



Refugee Council of Australia

BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

11 October 2013

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

Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia

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NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE COUNCIL

Election of new government brings portfolio and policy changes

The Liberal-National Coalition has reshuffled portfolio responsibilities and begun implementing new asylum policies following its victory in the Federal election held on 7 September. Under the changes, the old Department of Immigration and Citizenship has become the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), with its work focused on border control, entry to Australia (including entry for asylum seekers and resettled refugees) and citizenship. The new Minister is Scott Morrison and his Assistant Minister is Senator Michaelia Cash. Responsibility for settlement services and multicultural affairs has been shifted to Department of Social Services under Minister Kevin Andrews and his Parliamentary Secretary, Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells. Responsibility for the Adult Migrant English Program is moving to the Department of Industry, under Minister Ian McFarlane and Parliamentary Secretary Bob Baldwin. DIBP will retain responsibility for the care of unaccompanied refugee and asylum seeker minors, with settlement support shifting to the Department of Social Services once they turn 18. DIBP will also retain responsibility for “ethnic affairs” (as opposed to “multicultural affairs”), keeping some community liaison officers to respond to migrant and refugee diasporas on migration, status resolution and other matters under the Immigration portfolio. RCOA produced a summary of these changes on 18 September but has now updated this with additional information. It can be viewed at http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/rpt/1310_MinResponsibility.pdf.

From September 18, the day the new Ministry was sworn in, the Government’s Operation Sovereign Borders was implemented. Under Operation Sovereign Borders, the Royal Australian Navy is under orders to turn back asylum boats to their origin where it is safe to do so and asylum seekers arriving by boat will be sent to expanded offshore processing facilities on Nauru and Manus Island in Papua New Guinea. RCOA is seeking meetings with the new Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries with responsibility for policies related to refugees and asylum seekers. The first meeting is with Senator Cash on 18 October.

Policy Brief: Temporary Protection Visas

RCOA has published a Policy Brief to explain the Coalition Government’s policy to reintroduce Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) for asylum seekers who arrived in Australia by boat and are found to be refugees. The Policy Brief provides background, analyses the Coalition’s election policy commitments and summarises research about the negative impact of TPVs. RCOA is concerned that the TPV policy will punish people who have been found to be in need of refugee protection, purely because of their mode of arrival. Read the Policy Brief at: http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/pb/PB1324_TPVs.pdf

RCOA launches consultations on Refugee and Humanitarian Program

RCOA will start its national consultations on the future of Australia’s Refugee and Humanitarian Program this month. This year, RCOA’s consultations with service providers, refugee community members and interested members of the public will be held in eight states and territories. These consultations inform RCOA’s annual submission to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on issues the Australian Government should consider in planning the coming year’s refugee program. RCOA has produced a discussion paper to assist people participating in the consultations. The schedule

of consultations is still being finalised but the current schedule and the discussion paper are available at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/isub.php>. If you cannot make it to an information and consultation meeting but would like to contribute your views, please contact us to arrange a phone interview or email your thoughts to admin@refugeecouncil.org.au.

Executive Committee of UNHCR discusses critical refugee protection challenges

In the lead-up to the annual Executive Committee meeting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, RCOA outlined the key refugee protection challenges that should be central to discussions. The five-day meeting brought together representatives of the 87 nations which make up the UNHCR Executive Committee. RCOA president Phil Glendenning attended the meeting as an NGO observer on the Australian delegation. In a statement prior to the meeting, RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said that, while the humanitarian crisis in Syria would dominate discussions, a number of other issues required urgent attention, including: the need to encourage the world's wealthiest nations not to turn their backs on refugees; cooperating on a regional level to protect refugees; and developing alternatives to detention. The statement said providing prompt access to refugee status determination procedures was an urgent priority, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region where many people attempting to seek asylum struggle to get access to any form of refugee status determination process or face very lengthy delays in their asylum process. RCOA said Australia, as a major resettlement country, Refugee Convention signatory and current chair of the United Nations Security Council, was well-positioned to provide leadership and support in finding better answers to global refugee challenges and ways of improving the lives of refugees and asylum seekers living in appalling conditions throughout the world. See http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/130930_ExCom.pdf for RCOA's statement. Our analysis of the nine key refugee protection challenges and summary of recent Australian NGO advocacy on international refugee needs is available at: http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/urpt/Protection_challenges_2013.pdf

New Bright Ideas brief highlight strategies to support refugees and asylum seekers

The latest Bright Ideas brief examines the Youth Employment Forum initiative developed by Brisbane's Multicultural Development Association. The forum provided an opportunity for young people from a refugee and migrant background to meet employers and better understand how to find work, network and explain the challenges they have in finding employment. Employers also gained a greater appreciation of the skills and talents of young people of refugee background. Find out more about the Forum at http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/brightideas/Bright_Ideas_05_YEF.pdf. RCOA is publishing this series to highlight the constructive responses to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers being developed by different organisations around 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 or (02) 9211 9333.

Literature review on housing for refugees and asylum seekers

RCOA has published a literature review on housing issues for refugees and asylum seekers in Australia as part of national research it is now undertaking. The literature review looks at research published on the housing challenges facing refugees and asylum seekers, including: homelessness, housing affordability, the private rental market, discrimination, appropriate accommodation, challenges facing asylum seekers living in the community on bridging visas and strategies to support refugees to find sustainable housing. In July 2013, RCOA received funding from the Geddes Nairn Development Fund, through the Australian Communities Foundation, to conduct research into current housing issues for refugees and asylum seekers. The research commenced in July, with the final report due early in 2014. Access the literature review at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/rpt/1309_HousingLitRev.pdf

RCOA to hold its AGM in Canberra for the first time

The national and implications of changes to Australian refugee policy will be the topic for discussion when RCOA holds its 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Members' Forum in Canberra on Tuesday 26 November. The AGM will be held from 1pm at the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy, Hedley Bull Centre, Australian National University (ANU), corner of Garran Road and Liversidge Street, Acton. The members' forum on refugee policy will begin at 2.30pm, with guest speakers to include UNHCR Regional Representative, Richard Towle, and Professor Pene Mathew of the ANU. This will be the first AGM in Canberra in RCOA's 32-year history. RCOA has been holding its AGM in different cities since constitution changes several years ago made it more possible to meet the required quorum of members

in cities outside Sydney and Melbourne. For details on the AGM and members forum see <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/a/agm.php> .

RCOA Joins Alive Mobile Appathon

In September, RCOA took part in a 48-hour Appathon hosted by Alive Mobile. The Appathon brought together developers, designers, marketers and entrepreneurs to create mobile solutions for charities and care organisations, with the winning team given the opportunity to develop and market their app. RCOA's team came up with a 'mythbusting' app to assist our members and supporters to break down myths and misinformation about refugees and asylum seekers. Top prize went to the team for the Benevolent Society, who developed an app to allow foster children to track their journey from home to home. Our thanks to Alive Mobile for inviting RCOA to take part in the event, and to the wonderful team of developers and designers who worked on the Refugee Council's app: Laith Al-Khateeb, Con Eliopoulos, Zoey Paisio and Antonio Rodrigues. Further information about the Appathon can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Appathon>.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

The best way to keep up with RCOA is through Facebook and Twitter. We regularly publish links to new RCOA statements and research and to interesting articles in the media on refugee issues. Our Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/pages/Refugee-Council-of-Australia-RCOA/157472830949702. Our Twitter feed is @OzRefugeeCounc.

COMING EVENTS

Discrimination law information session

Monday 14 October, Footscray VIC

Footscray Community Legal Centre has recently started a new Employment Law Project for members of the newly-arrived and refugee communities in the Western suburbs. Victoria Legal Aid has a new service which helps people who have experienced discrimination, sexual harassment, vilification or victimisation in areas such as education, employment, receiving goods or services, clubs, sporting activities, and other areas. The two organisations are running an information session to help people who work with community members to identify discrimination law problems and make appropriate referrals.

Details: 3:00pm-4:30pm; Auditorium, Phoenix Youth Centre, 72 Buckley Street, Footscray; RSVP to catherine@footscrayclc.org.au; for more information, contact Catherine Dow on (03) 9689 8444.

CEH workshop: Improving cross-cultural communication

Wednesday 16 October, Richmond VIC

Presented by the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health, this workshop will provide staff working in health and community organisations with strategies and skills to efficiently engage with individuals who have low English proficiency. It will help participants to: identify key principles of effective cross cultural communication; recognise different aspects of verbal and non-verbal communication styles; assess the need for an interpreter; and implement strategies for effective communication with CALD clients.

Details: \$150.00; 9:15am-1:00pm; 23 Lennox Street, Richmond; to register, visit <http://www.ceh.org.au/training/workshops>.

"Welcome Feast" cooking classes

Tuesdays 16, 23 and 30 October, North Sydney NSW

Hosted by North Sydney Community Centre on behalf of the House of Welcome, these cooking classes will provide an opportunity to learn new dishes from asylum seeker and refugee teachers. Classes will focus on Bangladeshi (16 October), Georgian (23 October) and Egyptian/North African (30 October) cuisine. Funds raised will support the House of Welcome's work with asylum seekers.

Details: tickets \$65.00 (includes ingredients and a tax-deductible donation); 6:30pm-9:30pm; Civic Park, 220 Miller Street, North Sydney; for further details and to book, call (02) 9922 2299 or visit <http://www.houseofwelcome.com.au/2012/03/a-welcome-feast>.

Public lecture by Robin de Crespigny, author of 'The People Smuggler'

Thursday 17 October, Darwin NT

Robin de Crespigny is the author of 'The People Smuggler, the story of Ali Al Jenabi', a man the Australian Government prosecuted and tried to demonise as a ruthless people smuggler but who was eventually revealed to have saved the lives of hundreds of refugees. Robin's talk will be followed by a question and answer session and discussion. Members of the Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network will be on hand to discuss their experiences visiting and advocating for asylum seekers in Darwin.

Details: 6:00pm; Darwin Museum Theatre.

Racism and Women symposium

Thursday 17 October, Sydney NSW

Speakers at this half-day symposium will include the Hon Victor Dominello MP, NSW Minister for Citizenship and Communities; Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission; and Dr Stepan Kerkyasharian AO, President of the Anti-Discrimination Board. The symposium will be facilitated by Pallavi Sinha, lawyer and Chairperson of Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW. The event is co-sponsored by the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of NSW and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Details: 9:00am-12:30pm; NSW Parliament House theatre, Macquarie Street, Sydney; download a registration form at

<http://www.communitynet.tricomm.org.au/images/stories/10%20Racism%20and%20Women%20Symposium.pdf>.

Screening of 'Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea'

Thursday 17 October, Mornington VIC

This award-winning documentary looks at the circumstances and decisions that lead a person to become a 'boat person'. Light refreshments will be provided. Hosted by Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to mark Anti-Poverty Week.

Details: entry by gold coin donation; 6:30pm-8:30pm; Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Chambers, Mornington; for further details, visit <https://apwfilmmps.eventbrite.com.au/>.

Asylum Seekers Centre fundraising event: 'Nowhere Home'

Thursday 17 October, Sydney NSW

Hosted by Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, this event will raise funds to support the work of the Asylum Seekers Centre. The evening will include a screening of 'Nowhere Home', a Norwegian documentary that follows the lives of a number of children who are seeking an extension of their asylum status. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Professor Mary Crock (University of Sydney), Melanie Noden (Asylum Seekers Centre) and Natalie Young (Refugee Advice and Casework Service). A light supper will be provided.

Details: tickets \$30.00 (\$25.00 concession); 5:30pm for a 6:30pm start; University of Sydney Law School, Lecture Theatre 101, New Law School Building (F10), Eastern Avenue, Camperdown Campus, Sydney; book tickets online at <http://www.trybooking.com/DLXG>; for further details, contact Jarrah, Vicky or Kerry at nsw@alhr.asn.au.

Stopping boats, business floats or sewing coats: Ethical dilemmas, local and global

Thursday 17 October, Chatswood NSW

This event will feature a presentation by Dr Simon Longstaff AO, Executive Director of the St James Ethics Centre. Dr Longstaff will examine the broad spectrum of global, local and personal ethical dilemmas and seek to build a consensus on what it takes to educate a society in ethics in order to sustainably exhibit true moral courage. The format of the evening includes informal cocktails and networking along with meeting representatives of a number of ethically-based organisations (including the Refugee Council). A donation from ticket sales will be made to each of the charities represented.

Details: tickets \$45.00 (\$36.00 members, \$18.00 concession and under 30s, free for high school students); 6:00pm-8:00pm; North Shore Temple Emanuel, 28 Chatswood Avenue, Chatswood; for further details, call (02) 9419 7011 or visit <http://www.beyondthebook.org.au>.

STARTTS clinical seminar: Healing trauma across cultures - A contextual and developmental approach to assessment and treatment

Thursday 17 October, Sydney NSW

This one-day Clinical Seminar will be presented by Dr Boris Drozdek, MD, MA. Boris is a psychiatrist, and the medical director at Psychotrauma Centrum Zuid Nederland, s-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands. He specialises in treatment of survivors of political and war violence, and initiated a development of treatment services network. He publishes in the field of psychotraumatology and transcultural psychiatry, teaches and gives training and workshops on a regular basis in the Netherlands and abroad.

Details: \$185.00 or \$165.00 for groups of five or more (students \$135.00), with early bird discounts available; 9:30am-5:00pm; Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney; register online at <http://www.startts.org.au>.

Fundraising dinner for AusCongo Network

Friday 18 October, South Brisbane QLD

The AusCongo Network (ACN) raises funds to support poverty reduction projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The ACN is now seeking support from local businesses or individuals to contribute financially to their projects or towards partnering with ACN in building businesses and micro enterprise projects in the Congo. At this annual fundraising dinner, local businesses are invited to host a table and invite their own business and friendship networks to learn more about the work being done by ACN. The ticket price includes wine and canapes on arrival, a three-course meal and Congolese entertainment.

Details: tickets \$85.00 (\$850.00 for a table of ten); 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start; Level Two C Block, 66 Ernest Street, South Bank TAFE, South Brisbane; to book tickets or reserve a table, contact Costa Mukendi on 0431 270 961 or comu47@gmail.com, or Joelle Kabamba on 0429 435 829 or joelle.rmp@gmail.com.

Free leadership training for young people

Saturday 19 October, Carlton VIC

Presented by the Centre for Multicultural Youth, Short Burst Training offers free, fun and interactive workshops for young people (12-25 years) from migrant and refugee backgrounds. The first session will focus on leadership skills.

Details: 12:00pm-4:00pm; 304 Drummond Street, Carlton; for further details or to book your place, contact Munira Yusuf on (03) 9340 3736 or myusuf@cmy.net.au

Multicultural Marketing Conference

Monday 21 October, Sydney NSW

Hosted by the NSW Community Relations Commission, this conference will highlight trends in multicultural communications and provide marketing professionals with valuable tips for targeting a culturally diverse audience. The theme of the conference is 'Leveraging Multiculturalism in the Current Market'.

Details: \$300.00 per person; 8:30am-4:30pm; Heritage Ballroom, The Westin Sydney Hotel, 1 Martin Place, Sydney; download a registration form at http://www.crc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/22021/CRC MMC flyer 2013.pdf.

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

Tuesday 22 October, Newcastle 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; Building M, Newcastle TAFE Campus, Maitland Road, Tighes Hill, Newcastle; register online at <http://www.startts.org.au>.

Screening of 'Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea'

Thursday 24 October, Sydney NSW

This award-winning documentary looks at the circumstances and decisions that lead a person to become a 'boat person'. The film will be followed by guest speakers and snacks. Hosted by the Amnesty International Central Coast Group.

Details: 5:30pm-10:00pm; NSW Parliament House thetrette, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

RightsTalk: Culture, citizenship and Identity

Thursday 24 October, Sydney NSW

Hosted by the Australian Human Rights Commission, this event will feature Race Discrimination Commissioner Tim Soutphommasane discussing the philosophical and political debates around questions of who we are. Dr Soutphommasane commenced his five-year appointment as Race Discrimination Commissioner on 20 August 2013. Prior to joining the Australian Human Rights Commission, he was a political philosopher at the University of Sydney. His thinking on multiculturalism and national identity has been influential in reshaping debates in Australia and Britain.

Details: 5:30pm to 7:00pm; Level 3, 175 Pitt Street, Sydney; to RSVP, go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/8399734833>.

Unintended Consequences: The Impact of Migration Law and Policy

Friday 25 and Saturday 26 October, Canberra ACT

This conference explores those unintended consequences of domestic migration policy, legislation or the application of relevant treaty obligations. In this conference, internationally eminent scholars, emerging scholars and legal practitioners working in the field of migration law gather to discuss legal challenges that arise from the unintended consequence of migration law and policy and the potential and limit of migration laws in addressing those new challenges.

Details: 9:00am-5:00pm; Australian National University, Canberra; for further details, visit <http://law.anu.edu.au/conferences/unintended-consequences>.

Harmony Walk

Sunday 27 October, Sydney NSW

The Harmony Walk brings together Australians from diverse national, ethnic and religious backgrounds to help build an inclusive society, and to acknowledge and celebrate the enduring principles of fairness, harmony and respect. At the conclusion of the walk, participants will enjoy a multicultural food stall, entertainment and activities designed to promote inclusion and harmony. The walk is free and is suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

Details: 2:00pm; the 1km walk will commence at Cathedral Square, College Street, Sydney; for further details, visit <http://harmonywalk.org.au>.

Pwo Karen Baptist Fellowship Melbourne 7th anniversary celebration

Sunday 27 October, Newport VIC

This event will feature Karen traditional dances, performances, music and traditional foods, as well as the launch of the Pwo Karen Gospel songs music DVD.

Details: 11:30am for a 12:00pm start to 4:00pm; Newport Baptist Church, 26 Mason Street, Newport; for further information, contact Rev Mahn Saw John 0434 306 114, Mahn Law Baw Law Mu Doe 0422 381 482 or Mahn Alexander 0430 063 930.

'Wallaby Stew' book launch

Sunday 27 October, Brisbane QLD

With a foreword written by Governor General Quentin Bryce, this collation of 30 inspiring stories includes five from Milpera State High School alumni who arrived as refugees and are now Australian citizens working at Milpera as bilingual teacher aides. 'Wallaby Stew: Inspiring Stories from Down Under' will be launched by Professor Robert Bland (Social Work, University of Queensland).

Details: 10:30am; Orleigh Park, West End, Brisbane; RSVP to di@diperkins.com.

Working with CALD and refugee communities in the child and family welfare setting

Wednesday 30 October, Melbourne VIC

Presented by Jatinder Kaur of JK Diversity Consultants, this workshop aims to assist practitioners to meet their cultural competency requirements and standards and increase their knowledge and

understanding of the cultural needs of children and young people from CALD or refugee backgrounds placed in out of home care. Topics will include: cultural diversity in CALD/refugee communities; migration and settlement issues; communication and language considerations; diverse child rearing practices; assessment frameworks and culturally sensitive practice considerations; and cultural needs of CALD/refugee children in out of home care.

Details: \$170.00; 9:00am-4:00pm; Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, Level 5, 50 Market Street, Melbourne; register online at <http://www.cwme.org.au>; for further details, call 1300 829 335 or e-mail info@cwme.org.au.

'Tree of Life II': Journey through the eyes of refugee children

Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 October, Parramatta NSW

In 'Tree of Life', young refugees perform their own stories. The performance represents a journey of healing for the young cast. For the audience, it is a powerful insight into the refugee experience as told by the children who experienced it. Following on from the success of the first 'Tree of Life' series, 'Tree of Life II' features new stories from a brand new cast.

Details: tickets \$25.00 (\$15.00 concession, \$5.00 per student for school groups); 10:00am and 12:30pm on 30 October, 12:30pm and 7:00pm on 31 October; Riverside Theatre, Parramatta; for further details and to book tickets, visit <http://riversideparramatta.com.au/show/tree-of-life-ii-2013-2/>.

Transcultural Mental Health and Refugee Health Conference

Thursday 31 October and Friday 1 November, Perth WA

This conference will bring together international, national and local perspectives on health and mental health service delivery, community engagement and research methodology with new and emerging communities.

Details: Duxton Hotel, 1 St Georges Terrace, Perth; for further details, visit <http://www.transrefugee2013.com.au>.

Standing together to end gendered violence against CALD women

Friday 1 November, Hindmarsh SA

This one-day conference will focus on the many different forms this violence can take and the multiple environments in which it occurs for women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Supported by a host of renowned speakers including Jennifer Burn, an Associate Professor in the faculty of Law at the University of Technology Sydney, and Maria Dimopoulos, an expert and national leader in working with diversity and domestic violence, the conference will challenge the way we understand gendered violence, engage with it and respond to it without promoting stigma or discrimination.

Details: \$100.00; Relationships Australia SA, 49a Orsmond Street, Hindmarsh; for further details and to register, call (08) 8245 8100 or e-mail enrol@rasa.org.au.

Friends of HEAL Foundation launch

Saturday 2 November, Milpera QLD

This event will celebrate the launch of this new charity which will support child and adolescent refugee wellbeing through the provision of art therapy and music therapy. Highlights will include art, music, a silent auction and live entertainment.

Details: entry \$40.00 (includes finger food and one complimentary drink); 7:00pm-9:00pm; Milpera State High School, 2 Parker Street, Chelmer; for further details and to book tickets, visit <http://www.fheal.com.au>.

5th annual Out of the Dark lecture

Sunday 3 November, Perth WA

Hosted by CARAD and CASE for Refugees, this event will feature presentations by Dr Annie Sparrow, a global refugee healthcare professional, and Shayla Strapps, CEO of CASE for Refugees, plus a personal account of seeking asylum in Australia. The event will be chaired by ABC journalist and news presenter James McHale.

Details: 2:30pm; 333 William Street (cnr Newcastle Street), Perth.

Sydney premiere of "Mary Meets Mohammad"

Monday 4 November, Paddington NSW

This documentary film follows the arrival of Tasmania's first detention centre through the eyes of local Christian woman and knitting club member Mary, and Muslim Afghan Hazara asylum seeker Mohammad, who is detained inside the centre, as they connect through the gift of a knitted beanie. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with filmmaker Heather Kirkpatrick.

Details: 6:30pm; Chauvel Cinema, cnr Oxford Street and Oatley Road, Paddington; for further details and to book tickets, visit <http://www.palacecinemas.com.au/movies/marymeetsmohammad/>.

Queensland Multicultural Youth Conference

Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 November, Gold Coast QLD

Presented by the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network, this conference is for young people from a multicultural background aged 16-25 years, who have an interest in becoming leaders in their local communities. The conference theme is 'Follow My Lead: Inspiring the next generation of leaders'.

Details: \$299.00 (includes conference registration, accommodation for two nights, airport transfers and all meals; for more information and to register, contact Marida Roux on (07) 3412 8222 or maridar@acsl.org.au. Registrations close Sunday 20 October.

City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture

Wednesday 6 November, Sydney NSW

The 2013 Sydney Peace Prize has been awarded to Dr Cynthia Maung, founder of the Mae Tao Clinic, a health service for refugees living along the Thai-Burmese border. In conversation with Mary Kostakidis, Dr Maung will talk about health, healing and dignity for those dispossessed by conflict, answering questions on ways to drastically improve the treatment of refugees and other vulnerable people. With supporting performances by ARIA Award Winner Lior and Traditional Karen Done Dancers.

Details: tickets \$35.00 (\$25.00 concession); 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start; Sydney Town Hall; to book tickets, visit <http://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=SYDNEYPE13>.

Sydney Peace Prize award ceremony and gala dinner

Thursday 7 December, Sydney NSW

The 2013 Sydney Peace Prize has been awarded to Dr Cynthia Maung, founder of the Mae Tao Clinic, a health service for refugees living along the Thai-Burmese border. The ticket price includes drinks, canapes, dinner and entertainment plus a \$200 contribution towards the annual \$50,000 prize and the ongoing work of the Sydney Peace Foundation.

Details: \$375.00 per person (\$3,750.00 for a table of ten); 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start; Maclaurin Hall, The University of Sydney; book online at <https://sydney.onestopsecure.com/OneStopWeb/asp/transform.aspx?TRAN-TYPE=949>; for further details, call the Sydney Peace Foundation on (02) 9351 4468.

FECCA Conference 2013

Thursday 7 and Friday 8 November, Gold Coast QLD

The 2013 conference of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) will focus on the theme "Breaking down the barriers: A strengths-based approach for a just society". Organised in partnership with the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland and the Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast, this year's conference is seeking to identify the barriers currently facing members of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Australia, and to work towards developing a solid national agenda to address these barriers.

Details: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; for further information, contact the Conference Secretariat on (07) 3848 2100 or fecca2013@expertevents.com.au.

Forum: Employment and multicultural young people

Thursday 7 November, Blacktown NSW

A professional development forum for those working with young people from multicultural backgrounds. Learn about the issues, what's working, what's not and how we can create change. Hosted by the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network.

Details: 10:00am-1:15pm; Max Webber Function Centre, Blacktown; RSVP at <https://myanforum.eventbrite.com.au>.

Screening of 'Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea'

Thursday 7 November, Sydney NSW

This award-winning documentary looks at the circumstances and decisions that lead a person to become a 'boat person'. Hosted by the House of Welcome, Edmund Rice Centre and Amnesty International Australia's NSW Refugee Network.

Details: tickets \$25.00 (\$18.00 concession); 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start; Dendy Opera Quays, 9/2 Circular Quay E, Sydney; to book tickets, visit <http://www.trybooking.com/BYCI>.

NEW RESEARCH, STATEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Report on health of asylum seekers living in the community

Last year St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) commissioned a scoping study into the health and wellbeing of asylum seekers living in the community, with a focus on Victoria, NSW and Queensland. The study was conducted by St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne in collaboration with the Ecumenical Migration Centre, Brotherhood of St Laurence from June-September 2012. The report is available at: <http://svha.org.au/news/well-being/>

New research on the contributions made by refugees

A new study by social researcher Dr Richard Parsons has found that despite many barriers to employment experienced by refugees during their resettlement, there is no evidence that refugees impose a net economic cost to Australia in the long-term. Dr Parsons' research argues that the lack of evidence-based research on the economic contribution of refugees in Australia has allowed myths to emerge in the public debate. The research is aimed to provide policy-makers, academics and the public with a new foundation for considering the benefits Australian humanitarian entrants deliver to the community. The full paper and summary can be accessed at <http://www.mdainc.org.au/>

Major feature on detention of asylum seekers and refugees

A special feature on detention in *Forced Migration Review* explains how asylum seekers and refugees - men, women and even children - are increasingly being detained and interned around the world. The feature - at www.fmreview.org/detention - explores alternatives to detention being trialled by agencies and governments. *Forced Migration Review* also includes a mini-feature on the crisis in Syria which is available at www.fmreview.org/detention/syria.pdf

Australia's Offshore Humanitarian Program outcomes 2012-13

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship published the annual statistics for the delivery of Australia's Offshore Humanitarian Program 2012-13. Download the full report at <http://bit.ly/17vk6q5>

New book looks at South Sudanese diaspora in Australia and NZ

"South Sudanese Diaspora in Australia and New Zealand: Reconciling the Past with the Present" offers insight into the resettlement experiences of the 30,000 South Sudanese people who arrived in Australia and New Zealand as humanitarian entrants. Find out more at <http://bit.ly/1243qDK>

Scoping study on emergency relief casework models

This scoping study is an emergency relief (ER) initiative led by Community Information and Support Victoria (CISVic) and ER Victoria to map innovative casework models for emergency relief clients with complex needs. Project partners included Anglicare Victoria, The Salvation Army, and RMIT University. The study included a review of the literature for known casework models in the emergency relief sector, online surveys, consultation with project partners who are the major providers of emergency relief in Victoria, and a consultation workshop with practitioners and service managers on the question of best practice. Access the report at <http://www.ervictoria.org.au/casework-in-er-sector-scoping-study>

Census data unearths information on humanitarian arrivals

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released data that improves and expands its range of migrant statistics. See <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/3417.0Main+Features12011?OpenDocument>

Best practice guide to responding to refugees with trauma backgrounds

The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse has developed a practice monograph to help improve responses to refugees with backgrounds of multiple trauma. The monograph provides

pointers for practitioners responding to domestic and family violence, sexual assault and settlement services. Access the resource at <http://bit.ly/1bsKJQS>

Interagency directory for NSW multicultural organisations

The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW has produced a 47-page Interagency Directory of multicultural, youth and local council organisations. The directory contains some 400 entries and can be accessed at: <http://www.eccnsw.org.au/News/October-2013/GSMI-Interagency-Directory-Now-Available.aspx>

Canadian study examines media portrayal of immigration policies

A new study from Western University in Canada suggests that the news media may take advantage of an existing uncertainty and unease around immigration policies and the treatment of immigrants and refugees to create a crisis mentality in which these groups are portrayed as “enemies at the gate” attempting to invade western nations. Read more about the study at <http://bit.ly/18dILRd>

OPPORTUNITIES

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>.

Interview participants sought for ethical health care research

A research project examining the ethics of health care provision for asylum seekers held offshore, on Manus Island, Christmas Island and Nauru, is seeking participants to share their experiences in the field. The study by Associate Professor Deborah Zion from Monash University and Victoria University and Professor Louise Newman aims to interview health and social care providers to gather data, examine issues related to conflicting loyalties to the State and to patients and explore the role of collective action and advocacy by healthcare providers in supporting human rights as part of a duty of care. The study involves an in-depth interview, which will be tape recorded, with a view to publishing the research in scholarly-refereed journals in Australia and overseas. To participate in interviews, please contact Professor Zion at Deborah.zion@monash.edu and on 0419 511 260.

English language classes in Western Sydney

The St Vincent de Paul Society is looking to expand its pilot English Language Classes program being delivered in Western Sydney. The classes are held every Thursday in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, Seven Hills, between 6pm and 8.30pm with dinner provided and pick-up and drop-off transport possible. Men, women, children and families of all ages are welcome. All levels of English skill are also welcome. One-on-one tutoring with set learning outcomes is provided for every single refugee in attendance, allowing intensive learning catered to the individual. To find out more about the English Language Classes Program, contact Jared Ellsmore on 0425 315 177.

Update on Community Proposal Pilot

The Community Proposal Pilot is a program being trialled by the Australian Government to provide a mechanism for communities within Australia to identify and support individuals in humanitarian situations offshore for entry into Australia. It provides for 500 places within the Refugee and Humanitarian Program. The Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre and Illawarra Multicultural Services in New South Wales joined by AMES and the Brotherhood of St Laurence in Victoria have entered into a deed of agreement with the department as approved proposing organisations (APOs). APOs will be responsible for proposing people for a Refugee and Humanitarian visa and, if their application is successful, to help them settle in Australia. The four APOs have established a website containing information about their role, administrative process and associated costs. To access the APO website, go to www.cpp-apo.net. For more information about the Community Proposal Pilot, visit the Department of Immigration's web page at <http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian/offshore/community-proposal-pilot.htm>

Inaugural Victorian African Community Awards

Nominations are open for the first ever Victorian African Community Awards (VACA). Organised by Africa Media Australia (AMA), the Awards are open to individuals and organisations. Nominations are encouraged for individuals within the broader Victorian African community, as well as other “friends of Africans” (Non-African Australians) whose work is connected to Africans and deserving of recognition and celebration. Nominations are also welcome from not-for-profit bodies providing settlement and

services to African-Australian communities and corporations running programs to assist members of the African community in Victoria. Nominations close 30 November 2013 with the winners announced at a gala dinner at Richmond Town Hall in Melbourne on 7 December. Award categories and information on how to nominate are available at http://www.africamediaaustralia.com/?page_id=2812. To book a seat to attend the dinner, visit http://www.africamediaaustralia.com/?page_id=2816

Invisible city: sharing migrant stories in Perth

Chronicle is seeking new arrivals willing to share their story during a two-day digital storytelling workshop to be held in Perth from mid-October. During the workshop, participants will learn how to enhance their stories with images and to create a short film on an iPad. For \$10, participants will also receive a DVD of their film. The best stories will be nominated for a showcase to be presented at the Fremantle Festival. Places are limited. For further details, contact liz@chronicle.net.au or call 0416 017 708.

Mental Health Month resources in NSW

For Mental Health Month in October, the Transcultural Mental Health Centre in New South Wales has produced fact sheets to promote positive mental health messages in English and 10 community languages including Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Spanish and Vietnamese. Access the fact sheets at <http://www.dhi.health.nsw.gov.au/tmhc/MHM2013/default.aspx>. Other resources are available at <http://www.dhi.health.nsw.gov.au/tmhc/default.aspx>. For more information about Mental Health Month activities, contact (02) 8838 2168 or Dora.Onesemo@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au

What Would You Do? – campaign to change asylum conversation

Jewish Aid Australia has launched a new campaign to humanise the asylum seeker conversation. Find out more about the “What Would You Do?” campaign at <http://jewishaid.org.au/what-would-you-do/>

International Detention Coalition focus on Malaysia

The Global Campaign to End Child Detention is focusing its efforts on Malaysia throughout October to raise awareness about the practice of detaining children, including unaccompanied minors. To see how you can become involved, visit <http://endchilddetention.org/malaysia/>

Conflict resolution training program in Melbourne

The Centre for Dialogue is seeking applications for the Dialogue Across Divided Communities Training Program to be held in Melbourne on 2 and 9 November 2013. The free workshops are designed to meet the needs of a wide range of groups as well as members of the public who wish to develop and apply their mediation, dialogue and conflict resolution skills. The training program takes account of the background of the participants, their level of knowledge and experience, and the contexts in which they will apply the insights, skills and competencies acquired through these workshops which will be of particular interest to: communities whose homelands are in conflict; government and non-government agencies, service providers and community groups; and interested members of the public wishing to develop and apply their skills in conflict management, resolution and transformation, mediation, and dialogue. Applications close on 5pm Wednesday 16 October and may be made online at www.latrobe.edu.au/dialogue. Applications can be sent to Faris Mallouhi at f.mallouhi@latrobe.edu.au and enquiries can be directed to Rachel Busbridge at r.busbridge@latrobe.edu.au.

2014 Interpreter Scholarship Program in Victoria

Victoria's Department of Premier and Cabinet, through the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (OMAC), is offering scholarships of up to \$2,000 to students enrolled in the 2014 RMIT Diploma of Interpreting. In Melbourne, six languages – Bengali, Dinka, Nepali, Punjabi, Rohingya and Somali – are being targeted in the 2014 program. A regional program, offered in the Karen language only, will also be offered in 2014 from Bendigo. Scholarship applications close on 21 November, 2013. OMAC will be hosting information sessions in Dandenong, Bendigo, Melbourne and Werribee. For session dates and locations, as well as information about the scholarships and how to apply, visit: <http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/projects-and-initiatives/improving-language-services/interpreter-scholarships> Further information is available at language.services@dpc.vic.gov.au or by calling (03) 9651 0678.

Postgraduate Award opportunity to research sexual health of CALD groups

Applications are invited from graduates seeking to undertake a PhD as part of the Australian Research Council funded project "Sexual health of migrant women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups". The project is a collaboration between the Centre for Health Research (UWS), Family Planning NSW, the Community Migrant Resource Centre, Parramatta, and the Centre for the Study of Gender, Social Inequities and Mental Health, Simon Fraser University, Canada, and aims to investigate the experiences and constructions of sexual health for women from a range of recent migrant CALD communities living in Australia and Canada to better understand unmet needs, and inform targeted service provision. Guidelines for programs of sexual health education and promotion will then be developed, and subjected to a formative evaluation, from the perspective of key stakeholders. The scholarship is open to graduates of psychology, public health, the behavioural or social sciences or related areas. Applicants are encouraged to contact Associate Professor Janette Perz prior to submitting an application to j.perz@uws.edu.au. Applications close on 31 October 2013 and can be submitted at <http://www.uws.edu.au/research/scholarships>

REFUGEE ISSUES IN THE MEDIA

A busy person's digest of some recent media coverage of refugee issues:

(Inclusion in this summary does not imply that RCOA agrees with the article's content or vouches for its accuracy)

Suicide-bid asylum boy: access denied

The Somali community is pleading with the Immigration Department to let it provide support for an unaccompanied teenage countryman who tried to hang himself on Christmas Island. (The Australian, 2 September) <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/suicide-bid-asylum-boy-access-denied/story-fn59niix-1226708627843>

Scott Morrison defiant on 'crazy' boat buyback policy

Coalition immigration spokesman Scott Morrison has defended the Indonesian boat buyback policy, despite widespread ridiculing of the plan and an admission from Opposition Leader Tony Abbott that it may never eventuate. (WA Today, 3 September) <http://bit.ly/19TMI9W>

'Security threat' refugee freed after four years

A refugee accused by ASIO of having links to Sri Lanka's defeated Tamil Tigers separatists and held for almost four years in Australian immigration detention has been released after the security agency rescinded its own assessment. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 September) <http://bit.ly/17rpMNC>

Number of arrivals may be a secret

Australians may never know how many asylum-seeker boats arrive under a Coalition government, with opposition immigration spokesman Scott Morrison refusing to release details about boat arrivals without the approval of a three-star general. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 September) <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/federal-election-2013/number-of-arrivals-may-be-a-secret-20130903-2t3cz.html>

Nauru tent city to cost \$2bn, Parliamentary Budget Office says

The federal Coalition's plan to erect a tent city for asylum-seekers on Nauru could cost close to \$2 billion over four years, the Parliamentary Budget Office says. (The Australian, 4 September) <http://bit.ly/1fvFSug>

Asylum seeker policy sends population of private jails soaring

Australia has a higher proportion of prisoners in privately run jails than any other nation in the world thanks to its asylum seeker policy, a report says. (The Canberra Times, 8 September) <http://bit.ly/13uhwPG>

Doctors cry foul over transfer of ill asylum-seeker child patient

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has tried to derail legal proceedings to prevent it transporting a critically ill asylum-seeker child from Darwin to Sydney against her doctors' wishes, the Federal Court has heard. (The Australian, 8 September) <http://bit.ly/GzMUU8>

Asylum seeker issues priority for new government

A former head of Australia's immigration department has warned the new Abbott government must engage with its regional neighbours over the issue of asylum seekers or it could lose control of its borders. (ABC News, 8 September)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-09-08/an-asylum-seeker-new-government/4944590>

PNG Prime Minister open to PNG asylum deal review

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill says he expects a Tony Abbott-led government to respect the asylum-seeker processing arrangements made with former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. But Mr O'Neill says he is open to the scheme being reviewed. (The Australian, 9 September)

<http://bit.ly/16W6zn7>

Ranjini's case 'very unusual', says review judge

A Tamil refugee's time as an 11-year-old runaway who joined Sri Lanka's civil war was "surprising and, presumably, very unusual", according to a review of the ASIO decision to deem her a threat to Australia's national security. (The Age, 9 September)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/ranjinis-case-very-unusual-says-review-judge-20130908-2te1l.html>

Two foreign journalists arrive on an asylum seeker boat after three days at sea

Two journalists have arrived on Christmas Island after travelling by sea on an asylum seeker boat. (Australian Network News, 10 September) <http://bit.ly/1avvHsU>

ASIO to review security findings against detainees

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation is reviewing adverse security assessments of four refugees being held in indefinite detention after receiving fresh information from the independent reviewer appointed by the defeated Labor government. (The Age, 11 September) <http://bit.ly/1dUV85o>

Asylum seeker advocate Julian Burnside floats 'Tasmanian solution'

Barrister and human rights advocate Julian Burnside is proposing the entire state of Tasmania be declared an immigration detention centre. (Radio Australia, 13 September) <http://bit.ly/1809Jb>

G4S and Serco fail to report on Australia's asylum centre conditions

Widespread failures by global security companies Serco and G4S to report on Australia's detention centres are raising concerns about whether the quality of care provided to asylum seekers is being accurately monitored by the Department of Immigration. (The Guardian, 17 September)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/16/g4s-serco-australia-asylum-centre>

Tony Abbott appoints Angus Campbell to lead Operation Sovereign Borders policy

Deputy Chief of Army Angus Campbell will be put in charge of combating people smugglers and securing Australia's borders under the incoming Coalition Government. (Radio Australia, 17 September)

<http://bit.ly/1eZT7Gw>

Rights group to ask UN committee to condemn Abbott Government's asylum policy

The incoming Federal Government's immigration policies are being brought before a United Nations Human Rights council meeting in Geneva, possibly as soon as tonight. The council is meeting this week and an item has been included in the general debate agenda which will openly condemn the new Government's plans. (Australian Network News, 18 September) <http://bit.ly/GzL1Ht>

Turn back boats policy doomed: former ADF chief

A former Australian Defence Force chief says the Federal Government's policy of turning back asylum seeker boats is doomed to failure. Retired Admiral Chris Barrie was required to implement former Prime Minister John Howard's policy of turning back boats when safe to do so. (ABC News, 18 September)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-09-18/barrie-on-asylum-seeker-boat-policy-dound-to-fail/4965582>

Tony Abbott's asylum seeker policies 'offensive', says senior Indonesian politician

Another senior Indonesian politician has described Tony Abbott's asylum seeker policies as "very offensive" and an attack on his country's sovereignty, adding that if they were not changed they would damage the bilateral relationship. (The Age, 19 September) <http://bit.ly/1eq6bWR>

Fresh doubts over validity of PNG deal

Fresh doubts have been cast over the validity of the PNG asylum seeker deal struck by the previous government. Under the plan, which remains central to the new government's strategy, asylum seekers would be processed on Manus Island and resettled in Papua New Guinea. But video obtained by SBS suggests the government of PNG was telling its own people a different story. (SBS News, 20 September) <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2013/09/20/fresh-doubts-over-validity-png-deal>

Vell of silence descends on asylum boat arrivals

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison's office has clamped down on information about asylum-seekers issued by his department and border protection agencies. (Brisbane Times, 22 September) <http://bit.ly/1dUW0qE>

Abbott's asylum seeker transit plan raises suspicions in Jakarta

A largely overlooked element of the Abbott government's people-smuggling policy involving asylum-seeker "transit ports" on Indonesian soil has emerged as the latest lightning rod for anger in Jakarta. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 23 September) <http://bit.ly/1dBVFJ3>

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison touts 'rapid increase' in asylum seeker transfers

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison says hundreds of asylum seekers who have arrived by boat since the federal election have already been transferred to offshore processing centres in a "rapid increase" of the process. (Radio Australia, 23 September) <http://bit.ly/19kLSCr>

Christmas Island residents 'will tell the world' about asylum arrivals: union leader

New Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has refused to commit to telling Australians how successful the Coalition government is in implementing its key election pledge to safely turn asylum seeker boats around at sea. (Sydney Morning Herald, 24 September) <http://bit.ly/18Nr8ZA>

Bishop calls for government to show compassion on asylum seekers

An Anglican bishop has attacked the government for being hard-hearted about asylum seekers, preferring to look tough rather than show any humanity. Melbourne Bishop Philip Huggins proposed an amnesty for the 30,000 asylum seekers already in Australia, "however they arrived". (The Age, 25 September) <http://bit.ly/1hjkV70>

Greens push to use Senate powers to reveal boat arrival secrets

The Greens will seek to force the Coalition government to reveal timely information about boat arrivals and boats turned back when Parliament resumes, arguing Australians have a right to know what is happening on its borders. (The Age, 25 September) <http://bit.ly/16YOBof>

People smuggler ridicules Scott Morrison's silence on boat arrivals

A people smuggler jailed in Indonesia has ridiculed Scott Morrison's vow of silence about new asylum boat arrivals, saying the smuggling networks do not rely on Australian government press releases for their information. (The Age, 25 September) <http://bit.ly/1b803SI>

Singleton refugee centre plan dropped

The Federal Government has confirmed it is cancelling plans to build a refugee processing centre in Singleton and is in the process of transferring \$58 million in funding to offshore centres instead. (Newcastle Herald, 25 September) <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/1796584/singleton-refugee-centre-plan-dropped/?cs=303>

Doctors concerned by 48-hour turnaround target for asylum seekers

A tight timeframe means adequate medical assessments are unlikely before refugees are sent offshore, according to Australia's peak body for physicians and paediatricians. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians has raised "serious" and "significant" medical concerns over the government's targeted 48-hour turnaround target for screening asylum seekers for offshore transfer. (The Guardian, 25 September) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/25/doctors-concerned-asylum-seeker-health>

Syrians fleeing civil war are being held on Nauru, asylum rights group says

Syrians are being held in detention on Nauru after trying to seek asylum in Australia as their country's civil war continues, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre says. (The Guardian, 25 September)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/25/syrians-nauru-asylum-reports>

We'll keep coming by boat, say Afghan asylum-seekers

Afghan asylum-seekers in Indonesia say despite the risks and regardless of Australia's change of government, they are still determined to get on a boat to seek somewhere to settle. (SBS News, 26 September) <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2013/09/26/well-keep-coming-boat-say-afghan-asylum-seekers>

Indonesian military implicated in deaths of asylum seekers

Members of the Indonesian military have been implicated in a fatal people-smuggling operation that may have killed up to 30 children. (ABC News, 30 September)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-09-29/indonesia-military-implicated-in-deaths-of-asylum-seekers/4987772>

Uniting Church backing for Inverbrackie detention centre angers Federal Government

The Uniting Church is backing a community campaign to keep Inverbrackie detention centre in the Adelaide Hills open, angering the Federal Government. (ABC News, 30 September)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-09-30/uniting-church-backing-for-inverbrackie-detention-centre-angers/4988322>

Morrison: doctors' fears about 48-hour asylum turnaround are unfounded

The immigration minister, Scott Morrison, says he is satisfied that the government's new 48-hour turnaround target to move asylum seekers offshore for processing allows for adequate medical assessments, despite expert groups arguing otherwise. (The Guardian, 30 September)

<http://bit.ly/1eTlwj3>

Morrison breaks blackout to deny that efforts to rescue asylum seekers were delayed

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has for the second time in two days forcefully rejected suggestions Australia did not respond quickly enough to an asylum seeker boat that sank off Java on Friday morning, killing at least 24 people. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 30 September) <http://bit.ly/17gahML>