

REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN SETTLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA: RECENT TRENDS

by

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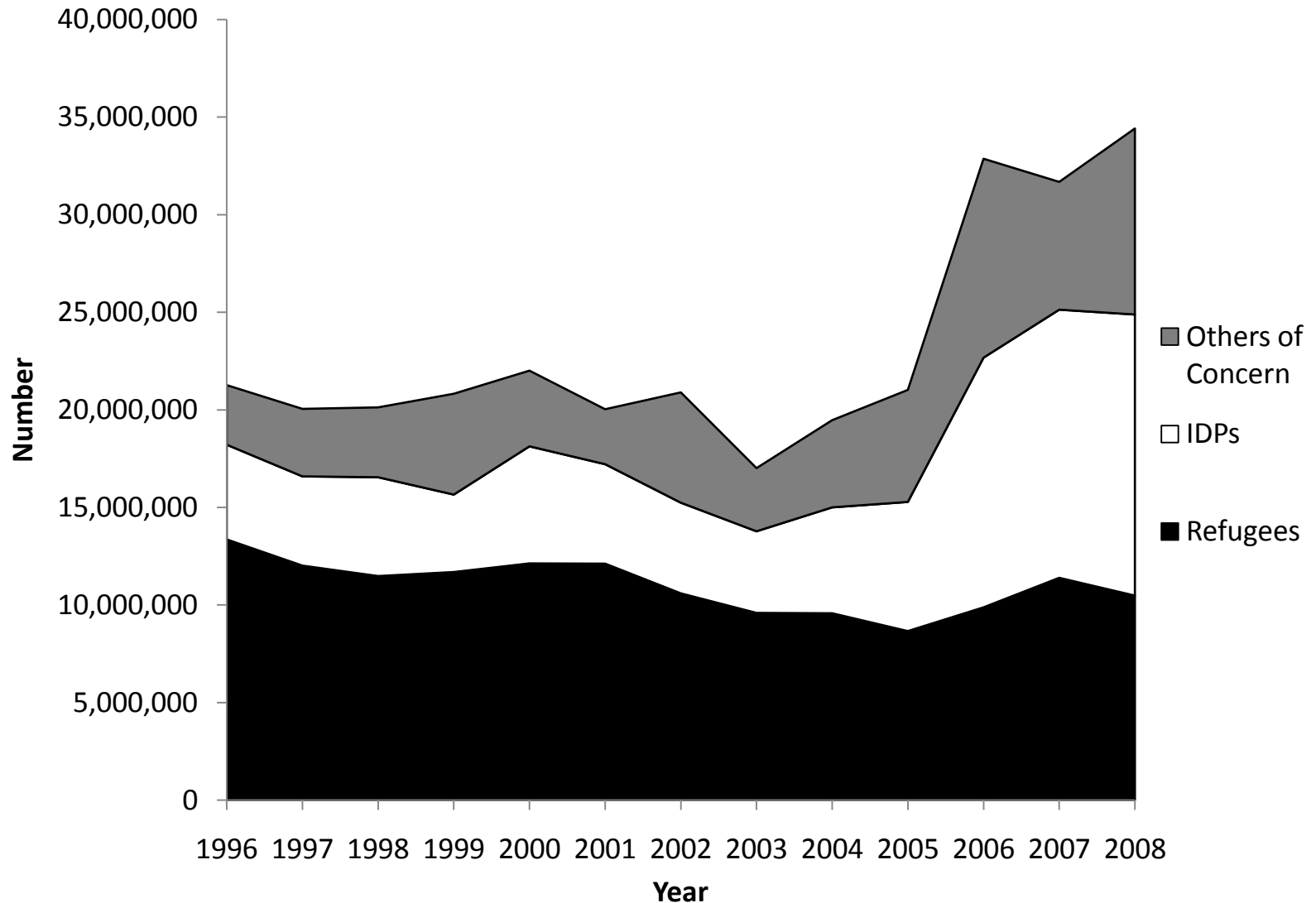
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Outline of Presentation

- **Introduction**
- **Global Refugee Migration Trends**
- **Refugee-Humanitarian Migration to Australia**
- **The Changing Composition of Refugee-Humanitarian Migration**
- **Refugee and Humanitarian Settlement**
- **Conclusion**

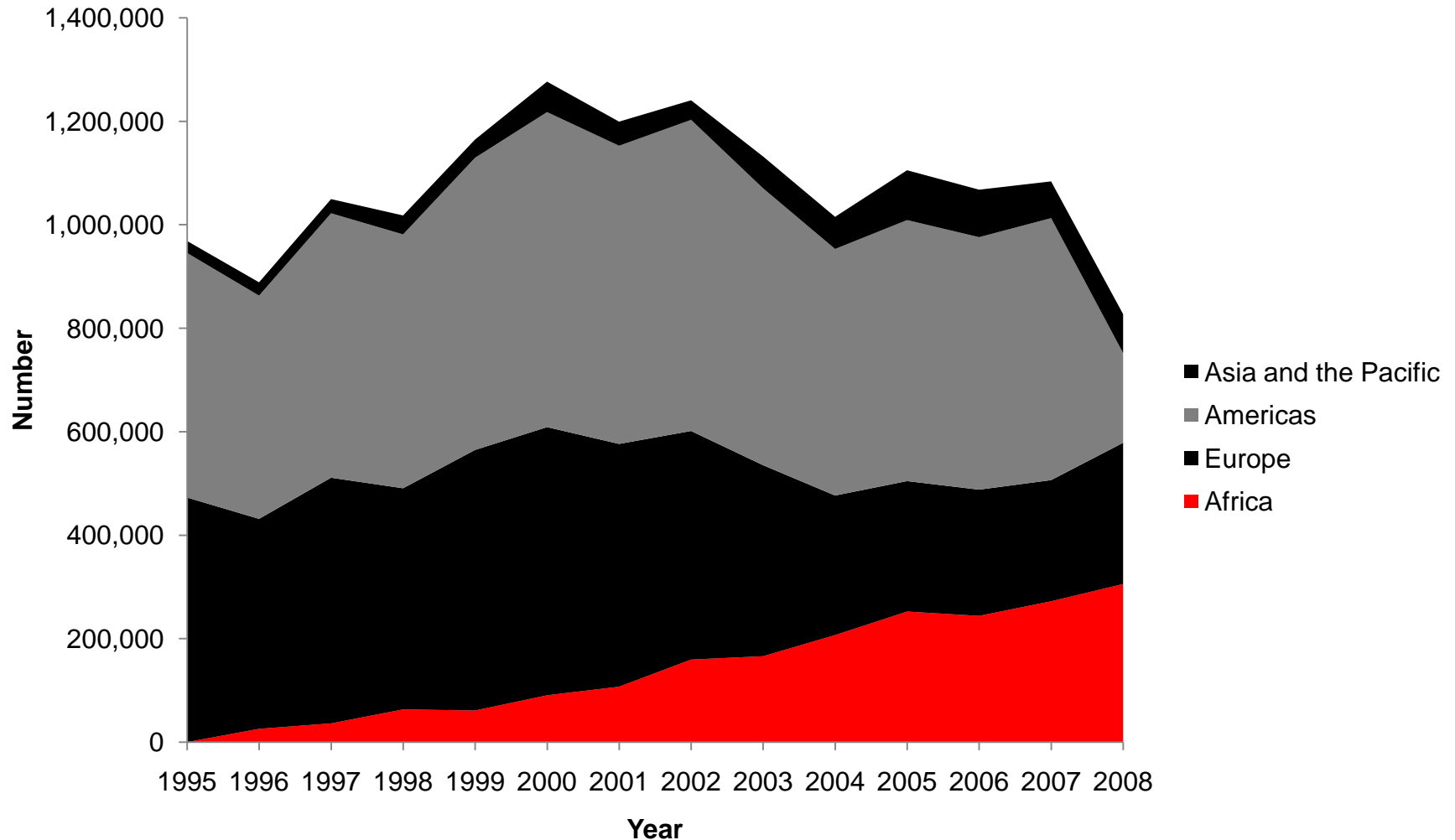
World: Refugees and Others of Concern to the UNHCR

Source: UNHCR Statistics



Asylum Seekers by Region of Asylum, 1995 to 2008

Source: UNHCR Statistics



Asia and the Pacific includes North Africa in 2008

In recent years the numbers of refugees recognised by the UNHCR has remained about the same but the numbers of “people of concern” to them has increased.

The numbers of refugees accepted for settlement by countries has remained static for over a decade

Australia's Immigration Program has two components:

- Migration Program for skilled and family migrants
- Humanitarian Program for refugees and others in refugee-like situations.

The Humanitarian Program comprises an offshore component for the resettlement of people overseas and an onshore component for those people already in Australia who seek Australia's protection

2007-8

13,014 Refugee-Humanitarian Visas

10,799 Offshore

2,215 Onshore

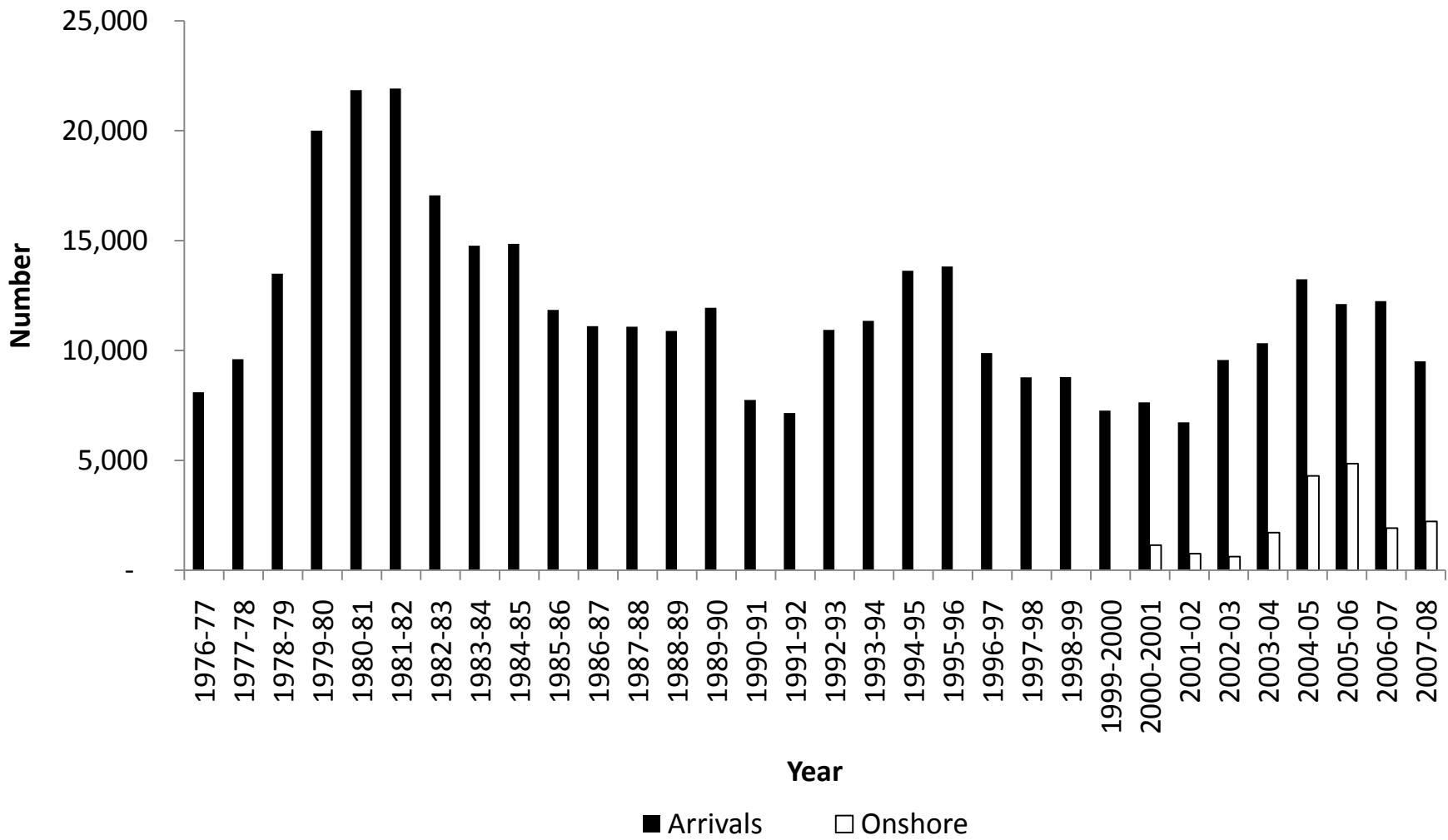
2008-9 (Program)

13,500

an increase of 500 in the size because of the critical settlement needs of Iraqi refugees

Australia: Humanitarian Program Arrivals, 1976-2008

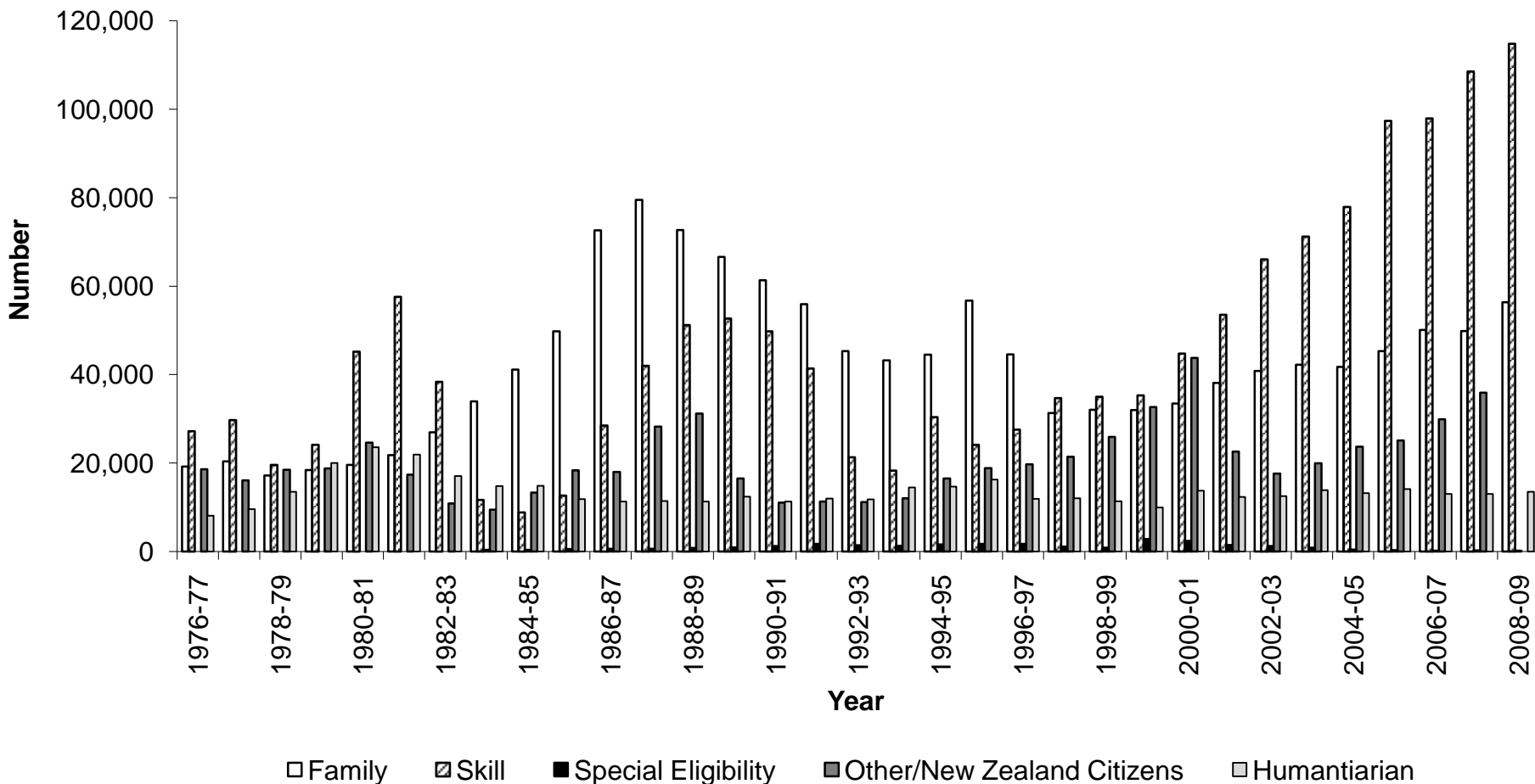
Source: DIMIA *Australian Immigration Consolidated Statistics*; DIAC *Immigration Update*, various issues and unpublished data



Since World War II Australia has settled over 700,000 refugee-humanitarian immigrants. It is second only to Canada in the ratio of refugees per 100,000 resident population

Australia: Migration Program Outcome by Stream and Non-Program Migration, 1976-7 to 2008-9

Source: DIAC *Population Flows: Immigration Aspects*, various issues; DIAC *Immigration Update*, various issues; DIAC 2009



Note: Data prior to 1986-87 for off-shore only. Special Eligibility not included prior to 1982-3. Other/New Zealand Citizens na in 2008-9.

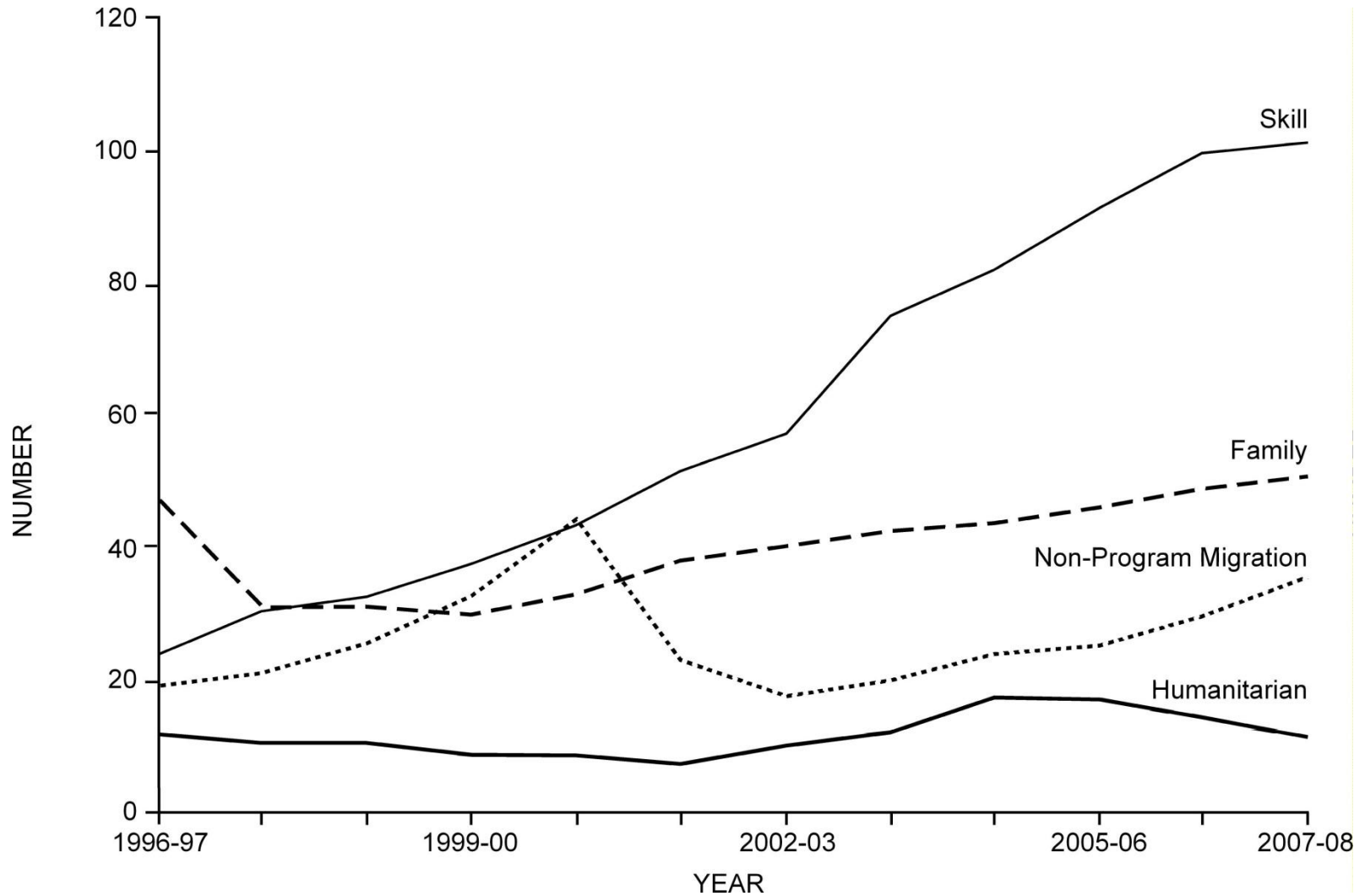
Long Term and Permanent Population Movement Into Australia, 2007-08 to 2008-09

Source: DIAC

	2007-08	2008-09
Permanent Migrants	206,135	
Permanent Migration Program	156,630	171,318
Refugees	13,014	13,507
New Zealanders	34,491	
Long Term Migrants	542,902	
457s	110,570	
Working Holiday Makers	154,148	
Students	278,184	

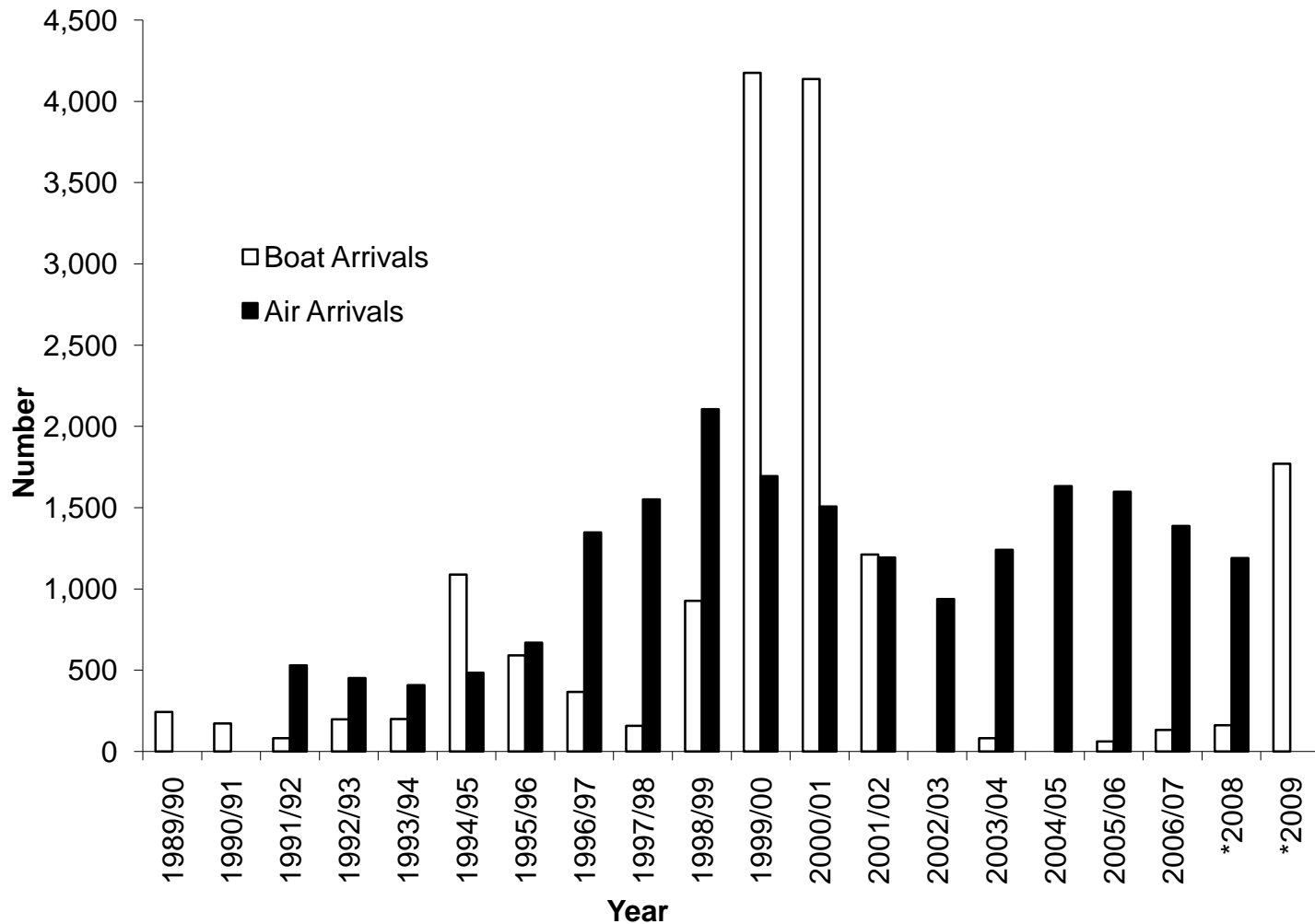
Permanent Additions by Eligibility Category

Source: ABS 2007, Australian Social Trends; DIAC 2008



Australia: Unauthorised Arrivals, 1989-90 to 2009

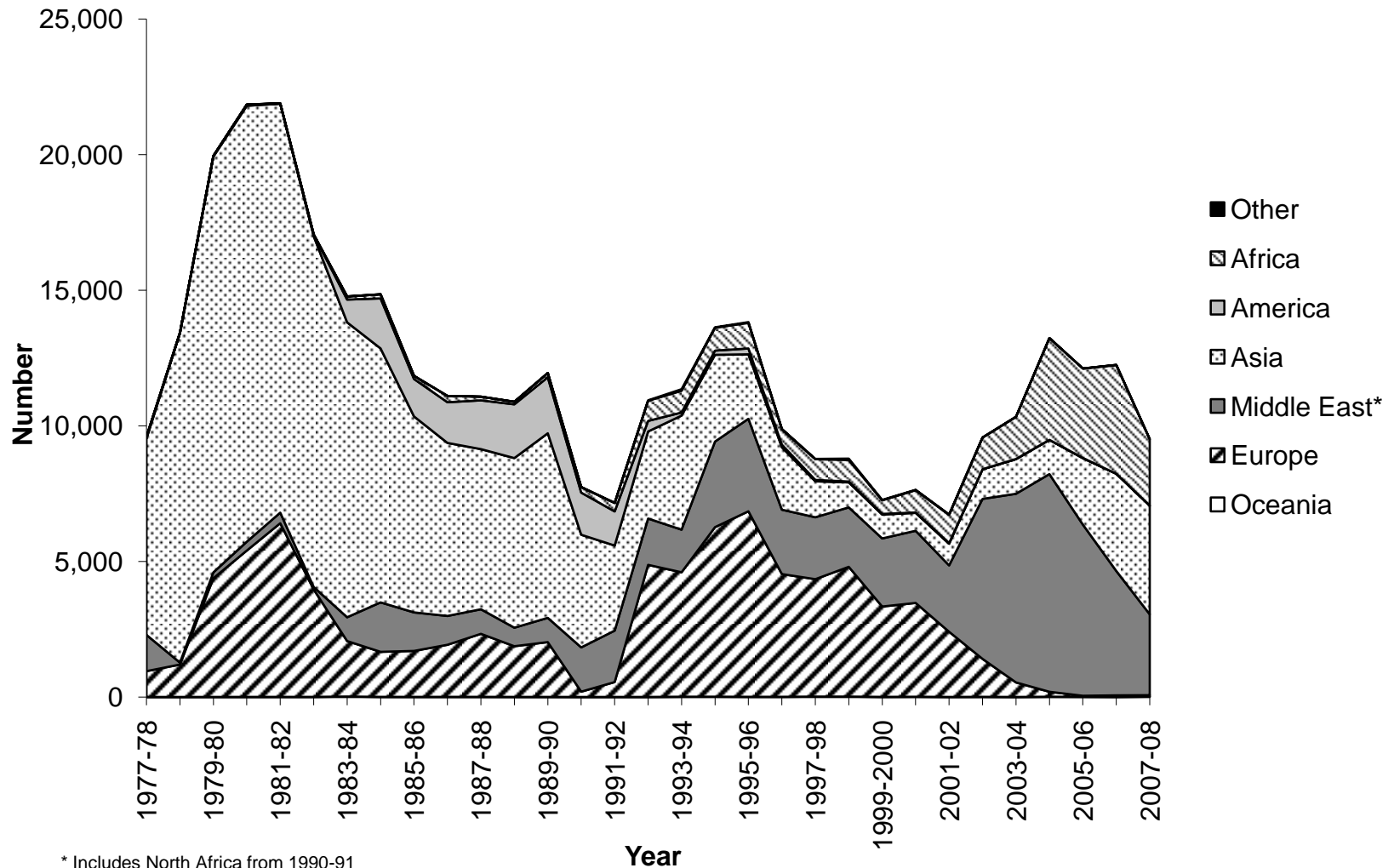
Source: DIMIA 2002, 2004 and 2005; DIAC 2007, 2009; Maley and O'Brien 2009;
<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26204109-2702,00.html>, accessed 22 October 2009



* In 2008, boat arrivals are for the calendar year. In 2009, boat arrivals are for calendar year to 13th October.
Air Arrivals are not available.

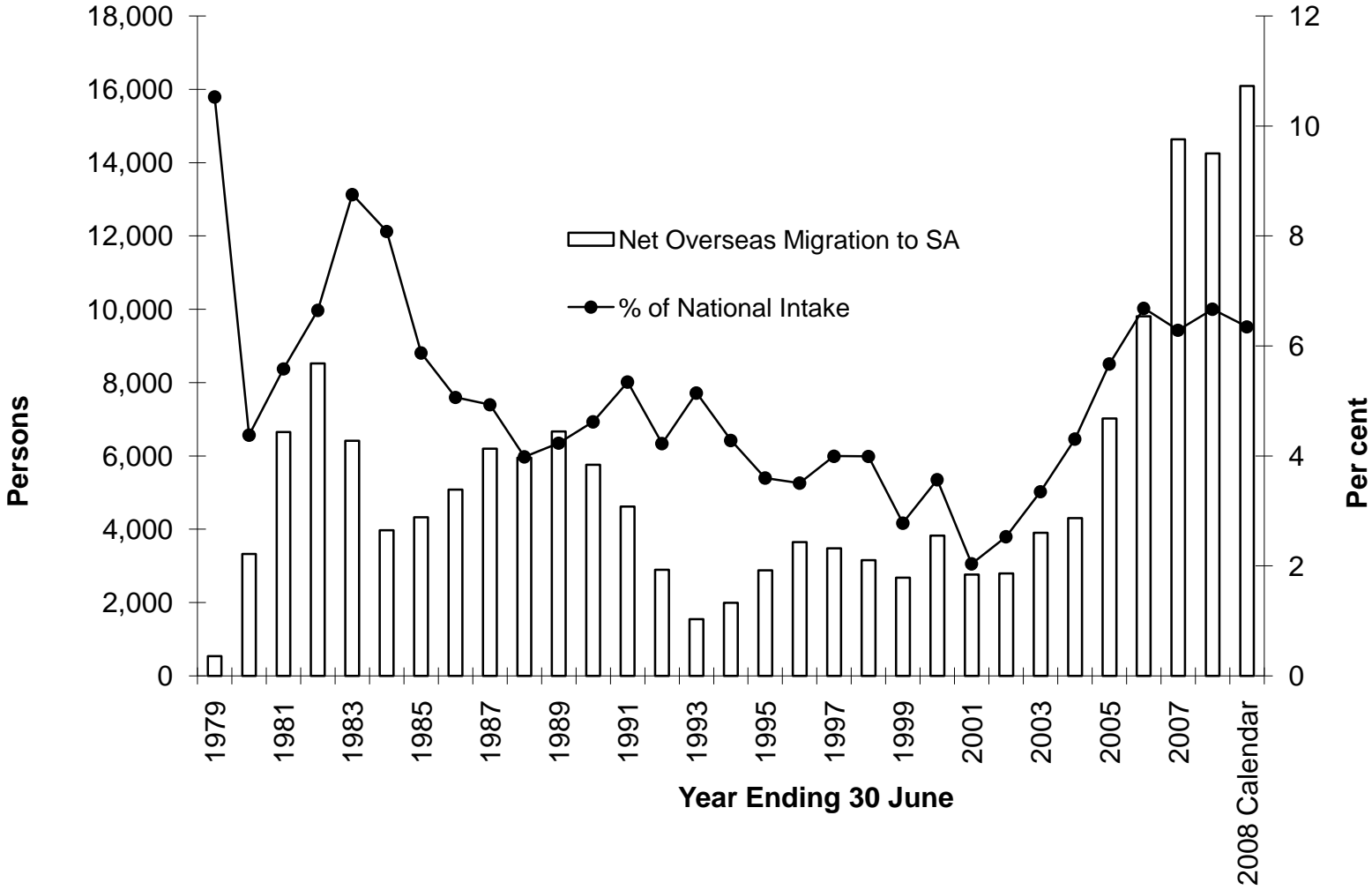
Refugee and Humanitarian Arrivals to Australia by Region of Birth, 1977-78 to 2007-08

Source: DIMIA *Australian Immigration Consolidated Statistics* and DIAC *Immigration Update*, various issues



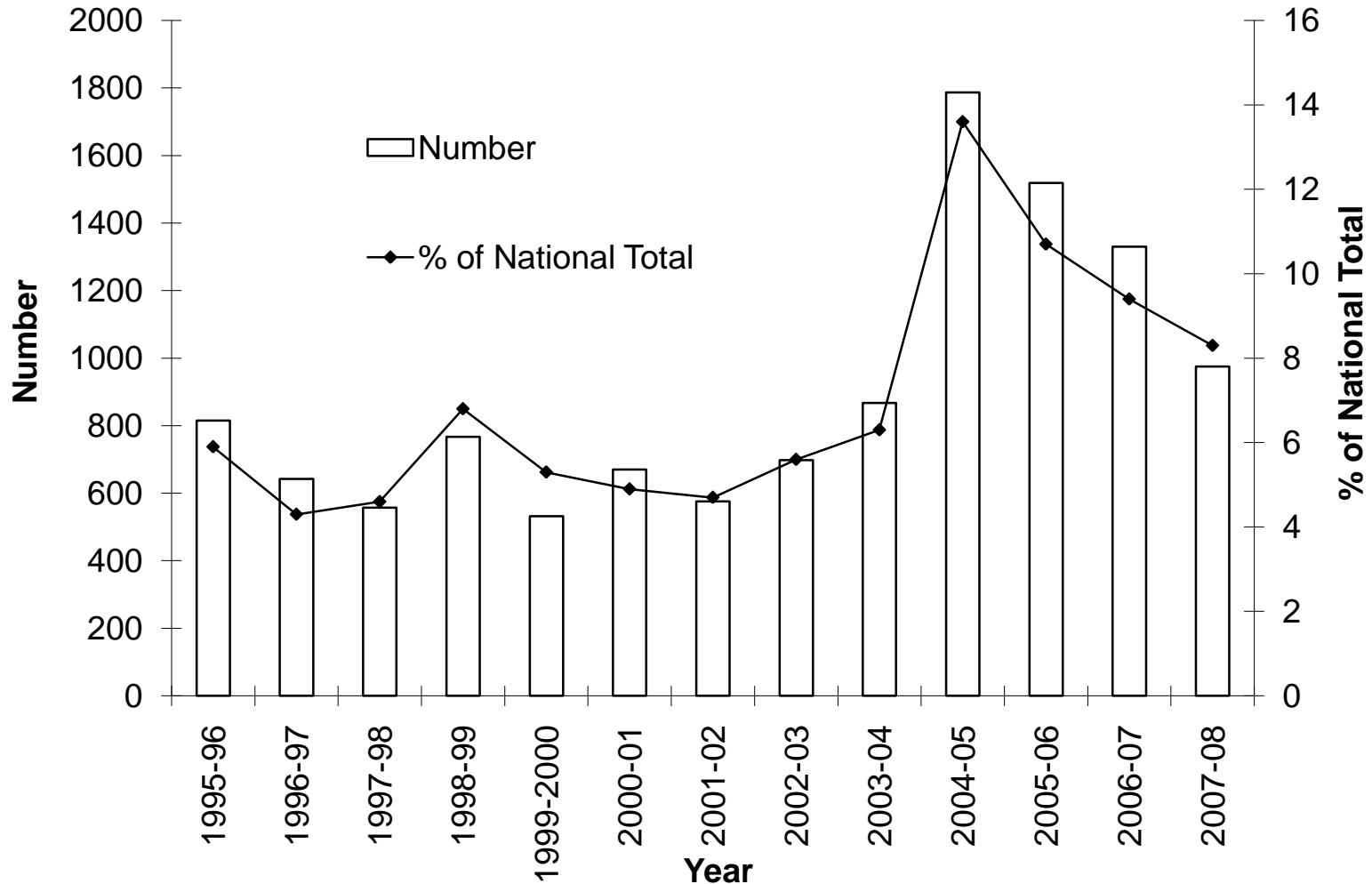
South Australia: Net Overseas Migration, 1979 to 2008

Source: ABS *Australian Demographic Statistics*, various issues



South Australia: Share of National Intake of Refugee-Humanitarian Settlers, 1995-96 to 2007-08

Source: DIAC Immigration Update, various issues



South Australia: Arrivals by Eligibility Category, 2002-3 to 2007-8

Source: DIAC Immigration Update, various issues

Visa Class	2002-03		2007-08			
	Settler Arrivals	Share of Australian Total	Onshore	Settler Arrivals	Total	Share of Australian Total
Skilled	1,239	3.7	2,444	6,179	8,623	8.5
Business	93	1.7	97	429	526	8.1
Humanitarian	686	7.2	140	835	975	8.3
Family	1,243	4.4	430	1,762	2,192	4.3
Special	21	11.8	-	3	3	2.1
Other/NZ	375	2.1	-	688	688	1.9
Total	3,657	3.9	3,111	9,896	13,007	6.3

Key Differences of Humanitarian and Other Migrants

- **No preparation for move**
- **Inability to bring assets with them**
- **Often associated with trauma, violence, conflict**
- **Often associated with long period in transit “midway to nowhere” (Kunz 1975)**
- **Often not able to access support networks in Australia or in their homeland**

Demographic Differences to Other Migrants

- **Balanced sex ratio, small male dominance**
- **Younger than other visa groups**
- **Lower levels of formal education**
- **Lower levels of English language proficiency**

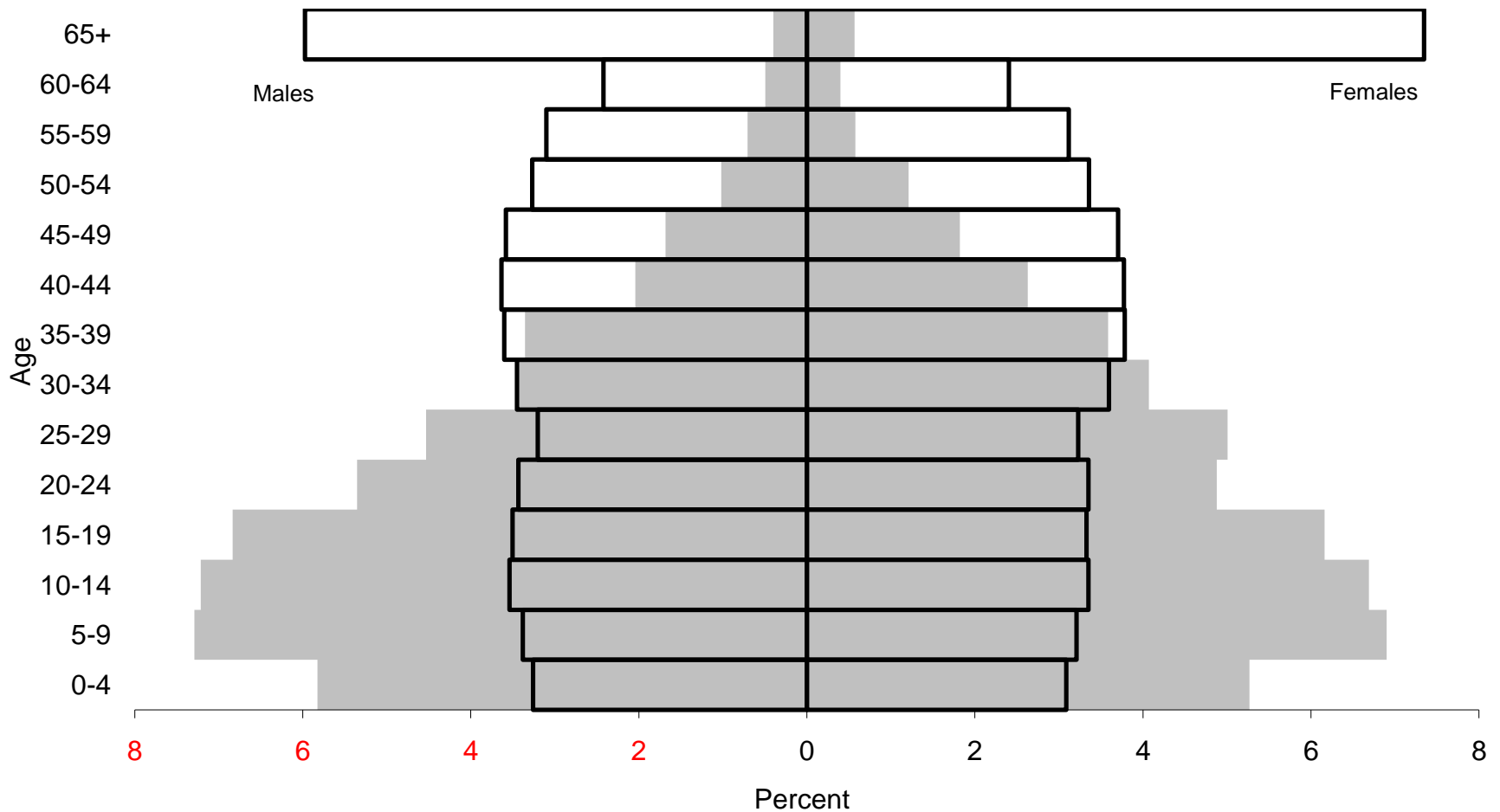
Settlement of Refugee- Humanitarian Immigrants

- Recognition that they are on average more in need of assistance than other groups
- Family and ethnic community support is important but not always available
- State and local Governments and NGOs of increasing importance
- Reduction in federal services over time

Australia: Age-Sex Distribution of Humanitarian-Refugee Arrivals, 2007-08 and the Total Australian Population, 2006

Source: ABS 2006 and DIAC, unpublished data

Humanitarian (shaded) and Total Australian Population



Stereotyping of Refugee-Humanitarian Settlers

- **Seen as a net cost – Treasury issues**
- **Issues of the time horizon taken to assess their contribution**
- **Language and qualification recognition barriers**
- **Issues of discrimination**

Visa Type by Labour Force Status of Migrants Arriving 2001-6

Proportion (%) of All Migrants Aged Over 15 Years

	Family	Humanitarian	Skilled	Other	Total (a)
Employed, worked full-time	35.4	16.6	48.6	47.1	40.4
Employed, worked part-time	16.3	10.5	18.4	14.5	16.8
Employed, away from work	3.8	3.1	3.3	0.0	3.5
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	4.0	5.3	3.1	0.0	3.6
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	2.5	3.5	2.6	0.0	2.6
Not in the labour force	36.2	57.7	23.2	27.5	31.5
Not stated	1.9	3.3	0.9	0.0	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
%Employed	89.6	77.5	92.5	100.0	90.7
%Unemployed	10.4	22.5	7.5	0.0	9.3

(a) Total migrants does not include temporary migrants.

Visa Type by Individual Income (weekly) of Migrants Arriving 2001-6

Proportion (%) of All Migrants Aged Over 15 Years

	Family	Humanitarian	Skilled	Other	Total
Negative or nil income	22.8	8.4	19.3	11.9	19.9
\$1 - \$149	9.6	16.5	7.8	11.0	9.2
\$150 - \$249	10.7	33.2	5.4	16.4	9.8
\$250 - \$399	9.5	12.9	7.4	14.2	8.8
\$400 - \$599	14.8	15.4	11.9	26.5	13.5
\$600 - \$799	11.4	7.0	12.7	11.9	11.7
\$800 - \$999	7.5	2.8	9.7	8.2	8.3
\$1,000 to \$1,299	6.3	2.1	10.3	0.0	7.9
\$1,300 or more	7.4	1.7	15.6	0.0	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Visa Type by Tenure of House of Migrants Arriving 2001-6

Proportion (%) of All Migrants Aged Over 15 Years

	Family	Humanitarian	Skilled	Other	Total
Fully owned	13.1	2.5	8.9	15.7	10.1
Being purchased	38.4	17.7	35.3	51.4	35.1
Being purchased under a rent/buy sch	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.5
Rented	42.5	70.0	51.0	25.4	49.1
Being occupied rent-free	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.9
Being occupied under a life tenure sch	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Not applicable /not stated/'other tenure type'	4.2	8.1	3.7	6.1	4.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Visa Type by Occupation of Migrants Arriving 2001-6

Proportion (%) of All Migrants Aged Over 15 Years

	Family	Humanitarian	Skilled	Other	Total (a)
Clerical and Administrative Workers	14.2	4.1	12.9	0.0	13.0
Community and Personal Service Workers	11.0	13.5	7.6	0.0	9.1
Labourers	16.8	33.0	7.8	17.0	12.4
Machinery Operators and Drivers	6.1	13.7	3.1	16.3	4.8
Managers	9.9	3.7	11.2	11.3	10.4
Professionals	21.0	6.4	36.0	11.3	28.7
Sales Workers	8.0	6.8	8.0	12.8	8.0
Technicians and Trades Workers	13.0	18.9	13.5	31.2	13.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Total migrants does not include temporary migrants.

Visa Type by English Proficiency of Migrants Arriving 2001-6

Proportion (%) of All Migrants Aged Over 15 Years

	Family	Humanitarian	Skilled	Other	Total
Very well	24.7	23.3	33.9	30.0	29.3
Well	23.4	34.4	21.1	30.0	23.3
Not well	14.6	25.6	5.2	20.0	10.9
Not at all	3.5	7.8	0.8	0.0	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100.0

2006 Census : Percent Unemployed

Total	5.2
Australia-born	4.9
MES	4.2
NES	7.5
Somalia	30.9
Sudan	28.5
Burundi	27.5
Iraq	22.3
Liberia	22.2
Afghanistan	17.7
Congo	17.1
Eritrea	16.7
Sierra Leone	16.2

Other Considerations in Refugee Contribution to the Economy

- Need to take a longer term perspective in assessing economic contribution
 - over the working lifetime of the migrants
 - intergenerational effects
- Unique contribution to the economy and labour market
- More committed to stay in Australia than other groups
- Significant contribution to volunteering
- Significant number of refugee-humanitarian migrants have high level of skill (one third)

Evidence of Longer Term Adjustment

- Refugee-humanitarian entrants initially experience barriers to employment but subsequently achieve a convergence in earnings
- Refugee-humanitarian entrants often stereotyped as low skilled group

Intergenerational Perspectives: Percent in Professional Occupations

	1st Generation	2nd Generation
Australia-born	18.7	18.1
Vietnamese	16.9	20.3
Bosnia-Herzegovina	12.2	18.8
Croatia	10.5	20.6
Iraq	13.9	23.0
Lebanon	11.0	17.7
Cambodia	9.4	12.0
Afghanistan	10.1	10.6

Labour Market Characteristics of Vietnam-born, 1993 to 2006

Source: ABS

Year	% Unemployed	Participation Rate
1993	28.6	77.9
1996	19.4	62.9
2006	11.4	61.9

Employment Status of Vietnam-born by Year of Arrival, 2006

Source: ABS

Year of Arrival	% Employed	% Unemployed	Participation Rate
Arrived Before 1996	89.9	10.1	64.3
Arrived 1996 and After	80.9	19.1	52.5
Total	88.7	11.3	62.4

Distinctive Contribution

- Fill lower skilled jobs eschewed by Australians
- One of the few areas in migration program to provide low skilled workers
- Labour shortages are not only in high skill areas

The Unmeasurables of Migration Selectivity

- People who move tend to be selected from risk takers
- Migrants tend to be more entrepreneurial, business start ups
- Does the points system select such people?
- Increasing evidence that refugee-humanitarian groups contain a disproportionate representation of entrepreneurial people

2006 Census : Percent Owner-Manager

	%		No	%
Total	16.5	Vietnam	15,202	18.4
Australia-born	15.9	Lebanon	10,222	36.7
MES	18.1			
NES	18.4			
Lebanon	36.7			
Hungary	30.8			
Lithuania	29.9			
Latvia	28.3			
Somalia	25.5			
Estonia	24.1			
Iran	23.9			
Czech Republic	22.1			
Croatia	22.1			
Iraq	21.9			
Ukraine	21.1			

Significance of Refugee-Humanitarian Settlers in Non-Metropolitan Areas

- Labour shortages very significant in non-metropolitan areas of OECD countries
- Low Fertility/Ageing exacerbated by outmigration of young people in non metropolitan areas
- DPs significant in 1940s and 1950s
- Immigrants more significant in OECD non metropolitan areas (Hugo and Moren-Alegret 2008)

Regional Refugee Settlements

(RCA, 2009, 21-3)

Location	Group
Shepparton (Vic)	Iraqis, Congolese
Mt Gambier (SA)	Burmese
Swan Hill (Vic)	Horn of Africa
Gippsland (Vic)	Bosnians, Nepalese, Sudanese
Colac (Vic)	Sudanese
Young (Vic)	Afghans
Warnambool (Vic)	Sudanese
Murray Bridge (SA)	Afghans, Uzbeks, Sudanese
Bordertown (SA)	Horn of Africa

Return Migration

- Estimated 20-30% of settlers in Australia leave
- Clear differences by visa category (highest for skilled, lowest for refugees/humanitarian)

Immigrants Expressing a Wish to Emigrate from Australia by Visa Category, LSIA

Source: DIAC LSIA Waves 1-3

Visa category	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3
Family*	32.4	47.5	72.4
Economic	54.2	40.7	24.4
Humanitarian	13.4	11.8	3.2

*Family includes: the categories spouse, family, prospective marriage and concessional family.

Research Findings on Settlement

- The distinct features of refugee migration mean refugee-humanitarian settlers initially experience more problems in adjustment than other migrants
- With increasing length of settlement their economic characteristics converge toward those of the total population
- The second generation outperform economically third generation Australian-born people
- Access to appropriate support speeds up the adjustment process
- Experience of discrimination slows it down

Conclusion

- The refugee-humanitarian part of the immigration intake is an important part of Australia's role as an international citizen
- The distinctive experiences and background of refugee-humanitarian settlers mean that they will have greater difficulty in entering the labour market, experience more health problems and require greater assistance in the early stages of settlement than other migrant groups
- However all the evidence points to the fact that given access to appropriate support they not only adjust effectively but are major contributors to the Australian economy and society
- Nevertheless discrimination, stereotyping, stigmatisation, as well as cutting back on and "rationalising" of services are ever present problems