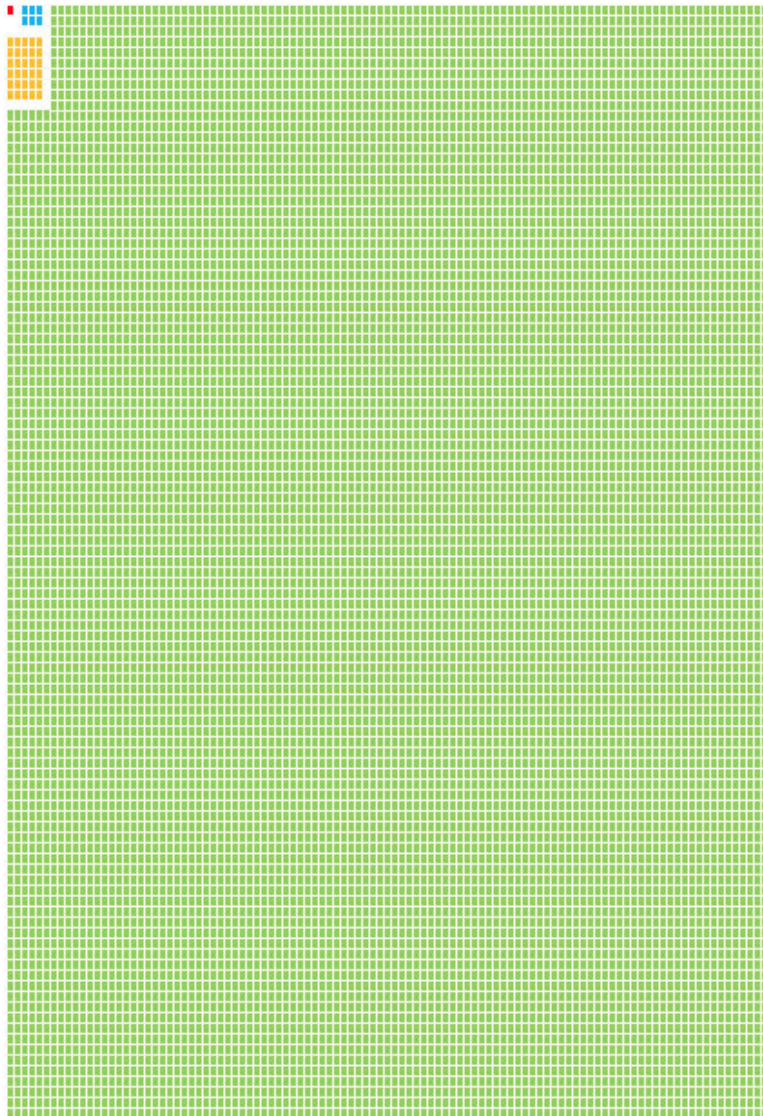


WE ARE BEING FLOODED BY BOAT PEOPLE

This is what you are "anxious" about.



■ Refugees by boat
■ Other refugees
■ Other permanent migrants
■ Australia's population

Each unit represents approx 2000 people
Sources: Parliamentary Library; Immigration Dept

Get over it.

Australians are becoming increasingly anxious about asylum seekers arriving in Australia by boat, and this is causing many of us to fear that we are being "flooded" or "invaded" by boat people.

So are we being flooded by boat arrivals?

The simple answer is "No". We are not even close to being flooded. Australia's borders are among the most secure in the world.

The number of boat arrivals in Australia is very small and Australia accepts only 0.03% of the world's refugees.

In the last 34 years, Australia has taken an average of 677.1 asylum seekers a year¹. At this rate it would take 149 years to fill the MCG once with asylum seekers coming by boat.

The vast majority of asylum seekers do not arrive in Australia by boat, they arrive in Australia by plane.²

The number of boats arriving in Australia has always fluctuated in response to events taking place globally, such as the brutal war against the Taliban in Afghanistan, the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, and the reign of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

85 – 98% of people arriving by boat are found to be genuine refugees.³ That means that the vast majorities of people arriving in Australia by boat are found to be fleeing from persecution, torture and death in their home countries, and are in desperate need of our protection.

¹ <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/detention/subs.htm>

² <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/detention/subs.htm>

³ Crikey: <http://www.crikey.com.au/2009/10/15/latest-wave-of-boat-people-push-or-pull/>