



Featured Articles	Page
SCOA State Consultations	2
Settlement Services International & Legal Aid Partnership Gives Access to Legal Services for Migrants	6
April National Settlement Policy Network	6
Migration & Settlement Awards 2013	7
Townsville Living in Harmony Event	8
Geelong's Diversitat Honoured at Inaugural Australian Migration & Settlement Awards	9
Promoting of CALD Women's Participation on Boards and in Decision-making Positions Project	10
MECA – Multicultural Film Festival	11
Inaugural Community Sector Awards Winners Announced	12
ACOSS Australian Community Sector Survey – Deadline Extended	12
Minister Brendan O'Connor Visits the MRC in Northern Tasmania	13
Defining Charity	13
Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Grant Rounds is Now Open	14
SCOA Member Mapping Project	14
Settlement Grants Program Funding Announced	15
Walk Together 2013	15
A Place to Call Home – Cultural Diversity Building Local Regional Communities	16
Building Respectful Relationship – How Parents Can Help	17
New SBS Radio Schedule	18
SBS Digital Radio Distribution Program	18
Levelling the Playing Field – Building Equality and Inclusion with Sport	19
Harmony Day Stories on Smart Phone App	19
2013 People of Australia Ambassadors Congratulated	20
Sports Without Borders Conference 2013	20
National Forum on Children & Young People from Refugee Backgrounds	20
A Success Story from MRC Southern Tasmania	21
Guide to Employment for Migrants Launch	22
SCOA contact details	23
Regular Sections	Page
Letter from SCOA Chair – Cedric Manen	1
Letter from SCOA EO – Sky de Jersey	2
News from DIAC	3-6

Message from SCOA Chair- Cedric Manen



There have been a number of events in which SCOA has participated recently. SCOA congratulates all nominees and winners of the inaugural Migration and Settlement Awards hosted by the Migration Council of Australia. The gala event in Canberra on 18th March showcased the excellent contribution the settlement sector makes in communities across Australia. SCOA was particularly pleased to see the strong bi-partisan support from political leaders at the event.

Whilst in Canberra, SCOA participated in meetings with Minister Lundy and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary Teresa Gambaro, part of a series of meetings SCOA is holding with politicians to discuss settlement issues and support the work of the settlement sector.

On March 19 SCOA held a CEO Breakfast meeting in Canberra which gave us an opportunity to discuss a range of ideas and issues related to the federal election. Thanks to those who participated and we look forward to taking your recommendations forward.

In the last month there have been a number of state consultations. SCOA values your commitment to ongoing dialogue in support of sector issues. There are further consultations scheduled for the rest of the country in May, so look out for your invitation. It was great to have connected with a number of key agencies. The commitment and dedication to supporting clients through their settlement journeys is commendable.

I am also pleased to announce I have just been appointed to the SBS Community Advisory Committee. Congratulations also to Gail Ker and Cath Scarth. I am sure between the three of us we will ensure that sector issues receive appropriate attention through the media. In another article in the newsletter SCOA is pleased to have partnered with SBS in its roll over to digital broadcasting that will see approximately 175 digital radios distributed to communities.

SCOA was pleased to see the announcement of the Settlement Grants Program funding for 2013-15 on 11 April. Early notification of SGP funding is something SCOA has been advocating for with Government. SCOA has completed a brief analysis of SGP funding.

I look forward to engaging with members and agencies in our May consultations in QLD, NT, and Tasmania.



Message from SCOA Executive Officer- Sky de Jersey



It has been a pleasure to attend events and find opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate the settlement sector recently. A highlight for me in the last months has been coming to see members and the sector at state consultations and site visits. It has been great to see first hand the work of the settlement sector, and its impact on communities. This was strengthened as I watched the video footage of nominees at the Migration and Settlement Awards dinner. My

table mates teased me for tearing up as I listened to some of the stories, but it is hard not to be moved by the stories of caring, courage and connection unfolding in Australian communities.

SCOA has continued its focus on employment, with consultations, a presentation by me at the ACOSS Conference in March on employment issues as they relate to migrants and refugees and participation in a DEEWR consultation on employment services. Employment remains a key issue for the sector as is evident in our consultations.

SCOA is furthering its work in supporting successful settlement at a local level through a joint project proposal with the Australian Local Government Association. The joint proposal highlights the desires of both the settlement sector and the local government sector to work more closely together, build stronger relationships, and profile positive examples of the best practices in local council projects supporting settlement and social cohesion in our communities.

I hope the year thus far hasn't been too busy!

Thanks,
Sky de Jersey

SCOA State Consultations

We are currently conducting national consultations with our members across Australia as part of SCOA's ongoing strategy to ensure effective consultation and engagement with settlement service providers across the country. These consultations are an opportunity for us to meet our members face-to-face and for members and key sector players to explore emerging settlement issues, trends and best practices.

Consultations have been held in ACT, South Australia, Victoria and West Australia.

Upcoming consultations include NSW in late April, Queensland and Tasmania in May and NT teleconference.

During Victoria and Western Australia state visits SCOA met with representatives from state multicultural departments.

The feedback that we receive from these consultations is valuable and will assist us in better representing you!

For more information or if you wish to attend the upcoming consultations please contact the MSO at mso@scoa.org.au.



News from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

A stakeholder engagement strategy and communication plan for informing and consulting with a diverse range of stakeholders for Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) focussed programs is now progressing well. It covers Community Detention and Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS) and Community Assistance Support (CAS) for IMAs living on Bridging Visa Es (BVEs).

A short presentation is now available to inform NGOs (community, welfare, ethnic groups etc) of the department's arrangements for supporting IMAs in community programs. In use since late March 2013, its use is improving community awareness of the different programs and what support to which clients may be referred. This tool has been designed for use by the relevant departmental officers, namely the CLO network and to support messaging by contracted service providers to their networks and this has been well received.

In developing the strategy and plan, DIAC Community Programs & Children Division has taken advice from the Minister's Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention (MCASD) and convened a Stakeholder Engagement Working Group (SEWG) comprising "stakeholder leaders" and representatives of key stakeholder groups (i.e. MCASD, Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA), key contracted service providers, and key DIAC IMA community program staff).

Don't be sorry campaign

The department is implementing an information campaign with a 'Don't be sorry' theme to support the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers report recommendations.

The campaign aims to inform diaspora communities in Australia of migration policy changes, so they can help their family and friends choose the right way to migrate to Australia instead of risking their lives on dangerous boat journeys. Information is available in six different languages to help the communities learn about the policy changes.

As part of the campaign activities, the department attended Nowruz festivals in Melbourne and Sydney to celebrate the New Year, with a stall to provide information and fact sheets on the migration policy changes. The stall included a photo booth so visitors could take home a photo keep-sake that featured the campaign web address. Free popcorn was available as well as international phone cards so that visitors can tell their family and friends overseas about the recent changes to Australia's migration policy.

The festivals were a great success in promoting the campaign, receiving approximately 5500 visitors.

For further material including translated information about the campaign or policy changes visit:

www.australia.gov.au/dontbesorry

RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME



News from DIAC continued....

Regional Settlement

A key objective for the Government is the well-managed entry and settlement of humanitarian entrants into Australia. While the majority of Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) Clients continue to settle in Australia's State and Territory capital cities, regional settlement is increasing. The Department intends to further increase the number of Clients referred to regional locations. At present regional settlement is about 15-20 per cent of the humanitarian program.

A regional settlement focus arose from the 2003 Report of the Review of Settlement Services for Migrants and Humanitarian Entrants. The review recognised that many unlinked humanitarian entrants from rural backgrounds and/ or those whose skills were suited to employment opportunities in regional areas would benefit from regional settlement. Regional settlement can provide Clients with good settlement prospects in a welcoming and supportive environment which benefits both Clients and the receiving communities. In addition, Australian governments at all levels recognise the need to promote sustainable economic and political growth in regional Australia.

What is regional?

Under HSS, all capital cities are considered to be metropolitan areas while non-capital cities are considered to be regional areas even though this may include large regional cities.

New profiles

The Department has compiled a series of Regional Community Profiles drawing on information provided by HSS Service Providers. The profiles will be a valuable source of information for those HSS clients who will be settled in HSS regional locations, and for clients making the decision about where to settle. They contain information on key issues such as accommodation, housing, education, health services and employment opportunities. Shortly, the profiles will be available on the Department's website and sent to a range of settlement providers.

The table to the left lists centres that are HSS regional locations where the Department has planned settlement, including for cohorts where individual clients do not have any links in Australia. The department has identified six key regional locations (marked in pink) for the referral of unlinked Woman at Risk Clients. A pilot has also commenced in Hobart.

Regional settlement for Woman at Risk clients

Australia's Humanitarian Program has helped to settle more than 12,000 vulnerable women and their children through the Woman at Risk (Subclass 204) visa category since it was established in 1989. This visa category is designed to assist women who are subject to persecution or are registered as being of concern to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and:

- are living outside their home country, and
- do not have the protection of a male relative, and are in danger of victimization, harassment or serious abuse because of their gender.

The program provides a pathway for resettlement and opportunities for women and their children to rebuild their lives free from the constant threat of danger and violence. Australia's approach is to allocate 12% of the annual refugee intake to this small but important cohort of vulnerable refugees as an appropriate humanitarian response to their resettlement needs.

Regional referral location
Cairns
Townsville
Toowoomba
Gold Coast/Logan
Coffs Harbour
Newcastle
Wollongong
Wagga Wagga
Albury
Shepparton
Geelong
Launceston
Hobart

**News from DIAC continued....**

The aim of a referral policy specific to Woman at Risk visa holders is to strengthen the settlement outcomes in this cohort.

A key part of the Department's referral approach has been the identification of specific regional settlement locations for the settlement of unlinked Woman at Risk visa holders. There are currently six sites nationally, where HSS Service Providers have developed services for this small but important cohort. Having specified sites assists HSS Service Providers and other relevant community services to develop tailored services that focus on the individual needs of women and children settling without the support of a male adult family member. Tailoring of HSS is particularly important to ensure flexible service delivery and successful settlement outcomes to vulnerable women.

Evaluation plan

Design of an evaluation plan is underway. The intention is to develop a deeper understanding of how selected regional sites assist these women and their families during the early settlement phase.

ImmiCards

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has introduced a replacement for the paper Visa Evidence Card (VEC), otherwise known as a PLO56 document, which is currently issued to humanitarian visa holders or eligible bridging visa holders.

The PLO56 will be replaced with two secure plastic cards, not unlike an Australian driver's license, depending on the client's visa status. These cards will help clients establish a social footprint in Australia.

Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMA) granted a subclass 050 Bridging Visa E (BVE) will be issued a pink Evidence of Immigration Status (EIS) card when they leave detention. Class XA (subclass 866) protection visa holders can apply online for a green Permanent Resident Evidence card. Both cards have a unique identifier that can be entered into the department's Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) system to check current visa status, work rights and other visa conditions.

The ImmiCards contain enhanced security features that align with the whole-of-government National Identity Security Strategy and will provide the highest level of identity protection.

For more information on the ImmiCard you can visit the department's website at:

www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian/immicards or email <mailto:immicards@immi.gov.au>.

Settlement Reporting Facility - Training

In the last newsletter we let you know about some updates implemented for the Department's Settlement Reporting Facility (SRF). Our updates included a New Help Page that consolidated all the Help Documentation for the SRF, and we are currently working on refreshing the 'Watch someone create a Settlement Report' video.

In the interests of assisting users to get the best out of the SRF, we are interested to hear if you may be interested in receiving more in-depth training in using the SRF and what form that training might take? We will use this information to formulate our Help and Training strategy over the coming year.

Please send an email to settle.data-admin@immi.gov.au if you are interested.

Settlement Services International and Legal Aid Partnership gives access to legal services for migrants

Settlement Services International (SSI) and Legal Aid NSW have partnered to connect CALD communities with accessible legal services.

Civil and family lawyers from Legal Aid NSW will provide legal advice services to clients on site at Migrant Resource Centres.

The partnership was launched on March 5 in Parramatta by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy.

The alliance was formed in response to a [report](#) released in 2012 by the Family Law Council (FLC) of Australia, which found that the failure to address issues faced by CALD clients at an early stage was having detrimental effects on the long-term welfare of migrants.

“SSI is committed to ensuring that all migrants in NSW are supported to be able to fulfil their potential as members of the Australian community. Legal Aid NSW shares our commitment and together we strengthen the community and set a precedent for a first rate service delivery model,” SSI CEO, Violet Roumeliotis said.

The partnership sees family and civil law outreach clinics provided at eight MRC’s across Sydney, Central Coast and Wollongong.

Guest speakers on the day included Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO ACOSS; Professor Helen Rhoades, Chair Family Law Services International Violet Roumeliotis.



Article and photo courtesy of Settlement Services International

April National Settlement Policy Network

The National Settlement Policy Network Teleconferences (SPN) provide an opportunity for SCOA members to hear from guest speakers with expertise in particular areas of settlement policy, raise issues of concern, share ideas for ways forward and participate in planning joint advocacy on settlement issues.

The latest SPN was held on 3rd April. It focused on humanitarian family reunion and the implications of September 2012 changes to Australia’s policies greatly limiting family reunion, stemming from the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers .

Guest speakers included Mary Hanna from Spectrum MRC and Antoinette Siketa and Mohammad Jaffari from Diversitat. They spoke about the difficulties clients have experienced since the changes to family reunion policy. Many are opting to apply for a family stream visa within DIAC’s Migration Program, however barriers to this process include securing required documentation, paying application fees and other costs. Those seeking to sponsor family members are struggling to find employment to pay these costs.

Discussion focused on how different organisations are assisting clients to deal with these difficulties. These include limited no interest loan schemes, advising those on partner visas that they are exempt from the Centrelink two year waiting period and how to document addresses.

Concern was also raised about humanitarian visa holders travelling to countries in which they have claimed asylum as this gives DIAC the powers to cancel their visa. These visa holders should be advised not to return.

For more information on this and how to attend upcoming National Settlement Policy Network teleconferences contact mso@scoa.org.au.

Migration & Settlement Awards 2013

The outstanding work of individuals and organisations assisting refugees and migrants in their journey to settle in Australia was honoured at the Migration and Settlement Awards presented by the Migration Council of Australia (MCA) on the 18 March at Parliament House, Canberra.

The Prime Minister, The Honourable Julia Gillard MP, was the Keynote speaker at the gala dinner and well renowned Australian comedian Rob Sitch was the Master of Ceremonies. Amongst the guests was Opposition Leader Tony Abbott, who presented the Lifetime Achievement Award and Minister for Multicultural Affairs Senator Kate Lundy.



Seven winners were selected from 24 final finalists across six awards categories and the Lifetime Achievement Award. CEO of MCA, Calra Wilshire, said the calibre of the Finalists and award recipients highlighted the impressive work being undertaken to empower new migrants.

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Diversitat in Victoria won the Settlement Innovation Award for their multipurpose community education facility in the Geelong region.

Say Htoo Eh Maero from Wyndham Community and Education Centre in Victoria won the Case Worker of the Year category for her 'whole-of-person' approach of empowering new migrants. Finalists in this category included Arcade Hatungimana (Multilink Community Services, Qld), Bogdana Poljak (Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre, VIC) and Natalie Taha (Settlement Services International, NSW).

The winner of the Business Inclusion Award was Luv-a-Duck for its work training and employing over 60 Karen refugees through engagement with the community, AMES and local service providers.

SBS won the Journalism Excellence Award for Go Back to Where You Came From Series 2. The North Melbourne Football Club Won the Sports Leadership category and the Diversity of the Law Award was won by Legal Services Commission of South Australia.

The awards also recognised the Hon Sir James Gobbo who was The recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for his Contribution to migration and settlement.



Photos and information courtesy of the Migration Council of Australia

Townsville Living in Harmony Event

Townsville's Living in Harmony event March 16, 2013 was an excellent demonstration of regional settlement influencing collaboration across community, business and tourism sectors.

Over 600 people attended the event which was held at the beautiful site of the Tropical Museum of North Queensland. Organisations which collaborated in planning the group included: Townsville City Council, Family Law Pathways Network North Qld, Multicultural Women's Group, Carers Queensland, Tropical Museum of North Queensland, Oriental Food Supplies, Duckpond Café and Silver Wattle Florist. All levels of government were represented as well.

A key attraction was the screening of the film "Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea," which has generated a lot of discussion and reflection in the community. Other attractions included the singing of the award winning Townsville Aquapella Choir, the demonstration of Japanese Rice Pounding, bead making and face painting for children and some wonderful performances from diverse groups. The serving of sweets from around the world was really appreciated as was the gift of a bright orange double gerbera to each of the performers.



Townsville Mayoral delegate Ms. Suzanne Blom and Local Federal Member Mr. Ewen Jones, spoke about the benefits to industry and community of the increasing cultural diversity to the region as economic migration and humanitarian settlement increases. Mr. John Hathaway MP Townsville was content to participate in discussions with the locals and browse the information stalls of community services. Stall holders included: a SWAP IT chronic disease educational program focusing on the Polynesian communities of Townsville, the Townsville Multicultural Women's Group and Carers Queensland.

Ms. Meg Davis, Manager of the Townsville Multicultural Support Group Inc. reminded people that Living in Harmony while being a joyous event to celebrate 'many stories- one Australia' was also an opportunity to reflect on the elimination of racism – particularly given the National Anti-Racism Strategy for Australia to which TMSG is a registered supporter.

Community feedback received included: "meeting people was appreciated," "the friendly atmosphere," "the welcoming nature of the event," "the children's activities and excellent entertainment," "a lovely day." "the movie was very informative" and "I liked most the different cultures harmonising together."

As the Australian Government focusses increasingly on regional settlement, Townsville community can look forward to more events of educational and community value.



Article and photos courtesy of Townsville Multicultural Support Group

Geelong's Diversitat Honoured at Inaugural Australian Migration and Settlement Awards

Outstanding individuals and organisations from across Australia were honoured recently for their work in assisting the settlement of new migrants at the inaugural Australian Migration and Settlement Awards at Parliament House, Canberra on March 18. Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Opposition Leader Tony Abbott and AFL chief executive Andrew Demetriou were among guests for presentation of the inaugural awards across seven categories.

Geelong's Diversitat won the key Settlement Innovation Award which recognises an organisation or initiative that has demonstrated the most innovative methods in the support of new refugees, migrants or the local community. Its Northern Community Hub at Norlane was named the nation's best example of settlement innovation.

The award was proudly accepted by Diversitat chief executive Michael Martinez. Since 1976, Diversitat has been the leading provider of services to culturally and linguistically diverse communities and individuals in the Greater Geelong area. The Northern Community Hub, on the site of Geelong's former migrant hostels, provides a meeting place and training hub for migrants and provides pathways in education and employment.

Member for Corio, Richard Marles was thrilled to witness the win. "Congratulations to Michael Martinez and his team for the work they do supporting new arrivals to our country, making them welcome in our city and ensuring they receive the help and training they require to build new lives in Geelong," Mr Marles said.

"Successful settlement requires the whole community to work together and that's what we see being delivered with such great results at the Northern Community Hub."

The Prime Minister, The Honourable Julia Gillard MP, was the keynote speaker at the gala dinner hosted by the Migration Council of Australia (MCA), which brought together business, journalists and the community sector to recognise the remarkable achievements of new migrants and those who support them in building a more inclusive and diverse Australia.

CEO of MCA, Carla Wilshire, said the calibre of the finalists and award recipients highlighted the impressive work being undertaken by individuals, support organisations and national companies to empower new migrants.

"The award winners reflect the depth of support available to new migrants when they arrive in Australia to help them successfully settle in the community," Ms Wilshire said.

Information and photos supplied courtesy of Diversitat



Photo courtesy of the Migration Council



Promoting of CALD Women's Participation on Boards and in Decision-making Positions Project

The Promoting of CALD Women's Participation on Boards and in Decision-Making Positions Project was formally launched by the Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon Julie Collins MP, in December 2012. The project is being funded by the Office for Women and implemented by the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia with the support of Myriad Consultants.

The Project aims to further the Government's commitment to increase the representation of women on Government Boards to meet its target of at least 40 per cent women by 2015. The generation of ideas and discussion with CALD women and private, public and NGO sector stakeholders will assist the project to answer the following questions:

- What are the opportunities and challenges shaping the participation of CALD women in leadership and on boards and decision-making bodies?
- What interventions are needed to improve representation?

It is expected that the project will improve the understanding of the opportunities and challenges posed around the participation of CALD women in leadership and on Boards and decision-making bodies, and establish the scope for maximising the delivery of such opportunities whilst identifying ways to reduce or eliminate the challenges.

We are seeking contributions that will assist us to establish a sound evidence base on the leadership contributions of CALD women in Australia. For further information or to submit a contribution please go to the FECCA website at <http://www.fecca.org.au/feccas-women-in-leadership-positions-project>

Government Accepts Recommendations from the Independent Access and Equity Inquiry Panel

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs Senator Kate Lundy announced the Gillard Government will implement the full suite of recommendations from the independent Access and Equity Inquiry Panel report to ensure government services are responsive to the needs of Australia's CALD communities.

The inquiry proposed 20 recommendations to strengthen the government's Access and Equity framework, improve communication and reporting and establish a whole-of-government approach to the implementation of the policy.

More robust reporting obligations for government agencies will drive better outcomes for people from diverse backgrounds and ensure all Australians can access services equitably.

Key recommendations from the report that will be implemented include:

- designing a toolkit of resources and better practice guidelines for all government departments
- developing updated Standards for Statistics on Cultural and Linguistic Diversity by the Bureau of Statistics
- incorporating Access and Equity considerations and obligations into funding partnerships and agreements with the states and territories
- developing a whole-of-government policy on communication by its agencies in languages other than English
- incorporating Access and Equity considerations and obligations into the whole-of-government communication and advertising guidelines
- periodic performance audits by the Auditor-General of selected agencies' performances meeting Access and Equity obligations
- tabling reporting in both Houses of Parliament.

The full response to the Access and Equity Inquiry can be found [here](#).

Multicultural Ethnic Community Agency of Australia - Multicultural Film Festival

Like every year, this year too Mt Druiett Ethnic Communities Agency (MECA) celebrated Harmony Day. This year to celebrate Harmony Week MECA organised a Multicultural Film Festival on 20th March 2013. The film festival was screened at our local Hoyts Cinemas in Mt Druiett.

The film festival was supported by Blacktown City Council and featured screenings showcasing more authentic, inclusive images of Australians as a nation and an expression of **the 'Many Stories-One Australia'** theme.

The goal was to offer insights into the issues faced by migrants and refugees everyday as they settle. The invited audience was representatives from mainstream service organisations who work with migrants and refugees; MECA clients; government departments; community leaders, local schools and members of the community.

The Multicultural Film Festival screenings commenced with TRiBE by SongeArt - "a Koori version of TV show Dallas!", says Director, Jeremy Johnson. Starring the late footy legend Arthur Beetson. Eight multicultural short films by ColourFest were also screened featuring various Australian directors from a range of cultural backgrounds. They were serious, funny, witty and, most importantly, they were real!



Directors/guest speakers associated with the films also gave a talk on the day about their journeys and the films and challenged the negative portrayal of our cultural diversity. We were grateful to have professional Director/actor Jeremy Johnson and the popular Maria Tran (director of Hot Bread Shop, screened on the day), whose interaction with the audience and contributions on the day were inspirational.

MECA had to book larger theatres, twice, as local community interests booked out the event within the first week of promotion. In total, 173 people packed the Hoyt's theatre and were treated with a complementary lunch and free popcorn!



The audience was excited by the screening and the audience also included teachers and students from local high schools, Intensive English Language centres and TAFE NSW. "More please!" was the overwhelming feedback.

MECA intends to reproduce such event annually. We will also be seeking funding to develop local skills and talent within Mount Druiett, surrounding suburbs and the greater western Sydney suburbs with the view to screen an exclusive Western Sydney Film Festival showcase! Spread the word and contact MECA- the Heart of SydWest!

Article and photos supplied courtesy of MECA

Inaugural Community Sector Awards Winners Announced

The Inaugural Community Sector Awards gala was held on Monday, 25th March in Adelaide during the ACOSS Conference.

The awards recognise outstanding service provision, advocacy and leadership by individuals and organisations in improving the lives of people who rely on access to the community services sector.

The finalists and award winners are as follows:

Organisation Award winner:

Australian Drug Foundation

Organisation Award finalists:

Carers Victoria

Red Cross Migration Support Service

Toowoomba youth Service

White Ribbon Australia

Social Impact Award winner:

Project Respect

Social Impact Award finalists:

Angelhands

Child Wise

Redfern Legal Centre

The Yellow Van Food Rescue

Unsung Hero Award winners:

Meron Morrison & Pam Erwin

Unsung Hero Award finalists:

Souhair Afiouny

Caz Lewis J.P.

Anita Pell

SCOA congratulates the winners, and all the finalists as well – it is heartening to see such dedicated work in the community.

ACOSS Australian Community Sector Survey – Deadline Extended

The annual ACOSS Australian Community Sector Survey deadline has been extended:

Closing date of the survey

COB May 3, 2013

The survey is a key national source of information about the community services sector and the issues that face clients.

It is a key advocacy tool in highlighting unmet demand for services and key challenges facing organisations trying to address them. It is used widely by policy makers and researchers.

ACOSS is calling on your organisation to complete the survey, giving the best possible information about client base, organisation's sustainability and staffing.

You can complete the survey online [here](#) or download a [paper version](#) that you can use to get input from a number of staff.

Completion of the survey requires:

- Information about client numbers and profile in key services for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 years as well as turnaway rates;
- Financial data for the last two years;
- Staffing information for the last two years.

For more information visit:

http://www.acoss.org.au/take_action/2013_australian_community_sector_survey/



If you have any inquiries or issues with completing the survey, please contact ACOSS on (02) 9310 6200 or email

PolicyIntern@acoss.org.au

Minister Brendan O'Connor visits the MRC in Northern Tasmania

On Wednesday 27th of March the Federal Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Brendan O'Connor and Launceston's Local Member for Bass Geoff Lyons visited the Migrant Resource Centre (Northern Tasmania).

Minister O'Connor and Geoff Lyons visit marked an important occasion for the MRC (Northern Tasmania) to share the Centre and discuss existing programs including the Humanitarian Settlement Service and the Migrant Business Support Program as well as proposed future developments with key members of Parliament.

The visit was a valuable chance for Minister O'Connor to identify settlement issues and the issues of the

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities in Northern Tasmania's well as to discover how the MRC (Northern Tasmania) engages with the local migrant and humanitarian entrant community. It was a great opportunity for the Minister to see firsthand what happens at the grassroots of his portfolio in Tasmania.

The visit also allowed Geoff Lyons, as the local Member for Bass, to gain insight into the needs and priorities of the migrant and humanitarian entrant communities that form part of his electorate.

Both Minister O'Connor and Geoff Lyons toured the Centre, met with Migrant Resource Centre (Northern Tasmania) CEO John Brown and visited the highly regarded Tutoring Program for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse high school and college aged students operated by the MRC.

The Migrant Resource Centre (Northern Tasmania) was honoured that Minister O'Connor and Geoff Lyons chose to visit the Centre and are committed to working at all levels to promote the Centre and the needs and priorities of Northern Tasmania's migrant and humanitarian entrant communities.

Article and photos courtesy of MRC (Northern Tasmania)



Pictured Volunteer Tutor Tom Hardy, Federal Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Brendan O'Connor, Member for Bass Geoff Lyons and MRC Tutoring Program participant Diria Luate

Defining Charity

The Government is seeking your views on a proposed statutory definition.

A modernised statutory definition of charity will provide greater clarity and certainty for charities, the public and regulators, in determining whether an entity is charitable. It is therefore central to improving understanding of, and access to, charitable tax concessions.

The Government is seeking your views on a proposed statutory definition, with exposure draft legislation and associated material being released and available on the [Treasury](#) website.

In releasing the exposure draft legislation, the Government has also announced that the definition's commencement will be deferred from 1 July 2013 to 1 January 2014 so that the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission has the time it needs to provide guidance and support to the sector.

The public consultation period closes on **3 May 2013**.

Submissions can be emailed to charities@treasury.gov.au.

For enquiries please call Maria Purnell (02) 6263 3299.



Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Grant Rounds is Now Open

Applications are now open for the next Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program.

The Program provides grants to organisations of between \$5,000 and \$50,000 to help youth from new and emerging communities and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to participate in sport within their local communities.

In order to be successful organisations need to demonstrate capacity to develop strong partnerships to deliver sustainable sport participation programs for youth from CALD backgrounds, and to assist in integrating them into mainstream sporting activities.

Applications close on the 2 May 2013.

Applications for the MYSP program are submitted through an online process. To apply, please visit the link below which will direct you to the associated online application form:

[Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program application form](#)

If you require assistance to complete your application please contact the Grant Administrator on (02) 6214 1814 or [email](#).

SCOA Member Mapping Project

SCOA's Member Mapping Project (MMP) is seeking to gather a range of data and detailed information about members' services, size and funding. Last year we began this comprehensive collection of data and information from our members. In 2013 we are aspiring to achieve a more in depth understanding of our members' operations through clarifying previous gathered information.

The MMP aligns with SCOA's goals, set forth in the Strategic Plan 2011-2014, 'to advocate on behalf of the settlement services sector to help ensure the best settlement outcomes for migrants and people of refugee background' and 'to identify gaps in knowledge about communities, services, programs and policies'. The MMP will benefit SCOA substantially in our capacity to represent and understand what is happening within our member organisations. Therefore it is vital to gain in-depth and wide-ranging information from our members.

This year the MMP will aim to gather more information at a grassroots level in order to better identify the full range of services being provided to clients, and utilise the given information to advocate and represent the settlement sector in a greater capacity. The information gathered has been and will continue to be used in areas such as advocacy, policy work and member engagement. The MMP is one avenue where we achieve consistent dialogue and engagement with our members, ensuring representation and advocacy for all is met. The MMP initiative is a great opportunity for SCOA to stay in touch with our members.

Keep an eye out for the Member Mapping Project, as SCOA will be asking you to provide additional information where possible.

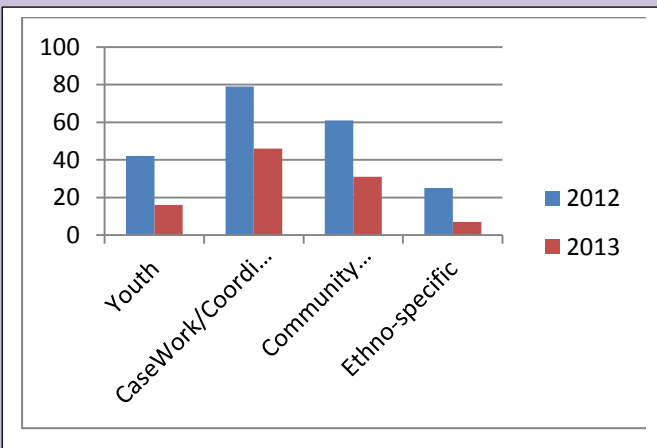
Settlement Grants Program Funding Announced

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) announced the recipients of the 2013 Settlement Grants Program funding round in mid-April.

The Settlement Grants Program (SGP) is a funding initiative from the DIAC to provide services for humanitarian entrants and migrants to support successful settlement in Australia. The funding is granted to organisations working within services of casework/coordination and delivery of services, community coordination and development, youth settlement services and support for ethno-specific communities.

In 2013 a total of \$19,217,359 SGP funding was allocated nationally to 102 organisations. This was a decrease from the allocation of \$59,665,601 in 2012 to 105 organisations.

Casework/coordination services have received 46 percent of 2013 funding followed by community development receiving 31 percent. Both youth and ethnic-specific services funded dropped with 16 percent of allocations funding youth services, down from 43 percent in 2012, and 7 percent allocated to ethnic-specific services, down from 23 percent in 2012.



National SGP grant allocations by service type

The number of three-year grants allocated has decreased by 48 percent from 2012 allocations. Three year grants make up 13 percent of all allocations while the proportion of one year grants make up 53 percent of allocations in 2013.

All information in this article is based on the grant recipients detailed on DIAC's website. For further information on 2013 SGP funding allocations please visit DIAC's [website](#)

Walk Together 2013

Welcome to Australia's second annual "Walk Together" event- in partnership with Amnesty Australia – which will be taking place all over Australia during Refugee Week.

In more than 15 cities and regional centres across Australia, you're invited to join this celebration of diversity and present a picture to our leaders and media of the Australia that is possible to have, an Australia that recognises in its public debate, media conversation and legislation that "if we're all people, we're all equal". We are all equally deserving of freedom, fairness, opportunity to contribute, welcome and belonging.

Join the walk at **1pm Saturday 22 June** in your city

For all local details visit [here](#)



A place to call home - Cultural diversity building local regional communities

Along the eastern border of South Australia towns are becoming populated again. Towns like Renmark, Murray Bridge and Mt Gambier have hosted waves of post-war migrants including refugees in years gone by. In the past decade new arrivals including the Karen Burmese, Congolese, Chinese and Afghans have added a new wave of migrants.

In Naracoorte, a town of about 6,000 people, the local Mayor Erika Vickery has welcomed over 800 new arrivals to the town over the last three years, over a half are of humanitarian background. The Mayor received the Governor's Multicultural Award for outstanding Public Service 2012.

Recently, Farzana Rezaia, a new Naracoorte resident, was selected as the People's of Australia Ambassador. She was born in Afghanistan and arrived with her parents in 2006. The family moved to Naracoorte two years later where they have lived ever since. Her personal positive experiences helped her to link her community with services and supports and to inspire her to use her year 12 studies research project to organize the first Harmony Day event through the local high school. She was previously awarded Naracoorte's Young Citizen of the Year 2011.

The reception of new arrivals in small towns that dot the eastern border of South Australia is un-mistakenly welcoming, with townfolk electing to provide driving lessons to young people, Rotary, Lions and Sports Clubs providing social/recreational supports, and schools and TAFE working together to assist transition for young people's education so they do not have to leave these areas to further their studies.



Farzana Rezaia, Mayor Erika Vickery, Julie Burdett, MRCSA Settlement Worker, Eugenia Tsoulis, CEO, MRCSA and Abdul Hakim, MRC Bilingual Worker discussing future initiatives in Naracoorte

What is the role of local government in all this? Without the leadership of the Mt Gambier and Grant City Councils – the Mayors, Councillors and CEO's, the Mount Gambier Humanitarian Settlement Service would never have been established. Without the leadership of the Naracoorte, Lucindale Council – Mayor Ericka Vickery and Councillors and staff, the many men who descended on the town without notice over the past three years for seasonal work would not have stayed and made the town their home.

The apparent seamless settlement of new arrivals in these South Australian small towns is the achievement of services and community groups coming together. While the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia has settlement services on the ground in these locations they are minimal and the success for new arrivals is underpinned by the people, groups and services genuinely wanting to assist to promote cultural diversity.

This recent increased and sustained settlement could not have been achieved in these small towns without the leadership of local government councils. While employment, cheaper housing and good education supports are vital to sustainable settlement, a sense of belonging is crucial for new arrivals. The Afghan community well knows this and are planning to hold a reception for Naracoorte people in August to say *Tashakkor*.

*Eugenia Tsoulis OAM
CEO, Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia*



Building Respectful Relationships - How Parents Can Help

What is and isn't acceptable in a relationship can be unclear for some young people, not to mention a tricky topic for any parent to bring up with their teenager, but it is important that we help our children understand what safe, healthy and respectful relationships look like.

We must support children in fostering important life-long skills to recognise, develop and maintain healthy relationships. Children need to understand there is never a place for abuse or violence in relationships.

We know that one in three Australian women will have experienced physical violence from the time they were 15 years old, and 1 in 5 will have experienced sexual violence. Violence against women in Australia can never be excused or justified in any circumstances. It is also preventable.

The Line is an innovative, internationally recognised Australian Government campaign that seeks to encourage respectful relationships among young people, with the aim of changing attitudes and behaviours that support violence. It is one of a number of primary prevention initiatives under the Government's *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-22*, along with Respectful Relationships education projects in schools.

The Line campaign encourages young people to think about respectful relationships and seeks to help them develop life-long skills to recognise, develop and maintain relationships that value respect at all stages of their lives.

It is about increasing young people's knowledge of the important things in a respectful relationship—communication, trust and consideration for others. It is not always easy to know where the boundaries are in relationships. In many cases the line is clear, like with violence, rape and abuse.

But sometimes the line can be blurry, like threatening someone over Facebook - is that crossing it? Or staring at a girl because of her dress sense? Think about how you act as a parent.

Social media is playing an increasingly important role in a lot of young people's lives and this has the potential to make things more complex when it comes to relationships.

Young people have to make decisions for themselves about what is acceptable to them. Families, friends and communities can help them to make informed decisions.

As a parent, you can help your child build good relationships based on trust and respect by encouraging them to respect others' decisions and talk about problems with honesty when they first come up. Behaviour such as hurting people's feelings and using violence as a way to settle disagreements should never be tolerated.

There is more information available at www.australia.gov.au/theline to assist parents on relationships and how to engage with your children on the subject. Translated information is also available there.

You may also like to encourage your children to ask questions on *The Line's* Facebook page at [facebook.com/theline](https://www.facebook.com/theline).

Let's work together to help our young people enjoy healthy, respectful relationships.

JULIE COLLINS MP

Minister for the Status of Women



New SBS Radio Schedule - to include six new languages

On Monday 29 April SBS will be launching a new analogue and digital radio schedule.

It will include programs in six new languages, expansion of existing programming for language groups which have grown significantly and a new digital only channel for 21 languages that will be available on digital television, online and mobile apps.

For the first time SBS will deliver news and information in Malayalam, Dinka, Hmong, Pashto, Swahili and Tigrinya. The program hours for Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi and Punjabi will increase substantially to cater for the growing number of people speaking those languages.

SBS will continue to produce content in all languages on the current schedule with the number of language programs increasing and SBS will continue to be the most multilingual broadcaster in the world.

The last major review of the SBS Radio Schedule was more than 18 years ago in 1994. The relative size of some languages spoken has changed and new languages are being spoken in Australia as a result of changing migration patterns.

SBS's review of the schedule was informed by the 2011 Census and included extensive community consultation around the criteria used to determine the number of hours allocated to each language group.

For more information on the new SBS Radio Schedule please visit: sbs.com.au/radio

Or contact Nikita Jacka, Communications Specialist at nikita.jacka@sbs.com.au or Marina Saggars, Corporate Communications Specialist at marina.saggars@sbs.com.au

SBS Digital Radio Distribution Program

As part of SBS's launch of its new radio schedule on 29 April SBS is connecting with existing and new emerging language communities about the program changes that will include their communities.

As part of this education campaign SBS distributing digital radios to CALD groups whose programs will appear on the new digital schedule, so that they can access the new programs and spread the word.

SBS had asked SCOA to assist in the distribution of these digital radios to key organisations and stakeholders.

The language communities SBS will initially be targeting to send the digital radios to include: African (English), Romanian, Kannada, Ukrainian, Armenian, Tongan, Fijian, Cook Islander, Maori, Malay, Latvian, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Czech, Estonian, Lithuanian, Slovak, Bulgarian and Slovenian.



Levelling the Playing Field: Building Equality and Inclusion with Sport

On 30th January 2013 Cities of Migration held a webinar Levelling the Playing Field: Building Equality and Inclusion with Sport.

It shared stories of how two youth-focused programs in Greenwich (UK) and Montreal (Canada) are using the power of sport and games to cultivate cross-cultural understanding, empathy, equality and fair play.

Sport and recreational activities have enormous potential to build bridges between communities. Team sports, in particular, help develop social networks, forge friendships, and overcome differences by promoting mutual understanding.

The webinar's learnings and takeaways include:

- How organisations use sport/games to illustrate teamwork and a participatory approach to problem solving;
- Finding strategic partners whose mission aligns with yours to help your program grow; and
- Engaging key partners in the monitoring and evaluation process as part of the stakeholder engagement strategy.

To download the webinar Powerpoint slides and watch and listen to Question & Answer sessions with the speakers visit:

<http://citiesofmigration.ca/webinar/webinar-levelling-the-playing-field-building-equality-and-inclusion-with-sport/>

Harmony Day Stories on Smart Phone App

Smart phone and tablet users can now explore three Australians' migration journeys, a new augmented reality Harmony Day app, *Harmony Day Stories*.

This year's Harmony Day, held on 21st March, theme was *Many Stories – One Australia*. All Australians were invited to share their personal journey with others – in workplaces, through social media, at schools and in their communities.

The Harmony Day app was launched at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne and shares the unique migration stories of Kofi, Renata and Anh, and comes with supplementary education materials for schools.

"The stories captured in the app offer some fascinating insights into the journeys people from all over the world have made to make Australia their home," said Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy.

"The new app complements the existing Harmony Day smart phone app and is a fantastic resource for school children, giving them the opportunity to learn more about what it means to be a part of modern Australia," Senator Lundy said.

To read the Harmony Day stories, visit www.harmony.gov.au



2013 People of Australia Ambassadors Congratulated

On the 21st March the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy, congratulated 53 Australians who have been recognised for their outstanding work building strong and cohesive multicultural communities.

The local champions have been independently selected as People of Australia Ambassadors and were officially appointed at a ceremony at Parliament House.

“These Ambassadors are leaders in their community and will play a critical role in providing the Australian Government and the Australian Multicultural Council (AMC) with important grassroots information about life in multicultural Australia,” Senator Lundy said.

The new Ambassadors are all people with a demonstrated commitment to the community and Australia’s rich cultural diversity. They reflect a call for nominations from youth and regional areas and join 36 Ambassadors continuing in the program from last year.

The 2013 Ambassadors’ appointment coincided with 2013 Harmony Day celebrations at Parliament House.

“The Ambassador program speaks to the strength of our communities and our capacity as a nation to welcome people from all over the world.”

The People of Australia Ambassadors are appointed for a one year term.

Further information on the Ambassadors is available at: <http://www.amc.gov.au/ambassadors>

Sports Without Borders Conference 2013

Sports clubs are often the lifeblood of a local community. With all the negative press around elite sport recently, it's nice to reflect on some positive aspects of involvement in sport and local sporting clubs in particular.

A great opportunity to do just that is coming up when we join with our partners to stage the third annual Sports Without Borders Conference, to be held in Melbourne on **Friday, 3 May 2013**.

The Federal Minister for Sport and Multicultural Affairs, Senator Hon Kate Lundy, will kick off the day, leading a stellar cast of speakers.

Book today by registering at

www.ourcommunity.com.au/swb2013



National Forum on Children & Young People from Refugee Backgrounds

Monday 15th – Tuesday 16th July 2013

University of Sydney

This 2-day forum will showcase research, policy and practice from around Australia in relation to young people from refugee backgrounds.

Day 1 will focus on research, presenting findings from an ambitious national multidisciplinary project that has been examining asylum, resettlement and settlement issues as they relate to refugee children and youth.

Day 2, auspiced by the MYAN (Australia), will provide an opportunity for professional development and cross-sectoral collaboration for people working with young people from refugee backgrounds around Australia in the fields of health, education & training and migration law.

More details about the forum, will be available shortly. For more information, please contact Nadine Liddy, MYAN (Australia) at nliddy@cmj.net.au or Margaret Piper at marg.piper@sydney.edu.au

A Success Story from the Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania)

Yonas, an Eritrean qualified electrician, settled in Hobart with his family in 2012. After completing Certificate II in English, Yonas came to the Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania) Inc Connect Employment Support Services seeking assistance in gaining sustainable employment. Yonas struggled to find work because his qualifications in Australia are not recognised and he was unsure how to secure a position where he would be able to receive the required qualifications.

2012 Connect Employment Support Services was successful with a Skills Tasmania Equity small grant to run a Metal Trades course for former refugees to gain new skills and see if the metal trades industry was a suitable career pathway for participants. Yonas completed the course and started to apply for suitable positions including numerous labouring jobs around Hobart with no success in February 2013 Yonas sought assistance from Connect to investigate a career in the electrical field.

Daniel is our Creating Connections and Opportunities (CCO) Project Officer who assisted Yonas. CCO is a work experience program funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Aspire Foundation which provides with clients the opportunity to undertake unpaid work experience with businesses in Tasmania. Clients and employers are both supported throughout the duration of the work experience.

Daniel visited numerous electrical manufacturers throughout Hobart discussing Yonas and his enthusiasm for securing electrical work and the benefits of the CCO project. Daniel eventually found a very empathetic company, Engineered Switchboards (switchboards being Yonas' specialty field). A two week work experience opportunity was negotiated between Engineered Switchboards and Connect. Throughout the two weeks of the CCO placement Daniel provided continual support to both the employer and client. After completion of the two weeks work experience management and staff at Engineered Switchboards were extremely happy with Yonas and his quality of work that they offered him an Apprenticeship, which of course Yonas accepted. Yonas has now commenced his apprenticeship with enthusiasm. Connect will continue to provide support to both employer and client for up to 6 months.

Yonas has now secured a good future in his preferred profession as an electrician and is able to learn while he works. Yonas, his wife and children's spirits are lifted and Yonas has been motivated to stay positive and aim for future goals.

Article and photo courtesy of Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania)



Guide to Employment for Migrants Launch

The Honourable Bill Shorten MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, launched The Guide to Employment for Migrants on 27th February in Parramatta. This guide will be used across NSW for many years to come. The Guide links professionals and skilled workers to information, industry and support organisations. Information on education and training show people how they can develop skills.

Melissa Monteiro, Executive Director of Community Migrant Resource Centre noted "Parramatta has an unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent. At an employment forum last week we saw large numbers of people who had difficulty finding work or are in jobs that do not reflect their skills or qualifications. Many are not aware of organisations that could assist them or where to access good information given the number of sites on the net."

"To complement the Guide, an electronic version is available at www.training.nsw.gov.au and will be updated regularly by State Training Services" said Narelle Wheatland, Local Employment Coordinator for Sydney West and Blue Mountains Priority Employment Area.

"The Guide has been funded by Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations to ensure all Australians have the best change to contribute to our economy" said Ms Wheatland.

Workshops to assist organisations and job seekers to use the Guide were held at various MRC's in March.



Article courtesy of Community Migrant Resource Centre



Want to contact SCOA? We'd love you to!

A good place to start is your state representative. Please see the details below.

You can also contact staff in the Sydney office:

Sky de Jersey SCOA EO eo@scoa.org.au phone: 02 8065 5225	Kat O'Neill Membership Services Officer mso@scoa.org.au fax: 02 8080 4330
Tasmania Cedric Manen - CHAIR CManen@mrchobart.org.au 03 6221 0999	New South Wales Ricci Bartels rbartels@fmrc.net 02 9727 0477
South Australia Eugenia Tsoulis – DEPUTY CHAIR Eugenia@mrca.com.au 08 8217 9500	Victoria Rosemary Kelada rosemaryk@spectrumvic.org.au 03 9496 0200
Western Australia Michael O'Hara - SECRETARY michael.ohara@mmrcwa.org.au 08 9345 5755	Victoria Michael Martinez Michael.martinez@diversitat.org.au (03) 5221 6044
Australian Capital Territory Dewani Bakkum – TREASURER manager@marss.org.au 02 6248 8577	Queensland Annette Ruzicka AnnetteR@mdabne.org.au 07 3337 5488
New South Wales Violet Roumeliotis – Deputy Secretary ceo@ssi.org.au 02 8799 6702	Northern Territory Edward Solo Edward.Solo@aus.salvationarmy.org 08 89451947

If you would like to contribute to future editions of the Settlement News in 2013, please contact Kat O'Neill at mso@scoa.org.au, or call 02 8065 5225.