.

### How many refugees are there in the world today?

- According to the UNHCR, there are over 79.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide: 26 million refugees, 45.7 million internally displaced, 4.2 million people seeking asylum, and 3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad.

### Which are the countries of origin for refugees?

- According to the UNHRC, 68% of displaced people came from 5 countries: Syria (6.6 million), Venezuela (3.7 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million), South Sudan (2.2 million), and Myanmar (1.1 million).

### How many refugees does Australia take?

- Australia's annual offshore humanitarian intake comprises 13,750 places, including an indicative 1,650 places from the onshore program (that is people arriving by plane on valid visas, clearing immigration and applying once in the community). This intake does not include the 'Legacy Caseload,' people who arrived by boat between 13 August 2012 and 1 January 2014.
- Australia's annual intake represents 16.6% of the total resettlement places offered globally.

### Are people still seeking asylum still in Australia?

- Before COVID-19, an annual average of 21,350 people arriving by plane sought asylum onshore in Australia between 2016 and 2020. People attempting to arrive by boat after 19 July 2013 were either subject to interception and turn-back policies or sent to Manus Island or Nauru.
- Since March 2020, Australia's international borders have been closed to non-citizens. There has been a monthly average of 1,108 new applications for asylum between March and December 2020 from people already in Australia on other visas.

### Is it legal to seek asylum here?

- Yes, Australia is a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. This Convention defines who is a refugee, sets out the basic rights that countries should guarantee to refugees and requires signatories to assess asylum seekers' claims for protection from persecution.
- It is legal for people to apply for asylum without a visa or travel documents; the Refugee Convention recognised that persons fleeing their homes might not be able to get a passport or visa. For those that arrive with a valid visa, they are at liberty to remain in the community whilst their refugee status is determined.

### How many people seeking asylum are still on Nauru, PNG and in detention centres in Australia? How many are in the community?

- As of 30 April 2021, there are 131 people seeking asylum on Manus Island, and 109 on Nauru.
- As of 31 January 2021, there are 439 people in the community on Bridging Visa E (BVEs) and 430 on residence determination (CD).