

Australian Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian network, the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, which operates in over 192 countries. Red Cross Red Crescent works with people seeking safety and migrants experiencing vulnerability all over the world – in countries of origin, transit, and where people may settle temporarily or the places where they seek to build a new life.

We aim to *change lives* by meeting critical humanitarian needs and supporting social and economic participation; *change minds* by increasing inclusion and a sense of belonging and *change the rules* through advocacy on issues of systemic and individual humanitarian concern. Through partnerships, research and service delivery we base our work on direct experience and evidence and aim to empower people and communities to speak out and take action.

2021/2022: A year in review

Migration Support Programs

In financial year 2021-22 our Migration Support Programs have:



Impacted more than 40,000 people on temporary visas or without a visa who don't have access to a safety net and are experiencing hardship and vulnerability, as well as their families.



Supported people from 165 different nationalities, highlighting the broad reach and impact of our work.



Distributed over \$38 million through 60,507 payments to meet basic needs including, food and groceries, housing and utilities.



Supported over 2,200 refugees and humanitarian entrants to settle in Australia, including people evacuated from Afghanistan and people impacted by the conflict in Ukraine.



Held community education sessions with nearly 11,000 people nationally in schools, communities and workplaces to create a more welcoming Australia.



Conducted in-depth interviews with over 500 people in immigration detention during 24 visits to monitor conditions and treatment of people in immigration detention.



Actively sought 1,974 people through our global family tracing service, resolving 70 cases where the missing person was located, or we were able to determine their fate.

Key policy asks in the area of migration

Increase protections & provide a safety net

- ❑ Set maximum limits to the length of immigration detention, prohibit the held detention of children, and expand alternatives to detention.
- ❑ Ensure support for the re-integration of people released from immigration detention back into the community.
- ❑ Expand protections from human trafficking and modern-day slavery, including through an additional referral pathway for the Support of Trafficked People Program without being conditional on engagement with police.
- ❑ Provide a paced increase to the humanitarian intake of refugees and humanitarian entrants.
- ❑ Expand pathways to protection through community and employer sponsorship.
- ❑ Strengthen capacity and consistency for emergency and crisis humanitarian intakes.
- ❑ Provide durable solutions for the estimated 1,000 people impacted by offshore processing, in Nauru, PNG, and Australia.
- ❑ Ensure access to a supports in times of crisis & severe hardship for migrants in transition, in particular people seeking asylum.
- ❑ Establish an ongoing safety net and access to supports for people on temporary visas experiencing family & domestic violence.

Empower through safe & dignified employment

- ❑ Support safe, dignified and sustainable employment for migrants in transition and refugees through specialist employment programs such as 'Connect. Match. Support.', and employer programs such as Welcoming Workplaces .
- ❑ Strengthen awareness, protections and support related to labour exploitation of migrant workers, in particular people on the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme and other people on temporary visas, including by harnessing Red Cross expertise and regional presence, such as the Work Right Hub.
- ❑ Grant work rights for the estimated 2,200 people seeking asylum on a Bridging Visa E, and other temporary visa holders, who don't have work rights.
- ❑ Extend the length of bridging visas to provide greater certainty and opportunity to engage in employment while awaiting an immigration decision.
- ❑ Ensure government employment programs, including Workforce Australia, contain specialist migrant support services.
- ❑ Expand eligibility criteria for government employment programs, including Workforce Australia, to temporary visa holders.
- ❑ Remove barriers to work to meet labour shortages by expanding mainstream training concessions, subsidising childcare for temporary visa holders, improving access to driving licences, and improving recognition of overseas qualifications for newly arrived migrants.

Invest to build welcoming communities

- ❑ Strengthen efforts to acknowledge and celebrate the benefits of diversity and the socio-economic contributions of migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum to Australian society.
- ❑ Ensure communities are truly able to use their own voice and represent themselves, and that voice and representation is heard and acted upon.
- ❑ Support and fund the development and implementation of an Anti-racism Framework, and work with Red Cross to implement community-driven solutions to build welcoming communities, including In Search of Safety community education sessions to support schools, communities and workplaces.
- ❑ Strengthen socio-economic participation of newly arrived migrant women and families, including through the Red Cross flagship Connected Women program.
- ❑ Establish pathways to permanency for over 18,000 people on Temporary Protection Visas and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas, with settlement support from Red Cross and other providers.
- ❑ Strengthen family reunion by (a) setting a target to consider all applications for family reunion within 6 months (b) a paced increase of humanitarian intake.
- ❑ Continue to build, strengthen and learn from welcoming communities across Australia, aligned with government's Building and Strengthening Welcoming Communities pledge with Red Cross.

Support migrants from the local to the global

- ❑ Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and engage Red Cross as a key implementing partner to strengthen protection of 7.6m migrants in Australia.
- ❑ Increase understanding and responses to the impact of climate change as it forces people from their homes and lands, particularly across the Pacific. In 2020, over 21 million people in the Asia Pacific were displaced by climate and disaster related events.
- ❑ Invest and implement regional protection mechanisms to ensure Australia understands, is prepared for, and addresses current and future humanitarian challenges relating to migration.
- ❑ Strengthen Australia's leadership role in improving regional responses and protection measures to 65 million migrants and 9 million refugees/people seeking asylum in the Asia Pacific including through the Bali Process, the Global Compacts for Refugees and Migration, and country specific responses, such as Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- ❑ Support Red Cross work to increase assistance for migrants experiencing vulnerability across the region and globally through our Asia Pacific Migration Network and the Global Migration Lab, and partnerships in the Pacific on the intersect of climate change, displacement and migration, aligned with the government's Protection of Migrants pledge with Red Cross.

2021/2022: A year in review



Safety Net - Emergency Relief

- A co-designed program supporting people on temporary visas, people seeking asylum and people without visa, who don't have access to mainstream social services supports (i.e. Centrelink or Medicare) with access to a [safety net](#) to meet basic needs in times of crisis and emergencies.¹
- We provided 40,000 people and their families with \$38 million in financial support for housing, food, and utilities, and supported 4,345 people with food relief items.
- 395,488 people accessed information from our website.



Safety Net - Family & Domestic Violence Pilot

- The [Temporary Visa holder Family and Domestic Violence pilot](#) supports people on temporary or uncertain visa status who are experiencing family or domestic violence and financial hardship.²
- We supported 1,409 households (3,065 people) through the distribution of nearly \$4 million of emergency relief payments of up to \$3,000 per applicant, to meet urgent needs including housing, food, and transport.
- People living across 27% of local government areas (at least 149 LGAs), including urban centres, regional areas and very remote locations were supported through our Safety Net programs.



Responding to COVID-19

- We supported improved access to vaccines, vaccine certificates, testing facilities, and hospital treatment. This included messages in multiple languages, and confirmation the vaccine is free for everybody in Australia.
- We collaborated with multicultural service providers in all States and Territories to remove barriers and improve access to government services.⁵

Migration Support Programs



Human trafficking, forced marriage & labour exploitation

- We supported 175 people who had experienced, or were at risk of, [human trafficking](#) or [forced marriage](#). The people we worked with included girls, women and men from 25 countries.²
- During the year, we received 52 new referrals from the Australian Federal Police.
- We commenced consultation with migrant communities in every state and territory on the design of an online 'Work Right Hub' which aims to empower migrants and communities to prevent and combat criminal labour exploitation. The Work Right Hub will be launched in 2022-23 financial year.³



Supporting our newest Australians to settle

- As a [Humanitarian Settlement Program](#) provider, we supported over 2,200 humanitarian entrants and refugees from 20 countries (including Afghanistan and Ukraine) to settle in WA, ACT and Albury, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong, through one-on-one casework, on-arrival support, orientation, housing as well as linking people with mainstream supports.³
- Our volunteers and staff mobilised to respond to the emergency evacuation of people from Afghanistan, providing care packages for people in hotel quarantine, conducting welfare checks and supporting people to access key government services, such as Medicare.
- We welcome migrants and refugees across all States and Territories, including through the Growing Regions of Welcome pilot in regional NSW.⁴



Restoring Family Links

- This service is a unique and integral part of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and helps [connect family members](#) who have been separated as a result of war, disaster or migration.
- Through our international network, we actively sought 1,974 people for 862 clients through our service to determine the fate or whereabouts of their missing family members.
- We exchanged 44 pieces of family news, responded to 1,406 hotline enquiries and were able to successfully determine the whereabouts or fate of 70 people.



Monitoring Immigration Detention

- Through regular visits, we monitor immigration detention facilities in Australia. Our teams inspect detention facilities, speak with people in detention, and meet with departmental officials and detention service providers to try to resolve issues of humanitarian concern to prevent and reduce harm.
- Our work aims to ensure that the safety, health, dignity and wellbeing of people in detention are upheld and protected regardless for the reason for their detention and is guided by our [Guiding Principles of Monitoring Immigration Detention](#).
- We conducted 24 visits (physical and virtual) over 96 days to immigration detention facilities and undertook in-depth interviews with 517 people to identify any issues of humanitarian concern, including the impact of the pandemic on people in detention.

Key external funding: 1 Including through funding provided by the Federal Department of Social Services and NSW, VIC, WA & QLD governments. 2 Core funding for this work is provided by the Federal Department of Social Services. 3 Core funding for this work is provided by the Federal Department of Home Affairs. 4 Growing Regions of Welcome funded through NSW government. 5 Includes funding from a number of state and territory governments and Department of Home Affairs funding for Connected Women in NSW.



Economic participation ⁵

- Our [Connected Women program](#), operating in NT, TAS, WA & NSW, strengthened the socio-economic participation of migrant women, including 16 capacity building participation sessions and four major public events which attracted over 1,900 participant in the NT.
- Through our [Connect.Match.Support. program](#) we directly strengthened employment capacity of over 550 migrants.
- To help more migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum into safe, dignified and sustainable work, we extended our employer partnership and held Welcoming Workplace sessions for major, national employers.
- Our learner driver program in Mount Gambier and Coffs Harbour continue to support people to get their license.



Building welcoming communities ⁵

- To educate, dispel myths and help create a more welcoming Australia, we spoke to nearly 11,000 people in schools, community groups and workplaces across Australia during 326 [In Search of Safety](#) sessions.
- Through our [RedxYouth network](#) we continued to mobilise young people to take action across Australia.
- In Tasmania, the [Bi-cultural health program](#) delivered 54 sessions, reaching 1,360 people, increasing skills to understand and access the health care system.
- In Perth, our Digital literacy program supported women to increase their independence.
- In Sydney, we continued to welcome migrant students through the [Multicultural Youth Orientation Program](#).
- In Coffs Harbour, we continued to provide playgroup and parenting programs for migrants.



Humanitarian diplomacy & advice - Auxiliary to Government on humanitarian affairs

As auxiliary to government on humanitarian affairs, we regularly provide neutral, independent and impartial advice directly to governments and departments at the federal, state and territory level. Our focus included continued efforts to:

- Ensure support for people on temporary or without visas who don't have access to a safety net during COVID-19 or if impacted by disasters such as the QLD/NSW floods.
- Ensure COVID-19 testing, treatment, vaccinations and vaccine certificates are free and accessible for everyone in Australia, regardless of status.

Key roundtables & consultations:

- National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery.
- Consultation on the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Girls.
- [Consultation on Next steps to improve Australia's settlement and integration of refugees.](#)
- [Consultation on developing an Anti-Racism Framework.](#)

Key public submissions:

- [Inquiry into Ending Indefinite Detention Bill 2022.](#)
- [Inquiry into Australia's engagement in Afghanistan.](#)
- [Inquiry into International Labour Organisation Protocol of 2014 to Forced Labour Convention 1930 \(No.29\).](#)

Key reports produced:

- [Emergency Resilience in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Report](#)
- [Barriers on accommodating survivors of trafficking & slavery](#)

We co-designed and implemented a **Lived Experience Framework** that centres the voices, experiences, and insights of people with lived experience of forced migration in our work.



Regional and Global work

We are working to increase the broader International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's impact on migration.

The [Global Migration Lab](#), hosted by Australian Red Cross:

- Commenced a global research project on migrants' trust in humanitarian action. Over 1,800 migrants were surveyed by 15 National Societies in one-on-one interviews and received over 10,000 survey responses.
- Provided research capacity building training and support for 20 National Societies engaged in global research projects (in French, Spanish, English, Arabic).
- Developed IFRC advocacy messages for the International Migration Review Forum and informed global WHO guidance on COVID-19 vaccine access for migrants.
- Was identified as thought leader and coordinator for the development of a [Movement Strategy on Migration](#).
- Was a member of the global working group on access to COVID vaccines for migrants alongside IFRC, WHO, UNICEF, IOM, OHCHR, and others.

Other examples of global activities:

- In collaboration with ICRC and Kenyan and British Red Cross, we launched a new [Restoring Family Links Global Centre for missing persons and their families.](#)

Key regional activities:

- Hosted the Secretariat of the [Asia Pacific Migration Network](#) (APMN), which currently includes 35 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and celebrates its 10-year anniversary in 2022.
- Supported peer-to-peer capacity with sister National Societies on access to services for migrants, climate and disaster related migration and displacement, lived experience and humanitarian diplomacy.