



Refugee Council
of Australia

June 3, 2009

REFUGEE WEEK: JUNE 14-20

Theme: 'Freedom from Fear'

Australians will this month celebrate the contribution of the 740,000 refugees who have made this country home.

Refugee Week will be held from the from Sunday 14 June to Saturday 20 June and will coincide with the international celebration of World Refugee Day on June 20.

More than eighty events including concerts, picnics, seminars, lectures and art exhibitions will be held in cities and towns across the country.

The theme of this year's celebration is 'Freedom from Fear'.

Paul Power, Chief executive officer of the Refugee Council of Australia, said the quest for freedom from fear is at the heart of a refugee's flight from danger.

"When refugees flee, they are forced to abandon everything they know and love. Some are traumatised by what they have experienced. And most have no idea what kind of future awaits them", he said.

"In seeking refuge in Australia they are hoping to find freedom from that fear. Refugee Week allows them to share their stories and gives us all an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful contribution that refugees continue to make to their new home."

"And with recent and ongoing conflicts in places like Afghanistan and Sri Lanka adding to the more than eleven million refugees worldwide, Refugee Week is more relevant now than ever before."

Refugee Week has been observed annually since 1986.

For interviews with Paul Power and with refugee ambassadors please contact the Refugee Council on (02) 9211-9333 or email info@refugeecouncil.org.au

Please find attached: a refugee fact sheet, a list of events taking place around Australia, and a list of participating organisations that can also be contacted by the media.

More information is available at http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/rw_index.html

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The Refugee Council of Australia represents
non-government organisations and
individuals working with and for refugees
in Australia and around the world