

From the 'resistant' to the 'champions' Community attitudes during the first four years of refugee settlement in Armidale, NSW

Final Report • February 2023

Appendices



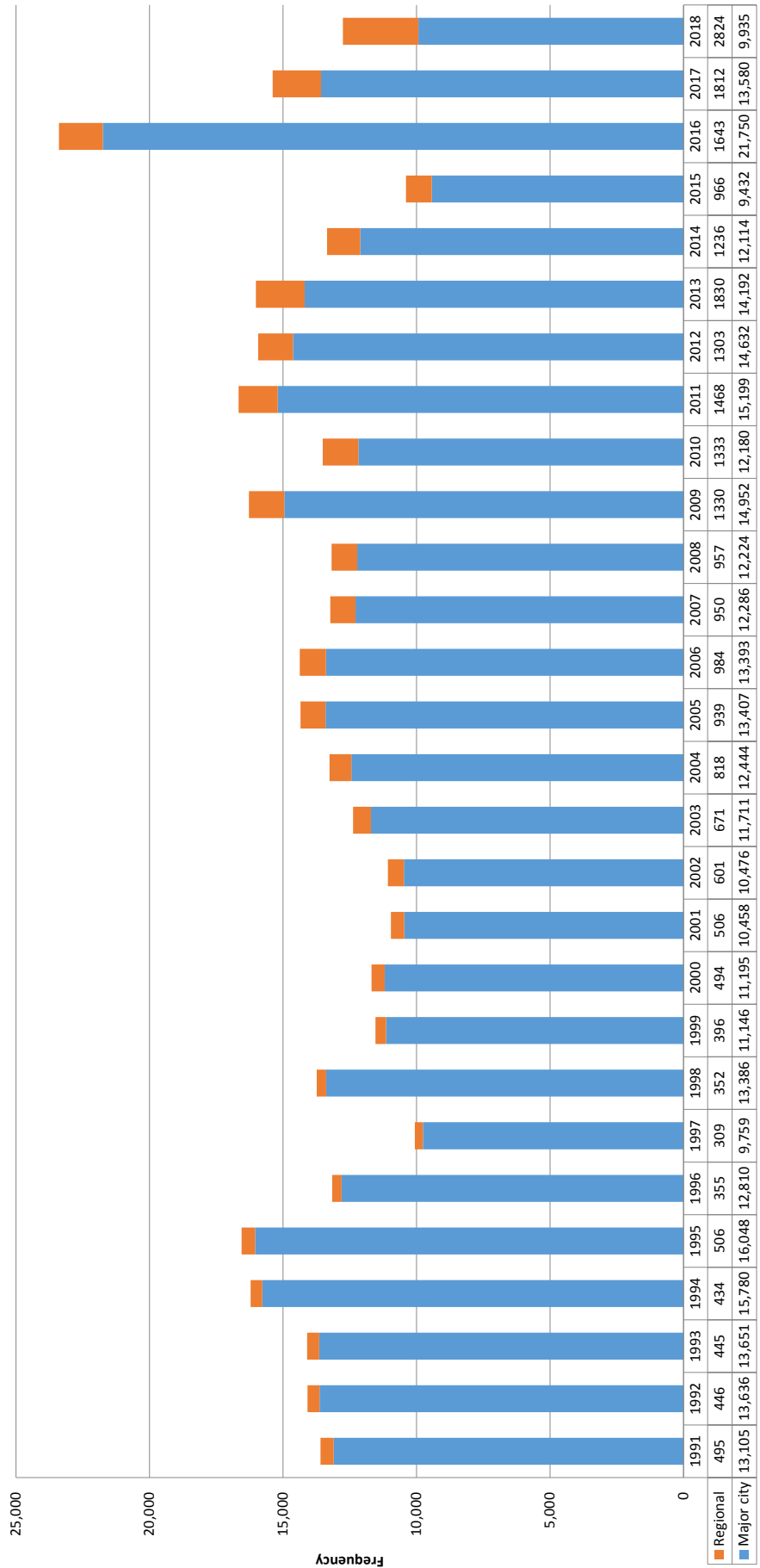
Appendix 1.

Refugee settlement in regional locations 1991-2018

Refugee settlement in regional locations 1991-2018. Blue indicates settlement in major cities and orange indicates settlement in regional locations (outside Australia's major cities).

Data source: Settlement Database 1991-2018, Australian Government, Department of Social Services

Number of Humanitarian Entries



Appendix 2.

Media release, 11/08/2017

6/20/2018

Refugees settle in the regions

THE AUSTRALIAN

Refugees settle in the regions

GREG BROWN THE AUSTRALIAN 1:26PM August 11, 2017

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce will welcome about 200 asylum seekers from Syria and Iraq into his electorate under a federal government push to encourage more asylum seekers to settle in the regions.

Mr Joyce said about 200 refugees will be settled in the NSW city of Armidale, about 500km north from Sydney.

Armidale was home to 38,000 people in 2015, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The first of the refugees will move to the town in February next year.

“Armidale is a good fit as a new regional settlement location for humanitarian entrants to Australia,” Mr Joyce said.

“It has a strong, welcoming community demonstrated by the fact that this push for the city to be a settlement location for refugees was driven by the community itself.

“I have absolutely no doubt that Armidale will work closely with the refugees settling here to ensure they can take up all the opportunities available to those who choose to embrace the great lifestyle available in regional Australia.”

The move comes after the federal government [settled 250 Yazidis](#), who survived the Islamic State genocide in Syria, in the regional NSW city of Wagga Wagga.

Social Services Minister Christian Porter said the government was trying to settle refugees outside major cities.

He said Australia’s refugee intake would increase from 16,250 per year to 18,750 by 2019.

“It’s important that through our settlement services we encourage more settlement in regional areas,” Mr Porter said.

Appendix 3.

Demographic data.

	Baseline (Survey 1)	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	2016 Census	Mapping Social Cohesion 2016/2017 (ASGS = 2)
Sex (% Male)	43	47	47	45	47	42	48	46
Born O/S (%)	14	13	10	12	11	15	21	19
ATSI (%)	3	7	2	5	7	5	7	-
Australian citizen (%)	95	94	97	96	98	95	-	95
Work full-time % (range)	40 (1-6)	40 (1-6)	29 (1-6)	39 (1-6)	44 (1-6)	37 (1-6)	54 ²	42 (1-6)
Education – Bachelor's degree level & above % (range)	40 (1-10)	35 (1-10)	34 (1-10)	47 (1-10)	43 (1-10)	34 (1-10)	26	30.4 (1-10)
Median age ¹ participants aged 20+ (range)	56 (18-90)	54 (18-88)	60 (19-94)	53 (18-93)	55 (20-88)	59 (18-86)	45-49	55-64
Years in Armidale, average (range)	32 (1-89)	27 (2-74)	33 (1-90)	30 (2-90)	29 (2-86)	29 (1-85)	-	-
Financial circumstances, average (range)	2.8 (1-6)	3.0 (1-6)	2.8 (1-5)	2.6 (1-6)	2.7 (1-6)	2.7 (1-5)	-	3.4 (1-6)

¹ Median age computed from participants aged 20+ for comparison with Census results, which were presented in 5-year categories.

² 54% of people in the labour force were employed

Appendix 4.

Questionnaire items

Section A: Social cohesion and multiculturalism

The Section A questions were drawn from the Mapping Social Cohesion questionnaire (<https://scanloninstitute.org.au/research/mapping-social-cohesion>) which annually draws a random sample of 1500 people distributed throughout Australia. Using these questions permitted comparison between Armidale responses and other inner regional locations combined.

Construct	Item	Response scale
Pride	I take pride in the Australian way of life and culture.	1-4 scale where 4 = To a great extent, 3 = To a moderate extent, 2 = Only slightly, or 1 = Not at all
Belonging	I have a sense of belonging in Australia	1-4 scale as above
Belonging	I have a sense of belonging in Armidale and the surrounding region.	1-5 scale where 5 = Strongly agree, 3 = Neither agree nor disagree, 1 = Strongly disagree
Welcoming community	People in my local area are willing to help their neighbours.	1-5 scale as above
Welcoming community	My local area is place where people from different national or ethnic backgrounds get on well together	1-5 scale as above
Welcoming community	I am able to have a real say on issues that are important to me in my local area.	1-5 scale as above
Desire to mix with other ethnic/cultural groups	I like meeting and getting to know people from ethnic and cultural groups other than my own.	1-5 scale as above
Desire to mix with other ethnic/cultural groups	I often spend time with people from ethnic or cultural groups other than my own.	1-5 scale as above
Discrimination	Have you experienced discrimination because of your skin colour, ethnic origin or religion over the past 12 months?	Yes / No
Discrimination	And did you experience any of that discrimination specifically in the Armidale region?	Yes / No

Section B: Attitudes towards immigration

Like Section A, the Section B questions were drawn from the Mapping Social Cohesion questionnaire.

Construct	Item	Response scale
Immigration attitudes	What do you think of the number of immigrants accepted into Australia at present... would you say it is too high, about right, too low, no opinion?	1-3 scale where 1 = Too high, 2 = About right, 3 = Too low
Immigration attitudes	What do you think of the number of refugees coming into Armidale? Would you say it is too high, about right, too low, no opinion?	1-3 scale as above
Acculturation attitudes	People who come to Australia should change their behaviour to be more like Australians.	1-5 scale where 5 = Strongly agree, 3 = Neither agree nor disagree, 1 = Strongly disagree
Acculturation attitudes	People who come to Australia should be able to maintain their own customs and traditions.	1-5 scale as above

Section C: Level of concern and attitudes about the refugees coming to Armidale

Construct	Item	Response scale	Source
Level of concern	Do you have any concerns about the impact of refugees coming to Armidale – on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 = very concerned, 3 = somewhat concerned, 1 = not concerned at all?	1-5 scale	Self-generated
Realistic and symbolic threat	And the reason for your rating?	Open-ended response	Self-generated
Attitude thermometer	How would you rate your overall attitude towards the refugees coming to Armidale – this time on a scale of 0 – 100, where 100 is extremely favourable, 50 is neither favourable nor unfavourable and 0 is extremely unfavourable?	0-100 scale	Based on Haddock & Zanna, 1998
Attitude thermometer	And on the same rating scale, what do you think is the typical attitude of people in Armidale regarding refugees coming to Armidale?	0-100 scale as above	Based on Haddock & Zanna, 1998

Section D: Behavioural tendencies and contact

Construct	Item	Response scale	Source
Active facilitation	Imagine you are in the following situations relating to refugees in Armidale. How likely would you be to do the following: Shop at their stores	1-5 scale, where 5 = Very likely, 1 = Very unlikely	Intergroup behavioral tendencies scale (Lopez-Rodriguez et al., 2016)
Active facilitation	Share leisure time with them	1-5 scale as above	Intergroup behavioral tendencies scale (Lopez-Rodriguez et al., 2016)
Passive harm	Avoid their businesses	1-5 scale as above	Intergroup behavioral tendencies scale (Lopez-Rodriguez et al., 2016)
Approach	On a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 = very much, 3 = unsure, 1 = not at all, how interested would you be to: Meet refugees socially?	1-5 scale	Self-generated
Approach	Volunteer your time to help refugees?	1-5 scale as above	Self-generated
Quantity of contact	How much experience do you have with refugees?	1-5 scale where 5 = A lot, 3 = Some, 1 = Not at all. Recoded to 0 (Not at all) to 4 (A lot)	Adapted from Khan & Pedersen (2010)
Quality of contact	And how has that experience been?	1-5 scale where 5 = Very positive, 3 = OK, 1 = Very negative. Recoded to -2 (Very negative) to +2 (Very positive)	Adapted from Khan & Pedersen (2010)
Quantity of contact	How much contact have you had with the refugees who arrived in Armidale during the last year?	As above	Adapted from Khan & Pedersen (2010)
Voluntary vs involuntary contact	Where was the contact?	Open-ended response	Self-generated
Quality of contact	And how has that experience been?	As above	Adapted from Khan & Pedersen (2010)
Quality of contact	And the reason for your rating?	Open-ended response	Self-generated

Section E: Benefits and disadvantages of refugee settlement

Construct	Item	Response scale	Source
Benefits	Have you personally experienced any benefits of refugees settling in Armidale?	Yes / No	Self-generated
Benefits	What benefits have you noticed?	Open-ended response	Self-generated
Disadvantages	And on the other side, have you personally experienced any disadvantages of refugees settling in Armidale?	Yes / No	Self-generated
Attitude thermometer	What disadvantages have you noticed?	Open-ended response	Self-generated

Section F: Perceptions of refugee culture adoption and maintenance

Construct	Item	Response scale	Source
Culture adoption	The refugees are adopting Australian custom and traditions	1-5 scale where 5 = Strongly agree, 3 = Neither agree nor disagree, 1 = Strongly disagree	Adapted from Host culture adoption scale (Anier et al., 2018)
Culture adoption	The refugees are becoming fluent in English	1-5 scale as above	Adapted from Host culture adoption scale (Anier et al., 2018)
Culture adoption	The refugees are seeking contact with Australian people.	1-5 scale as above	Adapted from Host culture adoption scale (Anier et al., 2018)
Culture maintenance	The refugees are maintaining their traditional ways.	1-5 scale	Adapted from RAEM, Grigoryev & von der Vijver (2018)
Culture maintenance	The refugees are seeking contact with members of their ethnic group.	1-5 scale as above	Adapted from RAEM, Grigoryev & von der Vijver (2018)

Section G: Demographics

The demographic questions were mostly drawn from the 2016 Mapping Social Cohesion questionnaire to enable comparison with Inner Regional Australia.

Construct	Item	Response scale
Gender	Are you male, female, prefer not to say?	1-4 scale where 4 = To a great extent, 3 = To a moderate extent, 2 = Only slightly, or 1 = Not at all
Time in Armidale	How many years have you lived in the Armidale region (in total?)	1-4 scale as above
Armidale region	Where in the Armidale region do you live?	1-5 scale where 5 = Strongly agree, 3 = Neither agree nor disagree, 1 = Strongly disagree
Migrant background	In which country were you born? (Migrant background)	1-5 scale as above
Migrant background	And your partner/husband/wife?	1-5 scale as above
Migrant background	Your mother?	1-5 scale as above
Migrant background	Your father?	1-5 scale as above
ATSI	Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?	Yes / No
Citizen	Are you an Australian citizen?	Yes / No
Children	Do you have any school-aged children?	Yes / No
Education	What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Primary school Year 7 to Year 9 Year 10 Year 11 Year 12 Trade / apprenticeship Other TAFE / Technical Certificate Diploma Bachelor Degree Post-Graduate Degree Other (Please specify)
Employment	Which one of these best describes your employment situation?	Employed full-time (1), Employed part-time (2), Unemployed (3), Retired (4), Student (5), Home duties (6), Something else.
Financial	Which of the following terms best describes your financial circumstances today?	Prosperous (1), Living very comfortably (2), Living reasonably (3), Just getting along (4), Struggling to pay bills (5), Poor (6), Not sure, Prefer not to say
Age	Your age at last birthday?	

Section H: COVID-19 concern (control variable)

A measure of COVID-19 concern was included in Surveys 5 and 6 to identify whether fear of COVID-19 was impacting attitudes to the refugees. The items were measured on a 1-5 scale from 5=Definitely true to 1=Definitely false. There was no impact so the results on this measure are not included in the current report.

COVID-19 makes me fear that I or my family will be infected
COVID-19 makes me worry that I will infect others
Please rate your level of concern about the social, emotional and/or economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on yourself and your family
Please rate your level of concern about the social, emotional and/or economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your community