

The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif research task

Topic 9: Refugees – Australia’s current Government policies and recent facts and figures



As Prime Minister of Australia, Ms Julia Gillard approved the Australian Government’s current policy regarding the acceptance of asylum seekers into Australia. The term *refugee* can be summarised as a person who flees their home country due to fear of their personal safety. There are two types of refugees. Those who arrive illegally (commonly via boat) will be placed into detention centres for however long it takes for their application to be processed. Then there is also those who seek entry through legal migration programs; applying for protection (asylum). In 2009-2010 nearly 14000 visa applications were granted, 6000 of those that were approved, providing them with refugee status in Australia.

Research that was conducted in recent years found that most refugees come from Africa, the Middle East and South-West Asia, and in the year 2006 there were 9.9 million refugees around the world. Australia was ranked 28th in the world in terms of sharing the global burden of refugee protection, and accept fewer refugees than in comparison to other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, however Australia is the second highest permanent resettlement country in the world. There are four main on-shore Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs): Villawood IDC, Maribyrnong IDC, Perth IDC and Christmas Island IDC.

Refugees relate to the context of ‘Encountering Conflict’ because a person will gain refugee status when it is believed that their lives were under threat in their home country. This is usually a consequence of some form of conflict, and fault can be blamed on a variety of people; particularly political leaders. A person may feel the need to flee their country due to conflict (commonly war) over land, power/ political status, resources, religion, etc.

This topic directly links to the text because Najaf earned refugee status in Australia. His application was processed and the text discusses the details and long process that occurs for a decision to be made. Some technical aspects are mentioned in the book, such as the repetition of questions and the issues that government members faced due to the lack of evidence provided by asylum seekers to prove their identity.