



NSW Refugee  
Health Service  
NSW HEALTH

# For better or for worse: How are refugee women and girls faring in NSW?

Presented by:

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at the

**7<sup>th</sup> Australian Women's  
Health Conference**


8 May 2013





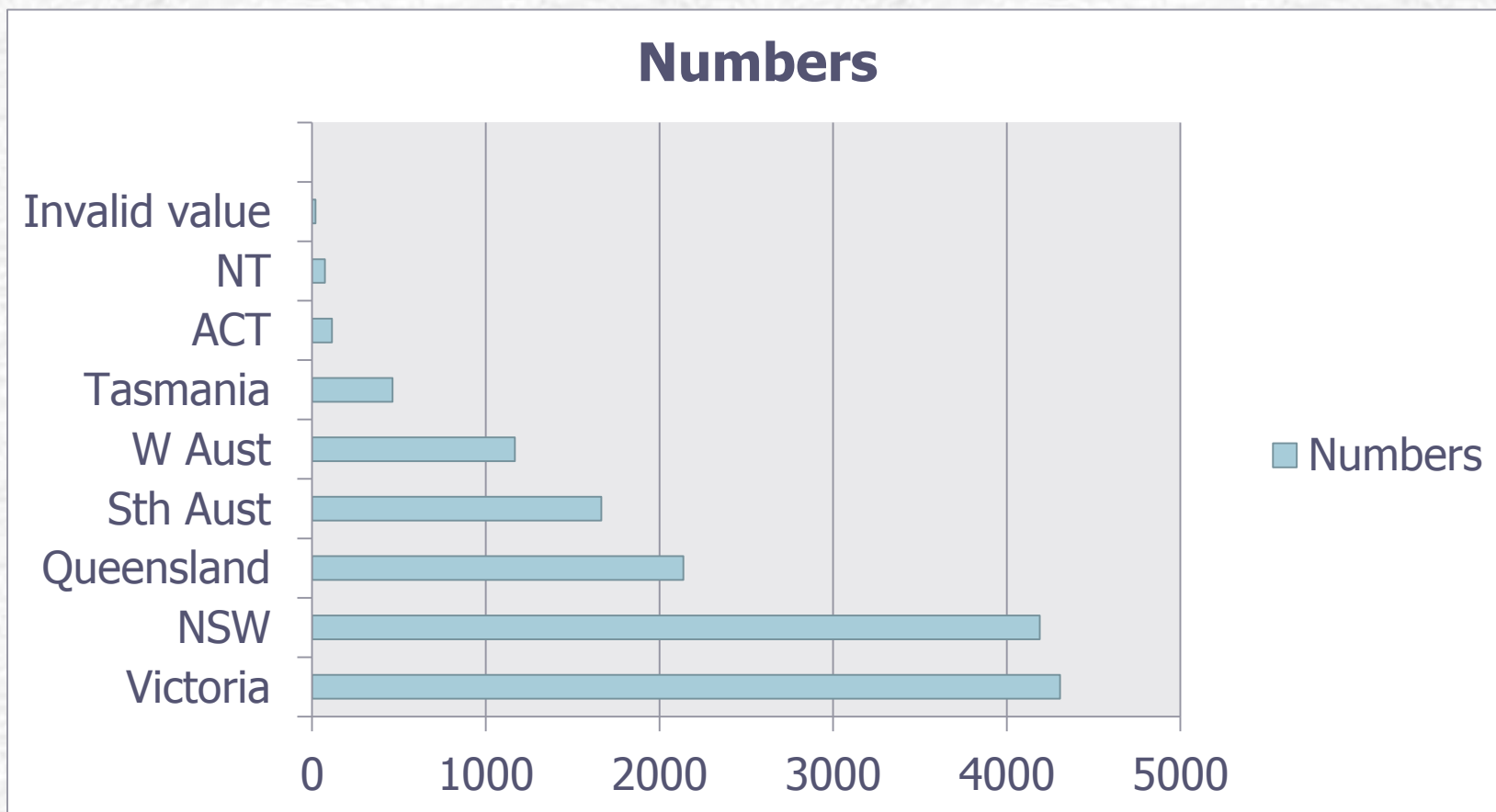
“Being a refugee is the last thing I would wish on anyone. It is a horrible and vulnerable life. Being a refugee means you are not certain about your next day, even about the next hour of your life.”

-- *Yasmeen Fatimah's speech at the 2009  
Refugee Week Celebration*

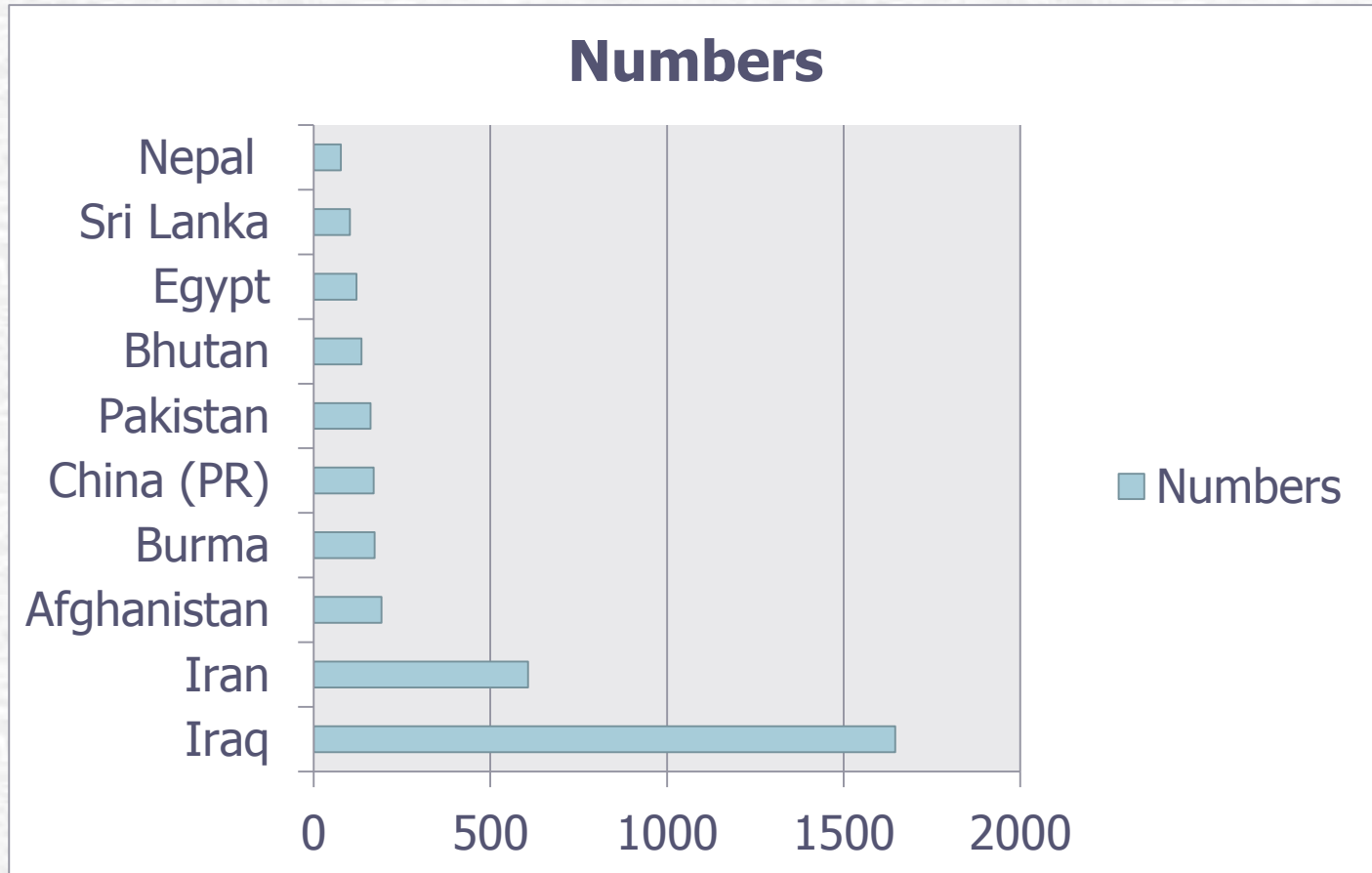


# Female Humanitarian entrants by States

(01 June 2010 – 31 March 2013)



# Source Countries (NSW)



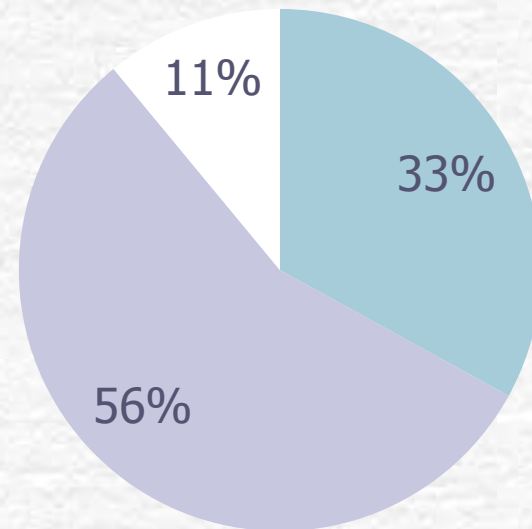
# Resettlement & Age Distribution

## Top 10 Resettlement LGAs in NSW

- Fairfield
- Liverpool
- Blacktown
- Parramatta
- Auburn
- Canterbury
- Holroyd
- Wollongong
- Coffs Harbour
- Albury

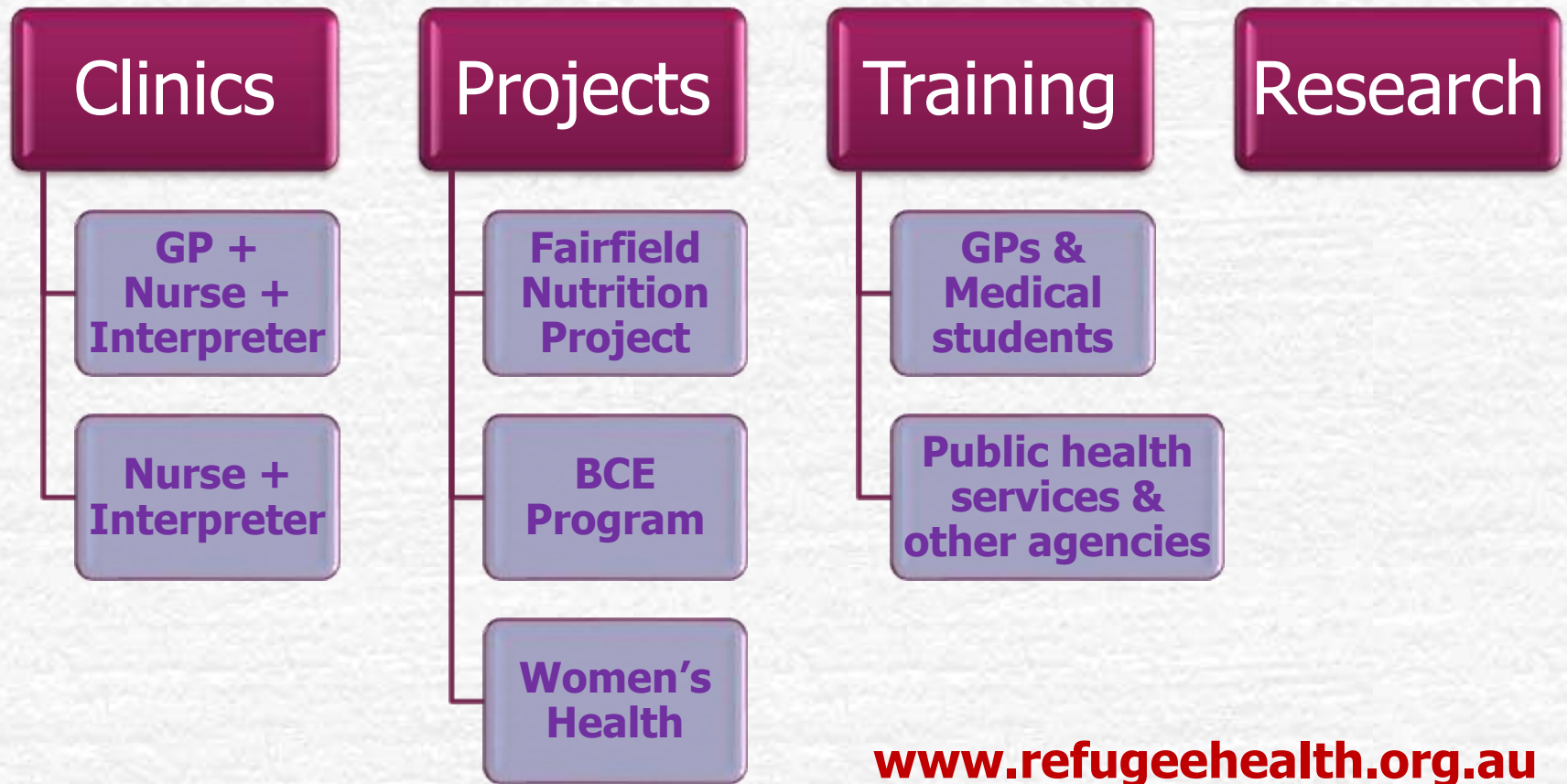
### Percentage

■ 0 - 17 ■ 18 - 54 ■ 55 and over



Thanks to Alice Cheung & Ruth Jalocon from DIAC for all these data.

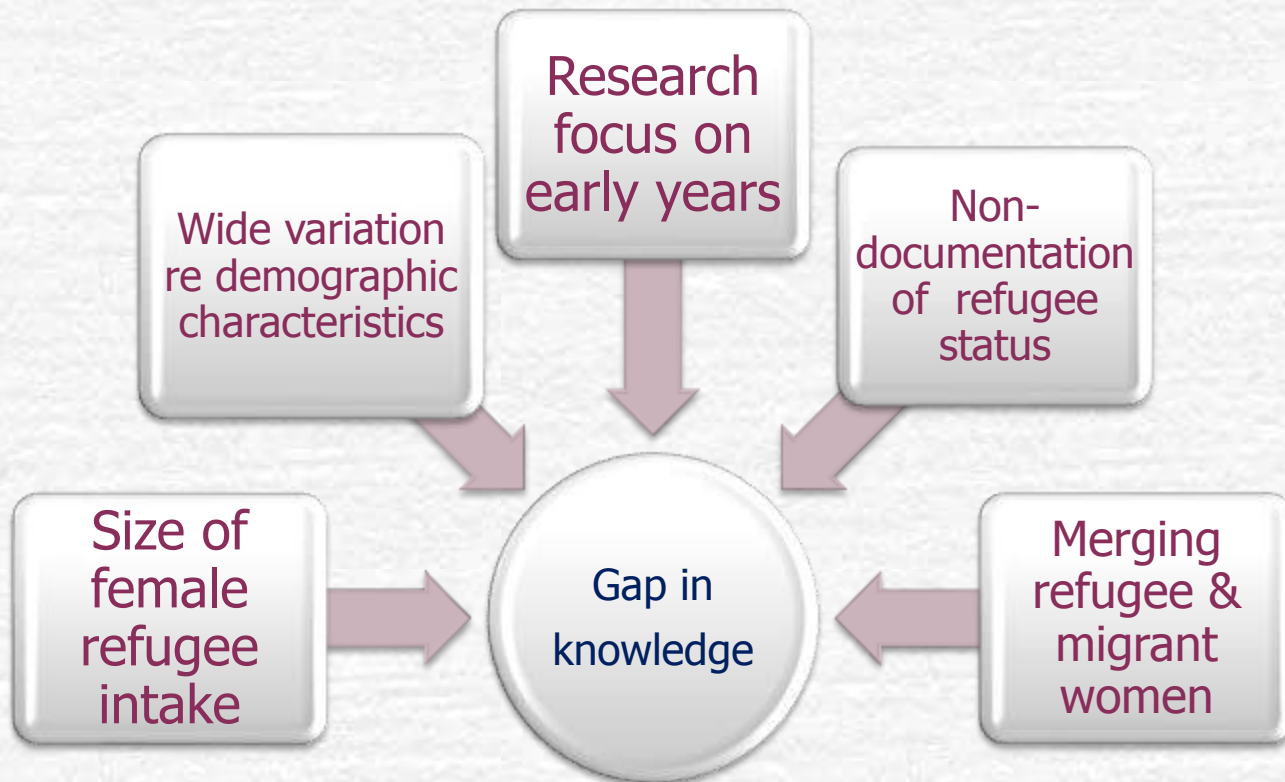
# NSW Refugee Health Service



[www.refugeehealth.org.au](http://www.refugeehealth.org.au)

← **A D V O C A C Y** →

# Factors contributing to Gap



# Lens of Vulnerability

Traumatised  
Dislocated  
Marginalised  
Disadvantaged  
At risk  
Hard to reach  
Complex needs

Source: UNHCR, [www.unhcr.com](http://www.unhcr.com)






# Lens of Strength



Source: UNHCR [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

Resilient  
Courageous  
Adaptable  
Tenacious  
Hopeful  
Selfless/Caring  
Survivors



“It’s impossible because we don’t understand English or speak it. We used signs to communicate with the nurses and doctors.”

*-- Burundian woman, Experiences of Refugee Women with some Maternity Health Services in SSWAHS (2009)*





“This (stress) is the most important thing that is destroying most of us.”

*-- Iraqi Woman (Women's Health Session, 2013)*


“I try my best to stay happy, but I can't.”

*-- Afghan Woman (Consultation, 2006)*

“Life in the (refugee) camp is so easy, here it is not.”

*– Karen Woman from Burma (Consultation , 2009)*





“There’s a lot of sickness in this country...  
when I had a flu in Iraq, I get over it in 2  
days. Sickness is stronger here in this  
country.”

*–Iraqi Woman (Consultation, 2006)*

“One day we are healthy, the next day we  
are sick.”

*-- Burundian Woman (Consultation, 2006)*



“Before I used to be a superwoman. Now simple things seem too big.”

*-- Afghan Woman (Consultation, 2006)*

“Life is very hard in Australia.”

*-- Sudanese Woman (Information session, 2012)*



# Women's Organisations

- Mandaean Women's Union (Iraq)
- Al Btool Incorporated (Iraq)
- Hazara Women of Australia, Incorporated (Afghanistan)
- Sudanese African Women's Association
- Sierra Leonean Women's Network
- SOMOROZ (Somalia)
- Ethiopian Women's Association

# Bi-lingual Community Educators

