



Refugee Council of Australia

2014-15 FEDERAL BUDGET IN BRIEF: WHAT IT MEANS FOR REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION

KEY POINTS

- *The Refugee and Humanitarian Program will provide 13,750 places, reduced from 20,000 in 2012-13 but remaining the same as the revised 2013-14 Program allocation.*
- *Settlement services funding via the Department of Social Services will be \$142.8 million in 2014-15.*
- *The total costs for onshore detention-related services, community release, status resolution and offshore asylum seeker management will be \$2.96 billion.*
- *\$957.9 million has been allocated to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service for border enforcement.*
- *The Government has reduced aid spending by \$7.6 billion over five years, starting from 2013-14.*

REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM

- The 2014-15 Refugee and Humanitarian Program will provide 13,750 places. 11,000 places will be reserved for refugee and humanitarian entrants offshore, including 4,000 reserved for people applying through the Special Humanitarian Program. There will be 1,000 places allocated under the Woman at Risk program (down from 1,673 allocated in 2012-13).
- Temporary visa grants to refugees who arrived in Australia without visas will be in addition to the 13,750 grants under the Refugee and Humanitarian Program.

GENERAL MIGRATION PROGRAM

- The 2014-15 Migration Program will remain static at 190,000 places and maintain 128,550 skilled stream places, 60,885 family stream places and 565 special eligibility places.
- The changes to the Program will be via the Family Stream: additional partner and child places will be made available as a result of the cessation of new applications from the other family and parent (non-contributory) places.
- The allocation of 4,000 additional Family Stream places for people found to be owed protection in Australia to reunite with immediate family members – a result of the recommendation by the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers in 2012 – has been removed.

SETTLEMENT SERVICES

- The Settlement Services allocation within the Department of Social Services (DSS) budget includes current Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS), Settlement Grants Program (SGP) and National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) services, as well as grants for peak bodies. Total funding for this area has increased to \$142.8 million, due to the rollover of \$16.2 million in funds from 2013-14 for HSS services for refugee and humanitarian entrants granted visas in 2013-14.
- Almost all SGP services which are funded until 30 June 2014 will get a six-month extension. Only a small number of projects which have reached a natural end, where there is no ongoing need for services, will not be extended. SGP services will not be required to seek an extension themselves, as the extension of SGP services will be initiated by DSS. This extension will give services an opportunity to apply for funding in the next round.

- HSS funding will continue in 2014-15, in line with the three-year renewal of HSS contracts which took place in April 2014.
- Funding for Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP) in 2014-2015 will be \$236.0 million, with a target of assisting 57,000 migrants and humanitarian entrants. This is \$28.5 million less than the estimated budget of 2013-2014, but \$50.6 million more than the revised budget for last year. An evaluation of AMEP will be undertaken over June-October 2014, conducted in accordance with the Department of Finance expenditure review principles.
- The Government will provide \$19 million in 2014-2015 and \$16 million in 2015-2016 for the supervision and welfare of unaccompanied humanitarian minors. This is an increase from last year's \$11.6 million.
- The Government will provide \$85.2 million in 2014-15 to provide support services to people who arrived by boat and were found to be owed protection (people owed protection but with some form of temporary substantive visa). The allocation will gradually increase each year, with a total of \$574 million to be allocated over five years (beginning in 2013-14). The majority of the funds will be allocated through DSS. This measure will provide temporary visa holders with access to torture and trauma support and Complex Case Support where appropriate and will provide the full range of employment services support through Job Services Australia to assist them in gaining employment. These temporary visa holders will be subject to mainstream mutual obligation requirements, such as Job Search or Work for the Dole.
- The Diversity and Social Cohesion Program (DSCP) is being rolled into the multicultural affairs activities of DSS' Strengthening Communities Program. The allocation for this program in 2014-15 is \$27.3 million, a reduction of \$33 million on the funds allocated in 2013-14. This reduction is largely the result of the ceasing of the Building Multicultural Communities Program and the Empowering Local Communities Program.

IMMIGRATION DETENTION AND COMPLIANCE (ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE)

- In 2014-15, the Australian Government will spend \$2.963 billion on detention and community placements services inside and outside of Australia. The total costs of offshore asylum seeker management (for asylum seekers arriving by boat) will be \$826.1 million. Over \$1.85 billion has been allocated in 2014-15 for detention services and community placements of asylum seekers within Australia.
- The Government seeks to save \$77.5 million over five years from 2013-14 by renegotiating and consolidating offshore processing centre service provider contracts. Over \$767.9 million has been awarded for 2014-15 to contractors for offshore processing services.
- The Government will close nine detention facilities (Aqua and Lilac on Christmas Island; Curtin; Darwin Airport Lodge; Inverbrackie; Leonora; Northern; Pontville; Port Augusta; and Scherger), seeking to save \$283.3 million over four years. The Government will also extend the leases for the Blydin and Wickham Point detention facilities in the Northern Territory as well as upgrade some remaining facilities. Savings are partially offset by expenditure associated with increasing cooperation between the Commonwealth and the Australian Federal Police and State and Territory Police services.
- The Government will provide \$217.6 million over five years (including \$28.3 million in capital) to upgrade infrastructure on Christmas Island in order to support the rapid transfer (within 48 hours) of people arriving by boat and subject to transfer to Offshore Processing Centres. This measure includes funding for health infrastructure which will reduce the need to transfer people to the Australian mainland for assessment and treatment of health issues.
- The Government has allocated \$2.6 million in 2014-15 to fund access to full-time school education for all school-aged asylum seeker children on Christmas Island.
- The Government seeks to achieve savings of \$18.6 million over four years by expanding the Offshore Biometrics Program beyond the 20 countries where it currently operates and introducing user-pays arrangements for visa services and biometric collection services with third-party service delivery partners. The Government will provide \$2.0 million in capital funding over two years for biometric systems software and equipment to expand the program.

STATUS RESOLUTION AND SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

- \$149.9 million has been allocated over five years to fund a range of reforms to compliance, removal and network management arrangements for the “legacy caseload” of asylum seekers who arrived in Australia by boat before 19 July 2013.
- \$3 million has been allocated to the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS). The Government expects to achieve savings of \$2.1 million over four years by removing IAAAS support at the review stage for asylum seekers who arrived in Australia valid visas.
- \$27.8 million has been allocated to the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS) and Community Assistance Support (CAS) program for asylum seekers living in the community.
- The Government will introduce a Mutual Obligations Community Engagement Activities Pilot for 300 to 400 people who arrived by boat and who hold a Bridging Visa. The Pilot is intended to provide participants with skills to enhance work readiness if they are found to be owed protection and will be delivered in three streams: workplace readiness activities; community improvement activities; and community volunteering activities.
- From 1 July 2015, all Commonwealth merits review tribunals (with the exception of the Veterans Review Board) will be amalgamated into a single body. The amalgamated body will take on the functions of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, the Migration Review Tribunal- Refugee Review Tribunal and the Classification Review Board.

BORDER SECURITY, DISRUPTION ACTIVITIES AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

- The Government has allocated \$1.2 billion to the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), the vast majority of which (\$957.9 million) will be dedicated to border enforcement.
- \$3.7 million has been allocated in 2014-15 only for international engagement activities to prevent and disrupt maritime people smuggling. ACBPS officials will be stationed in Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.
- \$6.4 million has been allocated over two years to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for anti-people smuggling initiatives, including a dedicated position in Sri Lanka, the continuation of the Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues and annual Bali Process meetings.
- \$60.3 million has been allocated over two years until June 2015 to Operation Resolute, the Australian Defence Force’s border protection operation.
- \$1.0 million has been allocated over 2013-14 and 2014-15 for the activities of the Special Envoy for Operation Sovereign Borders.
- Two retired Bay Class vessels will be donated to Malaysia in 2015-16 to assist regional efforts to combat people smuggling.
- \$78.8 million, plus an additional \$13.2 million in departmental expenses, has been allocated to regional cooperation and capacity building activities to “strengthen the migration and border management capabilities of partner governments”. This will include activities to prevent and deter irregular movement, support harmonisation of asylum systems across the region and support international organisations providing services for irregular migrants intercepted en route to Australia.
- Funding of \$86.8 million will be allocated over three years from 2013-14 for regional cooperation arrangements in Indonesia which will focus on supporting asylum seekers.
- \$1.8 million has been allocated in 2014-15 to the Regional Support Office established through the Bali Process but no further allocations are included in forward estimates.

OVERSEAS AID AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

- The total aid budget for 2014-15 is \$5.0 billion, representing 0.32% of Australia’s Gross National Income (GNI). The United Nations’ recommended aid allocation is 0.7% of GNI.
- Following the recommendation of the Commission of Audit, the Government will no longer aim to increase the aid budget to 0.5% of GNI. Instead, the aid budget will remain static for 2014-15 and 2015-16 then increase in line with the Consumer Price Index from 2016-17 onwards. This will result in a reduction of \$7.6 billion in aid spending over five years, starting from 2013-14.

- \$338.6 million has been allocated to humanitarian, emergencies and refugee expenditure in 2014-15, up from \$264.2 million in 2013-14. This includes an increase of the Emergency Fund from \$90 million to \$120 million.
- The majority of the \$375 million diverted from the overseas aid budget last year to meet the costs of supporting asylum seekers in Australia has been restored. Only \$4.6 million will continue to be allocated for this purpose until July 2014, after which time the diversion of funds from the aid budget will cease.
- Spending on aid will increase in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific (\$1.06 billion in 2013-14 to \$1.15 billion in 2014-15, with around two-thirds of this increase, or \$58 million, allocated to Papua New Guinea alone). Spending will remain relatively steady in Indonesia and East Asia (\$1.34 billion to \$1.32 billion) and South and West Asia (\$435.9 million to \$438.8 million). Spending will decrease in Africa and the Middle East (\$344.8 million to \$252.4 million) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (\$29.6 million to \$21.1 million). The Government intends to phase out aid programs for Latin America and the Caribbean entirely.
- There have been several significant changes to aid allocations for key refugee-producing countries. Aid to Burma will increase from \$81.4 million to \$90 million, while aid to Afghanistan will drop from \$149.3 million to \$134.2 million. Aid to Iraq is being phased out, dropping from \$4.1 million to \$300,000.
- \$111.9 million has been allocated to United Nations humanitarian agencies¹ (up from \$104.8 million), including \$21.0 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (up from \$19.0 million) and \$20.3 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (up from \$19.8 million). The International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent will receive \$26.6 million (up from \$22.0 million).
- The Displaced Persons Program administered by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection will cease from 2013-14.

BROADER HUMAN RIGHTS MEASURES

- \$27.2 million has been allocated to the Australian Human Rights Commission in 2014-15.
- Funding for the Commonwealth Human Rights Education Program (about \$300,000 per year) will cease.
- The Government seeks to save \$400,000 per year by reducing the number of special-purpose Commissioners from the current seven to six.

OTHER MEASURES

- From July 2015, the Government will combine the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to create a single agency, the Australian Border Force.
- The core funding of RCOA will remain at \$140,000.

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UNCERF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION: SPENDING IN 2014-15 BUDGET

1. BORDER MANAGEMENT AND CITIZENSHIP	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.1 Border Management - external expenses	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Enhanced Border Management	15,922	5,165	4,146	-	-
Total	15,922	5,165	4,146	-	-
1.2 Visa and Citizenship - external expenses					
Citizenship testing	100	200	200	200	200
Total	100	200	200	200	200
1.3 Migration, Border Management and Citizenship - DIBP expenses					
Economic Migration	118,738	115,435	122,013	122,321	133,063
Family Migration	121,039	121,876	132,572	136,256	136,040
Visas, Australian Declaratory Visas and Cert. of Evidence of Resident Status	25,228	24,298	25,153	25,237	25,138
Students	85,982	86,056	94,935	95,470	95,478
Temporary Residents (Economic)	85,443	86,349	90,592	90,956	90,654
Temporary Residents (Non-economic)	18,608	16,931	17,484	17,495	17,881
Visitors and Working Holiday Makers	114,154	118,453	121,094	121,594	121,516
Visitors and Working Holiday Makers - ETAs	28,255	26,996	28,252	28,274	28,033
Regulation of migration agents	6,140	6,040	5,996	6,015	6,076
Borders	106,885	108,402	111,963	104,113	105,581
Identity	50,301	47,426	53,469	53,838	54,066
Translating and Interpreting Service - On-site Interpreting	33,078	36,263	39,814	41,775	43,906
Translating and Interpreting Service - Telephone Interpreting	6,578	7,019	7,588	7,948	8,334
Decision on Citizenship Status	61,234	61,048	64,220	64,446	65,425
Promoting the Value of Australian Citizenship	4,182	3,921	4,578	4,594	4,678
Total	865,845	866,513	919,723	920,331	935,868
Total for Border Management and Citizenship					
Total External expenses	16,022	5,365	4,346	200	200
Total DIBP expenses	865,845	866,513	919,723	920,331	935,868
Total	881,867	871,878	924,069	920,531	936,068
Average DIAC staffing - Border Management and Citizenship (number)	5,383	5,400			
2. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND REGIONAL COOPERATION					
2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance - external expenses	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Allowances for persons granted temporary visas in the Humanitarian Program	53	53	53	53	51
Payments for the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme	15,808	29,278	5,336	5,295	5,175
Application Assistance Scheme - onshore protection	3,296	2,955	3,039	3,093	3,044
Initiatives to address the situation of displaced persons and promote sustainable returns	700	249	-	-	-
International Organisation for Migration - contribution	762	762	762	762	762
Refugee and humanitarian passage, associated costs and related services	18,966	16,778	17,323	17,368	16,968
Secretariat for Inter-Governmental Consultations	134	134	134	134	134
Grant to Refugees Council of Australia	140	140	140	140	140
Supervision and welfare for Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors	21,227	18,971	15,933	3,929	3,884
Total	61,086	69,320	42,720	30,774	30,158
2.2 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance - DIPB expenses					
Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance	34,896	36,024	40,277	57,963	58,693
Temporary Protection and Protection Visas on-shore	31,347	30,539	33,564	33,632	34,202
Total	66,243	66,562	73,840	91,594	92,894
Total for Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance Program	127,329	135,882	116,560	122,368	123,052
2.3 Regional Cooperation - external expenses					
Regional Cooperation and Capacity Building	73,149	78,775	76,427	27,857	27,545
Regional Support Office	1,753	1,791	-	-	-
Combatting People Smuggling- Address irregular migration in region	1,051	-	-	-	-
Total	75,953	80,566	76,427	27,857	27,545
2.4 Regional Cooperation - DIBP expenses					
Regional Cooperation	18,100	13,156	11,013	11,225	11,422
Total	18,100	13,156	11,013	11,225	11,422
Total for Regional Cooperation Program	94,053	93,722	87,440	39,082	38,967
Total for Humanitarian Assistance and Regional Cooperation					
External expenses	137,039	149,886	119,147	58,631	57,703

DIPB expenses	8 4,343	79,718	84,853	102,819	104,316
Total	137,039	229,604	204,000	161,450	162,019
Average DIAC staffing - Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (number)	754	647			
3. DETENTION AND STATUS RESOLUTION	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
3.1 Compliance, Detention Status Resolution - external expenses	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Compliance Resolution Community Care and Assistance	9,448	13,815	10,242	10,393	10,277
Community Placement and Detention Services	60,163	63,351	65,003	66,009	69,187
Payments under section 33 (FMA Act) - Act of Grace Payments	100	100	100	100	100
Recovery of Removal Charges and Detention Costs	3,849	4,042	4,042	4,042	4,042
Foreign Fishers	9,679	10,371	10,636	10,790	10,672
Total	83,239	91,679	90,023	91,334	94,278
3.2 Compliance, Detention Status Resolution - DIBP expenses					
Compliance	73,941	74,578	74,984	75,281	76,595
Community Placement and Detention Services	26,836	25,580	27,748	27,845	28,281
Status Resolution	52,647	51,117	53,093	51,694	58,150
Returns and Removals	43,642	42,432	38,721	38,981	39,817
Foreign Fishers	2,719	2,745	2,715	2,722	2,815
Total	199,785	196,452	197,261	196,523	205,658
Total Program Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution	283,024	288,131	287,284	287,857	299,936
3.3 IMA Onshore Management - external expenses					
Community Placements and Detention Services - Onshore	1,954,375	1,463,696	1,160,887	726,820	461,053
Returns, Removals and Reintegration Assistance Packages - Onshore	2,188	2,277	2,387	2,420	2,420
Total	1,956,563	1,465,973	1,163,274	729,240	463,473
3.4 IMA Onshore Management - DIBP expenses					
IMA Onshore Management	388,033	382,808	385,031	267,530	186,406
Total	388,033	382,808	385,031	267,530	186,406
Total Program IMA Onshore Management	2,344,596	1,848,781	1,548,305	996,770	649,879
3.5 IMA Offshore Management - external expenses					
Offshore Processing Services	655,494	765,619	568,117	360,144	354,802
Returns, Removals and Reintegration Assistance Packages - offshore	2,187	2,277	2,387	2,420	2,420
Total	657,681	767,896	570,504	362,564	357,222
3.6 IMA Offshore Management - DIBP expenses					
IMA Offshore Management	63,335	58,817	43,658	37,280	32,571
Total	63,335	58,817	43,658	37,280	32,571
Total Program IMA Offshore Management	721,016	826,713	614,162	399,844	389,793
Total for Detention and Status Resolution					
External expenses	2,697,483	2,325,548	1,823,801	1,183,138	914,973
DIPB expenses	651,153	638,077	625,950	5 01,333	424,635
Total	3,348,636	2,963,625	2,449,751	1,684,471	1,339,608
Average DIAC staffing - Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (number)	3,167	2,857			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON DIBP'S 3 OUTCOME AREAS	4,367,542	3,427,030	3,577,820	2,265,119	2,437,695

SETTLEMENT RELATED PROGRAMS IN OTHER PORTFOLIOS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
2.1 Families and Communities	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Settlement Services	110,899	142,839	129,032	132,876	132,495
Strengthening Communities (includes multicultural programs)	60,339	27,339	28,483	28,610	28,178
Total	171,238	170,178	157,515	161,486	160,673
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.3 Access to training	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Adult Migrant English Program	185,461	236,035	233,924	247,037	240,918
Total	185,461	236,035	233,924	247,037	240,918