



Refugee Council
of Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL REFUGEE WEEK LAUNCH MARKS CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUNG REFUGEES

National Refugee Week will be launched around the country from this Sunday June 17 to mark the contribution and ideas of young refugees. The celebrations will kick off a fabulous week of events around the country to coincide with World Refugee Day on June 20. The theme of this year's celebration is "The Voices of Young Refugees".

Refugee Council of Australia Chief executive officer Paul Power said the Refugee Week celebrations would be marked by more than 120 large and small events in cities, suburbs and towns across the country. These include a Refugee Week film festival, anti-discrimination workshops, information sessions on refugees, an indoor soccer competition for refugees, art exhibitions and book launches.

Official launches for Refugee Week will be held in five cities around the country – Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Townsville.

Refugee Week has been marked across Australia since 1986. This year, the event will be held in June to coincide for the first time with World Refugee Day, an international celebration started six years ago by the United Nations.

"In 2007, Australia is marking 60 years of the post-war migration program which reshaped our nation," Mr Power said. "Among the six million migrants who have come to our shores have been around 700,000 refugees and humanitarian migrants who have come to Australia to escape situations of conflict, peril and persecution.

"Not only has Australia given many people a chance to build a new life free from fear but our country has been greatly enriched by the skills, energy, love of freedom, diversity and resilience these refugees have brought with them."

"Through this year's focus on young refugees, we are encouraging organisations and communities to take the opportunity to listen to the views, ideas and hopes of young people who have experienced life as a refugee," Mr Power said.