



Six Thousand Syrians and Iraqis make Fairfield their home

Around half of the additional humanitarian intake of Syrians and Iraqis to Australia are likely to make their home in one Sydney local government area, Fairfield City.

The Federal Government's announcement in September 2015 that an additional 12,000 refugees would make their way to Australia from the Syrian and Iraqi conflicts has resulted in the acceptance of many through links to relatives already living in Australia.

Australia has prioritised those from persecuted minorities such as Assyrians, Chaldeans and Mandaean.

The Fairfield area has historically settled large numbers of people from refugee backgrounds from the Syria and Iraq conflicts and many of those arriving in the last 12 months are joining relatives, that were themselves subjected to persecution and made their way to Australia over the last fifteen years.

The neighbouring council area of Liverpool is receiving Mandaean from the conflict in Iraq. Some amongst this group fled Iraq to Syria following the fall of Saddam Hussein and have been forced to flee their temporary homes in Syria since the conflict commenced there in 2012.

Small groups of humanitarian entrants have also made their way to the regional centres of Wollongong, Newcastle and groups from the heavily persecuted Yazidi minority have resettled recently in the NSW towns of Wagga Wagga and Coffs Harbour.