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Message from SCOA Chair- Cedric Manen



I would like to thank the membership for their participation in the SCOA Executive Committee nomination and election process. We had nominations for all positions, and held elections in three states (NT, QLD and NSW). [The new SCOA Executive Committee](#) will be endorsed at the AGM.

I hope members found the latest CEO Think Tank on Collective Impact useful. It is our aim to provide the settlement sector with information and an opportunity to discuss developments in the settlement and community sector. Collective Impact has been discussed in a variety of forums so we thought it would be helpful to find out more about it as a model and approach. If you have topics you would like addressed at future CEO Think Tanks please let us know.

I recently attended a roundtable on welfare reform. Please find the link to SCOA's [submission on welfare reform](#).

The next SBS Community Advisory Committee meeting is in Logan on 10th November. If there is any feedback on programming content or ideas for stories please don't hesitate to let us know. SBS will be turning 40 next year which will be a great opportunity for us all to celebrate the significant achievements of SBS.

The SCOA AGM will be held on Monday 24th November in Canberra, I look forward to seeing many of you there. An invite to the AGM can be found through this [link](#). At the AGM the new committee will be endorsed and office bearers announced. As Chairperson of SCOA for the past four years, constitutionally I will need to step down. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during my time as Chair of SCOA and commend the sector on the important work that you continue to undertake. I would particularly like to thank the Executive committee of SCOA for their unwavering support; together we have achieved many good outcomes for the sector.



Message from SCOA Executive Officer- Sky de Jersey

We are always experimenting and trying new things here at SCOA, the latest was offering training to our members in Darwin. It was great to be able to offer the “Navigating Government” training which had been so well received in other cities to members and the sector in Darwin.

I also had the opportunity to participate in supporting a documentary which is currently in production, through Good Pitch (see page 5 for more information). The documentary promises to be a useful tool for the sector to share a nuanced view of resettlement with the broader community.

In October we held a teleconference with members about employment services, specifically discussing what opportunities exist to strengthen partnerships between employment services and settlement agencies.

I attended the DIBP NGO Dialogue in August. This is a regular forum hosted by DIBP which discusses issues related to resettlement and protection both onshore and internationally. The consolidation of the Department with Customs and Immigration is a particular focus for the organisation. Within the Humanitarian Programme discussion focused on Syrian refugees and the Australian Government commitment to resettlement for vulnerable refugees from Syria.

SCOA has started a new forum specifically for HSS providers. This forum will generally meet quarterly, and focus on discussing issues that relate to the provision of resettlement support within the HSS program in particular.

I was invited to be on the reference group for a project the Australian Human Rights Commission is undertaking, developing a resource for local government to support social cohesion. It is great to see practical ideas on social cohesion at a local level be shared and we look forward to the next stages in this project.



SCOA 2014 AGM

The Settlement Council of Australia invites you to our 2014 Annual General Meeting.

When: Monday, 24th November 2014

Time: 11.00am – 1.00pm

Where: Parliament House – Senate Alcove, Canberra

Guest speakers:

- [Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells – Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Services](#)
- [Dr Eman Sharobeem](#)

Please RSVP by emailing Kat O’Neill at mso@scoa.org.au by **Monday 3rd November 2014**.



News from the Department of Social Services (DSS)

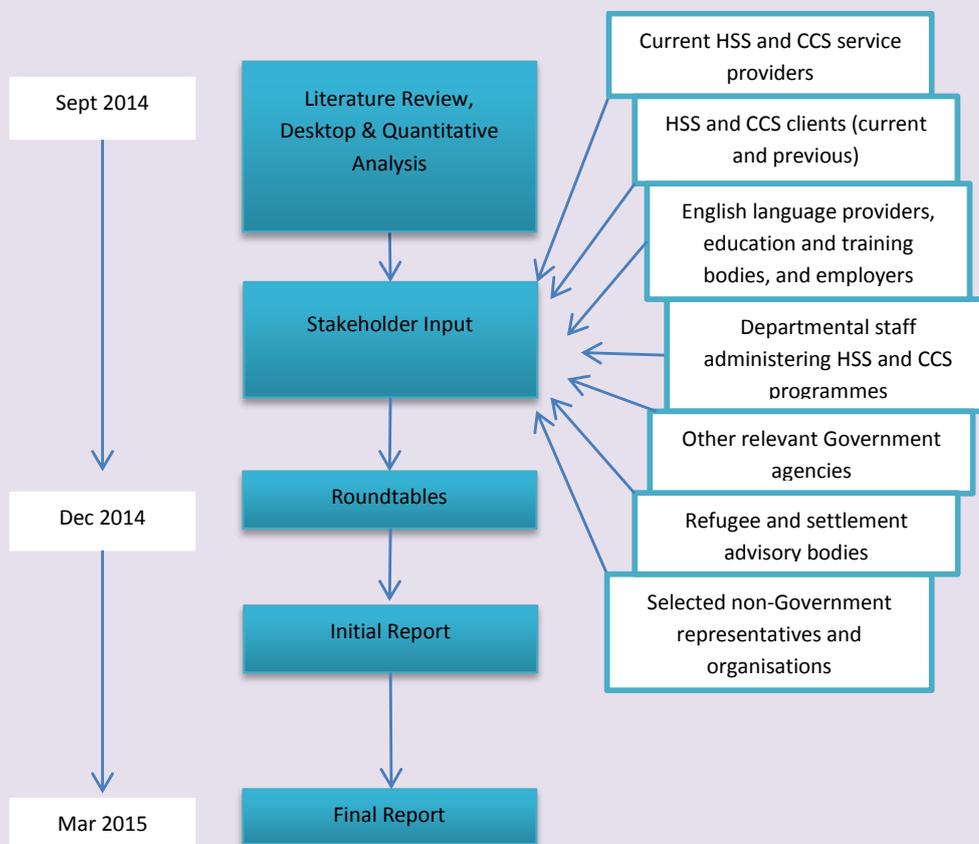
HSS AND CCS EVALUATION 2014

An evaluation of the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) and Complex Case Support (CCS) programmes commenced in September of this year and is expected to conclude in March 2015. The process is being managed by the Department of Social Services and will be undertaken by Ernst & Young.

HSS has been providing early practical support to humanitarian clients to settle into the community since 2011. HSS has assisted tens of thousands of people to settle in Australia. Alongside this programme, CCS has provided specialised case management services for humanitarian entrants with intensive needs since 2008. It supports some of the most vulnerable people as they deal with complex issues affecting their lives.

The evaluation will focus on whether the programmes are meeting their objectives and clients' needs; how well the programmes provide a foundation for clients to achieve positive, long term outcomes (especially in relation to English language, education and employment); how to improve client pathways between settlement and mainstream programmes, and how to reduce red tape.

Ernst & Young will use a variety of methods to capture feedback from all current service providers funded by the Department to deliver settlement services. In addition, current and past HSS and CCS clients, relevant areas of government, peak bodies and organisations within the settlement space will also be consulted.





What is happening at SCOA...

SCOA Surveys

In November SCOA will be conducting its annual Membership Satisfaction Survey. The survey is conducted via a 15 minute phone interview. Members will receive an email shortly explaining the survey process.

The 2015-16 SCOA Executive Committee

SCOA would like to thank those who put forward their nomination to represent the sector in their state as a SCOA Representative. The new 2015-16 SCOA Executive Committee members are listed below. The Committee will be endorsed at the SCOA AGM on the 24th November.

NSW: Lulu Tanto (Northern Settlement Services) and Violet Roumeliotis (Settlement Services International)

NT: Joe De Luca (Multicultural Council of the NT)

QLD: Sharyn Casey (ACCESS Community Services)

SA: Eugenia Tsoulis (MRCSA)

TAS: Gillian Long (MRC – Southern Tasmania)

VIC: Denise Goldfinch (Springvale Community Aid & Advice Bureau) and Ramesh Kumar (AMES)

WA: Michael O'Hara (Metropolitan MRC)

SCOA staff would like to thank outgoing Chair Cedric Manen for his dedication to the organisation and migrants and people of refugee background settling in Australia and around the world.

HSS Providers Teleconference



SCOA's HSS Providers is a regular forum for HSS Providers across the country to come together to discuss current issues.

The second HSS Provider Teleconference was held this month.

If you are an HSS Provider and would like to join this teleconference please contact Kat at mso@scoa.org.au.

Settlement Policy Network

The Department of Social Services (DSS) presented its longitudinal study on humanitarian migrants, *Building a New Life in Australia*, at the latest Settlement Policy Network teleconference (SPN).

The study traces the settlement journey of recently arrived refugees and asylum seekers from their arrival in Australia through to eligibility for citizenship. Surveying commenced in October 2013 and is planned to run through to 2017-18.

The BNLA findings are intended to help understand how Australia's humanitarian migrants are settling and what can be done to improve the wellbeing of humanitarian migrants and their families.

The report from this SPN will be circulated shortly. For more information on the *Building a New Life in Australia* study visit: <http://www.bnla.com.au/>



What is happening at SCOA...

Employment Teleconference

On 9th October SCOA in conjunction with DSS held a teleconference with its members on the future employment services arrangements in 2015. Discussion focussed on opportunities for partnerships between settlement agencies and employment service providers.

Join SCOA for our next

Policy Practice Forum Teleconference

This forum brings together SCOA members and stakeholders to discuss emerging policy research and issues, with a view to informing effective advocacy and developing the settlement sector research agenda.

Date: 13th November

Time in your state:

NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS – 2.00-3.00pm

SA – 1.30-2.30pm

QLD – 1.00-2.00pm

NT – 12.30-1.30pm

WA – 11.00-12.00pm

Guest Speaker: Vicky Saunders, Australian Catholic University

Topic: This PPF will focus on the complexities associated with research about sensitive issues with families from a refugee background drawing on recent experiences of a research project conducted in the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia.

Please RSVP to Kat O'Neill at mso@scoa.org.au.

Good Pitch Australia

Good Pitch assists documentary film makers to create films about social and environmental issues. SCOA participated in the Good Pitch Australia event on 8th October at the Sydney Opera House.

Each year, Good Pitch runs events in major cities across the world. Six to eight filmmaking teams who are handpicked are invited to participate. For over a year prior to the event, these teams receive sustained mentorship and professional development to help create documentaries that will be presented at the event.

On the day, each team has just 7 minutes to perfectly pitch their documentary film and associated outreach campaign. A moderator leads a feedback session with a room of strategically selected participants. These participants bring something unique: expert knowledge, access to memberships and mailing lists, campaigning and lobbying expertise, connections to policymakers or corporate leaders, and new sources of funding.

SCOA will be working on an outreach campaign with filmmakers Belinda Mason and Marguerite Grey who pitched their documentary [Constance on the Edge](#). This film walks viewers in the shoes of a Sudanese refugee as she attempts to transform her rural town of Wagga Wagga into a friendlier place. It uses innovative storytelling techniques including animation to tell this layered narrative.



SCOA will keep you up to date on the progress of releasing this film. For more information on Good Pitch visit: [Good Pitch Australia](#)

CEO Think Tank – Collective Impact

SCOA thanks everyone who participated in the latest CEO Think Tank (CEO TT) teleconference on 1st October.

This teleconference focused on Collective Impact with guest speaker Kerry Graham from the Centre for Social Impact.

Collective Impact is an innovative and structured approach to tackle deeply entrenched and complex social problems. It uses collaboration across all sectors to achieve significant and lasting social change.

The CEO TT is a forum SCOA has developed for CEOs in our member organisations. For more information please email mso@scoa.org.au.

Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre Gets Active!

Street Workout

Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre (FMRC) and the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) are working together to help newly arrived young people from refugee backgrounds become physically active and improve their mental health through the Street Workout Program.

Street Workout engages refugee young people who are street frequents and vulnerable to engaging anti-social behaviour. Weekly workout sessions are held with these young people in local community facilities and parks in Fairfield LGA. It provides a positive and constructive avenue for young people to participate in community life and build capacity to address issues they may be facing such as health, legal and inter-generational conflict.

The program currently includes over 30 young people. Program staff have witnessed an increased positive interaction between the group members. Street Workout is a safe and healthy activity that diverts the young people's attention from crime.

From October 2014, the Street Workout will engage a qualified and licensed personal trainer to support the participants on the safe and proper use of training equipment.

For more information on this project, please contact Daniel Saeed the FMRC Street Worker at streetworker@fmrc.net.



Pictured: Street Workout participants

Karen Youth Soccer Team

In 2012 FMRC formed the Karen Youth Soccer Team. The team engages Karen youth in a healthy activity to support their well-being and improve confidence.

The Fairfield Karen soccer team trains three days a week with a qualified volunteer trainer. Over the past two years the team has been involved in various local events, ceremonies and sports tournaments. In September the team participated in

the Sydney International Cup at Macquarie University and won the Under-16 boys championship.

The soccer team gatherings also provide an opportunity for FMRC to conduct information sessions on important topics. Last month police spoke to the group on the topic of crime prevention and community safety.

This month there was a series of soccer games with soccer academy and a friendly game between various ethnic teams.



Pictured: Fairfield Karen Soccer Team

Photos courtesy of Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre

African Culture and Heritage Highlighted in an Unmasked African Festival



The African Communities of South Australia celebrated this year's Unmasked African Festival in colour and style at Victoria Square on 13th September 2014.

The festival was officially launched by Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Zoe Bettison, with the City of Adelaide's Lord Mayor, Stephen Yarwood and other dignitaries in attendance.

This year's festival highlighted the rich culture, people, beauty, hope and aspiration behind the mask of Africa, with more than thirty African communities developing a series of activities for the day including:

- authentic African foods and snacks including morning coffee (Ethiopian style)
- arts and crafts
- cultural performances by talented Africans from many different backgrounds
- a full program of music, song and dance



Festival Director Reagan Bledde said, "The festival provided a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the rich, cultural diversity of Adelaide's multicultural society, highlighting the talents of African communities to the South Australian public. It was a great day for everyone, families, children, the public, and the African Communities of Adelaide.

For further information, please contact the African Communities Council of SA at admin@accsa.com.au.



Article and photos courtesy of Northern Area Migrant Resource Centre in SA



Asylum Sneakers – Welcoming asylum seekers through football

Welcome to Australia developed their *Asylum Sneakers* program after seeing the positive impact of sport on children in detention centres and those living in the community. Sport for so many young people is an invaluable way of healing the traumas of their refugee experiences, a way of forming new friendships, learning a new language and feeling a sense of belonging in their new community.

Sadly, many children's participation in sport is limited as they're unable to afford shoes and sports equipment. Many young people and their families live well below the poverty line on an average of \$32 a day. Welcome to Australia came up with a simple and practical solution to raise money, create awareness and purchase brand new shoes for asylum seeker children.

The *Asylum Sneakers* campaign really resonated with the community with \$30,000 raised and over 500 pairs of shoes already delivered to young people. Welcome to Australia has also hosted several 'Welcome matches' inviting our newest arrivals and the local community to come together for a mutual love of the world game.

Soccer commentator and SBS presenter Les Murray has been an Ambassador for the campaign and said his background as a refugee meant he empathised with asylum seekers in Australia. Soccer had helped his own assimilation into Australian life. Providing shoes and boots to help asylum seekers participate in sport was therefore a campaign Les personally relates to.

To learn more about Asylum Sneakers please visit: <http://www.asylumsneakers.com.au/>



Article and photos courtesy of Welcome to Australia



New Workplace Cultural Diversity Tool Launched



The Australian Human Rights Commission has launched a free online tool to help businesses enhance productivity through a culturally diverse workplace.

Based on international best practice, the Workplace Cultural Diversity Tool is a 'how to' guide to workplace cultural diversity.

How will this tool help my organisation?

The tool:

- Offers practical steps to effectively manage a culturally diverse workforce
- Lets organisations assess themselves against 30 measures of competence
- Provides a starting point for those considering a focus on cultural diversity
- Helps those committed to cultural diversity move towards best practice.

Try the free tool here to receive your confidential report tailored to your workplace:

<http://culturaldiversity.humanrights.gov.au/>

Applications now open for the National Stronger Region Fund

The National Stronger Regions Fund is an initiative to boost social and economic development in Australia's regions by funding priority infrastructure projects in local communities. The Australian Government has committed \$1 billion to the fund over five years commencing from 2015–16.

Funding will be provided for capital projects which involve construction of new infrastructure, or the upgrade, extension or enhancement of existing infrastructure. Projects selected for funding should deliver an economic benefit to the region beyond the period of construction, and should support disadvantaged regions or areas of disadvantage within a region.

Local Government and incorporated not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply for grants of between \$20,000 and \$10 million. Grant funding must be matched in cash on at least a dollar for dollar basis, and the funded part of the project must be completed on or before 31 December 2019.

Applications close 28 November 2014

For more information visit: NSRF



Teaming Up in More than One Way

In 2013 the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga (MCWW), Wagga Wagga City Council and the NSW Government's Office of Communities, Sport and Recreation partnered to run the Multicultural Family Fun Day at the Oasis to encourage CALD participants to utilise supervised and safe water facilities.



Participants Ayom, Tan Pui, Chang Mai (from left to right)

Following the water safety program NSW Office of Sport and Recreation kept in contact with MCWW, notifying them of their various School Holiday activities which stimulated MCWW to start regularly sponsoring the cost of registration for young people from a variety of CALD backgrounds who would otherwise not be able to participate in these programs.

The school holiday activities – involving Kid's Camps and 'Game On!' one day fun programs - provide participants with the opportunity to spend time at the Borambola Sport and Recreation Centre to play and learn different sports – such as Ultimate Frisbee, Basketball, Touch Football, Water Polo, Archery and BMX – and to have a great camp experience, make new friends, mix with kids from other backgrounds and build self-confidence and the feeling of belonging.

Photos and article courtesy of MCWW

DSS Establishes a New CALD Women's Safety Unit

The Family and Safety Branch in the Department of Social Services have established a CALD Women's Safety Section.

CALD communities have been identified as an area of specific focus under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children Second Action Plan launched in June this year.

The new section will focus on women's safety in diverse communities and will engage with CALD communities about their experience of violence.

Football Without Borders

Football Without Borders is a volunteer run organisation that uses soccer as a vehicle to support the settlement process for refugees and asylum seekers being processed in the Darwin community. The program has been running since March 2014 in response to the deepening social stress that those settling in the community face.



Football Without Borders was born out of a partnership with Melaleuca Refugee Centre, Australian Red Cross and Football Federation NT. The program is focussed on building relationships and providing a safe space for players to build confidence.

The program runs three days per week. On Sunday afternoons matches are played with another refugee-based group, tournaments are played on Monday nights and on Thursdays training sessions and games are held. Volunteers are both Humanitarian and Community Studies students at Charles Darwin University and members of the broader community. They have been crucial in providing support to the program.

The space has opened up indirect opportunities to support those newly settled into the community. It is an English-dominated environment that gives players meaningful practice in a social situation. Players have also been supported through housing agreements, finding household appliances as well as helping those with working visas to look for work.

Football Without Borders is currently running a fundraising campaign to continue playing in the futsal competition as well as to raise funds for uniforms, boots, goal netting and transport costs.

For more information or to become involved in the program: footballwithoutborders@hotmail.com

Or the crowdfunding page at <http://www.chuffed.org/project/fwb/>.



Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre's Sport and Active Recreation Program

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre (MMRC) sport and active recreation program works with young people from new and emerging communities. The program aims to get them involved in tennis, soccer, AFL footy and netball. Partnerships with various sporting bodies have been formed to assist.

The joint effort with different sporting bodies is gradually increasing. For example, MMRC-Tennis West partnership was formed to organise a ten-session tennis clinic where Tennis West sanctioned their coaches to run the program and provided all the required equipment.

Recently, MMRC held a two-day Migrant Indoor Soccer Tournament and invited members from CALD communities to participate. Burmese, Afghan, Sudanese, Chin, Zimbabwean, Eritrean, Karen and Iranian young people registered to 'represent' their countries of origin. The atmosphere and results were remarkable. Players from different cultural upbringing, alongside their supporters, appropriately applauded opponents, shook hands, mingled and forged friendships. Fittingly, this program illustrates the integral role of sport and active recreation in the multi-faceted issues of settlement.

The high participation numbers that we receive year after year indicate that Migrant Indoor Soccer tournament shows no sign of slowing down and the cup has sustained its growth over the past four years. There is a sense of ownership of this tournament amongst young people. Around fifteen teams will participate in 2015 tournament and we are extremely grateful to have program partners (Football West and ECU-Joondalup) of this calibre contributing to sport activities involving young people from new and emerging communities.

For more information or to become involved in our programs visit: <http://www.mmrcwa.org.au/main-youth/>

United Through Sport

Sport is a very useful tool to engage young people and the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) of Southern Tasmania's youth settlement program has a strong focus on engaging culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) youth and their communities through sporting activities and events.

We understand that many refugee young people have lived in refugee camps for a very long time, during which football or soccer competitions were a very big highlight for most camp residents. Therefore the MRC Hobart youth settlements team has been actively involved in supporting recently arrived communities to become part of the Hobart sporting community by forming sporting clubs and enter tournaments in the Hobart region and interstate.



Pictured: Druk Girls team

The Hobart Bhutanese community has been very active in pursuing opportunities to establish themselves as a community based sporting club. Early this year Mr Bhim Neupane a representative of these communities contacted to MRC youth settlements program asking for support in regards to applications for sports grants and advice to form a community based sporting club. Since then the MRC youth settlements program has been supporting Bhim and the community to organise a community based soccer competition.

As a result of the MRC's provision of support and assistance to the Bhutanese community, the "Hobart Cup Friendship Cup 2014" soccer competition took place on April 5th and 6th. Although this tournament targeted the participation of

only Bhutanese participants, the overall focus of the tournament was to strengthen and unite the members of the Bhutanese community from Hobart, Launceston and Melbourne through sport.

Six male teams and two female teams entered the "Hobart Cup Friendship Cup 2014". The Albury Three Stars (from Melbourne) also participated in the Competition.

This soccer tournament was very successful and more than 300 people from the Bhutanese community attended as spectators and there are plans to organise a bigger event next year and there is potential to include other clubs from other communities.

Since the "Hobart Cup Friendship Cup 2014" the Hobart Bhutanese community now has a registered soccer club named: Druk Sporting United (DSU). The establishment of DSU as a sporting club has been welcomed by all members of the Bhutanese community. Currently the club consists of boys' senior and junior teams and two girls' team also. So far the club has been operated and managed with the limited resources available from parents and players. DSU is very grateful to Cosgrove High School for renting its oval to the club at a nominal charge. DSU has plans to cater for the needs of younger players in the near future. Much encouragement and appreciation has been received through positive feedback from the Bhutanese community members from Hobart, Launceston, Melbourne and Sydney.

Article by and photo courtesy of the Migrant Resource Centre of Southern Tasmania



Research Participants needed

[Anti-Slavery Australia](#) and [Uniting Care NSW](#) are looking for individuals to take part in their study examining experiences of asylum seekers living on the bridging visa E (BVE).

What is the study about?

The aim of this study is to gather research about the impact of the current bridging visa regime on asylum seekers and organisations that support asylum seekers. Some of the issues we are exploring include asylum seekers' ability to access housing, income, and community services, and any experience with employment.

The study aims to tell the story of how the current bridging visa system impacts on the lives of asylum seekers, and those that support them.

The study is expected to finish May 2015.

Who can take part?

- Individuals who are or have been asylum seekers and on bridging visas in NSW or the ACT
- Individuals who are asylum seekers and who are currently living in the community without a visa
- Individuals or organisations that support asylum seekers

Taking part is voluntary and it will take about one to two hours. If you are interested in taking part and need an interpreter, we can arrange one for you. You can also bring a support person with you. The study will be held at UTS or at another agreed venue. You will be reimbursed for any travel expenses.

UTS is a non-government, independent research and higher education institution and will not pass on information to anyone. We will also not record your name or company names. If you agree, we will digitally record the interview for accuracy only and will destroy that recording before we finish.

Can you help us? Please contact Angela Cranston or Jennifer Burn on 95149660 or email <mailto:angela.cranston@uts.edu.au>.



SBS Radio in Your Language



African Language Programs

SBS Radio has been informing, educating and entertaining listeners from a diverse cultural background since its first broadcast almost 40 years ago.

With 74 language programs, 10 catering for African communities, SBS is the world's most linguistically diverse broadcaster.

SBS is committed to providing balanced and impartial news, bringing your stories about your community, both at home and around the world, from a uniquely Australian perspective.

You can tune into SBS radio via analogue and digital radio, digital TV and the SBS website via the SBS radio app.

Arabic - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/arabic

African English - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/african

Amharic - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/amharic

Dinka - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/dinka

French - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/french

Portuguese - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/Portuguese

Somali - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/somali

Swahili - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/swahili

Tigrinya - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/tigrinya

Spanish - www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/spanish

For information on SBS radio frequencies and schedules across Australia go to sbs.com.au/radio.

A Pathway Through Soccer

From laneways and streets of Afghanistan, Pakistan and other unforgiving places around the world, a team of soccer players united in Auburn, NSW, this year.



Pictured: 2014 Gunners Soccer Club team

Most in the group of 20 men and teenage boys had never played on grass fields with marked lines and a referee before 2014, but in their first season in Australia they won a championship. The coach and players in the team are supported by Settlement Services International (SSI).

Playing soccer has been a gateway into the wider community for this group, as it has been for many other new migrants in the past. The players are from refugee backgrounds or they are on bridging visas awaiting assessment for refugee protection. The majority cannot work or study because of their visa statuses, and so without soccer they were quite isolated.

After joining the Newington Gunners Soccer Club in February, players began to build new, friendly relationships with other club members. The benefits of this have been exponential. Through the club, this group has learnt more about Australian culture and their English skills have improved. This has been great for their self-esteem and they are now visibly more confident about their part in Australian society. Then, there are the physical and mental health benefits.



Pictured: Gunners soccer team players after winning the Grand Final Championship

It wasn't an easy process, however. Team coach Essa Khan first found his team playing an ad hoc match in the dark in Auburn and rallied them together. They called themselves Auburn United FC. When Mr Khan approached his SSI Case Manager to help get his team in to a competition, the challenges became obvious.

Without the ability to work, most players could not pay the \$300 registration fee to join a Sydney soccer club. Nor would they have money for jerseys, boots and socks. SSI approached journalists to help raise awareness of these challenges and after stories on ABC radio and in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, sponsors were found to raise the money.

The challenge ahead is to find sustainable pathways for other clients in to sport.

Article and photos courtesy of Settlement Services International



SCOA Member Profile...

Centre for Refugee Research (CRR)

Established in 1999, the CRR is an interdisciplinary research centre at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) that focuses on international refugee flows, internally displaced people, forced migration and resettlement issues. It conducts research, education and advocacy programs, partnering with community based organisations. In the past decade, Centre staff have conducted research in multiple overseas sites including in conflict-affected countries, refugee camps and urban slums. CRR's major areas of endeavour include the nexus between refugee issues overseas and the resettlement experience in developed countries, in particular in Australia. A major focus is on the identification and response to those refugees who are most at risk, including women and girls and other vulnerable groups.

CRR focuses on refugee flows and resettlement issues, predominately in the Asia Pacific Region, and combines three interrelated activities:

1. In partnership with state, national, regional and international agencies, CRR is an initiator of research and innovative education programs.
2. In partnership with the UNSW Master of Development Studies program, CRR offers unique international internship opportunities for students to work with refugee communities in India and Thailand, or to attend the UNHCR NGO consultations in Geneva.
3. In partnership with local and regional partners and networks, CRR engages with policy makers at the local, national and international level to provide academic impetus to shaping good practise.

The work of CRR is predicated on theoretical approaches and concepts from human rights and gender frameworks. CRR's work integrates the norms, standards and principles of the international human rights system into the plans, policies and processes of development, grounded in the binding provisions of human rights treaties.

CRR uses a consultative framework that is premised on a reciprocal research method. CRR developed this in collaboration with refugee women from community-based organisations on the Thai-Burma border. The focus of the method is the collection of information from often vulnerable populations, in a way that is empowering, not harmful, not exploitative and which has the potential for bringing about social change.

One of CRR's current projects in Australia is an ARC Linkage project '*The Meaning of Rights Across Cultures: an Exploration of the Interpretation of the Human Rights Framework in Refugee Settlement*'. This three year project, which commenced in January 2014, is working with women, men and young people from a refugee background, and service providers, to explore understandings and interpretations of human rights, and the impact of this on settlement outcomes and service provision. The outcomes of the project will include contributions to the theoretical debate and discourse around human rights to inform refugee policy at a national and international level, and to develop practical tools that support a rights-based approach to settlement services. The CRR research team is delighted to be collaborating with four industry partners from the refugee settlement sector: AMES, QPASTT, STARTTS and TMSG, in the implementation of this research.

For more information about this project, or for enquiries about our other projects and resources, please visit the CRR website or contact: crr@unsw.edu.au

SCOA Member Profile...

SPARK Program



SPARK is a Special Work of the *St. Vincent De Paul Society NSW Support Services*. It provides curriculum, social and cultural support to newly arrived children and families of refugee background through selected primary schools in Western Sydney.

In 2006, the St Vincent De Paul Society NSW identified a gap in support for primary school children of refugee backgrounds. It was recognised that that these children could be left behind if they and their parents were not supported to overcome language and cultural barriers to settlement, as early as possible in their education and settlement journey. The SPARK program was born out this recognition.

SPARK is an award-winning, volunteer-powered settlement support program targeting the educational, social and cultural needs of newly arrived children, and their parents or guardians. The program has supported homework clubs, workshops, community forums, school information sessions and recreational events in Western Sydney since 2007. It is currently engaging over 400 primary-aged children, up to 50 parents or guardians and over 450 volunteers per year. Using the school environment as a hub, SPARK enhances the connections between newly-arrived children and families of refugee backgrounds and their local communities.



SPARK is funded by the St. Vincent De Paul Society NSW Support Services, the Department of Social Services and philanthropic foundations.

SPARK runs a mentoring and homework after school club called Bright Sparks which develops an understanding of homework, English literacy and numeracy for children from refugee backgrounds. Volunteers help facilitate these programs at public and Catholic primary schools.

End-of-term Special Sessions for children encourage social connections and, for example, cover life skills education (such as healthy eating), or music-making or sports. Another program, Sparkle supports Year 6 students to develop confidence, responsibility and leadership via writing projects, preparation for speaking in front of class, or opportunities to help volunteers with a Bright Sparks session.

SCOA Member Profile...

SPARK Program



SPARK Family Groups are group classes for newly-arrived parents or guardians to foster friendship building, English language confidence, computer skills and awareness of settlement information. The group also go out on excursions. Other elements of the Family Group program include School-Based Information Sessions which enhance parent or guardian awareness of the Australian education system and provide opportunities to meet teachers and School-Based Recreational Workshops which develop social confidence and facilitate social connections between parents or guardians within the wider school community.

Community Forums, held in partnership with the local community and government services help to raise parent or guardian awareness of mainstream services such as health and housing services, the NSW police and the law. Community Awareness is achieved through SPARK's hands-on volunteer programs and through speaking and awareness events at schools and clubs in Sydney. SPARK uses the school as a hub and the school community as a point of engagement for newly-arrived families.

SPARK also provides one-on-one mentoring support to newly-arrived children meaning it is unlike a normal homework club setting. The SPARK volunteer program provides hands-on education and awareness-raising through creating connections for the wider mainstream Sydney community to volunteer and meet newly-arrived families.

SPARK is always looking for new volunteers to support its program with over 300 volunteers needed for a single school term. SPARK is keen to develop partnerships with other settlement providers to support settlement work within schools in Western Sydney. If you are interested in finding out more about the SPARK program please visit:

<http://spark.vinnies.org.au/home>

Information and photos courtesy of St Vincent de Paul Society NSW



National Conference of the Federation of African Communities Councils in Australia

4-6 December 2014

Venue: Banquet Room, Adelaide Festival Centre

For more information visit: <http://www.faccainc.org/>

SCOA Welcomes Its Newest Member!



Anglicare North Coast NSW has been supporting humanitarian entrants since 2005. The organisation currently provides Humanitarian Settlement Services and Complex Case Support for the region.



New Research Report on AMEP Youth Programs

AMES in Victoria has released a new research report "Preparing for the next step: a proposal to invest in AMEP Youth Programs." The report documents the value of the youth specific Adult English Migrant Program (AMEP) for newly arrived refugees and migrants between the ages of 16 and 25 years of age. It highlights the AMEP program's areas of effectiveness in meeting its objectives for this target group.

The AMES Youth Program is a specialist program which embeds the AMEP program into its program content. The aim of this specialist approach is to ensure an integrated pathway to successful settlement outcomes for refugee and migrant young people.

The report outlines specific ways in which additional funding has been, and is effectively utilised to maximise these outcomes, prepare them for the transition from the AMEP to the next step in their education and employment pathways and increase participation in Australian society.

Ensuring a successful transition between the AMEP and mainstream vocational training or work will maximise the benefits from government investment in the AMEP and subsequent investment in vocational training.

To view the report visit: [Preparing for the next step: a proposal to invest in AMEP Youth Programs](#)

MRCSA Sports Initiative's – Pivotal focus encouraging social inclusion & multiculturalism

The sport and recreational activities at Northern Area Migrant Resource Centre (NAMRC) form one part of a range of multi-pronged services that MRCSA engages in to help new community groups integrate into the social, economic and cultural fabric of life in South Australia. Reagan Bledde Manager – NAMRC aptly encapsulates this in his words “sports and recreational activities, help our CALD young people from diverse backgrounds focus and concert their energies on an activity, whilst improving their social skill, which ultimately helps in integration into mainstream society”. These sports initiatives form an integral part of the NAMRC youth leadership and governance training program and the MRCSA Youth Links project that mentors young people at risk.



MRCSA encourages new arrival groups to engage in: Volleyball at the Kilburn Community Centre every Friday, Basketball organised by the Afghan community for women at Adelaide every Friday, Netball organised by the Congolese for women and Volleyball organised by the Bhutanese community played at Salibury again on Fridays.

There are also other local communities that organize sporting events. In Adelaide the Chin Christian Church holds an Annual Sports Day at Parafield Gardens organised by the Burmese community for Soccer, Volleyball and Table Tennis matches. The African Communities Council's African Nations Cup was held on the 17th – 19th of October involving 12 teams in the Northern Area.

NAMRC in collaboration with FFSA and Soccer United is hosting a two day multicultural soccer carnival on the 12th and 13th of December. The competition will involve four soccer teams from new and emerging communities namely, Bhutan, Burma (Myanmar), Middle East (Afghanistan) and Africa. Participants will be mentored and engage in 'mini soccer clinics' conducted by professional players from mainstream soccer clubs.

Statistically for the past 30 years MRCSA has been committed in providing 50,000 people and 200 new community groups of newcomers with essential road maps such as these, to help in settling to the new way of life in Australia.

For more information, please email: northernarea@mrca.com.au



Walk Together

Welcome to Australia's annual event Walk Together took place on 25th October in 19 different cities and regional centres More than 17,000 people took part around Australia.

Walk Together is a celebration of the diversity that makes Australia great, reminding us that asylum seekers, refugees and all people share common dreams of safety, belonging and the opportunity to contribute to their community.

People across the country were invited to celebrate diversity and our cultural differences. The event recognises that no matter where you are from or what your background is, we are all people with common dreams.

For more information visit: [Welcome to Australia](http://www.welcometoaustralia.org.au)

Afghan Women's National Cycling Team

The Women's National Cycling Team of Afghanistan is only a few years old. Its 10 members, most between the ages of 17 and 22, have yet to finish a race. But they are determined to persevere in their chosen sport despite multiple barriers, and are aiming to ride in the 2020 Olympics.

"They tell us that it is not our right to ride our bikes in the streets. We tell them that this is our right... Then we speed off."



Pictured: Afghan Women's National Cycling Team

Men driving by insult them. Boys along the road throw rocks at them. Sometimes they don't have enough money to buy adequate food to fuel their rides. Every day, they are reminded that it is taboo in Afghan society for a woman to get on a bicycle. And still they ride.

"They tell us that it is not our right to ride our bikes in the streets and such," says Marjan Sidiqqi, one of the young women on the team. "We tell them that this is our right and that they are taking our right away. Then we speed off."

The generation of girls coming of age in a post-Taliban Afghanistan, bicycling is another manifestation of the freedom to be an educated person in the society. "Young women who are in university and high school, young women who are educated, their families have promoted that and helped that happen," she says. "These young

women look at it very cut and dry: 'My brother can ride a bike, why can't I?' They're cognizant that they have this right."

The taboo, however, remains strong, with women on bikes being told that they dishonor their families. There is real risk involved for the Afghan women riders of today.

Galpin an Afghan activist is trying to help mitigate the risks for the team by providing opportunities to train on roads in safer areas. The team might even take a trip to ride in Europe at some point, hoping to get closer to their Olympic goal. Reaching that milestone would be a source of national pride, and might change the way women's cycling is viewed in the nation as a whole.

"Biking with fear and trembling doesn't work," Sidiqqi adds with a smile. "When getting on a bike, one must throw these feelings to the wind."

This article was adapted from an article published in the Atlantic City Lab on 4th September 2014.



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:

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If you would like to contribute to future editions of the Settlement News in 2014, please contact Kat O'Neill at mso@scoa.org.au, or call 02 8065 5225.