

SOME FACTS ABOUT ASYLUM SEEKERS

1. The proportion of asylum seekers arriving in Australia by boat is small.
 - Since 2001 it has never exceeded 4%
 - At its peak in 2001, it was less than 45%

2. Those who arrive by boat are overwhelmingly genuine refugees.
 - In recent years the acceptance rate of boat arrivals has fluctuated between 85 and 98%.

3. The majority of asylum seekers who arrive by air are not genuine refugees.
 - Only 45% have been accepted as refugees in recent years.

4. The number of claims for asylum made in Australia is miniscule compared to other countries (2008 figures).
 - Australia 4,750
 - USA 50,000
 - UK 30,000
 - France 35,000
 - Canada 35,000
 - South Africa 207,000

5. There are currently about 15.2 million refugees world wide.

6. Australia's current (2009) annual program is to take only 13,750 refugees.

- This is less than one tenth of 1% of the total number of refugees.
- Our population is approx one third of 1% of the world's.
- Our GDP is 1.6% of the world's.
- Our land mass is 5% of the world's.

7. Conclusions to be drawn from these facts.

- Our refugee program is mean and ungenerous.
- On any measure we take far fewer refugees than we should.
- The public focus on boat arrivals is irrational and misconceived.
- Boat arrivals account for a small proportion of asylum seekers arriving in Australia and are overwhelmingly genuine refugees.
- Anyone **genuinely** concerned about illegal arrivals in Australia should focus on arrivals by air.