

Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Department of the Senate, Parliament House, Canberra

Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Watch: Answers to Questions on Notice, 28 November 2022

Question 1

Question

1. If Australia took the step of granting permanency to refugees and asylum seekers from Iran on temporary visas, how many members of the community would be protected by such a step?

Answer

According to the Refugee Council of Australia, the number of Temporary Protection VISA and Safe Haven Enterprise VISA holders in Australia who are from Iran is 5,990.

There are also 106 persons from Iran in closed detention (offshore and onshore) and 296 in community detention (holders of residence determinations and bridging visas). The legacy caseload includes 544 people from Iran, and 18 persons who missed the October 2017 deadline to lodge for fast tracking. There were 678 permanent protection applications on-hand for persons from Iran as at 28 February 2019.

Since 19 July 2013, 473 refugees and asylum seekers from Iran were returned to the country (involuntarily and 'voluntarily') from offshore processing centres.

Please refer to Table 1.

Table 1

	Number	Date	Source
Current TPV and SHEV holders onshore by citizenship - Iran	5,990	31/08/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Fast tracking and 'Legacy Caseload' statistics
Number of asylum seekers and refugees from Iran in PNG	1	31/08/2021	Refugee Council of Australia - Offshore Processing Statistics
Number of asylum seekers and refugees from Iran on Nauru	14	31/01/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Offshore Processing Statistics
People in closed detention by nationality – Iran <i>includes the number of people in detention facilities in Australia and in offshore processing centres</i>	106	31/07/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community
People in community detention by nationality – Iran <i>includes the number of people in community detention (either under a 'residence determination', or with a 'bridging visa'.)</i>	296	31/07/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community
People on bridging visas in NSW by citizenship - Iran	914	31/03/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community
People on bridging visas in VIC by citizenship - Iran	1457	31/03/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community
People on bridging visas in Queensland by citizenship - Iran	204	31/03/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community
People on bridging visas in South Australia by citizenship - Iran	128	31/03/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community
People on bridging visas in South Australia by citizenship - Iran	72	31/03/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community
People on bridging visas in ACT by citizenship - Iran	19	31/03/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community
Legacy caseload and people still waiting (fast track) – Iran <i>includes people seeking asylum who arrived by boat up until 31 December 2013, but were not transferred to Nauru or PNG under the policy of offshore processing, small number of people seeking asylum by boat who have through legislation been included in the fast-tracking process and babies born to people in the 'Legacy Caseload'.</i>	544	1/11/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Fast tracking and 'Legacy Caseload' statistics
Legacy caseload missed October 2017 lodgement - Iran	18		Refugee Council of Australia - Fast tracking and 'Legacy Caseload' statistics
Applications for permanent protection onhand- Iran	678	(2018-2019) (until 28 February 2019)	Refugee Council of Australia - Statistics on people seeking asylum in the community
Returns of people from Iran transferred to offshore processing since 19 July 2013	473	31/01/2022	Refugee Council of Australia - Offshore Processing Statistics

Question 2

Question

2. How many refugees and asylum seekers from Iran might be supported if the step around prioritisation of family reunions was also taken? How many people would benefit from those actions?

Answer

Human Rights Watch does not have access to data on the Special Humanitarian Program, offshore visa applications or the family status of onshore visa applicants and visa holders. This data is best requested from the Department of Home Affairs.