# AUSTRALIAN government RESPONSE

## Call for submissions: Report on HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants for their invitation to provide a submission to inform the Report on “How to expand and diversify the regularization mechanisms and programs to enhance the protection of the human rights of migrants”.

**Question 4: Kindly highlight any contributions of migrants, including migrant workers, to the economy and society of the host communities**

Illustrating the centrality of migration to modern Australia, the 2021 Australian census found that 51.5 per cent of Australian residents were either born overseas, or have a parent born overseas. Supported by a well-targeted, efficient and equitable migration system, migrants to Australia bring a wealth of education, experience and skills and contribute to the rich and diverse mix of cultural backgrounds and heritage that characterizes our population.

Australia’s migration system is an invaluable mechanism, amongst others, to support Australia’s transition to a more skilled, innovative and diverse economy; to enhance national security and sovereign capabilities; to drive higher productivity, wages and living standards across Australia. Migrants contribute new, cutting-edge skills and technological capability and remediate critical labour force deficits while the upskilling of Australia’s domestic skills base progresses in the aftermath of COVID‑19.

Australia’s migration system also serves to deliver national social cohesion imperatives, strengthening our social fabric in support of Australia’s safety, security and economic prosperity. Australia continues to support the family unification needs of Australian citizens and permanent residents, and is committed to providing resettlement and protection through its Humanitarian Program. Family and humanitarian visa holders contribute valuable social gains, which in turn translate into economic opportunities for all.

For further information on the contribution of migrants to Australia’s labour market please see: [C​​ontinuous Survey of Australia's Migrants](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/research/live/continuous-survey-australia-migrant)

In addition, the Fiscal Impact of New Australians model (FIONA) has been developed by The Treasury to estimate the fiscal impact of permanent migrants over their remaining lifetimes in Australia. See, [the lifetime fiscal impact of the Australian permanent migration program](https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-220773).

The Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion 2022 survey provides information on how social cohesion is faring in Australia. See [Mapping Social Cohesion 2022](https://scanloninstitute.org.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/MSC%202022_Report.pdf).

**Question 7: Please include any other relevant information relating to the regularization of migrants in an irregular situation**

On 13 February 2023, the Australian Government announced that it will provide a permanent visa pathway to existing Temporary Protection visa (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV) holders.

The Australian Government is focused on providing those who engage Australia’s protection obligations a chance to continue their lives in Australia with certainty and security.

* + Providing a permanent pathway will empower TPV and SHEV holders to more fully contribute to Australia, gain secure employment, grow businesses, study more easily, sponsor eligible family members under the family stream of the Migration Program to Australia and pursue a pathway to Australian citizenship.

Australia is committed to ensuring people who engage Australia’s protection obligation are not returned to a country where they may face persecution or certain other types of harm.