





**MYAN NSW**  
Multicultural Youth Affairs Network



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**Humanitarian Youth  
Arrivals to NSW in 2012**

Fact Sheet



## Introduction

The information presented in this report<sup>1</sup> is derived from statistics collated by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) based on the data records of people arriving in Australia under the Humanitarian Program 2 as at 13th May 2013, unless otherwise stated. DIAC's online Settlement Reporting Facility<sup>3</sup> uses primary settlement data, supplemented by data from the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), Medicare, and other sources. Given the difficulty of keeping all arrivals' addresses up-to-date, there are inevitably some inaccuracies in what the Settlement Reporting Facility (SRF) data reveals. Young people, in particular, can be very mobile, and the data reported in this information sheet needs to be used as a guide only. This information provides a general overview of the primary countries of origin and settlement trends for refugee young people currently residing in New South Wales.

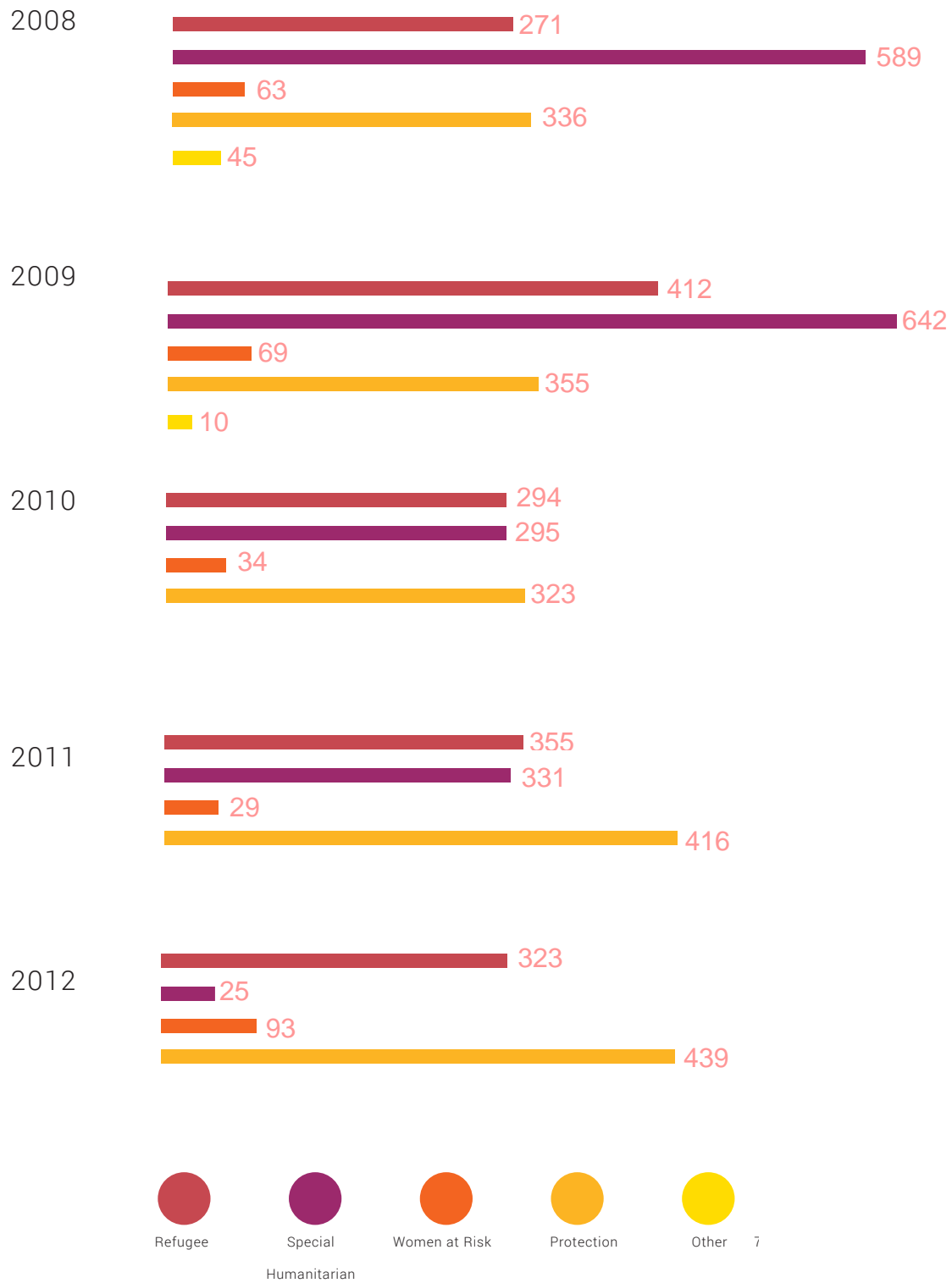
## How Many Refugee Young People?

There are 5 753 humanitarian young people aged 12 to 24 years<sup>4</sup> living in NSW who arrived in Australia over the last five years, from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2012. In 2012, a total of 882 humanitarian young people arrived in Australia and are now living in NSW. This means that 26% out of the total number of humanitarian entrants who settled in NSW in 2012 (3 422 people) were young people aged between 12 and 24.

Of the humanitarian young people who arrived in Australia in 2012 who are now living in NSW, approximately half arrived through the onshore program, and therefore have experienced some form of detention. The number of young people granted onshore protection visas in 2012 (439 young people under visa subclass 866) living in NSW has increased significantly over the past several years. In 2012, 50% of humanitarian youth in NSW received 866 visas, compared with 34% in 2010 and 26% in 2008. This increase is matched with a decline in the percentage of young people being settled through the offshore Special Humanitarian Program. This is because the onshore and offshore programs are numerically linked, with overall humanitarian intake numbers being capped each year.

## Figure 1

Number of humanitarian youth (12 to 24 years) living in NSW, by visa sub class and year of arrival in Australia from 2008 to 2012





## Where are Refugee Young People Coming From?

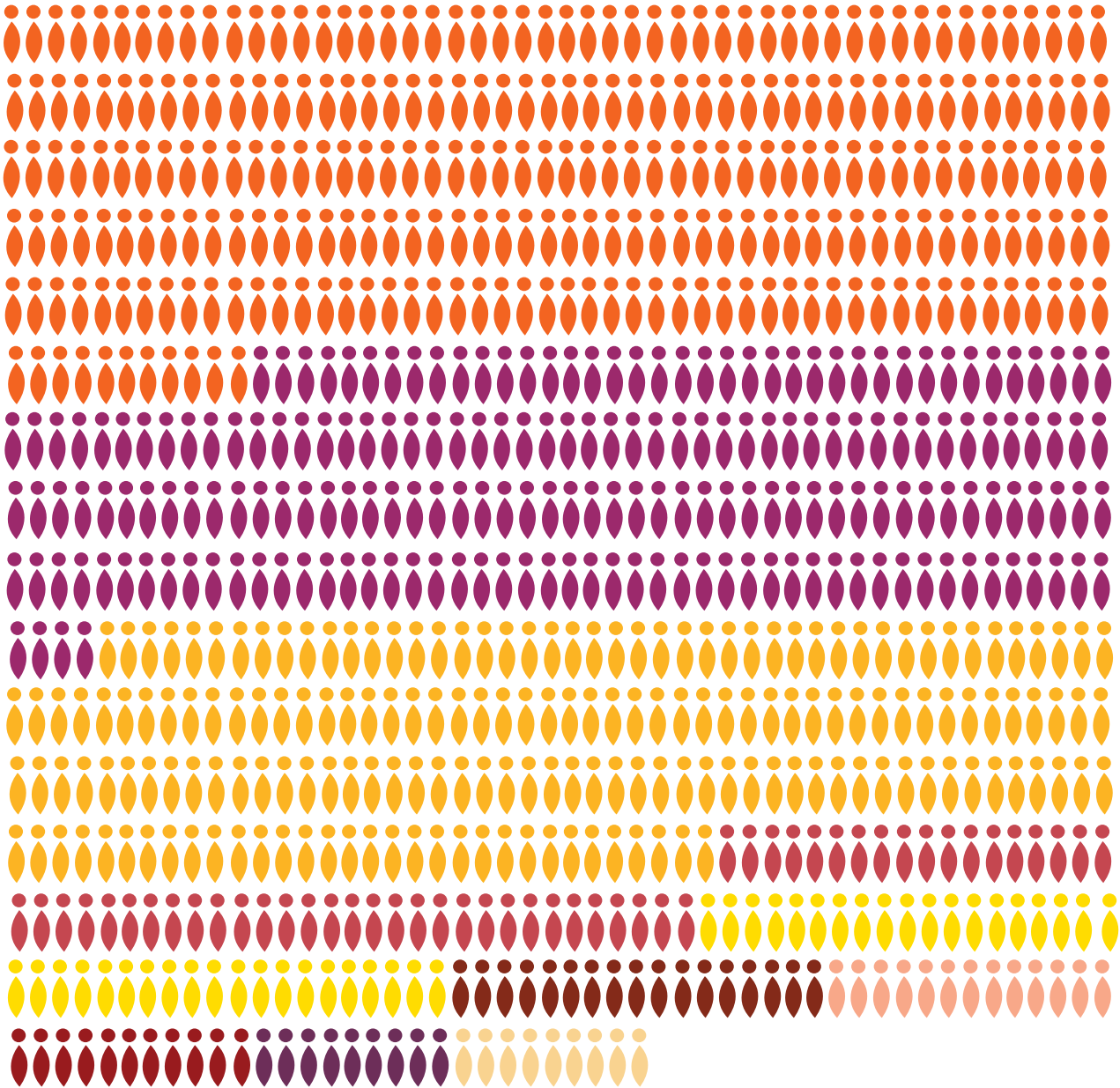
Young people from Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan represent the largest number of arrivals within the Humanitarian Program for the age group 12–24 years, who arrived in 2012 and are currently living in NSW (Figure 2). Young people from these three countries have represented the highest number of new arrivals to NSW in the 12 to 24 age group for the last three years. However, this year saw a significant decline in the number of Iraqi young people, down from 428 in 2011 to 261 in 2012.

Figure 3 shows the top 10 countries of birth for humanitarian youth settling in NSW for the last five years, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012 . These figures are of interest because DIAC's Settlement Grants Program (SGP) funding is available to support communities that have settled in Australia within the last five years.



## Figure 2

Top 10 countries<sup>5</sup> of birth<sup>6</sup> for humanitarian youth (12-24 years) resident in NSW who arrived in Australia in 2012.



**Iraq**  
261 People

**Iran**  
205 People

**Afghanistan**  
188 People

**Pakistan**  
57 People

**Burma**  
39 People

**Nepal**  
17 People

**Sri Lanka**  
13 People

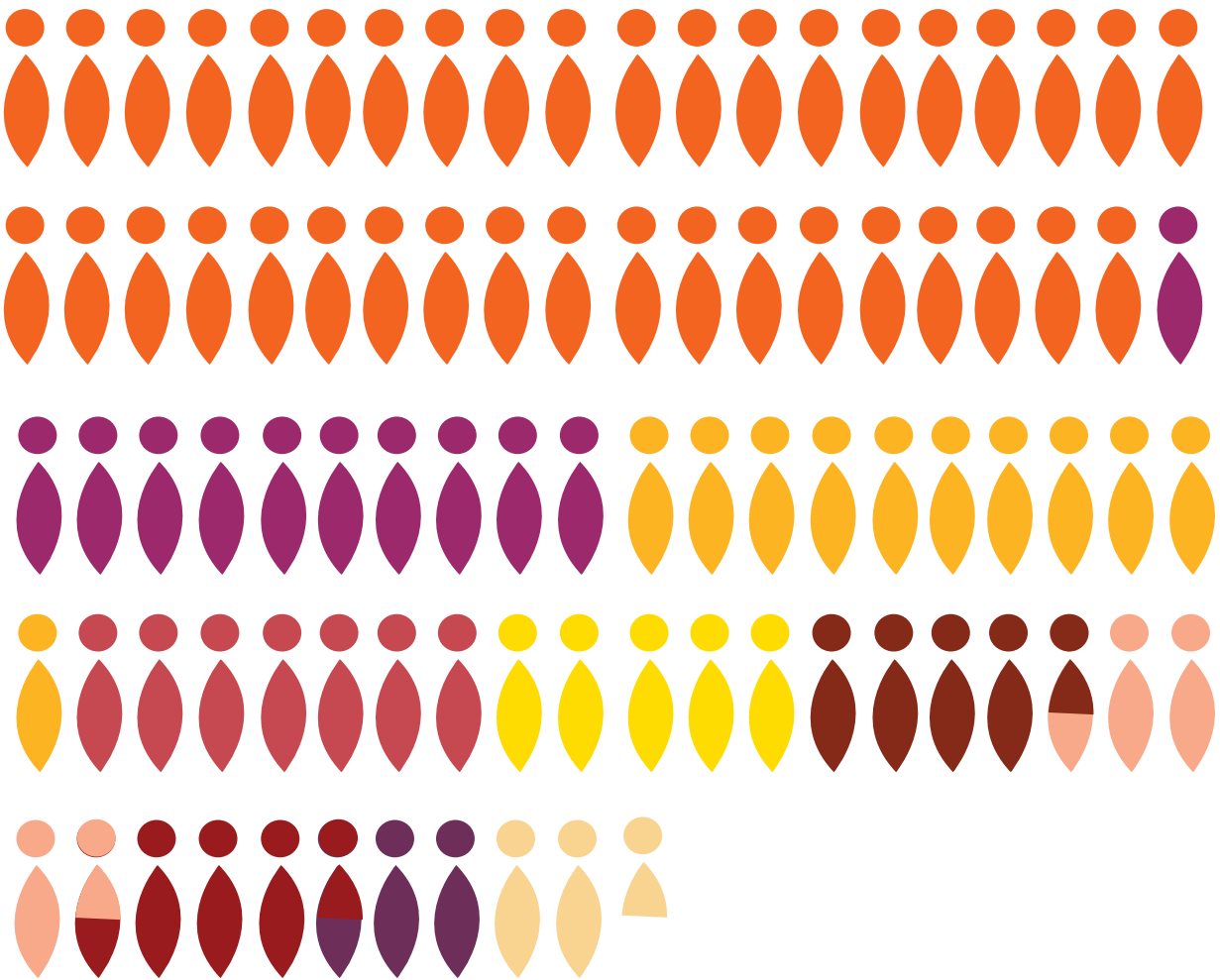
**Egypt**  
11 People

**Bhutan**  
9 People

**Sudan**  
9 People


### Figure 3

Figure 3: Top 10 countries of birth for humanitarian youth (12-24 years) living in NSW, who arrived in Australia in the last five years (1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012).




 Iraq  
1937 People

 Iran  
571 People


 Afghanistan  
568 People

 PR China  
345 People


 Burma  
260 People


 Sri Lanka  
228 People

 Sierra Leone  
204 People

 Pakistan  
195 People

 Sudan  
134 People

 DR Congo  
126 People

 Represents  
50 people

# Where are Refugee Young People Coming From?

Continued

Young people from Iraq make up by far the largest single group of humanitarian youth in NSW, of those who have lived in Australia for five years or less - 1,937 out of a total of 5,753 young people, or 34%. The next largest groups of young people arriving in Australia in the last five years are from Iran (571) and Afghanistan (568), with each group making up a further 10% of young humanitarian arrivals living in NSW.

In contrast, there are fewer young people from African backgrounds currently living in NSW who have arrived in the last five years. This means that for the youth demographic, those from African backgrounds living in NSW tend to have been in Australia for longer periods of time. Nonetheless, there were still significant numbers of young people arriving from Sierra Leone (204), Sudan (134) and Democratic Republic of Congo (126), with these groups making up 4%, 2% and 2% respectively.

## Where are refugee young people settling in NSW?

Of the humanitarian youth entrants arriving in Australia in 2012 who are living in NSW, 79% (688 out of a total of 868 for whom a LGA was recorded) were living in the Greater Sydney area, with the vast majority of these living in Greater Western Sydney. However, there was still significant settlement in rural and regional NSW. Three of the ten LGAs receiving the highest number of 12 to 24 year old humanitarian entrants were in rural and regional areas. A total of 180 young people aged 12 to 24 settled in rural and regional NSW during 2012.

The NSW LGA with the highest number of humanitarian youth arrivals for 2012 was Fairfield (152, or 18%). More than one in six humanitarian youth entrants living in NSW who arrived in Australia in the last year are living in Fairfield. The NSW LGAs with the next highest proportion of humanitarian youth who arrived in Australia in 2012 were: Auburn (12%), Blacktown (12%), Liverpool (8%), Parramatta (7%), Wollongong (5%), Holroyd (5%), Coffs Harbour (5%), Canterbury (5%) and Newcastle (4%).

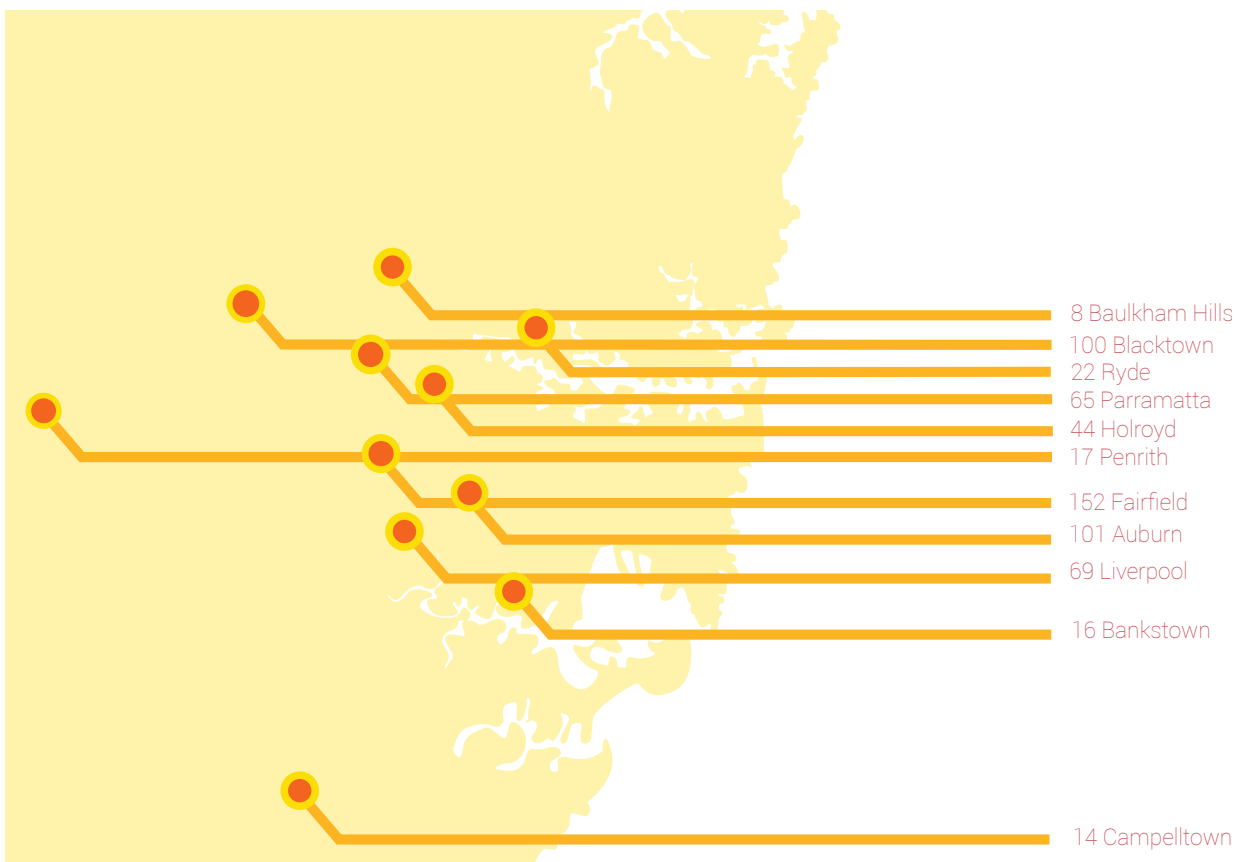
Many young people and their families move between Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the months and years after first arriving in Australia. They move for a variety of reasons, including:

- housing affordability and availability
- educational and employment opportunities (including in regional areas); and
- the existence of accessible services and community support networks
- being close to family and friends



## Figure 4

Figure 4 shows the 12 LGAs in the Greater Sydney where the highest number of 12 to 24 year old humanitarian entrants to Australia in 2012 were living (as at 13 May 2013)



## Figure 5

The 6 rural and regional LGAs in NSW where the highest numbers of humanitarian youth arrivals (12-24 years) to Australia in 2012





## Characteristics and Experiences of Humanitarian Youth Entrants

### Gender

Two thirds of humanitarian youth arrivals to Australia in 2012 who were residing in NSW as at 13th May 2013 were male; 67% or 588 young men, compared with 33% or 294 young women. There has been a notable increase in the proportion of males arriving as humanitarian youth in recent years. Of those who arrived in Australia in 2011, 61% of arrivals were male and 39% were female, whilst in 2010 59% were male and 41% female. This change most likely reflects the increase in onshore arrivals in the last year, who are predominately young men. Figure 6 shows the number of young people arriving in NSW for the last five years by gender.

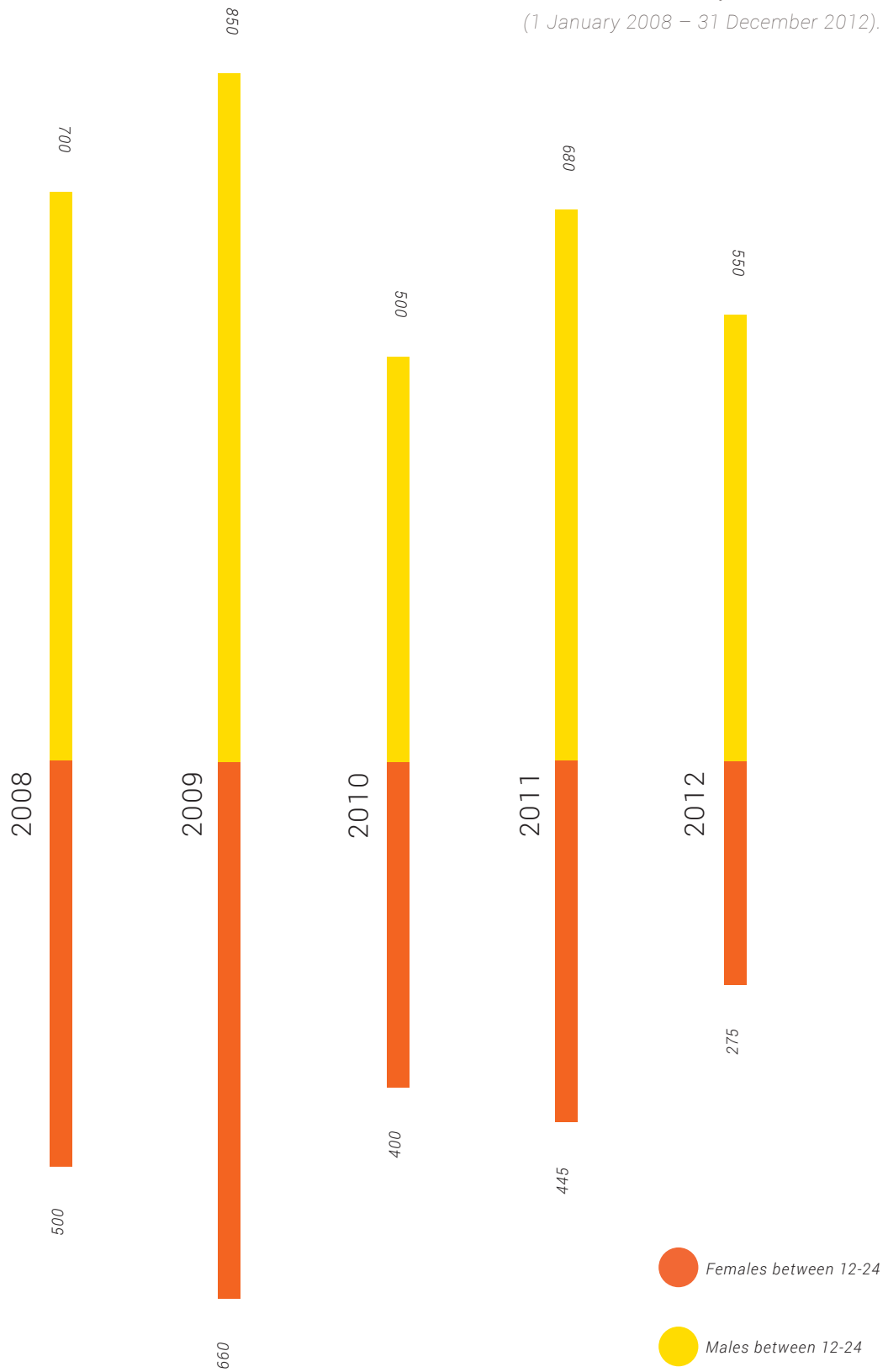
### Pre-arrival and asylum seeking experiences

Regardless of their mode of arrival, young people who are settled through the Humanitarian Program are likely to have experienced long-term insecurity, separation from family and exposure to violence. They are also likely to have had limited access to services and opportunities, such as education, employment, health and housing. These pre-settlement experiences have implications for settlement in NSW - including how young people and their families access services, and the types of support services they need.

The pre-arrival experiences of humanitarian young people have diversified in recent years. Growing numbers of humanitarian youth in NSW have arrived through the onshore program, as “irregular maritime arrivals”, and have spent time in Australian Immigration Detention Centres and/or in Community Detention.

## Figure 6

Figure 6: Gender of humanitarian youth currently living in NSW, who arrived in Australia the last five years (1 January 2008 – 31 December 2012).



# Characteristics and Experiences of Humanitarian Youth Entrants continued

It is difficult to obtain statistics on specific age groups and by state for asylum seekers. However, as of 30th April 2013, there were 11 549 people living in immigration detention in Australia (including community detention)<sup>7</sup>. Of these, 2 856 were aged under 188. Of the 11 549 people living in detention, 11 074 (or 96%) were “Irregular Maritime Arrivals”. In addition to this group, in 2011-12 there were 7 036 people who applied for asylum having arrived in Australia by air. Amongst this group, people on student visas accounted for 47%. 62% of non- maritime arrivals who are seeking asylum are aged 30 or under, and 15% of the 7 036 people are aged under 18.

Many young people who arrive through the onshore program and are granted permanent protection visas are Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (UHMs). They lack the support networks of immediate family, and therefore are likely to require more assistance from support services. Approximately 90% of young people who entered the UHM program in 2012 first arrived as asylum seekers, and were later granted onshore permanent protection visas<sup>9</sup>.

Young people who have arrived through the offshore program have often spent prolonged time in refugee camps. Some young people may have spent significant periods of time, or have even been born, in third countries. For example, many humanitarian youth arrivals from Burma were born or have spent significant amounts of time in Thailand before resettling in Australia.

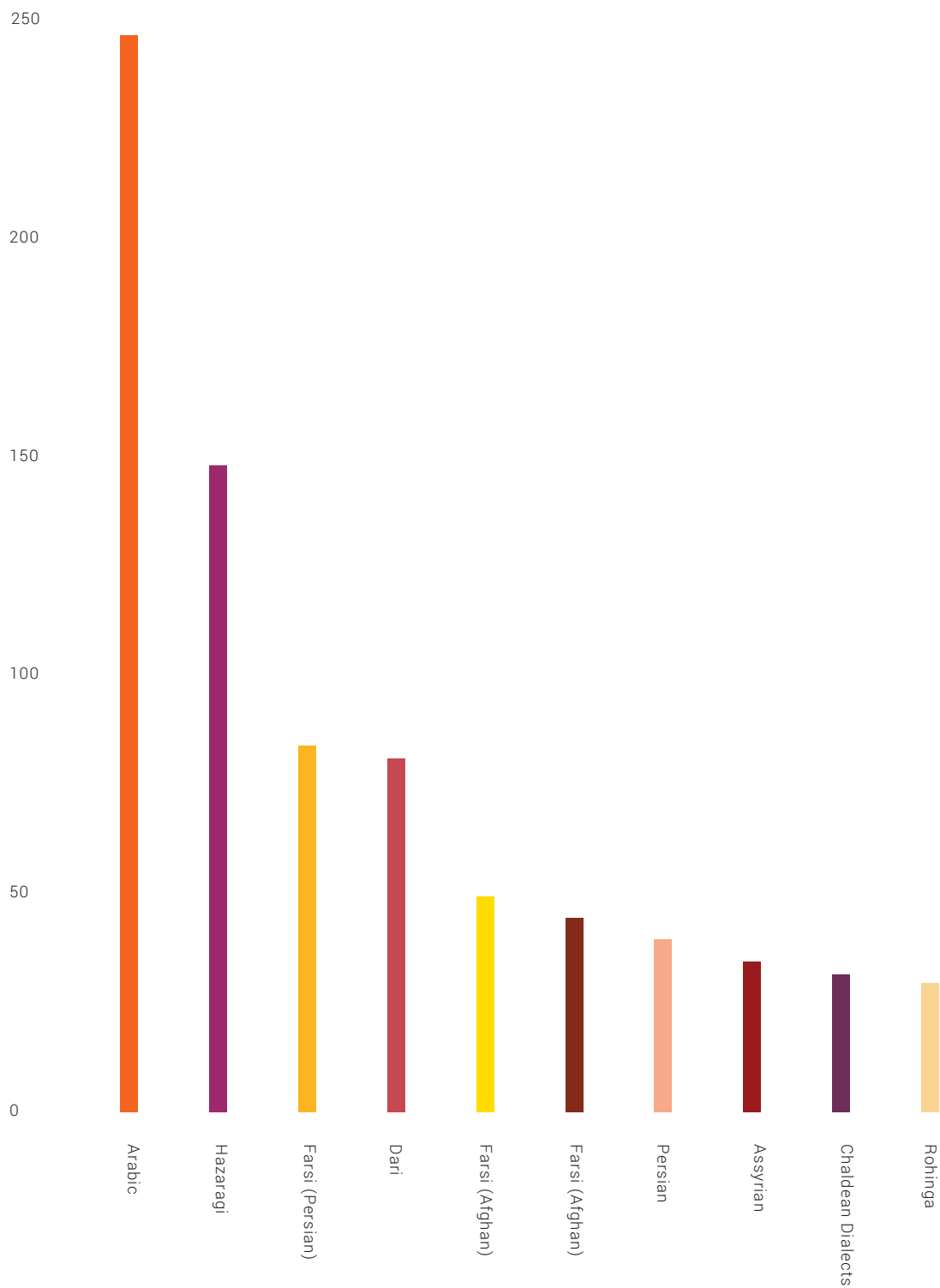
## Languages spoken

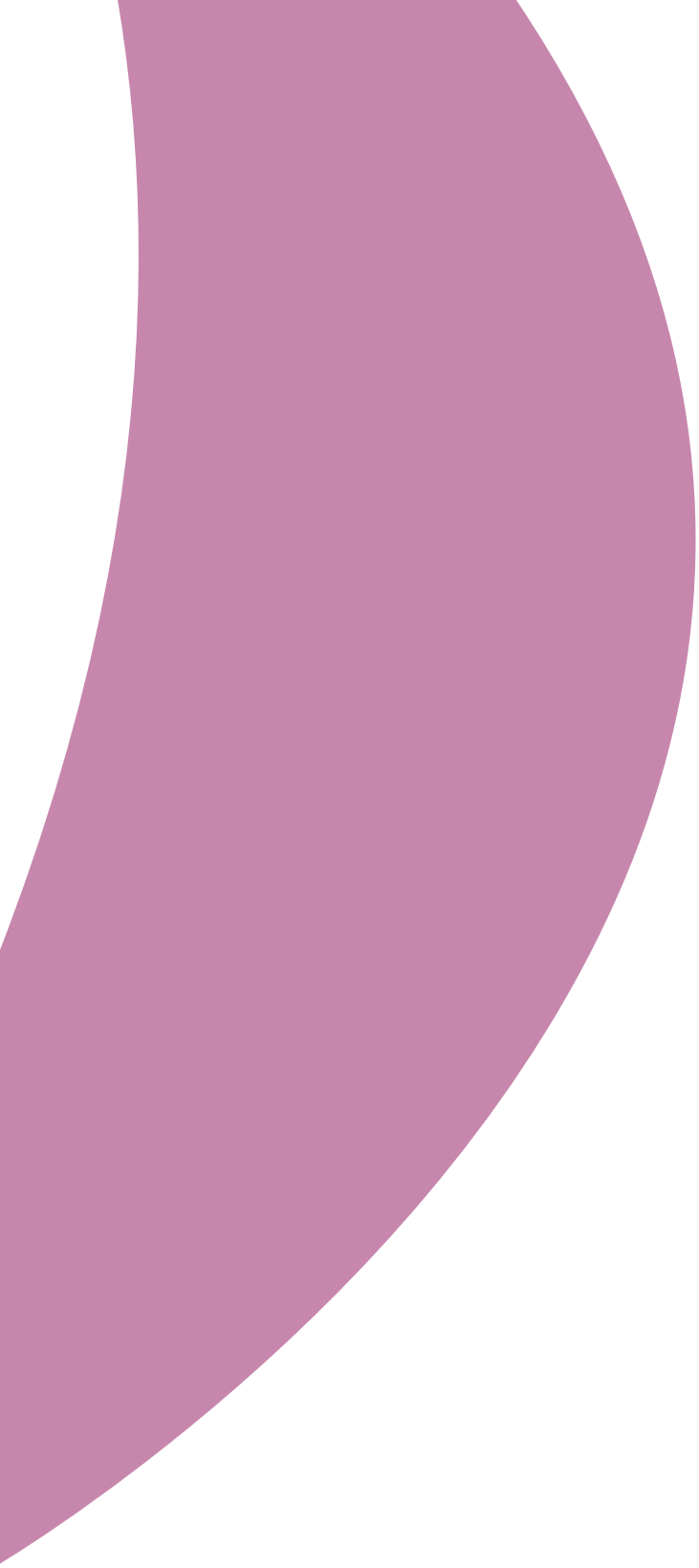
Of humanitarian young people living in NSW who arrived in Australia in 2012, the largest single group speak Arabic, with 29%. This is followed in order by Hazaragi with 16%, and Farsi (Persian) with 9%, followed closely by Dari, spoken by just under 9% of young people. The remainder of the top 10 languages spoken by young people arriving in 2012 were Farsi (Afghan) with 5%, Persian (4%), Assyrian (3%), Chaldean dialects (3%), Nepali (3%) and Rohingya (2%). Figure 7 shows the number of young people who arrived in NSW in 2012 by the top 10 languages spoken.



## Figure 7

Top 10 languages spoken by humanitarian youth (12-24 years) arrivals in 2012, living in NSW.





*1 This document is based on the report Humanitarian Youth Arrivals to Victoria by Centre for Multicultural Youth - See more at: <http://www.cmy.net.au/ResourcesfortheSector#InfoSheets>*

*2 In recent years Australia settled approximately 13,750 people each year under its Humanitarian Program, with the numbers increasing to 20,000 for 2012-13 under the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers released on 13 August 2012. The Humanitarian Program and this information sheet cover both off-shore and onshore humanitarian visa holders. For more information about the Humanitarian program go to <http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian>.*

*3 DIAC's settlement database can be accessed online at [www.immi.gov.au/settlement](http://www.immi.gov.au/settlement)*

*4 Data available through the SRF only allows a breakdown of 12- 24 years. For the purpose of this paper, young people will be defined as being aged 12-24 years*

*5 The SRF uses the term 'Burma' rather than 'Myanmar', thus this information sheet reflects this use of terminology.*

*6 Country of birth does not necessarily reflect cultural background. For example, all 2011-12 humanitarian entrants*

born in Thailand who are now living in NSW as of 4 November 2012 are Karen, Karenni or Kayan from Burma; similarly those born in Pakistan may be originally from Afghanistan, such as Hazaras, Pashtuns or Tajiks, although some may also be Pakistani. Source: Settlement Information Support Team, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), 2012.

7 The number of people in immigration detention changes on a daily basis. In this dynamic environment, there can be some lag time between action taken on the ground to transfer a client from a detention facility into community detention, release a client from immigration detention into the community following grant of a protection visa, or remove a client from Australia and the recording of these milestones in DIAC systems.

8 Program Management Performance and Reporting Section, Department of Immigration and Citizenship

9 Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), *Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors in Australia: An overview of national support arrangements and key emerging issues*, MYAN policy paper, September 2012. <http://www.myan.org.au/file/file/MYAN%20UHM%20Policy%20Paper%20Sept%202012.pdf>



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