

**THE INITIAL POST-ARRIVAL ADJUSTMENT PROCESS OF
RECENTLY ARRIVED HUMANITARIAN ENTRANTS:
A CASE STUDY OF ENTRANTS FROM BOSNIA, IRAQ AND
AFGHANISTAN IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

by

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of the requirements for the
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CERTIFICATE

I certify that this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not being submitted as part of candidature for any other degree.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me and that any help that I have received in preparing the thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.

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ACRONYMS AND STATISTICAL SYMBOLS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AGPS	Australian Government Publishing Service
AIDAB	Australian International Development Assistance Bureau
AIMA	Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs
AJWS	Australian Jewish Welfare Society
ALP	Australian Labor Party
AMEP	Adult Migrant English Program
AMES	Adult Migrant English Scheme
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance (two way analysis of variance)
ASCO	Australian Standard of Classifications of Occupations
BIMPR	Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research
BIR	Bureau of Immigration Research
BLMR	Bureau of Labour Market Research
CAAIP	Committee to Advise on Australia's Immigration Policies (also known as the FitzGerald Report)
CEDA	Committee for Economic Development of Australia
CES	Commonwealth Employment Service
CPA	Comprehensive Plan of Action
CRSS	Community Refugee Settlement Scheme
CSHA	Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement
DEETYA	Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
df	Degrees of Freedom
DIEA	Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs
DILGEA	Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs
DIMA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
DSS	Department of Social Security
ECC	Ethnic Community Council

ESB	English Speaking Background
ESL	English as a Second Language
FECCA	Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia
GIA	Grant-in-Aid
HREOC	Human Rights Equal Opportunity Commission
IHSS	Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy
IRO	International Refugee Organisation
LGA	Local Government Area
LSIA	Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia
MRC	Migrant Resource Centre
NSW	New South Wales
NESB	Non-English Speaking Background
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NISS	National Integrated Settlement Strategy
NOOSR	National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition
NPC	National Population Council
OAA	On-Arrival-Accommodation
OMA	Office of Multicultural Affairs
PA	Principal Applicant
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
RCOA	Refugee Council of Australia
ROMAMPAS	Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services
RRWG	Refugee Resettlement Working Group
SA	Statistical area
SAC	Special Assistance Category
SHP	Special Humanitarian Program
STARTTS	Services for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors
TIS	Telephone Interpreter Service

TRA	Trades Recognition Australia
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VEAC	Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission
χ^2	Chi-square Value
α	Cronbach's alpha
τ	Kendall's Tau Correlation Coefficient
r	Pearson's Correlation Coefficient
ρ	Spearman's Rho Correlation Coefficient

The Post-Arrival Adjustment Process of Recently Arrived Humanitarian Entrants: A Case Study of Bosnian, Iraqi and Afghan Refugees in Sydney, Australia

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to examine the initial post-arrival process of recently arrived humanitarian entrants into Sydney, Australia from three non-traditional source countries, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Resettlement was examined from social, economic and health perspectives, with the determinants influencing the settlement process being identified as a precursor to understanding the long-term adjustment process.

A literature review on settlement adjustment from a multidisciplinary approach confirmed the dearth of research on early refugee settlement experience in Australia and overseas for groups other than the Indochinese. Such research has tended to concentrate on one of the specific aspects of settlement rather than attempting a holistic approach to understanding adjustment patterns. Subsequently, 44 key informants, representing over 25 different organisations providing services (both government and non-government) to humanitarian entrants, were individually surveyed to gather information on their clients' needs, perceptions and problems.

Issues emerging from both the literature review and key informants' survey formed the basis of a survey of 172 recently arrived Bosnian, Iraqi and Afghan humanitarian entrants. Among the statistical tools used to analyse the entrants' surveys were Pearson's correlation coefficient, analysis of variance, Kendall's tau correlation, Spearman's rho correlation and Cronbach's alpha.

Results indicated that during the initial settlement stage, the former socio-economic background of the entrants has little impact on their economic, social or health adjustment. Instead, the conditions of departure, such as the loss of property, long-term incarceration, torture and trauma, were found to have a far reaching influence on the entrants' social and health experiences in their new country; however, despite the variety of traumatic pre-departure experiences, the resilience of the entrants reinforced their determination to participate in the workforce.

Although commonalities were found among the three groups in settlement outcomes, there were also distinct differences. The groups shared difficulties such as post-arrival

unemployment, lack of suitable accommodation and family reunion concerns. However, the Bosnians, for example, experienced the greatest degree of health-related problems, the Iraqis expressed the greatest interest in sponsoring family members and the Afghans were the most well-adjusted of the three groups. Detailed policy implications are also presented; these emphasise that humanitarian entrants may experience adjustment difficulties qualitatively different from those of traditional migrants and argue for improved support services.