



# Refugee Council of Australia

## **BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS**

**20 August 2013**

Welcome to the latest bulletin from the Refugee Council of Australia. We welcome feedback, ideas or information worth sharing. Please contact us at [admin@refugeecouncil.org.au](mailto:admin@refugeecouncil.org.au).

*Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia*

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### **NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE COUNCIL**

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#### **Joint NGO statement urges new approach to asylum policy**

RCOA mobilised 78 faith and community NGOs to issue a statement to mark the first anniversary of the Australian Government's reintroduction of offshore detention of asylum seekers. Entitled "Enough is Enough", the statement urged the Government and Opposition to abandon the negative and distorted debate about refugee and asylum policy and adopt a new approach built on protection rather than punishment, facts over fear-mongering and long-term solutions instead of short-term political gain. The statement called on whichever party forms government after 7 September to demonstrate true leadership by working cooperatively to refocus Australia's policy approach in line with a number of principles, including: maintaining Australia's position as a world leader in resettlement; abandoning offshore processing; redoubling efforts to build regional cooperation on refugee protection; providing prompt access to permanent protection; commitment to a sustainable model of community-based processing; maintaining a timely and fair system of refugee status determination; providing access to timely and realistic family reunion opportunities; and abandoning policies which pit onshore protection against resettlement. Read the full statement at

<http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130813-NewApproach.pdf>

#### **Federal election summary of refugee and asylum policies**

In the lead-up to the Federal election, RCOA has produced a summary of the asylum and refugee policies of the Australian Labor Party, Liberal-National Coalition and The Australian Greens. The summary is not intended as a critique of policy but provides an overview of the public positions of the three most influential political forces in Australia. Read the analysis and share it with friends and colleagues. It is at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/rpt/2013election.pdf>

#### **Bright Ideas highlights best-practice strategies to support refugees and asylum seekers**

RCOA has issued the first instalments in the Bright Ideas series, focusing on local strategies to support refugees and asylum seekers. The first Bright Ideas brief details the Tasmanian Asylum Seeker Support's innovative "Asylum Seeker Swap-Meet Dinners" where local and asylum seekers living in Hobart on bridging visas share meals, as well as contact details and tips to help connect asylum seekers with the local community. The second Bright Ideas brief profiles the African Australian Inclusion Program which links tertiary-educated African-Australian professionals with corporate Australia. Access the Bright Ideas briefs at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/brightideas.php>. If you have an initiative you think could be profiled in Bright Ideas, contact [info@refugeecouncil.org.au](mailto:info@refugeecouncil.org.au) or (02) 9211 9333.

#### **New resettlement statistics bust 'regular pathways' myth**

An analysis of UNHCR statistics by RCOA has found that at current rates it would take more than a century to resettle all refugees now registered in countries where they are at potential risk. RCOA CEO Paul Power said that with an average of 71,756 refugees being resettled each year over the past five years, resettling all of the 8.39 million refugees now living in the 111 countries and territories from which resettlement has recently occurred would take 117 years, exposing as a myth the often-repeated claim that there is a queue for resettlement or the insistence by many Australian politicians that refugees wait for "regular migration pathways" to achieve sustainable protection for their families. See <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130802-Rsmt-rates.pdf>. Mr Power said the statistics highlighted 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

desperate need for greater access to refugee resettlement and for nations to work together to improve protection standards for refugees in many countries of asylum. The RCOA report of last month's Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) in Geneva, and additional statistics on resettlement needs and priorities, is at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/urpt/ATCR%202013%20report.pdf>

### **Economic update: implications for refugees and asylum seekers**

In early August, the Federal Government released an economic statement to update the 2013-14 Budget in which a number of changes were made to policies and programs affecting refugees and asylum seekers. These include removing access to Humanitarian Settlement Services for Protection Visa holders, \$1.3 billion in additional funding over four years for offshore processing arrangements and substantial increases (yet again) in visa application charges for family reunion visas. Read our analysis of the Economic Statement at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/bud/2013-14-EcoStatement.pdf>

### **Australian hypocrisy undermines regional efforts to protect refugees**

RCOA expressed its dismay at the Australian Government's decision to deny asylum seekers who arrive by boat without a visa any opportunity to be resettled in Australia. Under agreements signed with the governments of Papua New Guinea and Nauru, asylum seekers arriving by boat will be sent to both Pacific nations for processing and resettlement. In a statement, RCOA CEO Paul Power said the arrangement was without precedent in the world and could not be considered a credible example of regional cooperation because it would be viewed as a wealthy country outsourcing its international responsibilities to smaller states. The statement posed a number of questions about the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Australia and Papua New Guinea. Read the statement at [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130723\\_PNG.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130723_PNG.pdf). RCOA also issued a statement by President Phil Glendenning after his return from Afghanistan. Mr Glendenning said the new arrangement amounted to a collective punishment that would severely endanger people fleeing Taliban violence in Afghanistan. Read the statement at [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130724\\_Kabul.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130724_Kabul.pdf)

### **Removing review rights for asylum seekers would deny natural justice**

RCOA restated the importance of asylum seekers' access to independent review and the court oversight of their refugee claims, following the release of the Federal Opposition's new asylum policy. In a statement, RCOA President Phil Glendenning said safeguards against errors in decision-making were essential given that decisions to return asylum seekers can be a matter of life or death. The statement also warned that the Coalition's planned reintroduction of Temporary Protection Visas for asylum seekers who have been recognised as refugees in Australia and allowed to live in the community undermined Australia's reputation for giving people a fair go. The statement is available at [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130816\\_AppealRights.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130816_AppealRights.pdf)

### **Operation Sovereign Borders immature response to serious humanitarian challenges**

The Federal Coalition's policy to appoint a three-star commander to head a military operation to expel asylum seekers travelling by boat to Australia was criticised by RCOA as an immature and inappropriate response to the serious humanitarian challenges facing the region. In a statement, RCOA said Operation Sovereign Borders was another deterrence policy that punished vulnerable people. The statement urged both major political parties to work on finding better protection for people who need it at points closer to their country of origin. See [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130727\\_SovereignBorders.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130727_SovereignBorders.pdf)

### **RCOA supports campaign to debunk myths about asylum seekers**

RCOA has signed on as a supporter of a new campaign to challenge popular myths about asylum seekers and arm Australians with facts about the contributions humanitarian arrivals make to Australia's society and economy. Using a potato van to tour Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, the "Hot Potato" campaign features "Go Back To Where You Came From" participant Imogen Bailey, celebrities and former refugees. Follow the van's progress at <http://www.thehotpotato.com.au/>

### **RCOA raises concerns about proposed changes to NSW education system**

In June, RCOA wrote to the NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli and NSW Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello to raise concerns about several proposed changes to the NSW education system and their implications for students from refugee backgrounds. The changes, which are being implemented as part of the new "Local Schools, Local Decisions" policy, include the introduction of a new funding model for English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and the abolition

of several key staff positions designed to support students from refugee backgrounds and the schools they attend. RCOA's letter is at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/s&/130605-APiccoli-LSLD.pdf>. Mr Piccoli's response, which we received in July, is at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/s&/130711-APiccoli-LSLD.pdf>

## COMING EVENTS

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### **DRUMBEAT facilitator training**

**July to November, across Australia**

DRUMBEAT was developed in the wheatbelt of WA in 2003 as a means to engage young Aboriginal men. It is now taught to young people and adults across Australia in schools, youth services, drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities, child protection residential facilities, mental health services, refugee trauma associations and prisons. DRUMBEAT training equips attendees with skills to present the DRUMBEAT program. The training covers practical skills of working with youth, including managing challenging behaviours. It covers facilitation skills, therapeutic factors of group work and the implementation and evaluation of the DRUMBEAT program itself. Training sessions will be taking place in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria from July to November.

**Details:** for further details and to register, visit

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-and-innovation/centre/fac/workshops/drumbeat>.

### **The Hot Potato: Cooling the heat on the asylum debate**

**Tuesday 13 to Saturday 24 August, various locations in NSW, VIC and QLD**

The Hot Potato tour is a project of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, designed to take the heat out of the conversation and debunk myths about asylum seekers. The tour aims to cool a highly politicised debate with cold, hard facts. The Hot Potato van will be driving around Australia, giving away 10,000 potatoes and starting conversations on asylum seeker issues.

**Details:** for more information and to find out if the van will be visiting your area, go to

<http://www.thehotpotato.com.au/>.

### **The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe**

**Thursday 15 August to Saturday 8 September, Surry Hills NSW**

"The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe" is a celebration of the resilience, courage and spirits of four remarkable African Australian women. The troupe has been driven by a passion to create an honest, challenging, yet joyfully alive show, bringing audiences a new understanding and appreciation of the contribution of African women to the Australian community. They are also taking a stand to break the culture of silence surrounding violence against women in all our communities.

**Details:** tickets \$45.00 (\$39.00 seniors, \$35.00 concession); Belvoir Street Theatre, 18 & 25 Belvoir Street, Surry Hills; for further details and to book tickets, visit

<http://belvoir.com.au/productions/the-baulkham-hills-african-ladies-troupe>.

### **Social Justice in the Pub: "Asylum Seekers - The Real Story"**

**Thursday 22 August, Parramatta NSW**

Hosted by the St Vincent de Paul Society, Social Justice in the Pub provides an opportunity for local communities to come together to discuss social justice issues and their impacts. The guest speaker at this event will be Phil Glendenning, Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, and Board member of the Refugee Council of Australia.

**Details:** 7:00pm; The Commercial Hotel, 2 Hassall Street, Parramatta; RSVP via [parradio@vinnies.org.au](mailto:parradio@vinnies.org.au).

### **South Eastern Melbourne Medicare Local and Primary Health Care Forum**

**Thursday 22 and Friday 23 August, Dandenong VIC**

One of the major focus areas of this forum is refugee and asylum seeker health. Day 1 will showcase the current programs and projects of the South Eastern Melbourne Medicare Local, including its approaches to refugee and asylum seeker health. Discussions will continue into the evening with an informal dinner at a local Afghan restaurant. Day 2 will focus on the work of the Refugee Health Research Consortium and its member organisations in conducting refugee and asylum seeker health research in Southern Metropolitan Melbourne. Streams will include refugee primary health care, refugee mental health, refugee maternal and child health, and engaging interpreters.

**Details:** Punthill Dandenong, 157-163 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong; download program and registration form at [http://www.semml.com.au/webdata/files/01362\\_semml\\_forum\\_program\\_jun13\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.semml.com.au/webdata/files/01362_semml_forum_program_jun13_WEB.pdf); for further details, contact Irene Stavrou on (03) 8792 1911 or [i.stavrou@semml.com.au](mailto:i.stavrou@semml.com.au).

### **Equality of protection? Sexual violence, IHL and IHRL**

**Thursday 22 August, Sydney NSW**

Professor Gillian Triggs (President of the Australian Human Rights Commission) and Dr Helen Durham (Director of International Law and Strategy at Australian Red Cross) will discuss how international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) interact to protect victims of sexual violence during times of armed conflict.

**Details:** 6:00pm for a 6:30pm to 8:00pm; King & Wood Mallesons, Level 61, Governor Phillip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney; the seminar is free but bookings are essential via [www.trybooking.com/DCMJ](http://www.trybooking.com/DCMJ); for further details, contact Jane Munro through [jmunro@redcross.org.au](mailto:jmunro@redcross.org.au).

### **Community Sector Workshop on Ability Links NSW**

**Thursday 22 August, Sydney Olympic Park NSW**

Ability Links NSW (ALNSW) is a new initiative supporting the ongoing reforms of the disability service system in NSW. This workshop hosted by Cultural Perspectives will bring together key community sector stakeholders to explore the Ability Links service and how it will work with CALD clients and communities.

**Details:** 9:00am-4:30pm; Pullman Hotel, Sydney Olympic Park; RSVP to Jess Willis at Cultural Perspectives on (02) 8585 1353 or [jess@culper.com.au](mailto:jess@culper.com.au).

### **Meeting the challenges of the Syrian humanitarian crisis: Is it sustainable?**

**Thursday 22 August, Melbourne VIC**

Presented by the United Nations Association of Australia and AusAID to mark World Humanitarian Day, this public forum will discuss Australia's contribution to humanitarian efforts in Syria. Speakers will include Richard Towle (UNHCR Canberra), Richard Simpson (Oxfam) and Stephen McDonald (Save the Children).

**Details:** 5:30pm-7:30pm; State Library of Victoria, 179 La Trobe Street, Melbourne; this is a free event but registration is essential via <http://www.unaavictoria.org.au>.

### **STARTTS workshop: Core concepts in working with people from refugee backgrounds**

**Friday 23 August, Orange NSW**

This one-day introductory workshop is designed to put a framework of understanding around working with refugees and asylum seekers. It focuses on understanding the link between what refugees have been through, the sorts of issues and behaviours they may present with, and how to work in a way that fosters feelings of trust, safety and control, while minimising the risk of retraumatisation. Participants will be encouraged to think about how to apply the concepts to their own workplace, and will leave the workshop feeling more confident in utilising their skills and experience with refugee and asylum seeker clients.

**Details:** \$149.00 (students \$99.00); 9:30am-4:30pm; Morotai Room, Orange Ex-Service's Club, 231-243 Anson Street, Orange; register online at <http://www.startts.org.au>.

### **Karen Wrist Tying Ceremony 2013**

**Saturday 24 August, Hoppers Crossing VIC**

The wrist tying ceremony recalls the Karen tradition where elderly people would ask 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 tradition became part of Karen culture from generation to generation. Once a year, Karen people gather together for the ceremony where the elders tie white thread to the wrists and give blessing, and everyone shares culture, music, dances and food.

**Details:** 11:00am-4:00pm; Cambridge Primary School, 29 Carruthers Drive, Hoppers Crossing; for further details, contact Thamay 0433 089 874 or Thataw 0430 539 668, or e-mail [akovictoria@live.com.au](mailto:akovictoria@live.com.au).

### **Bridging the Gap: Writing Human Rights**

**Saturday 24 August, Melbourne VIC**

Engaging human rights stories present the human face and voices of those under threat. They have the power to engage the heart and the mind. Right Now Essay Series writers Anne Manne and Tony Birch join barrister and human rights advocate Julian Burnside AO QC to discuss their approaches to writing about human rights, hosted by Right Now Radio's Rachel Ball. This event is part of the Melbourne Writers Festival

**Details:** tickets \$21.50 (concession \$19.50); 10:00am; Deakin Edge, Federation Square, Melbourne; for further details and to buy tickets, visit <http://www.mwf.com.au>.

### **Asylum Seeker Freedom Ride**

**Saturday 24 August, Nightcliff NT**

Come and ride along the Nightcliff foreshore to the pool to raise awareness about asylum seeker issues. Wear bright colors: blue, green and gold. Guest Speaker Phil Glendenning, President of the Refugee Council of Australia, will be talking at the Nightcliff Pool at the conclusion of the ride. Organised by the Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network.

**Details:** 5:00pm-6:00pm (guest speaker begins 5:30pm); ride commences from meeting points at Nightcliff Shops and Rapid Creek Bridge.

### **Rally for Refugees**

**Saturday 24 August, Perth WA**

Organised by the Refugee Rights Action Network WA, this rally will call for an end to the "PNG solution", an end to offshore processing, an end to mandatory detention and for freedom for refugees.

**Details:** 1:00pm; meet at Murray Street Mall, Perth City; for further details, visit <http://rran.org/>.

### **Public forum on Australia's treatment of asylum seekers and refugees**

**Monday 26 August, Melbourne VIC**

Organised by the Refugee Action Network, This event will feature presentations from Julian Burnside AO QC, Barrister and human rights advocate; Dr Leanne Weber, Senior Research Fellow at Monash University, specialising in migration policing; Professor William Maley, Director of the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at the Australian National University; and the Right Reverend Philip Huggins of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, Chair of the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

**Details:** entry by donation 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start to 8:30pm; Kaleide Theatre, RMIT, 360 Swanston Street, Melbourne; for further details, call 0409 252 673.

### **Refugees and asylum seekers: Where to from here?**

**Tuesday 27 August, Sydney NSW**

Hosted by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, this event aims to separate the facts from the myths about asylum seekers and refugees. The guest speaker will be Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

**Details:** entry by donation; 7:00pm Trixie Forest Hall, St Scholastica's College, 2 Avenue Road, Glebe Point, Sydney; RSVP by Friday 23 August to Mary Robinson on (02) 8752 5303 or [mrobinson@goodsams.org.au](mailto:mrobinson@goodsams.org.au).

### **Website workshop for migrants and refugees**

**Tuesday 27 August, Toowoomba QLD**

This workshop is for migrants and refugees who wish to set up their own small businesses using a website to advertise their services or sell products online. It will provide an introduction to setting up your website and an opportunity to receive free one-on-one website development. Supper and refreshments provided.

**Details:** 5:15pm-7:30pm; Mercy Family Services, Lucia Training Rooms, 104 South Street, Toowoomba; RSVP via [info@toowoombachamber.com.au](mailto:info@toowoombachamber.com.au) or (07) 4638 0400.

### **Public Lecture: When are refugees "unworthy" of admission? With Professor Satvinder Juss**

**Tuesday 27 August, Melbourne VIC**

Traditionally understood concepts of crimes against peace, war crimes, or crimes against humanity are in a state of flux. The law is worryingly moving towards a concept of "unworthiness for asylum". This lecture considers the latest international law position, with a reference to the case law of Australia, and asks whether refugee law as we have known it is now dead. Professor Juss is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. His fields of expertise include international refugee law and human rights law.

**Details:** 6:00pm-7:30pm; La Trobe City Campus, Level 20, 360 Collins Street, Melbourne; this event is free but registration is essential via <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/events/all/professor-satvinder-juss>.

**Community sector forum: Responding to humanitarian entrants and people seeking asylum  
Thursday 27 August, Glenorchy TAS**

Hosted by TasCOSS, this forum will discuss how the community sector can each out to and assist people seeking asylum and humanitarian entrants in Tasmania. It will address legal, practical and emotional challenges; services currently available; and services that are still needed. Presenters will include Al Hines (Red Cross), James Norman (Centacare), Emily Conolan (Tasmanian Asylum Seeker Support) and Hossein Parhizkari (a newly arrived member of the Tasmanian community).

**Details:** 10:00am-12:30pm; Glenorchy Civic Centre, Cooper Street, Glenorchy; register online at <http://asylumentry27aug.eventbrite.com.au>; for more information, e-mail [admin@tascoss.org.au](mailto:admin@tascoss.org.au) or call (03) 6231 0755.

**Foundation House film fundraising event: Support the Char Horish School in Bangladesh  
Wednesday 28 August, Carlton VIC**

Since 2006, the staff at Foundation House have been supporting Char Horish School in Bangladesh. Char Horish was built with the aid of funds raised by Foundation House staff, who continue through fundraising each year to support the school with ongoing costs including teachers' salaries, books and stationery. This event will feature a screening of "The Rocket", a multi-award winning movie that tells the uplifting story of a boy who enters a traditional rocket festival to try to help his family.

**Details:** tickets \$40.00 (includes film, popcorn and a soft drink or choc top and a contribution to the Char Horish School); from 6:30pm (film commences at 7:30pm); Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon Street, Carlton; to book, contact Kerry through [munneryk@foundationhouse.org.au](mailto:munneryk@foundationhouse.org.au) or (03) 9389 8965.

**Service of lament for asylum seekers  
Wednesday 28 August, Williamstown VIC**

The Williamstown Uniting Church is calling on members of the community to join this Service of Lament to express their shared frustration and disappointment at the failure to find a humane response to the plight of asylum seekers.

**Details:** 7:30pm-8:30pm; Williamstown Uniting Church 36 Electra Street, Williamstown for further details, contact Jill Ruzbacky on 0458 393 291; join the Facebook event via <https://www.facebook.com/events/204743566357986/>.

**STARTTS workshop: Community development evaluation  
Friday 30 August, Carramar NSW**

Evaluation is integral to good community development and not something that should be left only to an outsider or an 'expert'. When done properly, evaluation facilitates an ongoing process of learning among all involved in community development projects. It also enables the continual development of projects and programs to be more effective and successful. This one-day workshop will introduce the central concepts of community development evaluation with refugee communities.

**Details:** \$149.00 (students \$99.00); 9:30am-4:30pm; STARTTS, 152-168 The Horsley Drive, Carramar; register online at <http://www.startts.org.au>.

**Many Cultures, Many Celebrations Conference: Engaging and working with diverse communities on child protection  
Friday 30 August, Preston VIC**

Hosted by Care With Me, this conference is for people working with children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Presenters from Arabic, Turkish, Polynesian, African, Indian and Muslim communities will discuss what they think needs to be kept in mind while raising child and their understanding of the child protection service.

**Details:** 9:00am-4:30pm; Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, cnr Bell Street & St George Road, Preston; for further details and to register, visit <http://www.cwme.org.au/>.

**I Am Here**

**Sunday 1 to Tuesday 3 September, Brisbane QLD**

I Am Here is co-devised and performed by six Brisbane artists from African refugee backgrounds about their own stories of struggle, survival and new beginnings. The cast presents a compelling, dynamic and

deeply moving account of their personal journeys and life in their new home. The production is presented by MDA, BEMAC and Two Thumbs Up.

**Details:** tickets \$25.00 (\$20.00 concession, \$15.00 for school groups of 10+); Queensland Multicultural Centre, 102 Main Street, Kangaroo Point; to book tickets, visit <http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=57046>.

### **Me, the Road and I: Narratives of refugee passage and identity**

**Saturday 1 June to Sunday 1 September, Wollongong NSW**

Curated by Virginia Settre, this exhibition serves as a narrative of the refugee experience. It offers a voice that tells of how the long and difficult refugee journey has impacted upon the lives and cultural identity of our new Australians.

**Details:** open Tuesday to Friday 10:00-5:00pm and weekends 12:00pm-4:00pm; Wollongong City Gallery, cnr Kembla and Burelli Streets, Wollongong; for further details, visit <http://www.wollongongcitygallery.com/exhibitions/Pages/Me,theRoadI.aspx>.

### **2013 Heartlands Refugee Art Prize Exhibition**

**Sunday 1 to Saturday 14 September, Werribee**

Now in its fourth year, the 2013 Heartlands Refugee Art Prize Exhibition was presented by AMES and Multicultural Arts Victoria in partnership with Parks Victoria, VicHealth and the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Seventy talented refugee artists submitted their work for this year's prize and artists from sixteen countries were represented in the artworks that were shortlisted. The exhibition will showcase the shortlisted entries, including all the winning artworks.

**Details:** 10:00am-4:00pm (5:00pm weekends); Werribee Park, Werribee; for further details, visit <http://www.ames.net.au/heartlands-refugee-art-prize/2013-heartlands-refugee-art-prize.html>.

### **"Learning Beyond the Bell" statewide forum**

**Wednesday 4 September, Melbourne VIC**

"Learning Beyond the Bell" is a project of the Centre for Multicultural Youth which supports out of hours school learning support programs for disadvantaged young people. The forum will focus on current good practice, emerging issues, the opportunities and the challenges of delivering an increasingly important area of educational support. It will include: a panel session with inspiring young people from refugee backgrounds who have achieved education success; relevant and dynamic workshops such as best practice volunteer management, family engagement, tutor strategies and how to seek sustainable funding; and interactive question and answer sessions with experienced panellists involved in education research, refugee settlement and learning support programs.

**Details:** 8:45am-3:30pm; State Library of Victoria Conference Centre, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne; register online at <http://lbbstatewide2013.eventbrite.com.au>; for more information e-mail [lbbadmin@cmv.net.au](mailto:lbbadmin@cmv.net.au) or call (03) 9340 3700.

### **Queensland Multicultural Week Film Fest**

**Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 September, Brisbane QLD**

The inaugural Queensland Multicultural Week Film Fest is an opportunity for independent and aspiring filmmakers to present their work to the community and celebrate the diversity of Queensland through film.

**Details:** tickets \$10.00 per night or \$15.00 for both days; 7:00pm-10:00pm both days; Queensland Multicultural Centre, 102 Main Street, Kangaroo Point; to book tickets, visit <http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=58806>.

### **STARTTS workshop: Core concepts in working with people from refugee backgrounds**

**Friday 6 September, Carramar NSW**

This one-day introductory workshop is designed to put a framework of understanding around working with refugees and asylum seekers. It focuses on understanding the link between what refugees have been through, the sorts of issues and behaviours they may present with, and how to work in a way that fosters feelings of trust, safety and control, while minimising the risk of retraumatisation. Participants will be encouraged to think about how to apply the concepts to their own workplace, and will leave the workshop feeling more confident in utilising their skills and experience with refugee and asylum seeker clients.

**Details:** \$149.00 (students \$99.00); 9:30am-4:30pm; STARTTS, 152-168 The Horsley Drive, Carramar; register online at <http://www.startts.org.au>.

### **Exhibition: Unseen Habitation**

**Saturday 6 September to Monday 15 September, Carlton VIC**

Unseen Habitation is a site-specific exhibition, a walk through maze of installations created by five Australian Artists of colour from diverse migration experiences: Somalia, Eritrea/Egypt, Vietnam and Bosnia Each artist will explore how communities reconstruct place and home post-migration making use of various art forms, including sculpture, installation, mixed media and photography.

**Details:** Goodtime Studio 746 Swanston Street, Carlton (opposite Melbourne University); for further details, call Dominic Golding on 0403 851 240.

### **Gold Coast Multicultural Festival**

**Sunday 8 September, Bundall QLD**

The Gold Coast Multicultural Festival provides a venue to celebrate and showcase the skills and talents of our city's diverse cultural communities through a variety of exciting and educational multicultural activities culminating in the main Festival Day. Highlights will include art and craft displays, food stalls, international music, dance and other entertainment, poetry and reading, multicultural films, interactive workshops, children's rides and activities, a citizenship ceremony and prize giveaways.

**Details:** 10:00am-4:00pm; Evandale Parklands, cnr Crombie Avenue and Bundall Road, Bundall; for further details, visit <http://www.goldcoastculturalfestival.org>.

### **Comedy debate: Is multiculturalism ruining our country?**

**Sunday 8 September, Brisbane QLD**

As part of Queensland Multicultural Week, the Multicultural Development Association and the Powerhouse brings together eight comedians in a comedy debate to explore our attitudes towards multiculturalism, and laugh at ourselves along the way. Featured comedians will include Henry Stone, Katrina Davidson, Greg Sullivan, Steve Allison, Jimmy Poulos, Fred Lang and B105's Stav Davidson.

**Details:** 6:30pm; Brisbane Powerhouse, 119 Lamington Street, New Farm; for further details, visit <http://www.mdainc.org.au/comedyfest>.

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

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### **Employer's guide to working with migrants and refugees**

The Federal Government has released a new publication, "Connections: An employer's guide to working with migrants and refugees". Download the guide at <http://www.immi.gov.au/employers/connections/>. The guide is complemented by a series of 10 facts sheets produced by the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils Australia (FECCA). The fact sheets provide guidance on managing diversity in the workplace. The guides are available at <http://www.fecca.org.au/resources/harmony-in-the-workplace-factsheets>

### **FECCA Multicultural Access and Equity report**

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council Australia (FECCA) has released a first-hand account of the barriers faced by culturally and linguistically-diverse (CALD) Australians in accessing government services. The report draws on feedback from refugees and service providers with employment and the role of Job Services Australia key issues. Access the "Multicultural Access and Equity: Strengthening connections between communities and services" report at <http://fecca.org.au/aboutus/projects/access-and-equity>

### **Latest research and publications from Forced Migration Hub**

Research and publications from the Forced Migration Research Hub can now be found through Australian Policy Online. The site, which is regularly updated, includes research reports, policy briefs, commentary, audio and books reviews related to forced migration in Australia and the region. Access the Hub at <http://apo.org.au/collections/forced-migration>

### **Free interpreting services for GPs in private practice**

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship provides free interpreting services to medical practitioners in private practice. Doctors can gain access to a Translating and Interpreting Service

National interpreter using a 24/7 priority telephone interpreting service, the Doctors Priority Line. Find out more by viewing this video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXy-QF9GHyM>

### **Updated Information about Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)**

The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) has a new website with a section on Frequently Asked Questions. View the site here <http://www.tisnational.gov.au/>

### **UNHCR eligibility guidelines for Afghanistan**

UNHCR has published "Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Afghanistan". They are available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/51ffdca34.html>.

### **Report on human rights issues around visa refusal or cancellation**

The Australian Human Rights Commission has published a background paper on human rights issues raised by visa refusal or cancellation under section 501 of the *Migration Act*. Access the paper at <http://bit.ly/13za8zo>.

### **AusAID Protection in Humanitarian Action framework**

This guide sets out AusAID's approach to protecting the safety, dignity and rights of people affected by humanitarian crises in developing countries and explains priorities in the region. Download the document at <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/Publications/Pages/framework-protection-humanitarian-action.aspx>

### **Best practice for CALD families in family dispute resolution**

The Australian Institute of Family Studies has published research aimed at identifying appropriate ways to support and sustain culturally-responsive practices in family dispute resolution. Download the report at <http://bit.ly/1btMLMU>

### **Improving responses to refugees with history of trauma**

This practice monograph provides pointers for practitioners in domestic and family violence, sexual assault and settlement services aimed at improving responses to refugees with backgrounds of multiple trauma. The resource provides practical information and tools based on the knowledge of five experts in the field. The paper is available at <http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/home.html>

### **Reports on transgender urban refugees in Mexico, Uganda and South Africa**

The Organization for Refugee Asylum and Migration has published a series of guides about the struggles of transgender and intersex urban refugees in Mexico, Uganda and South Africa, aimed at NGOs, governments, UNHCR and program funders. The "Blind Alley" series includes separate reports on each country. The guides can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/17Mii8M>. See a 10-minute previews of the "There's No Place For Me" documentary at <http://www.oraminternational.org/en/videos>

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

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For employment opportunities, go to <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/g/job.php>. For volunteering opportunities, go to <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/g/vol.php>.

### **National Australia Bank African Australian Inclusion program**

This program places professionally-qualified African Australians in the National Australia Bank for six months of high quality, paid, working and learning. Further details are available at [www.workplaceinclusionprogram.org.au](http://www.workplaceinclusionprogram.org.au)

### **Chance for refugees to tell their stories**

Writers Victoria is running free workshops for writers from new arrival communities or who have experience of being a refugee. Find out more at <http://bit.ly/16OnETR>

### **Rural Australians for Refugees reactivated in Braidwood**

The Braidwood branch of Rural Australians For Refugees has been reactivated. To find out more, email [forbesgordon1@bigpond.com](mailto:forbesgordon1@bigpond.com).

### **Run 4 Refugees**

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre's Run 4 Refugees is aiming to raise \$250,000 to provide essential support and services for asylum seekers. To show your support and register for the Melbourne Marathon in October, visit <http://run4refugees.gofundraise.com.au/>

### **Free on-line course in refugee health**

A free online Course in Immigrant and Refugee Health is available from Global Health Medicine, University of Minnesota. The seven-hour, lecture-based introductory course includes lectures from global health experts. Follow the links from the "Practicing Health Care Providers" section at <http://www.globalhealth.umn.edu/free-intro-course/index.htm>

### **Call for papers: role of faith-based organisations in refugee responses**

Forced Migration Review is seeking articles for a feature on faith-based organisations and responses to displacement. The editors invite reflective, analytical and practice-oriented submissions about faith-based or faith-inspired humanitarian activities focusing on situations of forced displacement and examples of good practice and experience. The deadline for submission of articles is Monday, 9 December, 2013. See the full call for articles at [www.fmreview.org/faith](http://www.fmreview.org/faith). If you plan to submit an article, please visit [www.fmreview.org/writing-fmr](http://www.fmreview.org/writing-fmr) or email [fmr@geh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fmr@geh.ox.ac.uk). Forced Migration Review also welcomes articles on other subjects relating to forced migration for consideration for publication in the "general articles" section of the issue.

### **SA Governor's Multicultural Awards open**

Nominations are being sought to honour individuals and organisations who have made outstanding contributions to multiculturalism in South Australia. Award categories include: Arts and Culture; Community Sector; Media; Private Sector; Public Sector; Volunteer; Youth; and Outstanding Individual Achievement. Award winners will be announced at an official award presentation at Government House in February 2014.

Nominations close on 31 October 2013. Access the on-line nomination at <http://tellus.sa.gov.au/index.php?sid=69713&lang=en>.

### **United Nations Association media awards**

Nominations are open for the United Nations Association of Australia Media Awards. Entries must have been published or broadcast in the Australian public media between 2 September, 2012 and 30 August, 2013. Nominations close 5.00pm, Friday 30 August 2013. Further information is available at [www.unaavictoria.org.au](http://www.unaavictoria.org.au), by calling 03 9670 7878 or emailing [awards@unaavictoria.org.au](mailto:awards@unaavictoria.org.au).

### **ACFID media awards**

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is calling for nominations for the 2013 ACFID Media Award. Nominations are sought for print, radio, TV and online journalists who have demonstrated exceptional understanding of humanitarian issues in a piece or series since the start of July 2012. For more details visit

<http://www.acfid.asn.au/media/media-releases/nominations-now-open-annual-acfid-media-award>

## **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)

### **Tony Burke to take up the fight on boats**

Labor will escalate its fight with Tony Abbott on border protection by moving former environment minister Tony Burke into the portfolio today as part of a cabinet overhaul that will also sharpen the attack on broadband and education. (The Australian, 1 July)

<http://bit.ly/1OsLWAc>

### **Labor bid to close asylum loophole**

The Rudd Government could strip work rights from asylum seekers who have failed appeals for protection as part of a suite of new get-tough measures aimed at repairing Labor's border security credentials. (The West Australian, 1 July)

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/17812002/labor-bid-to-close-asylum-loophole/>

### **400 asylum seeker boats in 2012/13**

Four hundred asylum seeker boats arrived in Australia during the latest financial year, the federal opposition says. (The Australian, 1 July)

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/asylum-seeker-boats-in-201213/story-fn3dxiwe-1226672309236>

### **Bob Carr accused of 'blanket assumption' about asylum seekers**

The foreign minister, Bob Carr, is guilty of making an unfounded "blanket assumption" about asylum seekers which if it informed policy would contravene international law, according to the president of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Prof Gillian Triggs. (The Guardian, 2 July)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/02/bob-carr-blanket-assumption-asylum>

### **Carr says there is now consensus on boats**

Foreign Minister Bob Carr says there is now consensus with the coalition in some areas of asylum-seeker policy but the major divide remains Tony's Abbott's "reckless promise" to tow boats back to Indonesia. (Herald Sun, 2 July) <http://bit.ly/1bsViQU>

### **January completion for PNG asylum centre**

A \$137 million permanent processing centre for asylum seekers on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island is set to be completed in January. (The Australian, 2 July) <http://bit.ly/1af7H9y>

### **People smuggling getting worse: Morrison**

People smuggling operations from Indonesia to Australia are getting worse, not better, opposition immigration spokesman Scott Morrison says. Mr Morrison has returned from a trip to Indonesia where he met with representatives from the country's national police, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Australian agencies combatting people smuggling. (Herald Sun, 2 July)

<http://bit.ly/1avWipz>

### **Rudd toughens boat stand**

The federal government is exploring ways to send home asylum seekers deemed "economic migrants" as Prime Minister Kevin Rudd toughens approval processes in an attempt to harden Labor's credentials on boat arrivals. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 2 July) <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/rudd-toughens-boat-stand-20130701-2p7mh.html>

### **Clare backs Carr's economic migrant claims**

The threat of being sent to offshore processing centres has not discouraged asylum seekers from getting on boats, the federal government has conceded. Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare said Australia should consider expanding to other nationalities its policy of returning failed Sri Lankan refugees back to their homelands. (Herald Sun, 3 July) <http://bit.ly/1b4Gr0A>

### **Malcolm Fraser to support Sarah Hanson-Young**

Former Liberal prime minister Malcolm Fraser is supporting Sarah Hanson-Young's re-election to the Senate but says reports he is campaigning for the Greens are incorrect. Fraser is holding a public forum focusing on refugee policy and the need for decency in politics with the Greens senator on Saturday in Adelaide as part of her senate re-election campaign. (The Guardian, 3 July)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/03/malcolm-fraser-greens-senator-election>

### **Fraser brands Carr's 'economic migrants' as 'total fantasy'**

Former Liberal prime minister Malcolm Fraser has labelled Foreign Minister Bob Carr's claim that a growing number of boat arrivals in Australia are economic refugees, not asylum seekers, as a "total nonsense" and "fantasy". (The Sydney Morning Herald, 3 July)

<http://bit.ly/1aAATdP>

### **Refugee Review Tribunal 'gets it right'**

The former head of the government's own refugee tribunal has dismissed Foreign Affairs Minister Bob Carr's claims a flood of "economic migrants" has been wrongly classed as refugees because the system is too soft. Denis O'Brien, a leading lawyer who headed the Refugee Review Tribunal for five years until June last year, said Australia would be in danger of breaching its obligations under the refugee

convention if it tried to tighten the criteria by which asylum is assessed. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 3 July) <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/refugee-review-tribunal-gets-it-right-20130702-2pa4i.html>

### **Officials to clear asylum backlog**

The Rudd government is to begin processing the refugee claims of more than 22,000 asylum seekers who arrived by boat since the resumption of offshore processing last year. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 July) <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/officials-to-clear-asylum-backlog-20130703-2pceh.html>

### **Children removed from Manus asylum centre**

The last remaining children have been removed from Australia's asylum seeker processing centre on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island. The immigration department confirmed that 42 people in family groups, including 12 children, and nine single adult males were on Thursday removed from the facility and transferred to Christmas Island. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 July) <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/children-removed-from-manus-asylum-centre-20130704-2pel2.html>

### **Boat people policy under review: Burke**

Any regional response to the dramatic increase in boat arrivals will now have to be on a much larger scale than envisaged in the Malaysia people-swap agreement if it is to slow the number of asylum seekers arriving, says new Immigration Minister Tony Burke. As Prime Minister Kevin Rudd prepared to meet his Indonesian counterpart, Mr Burke signalled that all aspects of policy were up for review. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 5 July) <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/boat-people-policy-under-review-burke-20130704-2pey2.html>

### **Tony Burke considers changes to 'no advantage' asylum test**

The newly installed immigration minister, Tony Burke, is considering changes to Labor's controversial "no advantage" test for refugee processing – which was set out in a directive that took effect just hours before he was sworn in on 1 July. (The Guardian, 5 July) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/04/tony-burke-clarify-no-advantage>

### **Opposition backs community detention for child refugees**

Opposition immigration spokesman Scott Morrison has said that he believes children who come to Australia as refugees would not be better off being released from detention. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 5 July) <http://bit.ly/16vONqY>

### **Leaders want regional solution to boat people**

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Friday he was putting together a new regional forum on people smuggling. His initiative was praised by visiting Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who offered assistance in developing the restive provinces of Papua and West Papua. Yudhoyono said the forum would involve the key origin, transit and destination countries of the asylum seekers. (The Jakarta Post, 6 July) <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/07/06/leaders-want-regional-solution-boat-people.html>

### **Nauru puts 'open camps' plan on hold**

Nauru has put on hold plans for asylum seekers to roam from "open camps" on the island, and is warning accommodation for women and children may not be ready until next year. Nauru's new president, Baron Waqa, has also called for a swift process for assessing asylum claims, not wishing for people to be stuck in the Pacific nation for three or four years. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 6 July) <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/nauru-puts-open-camps-plan-on-hold-20130705-2phlk.html>

### **Indonesia to hold crisis summit on asylum seekers**

Indonesia threw the federal government a lifeline on asylum seekers by repudiating "unilateral actions" such as towing back boats and agreeing to convene a regional summit to try to solve the problem. (The Australian Financial Review, 6 July) [http://www.afr.com/p/national/indonesia\\_to\\_hold\\_crisis\\_summit\\_TfHiB0MyAKFMCs6Z7QpfeJ](http://www.afr.com/p/national/indonesia_to_hold_crisis_summit_TfHiB0MyAKFMCs6Z7QpfeJ)

### **Brennan: 'un-Australian' to ban asylum seekers from working**

A CONFIDANT of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has trashed the government's new "back of the queue" asylum processing policy. Father Frank Brennan, who has been close to Mr Rudd for 20 years and has told the government people should be flown back to Indonesia for processing, called the policy a "beat up." (Herald Sun, 7 July) <http://bit.ly/1363C16>

### **Burke approves release of 18 asylum seeker children from detention**

New Immigration Minister Tony Burke has signed off on the release of 18 young asylum seekers, just hours after visiting their Tasmanian detention centre. After a visit to the Pontville facility near Hobart on Friday, Mr Burke declared he did not want any young person permanently held in detention. (ABC News, 7 July) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-07/burke-urged-to-remove-children-from-detention/4804032>

### **Labor hard line on asylum seekers who destroy passports**

Asylum seekers who fly to Indonesia and dump their passports and identity papers before boarding people-smuggling boats to Australia will have their applications "sent to the back of the queue". (The Sunday Telegraph, 7 July) <http://bit.ly/1bsYEDB>

### **Burke admits asylum Malaysia swap deal no longer viable**

The Federal Government has admitted that an asylum seeker deal signed with Malaysia two years ago would no longer work. (ABC News, 7 July)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-07-06/government-admits-malaysia-asylum-seeker-deal-no-longer-viable/4803756>

### **Suicide threat fuels Indonesia asylum row**

The high seas rescue of a group of asylum-seekers who threatened to kill themselves rather than be returned to Indonesia has fuelled the debate over the dangers of turning back boats. (The Australian, 8 July) <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/suicide-threat-fuels-indonesia-asylum-row/story-e6frg6n6-1226675669041>

### **Asylum seekers unlikely to receive work rights**

Immigration Minister Tony Burke has all but ruled out allowing impoverished asylum seekers living in the community under strict "no advantage" rules to work, saying it would create an incentive for people smugglers. (The Age, 10 July) <http://bit.ly/1bsZ3pH>

### **Blunder opens door to refugees under High Court ruling**

A court ruling has exposed an embarrassing loophole in the government's border protection laws that could leave the door open to thousands of asylum seekers who have already been rejected as refugees. Immigration Minister Tony Burke was yesterday awaiting urgent legal advice about appealing against the decision to the High Court. (The Daily Telegraph, 10 July) <http://bit.ly/18NrSNW>

### **Australia will not resettle Rohingya**

Few ethnic groups would have as strong a claim to Australian assistance than the oppressed Rohingya minority of Myanmar, but the solution isn't to resettle them in Australia, Foreign Minister Bob Carr says. (Sky News, 10 July)

<http://www.skynews.com.au/national/article.aspx?id=886562>

### **Carr talks tough on boat arrivals**

Boat arrivals with a genuine fear of persecution shouldn't be burning their passports and reciting identical stories, Foreign Minister Bob Carr says. Senator Carr said asylum seeker numbers had spiked and 20 per cent of Australia's immigrants now arrive courtesy of people smugglers. (The Australian, 10 July)

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/carr-talks-tough-on-boat-arrivals/story-fn3dxiwe-1226676848603>

### **Detention budget stretched by \$1bn**

A billion dollar blowout in the detention centre budget was filed the day Kevin Rudd was sworn back in as prime minister. (The Daily Telegraph, 10 July)

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/detention-budget-stretched-by-1bn/story-e6frg6n6-1226676708837>

### **Foreign Minister 'being a bigot' over asylum seekers**

Foreign Minister Bob Carr has been described as behaving like a "bigot" by a leading human rights lawyer for portraying asylum seekers as economic opportunists. Refugee advocate Julian Burnside told Fairfax Media on Wednesday that he thought "Senator Carr is talking through his hat". (The Age, 10 July)

<http://bit.ly/12ksKpJ>

### **Rudd expects asylum summit in months**

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says he expects Indonesia's regional summit on asylum seekers to take place within months. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono announced the policy talkfest during Mr Rudd's visit to the country last week. (The Australian, 11 July) <http://bit.ly/18crSbc>

### **1000 play the waiting game**

Almost 1000 failed asylum seekers remain in Australia awaiting removal or are exhausting avenues to review the government's decision to rejected their refugee claim. (Herald-Sun, 12 July) <http://bit.ly/17b8SVh>

### **All Manus detainees show signs of anxiety and depression: report**

A damning UNHCR report on the state of immigration detention on Manus Island has found that every asylum seeker housed in offshore processing facilities on Manus island is displaying "apparent signs of anxiety and depression", once again raising questions about the legality of the Australian government's policy of offshore processing. (The Guardian, 12 July)

<http://m.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/12/united-nations-report-manus-island>

### **Unrest grows over large asylum seeker numbers**

The towns in Indonesia where most asylum seekers hide out as they wait for passage to Australia have rebelled against their unwelcome guests and are trying to evict them. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 13 July) <http://bit.ly/13d4ICg>

### **Manus Island committee has never met, DIAC admits**

The committee set up to oversee detainee processing times on the Manus Island immigration detention facility has never met, in direct breach of Australia's deal with the Papua New Guinea government, a freedom of information request has revealed. (The Guardian, 15 July)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/15/manus-island-committee-never-met>

### **Wave of Vietnamese as Indonesia leaves tow-backs door open**

A fresh wave of Vietnamese boat people is reaching Australia as Foreign Affairs Minister Bob Carr revealed last night fears asylum-seeker numbers could double to 80,000 a year. (The Daily Telegraph, 16 July) <http://bit.ly/16E6CaV>

### **Majority would give asylum seekers jobs**

More than 60 per cent of voters agree that asylum seekers released into the community should be able work for an income until their claims are decided, the latest Fairfax-Nielsen poll reveals. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 16 July)

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/majority-would-give-asylum-seekers-jobs-20130715-2q09n.html>

### **Key evidence missing in ASIO refugee case**

A secret review upheld an ASIO decision to brand a Tamil refugee a threat despite the security agency admitting it lost crucial evidence. The review conceded that ASIO had relied on an unsigned, translated summary of the man's refugee claim that would "have little evidentiary weight" in court - even though the Rudd government uses the ASIO finding to justify locking him in indefinite detention. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 16 July)

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/key-evidence-missing-on-asio-refugee-case-20130715-2q0af.html>

### **Evans backs refugee convention review**

Former foreign minister Gareth Evans says it's sensible for Australia to begin an international dialogue about revamping the United Nations Refugee Convention. (The Courier-Mail, 18 July)

<http://bit.ly/17bbBxX>

### **Greens attack shutdown of refugee unit**

The unit within the Refugee Review Tribunal that provided advice on conditions in countries that asylum seekers had fled has been shut down - a move the Greens say is aimed at making it harder for refugee claims to succeed. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 19 July)

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/greens-attack-shutdown-of-refugee-unit-20130718-2q7a6.html>

### **Rudd announces deal to send all asylum boat arrivals to PNG**

All asylum seekers who arrive in Australia by boat will be sent to Papua New Guinea for processing and resettlement and none will be allowed to stay in the country, the prime minister has announced, as he sent out a draconian pre-election message that Australia's borders are closed to refugees. (The Guardian, 19 July)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/19/kevin-rudd-asylum-boats-png>

### **Opposition supports elements of policy as first boat arrives**

The first 81 asylum seekers subject to Kevin Rudd's new PNG regime have entered detention on Christmas Island, as the Opposition said a Coalition government would keep elements of the hardline Labor policy. (The Australian, 20 July) <http://bit.ly/125wjBQ>

### **Rudd plan to relocate all refugees who arrive by boat to PNG**

Treasurer Chris Bowen has defended government advertising of its new hardline approach to asylum seekers, saying it was important to get its message to potential boat people overseas. (The Australian 20 July) <http://bit.ly/15uSPkz>

### **Nauru detention centre in ashes after riot**

A riot that caused tens of millions of dollars in damage to the Nauru immigration detention centre ended hours before the arrival of the first boat of asylum seekers who will face settlement outside of Australia. (Nine News, 20 July)

<http://news.ninensn.com.au/national/2013/07/20/09/14/nauru-riot-biggest-baddest-ever-witness>

### **Rudd's decision will stop the boats, Afghan asylum seekers declare**

Kevin Rudd's Papua New Guinea solution has bit savagely in west Java, where Afghan asylum seekers have immediately begun telling people smugglers they are cancelling their planned boat trips to Christmas Island. (The Australian, 21 July) <http://bit.ly/1bgX6eP>

### **Dozens charged after Nauru detention riot**

Dozens have been charged after rioting asylum seekers left the Nauru immigration detention centre in ruins. A Department of Immigration spokeswoman said just the kitchen and recreation facility are still standing, after accommodation blocks and other buildings burned to the ground. (Sunday Herald-Sun, 21 July) <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/dozens-charged-after-nauru-detention-riot/story-e6frg6n6-1226682456715>

### **Govt publishes 'creepy' pictures of distraught asylum seekers**

The Australian government has sparked fury after it published photographs of asylum seekers weeping as they await deportation to Papua New Guinea - hours after arriving on a rickety boat from Iran. (Daily Mail, 22 July) <http://dailym.ai/13Z3hVG>

### **Senator complains over PNG plan ads**

Independent Senator Nick Xenophon has made a formal complaint to the Commonwealth Auditor-General over the Federal Government's massive advertising blitz on asylum seekers. (The Age, 22 July)

<http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/senator-complains-over-png-plan-ads-20130721-2qcqp.html>

### **Asylum seeker boat sinks after leaving Java, 60 dead**

Tragedy has struck on the southern Java coast after an asylum-seeker boat carrying more than 170 people broke up and sunk in heavy seas yesterday evening. (The Australian, 24 July)

<http://bit.ly/12hFcs0>

### **Men who were raped kept in same facilities as assailants: former guard**

Department of Immigration staff turned a blind eye to a series of rapes and assaults at the Manus Island detention centre, a whistleblower has claimed. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 24 July)

<http://bit.ly/14bki8k>

### **Coalition to add most of PNG solution to boats policy**

A Coalition government would use much of Kevin Rudd's PNG solution as part of a suite of disincentive measures including turning back boats at sea to end the people-smuggling trade to Australia. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 25 July) <http://bit.ly/16auSil>

### **'Cruelty' on Nauru slammed**

Australia's offshore detention centre network has been rocked by new allegations of systemic failure as the Rudd government prepares to dramatically ramp up its operations in Papua New Guinea - while more asylum seekers have drowned. Whistleblowers who worked for the Salvation Army at the Nauru camp blamed last week's riots on the "cruel and degrading policy" that confined asylum seekers to the centre for almost a year. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 25 July)

<http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/federal-election-2013/cruelty-on-nauru-slammed-20130724-2qjry.html>

### **PNG plan could breach Australia's legal obligations: AHRC**

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), the independent government-funded body briefed with monitoring human rights in Australia, has made its first public statement on the "PNG solution", as the discussion on the legality of the government's new asylum deal continues. (The Guardian, 25 July)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/25/human-rights-commission-asylum-policy>

### **Minister vows to boost Manus**

A defiant Tony Burke has declared conditions on Manus Island are more than adequate and vowed to increase capacity to cover a surge in boat arrivals since the Prime Minister announced his Papua New Guinea solution. (The Age, 26 July)

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/federal-election-2013/minister-vows-to-boost-manus-20130725-2qndu.html>

### **Tougher stance won't stop us, say rescued refugees**

Survivors of the asylum seeker boat that sank on Wednesday say Australia's new hardline stance against people smugglers will not dissuade them from trying to enter the country.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, 26 July) <http://bit.ly/19mEjIj>

### **UN 'troubled' by Australia's new policy on asylum seekers**

The United Nations said Friday that it was "troubled" by Australia's new policy to stem the tide of people undertaking dangerous boat journeys to seek asylum there, the latest in a series of public criticisms of the government's tough new deterrence-based approach. (The New York Times, 26 July)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/26/world/asia/un-troubled-by-australias-new-policy-on-asylum-seekers.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/26/world/asia/un-troubled-by-australias-new-policy-on-asylum-seekers.html?_r=0)

### **Assault, gang rape claims in detention rise**

The level of alleged gang rapes, sexual assaults, and sexual harassment of staff and detainees in detention centres has jumped dramatically as the number of asylum seekers arriving in Australia swells to a 10-year high. (The Sun-Herald, 28 July)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/assault-gang-rape-claims-in-detention-rise-20130727-2qrl7.html>

### **Malaria risk for mothers and children**

Infants and pregnant women will be sent to Manus Island, the Department of Immigration has confirmed, despite it being warned eight months ago that pregnant women risked losing their babies, or their own lives, by taking anti-malaria medication. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 30 July)

<http://bit.ly/18NBjxR>

### **'Caring' Greens unveil policy to increase nation's refugee intake**

The Greens would strip away all deterrents from refugee policy and aim to stop deaths at sea by dramatically increasing Australia's refugee intake and boosting the capacity of the United Nations refugee agency to process claims in Indonesia. (The Age, 31 July) <http://bit.ly/16hJy1D>

### **Libs 'outsourced' tent policy**

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott has been accused of allowing a private company to write his "tent city" policy for asylum seekers after Toll Holdings paid for an Opposition trip to Nauru. (West Australian, 31 July) <http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/18242317/lib-outsourced-tent-policy/>