



# Refugee Council of Australia

## **BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS**

**11 October 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](mailto:info@refugeecouncil.org.au).

*Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia*

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## **NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE COUNCIL**

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### **Offshore policy revisited**

RCOA expressed deep regret at the Federal Government's decision to attempt to overturn the August 31 High Court decision on the Malaysia deal. The Government introduced legislative amendments to allow offshore processing of asylum seekers in Malaysia and Papua New Guinea to nullify the High Court ruling that asylum seekers transferred from Australia could be sent only to countries which offer them minimum standards of legal protection. RCOA said the proposed legislation would set an even lower standard for human rights than the legislation introduced in September 2001 by the Howard Government when it established the offshore processing regime. However, the announcement failed to address the best mechanism to deal with problems at the core of the movement of asylum seekers through Asia to Australia – an Asia-Pacific refugee protection framework. The legislation was introduced by the Government but was not supported by the Opposition, which sought to amend the legislation to revive its preferred option of offshore processing in Nauru. The legislation is still before the House. RCOA's media release is at:

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/releases/110912\\_Offshore\\_revival.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/releases/110912_Offshore_revival.pdf)

### **Asylum seeker debate hits new low**

The Government's legislative response to the High Court decision was preceded by media reports linking asylum seeker boat arrivals with future social unrest in Australia. The comments were attributed to the Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship Andrew Metcalfe following private discussions held with the Federal Opposition. RCOA coordinated a statement on behalf of nine organisations calling on Mr Metcalfe to clarify the comments. In the statement, RCOA, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Australian Council for International Development, Coalition for Asylum Seekers Refugees and Detainees, Edmund Rice Centre, Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia, International Detention Coalition, Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) and UnitingJustice Australia rejected any suggestion that Australia faces the prospect of riots or unrest similar to that seen in parts of Europe as a result of asylum seekers entering Australia. The statement is available at:

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/statements/110908\\_AMetcalfe.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/statements/110908_AMetcalfe.pdf)

### **Intake submission consultations**

In October, RCOA will start undertaking consultations on the Refugee and Humanitarian Program. This year, face-to-face consultations with service providers and community members will be held in Perth (Mirrabooka and Cannington), Darwin, Adelaide, Brisbane, Logan, Toowoomba, Newcastle, Sydney (Campsie, Blacktown and Liverpool), Wollongong, Canberra, Albury, Melbourne, Morwell, Werribee, Bendigo and Hobart. Teleconferences will also be held with providers in a number of areas. This year's submission will focus on: international refugee needs; regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific; the composition of Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program; and what is working well and where there are gaps in post-arrival settlement support. RCOA will provide updated information on the consultations at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/intakesub.php>

### **Regional refugee protection network urged**

RCOA CEO Paul Power gave evidence to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into Australia's Agreement with Malaysia in Relation to Asylum Seekers, urging the Australian Government to build a lasting regional framework to protect asylum seekers in South-East and South Asia. Mr Power said RCOA remained opposed to the Malaysia refugee swap deal, citing the lack of basic legal protections for refugees and asylum seekers. Mr Power reminded senators that in South-East Asia and South Asia, 15 of the 19 states were not parties to the Refugee Convention and none of those 15 states had consistent and reliable processes to address the needs of refugees. He said that unless the situation changed, refugees and asylum seekers would continue to be forced into a mad scramble to find minimum levels of protection. In a submission to the Inquiry, RCOA recommended the Australian Government support short-term reforms in Malaysia including the granting of legal status to refugees and asylum seekers, affording right of stay, protection against arrest, detention and deportation as well as permission to work. These initial measures could provide a stepping stone to more comprehensive, longer-term reforms such as developing domestic asylum laws and procedures for refugee status determination. The media release can be viewed here:

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/releases/110923\\_Malaysia\\_sub.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/releases/110923_Malaysia_sub.pdf)

The submission can be accessed at:

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/submissions/1109\\_Malaysia\\_sub.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/submissions/1109_Malaysia_sub.pdf)

### **Submission lodged on immigration detention**

In a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Immigration Detention Network, RCOA urged the Federal Government to limit immigration detention to a risk management process to check the health, security and identity status of asylum seekers. The submission confirmed RCOA's opposition to mandatory detention but acknowledged the policy was supported by both the Government and the Opposition. The submission called for asylum seekers without visas to be assessed to the same criteria as people who seek to enter the country on a temporary basis. RCOA's submission to the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Immigration Detention Network is available at

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/submissions/1108\\_JSC\\_Detention\\_sub.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/submissions/1108_JSC_Detention_sub.pdf)

The media release can be accessed at:

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/releases/110916\\_Detention\\_sub.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/releases/110916_Detention_sub.pdf)

### **Complementary protection legislation passed**

The Australian Parliament has passed legislation to protect non-refugees at risk from persecution and torture. The *Migration Amendment (Complementary Protection) Bill 2011* improves protections for people who are not found to be refugees but are still at grave risk of persecution, torture or death on return to their country of origin. The legislation provides a clear and prompt legal process for people whom Australia has committed to protecting under human rights treaties such as the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture. Previously, decisions on the fate of such vulnerable people lay solely with the Minister for Immigration, who could only consider the case after a lengthy process of applications, refusals and appeals was exhausted – even when the need to protect an individual from persecution was widely accepted. The passage of the Bill follows a 10-year campaign waged by RCOA and its member organisations for legislative change. RCOA acknowledges the efforts of Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Chris Bowen and his predecessor Senator Chris Evans in drafting the legislation and seeing its passage through Parliament. RCOA's media release can be accessed here:

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/releases/110919\\_complementary\\_protection.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/releases/110919_complementary_protection.pdf)

### **Three more countries to protect stateless people**

Croatia, Nigeria and the Philippines have formally adopted international legal standards to keep stateless people from falling into legal limbo. The United Nations estimates that up to 12 million people are believed to be stateless worldwide. With no nationality, stateless people are often denied basic human rights. The UNHCR expects more countries to follow the example set by Croatia, Nigeria and the Philippines and become party to one or both of the statelessness conventions – the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Further details are available here: <http://www.unhcr.org/4e7c8cd755.html>

### **Moree Plains Shire becomes latest Refugee Zone**

Moree Plains Shire in the north-west of New South Wales, became a Refugee Welcome Zone this month, becoming the 75<sup>th</sup> local government in Australia to sign on as a member. The majority of Refugee Welcome Zones have been declared after an initial proposal by a community or church-based organisation that is subsequently supported by an approach from RCOA.

### **RCOA on Facebook and Twitter**

RCOA continues to share news and events through social media. Our Facebook site allows us to post upcoming events and stories, opinion pieces and interviews to a wider audience. Facebook and Twitter also provide a platform to share RCOA submissions, reports and media releases. RCOA's Facebook site currently has more than 300 friends. Check out our Facebook site at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Refugee-Council-of-Australia-RCOA/157472830949702>

Our Twitter account is @OzRefugeeCounc

## **COMING EVENTS**

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### **X for Unknown: SIEV X Memorial designs**

**Wednesday 21 September to Sunday 20 November, Darling Harbour NSW**

In October 2001, Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel (SIEV) X sank en route to Christmas Island, drowning 353 people. Nineteen powerful designs by students for the National SIEV X Memorial mark the 10th anniversary of this tragedy.

**Details:** free entry; open daily 9:30am-5:00pm; Australian National Maritime Museum, 2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour NSW; for further details visit [www.anmm.gov.au](http://www.anmm.gov.au).

### **Exchange and Trade: Exhibition of photography and calligraph**

**Wednesday 21 September to Wednesday 12 October, Sydney NSW**

Featuring works by Danny Kennedy and Jomakhan Jafari.

**Details:** opening night 4:00pm-8:00pm; gallery open 10:00am-4:00pm Wednesday to Saturday; Mori Gallery, 168 Day Street, Sydney.

### **Consultations for culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the Sydney metropolitan area**

**Monday 10 October to Thursday 20 October, Sydney NSW**

The NSW Government is conducting an extensive series of consultations on the best way to implement person centred supports and funding arrangements for disability services in NSW. Consultations will be held across metropolitan Sydney to obtain input from people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds on the Government's policy directions for disability services in NSW. The consultation sessions will involve small focus group discussions with people with a disability, their families and carers. Every participant will have an opportunity to have their say. Sessions will be conducted in 17 community languages, and each will be run by a bilingual facilitator. There will also be one workshop (conducted in English) for service providers.

**Details:** to view the schedule of consultations and details on how to register go to [www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay/cald](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay/cald).

### **Refugee Realities: Risk, Rights and Resettlement**

**From Tuesday 11 October, Clifton Hill**

A series of workshops hosted by Melbourne Free University. Speakers will provide unique takes on issues facing refugees and the countries that host them, as well as posing important questions about current policy directions and frameworks.

**Details:** Tuesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm; Dexter Cafe and Bar, 123 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill; for further details visit <http://melbournefreeuniversity.org>.

### **'What's the law? Australian law for new arrivals': Education kit and train the trainer workshops**

**Tuesday 10 October to Thursday 15 December, NSW**

'What's the law?' is a new education kit for adult ESL learners that has been developed by Legal Aid. It seeks to improve students' understanding of the Australian legal system and some common legal issues, while developing English language skills. Legal Aid NSW is providing free workshops designed to provide teachers, tutors and community workers with the knowledge and confidence to use the kit. The workshops cover key legal concepts, how to deal with legal questions, making legal referrals and where

to find more information. Ten workshops are scheduled in Sydney, Parramatta, Chatswood, Hurstville, Bankstown, Wollongong, Newcastle, Gosford and Coffs Harbour between October and December 2011.

**Details:** for further information contact contact the Coordinator, Community Legal Education, on (02) 9219 5921 or [cle@legallaid.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cle@legallaid.nsw.gov.au), or visit

[www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/15950385689218\\_5.html#content-start](http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/15950385689218_5.html#content-start).

### **Mandatory detention: the realistic alternatives**

**Thursday 13 October, Sydney NSW**

The Centre for Policy Development (CPD) and ChilOut invite you to join CPD Founder and former Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Head John Menadue AO in a clear-headed discussion of the recommendations made in the recent CPD paper, 'A New Approach: Breaking the Stalemate on Refugees and Asylum Seekers'.

**Details:** 6:00pm for 6:30pm sharp to 8:00pm; Council Chambers, Sydney Town Hall, Sydney.

### **African Dads and Kids Camp**

**Friday 14 October to Sunday 16 October, Queenscliff VIC**

African fathers are invited to bring along one of their children between the ages of 7 and 16 for a free camp experience. The aim of the camp is to explore differences and similarities between being a parent in Australia and a parent in Africa. Activities will include beach visits, campfires, bush walks, canoeing and opportunities for discussion and experiential learning. Hosted by CatholicCare.

**Details:** Camp Wyuna Queenscliffe, 71 Flinders Street, Queenscliffe; for further details or to register, contact Kate McKernin on 0418 446 692 or e-mail [mckernin@ccam.org.au](mailto:mckernin@ccam.org.au).

### **Emmanuel Jal presented by Adelaide Festival Centre**

**Friday 14 October, Adelaide SA**

World renowned hip-hop artist, peace activist and novelist Emmanuel Jal will be appearing at Adelaide Festival Centre for a one night only performance supported by Australian turntable legend, DJ Dexter. Emmanuel Jal grew up as a child soldier in the heat of Sudan's brutal civil war. With the help of British Aid workers, Emmanuel overcame this unbelievable struggle and has emerged as an accomplished and passionate recording artist.

**Details:** tickets \$35.00 (concession \$32.00, students \$30.00); Festival Theatre; to book tickets, call BASS on 131 246 or go to [www.bass.net.au](http://www.bass.net.au); for further details visit [www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au](http://www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au).

### **Human rights, civil society and the rule of law**

**Friday 14 October, Melbourne VIC**

Hosted by the Human Rights Law Centre, this seminar will feature an address by US Ambassador to Australia, Jeffrey L Bleich. Ambassador Bleich has a longstanding and outstanding commitment to human rights and international law, having served as Chair of the American Bar Association's Amicus Curiae Committee and Corporate Social Responsibility Sub-Committee, as a Board member of Human Rights Watch and as a lawyer with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. He has also taught human rights and international law at UC Berkeley School of Law.

**Details:** \$20.00 (\$15.00 concession) includes lunch; 12:45pm-2:00pm; Blake Dawson, Level 26, 181 William Street, Melbourne; for further details and to register visit

[www.hrlc.org.au/content/events/seminar-with-jeffrey-l-bleich-us-ambassador-to-australia-human-rights-civil-society-and-the-rule-of-law-2](http://www.hrlc.org.au/content/events/seminar-with-jeffrey-l-bleich-us-ambassador-to-australia-human-rights-civil-society-and-the-rule-of-law-2).

### **Rally to commemorate SIEV X: Take a stand for refugees**

**Saturday 15 October, Brisbane QLD**

On 19 October 2001, an Indonesian fishing boat labelled SIEV X destined for Australia and carrying nearly 400 asylum seekers, capsized. 353 people drowned, 146 of them children. Speakers at this commemorative event will include Julian Burnside QC, prominent barrister and refugee rights advocate; and Andrew Bartlett, former senator, member of Senate inquiry into 'a certain maritime incident'. Presented by the Refugee Action Collective.

**Details:** 1:00pm; Brisbane Square, Brisbane (top of Queen Street Mall); for further details contact Paul on (07) 3392 3843 or [paul@rac-qld.org](mailto:paul@rac-qld.org).

### **'Lucky' Theatre Production and Refugee Post-Show Forum**

**Sunday 16 October to Saturday 22 October, Newtown NSW**

'Lucky' is a story of hope, determination and illusion. A young man puts his faith in a human trafficker to guide him across a treacherous sea in search of the brother who set sail before him. The post-show forum will explore the refugee experience, present the facts and figures, examine Australia's response to humanitarian need and raise awareness of opportunities for Australians to support the protection of human rights.

**Details:** tickets \$30.00 (\$25.00 concession); Tuesday to Saturday 7:00pm, Sunday 5:00pm; New Theatre, 542 King Street, Newtown; for more information and bookings visit [www.newtheatre.org.au](http://www.newtheatre.org.au) or call 1300 306 776.

### **Open Mind Fiesta**

**Sunday 16 October, Preston VIC**

Open Mind Fiesta is a major community event aimed at improving awareness of mental illness. A major focus for MI Fellowship is engaging people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities with mental health awareness to improve community mental health outcomes. Live music, performers, local businesses, community groups, craft stalls, children's rides, and fabulous food will be showcased in this street festival with a difference.

**Details:** 11:00am-5:00pm; High Street, Preston (between Bruce Street and Murray Road); for further details visit [www.mifellowship.org](http://www.mifellowship.org).

### **An evening of brotherhood with Emmanuel Jal**

**Tuesday 18 October, Abbotsford VIC**

Attendees at this event will have an exclusive opportunity to meet international hip-hop artist and human rights activist, Emmanuel Jal at a screening of the Emmy-nominated film 'War Child'. Emmanuel will be talking with his childhood friend, David Vincent, about their shared experiences as children in an Ethiopian refugee camp. These experiences are depicted in the film 'War Child', which tells Emmanuel Jal's story. Hosted by the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

**Details:** 6:00pm-9:30pm; Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford; for further details visit [www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on?id=660&dt=18/10/2011](http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on?id=660&dt=18/10/2011).

### **2011 Sydney Tibetan Arts and Film Festival**

**Wednesday 19 October to Sunday 6 November, Manly NSW**

The first official Tibetan Film and Arts Festival in Sydney will highlight a critical era for Tibetans. A unique curation of films, music, art and ideas will shed light on the unprecedented cultural renaissance quietly, yet passionately, taking place through the courage and creative expression of the Tibetan people. Experience the transcendent musical fusion of 'Raga Shambala: For Tibet with Love' headed by Tenzin Choegyal, followed by a thought-provoking forum, 'Is Tibet a Lost Cause?', bound to stir impassioned insights, ideas and lively debate, with Tenzin Tsundue and guests. Audiences will draw inspiration from this world heritage culture, while gaining a deeper understanding of the Tibet issue and its relevance to the world community.

**Details:** for further details including screening times and ticket prices, e-mail [thetibeteffect@gmail.com](mailto:thetibeteffect@gmail.com) or visit [www.thetibeteffect.com](http://www.thetibeteffect.com).

### **Jungle Tracks: A therapeutic storytelling program for children and adolescents**

**Thursday 20 October, Carramar NSW**

Jungle Tracks is a program that includes five short stories that mirror real life struggles related to the lives of children, adolescents and parents with a background of refugee trauma. This workshop is designed to equip participants with the appropriate knowledge and skills to run the Jungle Tracks program within an integrated therapeutic model.

**Details:** \$199.00 per person (\$149.00 students) Jungle Tracks kit worth \$70.00, five short stories and a facilitator's guide, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea) 9:30am-4:30pm; STARTTS, 152-168 The Horsley Drive, Carramar; for further details go to [www.startts.org.au/default.aspx?id=395](http://www.startts.org.au/default.aspx?id=395).

### **UNAA Media Peace Awards Presentation Dinner**

**Friday 21 October, Melbourne VIC**

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Media Peace Awards recognise Australian journalists, photojournalists and producers whose work promotes human rights, social justice and humanitarian issues. The awards will be presented at a gala event hosted by ABC's Virginia Trioli.

**Details:** 6:30pm for 7:00pm; Mayfair Ballroom, Grand Hyatt Melbourne, 123 Collins Street, Melbourne; for bookings call (03) 9670 7878 or e-mail [awards@unaavictoria.org.au](mailto:awards@unaavictoria.org.au).

### **Human Rights Focus on Colombia**

**Saturday 22 October, North Ryde NSW**

Latin America has long been struggling with human rights issues arising from dictatorships, repression, civil wars and crime. This event, held in collaboration with Macquarie University, will present topical short films and a confronting documentary from Colombia, 'Impunidad', delving into the biggest trial against Colombia's paramilitary armies, which comes to a halt when the political and economic interests in the paramilitary war are uncovered. The film will be followed by a panel discussion. The event will offer Mexican beer, Argentine wine, food tastings and will feature a performance of Latin American contemporary folk music by Waldo Garrido and Navegaos.

**Details:** free entry; from 5:00pm; Macquarie University Y3A, Balaclava Road, North Ryde; for further details visit [www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org/2011/whats-on/human-rights-focus-on-colombia](http://www.sydneylatinofilmfestival.org/2011/whats-on/human-rights-focus-on-colombia)

### **'Community Supporting Community': fundraising dinner**

**Thursday 27 October, Shepparton VIC**

This event, organised by two young women who come from refugee backgrounds, will raise funds for the Oncology Ward at GV Health.

**Details:** \$25.00 per head; 6:30pm-9:30pm; St Georges Primary School Hall, Shepparton; for further details and to RSVP contact Fatima Zaoli on 0431 337 705 or [fatima.z@live.com.au](mailto:fatima.z@live.com.au), or Elaf Al-Tuhmazy on 0451 796 074 or [ielf\\_ali\\_01@hotmail.com](mailto:ielf_ali_01@hotmail.com).

### **Great Lakes National Mental Health Conference**

**Friday 28 October and Saturday 29 October, Carramar NSW**

Hosted by the Federation of the Congolese Council of Australia, this conference is for community leaders or elders from the Burundian, Rwandese, Congolese and Ugandan communities seeking information on providing support to community members facing mental health and relationship issues.

**Details:** 9:00am-5:00pm; Karitane Conference Room, 138 The Horsley Drive, Carramar; to register please contact Theophile Elongo on 0422 448 246 or [Federation\\_congolese@ymail.com](mailto:Federation_congolese@ymail.com), or Odette Polepole on 0413 425 213 or [Odette.fcca@gmail.com](mailto:Odette.fcca@gmail.com).

### **Literary lunch with Carina Hoang**

**Friday 28 October, Northwood NSW**

Carina Hoang is the author of 'Boat People: Personal Stories from the Vietnamese Exodus 1975-1996'. Carina left Vietnam at the age of 16 with 370 others escaping from war and persecution in a small boat. This book is a tribute to all those who made these journeys in search of a safe future and gives a glimpse into the reality of being a 'boat person'. Naomi Steer, National Director of Australia for UNHCR will introduce the author over a two-course lunch. The lunch will raise funds to support UNHCR's humanitarian programs for those displaced by emergencies.

**Details:** 11:45am for 12:00pm to 2:00pm; 9 Point Road, Northwood; RSVP essential to Penny Gerstle on 0408 291 196 or [pgerstle@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pgerstle@optusnet.com.au).

### **'Working for Success' conference**

**Friday 28 October, Preston VIC**

Hosted by the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) and Youth Development Australia (YDA), this conference will focus on employment of young people from refugee and newly arrived backgrounds. The conference will explore issues and find solutions to help young people get and keep a job that provides real pathways to a better life.

**Details:** \$120.00; 9:30am-4:00pm; Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, corner of Bell Street and St Georges Road, Preston; register online at [yda.org.au/2011/09/07/october-28th-conference-working-for-success](http://yda.org.au/2011/09/07/october-28th-conference-working-for-success).

**ASWC Saturday Program: Visit to the farm**

Saturday 29 October, Brunswick VIC

An excursion for asylum seekers to a farm approximately one hour north of Melbourne.

**Details:** meet at ASWC at 10:00am; to book contact Paul on (03) 9388 2459 or e-mail [paul.boyd@uniting.com.au](mailto:paul.boyd@uniting.com.au); for further details visit [www.aswc.org.au/saturdayprogram](http://www.aswc.org.au/saturdayprogram).

**Sudanese Australian National Youth Conference**

Saturday 29 October to Monday 31 October, Parramatta NSW

The annual Sudanese Australian National Youth Conference (SANYC) brings together the Sudanese Australian community, not-for-profit representatives, government and businesses to hear the experiences of young Sudanese Australian people and discuss the challenges and opportunities for their successful integration into Australian society.

**Details:** University of Western Sydney, Sir Ian and Nancy Turbott's Auditorium (Building EE), Parramatta Campus, corner of Victoria and James Ruse Drive; for further information and to register, contact Beatriz Cardona on 0402 517 682 or [b.cardona@uws.edu.au](mailto:b.cardona@uws.edu.au).

**Neither here nor there: Why Malaysia is the wrong solution**

Wednesday 2 November, Perth WA

Presented by CARAD and Case for Refugees, this forum will be chaired by former ALP National President Barry Jones with guest speakers including Dr David Corlett and Malaysian barrister Dato' M. Ramachelvam.

**Details:** tickets from \$25.00; 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start to 8:30pm; Winthrop Hall, University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley; to pre-book tickets visit [www.bocs.com.au](http://www.bocs.com.au).

**2011 Friends of STARTTS Refugee Ball**

Wednesday 2 November, Sydney NSW

The Friends of STARTTS Refugee Ball raises funds to support the work of the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS). Highlights of this year's event will include speeches from 2010 Australian of the Year Patrick McGorry and Afghan refugee Riz Wakil, a charity auction and performances from Merenia and the Way, the Ethiopian Gospel Choir and the Tibetan Dance Group.

**Details:** \$150.00 per person (\$1500.00 per table of ten); 7:00pm-12:00am; Dockside, Balcony Level, Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney; for further details and to book tickets e-mail [refugeeball@friendsofstartts.org](mailto:refugeeball@friendsofstartts.org).

**Foundation House film night fundraising event**

Wednesday 9 November, Carlton VIC

Foundation House is hosting a film night to raise funds for a school in Bangladesh which it has sponsored since 2006. The film screened will be 'Beginners' (rated M). All funds raised will help children in Bangladesh receive an education.

**Details:** tickets \$40.00 (includes finger food and one drink); 6:30pm (film commences 7:30pm); Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon Street, Carlton; book tickets through [www.trybooking.com/UUI](http://www.trybooking.com/UUI).

**STARTTS Clinical Masterclass: Impact of trauma on language development**

Wednesday 9 November, Carramar NSW

Language skills are fundamental to all communication and learning. Language development depends on many neuro-cognitive and environmental factors. If there is any disruption during the critical period for language development, a child's language skills will be compromised. Devon Barnes, Clinical Director of the Lindfield Speech Pathology and Learning Centre, will give a presentation on language acquisition and the factors that influence language competency, in both mother tongue and second language learning. Senior STARTTS clinician Sejla Tukelija will present the results of a pilot project trialling the effectiveness of the Fast ForWord program.

**Details:** free if you attend in person (\$5.99 to watch live broadcast online); 6:00pm-8:00pm; 152-168 The Horsley Drive, Carramar (watch online at [www.startts.org.au](http://www.startts.org.au); for further details visit [www.startts.org.au/default.aspx?id=124](http://www.startts.org.au/default.aspx?id=124)).

## **Climate Change and Migration in the Asia-Pacific: Legal and Policy Responses**

Thursday 10 to Friday 11 November, Sydney NSW

This two-day conference will bring together leading international experts, policymakers, and government officials from affected countries to discuss climate change-related migration and displacement.

**Details:** \$150 for both days includes lunch and morning and afternoon tea; NSW Parliament House, Sydney; register online here or e-mail [gtcentre@unsw.edu.au](mailto:gtcentre@unsw.edu.au) for further details.

## **HSS/SGP Forum**

Friday 11 November, Melbourne VIC

The objective of this Forum is to bring HSS and SGP services together to provide a vehicle for improving the quality of settlement outcomes for refugee and humanitarian clients. The forum will look at the mapping of services at the Victorian State level and discuss how inconsistencies of service boundaries could impact on service delivery. It will also explore innovative practices, challenges and successes in working collaboratively through the existing networks.

**Details:** 9:00am for a 9:30am start to 12:30pm; Multicultural Hub, Level 1, Blue Room, 506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne; RSVP by 4 November to [settlement@ames.net.au](mailto:settlement@ames.net.au).

## **The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia Biennial Conference**

Thursday 17 November to Friday 18 November, Adelaide SA

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) Biennial Conference is Australia's pre-eminent multicultural conference. Every two years, the issues that relate to Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity are explored through a series of plenary addresses, panel discussions and presentations. This year, the Conference will explore the theme of 'Advancing Multiculturalism'.

**Details:** Adelaide Convention Centre; for further details and to register, visit [www.fecca.org.au](http://www.fecca.org.au).

## **NEW RESEARCH, STATEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

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### **An Evaluation of the Castlemaine African Community Project 2008-2010**

An evaluation of the Castlemaine African Community Project (2008-2010) was presented to the Mount Alexander Shire in December 2010. The evaluation focuses on: what has been done, what has been achieved, what remains to be done, what has been learnt, conclusions and recommendations. Download the report at [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement/resources/1012\\_CACP\\_Evaluation.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement/resources/1012_CACP_Evaluation.pdf).

### **SettleMEN research report: Health and settlement among men from refugee backgrounds living in South East Queensland**

Conducted between 2008 and 2010, the La Trobe Refugee Research Centre SettleMEN study followed a cohort of 233 recently arrived men from refugee backgrounds living in urban and regional areas of South East Queensland, with the aim of documenting in depth their health and settlement experiences. A final report from this study is available from:

[www.latrobe.edu.au/larrc/news-events/news-items/final-report-on-refugee-mens-health-and-settlement-released](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/larrc/news-events/news-items/final-report-on-refugee-mens-health-and-settlement-released)

### **Education kit - What's the law? Australian law for new arrivals**

*What's the law?* is a new education kit for adult ESL learners that has been developed by Legal Aid. It seeks to improve students' understanding of the Australian legal system and some common legal issues, while developing English language skills. The kit includes a DVD of 10 photo-stories about common legal issues, as well as activity sheets for students and teacher notes. You can order free copies of the kit online at [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/pubsonline](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/pubsonline) or phone 02 9219 5028. You can also watch the DVD online and download the teacher information and student activity sheets at [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/education](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au/education).

### **Australian Human Rights Commission article on Inverbrackie Alternative Place of Detention**

A short article focusing on AHRC President Catherine Branson's visit to the Inverbrackie Alternative Place of Detention (APOD). The full article can be found at: [www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/news/2011/75\\_11.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/news/2011/75_11.html).

### **Australia's 'Malaysia solution' analysis**

The September 2011 edition of the Fahamu Refugee Legal Aid Newsletter focuses on Australia's 'Malaysia solution', as well as other international refugee issues including the planned invocation of the 'Cessation Clause' of the Refugee Convention in relation to Rwandan refugees. Follow this link to read more: <http://frian.tumblr.com/>

### **Webinar recording - "Equal opportunities for migrants: does Settlement help?"**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2011, MIPEX (Migration Integration Policy Index) hosted an online webinar, "Equal opportunities for migrants: does Settlement help?" The webinar featured presentations from Jan Niessen, Thomas Huddleston and Sky de Jersey. The latest MIPEX research relating to refugee integration was discussed, with an emphasis of how Australia is faring in comparison with other countries. The recording of the event along with the results of the live polls taken during the seminar is available online via this link:

[www.mipex.eu/blog/the-australian-perspective-on-migrant-settlement](http://www.mipex.eu/blog/the-australian-perspective-on-migrant-settlement).

### **Health services and refugees**

Two articles on health services and refugees have recently been published in the Medical Journal of Australia. "The Refugee Health Network of Australia: towards national collaboration on health care for refugees" highlights the work to provide accessible and responsive health care services for refugees. The full article can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/qhec9t>

"Equity and access: understanding emergency health service use by newly arrived refugees" reports findings on the access of newly resettled refugees to an emergency department. Click here for the full article: <http://bit.ly/q9GI6h>

### **Refugee Health Nurse Program Evaluation - East**

EACH community health has evaluated the care provided by their nurses and sessional GP as part of the Refugee Health Nurse Program. EACH will use the recommendations to further improve the services they provide for clients from refugee backgrounds. A copy of the evaluation report is available via the Victorian Refugee Health Network: [www.refugeehealthnetwork.org.au/](http://www.refugeehealthnetwork.org.au/).

### **Book Review – From Vienna to Yogyakarta: The Life of Herb Feith**

Kristen Hilton reviews Jemma Purdey's recently published biography of Herb Feith in the September 2011 edition of the Human Rights Law Centre's monthly bulletin *Rights Agenda*. Feith was a former Jewish refugee who came to Australia in 1939 and went on to become a prominent scholar and human rights activist after graduating from Melbourne University. The book serves as a reminder of the contributions that refugees have made to society. The full book review can be found here: [www.hrlc.org.au/content/publications-resources/hrlc-e-bulletin/vol-65-september-2011/#review](http://www.hrlc.org.au/content/publications-resources/hrlc-e-bulletin/vol-65-september-2011/#review).

### **Journal article - 'Making space, pushing time': A Sudanese hip-hop group and their wardrobe-recording studio**

This journal article by PhD candidate Michael Wilson, published in the International Journal of Cultural Studies, examines how young Sudanese men living in Sydney cope with the challenges associated with forced displacement, dispossession and resettlement in Australia. The study is particularly concerned with spatial and material resourcefulness, and whether the limited space and resources available in refugee camps leads to increased resourcefulness. For more information, go to: <http://ics.sagepub.com/content/early/2011/07/20/1367877911411797>.

### **Unsafe Haven: A report focusing on the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) in Turkey**

The Organization for Refugee, Asylum & Migration (ORAM) in conjunction with Helsinki Citizens' Society, has issued a follow-up report showing significant progress in how the UN Refugee Agency treats lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) refugees in Turkey. The full report can be accessed here: [www.oraminternational.org/images/stories/PDFs/oram-unsafe-haven-2011.pdf](http://www.oraminternational.org/images/stories/PDFs/oram-unsafe-haven-2011.pdf).

### **Eurasylum policy interview on climate change and migration**

Eurasylum ([www.eurasylum.org](http://www.eurasylum.org)) has just released its new monthly policy interview, featuring Ms Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The interview is on: "Climate change and migration: the latest evidence". The interview can be accessed at: [www.eurasylum.org/Portal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=2&tabid=19](http://www.eurasylum.org/Portal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=2&tabid=19)

### **Two new UNHCR Policy Development and Evaluation Service (PDES) reports**

Maria Riiskaer and Gisele Bonnici have published a new evaluative report on urban refugee policy in Costa Rica, titled "The way to San José: A review of the implementation of UNHCR's urban refugee policy in Costa Rica." The full report can be found here: [www.unhcr.org/4e4240c79.html](http://www.unhcr.org/4e4240c79.html). Patricia Weiss Fagen has published an evaluative report focusing on people who have been displaced by conflict in Colombia and Liberia. The report titled, "Uprooted and unrestored. A comparative review of durable solutions for people displaced by conflict in Colombia and Liberia", can be accessed at: [www.unhcr.org/4e576a739.html](http://www.unhcr.org/4e576a739.html).

### **Asylum Statistics – Australia 2010-11**

Biannual and quarterly statistics are available on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/asylum/>

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

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*For employment opportunities, go to [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/getinvolved/employment.php](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/getinvolved/employment.php). For volunteering opportunities, go to [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/getinvolved/volunteer.php](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/getinvolved/volunteer.php)*

### **Humanitarian Entrant interviewees needed for study on settlement assistance and homelessness**

The University of Adelaide and Flinders University are currently conducting a study researching the experience of humanitarian entrants with regard to settlement assistance and homelessness. The project is now in its second stage and requires 10 humanitarian entrants currently using homelessness services who were entrants into NSW, VIC or SA. Ten humanitarian entrants who previously used homelessness services but who have now settled into more stable accommodation are also required. For more information see <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/churp/research/>, or contact Emily Thwaites-Tregilgas at [emily.thwaites-tregilgas@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:emily.thwaites-tregilgas@adelaide.edu.au).

### **Ondru Diverse Communities Photography Project**

Ondru is a community arts and literature organisation. They are currently seeking participants for a photographic exhibition showcasing Australia's cultural diversity and highlighting the struggle, survival and achievements of people who have left their countries as a result of internal conflicts and resettled in Australia. Groups of 10 participants, of varied age and gender are required to represent a community. Photographs and brief self expressions will be featured in the exhibition. For more information see [www.ondru.org](http://www.ondru.org) or contact [desh@ondru.org](mailto:desh@ondru.org) by 31 October.

### **Youth 2 Youth, Free Training and Employment Opportunities**

People of African background under 29 years of age who want to make a difference to the lives of young people in their community have the opportunity to participate in a free training program focusing on communication and leadership skills. Upon the commencement of the course, there will be an opportunity for part-time employment. Contact Project Coordinator Dr Kinfe Kahssay on 0417 078 941 for more information.

### **Call for application for the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP)**

Applications are now open online for the 2012 session of the HRAP, which takes place from late August to mid December 2012. HRAP seeks the input of human rights activists from varied professions who are working with NGOs or in community organisations. Selection criteria include previous work experience in and commitment to human rights advocacy as well as the ability to pursue graduate-level studies. For further information see [www.hrcolumbia.org/hrap](http://www.hrcolumbia.org/hrap). Applications due by the 18 November 2011.

### **Victorian Refugee Health Network: survey of health professionals**

The Victorian Refugee Network is currently undertaking a survey to investigate effective mediums of health information for people of refugee backgrounds. They seek to survey health professionals on the types of health information being used in their practice. The short survey is available online at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VRHNhealthinfo>. For more information please contact [ebulletin@refugeehealthnetwork.org.au](mailto:ebulletin@refugeehealthnetwork.org.au)

### **FECOA Community Consultations**

FECOA is conducting its annual Access and Equity consultations to understand experiences with government services – what works and what does not. FECOA not only provides this feedback to government agencies but will actively lobby for change. Consultation topics will include employment, health, housing, and family and child services, and any others you think are important. For more information please contact Jenni Gough on [jenni@fecoa.org.au](mailto:jenni@fecoa.org.au) or phone 02 6282 5755.

### **Hand In Hand Indigenous and refugee youth project: Invitation to participate**

You are invited to take part in a special cultural project. This project will provide an opportunity to learn about Aboriginal people, the original inhabitants of this land and people who have arrived recently from other lands, learn digital photography and photo journalism, contribute photographs to an exciting digital arts exhibition, participate in public speaking, storytelling and performance, and take part in cross-cultural performances. Project workshops start in October. To find out more about the Hand In Hand project, please contact [admin@mrca.com.au](mailto:admin@mrca.com.au).

### **Settlement Council of Australia: Settlement Service Standards and Quality Assurance Survey**

SCOA is involved in discussions with DIAC about supporting the sector to develop National Settlement Service Standards, which may relate to existing accreditation frameworks. SCOA is conducting a survey which focuses on settlement service standards and quality assurance processes within the sector, including gathering information on accreditation frameworks that members participate in. SCOA has framed this survey to gather data on sector needs and capacities in this area, so your responses are important to help understand sector needs and perspectives on this issue. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/settlementservicestandards>

### **Graduate diploma opportunities - Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office**

The Graduate Diploma in Pastoral Care of Human Mobility is designed to provide pastoral agents in different parts of the world with proper and accessible training in the pastoral care of human mobility. To apply, candidates will need to fill out an application form and provide an electronic copy of the academic qualifications. Applications to begin in November 2011 must be received by the Program Administrator by Thursday 20 October. For more information contact Joe Moloney at [Joe.moloney@acmro.catholic.org.au](mailto:Joe.moloney@acmro.catholic.org.au).

### **2011-12 Multicultural Queensland Partnerships program annual grants round**

The 2011-12 Multicultural Queensland Partnerships program annual grants round is open. The grants round offers funding for community events and projects that promote multiculturalism, positive community relations and community capacity, including improved access to services. For more information see [www.communities.qld.gov.au/multicultural](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/multicultural). The closing date for applications is Monday 14 November 2011.

### **MEWB: Multicultural Enterprises Women in Business**

MEWB provide access to business training and mentoring, step-by-step guidance in business planning, assistance in accessing start up funds and marketing support and development. Be part of a dynamic network to start or build your business. Meetings every fourth Friday of the month from 2:30-4:30, at Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre, Cnr Railway Pde and Mcburney Rd, Cabramatta. RSVP to Emmy on [seepadmin@fmrc.net](mailto:seepadmin@fmrc.net) or on 02 9727 0477.

## **REFUGEE ISSUES IN THE MEDIA**

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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)

### **High Court rules Australia cannot send asylum seekers to Malaysia**

The High Court in Australia ruled Wednesday that the country cannot send asylum seekers to Malaysia. Thousands of refugees seek asylum in Australia each year, according to the Refugee Council of Australia, an umbrella organisation for groups that support refugees. (CNN, 31 August) <http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/08/31/australia.malaysia.refugees/>

### **Immigration swap ruling reaction**

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen says the High Court decision overturning the government's Malaysia solution is profoundly disappointing and the government is now considering its options. Refugee Council of Australia president John Gibson said it appeared that only countries that had signed the UN refugee convention would satisfy the High Court's criteria for protecting asylum seekers. (AAP, 31 August)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/immigration-swap-ruling-reaction-20110831-1jlgv.html>

### **Greens to block asylum law change**

The Greens say they will not support any attempt to change the law to allow Australia to send asylum seekers to Malaysia. Paul Power from the Refugee Council says Labor campaigned against Nauru and temporary protection visas in the past. (ABC Radio, 1 September)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-01/greens-rule-out-asylum-seeker-law-change/2864924/?site=newcastle>

### **High Court sinks asylum strategy**

A demoralised and humiliated Gillard government is contemplating a complete backdown by sending asylum seekers to Nauru and reintroducing temporary protection visas after the High Court ruled by six votes to one yesterday that its Malaysian plan was unlawful. (Sydney Morning Herald, 1 September)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/high-court-sinks-asylum-strategy-20110831-1jm5e.html>

### **Travel discount proves alluring**

People smugglers are offering asylum seekers in Indonesia passage to Australia by boat for as little as \$US500 (\$A467) upfront, with the rest being paid after they are granted residency and find work, according to Afghans. (The Age, 2 September)

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/travel-discount-proves-alluring-20110901-1joay.html>

### **Malaysia solution's failure to cost public purse \$216m**

The failed Malaysia Solution could still cost Australian tax payers \$216 million over the next four years. The additional costs must be borne unless the Gillard government backs away from its pledge to increase its humanitarian refugee intake following the High Court's decision to scuttle the plan to send 800 asylum-seekers to Malaysia in exchange for taking 4000 processed refugees. (The Australian, 3 September)

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/malaysia-solutions-failure-to-cost-public-purse-216m/story-fn59niix-1226128454942>

### **Australia can lead on human rights: Ban Ki-moon**

United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon says Australia can lead by example on human rights issues. Mr Ban met Prime Minister Julia Gillard at Parliament House on Saturday after earlier meeting Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd to discuss the unfolding situation in Libya and the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. (ABC News, 4 September)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-03/ban-ki-moon-arrives-in-canberra/2869206?section=world>

### **Labor searches for a way out of asylum impasse**

More than 300 asylum seekers who had been slated to be sent to Malaysia will now be processed in Australia after the High Court threw the Government's offshore processing regime into chaos. (ABC News, 5 September)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-05/newspoll-shows-disapproval-of-labor-on-asylum-seekers/2870086>

### **PM stares down threats from the Left on asylum**

Julia Gillard and her Immigration Minister, Chris Bowen, are to forge ahead with plans to send asylum seekers overseas, including to Malaysia, despite threats from the Left faction of an internal war if the offshore policy was not abandoned. (Sydney Morning Herald, 6 September)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/pm-stares-down-threats-from-the-left-on-asylum-20110905-1jubs.html>

### **Brisbane summit Gillard's big hope**

Julia Gillard will send her top immigration bureaucrat to meet Tony Abbott in Brisbane today in a bid to rescue her plans to send asylum seekers to another country. But Mr Abbott has ruled out backing Labor's planned asylum seeker swap with Malaysia after it was rejected by the High Court. (The Courier Mail, 7 September)

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/brisbane-summit-gillards-big-hope/story-fn6ck45n-1226130889580>

### **Government's refugee warning**

Australia faces a wave of asylum-seekers so big it could lead to civil unrest similar to that experienced recently in Paris and London, the Government has warned Opposition Leader Tony Abbott. (Canberra Times, 8 September)

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/govts-refugee-warning/2285004.aspx?storypage=0>

### **Brown says bureaucrat turkeys need the chop**

Greens leader Bob Brown has slammed government bureaucrats for suggesting onshore processing could lead to London-style riots. Refugee advocacy groups yesterday called on Department of Immigration head Andrew Metcalfe to urgently respond to media reports that senior departmental officials had advised that processing asylum-seekers onshore would lead to a surge of boat arrivals and disrupt social cohesion. The Refugee Council of Australia yesterday called on Mr Metcalfe to clarify the comments. (The Australian, 9 September) <http://bit.ly/oSkWmx>

### **Prediction of refugee riots sparks call for sacking**

A forecast by the immigration department head, Andrew Metcalfe, that London and Paris-style social unrest would break out in Australian cities if 600 boat people arrived a month has caused outrage, and calls for his sacking. Refugee Council of Australia chief executive Paul Power said: "There is not a shred of evidence that asylum seekers have been involved in riots or promoted social unrest." He demanded Mr Metcalfe retract the statement. (Sydney Morning Herald, 9 September)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/prediction-of-refugee-riots-sparks-call-for-sacking-20110908-1jxq.html>

### **PM's all-purpose asylum plan**

Labor will consider introducing legislation designed to both revive its Malaysia people-swap plan and clear a path for Opposition Leader Tony Abbott's stated preference of sending asylum seekers to Nauru. As Labor grappled with the issue, Greens leader Bob Brown launched a furious attack on Ms Gillard and the bureaucrats who advised that if all processing was done onshore, more than 600 people could arrive monthly, overwhelming the detention system and leading to social unrest. Refugee Council of Australia's Paul Power said: "There is not a shred of evidence that asylum seekers have been involved in riots or promoted social unrest." (Sydney Morning Herald, 9 September)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/pms-allpurpose-asylum-plan-20110908-1k001.html>

### **Voters say no to offshore process**

Only one in five Labor voters supports Julia Gillard's desire to press ahead with sending asylum seekers offshore for processing as cabinet this morning considers legislation to get around the High Court's decision striking down the Malaysia solution. (The Age, 12 September)

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/voters-say-no-to-offshore-process-20110911-1k49e.html>

### **Minors stay at minister's mercy**

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen will retain discretion over the treatment of under-age asylum-seekers under amendments to immigration laws planned by the Gillard government. As the minister declared the situation unacceptable, the government faced attack from the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Refugee Council of Australia over its move to make legal its plan to send 800 asylum-seekers to Malaysia in exchange for 4000 proven refugees. (The Australian, 13 September)

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/immigration/minors-stay-at-ministers-mercy/story-fn9hm1gu-1226135215744>

### **Gillard wins backing on offshore processing**

The Prime Minister has won the support of the Labor Caucus for broad changes to the Migration Act to give her Government the power to set up offshore processing of asylum seekers and to revive the so-called Malaysia Solution. (ABC Lateline, 13 September 2011)

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2011/s3316242.htm>

### **Moderates pressure Abbott to reject PM's offshore call**

Tony Abbott is under increasing pressure from Liberal Party moderates to reject Julia Gillard's call for him to back a law that re-establishes the legality of offshore processing of asylum-seekers. (The Australian, 15 September) <http://bit.ly/orOyzQ>

### **Don't give up on deal: Malaysia**

Malaysia remains strongly committed to the refugee exchange with Australia, with its Home Affairs Minister criticising the Coalition's alternative of sending asylum seekers to Nauru as highly unlikely to stop human traffickers. (Sydney Morning Herald, 16 September)  
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/dont-give-up-on-deal-malaysia-20110915-1kbzv.html>

### **Labor strips asylum rights in bid to revive Malaysia deal**

Government legislation to revive the Malaysian people swap gives the immigration minister unfettered power to send asylum seekers offshore, without having to guarantee they will have rights and protections. It would allow people to be sent to countries regardless of what international obligations or domestic law those nations have. (The Age, 17 September)  
<http://m.theage.com.au/national/labor-strips-asylum-rights-in-bid-to-revive-swap-deal-20110916-1ke4l.html>

### **Gillard, Abbott to face off on refugees**

Prime Minister Julia Gillard faces a tough battle this week to secure changes to immigration laws that will allow her to revive her refugee swap with Malaysia. (Canberra Times, 19 September)  
<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/gillard-abbott-to-face-off-on-refugees/2295940.aspx?storypage=0>

### **PM's Abbott solution falters as Julia Gillard rises in Newspann**

Julia Gillard could be forced to accept onshore processing of asylum-seekers because of a political deadlock over legislation to revive Labor's Malaysia Solution. As the impasse continues, a Newspann indicates Ms Gillard's battle for offshore processing has coincided with an increase in her personal popularity among voters. (The Australian, 20 September) <http://bit.ly/p2IHox>

### **Gillard fights on for Malaysian deal despite lack of support**

Julia Gillard has vowed to fight to save her planned asylum seeker swap with Malaysia, despite failing to secure enough support to get it through Parliament. The Government will introduce its amendments designed to revive offshore processing today, as Ms Gillard warned Tony Abbott should be held to blame for any future asylum seeker boats that arrive in Australian waters. (The Courier Mail, 21 September)  
<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/gillard-fights-on-for-malaysian-deal/story-e6freoo0-1226142170368>

### **Make way for jetset asylum seekers**

Asylum claims by people who fly to Australia have doubled in the past five years, figures show. About 9000 applications were lodged by air arrivals in the past 18 months - more than triple the number of refugee claims made by boat people. China was the biggest source of applicants, followed by Fiji, Pakistan and Iran, according to an Immigration Department report. (The Herald Sun, 22 September)  
<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/make-way-for-jetset-asylum-seekers/story-fn7x8me2-1226143002905>

### **Bowen to hand over children**

The Malaysian government would become the legal guardian of lone child asylum seekers sent from Australia, it has been revealed to a Senate inquiry. (Sydney Morning Herald, 23 September)  
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/bowen-to-hand-over-children-20110922-1knck.html>

### **Refugee swap deal will worsen situation: Malaysian advocate**

A vote on the Australian government's proposed changes to migration laws has been delayed until the middle of next month. Now, a human rights organisation says the refugee swap deal will only exacerbate the situation of undocumented people already in Malaysia. (Radio Australia, 25 September)  
<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/connectasia/stories/201109/s3324530.htm>

### **As two new boats arrive, Labor calls Tony Abbott a friend to people-smugglers**

The interception of two asylum-seeker vessels has sparked a fresh political brawl, with Julia Gillard and Tony Abbott blaming each other for what's expected to become a surge in unauthorised boat arrivals. (The Australian, 23 September) <http://bit.ly/r7il2o>

### **Deal risks trampling on rights: watchdog**

Labor risks trampling asylum-seekers' human rights by transporting them to Malaysia, the Commonwealth and Immigration Ombudsman told a Senate inquiry yesterday. Refugee Council of Australia chief executive Paul Power told the committee 15 of 19 states in South-East Asia and South

Asia were not parties to the UN Refugee Convention. (Canberra Times, 24 September)  
<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/deal-risks-trampling-on-rights-watchdog/2302705.aspx>

### **Security check warning on Malaysian refugee swap plan**

Australia's peak government watchdog has questioned the ability of Australia to complete security checks within a reasonable time on the 4000 refugees Labor wants to accept under its Malaysian refugee swap. The Refugee Council told the inquiry there may be hope in the future to work with Malaysia on asylum-seekers, but now was not the time for such an agreement. (The Australian, 24 September) <http://bit.ly/n1tpyc>

### **We're losing trust in government**

A new report card on Australians' attitudes reveals a surprising pessimism about the nation's future and a loss of trust in government. The results of the in-depth survey, to be published today, show the intensity of the asylum-seeker debate over the past month has widened divisions in the community. (Canberra Times, 27 September)

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/were-losing-trust-in-government/2304802.aspx?storypage=0>

### **Bowen defends Leonora for young refugees as experts lash out**

Chris Bowen has defended Leonora, but health professionals described the remote centre as a "toxic environment". The first 36 unaccompanied minors, boys aged between 14 and 17, were flown into Leonora, 600km northeast of Perth, yesterday from Christmas Island. Another similar-sized group is due to arrive today. (The Australian, 28 September) <http://bit.ly/o8GoGW>

### **Facilities under further pressure, as asylum seekers dial up rescue**

The third asylum seeker boat to hit Australian shores in a week has put further pressure on immigration detention facilities. Labor and the Coalition have traded blows again on the issue, each side accusing the other of putting political interests before border protection. (The Herald Sun, 29 September)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/crew-dials-up-rescue/story-fn7x8me2-1226150396346>

### **Exclusive poll: Kevin Rudd could resurrect the Labor vote**

Kevin Rudd appears to be the only hope left to restore the federal government's fortunes, with almost one in five people saying they would be more likely to vote Labor if he was leader rather than Julia Gillard. But to restore faith with the community if he were to ever challenge, Mr Rudd would have to drop the Malaysia plan for asylum seekers, with almost 90 per cent of all Australians now opposed to it. (The Daily Telegraph, 30 September)

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sydney-nsw/exclusive-poll-kevin-rudd-could-ressurrect-the-labor-vote/story-e6freuzi-1226152292533>