

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(57) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 76) asked:

What work has been done in encouraging the settlement of humanitarian and refugee entrants into regional Australia? How many have been located in the regions and which regions?

Answer:

Over the past few years the Department has been working to encourage higher levels of humanitarian settlement in regional locations by establishing humanitarian settlement in new regional towns, including in:

- Queensland (Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Cairns and Townsville)
- Victoria (Geelong, Shepparton and Ballarat)
- New South Wales (Albury, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour, Wollongong and Newcastle)
- Tasmania (Launceston) and
- South Australia (Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge).

It is important to note that the Department is limited in its ability to direct humanitarian entrants to regional locations. Most already have social 'links' in Australia, that is, family, friends or a proposer. In these cases, the Department seeks to settle the entrants near their links as they provide valuable social and settlement support, particularly in the early settlement period.

For entrants without any links (known as 'unlinked' refugees), the Department considers a range of factors when determining a suitable settlement location, including the specific needs of the individual or family, and the capacity of the receiving area to address those needs. For some of these entrants, regional towns can provide strong settlement prospects.

The following table represents humanitarian settlement in the regional areas listed. These figures are current as at 4 June 2009 and also capture direct settlement and internal migration and secondary movement numbers into these regional areas.

Humanitarian Arrivals: Jan 2004- June 2009

Local Government Area	Total
Albury	105
Ballarat	122
Cairns	269
Coffs Harbour	301
Gold Coast	295
Greater Geelong	419
Launceston	543
Mount Gambier	55
Murray Bridge	55
Newcastle	437
Shepparton	526
Toowoomba	562
Townsville	117
Wagga Wagga	260
Wollongong	437
Grand Total	4,503

This report has been produced from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship Settlement Reporting Facility which is updated on the 4th of each month. The data in these tables has been compiled from a number of sources within the Department and other Commonwealth agencies.

Please note that the collection of data used in some of the selection criteria items is not mandatory and may result in an undercount in the report.