



information provided by DFAT to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to assess people's claims for protection. Professor William Maley, expert on Afghanistan and Refugee Council of Australia Board member explains why in this [new report](#).

image via @ishaq\_hazara

### Why Australia should act urgently to protect Hazaras



## **CENSUS : Important information**

This year, there will be some important changes to the census that may affect people from refugee backgrounds or people seeking protection.

Every five years, the Australian Government collects information about who is in Australia through a national survey, called the Census. Everyone in Australia is required by law to complete this survey. This year, it will take place on **9 August 2016**.

Find out why it is important to participate by clicking [here](#)

image via @ABS



## **Sign up to learn from a refugee: Sydney, Melbourne and Wollongong**

We are offering you the opportunity to meet with people who have lived the refugee experience, and hear firsthand on the courage and contribution that it takes. If you are in a school, community group or private organisation in Sydney, Melbourne and the Illawarra region, find out more at [the link below](#).

The Refugee Council's Face to Face program includes a representative from RCOA and a speaker of refugee background who present to students, teachers and other interested groups about the refugee experience. Speakers share their personal stories and provide students the opportunity to learn about the refugee experience firsthand -and ask all those questions that are gnawing away.

[Schools - Sign up for Face to Face learning with refugees](#)



## **Run or Walk In Support Of Refugees This Fun Run Season**

It's probably too late to make the Olympics but if all this competition has got you in the sporting mood, why not get moving in one of the upcoming fun run events. This is your chance to have some fun and get out and support the Refugee Council of Australia. Check out all the events where we have teams competing.

[Sign up to Walk, Run or Swim for Refugees](#)

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## Three years on - still no plan for resettlement

Another week and more tales of heartbreak from Nauru and Manus. Our great friends at Amnesty International have teamed up with Human Rights Watch, and after being denied access to Nauru, have managed to get a small team on the island - and the reports are despairing. Meanwhile in PNG, the courts there have asked Australia to provide them with a plan on how they will resettle the 900 men that are left there. Three and a half years on, it is not clear that there is any plan to satisfactorily resettle people from either place. We have sought meetings with all relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers since the election and will keep you updated on any progress. You can read the full report from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch [here](#).

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[Donate to support the work of the Refugee Council of Australia](#)

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## EVENTS



[Exiled to Nowhere: Burma's Rohingya](#) Exiled To Nowhere shares the stories and plight of a people who right now have nowhere to go and illustrates their courage to stay alive whatever the ground beneath their feet. Customs House, Sydney. Runs till 2 October.

[Freedom Stories Screening - NSW Teachers Federation](#)

The brilliant documentary Freedom Stories, where people who came here seeking asylum explain their journeys is being hosted by the NSW Teachers Federation this Friday 5 August at 6pm. A short film depicting the challenges of surviving on a temporary protection visa, made by 'Amir' who is himself in that situation, will be screening before the feature. [Book your free ticket here](#)

[Refugee and Migrant Forum](#)

Refugee and Migrant Sunday is the 28th of August and the Victorian Council of Churches' Social Questions Commission are hosting a forum of people from different denominations to share how to best advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum. Sr. Brigid Arthur, Rev. Ian Smith, Jill Ruzbacky and Misha Coleman will feature. 2pm, 320 Latrobe St, Melbourne

**For a full list of upcoming events** across the country and in your areas, see our calendar [here](#).

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## REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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- **Submission to the [Productivity Commission's inquiry into human services](#).** Refugee Council argued that increasing competition among the sector may undermine positive settlement outcomes and that increasing user-choice in settlement services is inappropriate for people who are newly arrived in Australia and still navigating the complexities of settlement. You can read our submission [here](#).
- Curtin University and Refugee Council Board member **Dr Caroline Fleay** has, with her colleague **Dr Lisa Hartley**, edited a collection of papers focusing attention on the experiences of people seeking asylum in Australia and Indonesia and some of the responses to their situation. The papers document the negative impacts of current Australian policies on those seeking safety both in the region and in Australia and highlight the limited resettlement opportunities and protracted uncertainty facing refugees and asylum seekers. But importantly, they also highlight examples of the agency and resilience of refugee communities. [You can read the full Special Edition of Cosmopolitan Civil Societies here](#)
- **Updated: [Recent Changes in Australian refugee policy](#)** This document summarises some of the more recent policy changes in this dynamic policy environment.
- **Submission to the Victorian Government on the [State Disability Plan](#).** This submission focuses on the experiences of people from refugee backgrounds who arrived in Victoria with a disability, particularly in relation to access to appropriate equipment, services and support. It also highlights the issues humanitarian entrants face in accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

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## RCOA SERVICE DIRECTORY UPDATE

We have recently updated our services directory. Thank you to our volunteers and ASRC for your help. You can find information on the services available for people from refugee backgrounds and people seeking asylum [here](#).

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## MEDIA

### National

[Australia allows abuse of refugees to deter others](#)

[PNG Court orders Australia to provide resettlement plan](#)

[Concerns census won't reach those proficient in English](#)

[How football gave Rohingya refugees hope](#)

### Regional

[Australia's asylum seeker children bullied in Nauru schools](#)

[Malaysia urged to sign Refugee Convention](#)

[Bangladesh pitches for voluntary repatriation of Rohingya](#)

[Tamil refugees fight for dignity in India](#)

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**International**

[UN Members reject plan to resettle 10% of refugees](#)

[Number of refugee children arriving alone quadruples](#)

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