

# Timeline: Afghan refugee flows 1998-2009

1998 US launches missile strikes at suspected bases of militant Osama bin Laden, accused of bombing US embassies in Africa.

1999 UN imposes an air embargo and financial sanctions to force Afghanistan to hand over Osama bin Laden for trial.

2001 May - Taliban order religious minorities to wear tags identifying themselves as non-Muslims, and Hindu women to veil themselves like other Afghan women.

2001 October - US-led air strikes following 9/11.

2002 January - First contingent of foreign peacekeepers in place.

2003 August - NATO takes control of security in Kabul, its first-ever operational commitment outside Europe.

2004 New constitution and presidential elections.

2005 September - First parliamentary and provincial elections in more than 30 years.

2006 October - NATO assumes responsibility for security across the whole of Afghanistan, taking command in the east from a US-led coalition force.

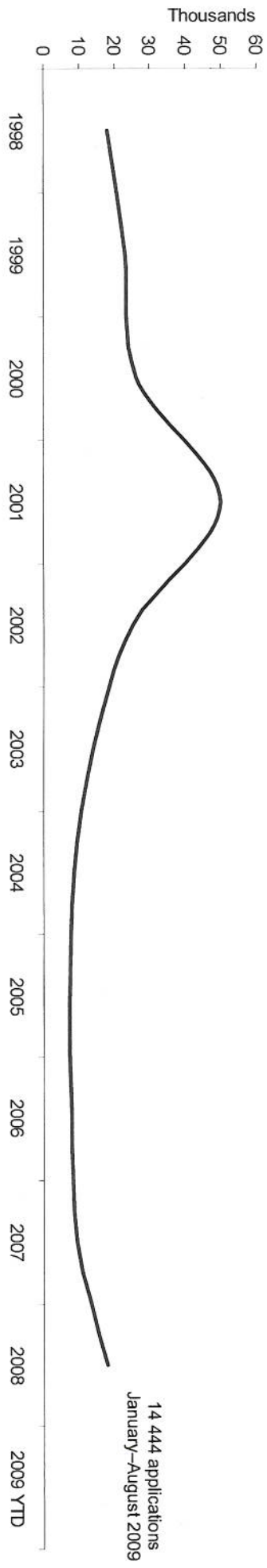
2008 September - US and German troop numbers boosted.

2008 November - Taliban militants reject an offer of peace talks, but are marred by no negotiations until foreign troops leave.

2009 March - Obama unveils a new US strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan to combat what he calls an increasingly perilous situation.

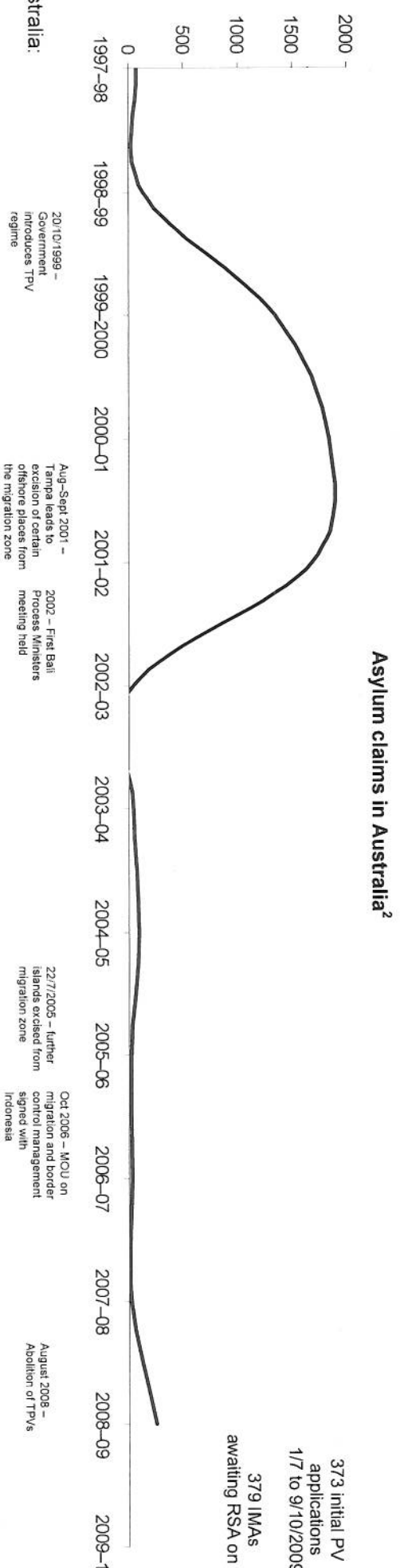
2009 20 August - Elections are held, but are marred by widespread Taliban attacks, patchy turnout and claims of serious fraud.

Asylum claims in Europe (including the UK)<sup>1</sup>



14 444 applications  
January-August 2009

## NOT TO SAME SCALE



373 initial PV applications  
1/7 to 9/10/2009

379 IMAs  
awaiting RSA on CI

### Australia:

20/10/1999 - Government introduces TPV regime

Aug-Sept 2001 - Tampa leads to excision of certain offshore places from the migration zone

2002 - First Bali Process Ministers meeting held

22/7/2005 - further islands excised from migration zone

Oct 2006 - MOU on migration and border control management signed with Indonesia

Aug 2008 - Abolition of TPVs

<sup>1</sup> Europe (including the UK) data sourced from UNHCR Asylum Trends in Industrialized Countries reports, defines Europe as the 27 Member States of the European Union plus Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

<sup>2</sup> Includes initial Protection Visa lodgements (data as at 9 October 2009), as well as IMAs processed offshore under the 'Pacific Strategy' (900 persons in 2001-02 and 3 persons in 2005-06)