

The Difference between Refugees and Asylum Seekers entering Australia

Both Refugees & Asylum Seekers are referred to Multicultural Development Association (MDA) by the Department of Immigration (DIAC) and the Australian Red Cross. The next few years will see a marked increase in asylum seekers entering Australia compared to Refugees due to the global political crisis.

The majority of asylum seekers entering Australia are Muslim.

REFUGEE	ASYLUM SEEKER (also referred to as Boat People)
Enter Australia with full Permanent Residency status and UNHCR Refugee status	Enter with no status and kept in Detention Centres for up to 3yrs prior to being “released” into society. Treated as criminals when it is their humanitarian right to seek asylum and not at all illegal by international law.
Benefits received: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centrelink• Employment assistance• TAFE English Classes up to 1,340hrs free• Medicare• Housing ready waiting for them on arrival• Free furnished home on arrival• Groceries and Food Allowance for 2 weeks• Support from MDA for up to 5 years	Benefits received: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Centrelink• Medicare• Support from MDA for 6 weeks only• No employment assistance• No housing assistance• No free English classes• No food allowance or groceries• No furnishings to start their home