



Refugee Council of Australia

BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

12 August 2011

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

Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia

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NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE COUNCIL

High Court Injunction suspends Malaysia deal

The High Court of Australia has granted a temporary injunction preventing the removal to Malaysia of the first group of asylum seekers processed under the transfer deal, pending a full court hearing. The injunction follows an application by Melbourne's Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre (RILC) questioning whether the deportation of asylum seekers to Malaysia is lawful under the Migration Act. The Act stipulates that asylum seekers who arrive in excised territories can be removed to a specified country if the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship declares in writing that the country provides access to effective procedures for assessing protection claims, offers effective protection to refugees and asylum seekers and meets relevant human rights standards in providing that protection. The RILC legal team seeks to question, in light of Malaysia's record of mistreatment of refugees and asylum seekers, whether the Minister's declaration with respect to Malaysia is reviewable. The case will also raise questions about the conflict of interest between the Minister's role as guardian of unaccompanied children who seek asylum in Australia and his potential role in facilitating their deportation to Malaysia. The case is expected to be heard in the week beginning 22 August. A transcript of the High Court decision can be read at www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/HCATrans/2011/196.html

The transfer deal was formally signed on 25 July. RCOA's media release on the signing can be read at www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/releases/110507_Malaysia_transfer.pdf. The text of the deal is at www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/media-releases/_pdf/20110725-arrangement-malaysia-aust.pdf and the operational guidelines for the deal are at www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/_pdf/operational-guidelines-transfers-resettlement.pdf

Planned reopening of Manus Island facility undermines regional cooperation

RCOA has written to Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Chris Bowen and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Kevin Rudd to express our concerns about the planned reopening of the offshore processing centre on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island. While acknowledging that the economic exploitation of asylum seekers and the risk associated with boat journeys to Australia are serious issues, RCOA called attention to the much larger and more complex web of serious problems faced by refugees and asylum seekers in the Asia-Pacific region. RCOA is concerned that the reopening of a facility on Manus Island would represent a return to the Pacific Solution and would be viewed internationally as an effort by Australia to shift its protection obligations elsewhere, thereby undermining efforts to build regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. RCOA's letter can be read at www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/statements/110812_CBowen_KRudd_Manus.pdf

RCOA CEO and Board members visit Malaysia

Between 11 and 15 July, RCOA's CEO Paul Power and Board members Phil Glendenning and Judyth Watson travelled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, seeking feedback, ideas and suggestions to inform our response to transfer deal between Australia and Malaysia. Meetings were arranged with six Malaysian based NGOs, the Bar Council, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR, as well as refugee groups. In all meetings, three prominent unresolved problems for refugees and asylum seekers were specifically highlighted: the lack for formal work rights, which often results in people taking enormous risks by working illegally or in the

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The Refugee Council of Australia represents
non-government organisations and
individuals working with and for refugees
in Australia and around the world

informal sector; the extremely limited access of children to curriculum based education; and the lack of access to health care beyond basic primary health care due to the prohibitive expenses involved. The potential for the transfer deal to create a two-tiered refugee system where 800 individuals have access to entitlements that almost 100,000 do not hold was also a major concern expressed in almost every meeting. RCOA will be using the feedback gathered from these meetings to formulate recommendations to the Australian Government on its activities in Malaysia. A detailed report on the visit by Judyth Watson was recently published in the newsletter of the Coalition for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD) and is available to view online at www.carad.org.au/components/com_acajoom/upload/august2011.pdf

Ombudsman announces inquiry self-harm and suicide in detention

The Commonwealth Ombudsman has launched an investigation into self-harm and suicide in immigration detention facilities. The investigation will consider the extent of the problem, examine its root causes and consider steps that should be taken to identify and manage those at risk of suicide and self-harm. The Ombudsman's media release on the announcement can be read at www.ombudsman.gov.au/media-releases/show/189

National Settlement Policy Network

RCOA and the Settlement Council of Australia (SCOA) convene a quarterly National Settlement Policy Network (SPN) teleconference. The SPN provides an opportunity for RCOA and SCOA members to participate in planning joint advocacy on settlement issues. To stay informed about upcoming SPN teleconferences and outcomes, email info@refugeecouncil.org.au to be added to the SPN mailing list. Reports from previous teleconferences are available for download at www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement/spn.php.

A report from the June 1 National Settlement Policy Network teleconference on *Settlement and mobility: Exploring models of support and challenges faced by recently arrived refugees who move to secondary settlement locations* is now available. The teleconference included presentations and discussion on challenges and successful strategies for supporting humanitarian entrants who relocate in their first five years after arriving in Australia. The report documents some of the key issues raised by presenters and participants, including: definitions, data collection, current trends, perspectives of individuals, communities and service providers, effective service responses and recommendations. The report also includes links to relevant research, resources and projects. Download a copy of the report at www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement/spn/110601_SPN_report.pdf.

The next SPN teleconference will be held on 17 August, focussing on the topic *Measuring settlement: exploring new research on refugee settlement outcomes and its implications for settlement services and policy*. The teleconference will discuss the findings of two significant research studies recently published that explore the settlement experiences and outcomes of refugee and humanitarian entrants. To download a detailed agenda and background paper, go to www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement/spn.php.

Interagency networks working on refugee settlement issues

The Refugee Council of Australia has compiled a database of interagency networks working on refugee settlement and asylum seeker issues at a state and national level. The database aims to facilitate the sharing of information and advocacy from a local and state level to the national level. To update, remove or include information about a state or national interagency network that you are involved with that specifically focuses on issues relating to refugee settlement or asylum seekers, please contact RCOA on info@refugeecouncil.org.au or call (02) 9211 9333. The database can be downloaded at www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement/services/Interagency_Networks.pdf.

Settlement Grants Program 2011-12 funding analysis

RCOA has undertaken an analysis of the 2011-12 Settlement Grants Program (SGP) funding round, announced in June. The analysis reveals that in 2011-12, \$53,276,074 in SGP grant money was announced for 178 projects to be delivered by 146 organisations. This year there was a significant increase in the overall funding announced; however, this was due to a welcome increase in the proportion of multi-year grants. 14 organisations were newly funded under the SGP in 2011-12 and 91 organisations' SGP funding will end this financial year. The analysis can be downloaded at www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement/services/SGP_2011-12.pdf. This analysis builds on RCOA's

analysis of SGP funding trends from 2007-2011, which can be downloaded at www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement/services/SGP_2007-11.pdf

New IAAAS providers announced

The providers of the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) for the 2011-14 period were recently announced. In this tender round there has been an increase in the number of contracts awarded to private providers and a reduction in contracts for state and territory legal aid organisations and community legal centres. A list of the new providers can be found at www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/63advice_providers.htm

Upcoming National Social Inclusion Forum

This national forum, themed "Building Inclusive Societies: Multiculturalism, Citizenship, Identity", will be held on 7 October in Melbourne. The forum will bring together international, federal, state and local government policy makers and service providers, NGOs, community sector agencies, and academics to explore issues around multiculturalism and how such understandings can inform policy development and program improvement. The forum breakout sessions will focus on migration and cultural diversity, education, media and youth. This event is auspiced by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation at Deakin University in partnership with the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria and in collaboration with a number of other key organisations. For more information and to register, visit www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/ccg/events/conferences/11-ibis/index.php.

"Rising tide of violence and bloodshed" in Afghanistan

The midyear report of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict documents a "rising tide of violence and bloodshed" in Afghanistan over the past six months, resulting in civilian casualties "at levels without recorded precedent in the current armed conflict." UNAMA recorded 1,462 civilian deaths in the first six months of 2011, an increase of 15 per cent compared to the same period in 2010. May 2011 was the deadliest month for Afghan civilians since UNAMA began documenting civilian casualties in 2007, with 368 civilians killed and 593 injured in conflict-related violence, closely followed by June, with 360 civilian deaths. The increasing civilian death toll, according to UNAMA, represents a "deepening entrenchment of violence in the everyday lives of Afghans". The report can be downloaded at unama.unmissions.org/Portals/UNAMA/Documents/2011%20Midyear%20POC.pdf

COMING EVENTS

Exhibition of multimedia works by Dinh Q Le: "Erasure"

Friday 8 July to Saturday 10 September, Sydney NSW

Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation presents "Erasure", a newly commissioned work by Vietnamese artist Dinh Q. Le. This is an interactive sculptural and video installation that draws on recent debates in Australia concerning refugees and asylum seekers.

Details: Wednesday to Saturday 11:00am-5:00pm; Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, 16-20 Goodhope Street, Paddington; for further details visit <http://sherman-scaf.org.au>

Footprints of my heart: Art by refugees in detention

Thursday 11 to Friday 19 August, Darwin NT

This exhibition acknowledges refugees in detention in our community and celebrates the art work which in so many ways reflects the images of the home they have left and the new home they have arrived at. For many refugees in detention, art is a way of expressing all the things that the outside world represents; the wonders of nature, beauty, dazzling colour and light, untampered innocence. For others, art is used as a medium to express pain, sorrow, desperation and the overwhelming melancholia of exile from one's culture and land. Some artists have used words, others cartoons. There are professional artists as well who are well known practitioners in their country of origin who continue to make art while incarcerated.

Details: 9:00am-5:00pm daily (guided tour of exhibition daily at 11:00am); Supreme Court, Darwin; for further details visit <http://footprintsmyheart.wordpress.com/2011/06/19/hello-world>

Refugee Exhibition hosted by Amnesty International

From Thursday 11 August to Wednesday 17 August, Sydney NSW

The exhibition visually explores the realities of refugees from overseas and in Australia through several bodies of work. It includes photographs by Richard Wainwright of refugees fleeing Chad; photographs taken by Hamish Gregory of refugee families resettled in Australia; a body of work created by young Afghan refugee and migrant women living in Auburn; and the launch of a video project involving school students highlighting the human similarities between refugees and other Australians despite the difference in their background.

Details: 1:00pm-5:00pm weekdays, 11:00am-4:00pm weekends; Queen Street Studios, 10-14 Queen Street, Chippendale.

Launch of 'I See I Learn' project

Friday 12 August, Werribee VIC

This Karen community project focuses on healing from suffering. Light refreshments provided.

Details: 5:30pm; Werribee Baptist Church, cnr Heaths and Derrimut Roads, Werribee.

African Cultural Festival

Saturday 13 August, Logan QLD

Come experience and celebrate the African way of life: dancing, people, art, fashion, music and much more.

Details: 10:00am to 5:00pm; Logan Gardens, Civic Parade, Logan Central; for further details call Taku Taneka on 0409 278 869, e-mail takutaneka@gmail.com or visit www.qacc.com.au

One World, Many Faces: 6th Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival

Sunday 14 August, Toowoomba QLD

One World Many Faces celebrates the pride in having over 120 languages and cultures living on the Darling Downs and gives many families and their children a unique opportunity to learn about and appreciate the neighbours and communities they live among. The event will include music, dance, workshops, international food stalls, market and gift stalls and camel rides for children.

Details: entry by donation for adults; 10:00am-4:00pm; Queens Park; for further details contact Elizabeth Jones on 0418 883 804 or elizabeth.jones@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

'Tea Session' for women from Assyrian and Arabic speaking backgrounds

Monday 15 August, Randwick NSW

Sydney Multicultural Community Services is looking to organise and run an Assyrian and Arabic speaking social group for women on a regular basis and wish to receive inputs for the same. Women from Assyrian and Arabic speaking backgrounds are invited to attend this session to provide feedback and ideas.

Details: 11:00am-12:00pm; Randwick Library, Level 1, Royal Randwick Shopping Centre, Belmore Road, Randwick; for further details contact Vishal Sonule at vishals@sydneymcs.org.au

Foundation House training course: School's In for Refugees

Tuesday 16 August, Cranbourne VIC

This comprehensive introduction is recommended as the first professional development from Foundation House for those working with refugee background students. It is appropriate for those working in and with schools and other educational settings, at primary, secondary and post compulsory levels.

Details: 9:30am-4:30pm; Noble Park English Language School, Cranbourne Campus; for registration enquiries contact Georgia on (03) 9389 8914 or pdregistrations@foundationhouse.org.au

Volunteering in Victoria: Free information sessions for community organisations

Thursday 18 August, Melbourne VIC

AMES will be running information sessions for community organisations about volunteering in Victoria, covering insurance requirements, available funding and other resources available to organisations. These sessions aim to help organisations have the greatest chance of success in the Victorian community.

Details: 5:30pm-6:30pm; Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne; For further information or to book contact Laura Buchanan on 0409 066 983 or BuchananL@ames.net.au

Launch of guide on using international complaints mechanisms

Friday 19 August, Sydney NSW

This guide provides lawyers, advocates and women experiencing violations of their rights with an introduction and a practical guide on how to use the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and other complaint mechanisms at the international level. Special guest panellists will include Jane Connors (UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), Wayne Morgan (The Australian National University) and Edwina MacDonald (Women's Legal Services NSW).

Details: 2:00pm-3:00pm; Australian Human Rights Commission, Level 3, 175 Pitt Street, Sydney; for further details or to RSVP, call (02) 9284 9694 or e-mail jennifer.whyte@humanrights.gov.au

Young people, identity and the media: perspectives from the refugee community

Friday 19 August, Northcote VIC

The forum will bring young people together to talk about challenges and issues of identity and the influence of the media's portrayal of young people from refugee backgrounds. The forum aims to provide a space for young people to discuss and explore issues around these topics with leading spokespeople from the media, the community and academia.

Details: 10:00am-3:30pm; Northcote Town Hall, 189 High Street, Northcote; Please confirm your attendance by emailing your name to Benjamin.cusick@dpc.vic.gov.au or calling (03) 9651 2931.

Festival of Refugees

Sunday 21 August, St Kilda VIC

A celebration of the contributions refugees make to Australia. Featuring performers from Sudan, Burma, West Papua, Sri Lanka, Congo, Tibet and more! Guest appearance by Aurelio Denasha (Yellowbird).

Details: \$15 (includes Middle Eastern and West African dinner); 3:00pm-5:00pm; St Kilda Town Hall, 99A Carlisle Street; for further details and to purchase tickets, contact Visier Sanyu on (03) 9650 6811 or vsanyu@ncca.org.au

Forum on alternatives to the 'Malaysia Solution'

Sunday 21 August, East Malvern VIC

Hosted by Pax Christi Victoria, this forum will explore alternatives to the transfer deal with Malaysia. Guest speaker will be Tamil asylum seeker Aran Mylvaganam. The forum will begin with a shared meal (please bring a plate to share).

Details: 12:30pm for 1:00pm; Kildara, rear 39 Stanhope Street, East Malvern; for further details e-mail vsanyu@ncca.org.au or visit www.vcc.org.au

Karen Wrist Tying Ceremony

Sunday 21 August, Hoppers Crossing VIC

The Karen tradition of wrist tying stems from an annual ritual in which the elderly people asked for their family and relatives who are away or abroad to come back together once a year for family gathering, sharing food and tying thread to the wrists to show and remember that they are one. This event will feature a wrist tying ceremony, dance, music and food.

Details: 11:00am-5:00pm Wyndham Leisure and Events Centre, 80-82 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing; for further details, e-mail akovictoria@live.com.au.

New exhibition on local businesses in migrant and refugee communities

From Friday 12 August to Sunday 27 May, Melbourne VIC

'Open for (more than) Business' features photographs, stories and a documentary exploring the notion that many local businesses run by people from migrant and refugee communities offer more than just a service. They can act as community hubs and provide links to a homeland while also helping recently arrived migrants establish a connection with their new home.

Details: adults \$10, children and concession free; Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne; for further details go to <http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum>

Foundation House training course: Classroom strategies to support recovery from trauma

Monday 22 August, Cranbourne VIC

This workshop showcases a range of activities from Foundation House resources and programs (Klassroom Kaleidoscope, Healthwise, Taking Action, and Rainbow) that help promote safety, dignity,

and identity for students who have refugee experiences. These activities also help build connections between new arrivals and the wider student body in the classroom context.

Details: 4:00pm-6:30pm; Noble Park English Language School, Cranbourne Campus; for registration enquiries phone Georgia on (03) 9389 8914 or email pdregistrations@foundationhouse.org.au

Workshop: Creating a welcoming school environment

Tuesday 23rd August 2011, Carlton VIC

The school environment plays an important role in supporting refugee background students and families access and participate in education. This workshop will highlight the positive impact made when creative and practical strategies are applied from the foyer to the classroom. Hosted by Foundation House and LMERC.

Details: 4:00pm-5:30pm (meet at LMERC); LMERC, Ground floor, 150 Palmerston Street, Carlton; RSVP essential to Erin Hughes on (03) 9389 8994 or hughese@foundationhouse.org.au

Address at the National Press Club: 'The Way Forward on Tibet'

Tuesday 23 August, Canberra ACT

This event will feature an address by Mr Lodi Gyari or Gyari Rinpoche as is popularly known among the Tibetans. Gyari Rinpoche is the Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama and has led the Tibetan delegation in talks with the Chinese government for the last decade, working to chart a future roadmap for the Tibetan people.

Details: 12:30pm-1:00pm; 16 National Circuit, Barton; to book your place go to www.npc.org.au/speakers/lodi-giyari.html

Prof Patrick McGorry on social inclusion and mental health

Tuesday 23 August, Sydney NSW

This Chain Reaction Breakfast Cafe meeting will feature an address by Prof Patrick McGorry, is a leading researcher, clinician and advocate for the youth mental health reform agenda. He will speak on the topic 'Social Inclusion and Mental Health in Australia'. Bookings are essential.

Details: 7:45am for 8:00am; KPMG, Level 15, 10 Shelley Street, Kings Wharf; to book call Peggy Cameron on (02) 9953 3287 or e-mail peggy@chainreaction.org.au

Come and Try cricket program

From Wednesday 24 August, Mirrabooka WA

Come and learn the basics of cricket with a skilled coach and have an opportunity to play in a game against a local club. Girls and boys aged 10-14 are welcome. All equipment is provided.

Details: every Wednesday from 4:30pm-6:00pm; Herb Graham Recreation Centre; for more information or to register, contact Natalie on (08) 9205 7335.

University of Western Sydney Open Fora: Sharia Law and Human Rights

Thursday 25 August, Sydney

This forum is a continuation of the series which started in 2008 and continues to deal with topical and contemporary social issues and aims to bring academia and the Greater Western Sydney Community together. The guest speakers on the night are well-known international human rights campaigner Maryam Namazie and award-winning Australian author Hanifa Deen.

Details: 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start; UWS Parramatta South Campus, Building EE, Ground Floor, Room 3; to RSVP call Debbie Mey on (02) 9678 7374.

The Tampa 10 years on - Is change possible?

Thursday 25 August, Melbourne VIC

The Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH)'s second annual Law and Social Change Dialogue will consider whether change is possible in Australia's approach to refugees, especially those who come by boat. Guest speakers will be human rights lawyers Julian Burnside QC and Debbie Mortimer SC, who represented the Tampa asylum seekers. Journalist and social commentator David Marr will moderate the discussion that will follow their remarks, and Justice Chris Maxwell QC, President of the Court of Appeal, will open the evening with his reflections on the role of the courts in controversial cases.

Details: \$25 (\$15 concession for students and not-for-profit employees); 6:15pm for 6:30pm start to 8:00pm (followed by drinks); Experimedia, State Library of Victoria, cnr Swanston and La Trobe Streets, Melbourne; RSVP at www.pilch.org.au/change

Violence prevention and urban planning: creating safer communities for immigrant and refugee women

Thursday 25 August, Collingwood VIC

This seminar will explore how immigrant and refugee women can feel safe, secure and connected in their new communities. Barriers to achieving this (discrimination, limited access to appropriate services, and violence), will be covered. Key challenges, strategies, and best practice regarding violence prevention as it relates to immigrant and refugee women will be highlighted during this seminar.

Details: \$65 per person; 9:00am-2:00pm; Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, Suite 207, Level 2, Carringbush Building, 134 Cambridge Street, Collingwood; to register online visit www.mcwh.com.au

STARTTS workshop: Community Development Evaluation

Thursday 25 August, Carramar NSW

This one-day workshop introduces the central concepts of community development evaluation and provides opportunities to participate in practical activities using the STARTTS Community Development Evaluation Manual.

Details: \$149 per person (\$99.00 for students) includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and a copy of the STARTTS Community Development Evaluation Manual; 9:30am-4:30pm; 152-168 The Horsley Drive, Carramar; for further details visit www.startts.org.au/default.aspx?id=440

Public talk: 'The Way Forward - Tibetan Prospects for Genuine Autonomy'

Friday 26 August, Sydney NSW

This event will feature an address by Mr Lodi Gyari or Gyari Rinpoche as is popularly known among the Tibetans. Gyari Rinpoche is the Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama and has led the Tibetan delegation in talks with the Chinese government for the last decade, working to chart a future roadmap for the Tibetan people.

Details: \$20 (includes a glass of wine or juice); 6:30pm-8:00pm; Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney.

New and emerging communities youth justice information sessions

From Friday 26 August, Werribee VIC

Hosted by VICSEG New Futures, this training will help you to enhance knowledge of the youth justice system, develop skills to work with at risk young people, learn what supports are available to young people and what resources are available to support communities and families. The training begins on 26 August and runs over four weeks.

Details: 5:00pm-7:00pm; Wyndham Community and Education Centre, Wayaperri house, 106-110 Duncans Road, Werribee; for more info contact Sue or Lanre at VICSEG on (03) 9383 2533 or e-mail spaten@vicsegnewfutures.org.au

Multicultural Seniors Week Dinner

Friday 26 August, Sunnybank QLD

Hosted by the Fiji Senior Citizens Satsang Association of Queensland, this event will feature dinner and cultural dances.

Details: adults \$10, children under 12 \$5; from 7:00pm; Macgregor State School, McCullough Street, Sunnybank; for further details contact Raymond Saran on (07) 3290 0653 or Surendra Prasad on 0413 004 100 or surendra1@bigpond.com

'Just Like Us' exhibition

Friday 26 August to Friday 30 September, Melbourne VIC

This exhibition will bring together film, photographs and objects and incorporate interactive and experiential elements, with materials and presentations sourced from people with refugee experiences and Victorian-based organisations and groups which support refugees. Opening night on 26 August will be attended by special guests Special Guests Julian Burnside QC and Ann-Mari Jordens.

Details: opening night 26 August from 6:00pm; Multicultural Hub, Melbourne; for further details visit www.justlikeus.org.au

Foundation House training course: Supporting the individual - refugee background students

Tuesday 30 August, Bendigo VIC

This workshop is delivered by a Foundation House counsellor. It builds on the understanding of the impact of trauma on learning and wellbeing to explore case studies and develop strategies for supporting the individual in the school setting.

Details: 1:00pm-4:00pm; Bendigo DEECD, Loddon Mallee Regional Centre, 7-15 McLaren Street, Bendigo; for registration enquiries phone Georgia on (03) 9389 8914 or email pdregistrations@foundationhouse.org.au

Foundation House training course: For nurses working with children and young people

Tuesday 30 August, Brunswick VIC

This one-day program, part of a two-year professional development program for nurses, will bring together a variety of professionals to provide an overview of refugee children's health including: immunisations, the impact of torture and trauma on children, developmental issues including language development and issues associated with working with schools.

Details: 9:30am-4:00pm; 6 Gardiner Street, Brunswick; for registration enquiries phone Georgia on (03) 9389 8914 or email pdregistrations@foundationhouse.org.au

Karen pregnancy classes

From Thursday 1 September, Hoppers Crossing VIC

These classes, open to Karen-speaking women at all stages of pregnancy, will be run by 'Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies' Childbirth and Early Parenting Educator Jodie Gregson who has years of Pregnancy and childbirth Class experience and Women's and Refugee Health Nurse Di Van Vliet. Sessions will cover topics such as pregnancy care, labour and birth, breastfeeding and post natal care.

Details: Thursday mornings 10:00am-11:30am; ISIS Primary Care, 117-129 Warringa Crescent Hoppers Crossing (meet at Reception Area and ask for Jodie or Di); for more information and bookings call (03) 8734 1400.

Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre All Nations Cup Soccer Competition

Saturday 3 September, Brunswick VIC

As part of its Saturday Program, the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre is holding an All Nations Cup Soccer Competition. People of all skill levels are encouraged to get involved and can come and practice during the ASWC Saturday Sports Program (5:00pm-6:30pm each ASWC Saturday open day at an indoor stadium near ASWC).

Details: 5:00pm-6:30pm; ASWC, 4 Gardiner Street, Brunswick; for further details e-mail Paul Boyd at paul.boyd@uniting.com.au

Multicultural Eid Festival and Fair

Sunday 4 September, Prairiewood NSW

The Multicultural Eid Festival and Fair is an annual event attracting thousands of people from 35 communities. Featuring a wide range of food and market stalls, rides for both young and old and entertaining performances in an open-stage atmosphere.

Details: 9.30am-7:00pm; Fairfield Showground, Prairiewood; for further details visit www.meff.com.au

Tree of Life performances

Thursday 8 and Friday 9 September, Casula NSW

Developed and performed by young refugees from South-Western Sydney, these performances share the joys, sorrows, terrors, relief and humour of their refugee experiences. The work represents the culmination of drama and storytelling workshops held over the last for months and is part of the Treehouse Theatre's ongoing project to assist young refugees to honour their past and build resilience for the future.

Details: tickets \$20; 10:30am & 1:00pm on 8 September; 11:00am & 7:00pm on 9 September; Casula Powerhouse Art Centre, 1 Casula Road, Casula; to book tickets call (02) 9824 1121.

Ethiopian New Year celebration

Saturday 10 September, Moonah TAS

The Ethiopian Community Association of Tasmania is holding a celebration to mark Ethiopian New Year (the year 2004 in Ethiopian calendar). Delicious traditional Ethiopian food and drinks will be provided. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy an Ethiopian coffee ceremony.

Details: 2:00pm-11:00pm; Salvation Army Hall, 73 Hopkins Street, Moonah; for further details or to RSVP call Zenebe Woldemichael on 0403 286 181 or Zemenay Gebremichael on 0413 547 525.

NEW RESEARCH, STATEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Report on the status of refugee children in Victoria

The Victorian government has launched a report on how refugee children and young people in Victoria are faring. The *Refugee Status Report* brings together a wide range of information to provide an overview of how refugee children and young people in Victoria are faring. Data sources include national and international research findings and consultations with refugee community leaders and service providers. Download at www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/children/vcams/refugeestatus.htm

Evaluation report on young refugee men's project

An evaluation undertaken by the Youth Research Centre at the University of Melbourne on the Centre for Multicultural Youth's Brimbank Young Men's Project is now available online. The project targeted young men of African backgrounds who are disengaged (or at high risk of being disengaged) from education, training and employment; have had contact with the police; and are experiencing other difficulties with settlement. The evaluation report can be downloaded from www.cmy.net.au/Assets/1689/1/BYMPfinalreport.pdf

Article on refugee young people and homelessness in Australia

An article by Dr Jen Couch from the Australian Catholic University reports on findings from a project that conducted interviews with refugee young people and consultations with service providers. The article explores refugee young people's experiences of homelessness. A link to this article can be found at bsllibrary.org.au/multicultural/a-new-way-home-refugee-young-people-and-homelessness-in-australia-2-6439

YOUth Represent Resource Kit

The Youth Action and Policy Association has published the *YOUth Represent Resource Kit*, a resource intended to provide ideas, inspiration and tools to assist in designing and delivering a youth participation project. Download the kit at www.yapa.org.au/youthwork/facts/youthrep.php

Research report on AMEP students and employment transitions

AMES has released *Words to work: Settling in and finding work*, a report on the experiences of Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) students in Melbourne. The research aimed to explore how the AMEP impacts on the settlement of new migrants and refugees with low levels of English and the early vocational and employment pathways for people participating in the AMEP. Download the report at www.ames.net.au/media/docs/Words%20to%20Work.pdf

Research on African young people and police relations

The Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre has commissioned research into the role that demographic factors, such as country of birth and gender, play in shaping young people's experiences with and attitudes towards the police. *Race or reason?* documents the findings of this research and can be viewed at www.communitylaw.org.au/flemingtonkensington/cb_pages/files/FKCLC%20report%20March%202011_small2.pdf

Multilingual brochures on resolving telecommunications problems

The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman has developed a set of multilingual brochures outlining how the office can help consumers to resolve problems with telecommunications or internet service providers. The brochures can be downloaded at www.tio.com.au/lote/lote.htm. Hard copies can be ordered online at www.tio.com.au/publications/order_form.htm

Multilingual brochures on using migration agents

The Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority has produced a series of multilingual brochures on using the services of registered migration agents, including information on how to make a complaint. The brochures can be downloaded at www.mara.gov.au/Consumer-Information/Multilingual-Information/default.aspx

Report on Multiculturalism and Integration

The aim of the new *Multiculturalism and Integration: A Harmonious Relationship* report from the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia is to explore what is meant in practice by such terms as multiculturalism, integration, national identity and assimilation. The focus is not simply on the migrant generation in its early years but on long-standing social attributes such as language and religion. Download the report at epress-dev.anu.edu.au/multiculturalism_citation.html

New website to share stories of multicultural life in Australia

The chief aim of the new mylifeinoz website is to provide a platform of expression so that the lives and contributions of refugees and migrants in Australia can be better understood and appreciated. Go to www.mylifeinoz.com.au

A video celebration of refugees in Western Sydney

The latest video from the Stories Project, Portraits of Liverpool, was released for Refugee Week 2011. The video celebrates refugees who live in Liverpool. You can view the video at thestoriesproject.com.au/archives/portraits-of-liverpool

Health Check DVD: Health information for recently arrived African communities

This Health Check DVD provides newly arrived migrants from African communities with information about the Australian health care system and maintaining good health in Australia. Extracts from the DVD are available at www.youtube.com/user/refugeehealth. The complete DVD can be ordered at a cost of \$15.00 from the NSW Refugee Health Service. An order form is available at www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/sswahs/refugee/pdf/OrderForm.pdf

Paper on refugees as citizens, employees and customers

A new paper in the UNHCR *New Issues in Refugee Research* series by Tim Watson focuses on conceptualising refugees as citizens, employees and customers and implications for settlement support, and draws on the experiences of refugees settling in the regional town of Castlemaine in Victoria. Download the report at www.unhcr.org/4e0dbcb09.html

DIAC Access and Equity report

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)'s 2008-10 Access and Equity Report outlines Government actions on the key performance indicators of the Access and Equity Framework. It also features good practice examples of how government agencies are responding to the needs of Australia's multicultural society and includes case studies of migrants who have participated in government programs designed to assist them to settle in Australia. The report can be downloaded at www.immi.gov.au/about/reports/access-equity/2010

Parliamentary Library paper on the facts about asylum seekers and refugees

The Parliamentary Library has published a paper which explains the difference between refugees and asylum seekers and may help to address some misconceptions about asylum seekers. The paper can be downloaded from www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/bn/sp/AsylumFacts.pdf

Iran Country Guidance Notes

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has published new country guidance notes on Iran. Go to www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/country-guidance-notes.htm

New Legal Detention Framework Guide

The International Detention Coalition (IDC) has developed a new legal resource which highlights the international human rights standards relevant for immigration detention for anyone working on immigration detention law, policy and practice. The IDC Guide to the Legal Framework and Standards is at idcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/IDC-Legal-Detention-Framework-Guide_Final.pdf. The IDC's 10 point position on immigration detention is at <http://idcoalition.org/?p=6016>.

Article on mental health impacts on children of immigration detention

An article by Jon Jureidini and Julian Burnside in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health explores the mental health impacts of immigration detention on children. View the article,

Children in immigration detention: a case of reckless mistreatment, at onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1753-6405.2011.00711.x/full

Report on health effects of indefinite detention

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has released a report examining the health effects of indefinite detention. The report, *Punishment Before Justice: A Report on Indefinite Detention from Physicians for Human Rights*, documents how the indeterminacy of an indefinite detention creates a degree of uncertainty, unpredictability and uncontrollability that causes severe harms in healthy individuals independent of other aspects or conditions of detention. It is available at www.ifhhro.org/images/stories/ifhhro/news_items/phr_report_indefinite_detention_201106.pdf

'Listen to Children' 2011 Child Rights NGO Report

The Report is an overview of Australia's performance as it relates to each article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A total of 84 organisations and individuals, including the Refugee Council of Australia, endorsed the Report, in whole or in part. The Report is now on its way to Geneva for the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, due to convene in October 2011. To download a copy of the report, go to www.childrights.org.au

Research on refugee women's economic coping strategies in India

The Women's Refugee Commission has released a new report: *Bright Lights, Big City: Urban Refugees Struggle to Make a Living in New Delhi* of findings from a year-long study on urban refugee livelihoods. The Women's Refugee Commission undertook a field assessment trip to New Delhi, India, from late February to mid-March 2011. The assessment focused on refugees' economic coping strategies, protection risks associated with those coping strategies and potential market opportunities. You can download a copy at www.womensrefugeecommission.org/reports/doc_download/733-bright-lights-big-city-urban-refugees-struggle-to-make-a-living-in-new-delhi

International study on NGOs providing services to refugees and asylum seekers

Researchers from Indiana University have partnered with aid organisations on a study of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) around the world that provide services to refugees and asylum seekers. The information from this study will be used to produce a report on the current state of services to refugees and asylum seekers. If your organisation provides services to refugees and asylum seekers and has not yet participated in this study, a secure link to the survey can be found at iucsr.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1yHYINpdjNWomr2. The survey will close on August 15, 2011. For questions about the research, contact opizmony@indiana.edu

Report on the Progress of the World's Women

The UN Women's first major report, *Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice*, follows the agency's launch in early 2011. The report offers a comprehensive global review on women's rights around the world. It recognises the positive progress made – 139 countries and territories now guarantee equality in their constitutions – but also demonstrates that too often, women experience in justice, violence and inequality in their home, working and public lives. Download at www.unifem.org.au/AnnouncementRetrieve.aspx?ID=52883

Report of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness

The Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness was released by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd, in Parliament on 6 July 2011. The full report is available at www.aidreview.gov.au/report/index.html

European website with Country of Origin Information for refugee status determination

The European Country of Origin Information Network website aims to provide easy and fast access to high-quality and up-to-date country of origin information for all actors involved in asylum cases. Go to: www.ecoi.net

Video series: 100 Questions About Islam

A new video series, launched by the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the British Council, seeks to provide insight on current issues around perceptions of Islam and Muslim communities. The 100 videos, which average two minutes in length, address common misconceptions about Islam. The entire

collection of videos can be found at the following sites: vimeo.com/groups/100questionsaboutislam and www.youtube.com/100qsaboutislam

OPPORTUNITIES

Call for participants – UNHCR World Resettled Refugees Online Community

In celebration of its 60th Anniversary, UNHCR is planning to create an online social community specifically designed for refugees who have been resettled from their countries of first asylum to any of the following three resettlement countries: USA, Canada or Australia. If you are interested in taking part or would like further details, please e-mail Alex Donato (DONATO@unhcr.org) or Ben Farrell (FARRELLB@unhcr.org).

Survey on barriers experienced by women from new and emerging communities

Employment Action for Cultural Diversity (EACD) is an advocacy working group convened by the Multicultural Development Association. EACD is undertaking research to explore the current barriers and challenges experienced by women from new and emerging communities (NEC) aged between 16 and 65 in seeking employment. One part of this research is to conduct a survey of service providers who work with CALD women from NEC to explore their experiences and observations in supporting women from NEC to obtain employment. If you are an individual or an organisation who works with CALD women from NEC, please consider completing the short online survey by Friday 16 September 2011. To complete the survey online, please go to the following link and follow the prompts: www.surveymonkey.com/s/3JTQLYK.

2011 Refugee Health Forum – calling for expressions of interest

The Outer East Health and Community Support Alliance (OEHCSA), in partnership with the Migrant Settlement Committee Eastern Region, are calling for Expressions of Interest to attend the 2011 Eastern Region Refugee Health Forum. This informative forum will showcase local projects across the community that support refugee health and wellbeing. Please register your Expression of Interest with Meg Scolyer on (03) 9871 2608 or mscolyer@each.com.au.

Multicultural Community Services Exchange (MCSE) Forum

Explore the opportunity to share skills, knowledge and resources amongst ethnic communities in the west. Come along to discuss your community's needs and what you may be able to offer to others. For more information contact Jenny Ashby on (03) 5729 7552 or e-mail ashby@bigpond.com.

Have your say on the development of Australia's National Human Rights Action Plan

The Australian Government has recently released a draft Baseline Study for comment as the first step towards implementing the National Human Rights Action Plan. The issues identified in the Baseline Study form the basis for future government action under the National Action Plan and also for the development of government practices beyond the National Action Plan. Any areas excluded from the Baseline Study will not be included in the National Action Plan. Feedback is currently being sought on the Baseline Study, available at

www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination_AustraliasHumanRightsFramework_ConsultationDraftBaselineStudy.

The consultation period closes on Wednesday 31 August.

Multicultural Festivals and Events Grants

Unity Through Partnership Grant: VMC is providing up to \$100,000 for major multicultural festivals and events in Melbourne and regional Victoria. Closing date is Tuesday 23 August. For further details visit www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/grants/applicationforms/165-unity-through-partnerships.

Spectrum Seeds for Growth Grants

Spectrum MRC has small grants for ethnic/multicultural community groups in the categories of Events, Leadership and Innovative Projects. Closing date is Monday 19 September. Further information is available at www.spectrumvic.org.au/Communities/Grants-Community-Bulletin.

Eastweb Grants

The EastWeb Fund promotes the full participation of refugee and asylum seeker communities in the wider community. EastWeb gives small grants in the areas of health care, employment, education and cultural heritage promotion and maintenance. For more information visit www.eastweb.org.au.

PhD scholarships on multiculturalism

Two Macquarie University PhD scholarships are available at the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion to work with Associate Professor Ellie Vasta who is a recently appointed member of the CRSI. She is seeking two outstanding doctoral candidates to carry out PhD research commencing in semester 1, 2012, on issues relating to identity, belonging and solidarity in multicultural societies. Broadly speaking, one scholarship should focus on changes in identity, belonging, solidarity and the politics of sharing, in relation to migration and diversity in Australia. The second scholarship will focus on African youth or African women in Australia, on questions of social participation, identity and sense of belonging in a transnational context. For further details, contact Ellie Vasta on (02) 9850 4114 or email ellie.vasta@mq.edu.au.

Short course on international refugee law and advocacy – Bangkok

The Centre for Applied Human Rights (University of York, UK) will be offering a 5 day post-graduate short-course on International Refugee Law and Advocacy in Bangkok in September 2011. The course will run from 12 to 16 September 2011 and will be held in central Bangkok. Applications and further information about the course are available on the CAHR website at www.york.ac.uk/inst/cahr/short%20courses/Index.htm.

Human Rights Watch fellowships

Human Rights Watch is now seeking applications from recent graduates of law schools or graduates in journalism, international relations, area studies, or other relevant disciplines for award of 2012-2013 fellowships in International Human Rights. Deadline for applications is Thursday 6 October. For more information visit www.hrw.org/about/fellowships.

Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) at Columbia University

The HRAP is designed for lawyers, journalists, doctors, teachers, social workers, community organizers and other human rights activists working with NGOs on issues including sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence, minority rights, LGBT rights, disability rights, labor rights, migration, health, HIV/AIDS, social exclusion, environmental justice, and corporate social accountability. After completing the intensive four-month program, advocates are able to more effectively lobby for their causes and address the human rights concerns of their community. Participants are selected on the basis of their previous work experience in human rights commitment to the human rights field, and demonstrated ability to pursue graduate-level studies. Advocates must work at the grassroots level and applicants from high-income countries will not be considered except for those representing marginalised communities. Deadline for applications is Friday 18 November 2011. Visit hrcolumbia.org/hrap

Human rights for refugee women

The Multicultural Centre for Women's Health is running free community education session on Human Rights topics for women from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Training is available in multiple languages and covers topics such as parenting, education and employment, health and accessing goods and services. For more information, e-mail irina@mcwh.com.au.

New and Emerging Communities Youth Justice Information sessions

If you are interested in the youth justice system, working with at risk young people or learning what supports are available to young people and resources available to support communities and families, then join the VICSEG Youth Justice Familiarisation Training Program. For more info contact Sue or Lanre at VICSEG on (03) 9383 2533 or email spaten@vicsegnewfutures.org.au.

Young human rights advocates have a chance to shine

Young people around Australia are being urged to nominate themselves or someone else for the 2011 Young People's Human Rights Medal. For nomination forms and to order your tickets go to www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards/index.html. Join the Human Rights Awards electronic mailing list by emailing hrawards@humanrights.gov.au.

Governor's Multicultural Awards 2011 Now Open

The Governor's Multicultural Awards 2011 are now open for nominations of individuals and organisations who have made outstanding contributions to multiculturalism in South Australia. With the entry deadline of 31 October 2011, you are urged to submit your nomination or nominations as soon as possible. Multiple nominations must be on separate forms. For further information go to www.multicultural.sa.gov.au.

Nominate now for ACFID Human Rights Award

Nominations are now open for the sector's two major awards, the Sir Ron Wilson Human Rights Award and the Outstanding Contribution to the Sector Award. Think hard and put forward some names! Visit www.acfid.asn.au/about-acfid/acfid-awards for more information.

Nominations open for 2012 Australian of the Year Awards

The Australian of the Year Awards provide an opportunity for you to recognise and reward someone who makes you proud to be an Australian. All members of the Australian community are invited to nominate a friend, family member, community leader, colleague or even someone famous – any Australian who you believe makes our country a better place to live. Nominations close Wednesday 31 August 2011. For further details and to make a nomination, visit www.australianoftheyear.org.au

Multicultural Women's Living Stories Radio

NEMBC invites women to participate in the Living Stories Radio Project. Stories will be recorded and turned into short broadcasts to be played on community radio programs around Australia. If you would like to be interviewed, contact Rachael at women@nembc.org.au.

Help needed in recruiting multicultural and indigenous women for International Cup

The AFL is seeking ten multicultural and/or indigenous women (aged 18+) to play in next month's International Cup. They need to be available to play in Sydney and in Melbourne from August 15-26. There will be no cost to the participants. Anyone who is interested in playing, should contact Chyloe Kurdas on chyloe.kurdas@aflvic.com.au.

An opportunity for diverse young people to be mentored in journalism

This is a call out for young people interested in journalism who want to be involved in a fantastic new program run by the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY). CMY matches diverse young people with some of Australia's best journalists. Interested young people should contact Ilz Aslan at CMY as soon as possible on iaslan@cmj.net.au or on (03) 9340 3727.

Commonwealth Youth Forum: Calling for Applications from young people around Australia

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition is currently assisting the Australian Government in promoting and running the application process for the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF), which runs in conjunction with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). 30 young people aged 18-29 will be selected to attend the CYF in Fremantle, Western Australia, from 23-27 October 2011. One of the aims of this process is to get a diverse group of young Australians attending the forum, including young people who have a disability, are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, come from a culturally or linguistically diverse background. Young people who work with or have an understanding of these groups are also encouraged to apply. Register online at <http://bit.ly/mQkZTO>. For further details contact Emma Luttrell or Jacqui McKenzie on (02) 9212 500 or projects@ayac.org.au.

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)

UN comments on Malaysia refugee deal 'encouraging'

Refugee groups say they have been partially reassured by comments from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees about Australia's proposed refugee deal with Malaysia. Paul Power from the Refugee Council of Australia and other refugee advocates met the UN's Commissioner, Antonia Guterres, in Geneva to discuss the agreement. (ABC News, 1 July)

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/06/30/3258004.htm?section=justin

Australia locks up refugees, not Malaysia, says ex-immigration chief

The former head of immigration under the Fraser government, John Menadue, said criticism of Malaysia's treatment of refugees was racist and hypocritical, saying it was Australia that locked people up, not Malaysia. (The Star, 3 July)

thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/7/2/nation/20110702140411&sec=nation

Senate passes migration law

A proposed law which could cost immigration detainees any chance of staying in Australia permanently has been passed by the Senate. The bill means that anyone convicted of a criminal offence while in immigration detention may be refused a visa, or have a visa cancelled at the discretion of the Minister for Immigration. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 July)

news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/senate-passes-migration-law-20110704-1gzcw.html

People-smugglers sent to prison; fines not imposed since introduction

The Attorney-General's Department, which oversees extradition, admitted yesterday that no fines had been imposed since parliament in May last year passed legislation that included a maximum of 20 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of \$220,000. (The Australian, 5 July)

www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/people-smugglers-sent-to-prison-fines-not-imposed-since-introduction/story-fn59niix-1226087510111

Manus Island may be long-run solution to refugee issue

The refugee processing centre Australia hopes to build on Manus Island will be a permanent facility designed to manage future waves of asylum-seekers. The head of PNG's Foreign Affairs Department, Michael Maue, told The Australian PNG's cabinet was expected to make a decision soon on whether to proceed with Canberra's proposal. (The Australian, 6 July)

www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/manus-island-may-be-long-run-solution-to-refugee-issue/story-fn59niix-1226088421978

Immigration detention faces new High Court challenge

The Federal Government is facing a High Court challenge against its right to detain people without determining their refugee status. (ABC Lateline, 7 July)

www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2011/s3263025.htm

Asylum seeker debate fuelled by misinformation

The debate about asylum seekers in Australia is contentious and politically charged, but research commissioned by Amnesty International has found that anti-asylum seeker sentiments are not actually fuelled by racism. The findings reveal many Australians' views on refugees are informed by misconceptions and a lack of facts. (ABC News Online, 9 July)

www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/07/09/3265478.htm?section=justin

Refugees told not to bank on family

A High Court challenge in September will test federal government efforts to discourage applications by unaccompanied refugee children hoping to sponsor the migration of parents and siblings to Australia. (The Australian, 11 July)

www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/refugees-told-not-to-bank-on-family/story-fn59niix-1226091017276

Asylum seekers may ask for Australian resettlement

A large group of asylum seekers intercepted in Indonesian waters while on their way to New Zealand may ask to be resettled in Australia. New Zealand Prime Minister John Key on Tuesday said his country would not accept the group, adding that it would send the wrong message to people smugglers and other asylum seekers. (The Herald Sun, 12 July)

www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/sri-lankan-asylum-seekers-on-way-to-new-zealand-may-ask-for-australian-resettlement/story-e6fr7k6-1226093234839

Australia close to signing Malaysia refugee deal

The Australian Government's negotiations with Malaysia on the asylum seeker deal are in advanced stages, a spokesman for the Immigration Minister says. But the ABC understands the agreement to swap 800 asylum seekers in Australia with 4,000 people registered as genuine refugees in Malaysia now only requires the signatures of Immigration Minister Chris Bowen and his Malaysian counterpart. (The Australia Network News, 13 July)

australianetworknews.com/stories/201107/3268304.htm?desktop

Draft deal with Malaysia 'struck'

The International Organisation for Migration, one of the four parties central to the Gillard government's proposed refugee swap with Malaysia, has confirmed that a draft agreement between Canberra and Kuala Lumpur has been struck. As pressure on the Gillard government to conclude the drawn-out negotiation intensifies, The Australian has been told a final version of the document is expected to be circulated among the parties this week. (14 July, The Australian)

www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/draft-deal-with-malaysia-struck/story-fn59niix-1226094216983

Asylum seeker charter flights \$1m a month

The Gillard Government has spent \$3 million on charter flights in the past three months to ferry asylum seekers to mainland capitals, Fairfax reports. The costs peaked after the March riots on the island when detainees set fire to an accommodation wing and authorities deployed tear gas to control the protesters. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 17 July)

news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/asylum-seeker-charter-flights-1m-a-month-20110717-1hjq1.html

Immigration moves to curb detainee protests

The Immigration Department is trying to counter tensions among the 407 people slated for deportation to Malaysia as longer-term detainees protested in Darwin and on Christmas Island yesterday. (The Australian, 19 July)

www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/immigration-moves-to-curb-detainee-protests/story-fn59niix-1226097145717

Companies cashing in on Australia's overflowing refugee program

Australia's overflowing refugee program is delivering handsome profits to a clutch of companies including a \$20.4 million contract for a Darwin hotel developer. (The Herald Sun, 20 July)

www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/companies-cashing-in-on-australias-overflowing-refugee-program/story-fn7x8me2-1226097832483

Tear gas fired in immigration centre riot

Tension at the Christmas Island detention centre has boiled over, with federal police using tear-gas and bean-bag bullets against asylum seekers for the third time this year. Prime Minister Julia Gillard said: "I've got a very clear message to anybody involved in that incident, which is: you don't get any changes to the process or to the treatment of your claims by misbehaving." (The Sydney Morning Herald, 21 July)

www.theage.com.au/national/police-use-teargas-to-quell-riot-on-christmas-island-20110720-1hox7.html

PNG wants to call shots on reopening Manus centre

Julia Gillard's plans to reopen the mothballed Manus Island detention centre have been dealt a blow, with Papua New Guinea warning it will set the terms of any deal - and that may include alternative sites to Manus. (The Australian, 22 July)

www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/png-wants-to-call-shots-on-reopening-manus-centre/story-fn59niix-1226099351281

Refugee deal ignores Malaysia's record - Jakarta Globe

The Australia-Malaysia agreement to transfer up to 800 asylum seekers declared, among other things, that the "transferees will not receive any preferential treatment over asylum seekers already in Malaysia." While Australia's agreement to accept more refugees for resettlement is commendable, the plan to illegally and forcefully deport asylum seekers and "outsource" its international human rights obligations to a country like Malaysia is shocking and irresponsible to say the least. Let there be no doubt: Malaysia has a horrendous track record - infamous for its brutal treatment of refugees and other undocumented migrants and consistently ranked as one of the world's worst places to be a refugee. (23 July, The Jakarta Globe)

www.thejakartaglobe.com/opinion/refugee-deal-ignores-malaysias-record/454776

Refugees get right to work in swap deal

Asylum seekers sent to Malaysia under Julia Gillard's refugee plan will be granted the right to work, giving them an advantage over others who have not attempted the perilous boat journey to Australia. (The Sun Herald, 24 July)

www.smh.com.au/national/refugees-to-get-right-to-work-in-swap-deal-20110723-1hu6g.html

Australia-Malaysia refugee treaty inconsistent with norm: UN

The UN's refugee agency said a controversial Australia-Malaysia deal signed Monday was inconsistent with the practice of allowing asylum-seekers to be processed in the country in which they arrive. (Times of Oman, 25 July) www.timesofoman.com/innercat.asp?cat=&detail=48159&sec=news#

Fears over unaccompanied kids in Malaysia

Unaccompanied children sent to Malaysia under the federal government's asylum-seeker swap deal will not have the protection of a legal guardian. While in Australia, Immigration Minister Chris Bowen becomes the legal guardian for any unaccompanied children arriving by boat and claiming refugee status. But Mr Bowen has admitted that any youngsters sent to Malaysia under the deal will not have a legal guardian under Malaysian law. (Sydney Morning Herald, 26 July) news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/fears-over-unaccompanied-kids-in-malaysia-20110726-1hxnd.html

Campaign to keep illegal boats away

Facebook campaigns and YouTube clips are among tools the Federal Government will use to warn asylum seekers against getting on boats, after its Malaysian deal. The campaign will tell asylum seekers that paying people smugglers will only see them placed at the back of the queue in Malaysia. (The Herald Sun, 27 July) www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/campaign-to-keep-illegal-boats-away/story-e6frf7l6-1226102368388

Joy and tears precede Christmas Island exodus – Australian

They were initially told they would be flown to Kuala Lumpur to join the back of the queue, but the 521 asylum-seekers held in limbo on Christmas Island while the federal government negotiated its deal with Malaysia began moving to the Australian mainland yesterday. The first of five charter flights to Darwin, carrying 60 people, left Christmas Island early yesterday. The Immigration Department is anxious about how the island's 610 long-term male detainees will react to the exodus of those who began arriving in May. (The Australian, 28 July) www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/joy-and-tears-precede-christmas-island-exodus/story-e6frg6nf-1226103029522

Malaysia refugees threaten to pay people smugglers to take them to Australia

Refugees in Malaysia are threatening to pay people smugglers to take them to Australia, saying they'll be treated better when they're sent back under the asylum seeker swap deal. Human-rights organisations have criticised the deal, saying it could actually act as a pull factor for boat people and creates a two-tier refugee system. (AAP, 29 July) www.news.com.au/breaking-news/malaysia-refugees-threaten-to-pay-people-smugglers-to-take-them-to-australia/story-e6frfku0-1226103668829

Death of family in Christmas Island tragedy kept from Iraqi detainee

An Iraqi detainee in a distressed state after the boat carrying his family crashed on to rocks at Christmas Island was given no immediate counselling and did not know for days that his wife and two children had died. The man - who says he alerted guards at the island's detention centre that the boat was on its way hours before it struck the rocks - was given medication and sent back to his room while extremely distressed in the hours following the shipwreck, the lawyer representing the man told an inquest into the tragedy. (The Australian, 30 July) www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/death-of-family-in-christmas-island-tragedy-kept-from-iraqi-detainee/story-fn59niix-1226104593617