



Refugee Council of Australia

BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

15 September 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.

Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia

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NEWS FROM THE REFUGEE COUNCIL

Government increase to Special Humanitarian Program smoke and mirrors

RCOA accused the Australian Government of pretending to be magnanimous by announcing additional places under the Special Humanitarian Program for Iraqi Christians and Yazidis when it had cut places from the refugee intake. In a statement, RCOA CEO Paul Power said: "No amount of spin from the Immigration Minister's office can hide the fact that, in the same year the number of people displaced by persecution passed 50 million for the first time since World War II, the Australian Government cut the number of refugees resettled or protected by 6250 places per year. RCOA called for additional refugee resettlement places, the release of Iraqi and Syrian asylum seekers currently in detention and recognition of their clear protection needs. Read the statement at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140815_Iraq.pdf. New figures from UNHCR showing the number of Syrian refugees eclipsing three million also prompted RCOA to urge Australia to do more to support countries bearing the bulk of responsibility for protecting refugees. Read the statement at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140829_Syria.pdf.

Sending asylum seekers back to danger unconscionable

Revelations that Syrian asylum seekers detained on Manus Island were being pressured by Australian Government officials to return home were met with disbelief by RCOA. In a statement, RCOA said it was not safe for Syrians to be sent home while the country remained embroiled in war. CEO Paul Power said Australia's callous treatment of a small number of Syrian refugees contrasted with the support pledged by other countries, including Germany's additional 25,500 humanitarian and family reunion places, Sweden's offer of permanent residency and Lebanon and Iraq's hosting of people who have fled the conflict. Read the statement at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140819_SyriaReturns.pdf. The Australian Government's forced return of an asylum seeker to Afghanistan was met with alarm by RCOA President Phil Glendenning who described the action as "deportation to danger". Mr Glendenning, who recently returned from an eight-day visit to Afghanistan said security had deteriorated with members of the Hazara community particularly vulnerable. Read the statement at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140827_AfghanReturn.pdf.

What happens now that Australia has "stopped the boats"?

In an Institute of Advanced Studies Public Lecture at the University of Western Australia, RCOA CEO Paul Power outlined the unsustainable nature of Australia's asylum policies and identified areas where Australia can take the lead in bolstering refugee protection. The speech called on Australia to play a constructive role in the protection of refugees closer to countries of origin and outlined the steps needed to improve refugee protection in Asia. The text of the speech is available at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/spch/140821_UWA.pdf and the audio can be downloaded at <http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/power>

RCOA backs National Party call for expanded refugee program

A call by Government Coalition partner the Nationals for an expanded Refugee and Humanitarian Program was welcomed by RCOA as an encouraging step that if implemented would play an important role in increasing refugee protection at a time when forced displacement is at a 65-year high. In a statement, RCOA CEO Paul Power said the Government could make an immediate start by reinstating

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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

the more than 6,000 places it slashed from the intake in 2012-13 and restore Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program to 20,000 places as well as exploring other options to protect people displaced by conflict and persecution including the relaxation of significant restrictions on family reunion and offering viable alternatives to people in desperate need of refugee protection. "If the Australian Government wants people to use regular pathways, it has to make sure these pathways are accessible. Otherwise, Australia's suite of deterrence policies can only be seen as a cruel policy response at the greatest time of need for the world's displaced people." Read the statement at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140903_NatsARHP.pdf

Detention of children must end once and for all

RCOA urged the Australian Government to move quickly on its decision to move children out of detention and into alternative community arrangements. In a statement, RCOA cautioned that similar promises had been made in the past but had not been honoured. CEO Paul Power said the new arrangements would see larger numbers of families being released on to bridging visas rather than into community detention, making it essential that families were provided with adequate support to live in the community. RCOA expressed concern about the welfare of children on Christmas Island and Nauru who are to remain in detention, noting the Australian Human Rights Commission inquiry's reports about the deterioration in the health and wellbeing of children on Christmas Island and in Nauru. Read the statement at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140819_Children.pdf. RCOA also dismissed Australian Immigration Minister Scott Morrison's justification of the ongoing detention of children on Christmas Island and Nauru following his appearance at the Australian Human Rights Commission's inquiry into children in detention. Read the statement at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140822_DetentionHearing.pdf

Australian Parliament must reject cruel Temporary Protection Visas

RCOA has lobbied Federal cross-bench parliamentarians, urging them to reject the Abbott Government's renewed push to force refugees on to Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs). In a letter to cross-bench Senators and Palmer United Party leader Clive Palmer, RCOA CEO Paul Power said TPVs were a cruel policy response to people found by the Australian Government to be in need of refugee protection. In an accompanying brief, RCOA described the Government's claims that TPVs were a necessary part of its suite of deterrents against asylum seekers arriving by boat as false and misleading and noted that history had also shown that TPVs were not a deterrent to asylum seekers arriving by boat. Read the statement at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140902_TPVs.pdf. The Policy Brief is available at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/1409_TPVs.pdf

Asia-Pacific NGOs focus on protection challenges and vision for the future

More than 150 NGO and refugee community representatives from 22 countries gathered in Bangkok from September 2 to 4 for the biennial Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights. Organised by the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), the gathering focused on issues affecting refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people in the region from Iran and Japan to New Zealand, including protection challenges, NGO responses and options for collective advocacy. Issues discussed included the worsening conditions for urban refugees, the increasing use of detention and limited access to durable solutions. A workshop on shrinking protection spaces in the region highlighted the negative impacts of the policies of Australia, Sri Lanka and Burma, with RCOA CEO Paul Power giving an overview of recent changes in Australian policy and suggesting options for collective advocacy by APRRN members. APRRN unveiled its vision for regional protection, developed in the two years since the previous consultation. It can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/1MmFhf>. The vision, which APRRN will develop into a plan of action, is the first regional vision of its kind. It outlines principles to promote freedom from violence and abuse, access to essential services and livelihoods, legal protection, access to durable solutions, self-sufficiency and partnerships for a supportive operating environment. Paul Power was elected chair of APRRN's working group for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific and will continue to serve on APRRN's Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Gopal Siwakoti of Nepal. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/1qzhyBa>

Face to Face program for schools and colleges in Sydney, Wollongong and Melbourne

RCOA is offering an incursion program for schools in the Sydney and Melbourne metropolitan areas and Wollongong region. Under the Face to Face program, a representative from RCOA and a speaker from a refugee background will present to students, teachers and other interested groups about the refugee

experience. The refugee speakers will share personal stories of their journey to safety and give students the opportunity to learn about their experiences and their contributions to Australia. About 4500 students, parents and teachers have participated in these presentation sessions and workshops since February and have found the experience of learning in an interactive way to be powerful and thought-provoking. Find out more at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/F2F%20brochure%201408.pdf>

Review of welfare system must take humanitarian entrants' needs into account

A submission by RCOA to a Federal Government review of Australia's welfare system called for more attention to address barriers to employment faced by refugees and humanitarian entrants. The submission to the Department of Social Services Review of Australia's Welfare System outlined the barriers refugees face in securing work. The submission also recommended a review of the unique circumstances of asylum seekers and temporary humanitarian visa holders living in the community in financial hardship and the impact of limiting income support for young refugees and humanitarian entrants. A number of proven strategies are also discussed in the submission. Read the media release at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140813_WelfareReview.pdf and the full submission at <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/sub/1408-Welfare.pdf>. RCOA also responded to the Employment Services 2015-2020 Purchasing Arrangements Exposure Draft, raising concerns about the lack of specialised and culturally-competent employment services for people from refugee background. Read the submission at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/r/sub/1409_EmploymentServices.pdf

Submission on Migration Amendment Bill

RCOA's submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on the Migration Amendment (Protection and other Measures) Bill 2014 outlined concerns, particularly the imposition of a higher burden of proof placed solely on asylum seekers, limitations on family reunion, Temporary Protection Visas as well as changes to complementary protection and the Refugee Review Tribunal. Read the submission at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/sub/1408-Migration-Amendment.pdf>

Eight local councils part of the Refugee Welcome Zone centenary club

The Refugee Welcome Zone (RWZ) initiative now boasts more than 100 members with eight councils joining on over the past month. The most recent additions are the Town of Victoria Park in Perth, Adelaide City, Cardinia and Hindmarsh shires in Victoria, Cowra and Kiama in New South Wales and Flinders and Diamantina shires in regional Queensland. Read the latest media release about RWZs at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/140912_RWZ100.pdf. To find out more about the Refugee Welcome Zone initiative, visit: <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/g/rwz.php>

Applications open for John Gibson Refugee Community Leadership Grant

Nominations are open for the 2015 John Gibson Refugee Community Leadership Grant. The grant, named after our former President, supports advocates from refugee backgrounds to take part in high-level international advocacy on refugee issues. One advocate is selected each year to join the Australian NGO team at the annual consultations between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2015. Applications close Thursday 25 September 2014. For more information contact international@refugeecouncil.org.au or call (02) 9211 9333. Further details are available at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/2015_JGibsonGrant.docx

Bright Ideas profiles Students Against Racism's "Living in Between"

The latest profile in our Bright Ideas series looks at Students Against Racism's "Living in Between" presentation. The refugees and migrants involved in Students Against Racism explain to school groups in Tasmania and Victoria the reasons why they left their homelands and the journey that brought them to new lives in Australia. Find out more about Students Against Racism and other Bright Ideas at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/brightideas.php>

Updated statistical snapshot of refugee trends

RCOA has produced an updated version of the statistical snapshot of refugee needs and trends published earlier this year, incorporating the latest statistics from UNHCR and the Department of Immigration. The snapshot can be downloaded from <http://refugeecouncil.org.au/doc/1408-Stats.pdf>

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

National Rights and Responsibilities Consultation

September to December, across Australia

The Human Rights Commissioner is conducting a national consultation about how well we currently protect people's rights and freedoms in Australia. The consultation will focus on what each of us can contribute to achieve better protection of rights and freedoms and to build an understanding of the responsibilities that come with this. Public consultations will be held across Australia between September and December.

Details: for further information about the consultations and to find details of consultations in your area, visit <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/rights-and-responsibilities-2014>.

CEH workshop: Improving cross-cultural communication

Wednesday 17 September, Richmond VIC

Effective communication with refugee and migrant clients is essential for high quality service delivery. This workshop provides strategies and skills to engage with individuals who have low English proficiency. 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>.

STARTTS workshop: Biofeedback in working with trauma survivors

Friday 19 September, Carramar NSW

Biofeedback therapies are non-pharmacologic treatments that use scientific instruments to detect and amplify internal body activities too subtle for normal awareness, making information about one's body available to the conscious mind. They can be a useful adjunct to trauma treatment, are easy to learn and inexpensive. This one-day workshop will provide the theoretical background to Biofeedback and Heart Rate Variability (HRV) and the participants will have the opportunity to use the Biofeedback software.

Details: \$149.00 (students \$99.00); 9:30am-4:30pm; Meeting Room One, Wagga RSL Club, Dobbs Street, Wagga Wagga; for further information and to register, visit <http://www.startts.org.au/training>.

Refugee Camp in my Neighbourhood at Auburn Festival

Saturday 20 September, Lidcombe NSW

The Refugee Camp in my Neighbourhood simulates the journey of people forced to flee their homes due to conflict and persecution. Four tour guides will take visitors through the simulated refugee camp and speak about their own personal experiences as a refugee or asylum seeker.

Details: tours run between 11:15am and 3:00pm; Wyatt Park, Lidcombe (free shuttle bus runs from Lidcombe and Auburn stations).

Walk 2 Wickham to mark International Day of Peace

Sunday 21 September, Darwin NT

This event aims to show solidarity with the thousands of men, women and children held in immigration detention in Australia, Christmas Island, Nauru and Manus Island. Participants will walk in silence from Darwin and Palmerston to the Wickham/Blaydin Point Detention Centres to share messages of hope and hold vigil.

Details: for further information, contact David via davidfntau@gmail.com.

Interfaith prayer service to celebrate International Day of Peace

Sunday 21 September, Parramatta NSW

Hosted by the Community Migrant Resource Centre, Parramatta Mission and the Uniting Church, this service will include representatives from the from Aboriginal, Bahai, Brahmakumaris, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jain, Jewish, Mandaean, Sikh, Sufi and Zoroastrian communities. Prayers for

peace will be offered, there will be time for silent reflection and peace doves will be released after the service.

Details: 2:00pm; Fellowship Hall, Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta; for further information, contact Rev Dr Manas Ghosh on (02) 9891 2277 or Manas.Ghosh@parramattamission.org.au.

Forum: Why it's so hard to talk about peace in Sri Lanka

Monday 22 September, Sydney NSW

This event, featuring visiting scholar at the University of Sydney and PhD candidate at the University of Bristol Gilberto Algar-Faria, aims to open a debate about the rights of Sri Lankan asylum seekers attempting to escape to Australia as part of a wider discussion about spaces for peace and conflict in Sri Lanka today.

Details: 6:00pm-7:30pm; Law School LT 101, Level 1, Sydney Law School Annex, Eastern Avenue, The University of Sydney Camperdown campus; register online at <http://whatson.sydney.edu.au/events/published/sydney-ideas-gilberto-algar-faria>.

Multicultural Youth Reps training

Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 September, Lidcombe NSW

Hosted by the Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN) NSW and the Refugee Youth Interagency Network (RYIN), this training program will bring together young people aged 14-25 from refugee, migrant or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who are keen to learn about advocating for the issues that affect them and other young people around them. Multicultural Youth Reps will be offered chances to take part in a range of activities such as planning and running campaigns, delivering conference workshops and presentations and offering advice to MYAN NSW, RYIN and other youth and multicultural organisations.

Details: Auburn Lidcombe Youth RSL, Church Street, Lidcombe; for further details and to register, email Andrew Cummings of MYAN NSW andrew@myannsw.org.au or Nick Bowen at Metro MRC Nick.Bowen@metromrc.org.au.

Free seminar on consumer rights

Wednesday 24 September, Fairfield NSW

The seminar will provide participants with the opportunity to: consider a wide range of approaches in providing help with consumers/clients on relevant consumer issues that are currently affecting the settlement needs of newly-arrived migrants and emerging communities; and identify practical and effective solutions of these issues through discussions with speakers and case studies from experts in their own fields.

Details: 9:45am for a 10:00am start to 1:00pm; Fairfield RSL Club, 14 Anzac Avenue, Fairfield; to register (essential), contact Simon Sogora at Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre on (02) 9727 0477 or herss@fmr.net, or Neneth Costa from NSW Fair Trading on (02) 9619 8705 or neneth.costa@finance.nsw.gov.au.

VTMH Workshop: An introduction to cultural responsiveness for mental health services

Friday 26 September, Ballarat VIC

Presented by Victorian Transcultural Mental Health (VTMH), this free workshop will introduce mental health professionals, working in both clinical and community managed mental health services, to cultural responsiveness.

Details: 9:30am-4:00pm; venue TBC; for further information and to register, visit <http://www.vtmh.org.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=166230>.

ART4Refugees charity art show

Friday 26 to Sunday 28 September, West Wollongong NSW

This annual charity art show, hosted by SCARF, supports local refugee families in the Illawarra. Opening night will feature Ethiopian and Iraqi finger food by SCARF Catering plus champagne, wine, beer and soft drinks and entertainment, plus the opportunity to be the first to purchase artworks.

Details: opening night 26 September at 7:00pm (tickets \$25.00) then daily 10:00am-4:00pm (admission by gold coin donation); The Illawarra Grammar School, 10-12 Western Avenue, Mangerton; for further information and to buy tickets to opening night, visit <http://www.art4refugees.org.au>.

Symposium: Can we talk? Well, can we?

Tuesday 30 September, Melbourne VIC

This one-day symposium explores what it means to be a multilingual society. It aims to encourage active and ongoing networks and collaborative partnerships and to share methodologies across disciplines in areas of language, culture and asylum seeker and refugee services.

Details: tickets \$100.00 (\$80.00 before 30 July); 9:00am-5:00pm; Immigration Museum, Old Customs House, 400 Flinders Street, Melbourne; for further details and to register, go to <http://museumvictoria.com.au/immigrationmuseum/whatson/symposium-can-we-talk-well-can-we>.

Learning from the Past, Thinking about the Future: Lived Migrant Experiences Then and Now

Tuesday 30 September, Adelaide SA

Sponsored by the Hostel Stories Project, this public discussion forum will focus on past and contemporary history of migrant and refugee experiences in Australia and implications for current-day migration policy with leading researchers in the field. Speakers will include Dr Melanie Baak, UniSA; Dr Jim Hammerton, LaTrobe; Ms Nicole Harb, Flinders; A/Prof James Jupp ANU; Prof Klaus Neumann, Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Flinders; and Dr Francesco Ricatti, USC.

Details: 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start; Napier 102, University of Adelaide North Terrace campus; register online at <http://bit.ly/X4zw2C>.

Towards a Better World: National Conference on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees

Wednesday 1 to Friday 3 October, North Sydney NSW

The Fourth National Conference on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees designed to explore a range of issues affecting refugees and asylum seekers including education, development and regional protection. Keynote speakers include Prof Gillian Triggs, President Australian Human Rights Commission; Rabbi Zalman Kastel, National Director, Together for Humanity Foundation; and Prof Lorraine Elliott, Professor of International Relations ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.

Details: Australian Catholic University MacKillop Campus, North Sydney; for further details and to register, visit http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27&Itemid=37.

The Welcome Group Ball

Friday 3 October, Melbourne VIC

The Welcome Group provides grassroots community support to refugees living in the community. This fundraising event will be hosted by comedian Russell Fletcher and singer and actress Debra Anne Byrne, and will feature performances by Debra and musician Scott Wilson as well as a two-course meal and door prizes.

Details: tickets \$65.00; 7:00pm; Bobby McGee's, 186 Exhibition Street, Melbourne; book tickets online at <http://bit.ly/1tV8bOV>.

Workshop: Supporting refugee background students into tertiary education and keeping them there

Thursday 9 October, Parramatta NSW

This workshop will present the findings and recommendations from a national project focusing on identifying the distinct teaching, learning and cultural needs of students from refugee backgrounds, which may enable and/or constrain their access to tertiary education. It will offer participants an opportunity to actively engage with the data arising from the project, provide feedback and discuss the application of these findings to their institutional contexts.

Details: 9:00am-1:00pm; Building EB, Level G, Room 06, University of Western Sydney Parramatta South Campus, cnr Victoria Road and James Ruse Drive, Parramatta; RSVP by 26 September to Dawn Bolger, d.bolger@uws.edu.au.

STARTTS workshop: Jungle Tracks, a therapeutic storytelling program for children and adolescents

Friday 10 October, Carramar NSW

This one-day workshop is designed to equip participants with appropriate knowledge and skills to run Jungle Tracks within an integrated therapeutic model. Jungle Tracks is a program that includes five short stories that mirror real life struggles related to the lives of children, adolescents and parents with a background of refugee trauma. The stories promote hope and empowerment and assist the reader/listener to process and reconcile their past experiences and ongoing difficulties in transition.

Details: \$199.00 (students \$149.00), including a Jungle Tracks kit worth \$80.00; 9:30am-4:30pm; 152-168 The Horsley Drive, Carramar; for further information and to register, visit <http://www.startts.org.au/training>.

Protest to mark one year of Operation Sovereign Borders

Saturday 11 October, Melbourne VIC

Organised by the Refugee Action Collective, this protest will call for an end to boat turnbacks, offshore processing and onshore detention and for prompt processing of refugee claims in Australia. Speakers will include deputy Greens leader Adam Bandt MP, Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters MP and Iranian refugee Reza Yarahmadi.

Details: 2:00pm; State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne; for further information, visit <http://rac-vic.org/>.

Run 4 Refugees

Sunday 12 October, Melbourne VIC

Take part in the Melbourne Marathon to raise funds for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC). All money raised will be directed towards one of the 23 programs the ASRC delivers to provide asylum seekers with essential services such as food, clothing, legal advice, counselling, health services and employment opportunities.

Details: for further information and to register, visit <http://run4refugees14.gofundraise.com.au>.

Inaugural food security conference

Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 October, Casula NSW

Over a million Australians regularly can't put adequate food on the table to feed their families. The numbers are even higher in some areas and amongst particular populations. Food insecurity can have serious short- and long-term effects on health, education, employment and productivity. This two-day conference will bring together policy makers, academics, community development workers and health promoters to explore solutions to food insecurity at a range of levels. The conference will include a focus on people from refugee backgrounds.

Details: Casula Powerhouse, 1 Powerhouse Road, Casula; for further information and to register, visit <http://righttofood.org.au>.

NEW RESEARCH, STATEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Inside the Manus Island MOU

An ANU study investigates the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in September 2013 by Australia and Papua New Guinea to transfer asylum seekers to Manus Island. The study looks at Papua New Guinea's track record in refugee policy and its obligations under the MOU. Access the report at <http://goo.gl/Lxwa36>

2011 Census data in new report

"The People of Australia: Statistics from the 2011 Census (national)" report provides detailed information on the diversity and characteristics of the Australian population. The report provides useful information to help service providers and others to respond to the challenges of providing services in a diverse cultural environment. For example, it can help identify which groups are most in need of English language services, show the extent of ageing among established migrant groups, and indicate emerging birthplaces and languages across Australia. The national report is complemented by eight equivalent reports, one for each state and territory. The national report is available at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/index.htm>

City of Greater Dandenong shows support for refugees and asylum seekers

Refugee Welcome Zone, the City of Greater Dandenong Council, has published information to demonstrate its commitment to new arrivals. The site explains Council's approach to supporting refugees and asylum seekers and provides links to local support services and information. The site also includes a "Welcome Video". For more information, visit <http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/25321/refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

20 articles discuss 6.45 million displaced people in Syria

Forced Migration Review's "The Syria crisis, displacement and protection", the world's largest IDP crisis in the world with 6.45 million trapped in the country. The authors of the 20 articles in this edition offer observations that could be of value in increasing the level of protection for the displaced and in shaping assistance to both the displaced and the countries and communities that are hosting them. The edition is now online at www.fmreview.org/syria

Database: Good practices for urban refugees

Professionals working with urban refugees can access a database that details good practices around the world. Access the database at <http://urbangoodpractices.org/>

"Two Years With No Moon": Immigration detention of children in Thailand

Human Rights Watch's report details how Thailand's use of immigration detention violates children's rights and risks their health, well-being and development. Access the report at <http://goo.gl/UKcMZS>

Youth census identified key issues facing CALD communities

For the first time in Australia, "The CALD Youth Census Report 2014" uses the latest Australian Census data to identify key issues for the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) youth population in Australia and where those issues are most likely to be felt. The Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network commissioned Professor Graeme Hugo to prepare the report, which focuses on the education, employment and living arrangements of young people. Access the report at <http://cmy.net.au/publications/cald-youth-census-report-2014>

Asylum seekers: tales of survival

Former asylum seekers and refugees living in Australia have come together to learn how to shoot, edit and produce a short documentary film about their experiences. Access the documentary at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_YdHEXqCY8&feature=youtu.be

Culturally-sensitive practice in out-of-home care: a good practice guide

A new resource has been developed as a practice guide for people working with children and young people from CALD backgrounds. The guide is targeted at people engaged in the child and family welfare sector, child protection system, out-of-home care, foster and kinship carer agencies, residential youth workers, policy and program workers. The guide can be purchased for \$10 from Gary Roberts at PeakCare Queensland via 07 3368 1050 or groberts@peakcare.org.au

ATO guide to help understand tax and superannuation

Diversity in focus is designed to provide updates to people who provide support and services to people from a non-English speaking background. Find out more at <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Other-languages/In-detail/Information-in-other-languages/Diversity-in-focus/>

OPPORTUNITIES

Presenters of refugee background sought for Face to Face program in Victoria

RCOA is seeking expressions of interest from members of refugee communities in Victoria to participate in the project "Face to Face: Learning about Refugees and their Contribution to Australia". This project will build on a highly successful pilot program held in Melbourne in 2013-14. Information on how to apply is available at http://refugeecouncil.org.au/n/mr/EOI_vic.docx

"Banana Boy" to focus on the humanity of young refugees

Emerging film-makers Steven Woodburn and Sam Smith are raising funds to make "Banana Boy" – a 15-minute short film based on the story of a six-year-old Afghan refugee struggling with the death of his mother and the challenges of a new life in Australia. The project has been developed in consultation with Mahboba's Promise with 10 per cent of the funds raised donated to help the organisation's work in supporting refugees. Find out more at <http://www.pozible.com/project/184578> and www.bananaboy-shortfilm.com

Job Readiness training through Sydney's Community Migrant Resource Centre

Sydney's Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC) Social Enterprise is offering free Job Readiness training over three months from October to help new arrivals find work as a paid property maintenance worker, lawn mowing worker or general labourer. An information session will be held on Monday, 22

September between 11.30am and 12.30pm at the CMRC, Level 4, 1 Horwood Place, Parramatta. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Liz on 02 9687 9901 for further details.

Nominations open for New Australian of the Year

The New Australian of the Year was introduced by the Australia Day Council last year to recognise the contributions of migrants and refugees in Australia. The inaugural New Australian of the Year awardee was Parsuram Sharma-Luitai, refugee from Bhutan currently employed by Victoria Police as a community liaison officer. A “New Australian” is defined as anyone who has been in Australia for 18 years or less, recognising that it takes around seven to eight years to fully settle in Australia, and another 10 years to engage and contribute meaningfully. The award is open any new Australian who excels in any field – academia, business, sports, community, and other. Candidates must be aged 18 years or older, be an Australian citizen at the time of nomination, have lived in Australia for 18 years or less and have made a significant contribution to the Australian community. Nominations can be sent to: Australia Day Council, New Australian of the Year subcommittee chairperson Wesa Chau, PO Box 4367, Melbourne University, VIC, 3052. Enquiries can be directed to 0408 238 208 and adc.newaustralian@gmail.com

Young people encouraged to apply for FUSE summit

Applications are now open to young people from multicultural backgrounds from around Australia aged between 18 and 25 years, to attend the three-day FUSE summit to be held at Sydney on October 22 to 24. FUSE, hosted by the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia, brings together the brightest young multicultural leaders from across Australia to build a national network of change makers. Applications can be submitted online or by email via <http://www.myan.org.au/fuse/>

Boundless Plains Project seeks refugee input

People of refugee background have the opportunity to be part of the Boundless Plains Project. The project offers a creative space for refugees to contribute and explore Australian media through photo story, with the aim of shifting negative perceptions of refugees to positive ones within Australia. To register your interest, contact boundlessplainsproject@hotmail.com. Find out more at <http://www.boundlessplainsproject.com/>

Challenges to sovereignty: the impact of migration law and policy

Registrations are being accepted for an Australian National University (ANU) conference to be held in Canberra on 7 to 8 November which is aimed at people interested in the ramifications of migration law and policy. Keynote speakers include Professor Satvinder Juss from Kings College, London and Professor Zlatko Skrbis from Monash University. To register visit <https://law.anu.edu.au/conferences/challenges-registration-accommodation>

Mental health information for refugee youth

The Centre for Multicultural Youth has produced a basic information sheet on mental health for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. The sheet can be downloaded at <http://cmj.net.au/publications/young-people-and-mental-health-0>

Sydney's Community Migrant Resource Centre offers driver training

Community Migrant Resource Centre in Sydney is offering a “Fair Go Driving” project to assist young people and women to obtain their provisional driving licence at reduced cost. Driving lessons are provided seven days a week by experienced, licensed instructors. For more details visit [http://www.cmrc.com.au/cmrc-fair-go-driving-lessons-at-affordable-price-\\$35.00-per-hour.html](http://www.cmrc.com.au/cmrc-fair-go-driving-lessons-at-affordable-price-$35.00-per-hour.html)

Symposium on oral health in refugees and asylum seekers

Oral Health CRC is holding a symposium on oral health and asylum seekers at the University of Melbourne on 21 November. The event is aimed at oral health and public health professionals, doctors, hospital and clinical directors, educators, policy-makers and students. For more information and registration details visit <http://www.oralhealthcrc.org.au/content/symposium-oral-health-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

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>.

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)

Refugee Council: staff in cover-up of asylum seekers' mental health must be sacked

The Refugee Council is demanding Immigration Department staff be sacked if they were involved in a cover-up about the scale of mental health issues among child asylum seekers in detention. (ABC News, 1 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-01/call-to-sack-immigration-staff-over-mental-health-cover-up-claim/5640108>

Doctors call for independent medical body to audit offshore detention centres

Three peak Australian medical bodies have renewed calls for the establishment of an independent medical advisory body to audit the treatment of asylum seekers in detention, following shocking evidence at the national inquiry into children in immigration detention on Thursday. (The Guardian, 1 August) <http://goo.gl/QblULO>

Settled Nauru refugees break their silence

Refugees who have been resettled on Nauru have spoken for the first time of their relief to get out of detention on the tiny Pacific Island. (The Australian, 1 August) <http://goo.gl/z3FJ54>

Tamil asylum seekers moved to Nauru

A group of 157 Tamil asylum seekers – at least 50 of whom are children – have been transferred to Nauru from the remote Curtin detention centre in Western Australia. (The Guardian, 2 August)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/02/tamil-asylum-seekers-moved-to-nauru>

Lawyer George Newhouse in dark over asylum seeker move

The lawyer representing 157 Tamil asylum seekers moved overnight on Friday to Nauru says a High Court case challenging the Australian government's actions in detaining them on the high seas would continue. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 2 August) <http://goo.gl/32gdcO>

Only half of all requests and complaints by Nauru asylum seekers resolved

Only half of all complaints and requests made by asylum seekers on Nauru – some as basic as requests for clean clothing and sanitation products – were resolved by detention centre staff, a leaked database obtained by Guardian Australia has revealed. (The Guardian, 2 August)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/02/requests-and-complaints-by-nauru-asylum-seekers-ignored>

Human trafficking: Australian High Commissioner sends firm message

The Australian High Commissioner to India Patrick Suckling on Friday sought to send out a firm message to discourage human trafficking attempts from the regional coastlines, by unequivocally stating that “we will never allow people who come here illegally by boat to settle in Australia.” (Hindu Times, 2 August) <http://goo.gl/yileyO>

Government says 157 Tamils could have been security threat if told of destination

The Federal Government says the 157 asylum seekers at the centre of a High Court fight could have posed a security threat if they were told where they were going. (ABC News, 2 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-01/tamil-asylum-seekers-could-have-been-security-threat-gov/5641382>

Peak health bodies 'alarmed' by claims doctors forced to compromise standards

Australia's peak medical bodies are alarmed by evidence that doctors are being forced to compromise clinical and ethical standards and put their patients' health at risk as they struggle to deliver basic care to traumatised children. (Radio National, 2 August) <http://goo.gl/25gHYm>

Immigration secretary denies departmental cover-up of asylum health stats

Immigration department secretary Martin Bowles has said his department was seeking advice about new data on the mental health problems of children in detention, not trying to cover it up. (The Conversation, 2 August)

<http://theconversation.com/immigration-secretary-denies-departmental-cover-up-of-asylum-health-stats-30062>

Tamils secretly flown to Nauru had only recently arrived in India: lawyers

Tamil asylum seekers sent to Nauru by the Australian government had only recently arrived in India and had no work, schooling or residency rights there. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 3 August) <http://goo.gl/kJkyUf>

AIDS conference delegates seek asylum in Australia

At least 25 delegates who attended Melbourne's high-profile AIDS conference intend to seek asylum in Australia after failing to board their flights home last week. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 August) <http://goo.gl/OONJOO>

Tamil asylum seekers taught how to navigate lifeboats

Tamil asylum seekers claim that Australian Customs officers trained them in how to skipper an orange lifeboat back to India. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 August) <http://goo.gl/37YhED>

Scott Morrison questions claim of asylum seeker mental health 'cover-up'

Scott Morrison has questioned a psychiatrist's claim that the Immigration Department tried to cover up figures showing the extent of mental health concerns among child detainees at Christmas Island. (Radio National, 4 August) <http://goo.gl/J7XDfo>

High Court bid to move asylum goalposts

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison is seeking a High Court ruling that could reshape Australia's interpretation of the Refugee Convention by demanding that asylum-seekers change their behaviour, and even their jobs, to avoid persecution. (The Australian, 4 August) <http://goo.gl/FajHtG>

Refugee Convention 'used as tool for death voyages': Morrison

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has criticised the courts for adding "layer upon layer" of new obligations to the Refugee Convention, saying the treaty is now being abused by people smugglers to "run death voyages". (The Australian, 4 August) <http://goo.gl/pCrqov>

Australia's detention regime sets out to make asylum seekers suffer

The chief psychiatrist responsible for the care of asylum seekers in detention for the past three years has accused the immigration department of deliberately inflicting harm on vulnerable people, harm that cannot be remedied by medical care. (The Guardian, 5 August) <http://goo.gl/NKs6tD>

Non-English speaking youths overlooked for Australian jobs despite training: report

Youths from non-English speaking countries are being overlooked in their search for work despite their high participation rates in training, according to a national report released today. (ABC News, 5 August) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-05/non-english-speaking-youths-overlooked-for-australian-jobs/5649896>

Peter Young praised for revealing detention's toll on asylum seekers

Peak medical bodies, pre-eminent mental health experts and international human rights groups have spoken out in support of the former chief psychiatrist responsible for the care of asylum seekers detained by Australia for saying conditions in the immigration detention regime inflict deliberate harm. (The Guardian, 5 August) <http://goo.gl/qSblrX>

Nauru staff suspended for watching peaceful asylum seeker protests

Five Save the Children employees working in the detention centre for families on Nauru were suspended during a crackdown on employees seen to be encouraging or engaging asylum seekers who protest peacefully. (The Guardian, 6 August) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/06/nauru-staff-suspended-for-watching-peaceful-asylum-seeker-protests>

Sending asylum seekers back home has cost taxpayers \$3 million

The Abbott government has spent more than \$3 million to send asylum seekers back to the country they fled from since coming to power. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 August) <http://goo.gl/I6ULHg>

Asylum-seeker burnt hand 'while lighting fire'

An asylum-seeker who suffered burns to his hand while detained by Australian authorities was trying to light a fire in the ship's engine room, according to Department of Defence documents. (The Australian, 7 August) <http://goo.gl/L14XnM>

Australia's 'cruel' asylum regime must end, say 190 experts

Leading psychiatrists, bioethicists, human rights lawyers, novelists, priests and refugee advocates have published a collective document accusing the Australian government of inhumane treatment of asylum seekers and demanding an end to mandatory detention and offshore processing. (The Guardian, 8 August) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/08/australias-cruel-asylum-regime-must-end-say-190-experts>

Anglican church joins alliance to improve treatment of asylum seekers

Perth's Anglican Archbishop has said Australia must improve its treatment of asylum seekers if it wants to continue to be seen as a humane nation. (ABC News, 9 August) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-09/anglican-archbishop-joins-church-coalition-to-improve-treatment/5660214>

Sick asylum seekers treated via video conferencing

Sick asylum seekers on Christmas Island are being offered videoconference appointments with specialists on the Australian mainland after damning evidence showed the deplorable state of medical services in immigration detention. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 11 August) <http://goo.gl/t5QCij>

Serco staffer stood down over sexual harassment complaint by asylum seeker

A male Serco employee at Perth's Immigration Detention Centre has been stood down over allegations he sexually harassed a male detainee. (ABC News, 11 August) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-11/serco-staffer-stood-down-over-sexual-harassment-allegations/5663616>

Cambodia asylum deal to go ahead despite intense opposition

Australia's secret refugee deal with Cambodia is about to be signed, amid growing opposition to the transfer agreement. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 12 August) <http://goo.gl/2fBcUJ>

Nun arrested at Hockey's Sydney office

A nun is among praying protesters who have been arrested at federal Treasurer Joe Hockey's electorate office in Sydney. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 12 August) <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/nun-arrested-at-hockeys-sydney-office-20140812-103ecv.html>

Anglican leaders call on Australian Government to give asylum to Iraqi Christians

Leaders of the Anglican church have condemned the deteriorating situation in northern Iraq, and called on the Abbott Government to provide asylum for Christians under attack in the country. (ABC News, 13 August) <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-13/church-leader-calls-on-government-to-give-iraqis-asylum/5668868>

Boy, 16, slashes arms to avoid being sent to Nauru

A 16-year-old Pakistani asylum seeker has slashed his arms at a Brisbane immigration centre in a bid to prevent his return to Nauru, according to a witness. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 13 August) <http://www.smh.com.au/national/boy-16-slashes-arms-to-avoid-being-sent-to-nauru-20140813-103s4b.html>

'Quick resolution needed' over detention of asylum seekers at sea

A High Court judge has called for quick resolution of whether the government can legally detain asylum seekers on the high seas before taking them to another country. (The Australian, 13 August) <http://goo.gl/vVjRgd>

Child asylum seekers' rights on Nauru 'systematically violated', inquiry told

Forensic evidence of the "systematic violation" of child asylum seekers' human rights on Nauru has emerged in a compelling 53-page document written by a group of anonymous Save the Children workers on Nauru and submitted to the national inquiry into children in immigration detention. (The Guardian, 14 August) <http://goo.gl/XwjNE4>

Asylum seeker flown to Brisbane after suicide attempt on Manus Island

An Iranian asylum seeker has been flown to a Brisbane hospital for treatment after attempting suicide at the Manus Island detention centre, a refugee advocate says. (ABC News, 14 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-14/asylum-seeker-medivac-manus-island/5670364>

Australia facing asylum seeker royal commission, Janet Holmes a Court says

Australia's poor treatment of asylum seekers would likely result in a royal commission and compensation claims from military personnel forced to participate in border protection operations, influential Australian businesswoman Janet Holmes a Court says. (ABC News, 16 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-16/asylum-seeker-royal-commission-needed-janet-holmes-a-court-says/5675426>

Perth asylum seeker says he'll be moved to Christmas Island after making complaint

An Iranian asylum seeker at the Perth immigration detention centre says he is being transferred to Christmas Island to cover up an allegation of sexual harassment he made against a Serco employee last week. (ABC News, 16 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-15/asylum-seeker-says-he-is-being-transferred-to-christmas-island/5673684>

Australia reserves 2,200 places for Syrian refugees

Australia will reserve more than 2,000 places in its refugee program for Syrians, at the same time as it tries to return Syrians held in offshore detention to the country the immigration minister describes as "in the midst of a terrible conflict". (The Guardian, 17 August)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/17/australia-reserves-2200-places-for-syrian-refugees>

Manus guards charged over death of Iranian asylum seeker Reza Berati

Two former G4S guards have reportedly been arrested and charged with the murder of 23-year-old Reza Berati, an Iranian asylum seeker beaten to death during unrest inside the immigration detention centre on Manus Island. (The Guardian, 19 August)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/19/manus-unrest-two-guards-charged-murder-reza-barati>

Sayed Abdellatif's children appeal to PM to end father's detention separation

The children of an Egyptian asylum seeker labelled a "convicted jihadist terrorist" by Tony Abbott have issued a direct plea to the prime minister to be reunited with their father who is being kept in a separate part of the same detention centre. (The Guardian, 19 August)

<http://goo.gl/F7jaUG>

Australia going to 'unthinkable' lengths to return Syria detainees, emails show

The lengths to which the Australian immigration department has gone to facilitate the repatriation of traumatised Syrian asylum seekers detained in offshore detention centres has been extensively revealed in departmental emails obtained under freedom of information. (The Guardian, 19 August)

<http://goo.gl/OouWob>

Children freed as Morrison plans to push for TPVs

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison is trying again to restore temporary protection visas after announcing 150 children would be removed from immigration detention centres and placed on bridging visas in the community. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 August)

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/children-freed-as-morrison-plans-to-push-for-tpvs-20140819-3dyr1.html>

Scott Morrison's Syrian returns 'partner' distances itself from repatriation efforts

The International Organisation for Migration has said it is not assisting in the return of asylum seekers to Syria, after the immigration minister, Scott Morrison, claimed it as a partner in Australian repatriation efforts. (The Guardian, 20 August) <http://goo.gl/qzeOz6>

Asylum staff hit by mental health crisis

The mental health crisis inside the detention centre on Christmas Island is now taking its toll on those who guard the asylum seekers, with one female employee attempting to take her life and a male considered at serious risk of self-harm. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 21 August)

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/asylum-staff-hit-by-mental-health-crisis-20140820-3e10e.html>

Salvation Army suspect in Manus riot murder tried to fake own death

Police in Papua New Guinea say a former Salvation Army worker arrested over the murder of asylum seeker Reza Berati on Manus Island tried to evade capture by faking his own death. (ABC News, 22 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-21/reza-barati-murder-suspect-tried-to-fake-own-death/5687550>

Tamil asylum-seeker court case may see UN intervene

The United Nations may become involved in the case of the Tamil asylum seekers who were detained on an Australian customs boat, with a court hearing to take place in Canberra on October. (The Guardian, 22 August)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/21/tamil-asylum-seeker-court-case-may-see-un-intervene>

Morrison clashes with Human Rights Commission head

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has delivered a steadfast defence of his border protection policies, including child detention, during a human rights inquiry in Canberra. (ABC News, 22 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-22/moral-burden-will-not-impede-border-policies-morrison/5687820>

Australia wants to resettle refugees on remote island, Cambodian opposition says

Australia has considered sending up to 1000 refugees to live on a remote island off the coast of impoverished Cambodia under a controversial resettlement agreement, according to an opposition leader in Phnom Penh. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 23 August) <http://goo.gl/P6uesh>

Resettled refugees desperate and living 'like animals in the jungle' on Nauru

More than 50 refugees resettled by Australia on Nauru say they have been "abandoned to live like animals in the jungle". (The Sydney Morning Herald, 25 August) <http://goo.gl/md9r2t>

Refugees' mental anguish in Australia's 'Guantanamo'

At least one in four refugees locked in indefinite detention on the basis of secret ASIO findings has attempted or threatened suicide, a new analysis has revealed. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 25 August)

<http://goo.gl/osZAJB>

Asylum seekers sue Scott Morrison over medical care on Christmas Island

Sick and injured asylum seekers held in detention on Christmas Island are suing the federal government and its immigration minister, Scott Morrison, who they say failed to provide the medical care they were entitled to. (The Guardian, 26 August)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/26/asylum-seekers-sue-scott-morrison-medical-care-christmas-island>

Federal backbencher Andrew Broad supports work rights for asylum seekers

Federal Government backbencher Andrew Broad has spoken out against the Coalition policy to deny most asylum seekers who are on bridging visas the right to work. (ABC News, 26 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-26/federal-backbencher-supports-work-rights-for-asylum-seekers/5696940>

Pop-up 'refugee embassy' appears outside Immigration Department in Canberra

A pop-up "refugee embassy" appeared outside a Department of Immigration office building Canberra on Tuesday amid a protest over the Australian Government's treatment of asylum seekers. (ABC News, 26 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-26/pop-up-refugee-embassy-debuts-outside-immigration-department/5698294>

Commonwealth Ombudsman investigating claims of substandard conditions at Nauru

The Commonwealth Ombudsman is investigating concerns about sub-standard conditions and treatment at Australia's immigration detention centre on Nauru. (ABC News, 27 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-27/commonwealth-ombudsman-investigating-conditions-on-nauru/5699926>

Female asylum seeker, 17, broke pelvis in self-harm incident at Darwin, advocates say

A 17-year-old asylum seeker has broken her pelvis after throwing herself from the second storey of Darwin's immigration detention centre, refugee advocates say. (ABC News, 27 August)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-27/asylum-seeker-self-harm-incident-darwin-refugee-advocates-say/5701064>

Manus Island asylum seeker alleges New Zealand guard used brutal force

Sustained and brutal force was used by a New Zealand security guard during violence in the Manus Island detention centre that killed one asylum seeker, a witness has alleged. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 27 August) <http://goo.gl/OgLBrD>

Afghan asylum-seeker loses legal battle against deportation

The first asylum-seeker to be forcibly removed from Australia to Afghanistan was set to board a plane to Kabul last night after a court late yesterday gave the green light for his deportation. (The Australian, 27 August) <http://goo.gl/BqCAM3>

Labor to defence of 'combative' Triggs

Labor has leapt to the defence of Australian Human Rights Commission president Gillian Triggs after her conduct during the children in immigration detention hearing was openly criticised by Coalition MPs. (The Australian, 27 August) <http://goo.gl/JHkqKd>

Manus Island asylum seeker in critical condition

An Iranian asylum seeker held on Manus Island is in a life threatening condition and has been flown to the Australian mainland for urgent medical care. (The Guardian, 28 August) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/28/manus-island-asylum-seeker-in-critical-condition>

Asylum seekers fill jobs Australians refuse to do

Tamil asylum seekers have filled jobs in regional south-east Queensland that locals refuse to do, cleaning up garbage dumps and rubbish from roadsides. (SBS News, 28 August) <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2014/08/28/asylum-seekers-fill-jobs-australians-refuse-do>

Number of Syrian refugees passes 3 million, almost half the population

Three million Syrian refugees will have registered in neighbouring countries as of Friday, but many remain trapped by the advance of Islamist militants or are having difficulty in reaching open border crossings, the United Nations said. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 30 August) <http://goo.gl/q81nnt>

\$12 million: The high cost of not stopping the boat

The Abbott government's failed attempt to return 157 asylum seekers to India cost taxpayers more than \$12 million, as passengers were kept captive on the high seas for nearly a month before being brought to the Australian mainland. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 30 August) <http://goo.gl/of3HDj>

Ex-defence chief warns of refugee crimes

A former head of defence says the Abbott government is doing its utmost to strip hope from asylum seekers, and has urged Australians to educate themselves on what he calls the government's breach of human rights standards. (The West Australian, 4 September) <https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/24900178/ex-defence-chief-warns-of-refugee-crimes/>