



Refugee Council of Australia

BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

29 April 2015

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

Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia

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NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE COUNCIL

Community concerns about the Refugee and Humanitarian Program presented to Minister

On 16 April, RCOA CEO Paul Power presented RCOA's annual submission on the Refugee and Humanitarian Program to Immigration Minister Peter Dutton at a Ministerial consultation in Sydney. The submission is based on a national consultation process conducted between October and December 2014, during which 47 face-to-face consultations with service providers and refugee community representatives across all states of Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Over 860 people, including representatives from more than 120 organisations, participated in the consultation process. The submission focuses on three key areas: international refugee needs and possible priorities for Australia's resettlement program; the size and composition of Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program; and post-arrival settlement support. Key recommendations made in the submission include: restoring the size of the Refugee and Humanitarian Program to 20,000 places annually and considering options for further increasing the program in light of current global needs; overhauling family reunion options for refugee and humanitarian entrants; ensuring greater consistency in settlement patterns so as to support the maintenance of quality settlement support services across Australia; and abolishing Temporary Protection Visas. RCOA is also working on a separate report focusing on asylum policy issues which will be released in coming weeks. The intake submission can be read at <http://bit.ly/1JcN9km>

Stacking the odds against people in need

The passing of the *Migration Amendment (Protection and Other Measures) Bill 2014* will further stack the odds against vulnerable people seeking Australia's protection. The Bill made a number of changes to Australia's processes for assessing asylum claims, including shifting the burden of proof onto asylum seekers, requiring the Refugee Review Tribunal to draw unfavourable inferences about the credibility of refugee claims in some circumstances and creating new grounds to deny Protection Visas to people who provide false identity documents. In a statement, RCOA President Phil Glendenning disputed the Government's claim that the Bill will enhance the integrity of Australia's processes for assessing asylum claims, stating that "this Bill won't make it easier for decision-makers to deny protection to people who don't have genuine claims; it will make it harder for people who *do* have genuine claims to access the protection they deserve." While RCOA was deeply disappointed by the passing of the Bill, we warmly welcomed the removal of provisions which sought to change the criteria for assessing complementary protection claims. Read the full statement at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/latest/stacking-the-odds-against-people-in-need>

Over 100 organisations call for moratorium on transfers to Nauru and Manus Island

RCOA has led more than 120 Australian organisations and community groups in calling on the Australian Government to cease transfers of asylum seekers to offshore detention centres. A joint statement released on 24 April highlighted the ongoing failure of the Australian government to meet its commitments to ensure the safety of asylum seekers in Manus Island and Nauru. The Government's own investigations have illustrated extremely serious deficiencies in the conditions of detention in Nauru and Papua New Guinea's Manus Island and the ongoing risk of physical, psychological and sexual abuse faced by asylum seekers in both countries remains. The gravity of the situation is highlighted in the tragic

Sydney office:

Suite 4A6, 410 Elizabeth Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia
Phone: (02) 9211 9333 • Fax: (02) 9211 9288
admin@refugeecouncil.org.au
Web: www.refugeecouncil.org.au • Twitter: @OzRefugeeCounc

Melbourne office:

Level 2, 313-315 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia
Phone: (03) 9600 3302
melbourne@refugeecouncil.org.au
Incorporated in ACT • ABN 87 956 673 083

example of a five-year-old girl who attempted to commit suicide following her prolonged detention in Nauru. The statement called for an immediate moratorium on transfers to offshore detention centres until such time as conditions are brought into line with minimum international standards for the treatment of the people in detention. Read the full statement at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/media/refugee-council-calls-for-immediate-moratorium-of-offshore-transfers>.

RCOA condemns Good Order Bill and calls for genuine detention reform

The *Migration Amendment (Maintaining the Good Order of Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2015* seeks to increase the powers of authorised officials to use force against people in immigration detention while subsequently reducing independent oversight. In a submission to the Senate inquiry into the Bill, RCOA highlighted a range of concerns including the lack of clarity regarding limitations on the use of force, lack of protections for vulnerable and at-risk groups (including children) and inadequate mechanisms for oversight and investigation of complaints. RCOA also noted that the Bill failed to address the real problems with Australia's immigration detention system, namely the prolonged, indefinite and unnecessary detention of people – principally asylum seekers – who pose no risk to the community. As well as recommending that the Bill not be passed, RCOA called for reforms to end prolonged indefinite detention and prohibit the detention of children in closed facilities. Our submission can be read at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/1504-GoodOrder.pdf>

RCOA highlights room for improvement with DSS grants process

RCOA has made a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the impact on service quality, efficiency and sustainability of recent Commonwealth community service tendering processes by the Department of Social Services (DSS). The submission was based on feedback gathered from RCOA member organisations which applied for funding during the most recent DSS funding round. This feedback suggested that while some of the changes to the grants themselves (including longer contracts and more flexibility) are welcome developments, number of improvements could be made to the application process. Several service providers expressed concern about the lack of consultation, the short application timelines, the impact of the process on smaller organisations, the competitive tendering approach to service funding, the trend towards mainstreaming of specialised services and the adverse impacts on advocacy. Read the full submission at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/1504-DSS.pdf>

RCOA expresses concern about expansion of biometrics regime

RCOA has made a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs inquiry into the *Migration Amendment (Strengthening Biometrics Integrity) Bill 2015*. In this submission, RCOA highlighted the serious implications of the collection and use of biometric information for refugee and humanitarian entrants and expressed concerns about the potential impacts of broadening collection powers. The full submission can be read at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/1504-Biometrics.pdf>

Latest Bright Ideas profile focuses on business start-up program

Ignite Small Business Start-ups is an initiative developed by Settlement Services International to facilitate small business creation for refugees living in NSW. Ignite works with refugees who aim to establish a small business or expand an existing one. Business start-ups are achieved through providing clients with enterprise facilitation, business mentoring, access to interpreters and networks. The aim of the initiative is to allow the client to achieve a livelihood in an entrepreneurial area they are familiar with, and one which will allow them to support themselves and their families. Read the full profile at http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Bright_Ideas20_Ignite.pdf.

RCOA to host first Victorian Refugee Communities Advocacy Network Conference

Over the past year, RCOA has been working with members of refugee communities in different parts of Victoria to identify and respond to local, state, national and international issues of concern to them. On the weekend of 30-31 May, we will hold our first Refugee Communities Advocacy Network Conference (RCAN) Conference in Melbourne to provide a chance for refugee community members from around Victoria to come together, discuss issues that affect their communities and plan advocacy strategies to address these issues. The conference will also provide people from refugee backgrounds a chance to share their concerns with key State and Federal decision makers. The conference will be held at the

Melbourne office of Colin Biggers and Paisley Lawyers. For more details about the conference, see <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/RCAN-Conference.pdf>

Paid and volunteer positions vacant at RCOA Melbourne office

RCOA is seeking a part-time Policy Officer for a 12 month contract to work as part of our small policy team. The successful applicant will be a self-motivated team member with excellent writing skills, an understanding of refugee issues, relevant tertiary qualifications and experience in presenting high quality research. People of refugee background are encouraged to apply. For further information, download the job description and selection criteria at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2015-Policy-Officer-maternity-leave.pdf>. Applications close on 18 May.

RCOA is looking for a volunteer or intern Refugee Research Assistant to be based at our Melbourne office to support our policy and research work and the facilitation of the Refugee Communities Advocacy Network. We are looking for a candidate who is fluent in a language spoken by an emerging refugee community in Australia, has strong networking skills and links to a local refugee community and has experience in research, interviews and report writing in English. For further information and to apply for the position, download the application form at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/RCOA-Research-Volunteer-Melbourne.pdf>. Applications close on Thursday 30 April.

Asylum applications in industrialised countries hit 22-year high

A new report from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees shows that the number of asylum applications received by industrialised countries increased by 45% in 2014 to reach the highest level since 1992. Over 866,000 applications were lodged in 44 industrialised countries during 2014, with the largest numbers being received by Germany (173,070), the United States (121,160) and Turkey (87,820). Australia received 8,960 applications, or just 1% of the total across 44 countries. With 149,641 applications, Syria was by far the largest country of origin for people seeking protection in industrialised countries, followed by Iraq (68,719) and Afghanistan (59,472). Read the full report at <http://www.unhcr.org/551128679.html>

Submissions on issues to raise at 2015 UNHCR-NGO Consultations due 29 April

Each year, representatives of RCOA, refugee communities and Australian NGOs participate in the annual consultations in Geneva between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs from around the world. RCOA is seeking feedback from individuals and refugee community groups on current issues of concern for people living in refugee situations overseas, which the Australian team should consider raising with UNHCR at the consultations. We are particularly interested in feedback on issues affecting refugee populations in the Asia- Pacific, Middle East and Africa regions; however, submissions on issues of concern to refugee populations in other regions of the world are also welcome. Submissions should focus on current situations overseas, rather than issues in Australia, as most of the UNHCR personnel the Australian team will be meeting do not work on Australian issues. For further information, download an information sheet at <http://www.arra.org.au/uploads/2015-ARRA-Invitation-for-Submissions.docx>

Assistance available to locate people affected by Mediterranean tragedy

The Australian Red Cross' Tracing Service can help people in Australia to re-establish contact with separated family members and clarify the fate of the missing. Following the recent tragedy in the Mediterranean, the Australian Red Cross is encouraging those concerned about relatives who might have been affected to contact the Tracing Service. Further information about the Service and how to commence a Tracing inquiry can be found at <http://redcross.org.au/tracing-and-restoration-of-family-links.aspx>

RCOA welcomes new Communications Director

Tim O'Connor has recently joined the RCOA team and will be based in our Sydney office. Tim brings a wealth of ideas, experience and enthusiasm to RCOA garnered in his many years working in Australia and across the world on human rights and international development issues, most recently with UNICEF Australia.

Our friends at SCOA help out in our time of need

RCOA's Sydney office recently sustained major damage due to flooding caused by a broken pipe in a neighbouring office suite. Our Sydney team was unable to work in the office for more than three weeks

while we negotiated with insurance assessors and contractors to remove and replace damaged carpet, furniture and equipment. The Settlement Council of Australia (SCOA) very kindly shared office space to enable us to continue to operating during this period. A big thank you to the staff members of SCOA for their generous hospitality.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

The best way to keep up with RCOA is through Facebook and Twitter. We regularly publish links to new RCOA statements and research and to interesting articles in the media on refugee issues. Our Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/pages/Refugee-Council-of-Australia-RCOA/157472830949702. Our Twitter handle is @OzRefugeeCounc

COMING EVENTS

RCOA has a new online events calendar which allows you to browse refugee-related events taking place across Australia each month. Events in coming weeks include a new photographic exhibition focusing on refugees, UNHCR's annual Mother's Day lunch and a webinar on working with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. View the calendar at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/events>

NEW RESEARCH, STATEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Refugee Adjustment Study

The Refugee Trauma and Recovery Program (RTRP) at the University of New South Wales has recently launched The Refugee Adjustment Study, a longitudinal online study examining refugees and asylum-seekers' settlement and mental health experiences in Australia. The study also hopes to understand the possible mechanisms through which settlement might affect psychological wellbeing and which factors influence mental health in the dynamic settlement environment. By understanding more about the impact of settlement stress, better treatments can be developed to support individuals who experience ongoing difficulties related to the refugee experience. Participation in this project is open now to all refugees and asylum-seekers who have arrived in Australia since January 2011 and are over 18 years of age. Participation involves completing a series of online surveys containing questions about their experience, with surveys currently available in Farsi, Arabic, Tamil and English. Eligible participants will be reimbursed for taking part in this research study. For more information, please visit www.rtrp-research.com/refugeeadjustmentstudy

MYAN (Australia) Humanitarian Youth Arrivals Info Sheets

The MYAN (Australia) has released two new Info Sheets providing national data on humanitarian youth arrivals between 2008 and 2014. This is the first time this data has been compiled. The Info Sheets provide a snapshot of the settlement trends for young people from refugee backgrounds in Australia, including an overview of some of the issues impacting on young people in the settlement context. Download the 2008-2013 Info Sheet at <http://bit.ly/1bCn9IS> and the 2013-2014 Info Sheet at <http://bit.ly/1bd11xX>

Report on national multicultural youth summit

A report on the MYAN's national multicultural youth summit, FUSE, is now available. Australia's first national multicultural youth event, FUSE was held in Sydney in October 2014. The report provides an overview of the 3-day summit, including a set of recommendations. Download the report at <http://bit.ly/1J7T9cG>

Protection in Crisis: Forced Migration and Protection in a Global Era

Many forced migrants now fall outside the recognized refugee and asylum apparatus. Much displacement today is driven by a combination of intrastate conflict, poor governance and political instability, environmental change, and resource scarcity. This report by Professor Roger Zetter outlines and assesses key areas where the international protection system is under the most pressure, and examines the key implications of these trends for policymakers and the international community, outlining some possible policy directions for reform. To download the report, visit: <http://migrationpolicy.org/research/protection-crisis-forced-migration-and-protection-global-era>

Review of Australian research on older people from CALD backgrounds

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) released its landmark Review of Australian Research on Older People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds. The review report highlights that older people from CALD backgrounds are not a homogeneous group and therefore meeting their needs is highly complex. Many older people from CALD backgrounds have higher levels of disadvantage and other risk factors than older Anglo-Australians. To view the report visit <http://iceblast.icemedia.com.au/download/files/35889/2325388/FECCA%20Report.pdf>

Research with young people from refugee backgrounds on accessing mental health services

Research from Project TYRES (Talking with Refugees about Experiences of Services) suggests how practitioners can engage and assist young people from refugee backgrounds, based on the comments and recommendations that young people made in research interviews about their experiences of using Australian mental health services. Research is available here:

<http://www.foundationhouse.org.au/project-tyres/>

OPPORTUNITIES

For employment opportunities, go to <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/get-involved/employment>. For volunteering opportunities, go to <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/get-involved/volunteering>.

STARTTS Humanitarian Awards

The Humanitarian Awards are your chance to nominate someone who deserves to be recognised for their excellent work supporting refugees, in whatever field they happen to be working in. Over the years, the Humanitarian Awards have honoured community leaders, youth workers, lawyers, journalists, teachers and many more – each of them making an incredible contribution to improving the lives of refugees.

Nominations for this year's Awards must be received by Friday 23rd May 2014. For more information and make a nomination, visit <http://www.startts.org.au/news-events/refugee-week/humanitarian-awards>

Volunteer Events Coordinator with Road to Refuge

Road to Refuge is looking for an Events Coordinator to join their team. The events coordinator would manage Road to Refuge events (with the support of volunteers and committee members) and would work closely with our director. Time commitment would be closely tied to an event's timeline with busy and quiet periods. During a busy period the role would involve (roughly) 4 hours work spread over a week and during a quiet period about one hour. For more information please email info@roadtorefuge.com.

Nominations are open for the Young African Australian Star Awards

The Young African Australian Star Awards seek to recognise and celebrate Young African Australians in Queensland who are high performers and demonstrate outstanding achievement. The awards aim to inspire, encourage and support young African Australians as they shape their future and that of African communities in Queensland. Young people between 15 and 25 years of African heritage living in Queensland are eligible to nominate for the awards across its seven categories. Nominations close on Wednesday, 11 March 2015. Visit www.qacc.com.au to find out more about the awards and access the guidelines and nomination forms.

REFUGEE ISSUES IN THE MEDIA

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)

Legal challenge for offshore detention centres on Manus Island and Nauru

The Abbott government's offshore refugee policy is facing a new legal challenge that seeks to hold the Commonwealth legally responsible for conditions in its overseas detention camps because the decisions to open and operate them were made in Australia. (Sydney Morning Herald, 1 March)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/legal-challenge-for-offshore-detention-centres-on-manus-island-and-nauru-20150228-13rfzn.html>

Grannies wag fingers at PM

About 600 purple-clad members of the newly formed Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children, gathered on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral, demanding the immediate release of all detained children and their families. (The Age, 1 March)

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/grannies-wag-fingers-at-pm-20150228-13rj00.html>

Attorney-General George Brandis censured over Gillian Triggs affair

A censure motion against Attorney-General George Brandis over his attacks on the president of the Australian Human Rights Commission has passed in the Senate. (Sydney Morning Herald, 2 March)

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/attorneygeneral-george-brandis-censured-over-gillian-triggs-affair-20150302-13sm22.html>

Nauru government says 183 refugees arrested after protests

The Nauru government says police arrested 183 refugees yesterday after they staged two protests in the last week. (ABC, 5 March)

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/program/pacific-beat/nauru-government-says-183-refugees-arrested-after-protests/1422037>

Abbott says Australians 'sick of being lectured to by UN' after scathing report on asylum policies

Prime Minister Tony Abbott has hit out at the United Nations over a scathing report on the Government's asylum policies, saying Australians are sick of being lectured to by the international organisation. (ABC, 9 March)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-09/tony-abbott-hits-out-united-nations-asylum-report/6289892>

United Nations special rapporteur Juan Mendez denies Australia being lectured on human rights

The UN's special rapporteur on torture has rejected claims by Prime Minister Tony Abbott that Australia is being lectured on human rights. (Seven News, 10 March)

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/26580946/united-nations-special-rapporteur-juan-mendez-denies-australia-being-lectured-on-human-rights/>

Indonesia warns of refugee 'tsunami'

Jakarta could allow asylum seekers to head for Australia in response to any upset over the executions of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, an Indonesian minister has warned. (Sky News, 11 March)

www.skynews.com.au/news/top-stories/2015/03/11/indonesia-warns-of-refugee-tsunami-.html#sthash.4pSSv3MZ.dpuf

Letters to Nauru and Manus Island asylum seekers returned to sender unopened, says human rights lawyer

Human rights lawyer Julian Burnside has accused the Immigration Department of trying to crush the hopes of asylum seekers by refusing to deliver letters of goodwill to them. (ABC, 11 March)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-11/letters-to-asylum-seekers-returned-unopened-human-rights-lawyer/6294590>

UNHCR warns of bleaker future for refugees as Syrian conflict enters 5th year

As the Syrian conflict enters its fifth year, the UN refugee agency warned on Thursday that millions of refugees in neighbouring countries and those displaced within the country are caught in deteriorating conditions, facing an even bleaker future without more international support. (UNHCR media release, 12 March)

<http://www.unhcr.org/55016fff6.html>

Turning back the boats is a moral and legal failure, say academics

The first academic analysis of Australia's "turning back" of asylum seeker boats concludes the policy is a fatally risky, moral and legal failure that is "severely damaging" the country's reputation. (The Guardian, 13 March)

<http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/mar/12/turning-back-the-boats-is-a-moral-and-legal-failure-say-academics>

Peter Dutton to test lower court's asylum judgment

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton has launched a High Court challenge to a lower court's ruling that is undermining the Coalition's efforts to deport failed asylum-seekers. (The Australian, 16 March)

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/immigration/peter-dutton-to-test-lower-courts-asylum-judgment263931207>

Australia urged to allow refugees to appeal ASIO ruling

Australia has been urged to comply with a United Nations ruling and allow more than 30 refugees to challenge the secret ASIO assessments used to justify their indefinite detention.

(Sydney Morning Herald, 16 March)

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/australia-urged-to-allow-refugees-to-appeal-asio-ruling-20150316-1m06k6.html>

AMA among 15 peak health bodies calling for all asylum children to be freed

Fifteen of Australia's peak health professional organisations have jointly called for the government to release all children and their families from immigration detention, and for an independent panel of doctors to oversee the healthcare of children detained. (The Guardian, 18 March)

<http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/mar/18/ama-among-15-peak-health-bodies-calling-for-all-asylum-children-to-be-freed>

Tensions on Nauru heightened after series of attacks on refugees by locals

Tensions between refugees and locals on the Pacific island of Nauru have been heightened after a series of violent attacks that have left multiple refugees injured or arrested. (ABC, 20 March)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-20/tensions-high-on-nauru-after-attacks-on-refugees/6334234>

Report condemns Nauru detention centre conditions

The long-awaited Moss review into allegations of abuse against asylum seekers in Australian detention on Nauru is damning about conditions on the island and the treatment of asylum seekers housed there. (SBS, 20 March)

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/03/20/report-condemns-nauru-detention-centre-conditions>

World Vision and other aid agencies reject Australia's refugee deal with Cambodia

International aid agencies based in Cambodia have rejected the Abbott government's resettlement deal, saying it is not appropriate for a country that has been accused of human rights abuses and has no refugee resettlement experience. (Sydney Morning Herald, 22 March)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/world-vision-and-other-aid-agencies-reject-australias-refugee-deal-with-cambodia-20150322-1m4ze3.html>

Vietnamese community mourns the passing of Malcolm Fraser

Mr Fraser came to power in 1975. At the time of his election fewer than 400 Vietnamese lived in Australia. By the end of his Prime Ministership, more than 55,000 Vietnamese would be recognised as refugees. (Canberra Times, 22 March)

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/victoria/vietnamese-community-mourns-the-passing-of-malcolm-fraser-20150321-1m4jam.html>

Refugee review tribunal given wider powers to deny asylum claims

A bill that would expand the powers of the refugee review tribunal (RRT) to deny asylum claims is set to pass parliament after Labor and the Coalition reached a compromise on amendments. (The Guardian, 24 March)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/24/refugee-review-tribunal-given-wider-powers-to-deny-asylum-claims>

Former refugee wins industry award

A supervising solicitor and migration agent who fled Croatia and Bosnia in the mid-1990s has been named Young Migration Lawyer of the Year. (Lawyers Weekly, 24 March)

<http://www.lawyersweekly.com.au/news/16310-former-refugee-wins-industry-award>

Tim Winton's Palm Sunday plea: Start the soul-searching Australia

For the past few years, as traumatised people have fled towards safety, towards what they believed was a civilised and compassionate haven, our national peace of mind has been built upon the hidden, silent suffering of others. (Sydney Morning Herald, 29 March)

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/tim-wintons-palm-sunday-plea-start-the-soulsearching-australia-20150329-1ma5so.html>

Thousands march in Melbourne on Palm Sunday to protest asylum seeker policies

An estimated 15,000 people marched through the city streets on Sunday, demanding the Abbott government close the trouble-plagued immigration centres on Nauru and Manus Island. (The Age, 30 March)

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/thousands-march-in-melbourne-on-palm-sunday-to-protest-asylum-seeker-policies-20150329-1ma9vc.html>

Meet Australia's next generation of refugee entrepreneurs

While the debate around refugees in Australia tends to be dominated by legal and moral arguments, SmartCompany takes a closer look at the situation and finds the next generation of refugee entrepreneurs are taking their second chance with both hands. (Smart Company, 31 March)

<http://www.smartcompany.com.au/leadership/46277-meet-australia-s-next-generation-of-refugee-entrepreneurs.html>

Fawad Ahmed becomes first asylum seeker to be named in Aussie Ashes squad

Pakistani-born legspinner Fawad Ahmed and batsman Adam Voges have been summoned into Australia's squad for Test tours of the West Indies and England. Ahmed, who sought asylum in Australia after fleeing Pakistan in 2010, has been rewarded for a stellar domestic summer when he topped the Sheffield Shield wicket-taking list with 48 wickets. (9 News, 31 March)

<http://www.9news.com.au/national/2015/03/31/13/04/first-ever-asylum-seeker-fawad-ahmed-named-in-aussie-ashes-squad#cmBdPxI3d8HTHs5d.99>