

What's in this edition of Settlement News?

This edition is something of a celebration of the return of the Big M. That's it, the 'm' word: multiculturalism.

We don't need to tell readers of *Settlement News* how important multicultural policy is, and how significant it is that the government has now committed to renew multicultural policy and its complementary activities.

There was some disappointment with the first term Labor government in sector: an endorsement of the importance of multiculturalism was expected sooner.

But, better late than never. And the Minister's spirited support of multiculturalism, what he calls its 'genius' in Australia is genuine and important.

In recognition of the importance of this statement, we have reproduced in full his speech to The Sydney Institute, given late last month. There are also links to other papers and activities that discuss the refocus upon multiculturalism.

Suddenly, rather than a race to the ethical 'bottom of the barrel', there have been many spirited defences of multiculturalism that are shifting the public discussion in positive ways.

As the new policy is promoted, the inquiry into the benefits of multiculturalism rolls out, and we have even more public debate on the benefits of a plural society, we expect this positive momentum to build further.

This will all have significant and related impacts upon the settlement sector – impacts we will be discussing vigorously in the months ahead.

Message from Cedric Manen, SCoA Chair

A number of national and international natural disasters have displaced many families and individuals globally since our last bulletin of December 2010.



SCoA's thoughts are with the individuals, families and communities affected as a result of the Queensland floods, the Christchurch earthquake and the Japanese tsunami and earthquakes. In this edition of *Settlement News*, one article from a Queensland member offers the reader a perspective on the

Queensland floods and its impact on our client group.

The SCoA office has been quite busy with a number of key submissions over the past few months – all of which you can find on our website www.scoa.org.au. SCoA thanks those membership agencies that took time out to respond to the surveys which informed the submissions, particularly in an environment where tenders were the key focus. Readers will be pleased to note that our website is scheduled for a makeover with many enhancements to our membership area in the coming months and we do hope that the website will provide a more meaningful resource and connection opportunities for colleagues from the settlement services sector.

This month SCoA executives met in Canberra to work on SCoA's strategic plan. The executive discussed in detail strategies to guide and inform our direction over the next three years and in particular more effective representation that will ultimately result in constitutional reform. The day was facilitated by Maria Dimopolous from Myriad Consultants and I am pleased to announce that a draft plan is now available. SCoA executives are collectively excited about our renewed focus and emphasis on advocacy for the settlement services sector. SCoA state executives will be consulting with our membership on the draft strategic plan and other matters in the coming months, so stay tuned. Whilst in Canberra, members of the executive also had a quarterly meeting with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. A number of key matters were discussed including input into SCoA's strategic plan. SCoA acknowledges the

significant efforts of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's efforts on Australia's Multicultural Policy and looks forward to potential partnership opportunities on its application for the settlement services sector. Also this month our Vice Chair, Ricci Bartel represented SCoA at the national DIAC/NGO roundtables in Melbourne.

SCoA would like to acknowledge and thank the significant contribution of Conrad Gershevitch whilst in the role of Executive Officer. Conrad is leaving SCoA to pursue a career in the NSW State Government Health Department. Replacing Conrad in the role is Sky de Jersey whose profile can be found later in this newsletter. Sky commences her tenure on April 4th and on behalf of the membership we welcome her to the organisation.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all the very best for your Harmony Day activities which are just around the corner and look forward to hearing of your feedback on SCoA and the draft strategic plan through our state consultations over the coming months

SCoA Delegates Congratulate Parliamentary Secretary on New Multicultural Policy

On Tuesday March 8th State Representatives of SCoA met with the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs for lunch to congratulate her and Minister Bowen on the release of "Australia's Multicultural Policy". Senator Kate Lundy spoke quite candidly of the passion and dedication that led to the formation of this policy and thanked SCoA executive for their support.



Seen Above (Left to Right): Rosemary Kelada, Kerrin Benson, Senator Kate Lundy, Ricci Bartels, Cedric Manen, Eugenia Tsoulis, Dewani Bakkum and Amanda Field

SCoA delegates offered support in working with Government in exploring the four key principles as well as the National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy. The SCoA chair Cedric Manen was very pleased to have joined the female members of the executive and Senator Kate Lundy for lunch at Parliament House on the 100th Anniversary of International Womens Day.

ADDRESS TO THE SYDNEY INSTITUTE "THE GENIUS OF AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURALISM"

**The Hon Chris Bowen MP,
Minister for Immigration & Citizenship
Introduction**

Less than a month ago, millions of Australians celebrated our national day. Among the most enthusiastic participants were our newest Australian citizens. Thirteen thousand people – from every corner of the globe – passionately and enthusiastically took the pledge of commitment to this nation.

Over the years, as a local councillor, mayor, backbench MP and now Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, I've attended more citizenship ceremonies than I dare count. Over the years, they have served as a reminder of what I term 'the genius of Australian multiculturalism'.

I've seen people, proudly wearing the national dress of their homeland, clasping an Australian flag with all their might, welling up with tears as they promise to uphold and obey Australian values and laws.

It is this genius of Australian multiculturalism that I want to speak to you about tonight.

It is appears to be fashionable around the world at the moment to declare multiculturalism dead or to blame it for crime and terrorism. Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel recently declared that multiculturalism in her country had "utterly failed". This was in response to a book written by a member of the Bundesbank entitled Germany Abolishes Itself.

British Prime Minister David Cameron's remarks have also received plenty of attention in Australia and abroad.

Around the world, particularly since September 11 2001, the question has been asked: does multiculturalism strengthen a society or weaken it? Australia, of course, has not been immune to these discussions.

The Australian experience

My argument tonight is that multiculturalism has, without a doubt, strengthened Australian society. But it is a unique, Australian multiculturalism, built differently to other models around the world.

Australia and Canada are generally seen as the world's pioneers of multicultural policy. And we are. But there are some key differences to our approaches. There are even more differences between our approach and that of the European nations currently struggling with these issues, which makes the debates in Germany or the United Kingdom of limited value for a consideration of our situation.

To some, multiculturalism is simply a diverse population, and a non-discriminatory immigration policy. These are the foundations of Australian multiculturalism, but it consists of much more.

There are, I think three elements which make up the genius of Australian multiculturalism.

Respect for Australian values

Firstly, our multiculturalism is underpinned by respect for traditional Australian values.

Those who arrive in Australia are invited to continue to celebrate their cultures and traditions, not only within a broader culture of freedom but, more importantly, with respect.

However, if there is any inconsistency between these cultural values and the values of individual freedom and the rule of law, then these traditional Australian values win out. They must. This has been the case since multiculturalism was introduced as Australian policy in the 1970s.

One of my Labor predecessors as Immigration Minister, Al Grassby, put it well in his description of 'the family of the nation':

"In a family the overall attachment to the common good need not impose a sameness on the outlook or activity of each member, nor need these members deny their individuality and distinctiveness in order to seek a superficial and unnatural conformity. The important thing is that all are committed to the good of all."

But perhaps Paul Keating put it most eloquently when he said multiculturalism imposes responsibilities. He said:

"These are that the first loyalty of all Australians must be to Australia, that they must accept the basic principles of Australian society. These include the Constitution and the rule of law, parliamentary democracy, freedom of speech and religion, English as a national language, equality of the sexes and tolerance."

With the unity of the Australian society, this has been easier than, say, in that other country which pioneered official multiculturalism, Canada.

The national consensus on our values and the geographic integrity of our nation has meant that the fundamental underpinning of Australian values has been clearer than in Canada, where debates about language and the ongoing make-up of the nation continue. English is the national language here, its use in our public and private institutions is to be respected, and the learning of English is to be encouraged.

A citizenship-centred multiculturalism

Related to this is the second element of the genius of Australian multiculturalism.

Ours is a citizenship-based multiculturalism. To enjoy the full benefits of Australian society, it is necessary to take a pledge of commitment as a citizen.

This requires new citizens to pledge:

"loyalty to Australia and its people ... whose democratic beliefs I share ... whose rights and liberties respect ... and whose laws I will uphold and obey."

In my view, this is the most beautiful citizenship pledge in the world. Other countries tend to have quite mechanical pledges, whereby new citizens promise fealty to a monarch or president and to simply abide by the laws.

Australia's pledge symbolises more than that. It recognises that, although we recognise the economic benefits of skilled migration in particular, we are not a guest worker society. Rather, people who share respect for our democratic beliefs, laws and rights are welcome to join us as full partners with equal rights.

Perhaps this explains some of the emotion I've seen over the last 15 years as new citizens have taken their pledge, and also why Australia has one of the highest take-up rates of citizenship in the OECD.

International examples – from some countries in Europe, for instance – show that, where people arrive from overseas as guest workers with little encouragement to take out citizenship, they have little incentive to come full, contributing members of that society. This can lead to a complex and entrenched social cohesion dilemma.

Political bipartisanship

The third element of the genius of Australian multiculturalism is its political bipartisanship, particularly at its creation. The first Australian politician to publicly refer to multiculturalism as an aspiration was Al Grassby, Immigration Minister in the Whitlam Government.

But it was Malcolm Fraser as Prime Minister who institutionalised multiculturalism as national policy. To look over Malcolm Fraser's 1977 speech to the Institute for Multiculturalism, for example, is to be struck not only by its eloquence but also by its vision.

So multiculturalism cannot be claimed as the exclusive child of either of Australia's two main political parties. This means that, ideally, it remains above the fray of the daily political football match, and leaders on both sides of the aisle can sing the praises of Australia's multicultural heritage and its importance for our future. I'm not sure if this will continue, but I hope it does.

I believe these three elements have not only made our multiculturalism the best in the world, they have unquestionably strengthened Australian society.

International comparisons

So, whereas some other countries may have had less than positive experiences, the Australian model of multiculturalism is different.

I mentioned before the recent debates in Germany, for example. Australian multiculturalism is very different to the German experience. Frankly, there are few positive lessons to be learnt from Germany's approach to these issues.

Germany has, for some time, had one of the highest immigration rates in Europe. But it has not regarded itself as a multicultural nation. Indeed, it has hardly regarded itself as a nation of immigration.

When Angela Merkel says multiculturalism has failed, she cannot be referring to the national policy of respecting the cultures of immigrant societies while requiring respect for traditional German values of the rule of law and democracy.

She cannot be referring to multiculturalism as we know it because Germany has never had a policy of multiculturalism. In fact, a close reading of Angela Merkel's comments can be taken as an argument to move towards an Australian version of multiculturalism.

Germany has regarded immigration as an economic necessity. A requirement for guest workers has driven an economic immigration policy. Never has a German Government proposed a policy of respect for existing cultures where they do not clash with basic German values.

While Australia's post-war immigration policy was originally driven by economic imperatives, Australian governments eventually came to recognise the societal benefits of inviting full community participation by our immigrant populations in return

for a respect for, and embracing of, the cultures and customs that have been transported here by immigration.

One could argue that the large Turkish guest worker populations have not properly integrated into German society because, frankly, they have not been invited to.

Similar arguments can be learnt from France. France has been bedevilled by ethnic tensions from time to time. In 2005, it faced the spectre of widespread race riots. As Waleed Aly has pointed out, France's resistance to a formal policy of multiculturalism has not encouraged greater integration of immigrant societies but, on the contrary, it has bred resentment, separatism and violence.

Many countries in Europe have nations within nations: significant communities living 'parallel lives'. Generation after generation has perpetuated a segregation from the mainstream – based on ethnic, religious or cultural divides.

This seems to underline the benefits of the Australian approach.

Similarly, when David Cameron really said he supports a 'muscular liberalism', he was – I argue – also advocating a more Australian version of multiculturalism.

Consider this remark by the British Prime Minister in his recent speech:

"I believe a genuinely liberal country ... believes in certain values and actively supports them. Freedom of speech, freedom of worship, democracy, the rule of law, equal rights regardless of race, sex or sexuality. It says to its citizens, this is what defines us as a society: to belong here is to believe in these things."

His remarks are unexceptional in the Australian context. In fact, it reminds us of the quote I shared with you a few moments ago, from Paul Keating.

Australian governments do not defend cultural practices and ideas that are inconsistent with our values and ideals of democracy, justice, equality and tolerance. Nor should we be expected to.

In embracing these values, we have tried to instil a sense of belonging in Australia while encouraging the participation of all people.

As a nation, we pride ourselves on the way we have invested in the decent and fair treatment of new arrivals to our shore, to help them find their feet. Australia's settlement services are world-leading.

If values are not articulated, not put into practice, if people do not feel part of society, this can lead to alienation and, ultimately, social disunity.

Benefits of multiculturalism

In my view, the diversity of the Australian population has been unquestionably of benefit to us. It brings us economic benefits and cultural benefits.

Of our 22 million people, around 44 per cent were either born overseas or have one or both parents born overseas.

As the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council has said, it brings *“innovation, ideas, skills, energy and achievement and makes us richer in all kinds of ways.”* Our migration program has increased our population and enabled Australia to draw from a broad array of skills and knowledge, and enjoy a higher standard of living than we would otherwise have had.

A 2008 study by Access Economics estimated that migrants who entered through the 2006-07 migration program would benefit the Commonwealth Budget and broader economy by \$707 million in their first year, growing steadily to \$1.4 billion by their 20th year in Australia.

When I was Minister for Financial Services, I had the privilege of promoting Australia as a financial services hub. I found one of the best-selling points in New York, London and Asian centres is our high proficiency in Asian languages. Telling financial houses in London, for example, that they could base their Asian operations in Sydney and have access to any number of Mandarin speakers was of unquestionable assistance.

The diversity of our population has meant we better understand the world and better understand our region. This has meant, in turn, a heightened respect in our region.

An invitation to inclusion

It seems to me, if you accept the benefits of a diverse population, you then have a choice: do you respect, embrace and welcome the cultures of those you have invited to make Australia home; or do you shun them?

Do you seek to invite full participation in Australian society of those who come here, or do you treat them as guest workers and hope they integrate – while all along suspecting they won't?

Multiculturalism is about inviting every individual member of society to be everything they can be, and supporting each new arrival in overcoming whatever obstacles they face as they adjust to a new country and society and allowing them to flourish as individuals. It is a matter of liberalism.

A truly robust liberal society is a multicultural society.

To me, multiculturalism is a bit like a marriage. It has its stresses and strains. It has its misunderstandings

and miscommunications. We have to remind each other occasionally that we are better off with each other. It takes nurturing; it takes care.

It is in that spirit tonight that I quite proudly proclaim that Australian multiculturalism has worked. That not only has Australia benefited from the immigration of those who come from diverse backgrounds, but we have also benefited from the cultures they have brought and sustained in this, their new homeland.

We now live in a nation shaped by migration: one with broader horizons, open and tolerant. A nation that is more confident, more vibrant and more diverse. We recognise and celebrate different cultural heritages but insist that our future is common, is shared.

This is the genius of Australia's multiculturalism.

Challenges for the future

During our multicultural journey, every wave of migrants has had its challenges.

When I was growing up it was concern over Asian migrants. Each generation expresses some anxiety about the new, the unfamiliar.

“Sure, the last mob turned out okay,” they say, “but this wave is different. Will this wave be good for us?”

In the age of concern about terrorism inspired by extremist Islam, it is perhaps inevitable that questions get asked about Muslim migration to Australia. This is despite only 1.71 per cent of the Australian population identifying themselves as Muslim.

It is important that we are very clear here. Just like previous groups of migrants, the vast majority of the current group of migrants to Australia come here not to change our values, but because of them.

The wave of Bosnian migrants in the 1990s was fleeing religious persecution and intolerance. They came here not to force their beliefs on others, but simply to live in a country which embraced freedom and allowed people to practise their religions in peace.

Similarly, many Hazara refugees come to Australia because they are driven out of their homeland by religious extremists who see them as not pious enough.

Of course, if anyone who comes here – or indeed if anyone born here – promotes values such as Sharia Law or religious intolerance or violence, they do not do so in the name of multiculturalism.

Bearing that in mind, it is right for Australians to be concerned about extremism – whether Islamic or otherwise. Whatever the motivation or background, intolerant interpretations of religion do not align with Australia's values, principles or laws.

And, as such, it is the role of government to ensure policies and programs are put in place to deal with and counter such extremism.

To cast all Islamic migrants or all members of any religious group as somehow unworthy of their place in our national community, however, tars the many with the extremist views of the very few and does an injustice to all.

It's counter-intuitive to assume that the majority of migrants want to change Australia. Allegations of migrants wanting to come to Australia to convert the populace and turn it into a replica of their homelands ignore the truth: people come to Australia because, to them, Australia represents something better.

They bring their own unique stories and backgrounds to add to the mosaic of Australia's multicultural society, but they come to live in accordance with the laws, values and institutions that have made Australia so attractive to them in the first place.

They come because of what Australia is, not to change it into what they left behind.

For those fleeing persecution, terror and hatred, they come to Australia in search of peace, justice and harmony. For many others, they come in the hope of creating, in this new land, a new life for themselves and their loved ones – for prosperity and in the knowledge that, in Australia, their children will not be discriminated against for their colour or creed.

For these men and women, the last thing they want is Australia to change, to become less free, to become less democratic, to become less equal.

If Australia is to be free and equal, then it will be multicultural. But, if it is to be multicultural, Australia must remain free and equal.

'The People of Australia'

Last year, under the leadership of Andrew Demetriou, the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council presented the statement, The People of Australia, to Government to provide us with an opportunity to express our support for Australian multiculturalism.

It is in that vein that tonight I can release the Government's response to the AMAC Report and, in doing so, announce the Government's new multiculturalism strategy.

The Government accepts, in whole or in principle, each of AMAC's recommendations.

The Government will introduce a new independent advisory body, the Australian Multicultural Council, with broader terms of reference, to succeed the current Advisory Council.

The new body will act as a champion for multiculturalism in the community, will advise the Government on multicultural affairs and will help ensure Australian Government services respond to the needs of migrant and refugee communities.

We will also establish a National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy to design and deliver an anti-racism strategy.

While much good work has been done in Australia over many decades, we must continue to work to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. This strategy will bring together existing expertise on anti-racism and multicultural matters from government departments, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council.

Given the breadth of effort and the need for an increased focus that this new multicultural policy will require, I can also announce tonight that the Prime Minister has agreed to rename the position held by Senator Kate Lundy to better reflect the focus of her duties.

Once she is able to pay a visit to Her Excellency the Governor-General, Kate will be known as the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

I'd like to acknowledge Kate's work in the development of this policy and the work she has done with the sector and broader community since taking on her role.

AMAC makes the point that "*the multicultural character of Australia is central to the Australian story. Governments should tell this story.*"

We agree and we will continue to do so.

I'm not afraid to use the word 'multiculturalism'; I'm proud of what it means to Australian life.

One of the reasons I feel strongly about the genius of Australian multiculturalism is that I have lived it all my life. I grew up in Fairfield in Western Sydney, one of Australia's most multicultural communities. I now proudly represent that community in our nation's Parliament and my wife and I are raising our two children there.

When I went to St Johns Park High School – one of the state's largest – the student body was drawn from over 100 nationalities; the teaching staff came from over 50 nationalities.

When I was at school, I didn't sit around with my mates from Vietnam, Iraq, Bosnia and Croatia and talk about the genius of Australian multiculturalism. We had much more pressing teenage matters to occupy us.

Rather than philosophising about multiculturalism, we lived it. Just as millions of young Australians throughout our nation live it today.

Different cultures are accepted. Values are recognised. Traditions and beliefs are practised. Foreign languages substitute for English when the right word just can't be found. Freedom and tolerance are embraced.

Some of the boys I went to school with came from countries that were at war with each other in the 1990s. They lived and worked together in Fairfield, with the occasional spirited verbal exchange, but in almost all instances, peacefully. All in all, the tolerance, which is part of the Australian multicultural heritage, wins through.

Australia's diverse immigration program has been to the benefit of both migrants and ourselves. It is an indelible and irrevocable part of who we are, and without it we would all be the poorer.

The genius of Australia's multiculturalism is something we should recognise, embrace and proclaim.

Minister Bowen's speech can be read at:

<http://www.chrisbowen.net/media-centre/speeches.do?newsId=4154>

Welcome to the new SCoA Executive Officer – Sky de Jersey



I am very excited about joining the Settlement Council of Australia! It is an exciting time for the sector and I am keen to meet you all and work with you to strengthen it. My experience in refugee resettlement, international development and my lived experience growing up in Africa will, I think, be assets in my new role as Executive Officer.

My first engagement with settlement was through providing support to the Sudanese community in Blacktown as they were working together to develop a loan program to fund airfares for 202 entrants.

I started my professional career in settlement through direct service delivery as manager of the Household Formation Support service for the St Vincent de Paul Society during the first IHSS tender. While there I was also involved in the National Migrant & Refugee Committee which increased my understanding of both national and state settlement issues.

I have also been on the board of the Refugee Council of Australia since 2005, first on the Settlement Sub-Committee and, for the last few years, as chair of the Governance and Finance Sub-Committee. Staying connected through RCoA has helped me keep abreast of the changes in the sector while my professional roles took a more international path for a time.

My personal experience growing up for many years in Tanzania and Zimbabwe taught me first-hand the importance of cultural sensitivity and the need for respect, care and empathy as we engage with people from across the world.

I have maintained a passionate connection to the settlement sector through a few career changes and am very happy to be returning.



Watch This Space for State Consultations on the SCoA Draft Strategic Plan And Policy Forums





SCoA office closure

The SCoA national office will be largely unattended between 14 March 1 April 2011 (dates inclusive) due to the executive office transition arrangements

For urgent enquiries during the second half of March please call Cedric Manen on 0414 698 906, otherwise we will respond to your email or phone messages as soon as possible after 4 April



COMING SOON:

SCOA members-only pages on the SCoA website where you will be able to share confidential formation, update your organisation's details, post urgent advice or requests, blog in private with colleagues in the settlement sector, and directly contribute to policy and submission discussions



SCOA Membership

SCOA is keen to welcome new members from the settlement services sector.

If you wish to become a member of SCoA visit our website at: www.scoa.org.au/members.htm or contact SCoA's Executive Officer, Conrad Gershevitch at:

**Settlement Council of Australia
Suite 333, 410 Elizabeth Street**

**Surry Hills, NSW, 2010
phone: (02) 8065 5225
email: eo@scoa.org.au**



New Reports:

Challenging Racism: The Anti-Racism Research Project

Over 12 years, and surveying approximately 12,500 people, this study led by Prof Kevin Dunn at the University of Western Sydney looks at racist attitudes in the Australian community

The website, with detailed findings, says: an important finding of the Challenging Racism Project is that Australians are in large part secure with cultural difference. However, there are still pockets of the country that hold on to 'old-fashioned' racist views.

The presence of any form of racism is harmful for both the targets of the prejudice and for Australian society as a whole. To assist in counteracting the existence of racism, the Challenging Racism Project team have compiled a list of useful, practical anti-racism initiatives and strategies - that local governments and individuals can access and use to address cultural prejudices in their own backyards.

Detailed information about the research and its findings is at:

http://www.uws.edu.au/social_sciences/soss/research/challenging_racism

Data describing levels and type of racism by region can be read at:

http://www.uws.edu.au/social_sciences/soss/research/challenging_racism/findings_by_region

STATE of the WORLD'S CHILDREN 2011: Adolescence - an age of opportunity

In this report UNICEF examines the global state of adolescents, outlining the challenges they face in health, education, protection and participation; it explores the risks and vulnerabilities of this pivotal stage. The report highlights the singular opportunities that adolescence offers, both for adolescents themselves and for the societies they live in.

See: http://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/pdfs/SOWC-2011-Main-Report_EN_02092011.pdf

News from members:

South Australian Transcultural Mental Health network (SATMHN)

**Joseph Masika: Manager, MHACE, MRCSA
Regina Betts: Convenor, SATMHN, Programs Manager MRCSA**

The South Australian Transcultural Mental Health Network (SATMHN) was established and launched by the Minister for Mental Health, the Hon Mark Butler MP, on 1 December 2010. The inaugural meeting on 22 November 2010 brought together about 40 service providers and community groups who had for many years expressed interest in the establishment of the network in South Australia.

The Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia (MRCSA) was mandated to convene the network for the coming year, with a working group representing the Multicultural Communities Council, MIFSA, STTARS, MHS, African Communities Council, Middle Eastern Communities Council and other individuals.

The key objective for the network is to represent the interests of consumer groups and to engage them with mental health and allied organizations. The network will provide a valuable forum for community groups to network with others who work in the sector, to highlight the considerable community knowledge and expertise existing in South Australia, and to share good practice, challenges and learnings.

Through the network, service providers and community organizations are beginning to highlight the need for more information about local mental health services, mental health research, clinical practice, and national trends.

The MRCSA recognizes the need to promote access to mental health services for people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, especially those of the newly established communities in South Australia. It hopes that, through the network, collaborations and partnerships between services and client groups will be established to promote health and well-being, and to counter stigma about mental health, within communities.

SATMHN and MRCSA particularly want to thank and acknowledge the support of Multicultural Mental Health Australia for making the establishment of the new network possible.

The Middle Eastern Communities Council of SA
Invites you to celebrate with us at the

NAWRUZ Festival

Saturday 26 March 2011, 2.00pm till late
12 Barfield Crescent, Elizabeth West

The Festival will be launched by
HON THE SENATOR KATE LUNDY
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister
Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
at 5.00pm

Bring the whole family and your friends
Performances, Food, Crafts, Games and more

For more information contact
admin@meccsa.com.au

Multicultural Development Association

Flood Crisis - Briefing Paper

In January this year Queensland was hit by the worst floods since 1974. At its peak, around 20,000 houses were flooded in Brisbane alone.

During the flood crisis, MDA's staff worked tirelessly to provide various types of flood related assistance and support to 1,500 refugee families. At the peak of the crisis there were approximately 70 families displaced from their homes, out of which 30 families have now presented with complex ongoing needs. There were also nine male clients who were evacuated from Rockhampton's floods and accommodated at one of the evacuation centres in Brisbane.

MDA's flood disaster management plan ensured that staff were able to respond immediately to the needs of our clients and wider refugee communities. Our work was supported through the use of MDA's fee-for-service bicultural support service arm which engaged 15 bi-cultural support workers to provide language support in disseminating vital information about safety and evacuation. In addition to this, MDA's well established community networks enabled staff to work closely with thirty-six refugee and migrant community leaders in contacting each of their communities with safety information.

EMERGING ISSUES – During the crisis, the State Emergency Services (SES) provided excellent support to the community at large. It must be noted however that the emergency response was based on the voluntary evacuation of people with the assumption that all people have access to private transport, have established support networks to access shelter or speak fluent English.

Many of our clients have very large families and do not possess a driver's license let alone a car. A large component of our work was assisting families to voluntarily evacuate their homes and transporting them to the closest evacuation centre. In addition to this, our staff have been providing intensive language support and interpreting services due to the lack of proper interpreter engagement by government departments.

The major issue facing our clients will be the impending homelessness of many refugee families. The majority of our families are currently housed on the private rental market and as landlords take decisions to discontinue leases while they make insurance claims, MDA anticipates more and more families will become homeless. A number of refugees had returned home only to find that the landlord has declared their rental property uninhabitable and were requested to remove their personal property and vacate the lease. While this issue is not unique to our

The Riverland Multicultural Forum
in partnership with the
Migrant Resource Centre of SA
Regional Multicultural Communities Council and
South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission

INVITES YOU TO A

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Monday 21st March 2011, 11.15am - 2pm
Renmark Hotel, Renmark
(including lunch)

RSVP by Monday 14th March
contact Peter Ppiros on 0408 865 004

clients, it must be noted that it has been previously well documented that many refugee families have faced racial discrimination in trying to enter the private market with large families. This, coupled with short tenancy histories, means that many will be further disadvantaged in the current surge for demand on the private rental market.

UPDATE ON HOW OUR CLIENTS ARE FARING -

Currently, the feedback from MDA's caseworkers is that clients are generally still feeling unsettled. We are advised that many clients are still very distressed and frustrated due to feelings of helplessness and fear with some experiencing difficulty adjusting to new homes. This is further compounded for many by re-traumatisation from previous experiences in their home countries as well as settlement issues already present in adjusting to life in Australia. For example, a large Rohingya family of nine had to be evacuated by two fire trucks after refusing to be separated. Many are reluctant to take up mental health support services or to move to new or temporary accommodation preferring instead to stay with friends and/or family for extended support.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS -

Centrelink has been extremely efficient in processing the majority of the claims lodged by our clients. Also, their multicultural service arm provided excellent assistance in filling out applications to lodge claims. However, several of our clients are currently still waiting for their applications to be processed by the Premier's Relief Appeal Fund.

POST FLOOD CLEAN UP -

MDA was inundated with offers to help not just from the general public at large wanting to assist our clients in need, but also from numerous refugee communities eager to give back to the community. In two days we registered over 200 volunteers to assist with the post flood clean up activities.

Despite reports of some members of our refugee communities feeling re-traumatised, many were eager to join the clean up. It is testament to how strongly people of refugee background feel about their new home in wanting to contribute to the community effort.

On Wednesday 19 January 2011, the streets surrounding Milpera State High School's flooded campus at Chelmer, were inundated with construction workers, residents and a significant army presence to control the traffic and surrounding areas. Over 20 Rohingya men arrived to volunteer in clean-up efforts to prepare the site for the massive construction to take place the following week. Many of the men and youth are at different stages of resettlement and each carry with them different stories from their refugee

experience, all touched in some way by the heavy military presence from their time in Burma and in refugee camps in Bangladesh. While there was some trepidation about coming into contact with any military personnel, it soon dissipated when our community members were greeted with warm smiles and friendly handshakes from the men and women in uniform.

The community worked hard all day, barely stopping for breaks, reporting to their Community Development worker that they would stay all day if they were needed as they were working by choice as opposed to the forced slave labour they endured back in their home country.

Over a period of four days we had approximately 120 volunteers from nine refugee communities contribute 784 hours to the clean up process. The following communities worked in over ten different locations in and around Brisbane at homes, schools and business areas:

- Hazara
- Karen
- Liberian
- Congolese
- Rohingyan
- Ethiopian
- Sierra Leonean
- Somalian
- Sudanese

Afghani refugee Naiem Sujad, of Holland Park knows the pain of losing everything. This knowledge compelled the Afghani-Australian to help in the wake of the Brisbane floods. On the Sunday of the major clean up operation, the 39-year-old grabbed five mates, a barbecue, 30kg of sausages, 400 bread rolls and boxes of soft drinks and headed to the devastated suburb of Oxley to provide relief to flood victims and volunteers. "I'm a proud citizen of Australia and I want to help," he said. "When there was war in Kabul, we lost homes, property, and members of my family. The devastation here after the floods is similar to Afghanistan. People are very upset and have lost everything." In the shade of a gum tree in Graceville Memorial Park, Mr Mahmood spent six hours catering for about 300 muddy volunteers. He hoped a hot snag and a cold drink would help rally those devastated by what they saw. Mr Mahmood and his friends - all members of the Afghan Community Association - have also spent the past week helping about 20 Afghani families affected by the floods in Jindalee, Moorooka and Toowong.



Above: Naiem Sujad and helpers barbecue to provide relief to flood victims and volunteers

It was extremely heartening to hear positive feedback given to our case workers who were coordinating clean up efforts alongside various refugee communities. For example, an elderly couple whose business premises was severely impacted by the floods told us that having scores of refugees helping them clean their premises and being able to talk to them of their experiences had completely changed their perspective and opinions about refugees. It is the personal connection for many which helps to dispel the myths about refugees and takes the toxicity out of public and political debate.

Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania) Inc - 'Connect' Project

The Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania) Inc (MRC) is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the Innovation Fund to provide Employment Support Services to new and emerging communities in Tasmania. The project, called 'Connect' was officially opened on 1st October 2010.

Connect is a centre for people from a refugee or humanitarian background to gain support with positive employment outcomes. The centre also acts as a location for diverse workshops and information sessions, community events and as a community meeting point.

For the first time in Tasmania, people from disadvantaged humanitarian and refugee backgrounds are offered programs specifically tailored to their needs. Some of the services available at the centre are:

- Community information
- Positions Vacant

- Job Coaching
- Computer training
- Mentoring
- CV and Selection criteria assistance
- JSA advice and assistance
- Advocacy
- Apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities
- Information on training, education and starting a small business
- Mentoring to adults and youth

Successful outcomes to-date have provided clients with 38 people securing seasonal work, 1 part-time position, 3 full-time positions and 5 people with casual work.

The Karen community sought assistance from Connect to secure seasonal work whilst on holidays from their English classes. One major hurdle for Connect were the barriers the Karen community faced; none of them had a Tasmanian drivers licence nor access to a car. The Connect team contacted various orchards and volunteers to seek their assistance.

An MRC volunteer agreed to drive the MRC bus with 10 Karen community members to Westerway (one hour drive west of Hobart) to pick raspberries. Community members were provided with a one hour induction at the Orchard with Connect staff providing assistance to the 10 workers to complete all the required paperwork.

The 10 workers commenced picking raspberries on Sunday 19th December at 6.45am – a volunteer emailed this interesting bit of news:

The good news is that the picking group have acquitted themselves well and Richard is very pleased with them. We are getting there on time with 100% attendance. The mood in the bus is jovial coming and going home. No injuries, no sunburn and no interruptions from rain. Things couldn't be going better.



Southern Tasmania holds a yearly Falls Music and Arts Festival at Marion Bay (approximately one hour drive east of Hobart). Management of the Festival contacted Connect to see if we were able to provide 20 people to participate as the 'Green Team' this involves cleaning of the venue after the festival. Connect negotiated with management of the Festival and secured transport, accommodation and meals for the 'Green Team'.



Some interesting extras....

Cosmopolitan social democracy

a short article by John Quiggin...

who argues that we need to mobilise a positive alternative to the fear, anger and tribalism on offer from the political right. His article starts:

"Angela Merkel's recent denunciation of German multiculturalism marks another step in the tightening of ties between the market-liberal right and ethnic-national tribalism, evident in other European countries and in the US (most obviously with the rise of the Tea Party). In part at least, this is a result of weakness. The positive appeal of market liberalism has declined a fair bit since the triumphalist decades of the 1980s and 1990s, and the global financial crisis exposed the failure of its theoretical basis. But there are obvious problems for social democrats in responding to this development...

The left needs to offer a transformational vision of a better society if it is to motivate the kind of enthusiasm needed to overcome a right-wing politics of tribalism..."

To see the full article go to:

<http://johnquiggin.com/index.php/archives/2010/10/24/cosmopolitan-social-democracy/>

Australia appears before international UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW process

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, conducted by the United Nations Human Rights Council, involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN member states – this comes around every four years. Australia appeared before the UPR on 27 January 2011 and was scrutinised on a wide range of human rights issues in Australia.

The committee made 145 recommendations for improving Australia's human rights protections

including calling on Australia to safeguard the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and honour its obligations under the Refugee Convention, particularly in relation to non-refoulement and the treatment of asylum seekers who arrive without authorisation.

Australia was urged to review its mandatory detention program and limit detention to the shortest time possible while improving conditions in detention and considering alternatives to detention.

The review also recommended that Australia should continue to work with countries in the region to strengthen regional frameworks for addressing irregular migration in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.

Further information about Australia's appearance before the UPR can be found at:

www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/PAGES/AUSession10.aspx

Malcolm Fraser's defence of multiculturalism

The former Liberal Party Prime Minister has come out strongly supporting the renewal of multicultural policy, saying:

"With its new multiculturalism policy, detailed by Immigration Minister Chris Bowen last night, Labor has really gone back to its values. They're values I share. They're talking about fairness for all people, people from different backgrounds, different cultures. They emphasise the primacy of Australian values and laws, everyone always has, but that doesn't prevent people from having an affection for the land of their birth, it doesn't stop them respecting old traditions..."

...with the comments of Scott Morrison and Tony Abbott, we saw a very narrow and a very mean attitude emerging from the opposition. If you look at the Liberal Party's comments on asylum seekers over time they were always playing upon the fears of Australians: these people won't embrace Australian values, they're drug runners, they're queue jumpers, they're illegals, they're awful people, they'll turn into pr-stitutes, maybe even terrorists. They campaigned on fear..."

For the full article see:

http://www.culturaldiversity.net.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=851:crikey-features-malcolm-fraser-on-multiculturalism&catid=23:in-the-media&Itemid=36

HEAR OUR VOICE:

Cultural Perspectives on Mental Health Care

This DVD resource from Multicultural Mental Health Australia aims to help mental health services, consumers and carers understand how culture can impact on perceptions of mental illness and recovery and encourage their participation in mental health advisory groups. For more information email: admin@mmha.org.au

I'M COLOURBLIND...

IMCOLOURBLIND Incorporated is an initiative run by university students. The campaign promotes seeing everyone as an equal human being, by advocating for non-discrimination and inclusivity.

IMCOLOURBLIND has been distributing educational materials to refugee detention centres across Australia to combat discrimination and boost access to education. At the moment they have been unable to get these valuable materials to the centres and are looking for community facilities to deal with their oversupply. They are free and Rob Welton from IMCOLOURBLIND would be happy for you take them to enhance and benefit your community's educational capacity.

For further information contact:

Rob Wetton at IMCOLOURBLIND incorporated
mobile: 1439 995 400
email: rob@imcolourblind.org
website: www.imcolourblind.org

Showcase your projects on integration: BUILDING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES (IBIS) WEBSITE

The UN Alliance of Civilizations (UANOC) and the International Organization for Migration have jointly built this interactive community website to showcase international good practice in migrant and refugee social inclusion. If your agency has a project or initiative that you would like to showcase on the IBIS website, simply submit it online via this link:

www.unaoc.org/communities/migrationintegration/integration-practices/submit-a-practice.

For further information visit:

www.unaoc.org/communities/migrationintegration or contact Con Pagonis cpagonis@mav.asn.au

UNAOC is currently in discussion with a range of Australian organisations to plan an IBIS regional launch and workshop in Melbourne later this year. It will be publicised as soon as arrangements are firmer.

The METROPOLIS PROJECT

Metropolis is an international network for comparative research and public policy development on migration, diversity, and immigrant integration in cities in Canada and around the world.

The international arm of the project involves partnerships with policy makers and researchers from over 20 countries, including the United States, most of Western Europe, Israel and Argentina and from the Asia-Pacific region.

The Bridge is an information bulletin broadcast and published by the Metropolis Project Secretariat. It is published every six weeks. See: http://canada.metropolis.net/thebridge/thebridge_e.html

SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE FAMILY SUPPORT SECTOR

Catherine Caruana and Myfanwy McDonald from the Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse

This briefing paper summarises some of the literature and research on social inclusion and considers the relevance of the concept and its application to family support services. Social inclusion frameworks, principles and resources are used to consider how family support services can incorporate the concept of social inclusion into the current and future planning and delivery of services. Barriers and challenges to doing so are also discussed.

To see the report go to:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/briefing/b019/b019.pdf>

SUPPORTING WOMEN FROM CALD BACKGROUNDS WHO ARE VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

challenges and opportunities for practitioners

Beata Ostapiej-Piatkowski & Annabelle Allimant from the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault

This summary aims to raise awareness of the circumstances of refugee and immigrant women who are survivors of sexual violence as they establish new lives in Australia - the lifetime journey that may haunt them, the continuing trauma they may suffer, and the personal and systemic barriers they meet in accessing support.

More than two decades of practice knowledge from the Immigrant Women's Support Service (IWSS) in

Queensland informs this paper. IWSS has a history of 24 years of direct service delivery to women and their accompanying children who are from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB), who have at any time in their lives experienced domestic and family violence and/or sexual violence. In this paper the authors:

- bring to light the issues faced by counsellors and women victim/survivors as they traverse two cultures
- define some of the expectations and assumptions that women encounter when they attempt to access support services
- discuss how this can result in exclusion and discrimination for some women
- suggest good practice for service providers in relation to effective cross-cultural service provision for CALD background women who have been subjected to sexual violence.

This paper will be primarily of interest to workers in the sexual assault and domestic violence fields. It will also be of value to practitioners who provide support to refugee and immigrant women in a broad range of service areas including health, housing and education.

See:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/acssa/pubs/wrap/wrap9/w9.pdf>

INQUIRY INTO MULTICULTURALISM IN AUSTRALIA

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Hon Chris Bowen MP, recently referred an wide ranging inquiry into multiculturalism to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Migration. The inquiry is concerned with the practical measures that promote settlement, integration and participation in Australian society.

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration shall inquire into the economic, social and cultural impacts of migration in Australia and make recommendations to maximise the positive effects of migration. The inquiry shall examine and report on:

Multiculturalism, social inclusion & globalisation

- 1) the role of multiculturalism in the Federal Government's social inclusion agenda, and
- 2) the contribution of diaspora communities to Australia's relationships with Europe, the UK, Middle East and the immediate Asia-Pacific Region.

Settlement and participation

- 3) innovative ideas for settlement programs for new migrants, including refugees, that support their full

participation and integration into the broader Australian society; and

- 4) incentives to promote long term settlement patterns that achieve greater social and economic benefits for Australian society as a whole.

National productive capacity

- 5) the role migration has played and contributes to building Australia's long term productive capacity
- 6) the profile of skilled migration to Australia and the extent to which Australia is fully utilising the skills of all migrants; and
- 7) potential government initiatives to better assist migrant communities establish business enterprises.

Submissions should be sent to:

Jane Hearn (Inquiry Secretary)

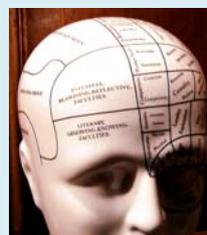
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Department of the House of Representatives
PO Box 6021, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Phone: 02 6277 2300

email: jscm@aph.gov.au

by: **Friday 8 April 2011**

**public hearings will also be
conducted nation-wide later in the year**



Forthcoming conferences & presentations

Public Lecture Multiculturalism – Success or Failure?

**Dr John Hewson,
Economist & Former Leader of the Opposition**

Australia's multicultural agenda has been under the spotlight. While migrants became an election issue, recent comments by European politicians about the failure of multiculturalism seemed to resonate with Australians. Economist and Former Leader of the Opposition, Dr John Hewson, will talk about Australia's vision of multiculturalism and whether we can create a government and policy structure that can succeed

where others have failed. The talk will be followed by Q&A from the audience.

Presented by the Freilich Foundation (ANU) & FECCA

WHEN: Thursday 17 March 2011, 6-7pm
WHERE: Sir Roland Wilson Building, ANU

ACOSS National Conference 2011:

CHALLENGING INEQUALITY: SOCIAL ACTION IN AN EVER CHANGING WORLD

WHEN: 29~30 March
WHERE: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

The 2011 ACOSS conference includes a diverse line-up of researchers, policy makers, elected officials, and community organisation representatives from around the country. They will come together to debate some of the major issues affecting the not-for-profit sector. Sessions will span a range of topics relevant to inequality in contemporary Australia, such as housing and homelessness, disability, tax reform, aged care, mental health, climate change, and social services.

A panel discussion addressing the policy challenges of productivity, population and participation will be hosted by the ABC's Peter Mares and aired on Radio National's *The National Interest* program. The conference will culminate with a lively panel discussion featuring well-known journalists, social commentators and community sector representatives will be hosted by ABC personality and presenter Jon

Faine and broadcast on Radio National's *Big Ideas*.

Speakers include: Senator Bob Brown, Professor Ross Garnaut; Saul Eslake; Jon Faine; Patricia Karvelas; Jenny Macklin; Andrew Robb; Ged Kearney; Tom Calma; John Mendoza; Rachel Siewert; Andrew Wilkie; Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

For more information visit:

<http://acoss.org.au/nationalconference/>

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities conference 2011

WHEN : 12~13 May 2011
WHERE : Rendezvous Hotel, Melbourne

the conference information says:

“Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Communities 2011 will address how Australia can adapt its systems so that CALD communities can achieve full participation. We will scrutinize the experiences had thus far by ethnic Australian communities and identify the solutions to ensure Australians from all backgrounds benefit from Australian social and economic infrastructure.

(delegates will) *hear from regulatory bodies and industry leaders on the following topics during this two-day conference:*

- *Commonwealth, State and Territory initiatives for full integration of multicultural communities*
- *the development of community profiles and managing the many demographic variables*
- *the solutions for correcting systemic deficiencies and improving accessibility within social and economic infrastructure*
- *maximising Australia's economic growth through complete integration*
- *culturally-appropriate employment strategies to provide workforce development*
- *policy surrounding education and education accessibility*
- *accessing and navigating the justice system*
- *health education, promotion, and the accessibility of healthcare services for migrants*
- *mental health services and barriers to receiving care*
- *managing disabilities within the CALD community*
- *meeting the linguistic and cultural needs of the ageing community and aged care*
- *cultural competencies & acceptance- developing recognition and examining assumptions”*

For more information go to:

<http://www.informa.com.au/conferences/government/culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-cald-communities/agenda>

2011 Refugee Conference: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, LEARNING FROM THE PAST

WHEN: 14~17 June 2011
WHERE: University of NSW, Kensington, Sydney

early bird registration extended until 20 March

2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention, a milestone in the recognition of the rights of people displaced by persecution and development of an international human rights framework. It is also the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

The UNSW Centre for Refugee Research, together with key refugee advocates and practitioners is convening a conference to mark this anniversary. It will provide a timely opportunity to reflect on the strengths and achievements of the Refugee Convention and refugee protection system, and to consider what further action is needed to secure the rights of refugees during flight, in countries of asylum and in resettlement. The conference themes will be:

- regional protection frameworks

- the search for durable solutions, and
- Asylum | settlement in Australia & New Zealand

The program information and early bird registration is available at:

<http://refugeeconf2011.arts.unsw.edu.au/>

MULTILITERATE, MULTICULTURAL, MULTIFACETED....MELBOURNE

WHEN: 8~10 July 2011

WHERE: Hilton on the Park, Melbourne, Victoria

The Australian Literacy Educator's Association (ALEA) national conference is designed to support educators to meet the literacy challenges and opportunities of a networked, multilingual and culturally diverse literacy landscape. It is an opportunity for literacy educators to share conversations about how to foster traditional and multimodal means of expression, using relevant and accessible tools and practices to develop the capacities of the 21st century learners.

For more information: <http://www.alea2011.com/>

2011 International Unity in Diversity Conference: MEDIA, MARGINALITY & DIVERSITY

call for papers

WHEN: 18-19 August 2011

WHERE: Rydges Southbank Townsville Hotel & Convention Centre, North Queensland

This year's conference will be held in association with the 17th annual Cultural Festival in Southbank. Abstracts for papers and bio-data are due 31 March.

For further information contact Shevindi De Motte: (07) 4772 4800 or: shevindi@townsvilleic.com.au

16th International Metropolis Conference

MIGRATION FUTURES: PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBAL CHANGES

WHEN: 12~16 September 2011

WHERE: Azores Island, Ponta Delgada

The 16th International Metropolis Conference will see Metropolis continue to expand its interests and its geographical reach. At this first meeting in an island society, the Azores, we will be able to learn firsthand about migration from the point of view of a sending country. During our previous 15 conferences, we have

concentrated on the management of migration and population diversity from the perspective primarily of the societies of destination. As guests of the Azores, we have a wonderful opportunity to learn how countries of origin conceive of the emigration of their people and the practical and often remarkable steps they take to maintain a unity of their people and their cultures across vast distances. More Azoreans live outside the Azores than on the islands, and yet there remain exceptionally strong bonds amongst the émigrés and between the émigrés and their homeland.

How this is fostered and managed for Azoreans will serve as a starting point for the conference to look closely at how societies of origin more generally think about their expatriate populations, retain their interest in and allegiances to their homeland, and the growing rates of return migration to those homelands that are experiencing rapid economic and social development. We will also continue our examination of the impacts of migration and diversity on societies of destination by looking at demographic objectives behind migration policies and at managing high levels of diversity within our cities.

No understanding of international migration is complete without an understanding of the source country perspectives. This conference will help us all to enrich our knowledge of migration and its effects on both societies of destination and of origin. We will consider, too, the effects that source country ties can have on the societies of destination, their quest for peaceful and meaningful integration of their newcomers, and the complications that modern communication technologies add to this story.

For more information:

http://www.metropolis2011.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4&Itemid=5&lang=en