

# **NARN Newsletter**

## **October 2009**

### **ADELAIDE EVENTS**

#### **Refugee Camp in Your City-Adelaide**

I collected some useful teaching resources from Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) at their Refugee Camp in Victoria Square. The camp aimed to show what life is like for refugees and displaced people around the world. A lot of Adelaide high schools visited the camp during the week it was open, despite the terrible weather. If you missed out, the website is [www.refugeecamp.msf.org.au](http://www.refugeecamp.msf.org.au)

#### **Healthy Development Adelaide-- Refugee Trauma Across the Lifespan**

Hickinbotham Hall, National Wine Centre of Australia, Corner of Botanic and Hackney Roads, Adelaide  
October 29, 2009

A 1-day symposium co-hosted with UniSA Peace-keeping, Defence and Security Cluster and the University of Adelaide.

Currently "sold-out".

See flier attached.

#### **Book Launch: So Far Away**

Noel Stockdale Room, Central Library, Flinders University  
3.30pm, 23 October 2009

Etiennette Fennell's reminiscences of her childhood in France and her emigration to 1950s Australia.

### **INTERSTATE EVENTS**

#### **Prevention is the Cure: unpacking health realities for immigrant and refugee women in Australia**

Victoria University, Conference Centre, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne  
October 28, 2009

Jointly organized by the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health and the Institute for Community, Ethnicity & Policy Alternatives (ICEPA) at Victoria University.

See flier below

#### **CONFERENCE OF THE FEDERATION OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (FECCA)**

Shepparton, Victoria  
29-30 October 2009

The 2009 FECCA Conference "Strengthening Multiculturalism and Building Social Inclusion" will include the topics: Human Rights for Ethnic and Religious Minorities; Multicultural Youth: Identity and Access; Regional Settlement; and Social Inclusion for New and Emerging Communities. Confirmed speakers include: Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship; Senator Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector; John Gibson, President, RCOA; Clare Martin, CEO, ACOSS; Shaun Brown, Managing Director, SBS. Details: Eastbank Centre, Shepparton, Victoria; Conference registration costs range from \$110 to \$440 depending on the

package; visit [www.fecca.org.au](http://www.fecca.org.au) or call (02) 6282 5755.

## **DEAKIN UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE: MIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP AND INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS**

Deakin University (Burwood)

19-20 November 2009

This Conference proposes to examine outcomes of migration and immigration as essential dimensions for contextualizing discussions about national identity, intercultural relations and citizenship, and the formation and representation of cultural identity.

Venue: Details: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/icg/events/conf-2009.php>

## **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS**

### **New Protection legislation currently being debated**

The Australian Parliament is reviewing legislation for a system of "complementary protection" for people facing persecution on grounds which fall outside the Refugee Convention but are included in other human rights treaties. The Refugee Convention restricts protection to people facing persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Under current arrangements, there is no clear process for people who face persecution, torture or death on other grounds – other than to seek the intervention of the Immigration Minister after all other avenues have failed. On September 7, the Rudd Government introduced the Migration Amendment (Complementary Protection) Bill 2009, to address Australia's responsibilities under the Convention Against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

You can see the letter written by the Refugee Council of Australia to all Federal MPs and Senators, encouraging their support

at: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/current/index.html#cp>

The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is conducting an inquiry into the Bill. The RCOA submission can be seen

at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/submissions.html>

Information about the Senate Committee inquiry, including all public submissions can be found at

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon\\_ctte/migration\\_complementary/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon_ctte/migration_complementary/index.htm)

### **Changes to settlement services**

Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, has foreshadowed changes to on-arrival refugee settlement services, following recent national consultations about the future of the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS). The Government was considering a new settlement framework, "to provide a continuum from offshore to onshore to deliver long-term sustainable settlement outcomes". "We are considering wholesale improvements in the way in which we address our clients' immediate and longer-term settlement needs, particularly accommodation, pathways to education, training and employment and connections with other settlement and community services,"

( <http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/parlsec/media/speeches/2009/lf090925.htm>)

### **Immigration detention debt abolished**

On September 8, the Australian Senate passed the Migration Amendment (Abolishing Detention Debt) Bill, ending the policy of charging people for their time in immigration detention centres. It was a close vote. The policy was introduced by the Keating Labor Government in 1992, maintained by the Howard Coalition Government.

### **Citizenship test exception for people incapacitated by torture or trauma**

People who have a "permanent or enduring physical or mental incapacity" will, from November 9, be exempted from the Australian Citizenship Test, following the passage of the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Test Review and Other Measures) Bill through the Australian Parliament.

### **Summary re humanitarian entrants in 2008-2009**

The Australian Government issued all 13,500 planned Refugee and Humanitarian visas in 2008-09. In all, 13,507 visas were granted – 11,010 offshore Refugee and Humanitarian visas and 2,497 onshore Protection visas. For the offshore program, visa grants were divided evenly between Africa, Asia and the Middle East (including south-west Asia), with 33 per cent each. The 10 leading source countries for offshore Refugee and Humanitarian visas were: Iraq 2,874; Burma 2,412; Afghanistan 847; Sudan 631; Bhutan 616; Ethiopia 478; Democratic Republic of Congo 463; Somalia 456; Liberia 387; and Sierra Leone 363. The Refugee and Humanitarian Program quota for 2010 has been increased marginally to 13,750 places.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Annotated bibliography re refugee youth**

An annotated bibliography produced as part of a project examining post-compulsory education and training pathways for young people of refugee background by the RCOA.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/current/youth.html>

### **Out of Africa and Into Court: the Legal Problems of African Refugees (Footscray Community Legal Centre)**

This report that examines the common legal problems that refugees and humanitarian arrivals from Africa are likely to encounter in their first five years after they arrive in Australia, identifies the structural issues that give rise to recurring legal problems and makes recommendations.

[http://www.communitylaw.org.au/footscray/cb\\_pages/images/African%20Legal%20service%20Report%20Final.pdf](http://www.communitylaw.org.au/footscray/cb_pages/images/African%20Legal%20service%20Report%20Final.pdf)

### **Working with Refugee Families (Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia)**

This outlines the findings of a three stage research project designed to examine why recently arrived families from refugee backgrounds are presenting to the child protection system and to identify culturally appropriate strategies and models for intervention.

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/childprotection/documents/RefugeeReport.pdf>

### **Perceptions of Multiculturalism and Security in Victoria**

This report, produced for the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria, was prepared by Pete Lentini, Anna Halafoff and Ela Ogru from the Global

Terrorism Research Centre, Monash University. [www.arts.monash.edu.au/psi/perceptions-report.pdf](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/psi/perceptions-report.pdf)

**A Case for Justice: Position Paper on the Legal Process of Seeking Asylum in Australia (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre)**

The paper explores the processes and practices in the refugee determination system and cites a number of real-life case studies to illustrate successes and difficulties. <http://www.asrc.org.au/uploads/File/A%20case%20for%20justice.pdf>

**This is my home (National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA))**

This report explores the meaning of belonging, home and social connection for people from non-English speaking backgrounds with a disability. It is based on focus groups conducted earlier this year in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. The report highlights the importance of faith and friendship in understanding belonging and social connection, and emphasises the role of discrimination and poor responsiveness of support agencies in generating exclusion. [http://www.neda.org.au/page/cultural\\_and\\_linguistic\\_inclusion.html](http://www.neda.org.au/page/cultural_and_linguistic_inclusion.html).

**EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) reports on irregular and asylum-seeking children and trafficked children**

"The protection of the rights and special needs of irregular immigrant minors and asylum seeking children":

[http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA\\_Thematic\\_IMMIGRANT\\_AND\\_ASYLUM.pdf](http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA_Thematic_IMMIGRANT_AND_ASYLUM.pdf)

"The protection of the rights and special needs of trafficked children":

[http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA\\_Thematic\\_TRAFFICKED\\_CHILDREN.pdf](http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA_Thematic_TRAFFICKED_CHILDREN.pdf)

**Seeing Red**

"Seeing Red" is a facilitation manual for responding to anger and violence among culturally diverse young men. This anger management resource was developed by Multicultural Youth SA Inc (MYSA) and Shopfront Youth Health and Information Service, and was funded by Department for Families and Communities and Department of Immigration and Citizenship. The Seeing RED Program is designed to equip young men aged between 12 and 15 years with the knowledge and skills required to more effectively manage their anger and aggression. For a free copy of the resource, please register your interests via email at [val@mysa.com.au](mailto:val@mysa.com.au)

**Contributions welcome**

Please let me know of any events, reports etc that you think may be of interest.

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