



# Refugee Council of Australia

## BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

5 August 2010

Welcome to the latest bulletin from the Refugee Council of Australia. We welcome feedback, ideas or information worth sharing. Please contact us at [info@refugeecouncil.org.au](mailto:info@refugeecouncil.org.au).

Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia

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## NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE COUNCIL

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### **Joint statement on need for regional refugee protection framework**

Twenty-one major Australian refugee support organisations and aid agencies have joined forces to call on the Australian Government and Opposition to focus on international cooperation on refugee protection, warning that there is no quick fix to the complex causes of asylum seeker movements. The statement emphasises that asylum issues “cannot be resolved by any country acting unilaterally” and outlines a set of minimum standards to which Australia’s approach to regional asylum issues must adhere, including compliance with all international human rights standards and rejection of approaches which involve removal of asylum seekers from Australian territory for processing in a third country or detention of refugees in third countries. The statement, coordinated by RCOA, can be read here:

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100801\\_Regional\\_Protection\\_Framework.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100801_Regional_Protection_Framework.pdf)

RCOA’s media release on the statement can be read here:

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100802\\_Asylum\\_Regional\\_Processing.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100802_Asylum_Regional_Processing.pdf)

RCOA emphasised the need for regional efforts to focus on the protection needs of refugees in a statement commenting on an ABC-TV program which aired allegations of corruption in the Indonesian immigration detention system:

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100803\\_4\\_Corners.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100803_4_Corners.pdf)

### **RCOA launches three new research reports on refugee settlement issues**

RCOA has released three new research reports on refugee settlement issues, which draw together the findings of research conducted by RCOA over the past two years. The reports, which focus on employment and education strategies and the role of sport in assisting refugee settlement, were launched at Parramatta Town Hall on July 27. Graham West MP, who as NSW Minister for Youth and as Minister for Sport and Recreation supported two of the research projects, was guest speaker at the event. The three reports – available at [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/reports.html](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/reports.html) - are:

- **What Works: Employment strategies for refugee and humanitarian entrants** – This project, supported by the Sidney Myer Foundation, focused on sustainable employment pathways and refugee background communities. The report highlights effective responses to the barriers that refugee entrants face in making the transition to meaningful, sustainable employment in Australia.
- **A Bridge to a New Culture: Promoting the participation of refugees in sporting activities** – Funded by NSW Sport and Recreation, this project investigated the role of sport in assisting refugee settlement. It examines the issues surrounding refugee participation in sport, including the benefits of participation and the barriers to participation faced by refugees, and develops recommendations for sporting bodies to assist them in promoting refugee participation in sport.
- **Finding the Right Time and Place: Exploring post-compulsory education and training pathways for young people from refugee backgrounds in NSW** – This report brings together evidence of good practice in the provision of education and training that meet the needs of refugee young people (16-

24 years) who settle in Australia with a history of disrupted education, as well as identifying ways of addressing identified gaps.

### **2010 Election: Refugee Issues in the election platforms of major parties**

Given the strong focus on refugee policy in the 2010 Federal election campaign, RCOA has compiled a summary of the refugee policy platforms being promoted by the Australian Labor Party, the Liberal-National Coalition and the Greens. The summary can be downloaded from: [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/current/2010\\_party\\_election\\_policies.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/current/2010_party_election_policies.pdf)

### **RCOA analysis of 2010-11 Settlement Grants Program (SGP) funding**

In an effort to understand the Australian Government's current approaches to the funding of refugee and migrant settlement services, RCOA has analysed the outcomes of the 2010-11 funding round for the Settlement Grants Program (SGP). In June, the Government announced \$34.9 million in funding for 219 projects to be delivered by 145 organisations. The RCOA analysis breaks down the funding by state and territory, length of grants, funded organisations, service area and type and target groups. The report, which also includes an overview of trends in funding from 2007 to the present, can be downloaded from [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/SGP\\_2007-11.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/SGP_2007-11.pdf)

### **RCOA submission raises concerns for UN review of Australia's human rights record**

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, conducted by the United Nations Human Rights Council, involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four years. Australia is due to be reviewed under the UPR process in February 2011. In a submission to the Human Rights Council for the UPR process, RCOA drew attention to a number of human rights issues affecting refugees and asylum seekers in Australia, including immigration detention, offshore processing of asylum claims, the treatment of children and unaccompanied humanitarian minors, health requirements for humanitarian entrants, anti-people smuggling legislation, the expansion of the income management scheme, discrimination and human rights legislation. The submission can be downloaded from: [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/submissions/1007\\_UPR\\_RCOA.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/submissions/1007_UPR_RCOA.pdf)

### **NGO Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

Australia is scheduled to be reviewed by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in relation to its compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in Geneva in August 2010. In July 2010, the Human Rights Law Resource Centre, together with the National Association of Community Legal Centres, submitted a major NGO submission on Australia to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Entitled *Freedom Respect Equality Dignity: Action*, the report documents areas in which Australia is falling short of fulfilling its obligations under Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and contains concrete recommendations for Australian authorities, which would bring Australia more fully into compliance with its obligations under the Convention. The report, which was endorsed by a coalition of over 100 NGOs including RCOA, is at [www.hrlrc.org.au/files/NGO-CERD-Report-Final.pdf](http://www.hrlrc.org.au/files/NGO-CERD-Report-Final.pdf)

## **COMING EVENTS**

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**From Thursday 5 August – Sydney**

### **Screening of *Mother Fish***

In this film, the present melds with the past as a Vietnamese factory worker recalls the time she took to sea in a creaky riverboat in search of a better life. The film was directed by former refugee and 2005 Young Australian Of the Year Khoa Do.

Details: screening at Chauvel Cinema, Paddington Town Hall, Cnr Oxford Street and Oatley Road, Paddington, NSW; visit [www.chauvelcinema.net.au](http://www.chauvelcinema.net.au) to book tickets; for more information about the film, visit [www.facebook.com/pages/Mother-Fish/311800653545](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mother-Fish/311800653545)

**Thursday 5 August – Perth**

### **Screening of *Mother Fish* hosted by Amnesty International WA**

Amnesty International WA invites you to this screening of *Mother Fish*, the heartwarming story of two sisters who are forced to flee their home and risk everything in the search for safety. From award-winning director Khoa Do comes a deeply moving story of humour, pathos and hope. Performed in English and starring an exciting new cast from Australia's Vietnamese refugee community.

*Details:* 6:30pm; entry \$10, or by donation for students and unwaged guests; Luna Leederville, 155 Oxford Street, Leederville WA; contact the WA Action Centre on (08) 9476 4800 for tickets.

#### **Thursday 5 August – Melbourne**

##### **Arnold Zable: Understanding and celebrating the Journey of migrants**

Meet the author of *Sea of Many Returns* as he discusses his writing on journeys and other recent works such as *Between Sky & Sea* by Herz Bergner. Arnold's own work is well known for exploring the journeys of migrants and celebrating the complexity of the migrant experience.

*Details:* 6:00pm; entry by \$10 donation (proceeds will go to Fitzroy Learning Network's ongoing work to assist newly arrived migrants); Travellers Bookstore, 294 Smith Street, Collingwood VIC; light refreshments will be served. RSVP to (03) 9417 4179 or [shop@travellersbookstore.com](mailto:shop@travellersbookstore.com)

#### **Saturday 7 August – Hobart**

##### **Multicultural Celebration: "Unity Within"**

Tasmania University Union (TUU) presents Unity Within, one of Tasmania's premier multicultural events showcasing a wide range of multicultural cuisines and performances. Come in your cultural costumes and take part in a fashion show to win shopping vouchers.

*Details:* doors open 5:45pm; tickets \$10 (free entry for children under 12); TUU Activities Centre, TUU Building, 2 Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay TAS; for more information or to book tickets call the TUU Contact Centre on (03) 6226 2495.

#### **Saturday 7 August – Newcastle**

##### **Annual Women's Afternoon Tea: "Moving in the Spirit of Freedom"**

The Hunter African Communities Council invites you to attend its Annual Women's Afternoon Tea, "Moving in the Spirit of Freedom". This a showcase of rich cultural heritage and tradition reflected through dance and music.

*Details:* 1:00pm-5:00pm; Newcastle City Hall; this is a free event. For more information, contact Shakila Kader on 0409 153 912.

#### **Saturday 7 August – Sydney**

##### **Protest rally: Stand up for refugees**

The Refugee Action Coalition (Sydney) invites you to this rally to stand up for the rights of refugees.

*Details:* 1:00pm; Sydney Town Hall; call Ian 0417 275 713 or Diane 0413 003 148 for more details.

#### **Sunday 8 August – Melbourne**

##### **Gathering to commemorate 8/8/88 uprising**

The Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council is holding a small, informal gathering to commemorate the protesters who lost their lives during the 8/8/88 uprising in Burma. The program will include a moment of silence, sharing of stories and discussion about the current situation in Burma.

*Details:* 11:00am-1:00pm; 46-50 Queens Avenue, Springvale VIC.

#### **Monday 9 August to Wednesday 11 August – Sydney**

##### **MyLanguage Conference 2010**

The first national MyLanguage Conference will be a major event presented by the State and Territory Libraries of the ACT, Northern Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. These libraries form the MyLanguage project consortium which began in 2004 with the development of the MyLanguage website, [www.mylanguage.gov.au](http://www.mylanguage.gov.au). The website hosts a wide range of publically available information resources in over 60 languages. The theme of the conference is using digital technology to empower culturally and linguistically diverse communities to achieve greater social inclusion and maintain cultural and linguistic identity.

*Details:* State Library of NSW, Sydney; for more information e-mail [conference@mylanguage.gov.au](mailto:conference@mylanguage.gov.au)

#### **Wednesday 11 August – Adelaide**

##### **Migrant Settlement Forum and Cultural Awareness Training**

The Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia in collaboration with the City of Holdfast Bay, the City of Marion and the City of Onkaparinga invites you to a forum and training session for service providers and community support groups. This is an opportunity for those working with new and emerging

communities to update their knowledge and skills in communicating and servicing clients of refugee and migrant background.

*Details:* 9:00am-3:30pm; Council Chambers, City of Marion, 245 Sturt Road, Sturt SA; register by Friday 30 July 2010 to [matti@mrcsa.com.au](mailto:matti@mrcsa.com.au) or fax (08) 8217 9556.

### **Wednesday 11 August – Melbourne**

#### **Launch of *Australia's Hidden Homeless***

The Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project invites you to attend the launch of *Australia's Hidden Homeless*. This research project aimed to survey and investigate national and international models of housing provision for asylum seekers living in the community in Australia. The research identifies a critical lack of housing and support for asylum seekers, culminating in health and welfare disadvantage, and proposes a community-based alternative to homelessness amongst asylum seekers. Judge Felicity Hampel SC, a prominent human rights lawyer and judge of the County Court of Victoria, will be guest speaker at the event.

*Details:* 4:30pm-6:00pm; Queensberry Room, the Leveson, 46 Leveson Street, North Melbourne VIC; light refreshments and entertainment provided. RSVP essential by 9 August to Sam or Ren on (03) 9326 8343 or [asp@hothammission.org.au](mailto:asp@hothammission.org.au)

### **Friday 13 August – Melbourne**

#### **Protest rally: Stand up for refugees**

The Refugee Action Coalition (Victoria) invites you to this rally to stand up for the rights of refugees.

*Details:* 5:30pm; State Library, Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC. For information, visit [www.rac-vic.org](http://www.rac-vic.org)

### **Saturday 14 to Sunday 15 August – Canberra**

#### **Radioactive Multicultural and Indigenous Youth Media Conference 2010**

The National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council together with the Australian Indigenous Communications Association and 1CMS, Canberra's multicultural community radio station, invite you to attend the 2010 National Radioactive Multicultural and Indigenous Youth Media Conference in Canberra. Radioactive is a conference for young people from all backgrounds to engage in community media and become informed about media career pathways. Over two days you will hear from industry professionals, learn media skills, explore what it means to be a media maker and get the chance to meet young people who currently broadcast. It's a chance to get connected with community media outlets, find out about training and internship opportunities and learn from people in the media industry.

*Details:* 10:00am-5:00pm (both days); registration \$30; Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, 2nd Floor, 180 London Circuit, Civic, Canberra ACT; partial subsidy for travels costs for participants may be available; for more information please contact [youth@nembc.org.au](mailto:youth@nembc.org.au) or call (03) 9486 9549.

### **Saturday 14 August – Canberra**

#### **Protest rally: Stand up for refugees**

This rally will feature refugee stories and speeches by Lin Hatfield Dodds of the Australian Greens and Pene Mathew from the Australian National University.

*Details:* 11:00am; Petrie Plaza, Civic, Canberra.

### **Monday 16 August – Melbourne**

#### **Seminar: *Human Rights as Foreign Policy***

The Human Rights Law Resource Centre and the Australian Council for International Development present *Global Good Samaritans: Human Rights as Foreign Policy*. Speakers will include Professor Alison Brysk, Mellichamp Chair in Global Governance at the University of California; the Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH, former Prime Minister of Australia and former President of CARE International; Chris Sidoti, International Human Rights Expert and former Australian Human Rights Commissioner; and Daniel Flitton, Diplomatic Editor, *The Age*.

*Details:* 6.00pm – 7.45pm; \$25/\$15 concession; Blake Dawson, Level 26, 181 William Street, Melbourne; RSVP by 9 August. To RSVP or for further information, contact the Human Rights Law Resource Centre on (03) 8636 4455 or [admin@pilch.org.au](mailto:admin@pilch.org.au)

### **Tuesday 17 August – Sydney**

#### **Forum: 'Dream or Reality?' – Affordable Housing in Western Sydney**

This forum aims to highlight the gap in housing affordability and availability facing Western Sydney and to develop powerful advocacy to address housing equity in the region. Come, hear and question housing experts from different sectors highlight the problems, their size, and the degree to which current strategies address these. Participate in one of the workshops (in relation to refugees, affordable housing or homelessness) to discuss and prioritise strategies.

*Details:* 9:00am for 9:30am start to 2:30pm; Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, 1 Casula Road, Casula NSW (next to Casula Rail Station); for further information or to register your interest, contact Rosie Wong on (02) 9782 6547 or (02) 8727 0477.

#### **Tuesday 17 August – Melbourne**

##### **Book launch: *The Pacific Solution* by Susan Metcalfe**

The night will include a discussion of offshore processing and our responses to people seeking asylum, to be facilitated by Michael Gordon, senior political journalist at *The Age*, with participants Richard Towle, UNHCR Regional Representative; John Gibson, President of the Refugee Council of Australia; Guy Coffey, Foundation House; and refugees who were detained in Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

*Details:* 6:45pm; The Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC (in State Library building).

#### **Wednesday 18 August to Sunday 22 August – Townsville**

##### **Cultural Fest 2010**

Cultural Fest is a 5-day family event that attracts over 80,000 audiences annually from all walks of life in the spirit of fun and friendship. The festival showcases the talents of local, interstate and international music and dance entertainers, food, arts and crafts. This year Cultural Fest will host a concert by Ms Jessica Mauboy the top and young Australian pop singer and actress.

*Details:* for more information, visit [www.culturalfest.org](http://www.culturalfest.org)

#### **Wednesday 18 August – Sydney**

##### **Launch of two new resources on aged care**

The NSW Spanish and Latin American Association for Social Assistance (NSW SLASA) invites you to the launch of two new resources on aged care. The “Medimate Booklet” aims to inform the Spanish speaking elderly community of risks involved in mismanaging medication in the home environment and to develop positive strategies. The “Cultural Briefing Kit” aims to provide a general overview to Aged Care Service providers about culturally appropriate aged care practices for the Spanish speaking communities.

*Details:* 10:30am for an 11:00am start to 12:00pm; morning tea provided; Cabra-Vale Diggers Club, Wisteria Wattle Waratah Function Centre, 1-15 Bartley Street, Canley Vale NSW; RSVP by 6 August for catering purposes. For more information about the launch or to confirm your attendance, please contact Sandra Loyola-Sandoval on (02) 9724 22 20 or e-mail [cpp@nswslasa.com.au](mailto:cpp@nswslasa.com.au)

#### **Thursday 19 August – worldwide**

##### **World Humanitarian Day**

The aim of World Humanitarian Day is to contribute to increasing public awareness about humanitarian work and the importance of international cooperation, and to commemorate all humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel who have worked in the promotion of the humanitarian cause, and those who have lost their lives in the course of duty.

*Details:* for further information, visit [ochaonline.un.org/whd](http://ochaonline.un.org/whd)

#### **Thursday 19 August to Friday 20 August – Townsville**

##### **International Unity in Diversity Conference 2010**

This year's Unity in Diversity conference will focus on the issues of aged care, disability and indigenous economic empowerment. With the help of a Steering Committee made up of leaders and practitioners from the education, community and business fields, this program has been designed to highlight speakers, panels and networking opportunities to enhance diversity, culture and social cohesion. Building on the outcomes from last year's conference, contributions on issues related to the global economic crisis, migrant settlement, mental health, education, skills and employment and youth issues are welcomed.

*Details:* Rydges Southbank Townsville Hotel & Convention Centre, Townsville QLD; for more information visit [www.culturalfest.org/unityindiversityconference.htm](http://www.culturalfest.org/unityindiversityconference.htm)

#### Thursday 26 August – Melbourne

##### **Seminar: Prevention of Violence Against Immigrant and Refugee Women**

This seminar, part of the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (MCWH) Seminar Series 2010, will focus on the prevention of violence against immigrant and refugee women. Empowering immigrant and refugee women to protect themselves from violence will be covered. MCWH has recently completed research into the primary prevention of violence against immigrant and refugee women. The research findings will be publicly presented for the first time at the seminar. The seminar will also highlight the MOSAIC (MOtherS' Advocates in the Community) Project which focuses on abused and at risk women. Available resources and prevention programs will also be covered. Guest speakers include Carolyn Poljski is a Health Promotion and Research Project Officer at MCWH; and Dr Angela Taft, Senior Research Fellow at Mother and Child Health Research, La Trobe University.

*Details:* 9:00am-2:00pm; \$65 per person (includes lunch); Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, Suite 207, Level 2, Carringbush Building, 134 Cambridge Street, Collingwood, VIC; RSVP by Friday 20 August. For more information or to RSVP, contact Dr Salma Al-Khudairi on (03) 9418 0999 or [training@mcwh.com.au](mailto:training@mcwh.com.au)

#### Friday 27 August – Perth

##### **Opening night of Journey Towards Hope art exhibition**

Amnesty International WA invites you to attend the opening night of *Journey Towards Hope*, an exhibition featuring works by renowned photojournalist Richard Wainwright, as well as art created by students from the Edmund Rice Institute and photos from Sydney's Shutter Collective. Richard Wainwright will be presenting an artist talk on the night. Drinks, nibbles and entertainment provided.

*Details:* 7:00pm; Moore's Gallery, 46 Henry Street, Fremantle; for more information or to RSVP, contact Jill Downard on (08) 9476 4802 or [waaia@amensty.org.au](mailto:waaia@amensty.org.au)

#### Friday 27 August – Wangaratta

##### **Local Government and Multiculturalism: Innovation & Leadership on the Ground conference**

This informative one-day conference will offer delegates a unique opportunity to learn about the outcomes of current research and examples of innovation and leadership from local Councils across Victoria, while developing a richer understanding of multicultural communities and the challenges and benefits that cultural diversity brings to local areas. Speakers will include the Hon James Merlino, Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs; Bill McArthur, President of the Municipal Association of Victoria; and Pino Migliorino, Chairperson of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia.

*Details:* For registration and program details visit [www.multicultural.vic.gov.au](http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au), email [Dianne.Tran@vmc.vic.gov.au](mailto:Dianne.Tran@vmc.vic.gov.au) or phone (03) 9651 0629.

#### Sunday 5 September – Melbourne

##### **Festival of refugees**

This event will showcase performances from Burma, Sudan, Congo, Vietnam, West Papua, Sri Lanka, and more! Featuring award-winning singer Kavisha Mazzella and Muslim author Hanifa Deen with performances followed by a Middle Eastern and West African Dinner, Aboriginal Elder Reg Blow will welcome the refugees to the festival and acknowledge the traditional owners.

*Details:* 3:00pm-5:30pm; \$10 admission; Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill; bookings advisable by 20 August. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Glenys or Visier on (03) 9650 6811 or [vcc@vcc.org.au](mailto:vcc@vcc.org.au)

#### Tuesday 14 September to Friday 17 September – Sydney

##### **The Mental Health Services (TheMHS) Conference**

The Transcultural Mental Health Centre NSW (TMHC) is working in partnership with organisers of the 20th annual The Mental Health Services (TheMHS) Conference to develop a transcultural mental health stream within this year's conference. TheMHS Conference is an international mental health educational forum, attracting over 1000 mental health clinicians, managers, consumers, carers, researchers, educators and policy makers, annually.

*Details:* Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more information visit [www.themhs.org](http://www.themhs.org)

## NEW RESEARCH, STATEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

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### **Resources from 2010 Diversity in Health Conference**

The Diversity in Health Conference was held in Melbourne from June 7 to 10. Presentations, post-conference reports, posters and photos from the conference are now available for download from [www.ceh.org.au/post-conference.aspx](http://www.ceh.org.au/post-conference.aspx)

### **State of Sydney 2010: The Depth & Diversity of Social Exclusion**

This new report by Anglicare focuses on entrenched need in three groups in Sydney; people using Emergency Relief, African refugees and ageing parents caring for their disabled children. The report examines the experiences of disadvantage of these three groups are examined through the lens of the social exclusion framework and recommendations the adoption of a holistic, integrated, multifaceted policy approach to the issue of social exclusion. The report can be downloaded from [www.anglicare.org.au/download.cfm?f=2FDF4119-1372-FC3A-1E4E277689295AA1](http://www.anglicare.org.au/download.cfm?f=2FDF4119-1372-FC3A-1E4E277689295AA1)

### **Launch of global online community on migration and integration**

The UN Alliance of Civilizations and the International Organization for Migration have jointly built an interactive community aimed at promoting good practices of integration. The Online Community on Migration and Integration – Building Inclusive Societies (IBIS) is a worldwide community of policy makers, practitioners and civil society activists who work together to improve relations among migrants and host communities. IBIS features ideas and innovative projects from around the world, highlighting successful models and inspiring new initiatives. It also illustrates the positive impact of migration and the benefits it can bring to host societies, as migrants contribute to the economic, cultural and social life of their new country. IBIS includes a global interactive map, links to resources on migration policies and relevant events, a gallery of socially engaged artists and a forum allowing migrants and professionals who offer answers to complex integration issues. IBIS can be accessed through [www.unaoc.org/communities/migrationintegration](http://www.unaoc.org/communities/migrationintegration)

### **New Problem Gambling Resources Available in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian and Vietnamese**

Free brochures, posters and DVDs aimed at helping non-English speaking problem gamblers have been launched in NSW. The resources are part of major awareness campaigns targeting the Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Greek and Italian-speaking communities. The campaigns aim to create community-based dialogues about the issues of problem gambling and increase active help-seeking among both problem gamblers and their loved ones. To order these freeresources, please contact Monique Richards, Project Officer, Responsible Gambling Fund at [monique.richards@communities.nsw.gov.au](mailto:monique.richards@communities.nsw.gov.au) For problem gambling resources in most other languages, please contact the Multicultural Problem Gambling Service on (02) 9840 3800, or visit [www.dhi.gov.au](http://www.dhi.gov.au)

### **WYPIN New Arrival Survival Guide**

The Western Young People's Independent Network (WYPIN) New Arrival Survival Guide is designed for newly-arrived young people in Victoria and contains information about support services, employment, public transport, education and budgeting. The guide can be downloaded from the WYPIN website, [www.wypin.org.au](http://www.wypin.org.au)

### **OECD releases International Migration Outlook 2010**

The OECD has found that migration is the key to long-term economic growth. While international migration has declined during the economic crisis, migrants will be the key to filling labour market shortages. The report is available at [www.oecd.org/document/41/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_33931\\_45591593\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/41/0,3343,en_2649_33931_45591593_1_1_1_1,00.html)

## OPPORTUNITIES

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### **NSW Community Development Grants program now open**

Applications are now open for the first round of the NSW Community Relations Commission's 2011 Community Development Grants Program (Sponsorship). Applications are invited from not-for-profit incorporated organisations to receive up to \$5,000 for annual festivals or major cultural events scheduled no earlier than 1 December 2010. *The closing date for submissions is 10 September 2010.*

Funding under the sponsorship program is provided three times a year and will open again in November 2010. For further information and to download an application form, visit [www.crc.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://www.crc.nsw.gov.au/grants)

### **Australian Human Rights Register**

The Human Rights Register is an advocacy tool that seeks to further the advancement of human rights in Australia. The Register provides a quick and easy opportunity for NGOs to record human rights developments. This database will be a useful tool in human rights advocacy and documentation. The data collected from the Register will be used for the purpose of advocacy in documentation and submissions for change, public speaking and communication with key decision-makers including the United Nations bodies responsible for advancing human rights, media and lobbying for improved outcomes and human rights. To access the register and make a submission, visit [www.hrlrc.org.au/australian-human-rights-register](http://www.hrlrc.org.au/australian-human-rights-register). Entries will be accepted from May **until 31 October 2010**. Questions can be directed to [HumanRightsRegister@hrlrc.org.au](mailto:HumanRightsRegister@hrlrc.org.au)

### **New Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize 2010**

Multicultural Arts Victoria and AMES Victoria are collaborating to launch the inaugural New Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize 2010. The Prize celebrates the creative talent and social contribution of visual artists from a refugee background. Artists living in Australia since 1995, with beginning or established practices in painting, drawing, photography or mixed media, are encouraged to create work that reflects and expresses the theme of *New Heartlands*. Entries are due by Friday 1 October 2010. Entry forms are available through [www.multiculturalarts.com.au](http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au) For more information, contact Léuli or Deshani on (03) 9417 6777 or [fiesta@multiculturalarts.com.au](mailto:fiesta@multiculturalarts.com.au)

### **Entries open for National Multicultural Marketing Awards**

The NSW Community Relations Commission's National Multicultural Marketing Awards have officially opened for 2010. The Awards are open to anyone in business in Australia. A total of seven awards will be presented including awards in the area of community, commercial sectors, advertising and government. **Entries close Tuesday 31 August 2010** and winners will be announced on 1 November 2010. For more information, visit [www.crc.nsw.gov.au/Awards\\_and\\_Sponsorships/mma\\_2010](http://www.crc.nsw.gov.au/Awards_and_Sponsorships/mma_2010) or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/crcnmma](http://twitter.com/crcnmma) (simply register to find out more about the awards).

### **Nominations open for Human Rights Medals and Awards**

Since 1987, the Australian Human Rights Commission has recognised the immeasurable contribution to Australian society of a wide variety of men, women and organisations committed to issues of human rights, social justice and equality through the annual Human Rights Medals and Awards. They may have made an outstanding contribution within their communities or through the practice of law, through writing books about human rights issues or through their work in the media. **Nominations close 5:00pm, Monday 4 October 2010**. For more information about the awards and making a nomination, visit [www.humanrights.gov.au/hr\\_awards](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards)

### **Nominations open for United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Awards**

Journalists and producers whose work addresses humanitarian and social justice issues are encouraged to nominate for the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Media Peace Awards 2010. The nominated work must have been published or broadcast in the Australian media between 12 September 2009 and 10 September 2010. **Nominations close 5:00pm Friday 10 September 2010**. For more information, entry criteria and nomination forms, please visit [www.unaavictoria.org.au](http://www.unaavictoria.org.au) or contact the UNAA Victoria office on (03) 9670 7878 or [office@unaavictoria.org.au](mailto:office@unaavictoria.org.au)

## **REFUGEE ISSUES IN THE MEDIA**

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A busy person's digest of some recent media coverage of refugee issues:

(Inclusion in this summary does not imply that RCOA agrees with the article's content or vouches for its accuracy)

### **Haneef battle with Andrews set to cost taxpayers**

Former immigration minister Kevin Andrews' legal bill is likely to be picked up by taxpayers as cleared terror suspect Mohamed Haneef sues him for defamation. The former Gold Coast-based doctor has also slapped a lawsuit on the Australian government for unspecified damages following his wrongful arrest in 2007 on suspicion of being involved in a failed terrorist attack in Britain. (Weekend Australian, 3 July)

### **Gillard: Immigration hardliners are not racist**

Prime Minister Julia Gillard has said people who want a hard line on asylum seekers are neither racist nor intolerant, and that political correctness should be "swept out of the way" in important national debates. Yesterday, Opposition Leader Tony Abbott called on the Government to immediately adopt the Coalition's border protection policy. Mr Abbott said he was prepared to fight an election on the issue. (Sunday Mail Adelaide, 4 July)

### **Refugee Council calls for calm approach as opposition calls for TPVs**

Immigration spokesman Scott Morrison said a "mass repatriation" of Afghan and Sri Lankan asylum-seekers who have had their claims rejected would be an "election fix" that would not represent a change of policy. Mr Morrison said the government needed to reintroduce offshore processing, turn back boats and reintroduce temporary protection visas. Ms Gillard will unveil a new approach to tackling boat arrivals this week, possibly including a resumption of the processing of Sri Lankan asylum claims. Refugee Council of Australia president John Gibson urged the government to accept its share of asylum-seekers. "We'd like to see the government take a very calm approach. Emphasise to the Australian people that the numbers that come here are minimal compared to the rest of the world and that we have our responsibilities and that we should accept them," he told ABC radio. (The Australian, 5 July)

[www.theaustralian.com.au/politics/boats-policy-must-have-temporary-protection-visas-scott-morrison/story-e6frgczf-1225887917092](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/politics/boats-policy-must-have-temporary-protection-visas-scott-morrison/story-e6frgczf-1225887917092)

### **Abbott to announce tough policy before Gillard**

The Opposition Leader will announce new Coalition policy this morning, promising to reject asylum-seekers without IDs and giving the Immigration Minister the final say on asylum applications to ensure the process is more "objective" and "accountable". (The Australian, 6 July)

[www.theaustralian.com.au/politics/tony-abbott-to-announce-tough-asylum-seekers-policy-before-julia-gillard/story-e6frgczf-1225888341648](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/politics/tony-abbott-to-announce-tough-asylum-seekers-policy-before-julia-gillard/story-e6frgczf-1225888341648)

### **Battle-lines drawn on boats**

Julia Gillard has pledged to send asylum seekers to be processed in East Timor as she toughens her stance on the issue in preparation for calling an election. Ms Gillard said the purpose of the East Timor processing centre "would be to ensure that people smugglers have no product to sell. Arriving by boat would just be a ticket back to the regional processing centre". She also announced that the ban on processing Sri Lankan claims would be lifted. But the government is confident that, after the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported conditions had improved in Sri Lanka, most will be rejected. Opposition Leader Tony Abbott also announced new hard measures - vowing to send home asylum seekers who destroyed their identification papers - ensuring border protection will be a central campaign battleground. (The Age, 7 July)

[www.theage.com.au/national/battle-lines-drawn-on-boats-20100706-zz1l.html?autostart=1](http://www.theage.com.au/national/battle-lines-drawn-on-boats-20100706-zz1l.html?autostart=1)

### **Timor says it's too poor to do Australia's dirty work**

Julia Gillard's proposal to set up a regional processing centre on East Timor is sinking, with East Timor's Deputy Prime Minister, Jose Luis Guterres, saying his impoverished country is "very unlikely" to accept a refugee processing centre. Ms Gillard also discussed her plan with the New Zealand Prime Minister, John Key, during a five-minute phone call on Monday night. Mr Key was cautious about embracing the proposal and yesterday the NZ Labour opposition said the nation should keep out of what is an intense domestic political debate in Australia. (Sydney Morning Herald, 8 July)

[www.smh.com.au/national/timor-says-its-too-poor-to-do-australias-dirty-work-20100707-100pv.html](http://www.smh.com.au/national/timor-says-its-too-poor-to-do-australias-dirty-work-20100707-100pv.html)

### **Gillard accused of Timor backflip**

Julia Gillard has backed away from naming East Timor as her preferred location for a regional refugee processing centre, as that country's president said he was still open to the suggestion. In a radio interview yesterday she stressed that she had never explicitly said that East Timor would be the location, instead telling Fairfax Radio that the site would only emerge from talks with regional neighbours. (ABC News Online, 9 July)

[www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/07/09/2948770.htm?section=world](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/07/09/2948770.htm?section=world)

### **PNG now in Labor sights for asylum-seeker centre**

LABOR has confirmed Papua New Guinea's Manus Island as a possible site for a regional refugee processing facility. This comes after the government encountered strong opposition to a centre being located in East Timor. But the government is yet to formally raise the use of the Lombrum centre on

Manus Island with PNG leaders. PNG has been housing about 10,000 refugees from fighting across the border in Indonesia for about 20 years in a manner recently commended and applauded by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. (The Australian, 10 July)

[www.theaustralian.com.au/politics/png-now-in-labor-sights-for-asylum-seeker-centre/story-e6frqczf-1225890029965](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/politics/png-now-in-labor-sights-for-asylum-seeker-centre/story-e6frqczf-1225890029965)

### **Labor closer to Coalition on asylum seeker issue**

Labor has closed the gap on the Coalition over the asylum seeker issue despite Julia Gillard's policy announcement threatening to unravel. The latest *Herald*/Nielsen poll shows the government and Coalition statistically tied in the eyes of voters as to which could better handle the issue. The issue consumed politics last week when the Prime Minister issued her offshore processing policy, similar to the "Pacific solution", in an attempt to stem the damage being inflicted on Labor in marginal seats by boat arrivals.

Although this brought Labor level with the Coalition, more voters still prefer the Coalition's tougher policy approach. (Sydney Morning Herald, 12 July)

[www.smh.com.au/national/labor-closer-to-coalition-on-asylum-seeker-issue-20100711-105pj.html](http://www.smh.com.au/national/labor-closer-to-coalition-on-asylum-seeker-issue-20100711-105pj.html)

### **Timor MPs reject Gillard plan**

East Timor's Parliament voted against the plan to open a regional processing centre for asylum seekers in East Timor. The Prime Minister has said that Australia is still in negotiations with the Government of East Timor. Opinion polls showed the ALP has gained ground on the issue of asylum seekers. Opposition leader Tony Abbott says the Australia Government should negotiate with Nauru. (Australian Financial Review, 13 July)

### **Opposition says turning back boats "would be safe"**

The opposition has defended its pledge to turn back boatloads of asylum seekers, saying they would not just be pushed off and left to fend for themselves. Opposition immigration spokesman Scott Morrison said careful consideration would be given to each boat to determine its sea-worthiness and to ensure lives were not put at risk. Former Howard government immigration minister Philip Ruddock admitted this week it wasn't always possible to "turn the boats back". (Sydney Morning Herald, 14 July)

[news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/turning-back-boats-would-be-safe-20100713-108r5.html](http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/turning-back-boats-would-be-safe-20100713-108r5.html)

### **Cost of asylum-seeker detention \$100m over budget**

Revised budget estimates revealed the cost of housing detainees had blown out by \$100 million. The figures, contained in an economic statement released by Wayne Swan on Wednesday, reveal a total of \$122.6m in new border security and immigration spending. Most of the money – \$97.8m – went to the Immigration Department to expand mainland detention centres and \$24.8m went to the Australian Federal Police to fight people-smuggling. (The Australian, 16 July)

[www.theaustralian.com.au/news/cost-of-asylum-seeker-detention-100m-over-budget/story-e6frg6n6-1225892352835](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/cost-of-asylum-seeker-detention-100m-over-budget/story-e6frg6n6-1225892352835)

### **We're tougher on asylum seekers, says Abbott**

Federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott has rejected suggestions by Prime Minister Julia Gillard that the Coalition and Labor have similar policies on dealing with asylum seekers. "To start with we will bring back temporary protection visas," Mr Abbott told Sky News. The coalition also has a policy of turning the asylum seeker boats around where possible to prevent them from reaching Australia. Both parties have embraced offshore processing. (Sydney Morning Herald, 18 July)

[www.smh.com.au/federal-election/were-tougher-on-asylum-seekers-says-abbott-20100718-10fm8.html](http://www.smh.com.au/federal-election/were-tougher-on-asylum-seekers-says-abbott-20100718-10fm8.html)

### **Tim Costello - Australia can have stronger borders and a bigger heart**

The anger spawned by the issue may reflect the economic hardships many ordinary working Australian families are feeling. At such times, resentment can boil over towards any seen to be getting preferential treatment. Asylum seekers are often termed "queue jumpers" and the limited benefits they receive grow into the stuff of folklore by jaded taxpayers. The irony is that when Australian governments moved to set up overseas processing centres the cost to the taxpayer soars far beyond the costs of housing and processing asylum seekers here. (Sydney Morning Herald, 19 July)

[www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/australia-can-have-stronger-borders-and-a-bigger-heart-20100718-10fwa.html](http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/australia-can-have-stronger-borders-and-a-bigger-heart-20100718-10fwa.html)

### **Timor solution put on hold for election**

Labor's plan to convince East Timor to host regional asylum seekers has been put on hold during the election campaign. Public service rules instruct Australian officials to avoid international talks during the caretaker period and adopt an observer role. (The Age, 20 July)

[www.theage.com.au/federal-election/timor-solution-put-on-hold-for-election-20100719-10hum.html](http://www.theage.com.au/federal-election/timor-solution-put-on-hold-for-election-20100719-10hum.html)

### **Successful asylum claims plummet**

The suspension of new Afghan and Sri Lankan asylum claims was followed by a rapid drop in successful asylum claims. Yesterday, the regional head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Richard Towle, said the high refusal rates suggested a certainty about the situation in Afghanistan that was at odds with the stated reason for the suspension. Before the suspension, Afghans were being approved at a rate of more than 95 per cent. Refugee Council president John Gibson said there was "no way the (current) decision-making reflects the situation on the ground" in Afghanistan. "In terms of Afghans, there is a question mark over the integrity of the process," Mr Gibson said. (The Australian, 21 July)

[www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/successful-asylum-claims-plummet/story-e6frg6nf-1225894776213](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/successful-asylum-claims-plummet/story-e6frg6nf-1225894776213)

### **Pakistan police want access to asylum seekers**

Pakistani police want to interrogate asylum seekers from Afghanistan held on Christmas Island in a bid to disrupt people-smuggling syndicates in south Asia. But refugee advocates were quick yesterday to slam the proposal for putting vulnerable people at further risk. With boats carrying asylum seekers a fierce election issue in Australia, both sides of politics yesterday declined to say if they would back Pakistan's proposal. Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith said Australia was already working closely with Pakistan to combat people smuggling. (The Age, 22 July)

[www.theage.com.au/national/pakistan-police-want-access-to-asylum-seekers-20100721-10i6i.html](http://www.theage.com.au/national/pakistan-police-want-access-to-asylum-seekers-20100721-10i6i.html)

### **Jakarta may lock up asylum seekers**

Indonesian officials are considering a plan that would end the country's practice of allowing asylum-seekers who have been assessed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to live in the community, where they have easy access to boats that will take them to Australia to seek asylum. Australia might be asked to fund detention centres in Indonesia to help Jakarta deter asylum-seekers from using the nation as a staging point. (The Australian, 23 July)

[www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/jakarta-may-lock-up-boatpeople/story-fn59niix-1225895838376](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/jakarta-may-lock-up-boatpeople/story-fn59niix-1225895838376)

### **Leader talk tough on asylum**

Tony Abbott and Julia Gillard have again vowed to stop the boats, following reports up to 800 asylum seekers are headed to Australia. Ms Gillard said she was determined to "deliver" a regional processing centre, preferably in East Timor. One policy "worth considering" is an open discussion, such as Labor's proposed citizens' assembly on climate change, frontbencher Tanya Plibersek told Sky News. Opposition Leader Tony Abbott criticised Labor's plan, telling a Liberal party conference only a coalition government can "stop the boats". Meanwhile, his immigration spokesman, Scott Morrison, flagged a quick visit to Nauru to discuss the possibility of reopening its offshore processing centre. (Sydney Morning Herald, 24 July)

[www.smh.com.au/national/boats-on-the-horizon-have-leaders-talking-tough-again-20100724-10pem.html](http://www.smh.com.au/national/boats-on-the-horizon-have-leaders-talking-tough-again-20100724-10pem.html)

### **Refugee Council says Afghan asylum cases unfairly rejected**

Immigration authorities are refusing to release updated refugee guidelines that have been used to slash Afghan asylum claims by 70 per cent, leading to accusations boatpeople are being denied procedural fairness. Refugee Council president John Gibson said there was a question mark over the quality of refugee decision making within the department. "There's an argument to say that various decision making is cobbling together disparate pieces of Afghanistan to arrive at a certain conclusion, a negative conclusion. There are clearly instances of selective use of country information." There has been a sharp drop in successful asylum claims. Most Afghan country experts say there has been no appreciable improvement in the conditions inside Afghanistan, particularly as they relate to Hazaras, who comprise the majority of asylum seekers. (The Australian, 26 July)

### **Coalition meets with Nauru**

Deputy Opposition Leader Julie Bishop and immigration spokesman Scott Morrison will meet with Nauru's foreign minister Kieren Keke in Brisbane on Tuesday to discuss reactivating the Australian-built centre on Nauru. Labor has ruled out Nauru as an option, preferring instead to continue discussions with the Gusmao government about a new centre on East Timor. It also says negotiations with Nauru are a waste of time because the Pacific island nation's parliament is fractured. Asylum seekers rate higher with voters than interest rates, inflation, climate changes and industrial relations but lower than health and Medicare, education, the economy, leadership and national security, the poll showed. (Australian Associated Press, 27 July)

[au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/national/7650964/coalition-presses-on-asylum-seekers](http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/national/7650964/coalition-presses-on-asylum-seekers)

### **Former Nauru detainees “still need help”**

Claims that "negative perceptions" of the Nauru detention centre are unfounded have been dismissed by the mental health expert who assessed asylum seekers who spent four years on the remote, cash-strapped island. The director of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Trauma and Torture, Paris Aristotle, told The Age the team dispatched to assess the last 27 of those who were sent to the island in 2001 concluded "virtually all were at a point of serious psychological distress and extremely high numbers were regularly thinking about suicide". In remarks that have implications for both sides of politics, Mr Aristotle said a regional processing centre on its own was not a solution to the problem of boat arrivals. It would only be effective as part of a regional framework overseen by the United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, that involved transit countries and offered solutions to those found to need protection. (The Age, 28 July)

[www.theage.com.au/federal-election/former-nauru-detainees-still-need-help-20100727-10uci.html](http://www.theage.com.au/federal-election/former-nauru-detainees-still-need-help-20100727-10uci.html)

### **Nauru's “notoriety” undermines option**

More than 95 per cent of asylum seekers who were processed at Nauru's detention centre under the Howard government were resettled in Australia, Stephen Smith, the Foreign Affairs Minister says. Mr Smith rejected repeated calls by Opposition Leader Tony Abbott to talk to the president of Nauru about reopening the centre, because they are not a signatory to the United Nation refugee convention. He said that meant no nations would be willing to accept any refugees once they were processed in Nauru and inevitably they would have to be resettled in Australia. (Canberra Times, 30 July)