



Refugee Council  
of Australia

June 5, 2008

## **REFUGEE WEEK – JUNE 15-21**

### **Theme: ‘A Place to Call Home’**

The contribution of 700,000 refugees who have made Australia their home over the past 60 years will be acknowledged this month as the nation celebrates Refugee Week.

Refugee Week will be held from Sunday, June 15 to Saturday, June 21 and will coincide with the international celebration of World Refugee Day on June 20.

This year’s theme, “A Place to Call Home”, focuses attention on our common obligations to people who have no secure home, as well as highlights the situation of those who came to Australia to begin again after losing their homes because of conflict and persecution.

Refugee Council of Australia chief executive officer Paul Power said that more than 100 local events would be held across Australia with major launches planned for Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane. Local events will include festivals, seminars, exhibitions, concerts and lunches.

“Refugee Week aims to give Australians an opportunity to learn more about the personal stories of people who came to Australia as refugees and the contributions they have made to their adopted homeland,” Mr Power said.

“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.

Refugee Week has been observed annually in Australia since 1986.

For more information on Refugee Week Events in your area, the full national events calendar can be viewed on the Refugee Council of Australia website at [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/refugeeweek.html](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/refugeeweek.html).