

Migrant and Refugee Research Cluster



MARRC Public Event

On **Christmas Island** for **Christmas?**

Basil Hetzel Lecture Theatre, State Library of South Australia
5pm-7pm, Friday, 4 December 2009

Christmas Island is filling again. By Christmas the detention accommodation may be full. What is happening for those in detention? What has Australia learned from previous experience? How will Christmas 2009 be remembered by the children and families who spend it on Christmas Island?

**Flinders Migrant and Refugee Research Cluster invites you to join us
for this briefing and discussion roundtable.**

We anticipate a wide-ranging discussion that will include:

the tyranny of time and space: refugee processing issues for detainees so far from home and so far from here;

torture and trauma: recognizing the reality: understanding their impact, especially on children in detention;

the need for a gender agenda: why the absence of gender sensitivity training and guidelines harms everyone;

building sensitive settlement services: learnings and insights.

Flinders University Deputy Vice Chancellor (International), Professor Dean Forbes will open the event.

'Discussion starters' will include:

Andrew Bartlett, refugee and asylum seeker advocate;

Bernadette McGrath, STTARS (Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service)

Damien McInerney, clinical psychologist;

Julie Robinson, Flinders researcher and convenor of the New Arrivals Research Network; representatives from *ARA* (Australian Refugee Association);

Deslie Billich will be MC for the event.

The event is FREE but for catering purposes please
REGISTER by emailing Mary.Lyons@flinders.edu.au or phone 8201 5115
by Friday 27 November 2009

<http://marrc.flinders.edu.au/>

Andrew Bartlett

Andrew is respected as a consistent and vocal campaigner for refugees and asylum seekers. Andrew is the only Australian parliamentarian to have visited every refugee detention centre in Australia, as well as those off-shore detention centres on Christmas Island and Nauru where he went four times to meet with detainees. He is the recipient of the inaugural (2009) Distinguished Service to Australian Immigration award.

Bernadette McGrath

Bernadette has been the Director of the Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service in South Australia since 2002. She recently spent 6 months on Christmas Island setting up a torture and trauma counselling service for asylum seekers being held in Immigration detention on the island.

Damien McInerney

Damien is a Clinical Psychologist in the Migrant Health Service. He has worked extensively in the last six years with the people who were in the immigration detention system (and held temporary protection visas) in the last ten years and, in particular, men who were held in detention for five or more years. Damien also works with people who have arrived under the International Humanitarian Settlement Scheme. He has undertaken a research project into the psychological impact of the temporary protection visa and has strong interest in refugee and asylum politics and the tension between policy and issues of human rights and social justice.

Julie Robinson

Julie is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology at Flinders University specialising in developmental psychology. Her research focus includes development of ethnic tolerance and prejudice, and the well-being of child refugees. Julie is convenor of the New Arrivals Research Network. She is also the President of the Australasian Human Development Association.

Deslie Billich

Before joining Flinders Law School, Deslie's experience included work as the Director of RASSA (the Refugee Advocacy Service of South Australia) and Senior Investigator with the Mulligan Inquiry into Children in State Care as well as extensive private practice, and more recently, a role with the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. Her professional legal expertise includes criminal law and criminal justice, refugee and asylum law and areas of international law focussing on Australia's obligations under international instruments. Deslie's research interests include: a human rights approach to the intake of asylum seekers, and human trafficking and people smuggling.

