



# Refugee Council of Australia

## **BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS**

**26 June 2014**

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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### **Scott Morrison's funding cut won't silence RCOA as a voice for refugees**

RCOA has been heartened by the public's support following the Immigration Minister's Scott Morrison's decision to cut the national body's core funding. The funding of \$140,000 was confirmed in the 2014-15 Budget. RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said he had been informed, in a phone call from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, that the decision to remove the funding from 2014-15 had been taken by Immigration Minister Scott Morrison. In a statement, RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said the decision was petty and vindictive and symbolic of the Minister's very poor relationship with the non-government sector. He said RCOA was appreciative of the overwhelming support of Australians concerned about the Minister's attempts to silence a strong and credible national voice for refugees. Mr Power said the withdrawal of the core funding amounted to close to one quarter of RCOA's organisational budget but would not distract the organisation from raising a voice for justice and compassion for refugees. To ensure RCOA remains that national voice for refugees, please visit [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/donate](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/donate) or support our Start Some Good campaign at <http://goo.gl/z9ZsCU>. To read our media statement about the funding cut, visit: [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140530\\_RCOA\\_funding.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140530_RCOA_funding.pdf)

### **Lives on the line under proposed changes to *Migration Act***

RCOA has expressed alarm at proposed changes to the *Migration Act 1958* which will significantly increase the risk of people being returned to danger. Under the proposed changes, people fleeing torture or other forms of serious harm will have to prove that there is a greater than 50 per cent chance of them being harmed to avoid being returned to their home country. "If we return people who have a real chance of being harmed, even if that chance is small, it is inevitable that some of them will suffer terribly or be killed," said Paul Power, RCOA chief executive officer. "The Government has told the Australian public that the introduction of harsh policies to deter and prevent asylum seekers entering Australia by boat is necessary to save lives which may be at risk at sea. If members of the Government are really interested in the preservation of human life, how can they justify showing little concern for their lives of people who face such significant risk?" Read our full statement at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140626-MigAct.pdf>

### **Sarah Blasko rallies to RCOA's cause**

Respected Australian singer-songwriter Sarah Blasko rallied to RCOA's cause by staging a special one-off concert to raise funds for our organisation. The concert was held in Sydney on World Refugee Day, following the decision by the Minister for Immigration Scott Morrison to cut RCOA's core funding. Sarah, a Refugee Week Ambassador said it was important to support RCOA's positive work with refugee communities in Australia. "They are also an important force in lifting the veil on our country's treatment of asylum seekers," she said.

### **Former Justice laments Australia's disgraceful asylum policies**

Former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia and current Chair of Children's Rights International, the Hon Alistair Nicholson, has condemned both sides of politics in Australia for implementing policies that punish asylum seekers. He also used his speech at the Grand Rounds Royal Children's Hospital to criticise Immigration Minister Scott Morrison's decision to cut the Refugee Council of Australia's core

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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

funding: "In the scheme of the budget the sum that they have taken away from the Refugee Council is nothing. This is about punishment. This is about silencing an effective critic of government policy." Read the speech at: [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/spch/140619\\_HonNicholson.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/spch/140619_HonNicholson.pdf)

### **Restoring hope a key message during Refugee Week celebrations**

Australia celebrated the rich contributions of humanitarian arrivals at more than 230 events during Refugee Week. In the final year of the "Restoring Hope" theme, events included breakfasts, soccer tournaments, art exhibitions, film festivals and book launches. RCOA coordinated Refugee Week launches in Granville, Sydney (in partnership with STARTTS and Settlement Services International) and in Ballarat (in partnership with the City of Ballarat, Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council and the Centre for Multicultural Youth). Guest speakers at the Sydney launch included former refugee Ali Ali and RCOA President Phil Glendenning. Excerpts from Mr Glendenning's speech at: [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140614\\_RefugeeWeek.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140614_RefugeeWeek.pdf) and Ali's full speech can be read at: [http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/spch/140614\\_RWAliAli.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/spch/140614_RWAliAli.pdf) and. The Sydney launch also featured the Dario Palermo Refugee Art Exhibition and presentation of 2014 NSW Refugee Humanitarian Awards. The Victorian launch at Ballarat included speeches from Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, founder and CEO of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Ballarat Councillor Belinda Coates and Sadiki Mukasa, a young refugee of Congolese background and recipient of City of Ballarat's 2013 Youth of the Year Award. Our Refugee Week ambassadors were also busy, speaking at events and appearing in a number of media interviews to promote Refugee Week.

### **Pressing need for global action to tackle protracted displacement**

New figures released on World Refugee Day by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) show that the number of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people worldwide has exceeded 50 million, the highest number since World War II. The figures also showed that in 2013, Australia ranked second overall and first per capita for refugee resettlement but received just 0.45% of the world's asylum applications. Read more about the UNHCR figures here: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140623-GlobalTrends.pdf>

### **High Court decision on Protection Visa freeze welcomed**

RCOA has welcomed two High Court decisions that ruled the Minister for Immigration's powers to limit the number of Protection Visas granted in a specified financial year invalid. The two cases challenged a decision by the Minister in March to place a cap on the number of Protection Visas that could be issued in the current financial year. The High Court found the Minister had exceeded his powers under section 85 of the *Migration Act 1958*. Read our statement on the decision here: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140623-HCvisafreeze.pdf>

### **UN High Commissioner criticises Australia's 'strange' obsession with boats**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres described as "very strange" Australia's obsession with deterring asylum seekers who arrive by boat to seek refugee protection. The comment was part of an answer he gave to an Australian refugee community representative at the UNHCR-NGO consultations in Geneva. In his opening address, while outlining growth in xenophobia in some nations and more hostile reactions to refugees in others, Mr Guterres named Australia as one of a number of countries closing its borders to people seeking protection. Later, in response to a question from Amnesty International Australia, he reiterated concerns about Australia shifting its responsibilities to asylum seekers to countries like Nauru and Papua New Guinea where adequate refugee protections were not in place, reaffirming UNHCR's commitment to continue monitoring conditions in Australia's offshore detention centres and expressed reservations about Australia's proposed refugee resettlement arrangement with Cambodia. In a statement, RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said the public criticism of Australia at an important annual global forum on refugee issues was a clear indication of how much Australia's international reputation had declined as a result of its harsh asylum policies. Australia was represented by 11 NGOs and five community representatives from Australia including former refugee from Iraq and Melbourne-based settlement worker Nuha Markus who travelled to Geneva under the Refugee Council of Australia's John Gibson Refugee Community Leadership Grant. The representatives attended the three-day NGO Consultations and a series of meetings RCOA arranged with senior officials of UNHCR in Geneva. The UNHCR-NGO consultations were an opportunity to bring the concerns of Australian NGOs and refugee communities to an international audience. To read the

statement about Mr Guterres' comments and the UNHCR-NGO consultations, visit: [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140618\\_UNHCRNGO.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140618_UNHCRNGO.pdf)

### **Cornall Report an inadequate response to Manus Island violence**

The Australian Government's explanation for February's violence on Manus Island was described by RCOA as inadequate, leaving critical questions unanswered. RCOA's statement failed to critically examine the Australian Government policy responsible for sending the murdered and injured asylum seekers to Manus Island. RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said: "In his media statement, the Minister for Immigration Scott Morrison claims that the Cornall Report noted it was not possible to isolate one factor that could have mitigated injuries or damage. However, it is obvious that what happened on Manus Island was the end result of a system designed to be so cruel that it would act as a deterrent to asylum seekers arriving by boat to plead for refugee protection in Australia." RCOA was also astounded that no charges had been laid three months after the murder of Reza Berati and the serious assaults of many others. Read the statement at:

[http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140527\\_Cornall.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140527_Cornall.pdf)

### **Fears refugees will be pressured into Cambodia solution**

RCOA raised fears that refugees recognised in Australia's offshore processing centre in Nauru would be pressured into accepting unsustainable resettlement arrangements in Cambodia. In a statement, RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said refugees being protected or resettled needed much more than just safety from persecution in their country of origin if integration or resettlement could be regarded as a durable solution. The statement cited the predicament of about 70 refugees in Cambodia who lack access to sustainable housing, work permits or any form of permanent residency. Read the full statement at: [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140522\\_CambodiaNauru.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140522_CambodiaNauru.pdf). RCOA also welcomed a joint statement issued by a coalition of 21 Cambodian NGOs who oppose the planned refugee resettlement deal between Australia and Cambodia as well as another from the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). For more details on the NGO statements, visit:

[http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140606\\_CambodiaNGO.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140606_CambodiaNGO.pdf)

### **Death of Leo highlights the cruelty of Australia's asylum policies**

The tragic death of Tamil asylum seeker Leo Seemanpillai, who set himself on fire in Geelong while waiting for resolution of his refugee status, was described by RCOA President Phil Glendenning as the product of a cruel policy that treated asylum seekers as enemy combatants in a war. In a statement, Mr Glendenning said that despite the Australian Government's assurances that Sri Lanka was safe for asylum seekers, Tamils in particular feared being killed if returned. "At every level in Australia, asylum seekers run into a cruelty that leaves some so demoralised and defeated that they make a decision that it is better to die in Australia than be killed in Sri Lanka." Read the full statement here:

[http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140602\\_SriLankaLeo.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140602_SriLankaLeo.pdf)

### **Fast-tracking refugee claims risks sending asylum seekers back to danger**

RCOA warned proposed laws to fast-track refugee claims would take legal resources away from asylum seekers and handing them to the Australian Government, increasing the risk of vulnerable people being sent back to danger. RCOA's statement also raised concerns the legislation would weaken safeguards against errors in decisions and reduce the independence of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) and other legal avenues of appeal. Read the statement at:

[http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140528\\_RSD.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140528_RSD.pdf)

### **Rohingya refugees forgotten amidst deaths at sea rhetoric**

RCOA appealed for Australia and the international community to do more to protect Rohingya refugees in the Asia-Pacific region following UNHCR estimates of increasing numbers of people dying at sea in the Bay of Bengal to find refugee protection. In a statement, RCOA chief executive officer Paul Power said more than 1300 people had died at sea while those who have made it to Thailand and Malaysia had become victims of human trafficking, detention in squalid smugglers' camps and violence that in some cases has resulted in their deaths. "The Australian Government claims that its harsh deterrence policies aim to stop people smuggling and prevent people risking their lives at sea. But where is its concern for the thousands of Rohingya people who have been horrifically exploited by people smugglers and traffickers, who have drowned in the Bay of Bengal or died of thirst or hunger after losing their way at sea?" Read the statement at: [http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140611\\_Rohingya.pdf](http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140611_Rohingya.pdf)

### **More councils joining Refugee Welcome Zone Initiative**

Queenscliff Council, Moira Shire and Hobsons Bay City Council in Victoria are the latest members of RCOA's Refugee Welcome Zone initiative. During Refugee Week, Hawkesbury City Council and Leeton Shire Council in New South Wales celebrated their status as a Refugee Welcome Zone during Refugee Week while the City of Ballarat reaffirmed its vows at the Victoria launch of Refugee Week. To find out more about the Refugee Welcome Zone initiative, visit: <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/g/rwz.php>

### **Community Proposal Pilot update**

The Community Proposal Pilot has been extended for a further 12 months through to 30 June, 2015. The extension will provide for up to 500 visa places under Australia's Humanitarian Programme during 2014-15. Under the Pilot, Approved Proposing Organisations (APOs) are able to propose someone in a humanitarian situation outside of Australia for a Refugee and Humanitarian (Class XB) visa. The five APOs are: AMES; The Brotherhood of St Laurance; Illawarra Multicultural Services; Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre; and the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia. These organisations will continue to work with supporting community organisations or families of humanitarian applicants to propose, support their visa application, and if successful, help them to settle in Australia. Further information is available at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian/offshore/community-proposal-pilot.htm>

### **Refugee and asylum sector represented in Australian Honours List**

The Australian Honours List has acknowledged people who have done outstanding work to support refugees and asylum seekers. This year's list includes: Andrew Harper AM, a Wagga Wagga man who has worked for UNHCR for 20 years and is now a leader of the response to the Syrian refugee crisis as UNHCR rep in Jordan; Virginia Walker OAM, the founder and chairperson since 2003 of Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation (BASF) and visitor to Villawood immigration detention centre; Marilla Lowrey OAM, foundation member of Rural Australians for Refugees in Braidwood and long-time supporter of BASF; and Professor Samina Yasmeen AM, a member of the Australian Multicultural Council who has been involved in refugee issues for 20 years. For more information visit: <https://www.gg.gov.au/queens-birthday-2014-honours-list>

### **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](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Refugee-Council-of-Australia-RCOA/157472830949702). Our Twitter feed is @OzRefugeeCounc.

## **COMING EVENTS**

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### **Emerge Festival 2014**

**Saturday 17 May to Saturday 5 July, Melbourne VIC**

Presented by Multicultural Arts Victoria, the Emerge Festival showcases talented artists from Melbourne's emerging refugee communities and the diverse cultures that have woven colourful and intricate patterns into the identity of the city. The Festival will include a series of performances and unique cultural experiences encompassing music, dance, visual arts, exotic foods, ancient crafts and ceremonies.

**Details:** for details of events taking place as part of the Festival, visit <http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au/events2014/emerge.shtml>.

### **Workshop: Managing dementia across cultures**

**Monday 30 June, Bonnyrigg NSW**

Designed for aged care service providers, this workshop will provide information about dementia service provision to people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, and the resources available to assist service providers working with these communities.

**Details:** 9:00am-4:00pm; NSW SLASA Community Centre, Bonnyrigg Community Services, Bonnyrigg Plaza Shopping Centre, Bonnyrigg Avenue, Bonnyrigg; for further information, contact Sandra Loyola-Sandoval at [cpp@nswslasa.com.au](mailto:cpp@nswslasa.com.au) or call (02) 9610 0288.

### **Barat Ali Batoor Exhibition**

**Thursday 3 to Saturday 26 July, Dandenong VIC**

This exhibition by award-winning photojournalist and former refugee Barat Ali Batoor focuses on the Hazara community residing in Melbourne. It provides an insight into the Hazaras' day-to-day life experiences in the local community and the economic and social contributions they make to the community.

**Details:** gallery open Monday to Friday 11:00am-5:00pm and Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm; Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Walker and Robinson Streets, Dandenong.

### **Film fundraiser for refugees in Melbourne**

**Friday 4 July, Yarraville VIC**

Hosted by Hobsons Bay Refugee Network and West Welcome Wagon, this screening of Clint Eastwood's "Jersey Boys: The story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons" will raise funds to support refugees living in the Western suburbs of Melbourne.

**Details:** tickets \$22.30; 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start; Sun Theatre, 8 Ballarat Street, Yarraville; book tickets online at <http://www.trybooking.com/EPAF>; for further details, call Neil Tolliday on 0402 817 673 or email Bek Ayres at [hbrnevents@gmail.com](mailto:hbrnevents@gmail.com)

### **Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul**

**Saturday 5 July to Sunday 16 November 2014, Perth WA**

Visiting Australia for the first time, this exhibition, with more than 230 priceless treasures, some thousands of years old, offers a rare opportunity to discover the surprising, untold story of the long and extraordinarily rich culture that is Afghanistan. For years these artefacts were thought lost or destroyed as war and instability shook the country. In 2003, they were uncovered from vaults in the central bank of the presidential palace, where they had been placed in secrecy by a few courageous staff from the National Museum, Kabul. The exhibition will feature precious artefacts of gold, bronze and stone sculptures, ivories, painted glassware and other ancient works of art.

**Details:** museum open 9:30am-5:00pm daily; Western Australian Museum, Perth Cultural Centre, James Street, Perth; for further information, visit <http://museum.wa.gov.au>.

### **Lecture: Regionalism, responsibility and refugees**

**Thursday 17 July, Brisbane QLD**

In this public lecture, Griffith Law School Dean Professor Penelope Mathew will compare Australia's approach with regional arrangements for refugees in other parts of the world, and in other periods of history. Professor Mathew will explore: whether regional arrangements properly protect asylum, a fundamental safety net in a world where universal human rights are frequently violated; whether they fairly share the common responsibility for asylum among states; and whether Australia's recent policies enhance or retard regional cooperation in the protection of refugees. A complimentary cocktail networking event will follow the lecture.

**Details:** 5:00pm for a 5:30pm start; Griffith Film School Sound Stage (S08), South Bank, Brisbane; register (essential) at <http://www.griffith.edu.au/arts-education-law/news-events/ael-public-lecture>.

### **CMY training: Multicultural Youth Voices: An introduction to working with young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds**

**Thursday 17 July, Carlton VIC**

Presented by the Centre for Multicultural Youth, this training will enable participants to: reflect on how personal culture, including attitudes, values and cross-cultural communication impacts on individual expectations and behaviours; demonstrate knowledge of key aspects of the pre-settlement and settlement experiences and the impact of this on young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds; identify organisations and services that can provide further knowledge; and apply culturally inclusive strategies to support the engagement and participation of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

**Details:** \$231.00 plus booking fee; 9:00am-4:30pm; CMY Carlton, 304 Drummond Street, Carlton; for further information and to register, visit <http://www.cmy.net.au/EventCalendar>.

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

**Friday 18 July, 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; 152-168 The Horsley Drive, Carramar; for further information and to register, visit <http://www.startts.org.au/training>.

### **CEH workshop: Foundations of culturally competent practice**

**Saturday 19 July, Richmond VIC**

In our multicultural society, it is fundamental our workplaces have the ability to provide appropriate access and service to people from a range of cultural backgrounds. This workshop introduces health, community and local government staff to key concepts of migration, diversity and cultural competence. Hosted by the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health (CEH).

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

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

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### **Helping new arrivals understand human rights in Australia**

The Centre for Refugee Research has produced booklets as a training package to assist newly-arrived refugees understand how the Human Rights Conventions are applied in Australia and what it means to family life. The resource, developed at the request of representatives of a number of recently arrived refugee communities who took part in a consultation held by AMES Victoria and the UNSW Centre for Refugee Research in 2010, covers human rights, women's rights and the rights of children in Australia. The booklets have also been translated into Arabic, Burmese, Dari, Farsi, Hazaragi, Karen and Kiswahili and Tamil languages. Access them at:

<http://www.crr.unsw.edu.au/education-and-training-resources/human-rights-booklets/>

### **Engaging multicultural youth through sport**

The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) has launched a new fact sheet aimed at engaging young people in sport. The fact sheet covers the benefits of sport, case studies, barriers to participation and benefits for sport organisations. They are available at <http://www.myan.org.au/nsw/resources/>

### **Advocacy toolkit for young people**

The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) and the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) have launched a new resource for young people who want to create change in their communities. The training toolkit includes background reading, activities and handouts as well as a training program for trainers. For a copy, visit: <http://www.myan.org.au/>

### **From Horror to Hope: addressing domestic violence in refugee communities**

A training kit for community and government workers who come into contact with refugee families resettled in Australia, who are either experiencing or at risk of experiencing, domestic and family violence. The material assists workers to understand the complexity of the refugee experience and the ways in which this can make families vulnerable to domestic violence. Access the guide here:

<http://www.crr.unsw.edu.au/education-and-training-resources/from-horror-to-hope>

### **"I Thought They Would Kill Me: Ending Wartime Torture in Northern Myanmar"**

This report describes the systematic use of torture and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment of more than 60 civilians by Myanmar authorities from June 2011 to April 2014. The report is largely based on interviews conducted by Fortify Rights with survivors and witnesses of torture and other abuses, their family members, aid workers, and KIA officials in Kachin State and northern Shan State. Interviews were also conducted in KIA and government-controlled territory, in towns and

villages affected by the conflict, and in numerous internally displaced person (IDP) camps. Read the report at: <http://www.fortifyrights.org/>

### **Afghanistan's displaced people: 2014 and beyond**

*Forced Migration Review* looks at 2014 as a watershed year for Afghanistan with its legacy of 35 years of conflict and one of the world's largest populations in protracted displacement. The issue contains 21 articles on Afghanistan and a mini-feature on statelessness. The online version is available at [www.fmreview.org/afghanistan](http://www.fmreview.org/afghanistan)

### **Report on Bhutanese refugees in Nepal**

"We are the Victims of the Separation: A report on Bhutanese refugees remaining in Nepal" focuses on the voices of refugees from Bhutan who do not necessarily want to resettle and explores the impacts of resettlement on those who remain. Access the report at: <http://goo.gl/vcZgC0>

### **"Turn Back the Indifference" – a reflection on the life of Leo**

The Commission for Mission has developed a thought-provoking reflection following the recent suicide of a young Sri Lankan asylum seeker, and the limbo that many asylum seekers find themselves in while waiting for their claims for asylum to be processed.

Downloaded the video from: <http://bit.ly/1hMLjFZ>

### **International good practice guide for housing in refugee resettlement**

The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) Europe guide "A Place to Live, A Place to Stay" provides a comparative overview of housing for refugee settlement in Europe, identifies good practice at local, regional and national levels and includes case studies with private landlords, housing workers and refugees. Access the guide at:

<http://www.resettlement.eu/page/good-practice-guide-housing-refugee-resettlement>

### **Better Beginnings. Better Futures**

This resource by the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) aims to provide a community perspective on some of the most pressing issues affecting new and emerging communities in Australia. The four fact sheets cover an introduction to communities, a discussion of the main barriers to achieving positive educational outcomes for new and emerging communities, an overview of the key barriers to gaining and retaining meaningful employment for youth from new and emerging communities, and an analysis of the funding programs accessible to new and emerging community organisations. Download the fact sheet at:

<http://www.fecca.org.au/resources/better-beginnings-better-futures-factsheets>

### **Positive practices in disability inclusion**

"Disability Inclusion: Translating Policy into Practice in Humanitarian Action" documents positive practices and ongoing challenges to promote disability inclusion across UNHCR's and its partners' work in multiple countries and multiple displacement contexts. The report provides lessons and recommendations for other organisations and the wider humanitarian community on engaging persons with disabilities at all levels of humanitarian work. It draws on consultations with over 700 displaced persons—including persons with disabilities, their families, and humanitarian staff—in eight countries. Access the report at <http://womensrefugeecommission.org/programs/disabilities/disability-inclusion>

### **Nothing for Them: understanding the needs of LGBT young refugees**

This report helps address the limited research available on the support needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people of refugee and newly-arrived backgrounds in Australia. Read the report at: [http://www.mhima.org.au/pdfs/Nothing\\_for\\_them\\_report.pdf](http://www.mhima.org.au/pdfs/Nothing_for_them_report.pdf)

### **Research on health of asylum seekers in long-term immigration detention**

Humanitarian Research Partners' report on the Immigration Ombudsman's s4860 (of the *Migration Act*) reviews of long-term immigration detainees. The 686 s4860 reviews were tabled in 2013 covering 754 asylum seekers. Access the report at: <http://goo.gl/8xz3eh>

### **The first language advantage: working with bilingual research assistants**

This paper discusses the experiences of AMES in working with bilingual research assistants in a 2012 project on employment. The research provides valuable insight into the varied employment situations of recently-arrived migrants. Access the research at: <http://www.ames.net.au/research-and-policy/research.html>

### **Pathways to Wellness: a refugee mental health bibliography**

This bibliography compiles prominent research and literature on refugee mental health from general information to screening and assessment processes, interventions and best practices in therapy and clinical treatment. Access the bibliography at [http://www.mhima.org.au/pdfs/Ref\\_Mental\\_Health\\_Bibliography2013.pdf](http://www.mhima.org.au/pdfs/Ref_Mental_Health_Bibliography2013.pdf)

### **Birth registration and children's rights**

The study by Plan, the International Observatory on Statelessness and the Coram Children's Legal Centre "Birth Registration and Children's Rights: A Complex Story" explores the effects of birth registration, and how it benefits children in practice. The research from India, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Vietnam finds there is a complex picture of the interrelationship between children's rights and birth registration. As a result, the report makes a series of important recommendations for governments and development partners. To download the report go to:

<http://plan-international.org/about-plan/resources/publications/campaigns/birth-registration-research>

## **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>.*

### **Social enterprise program for refugees and asylum seekers**

From August to November, the Bankstown Change Makers Program will focus on providing opportunities for 20 people from refugee, asylum seeker and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to gain skills, confidence and networks to build a business. The full program fees are funded by the Federal Government Department of Human Services under its "Better Futures, Local Solutions" initiative. For more information visit: <http://www.the-sse.org/schools/24/australia/256/bankstown-change-makers>

### **Settlement in Armidale, New South Wales**

Armidale Sanctuary Humanitarian Settlement Inc is looking for needy overseas refugees and asylum seekers who wish our organisation to propose to the Australian Government their settlement in Armidale on Special Humanitarian Visa 202. Sanctuary proposes and brings approved people to our town, provides initial settlement support and ongoing friendship and has a fully-equipped home ready for arrival. Sanctuary cannot guarantee that the Government will accept its proposals but will do its best to facilitate and support applications. People who know of overseas people in need who would like to be proposed and supported by Sanctuary should contact Jeff Siegel, PO Box U243, Armidale, NSW, Australia, 2351, at [jsiegel@une.edu.au](mailto:jsiegel@une.edu.au) and 0434 146 856 or Robin Jones on 02 6771 1835 or 02 6773 2829.

### **Refugee stories sought**

Australia for UNHCR is creating an important national archive of the stories of refugees who have resettled in Australia and is calling on the community to add their stories via [stories.unhcr.org](http://stories.unhcr.org). The website is part of a global initiative from UNHCR to mark World Refugee Day and Australia for UNHCR will also use the campaign to document the significant personal experiences of the many thousands of refugees now living in Australia. Individuals, families and journalists can submit their own video or written story (maximum 500 words), accompanied by a photo at [stories.unhcr.org](http://stories.unhcr.org).

### **Friends of Zainab scholarship**

Applications are open for The Public Education Foundation's Friends of Zainab scholarship program, with the current round open for students from New South Wales and the ACT. A link to the scholarship and details on how to apply are available at:

<http://www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au/scholarship-archive/friends-of-zainab-scholarships/>.

### **Petition calling for end to offshore detention of asylum seekers**

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW are calling on the Australian Government to end the offshore detention of asylum seekers and, in circumstances where they are currently held, improve the standard of their healthcare and living conditions. To sign the petition, visit:

<https://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/the-australian-federal-government-end-offshore-detention-of-asylum-seekers>

### **“Asylum sneakers” campaign to help asylum seeker children play ball**

Welcome to Australia is leading a campaign to capitalise on the popularity of the World Cup to raise money for football boots for asylum seeker children. The “Asylum Sneakers” campaign aims to provide new footwear to about 1000 children. Find out more here:

<http://www.chuffed.org/project/asylumsneakers/>

### **Nominations open for 2014 Human Rights Awards**

This year categories include human rights, young people, media, literature, business, community and law. Nominations close on 12 September. The awards, celebrating International Human Rights Day, will be presented on 10 December at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. Information about nominations is available at:

[http://hrawards.humanrights.gov.au/nominations?\\_cldee=bWVkaWFAcmVmdWdlZWVudW5jaWwub3JnLmF1](http://hrawards.humanrights.gov.au/nominations?_cldee=bWVkaWFAcmVmdWdlZWVudW5jaWwub3JnLmF1)

### **Bounce seeks volunteers in Melbourne**

Melbourne-based youth mentoring organisation Bounce is seeking volunteers to help guide young people of refugee background. The program targets refugee youth aged between 16 and 24 with the aim of helping them reach their potential in academic, career and personal goals. Find out more at <http://c8.org.au/bounce/about-bounce/>. Visit <http://c8.org.au/where-and-when/current-opportunities/> to find out the latest volunteer opportunities.

### **South Sudanese Australian National Classic basketball competition**

Southern Star Basketball is seeking support to help stage the South Sudanese Australian National Classic to be held at Penrith, Sydney between July 11 and 13. More than 500 players from 40 South Sudanese-Australian basketball teams from all over Australia will compete in front of a crowd of about 3000. Find out more at: <http://www.pozible.com/project/183022>

### **Invitation to help Melbourne researcher on motherhood and migration**

A researcher at Monash University is inviting Melbourne-based migrant women who have cared for their children while migrating, to help inform a research project. The project is investigating how women from the Middle East experienced motherhood during their journey by boat or through the settlement program. Any participant who is aged 18 and over and willing to tell their story can contact [brandy.cochrane@monash.edu](mailto:brandy.cochrane@monash.edu) or call 0415 576 572.

### **Service provider workshop: breast cancer screening for new arrivals in Victoria**

PapScreen Victoria, BreastScreen Victoria and Cancer Council Victoria are inviting settlement workers, health, community workers and managers to a workshop that aims to increase knowledge and awareness of the importance of cancer screening and prevention among newly-arrived women. The free workshop will be held on Wednesday 6 August between 10.00am and 2.15pm at Cancer Council Victoria, Level 3 Meeting Rooms (313,314), 615 St Kilda Road, Melbourne. An additional workshop for small grant applicants will be held on Wednesday, 20 August between 9.30am and 1.00pm. RSVP by 30 July to Marnie Wilson on 03 9514 6427 and [marnie.wilson@cancervic.org.au](mailto:marnie.wilson@cancervic.org.au)

## **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)

### **Development body's concern for refugees resettled in Cambodia**

Refugees who are resettled in Cambodia by the Australian government will be unlikely to gain employment rights, get an education or be given permanent residency, according to a peak international development body. (The Canberra Times, 1 May) <http://bit.ly/1iBASLi>

### **It costs \$20 million to say: 'Don't call Australia home'**

The federal government is spending nearly \$20 million to push its hardline message of deterrence to asylum seekers, telling people from some of the poorest and most desperate countries not to come to Australia, new documents show. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 1 May) <http://bit.ly/1fJEOJP>

### **Reza Berati was set upon by local PNG contractors, says expat guard**

Reza Berati was set upon by a group of local PNG contractors working for a cleaning company and security company G4S and was beaten over the head with a "lump of wood", according to one of the most graphic accounts of the unrest on Manus Island on 17 February, authored by an anonymous guard and submitted to the Senate inquiry into the violence. (The Guardian, 1 May) <http://bit.ly/1IRvyna>

### **Race to block asylum seekers**

Customs officials were last night racing to intercept an asylum-seeker vessel – the first in Australian waters in more than a month. (The West Australian, 2 May) <http://yhoo.it/1mjOHT1>

### **Asylum seekers' time in detention soars**

Asylum seekers in Australian detention are held for an average of more than nine months, far longer than international standards. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 2 May)

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/asylum-seekers-time-in-detention-soars-20140503-zr3eg.html>

### **Cambodia: We won't take refugees against their will**

Cambodia's insistence that refugees will not be sent to the impoverished country against their will has emerged as a key sticking point in a controversial agreement with Australia. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 2 May) <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/cambodia-we-wont-take-refugees-against-their-will-20140502-zr341.html>

### **Asylum seekers arrested: Sri Lankan navy picks up 54 heading to Australia**

Sri Lanka's navy has arrested more than 50 asylum seekers heading by boat to Australia. (ABC News, 3 May) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-03/sri-lanka-arrests-54-people-bound-for-australia/5428016>

### **Questions raised about NZ's 'secret' refugees**

The Government claims national security could be at risk if it has to reveal where a "mystery" 150 refugees it has accepted under a secret category came from. (One News, 4 May)

<http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/questions-raised-nz-s-secret-refugees-5947783>

### **Ex-Manus Island workers report beatings, rapes of asylum seekers**

Disturbing allegations of regular beatings, racist slurs and unwanted sexual advances by G4S guards on Manus Island have been made by a former Salvation Army worker. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 5 May)

<http://bit.ly/1ITdY1U>

### **Manus malaria drug a safety concern for asylum seekers**

Asylum seekers on Manus Island are being given a type of anti-malaria medication that detention centre staff have been warned not to take because of serious side effects. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 5 May) <http://bit.ly/1jvReEk>

### **Australia will vindicate treatment of boat people, claims Phillip Ruddock**

History will vindicate Australia's treatment of boat people because securing our borders ensures support for an orderly migration program, former immigration minister Phillip Ruddock says. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 6 May) <http://bit.ly/1oo4dZi>

### **Papua New Guinea Governor slams asylum seeker policy**

The Governor of Papua New Guinea's capital Port Moresby has taken out full-page advertisements in local newspapers criticising the Manus Island detention centre. (Radio Australia, 6 May)

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

### **Tony Abbott's policy a failure as boats keep coming, says Indonesian Foreign Minister**

The turn-back of two groups of asylum seekers on Monday has put further strain on the Australia-Indonesia relationship after Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa launched another stinging

criticism of the Abbott government's boats policy. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 6 May) <http://bit.ly/1iXGzO9>

### **Asylum seeker strategy on family reunion program saves Australia \$260 million**

More than \$260 million will be shaved off the federal Budget with the abolition of Labor's family reunion program for asylum seekers who arrive by boat, The Daily Telegraph has learned. (Herald Sun, 7 May) <http://bit.ly/1oo3Vle>

### **Tony Abbott speaks to Indonesian president over boat turnback reports**

Tony Abbott has telephoned the Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, as diplomatic tensions sparked by Australia's policy of asylum boat turnbacks continues to escalate. (The Guardian, 7 May) <http://bit.ly/1mgN7Jc>

### **Sri Lanka thanks Australia for its 'bold' decision**

The Sri Lankan government has publicly thanked Australia for its "bold" decision not to co-sponsor a UN resolution to investigate alleged human rights abuses in the south Asian nation. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 May) <http://bit.ly/1iVfzVb>

### **Malcolm Turnbull defends 'harsh' boats policy as necessary**

Liberal frontbencher Malcolm Turnbull has described the Coalition's measures to stop asylum seekers arriving by boat as "harsh" but necessary to combat people smuggling. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 May) <http://bit.ly/1jyETzi>

### **Asylum seeker push-back: Bishop says Australia has not broken international law**

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has denied Australia has breached domestic or international laws as the Greens call on the Australian Federal Police to investigate reports Australian authorities added three people to an asylum seeker boat and escorted it back to Indonesian waters. (ABC News, 7 May) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-07/bishop-says-australia-has-not-broken-international-law/5437332>

### **Government 'success' over stopping asylum seekers prompts closure of 10 centres**

The Abbott Government will shut down six controversial detention centres across the country, saving close to \$330 million, following the success of its border protection policy which has stopped the flow of asylum seekers arriving by boat. (The Australian, 7 May) <http://bit.ly/1kOd9TY>

### **Military denies pulling army moonlighters from Manus asylum seeker camp**

Australian soldiers who have been moonlighting as security guards at offshore immigration detention camps, including Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, are quitting their jobs and heading home. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 8 May) <http://bit.ly/1mDUiOa>

### **UN has doubts over PNG refugee processing**

Australia has been told it has a legal responsibility for any refugees in detention on Manus Island that cannot be resettled by Papua New Guinea. (The Australian, 8 May) <http://bit.ly/1qjVEDv>

### **Asylum seeker indefinite detention must be considered, says court**

The federal court has ruled that the immigration minister must consider whether asylum seekers will be held in detention indefinitely as a consequence of refusing them a protection visa. (The Guardian, 8 May) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/08/asylum-seeker-indefinite-detention-must-be-considered-says-court>

### **Number of refugees, asylum seekers continues to rise: UNHCR**

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported that the number of refugees and asylum seekers entering Indonesia is continuing to rise every year. (Jakarta Post, 8 May) <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/05/08/number-refugees-asylum-seekers-continues-rise-unhcr.html>

### **UNHCR slams Australia over violence at Manus Island asylum seeker camp**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has criticised Australia's lack of responsibility over the Manus Island violence in a Senate inquiry submission, as documents show the disturbance at the detention centre was so widespread the telephone and computers were damaged. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 9 May) <http://bit.ly/SF6vJE>

### **Scott Morrison confirms creation of new border protection 'super agency'**

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has confirmed that the government will create a new Australian Border Force to consolidate Customs and immigration border operations into one super-agency. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 9 May) <http://bit.ly/1m3H2DU>

### **High Court hears Manus Island detention centre constitutionally invalid**

A High Court challenge to the Manus Island detention centre has heard laws establishing the facility are constitutionally invalid. (ABC News, 9 May) <http://ab.co/1IraDrv>

### **Scott Morrison says decisions on Manus refugee applications 'recommendations'**

Scott Morrison has conceded that refugee determinations handed down on Manus Island are only recommendations, and the Papua New Guinea government has not finalised resettlement arrangements that would allow visas to be granted. (The Guardian, 9 May) <http://goo.gl/YcyLmm>

### **Revealed: Manus Island security fears in run-up to fatal riot**

Former Manus Island camp manager, security firm G4S, warned the Immigration Department nearly nine months before February's deadly riots that fencing and other security infrastructure was woefully inadequate. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 9 May) <http://goo.gl/P9kK3U>

### **PNG immigration minister says he will choose which refugees on Manus are resettled**

Papua New Guinea's immigration minister says he will choose which refugees resettle in the country, an apparent contradiction of the Australian Government's assertion that all genuine refugees detained on Manus Island will be resettled within PNG. (ABC News, 10 May) <http://ab.co/1lc6Yw0>

### **Australia and PNG governments don't fulfil human rights duties: Amnesty**

The Australian and Papua New Guinea governments are failing to meet human rights commitments set out in refugee agreements between the two nations, says Amnesty International's submission to the Manus Island Senate inquiry. (The Guardian, 11 May) [bit.ly/1mQkogZ](http://bit.ly/1mQkogZ)

### **PNG may impose quota on refugees from Manus Island**

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison's insistence that Papua New Guinea has agreed to resettle all Manus Island-based asylum seekers found to be refugees has been undermined for the second time in eight weeks. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 11 May) <http://goo.gl/Yr6Vk3>

### **Greens push for code of conduct for asylum seekers to be disallowed**

The Greens are fighting to remove a special behaviour code that asylum seekers who live in the community must abide by, saying it is degrading and unfair to specifically single out a group of people. (The Age, 13 May) <http://goo.gl/xrtHbu>

### **Opposition MP urges Labor to drop support for Australia's offshore processing regime**

An Australian Federal Opposition MP is calling on the Labor Party to abandon its support for the offshore processing of asylum seekers. (Australian Network News, 12 May) <http://ab.co/1qdaYRP>

### **Five Syrian asylum seekers split up 'to keep them quiet'**

Five asylum seekers detained on Manus Island who were offered repatriation to war-torn Syria had been split up to "keep them quiet", according to a source with first-hand knowledge of their cases. (The Guardian, 12 May) <http://bit.ly/1wA695f>

### **Immigration services face overhaul**

Australia's immigration services are set to be overhauled as the government faces millions of dollars in expenditure. (SBS News, 13 May) <http://bit.ly/ULtx2h>

### **Former Manus Island guards design 'survivor' T-shirt to mark unrest**

Former Manus Island guards employed by the security company G4S have designed a "survivor" T-shirt to commemorate the February unrest at the asylum seeker detention centre. (The Guardian, 13 May) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/13/former-manus-island-guards-design-survivor-t-shirt-to-celebrate-unrest>

### **Detention centre services on mainland to be provided by states and territories**

Australia's mainland detention centres face widespread changes to healthcare, education and policing with the states and territories taking over services previously provided by private contractors. (The Guardian, 14 May) <http://goo.gl/KOZg1J>

### **Christmas Island to become 48-hour transfer hub**

The Christmas Island detention centre is set to become a "rapid transfer" base where asylum seekers are held for just 48 hours before being sent for processing on Nauru or PNG's Manus Island. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 14 May) <http://bit.ly/Tlg27X>

### **Migration Act amended to exclude refugees with bad security assessment**

The Senate has passed a controversial amendment to the Migration Act that would prevent refugees who have received an adverse security assessment from seeking a protection visa. (The Guardian, 14 May) <http://goo.gl/dDdGI6>

### **Stopping asylum seeker boats will take years, Angus Campbell says**

Border protection chief Angus Campbell has warned that stopping asylum seeker boats entirely will take "years, not months, of collective regional effort". (The Sydney Morning Herald, 16 May) <http://goo.gl/KOHQuj>

### **G4S security firm warns PNG police dangerous on Manus Island**

Security firm G4S warned the Immigration Department before the deadly Manus Island riots that Papua New Guinea police were dangerously unpredictable and could start shooting in an emergency. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 17 May) <http://bit.ly/1plClnH>

### **Scott Morrison was wrong: no psychiatrist on Manus Island**

Three months after the deadly violence on Manus Island there is still not a full-time psychiatrist on Manus Island's detention centre, despite Immigration Minister Scott Morrison assuring human rights organisations there was. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 18 May) <http://goo.gl/O9f1dx>

### **Church leaders arrested for asylum prayer vigil at Tony Abbott's office**

A Catholic priest and several pastors have been arrested for staging a peaceful prayer vigil in Tony Abbott's electoral office in Sydney. (The Guardian, 19 May) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/19/church-leaders-arrested-for-asylum-prayer-vigil-at-tony-abbotts-office>

### **Manus Island: Australian medical staff to be replaced with local workers**

Some Australian doctors and nurses at the Manus Island detention centre in Papua New Guinea are to be replaced with local and Filipino staff, as asylum seekers continue to complain of poor medical treatment. (The Guardian, 19 May) <http://goo.gl/Z5oRku>

### **Greens plan to scuttle Cambodian resettlement plan**

The Greens will attempt to force a vote in the Senate on plans to resettle in Cambodia refugees whose claims for protection are recognised on Nauru – and is challenging Labor to block any deal. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 May) <http://goo.gl/6NWGCr>

### **Cambodia's PM confirms controversial agreement to resettle refugees from Australia**

Cambodia's strongman Prime Minister Hun Sen has confirmed his impoverished country will accept refugees from Australia in a controversial agreement condemned by human rights and refugee advocates. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 May) <http://goo.gl/occk5D>

### **Abbott rejects refugee double standard**

Prime Minister Tony Abbott has rejected suggestions he is applying a double standard on human rights to an imminent refugee resettlement deal with Cambodia. (The Australian, 20 May) <http://goo.gl/7EwGLW>

### **Indonesia 'caught by surprise' on Australia's asylum policy**

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa has revealed to Dateline there has been a lack of communication between the Australian and Indonesian governments over border and refugee issues. (SBS Dateline, 20 May) <http://bit.ly/1Dq23S>

### **Immigration Minister Scott Morrison says Australia briefed UNHCR on Cambodia deal**

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison says the head of his department has briefed the United Nations refugee agency about a proposed asylum seeker deal with Cambodia. (ABC News, 20 May) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-20/morrison-says-australia-briefed-unhcr-on-cambodia-deal/5464554>

### **Scott Morrison questions status of refugees refusing move to Cambodia**

Any refugee who refuses resettlement from Nauru to Cambodia should have their claims questioned, according to the immigration minister, Scott Morrison. (The Guardian, 20 May) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/20/scott-morrison-suspicious-refugees-refusing-resettlement>

### **Aggrieved Indonesia: Australia not communicating on border protection and asylum**

Indonesia has again criticised Australia over a lack of communication on border and refugee issues and taken a swipe at the continuation of offshore detention, questioning why Australia was "outsourcing" its responsibilities to other countries. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 21 May) <http://goo.gl/QoJGYI>

### **Refugees released into Nauru on temporary visas, but refused settlement in Australia**

More than 20 months after the Nauru processing centre was re-opened, 13 asylum seekers have been released into the local community after their claims for refugee status were recognised. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 22 May) <http://goo.gl/cvnaaB>

### **PM: 'No surprise' asylum seekers target NZ**

Prime Minister John Key said attempts by people smugglers to bring 50 asylum seekers by boat to New Zealand was not unexpected, and was confirmation of the Government's intelligence reporting. (New Zealand Herald, 25 May) [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=280&objectid=11261513](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/politics/news/article.cfm?c_id=280&objectid=11261513)

### **Border authorities deny 'prison ship'**

Border protection authorities have denied they're running a "prison ship" off the coast of Christmas Island for asylum seekers arriving in Australian territorial waters. (SBS News, 26 May) <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/05/26/border-authorities-deny-prison-ship>

### **Manus Island asylum seekers in mental health crisis**

About half the asylum seekers in detention on Manus Island and Nauru are suffering from significant depression, stress or anxiety, according to clinical assessments. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 26 May) <http://goo.gl/epy9Yt>

### **Manus Island riot: Independent report details deadly detention centre violence**

A Salvation Army worker identified as allegedly leading a fatal attack on Iranian asylum seeker Reza Berati on Manus Island in February is expected to be charged in Papua New Guinea. (ABC News, 26 May) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-26/scott-morrison-releases-review-into-manus-island-riot/5478170>

### **Australia bears 'not insignificant' PNG, Nauru legal costs for court battles**

The Immigration Department says Australia has paid for the "not insignificant" legal costs of the Papua New Guinea and Nauru governments in fighting to keep asylum seeker detention centres open. (ABC News, 27 May) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-27/australia-bears-not-insignificant-legal-costs-for-nauru-manus/5481838>

### **Offshore processing would continue under Labor, says Richard Marles**

Labor would continue the policy of offshore processing for asylum seekers if it won the next election, its immigration spokesman Richard Marles has said. (The Guardian, 27 May) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/27/offshore-processing-would-continue-under-labor-says-richard-marles>

### **Doctors' litany of medical neglect of asylum seekers still 'largely ignored'**

A letter from 15 doctors documenting medical neglect of asylum seekers detained on Christmas Island has been "largely ignored", one of its co-signatories has said. (The Guardian, 27 May) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/27/doctors-litany-of-medical-neglect-of-asylum-seekers-still-largely-ignored>

### **Manus Island tensions reached flashpoint at pre-riot meeting**

Asylum seekers, already angry about the uncertainty they faced, were repeatedly told they would remain in Manus Island's overcrowded detention centre indefinitely at an incendiary pre-riot meeting, footage obtained exclusively by Fairfax Media shows. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 28 May) <http://goo.gl/E04FMm>

### **Manus: G4S chief rejects suggestion company invited PNG police into centre**

The head of the security company that was in charge of the Manus Island detention centre during February's fatal riot has strongly rejected suggestions it invited Papua New Guinea police inside the fence. (ABC News, 28 May) <http://ab.co/VpRU6a>

### **PNG police slam Australian report into riots at the Manus Island detention centre**

PNG police have criticised the Australian report into the Manus Island riots in February, directly contradicting witness accounts of events and suggesting a "major cover up". (Australian Network News, 28 May) <http://goo.gl/dOpPac>

### **Manus Island asylum seekers ambushed by machete-wielding locals**

Asylum seekers on one of their first excursions out of the Manus Island detention centre since February's violence had an altercation with locals, who refugee advocates say brandished machetes. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 29 May) <http://goo.gl/4iPjV6>

### **Salvos vouch for 'caring' Manus worker**

The former Salvation Army employee suspected to leading a bashing that killed an asylum seeker has told police he was rescuing detainees, not attacking them. (SBS News, 29 May) <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/05/29/salvos-vouch-caring-manus-worker>

### **Gov't says it will only take willing refugees**

Foreign Minister Hor Namhong reiterated Wednesday that the government will only accept the refugees detained by Australia who volunteer to be resettled in Cambodia, and said that the possible locations in the country for their resettlement are still being studied. (The Cambodia Daily, 29 May) <http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/govt-says-it-will-only-take-willing-refugees-59968/>

### **Immigration Minister Scott Morrison cuts funds to peak refugee body**

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has axed more than half a million dollars of funding for Australia's peak refugee body, despite it being published in this month's budget. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 30 May) <http://goo.gl/heefyQ>

### **We won't fund refugee advocates: Morrison**

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has defended his decision to cut funding for refugee advocates, saying taxpayers' money should not be spent on such groups. (The Australian, 30 May) <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/refugee-group-loses-govt-funds/story-fn3dxiwe-1226936737128>

### **Safe haven has asylum seekers in family mode**

A mini asylum seeker baby boom is taking place after hundreds of mums fleeing war-ravaged countries settled in Melbourne. (Herald Sun, 31 May) <http://goo.gl/yqCtzJ>