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Message from SCOA Chair- Cedric Manen



The forthcoming Federal election is naturally dominating discussion across the country for us all. It is something we have been thinking and working on at SCOA , and I hope members have found the [Key Issues document](#) prepared by SCOA after our consultations useful. Members will also have seen the media statement SCOA issued on off-shore processing and regional resettlement. Policy changes in our sector have been rapid and the last few months have not been an exception. Keeping the debate focussed on the human rights of asylum seekers is important in all our discussions.

I recently attended the UNHCR Annual Tripartite Consultations in Geneva on behalf of SCOA. It is interesting to gain a better understanding of what is happening internationally in the area of refugee resettlement and where we can contribute program and policy ideas.

At the end of July SCOA attended the Celebrate African Australian Awards in Canberra. SCOA was delighted to be honoured at the awards for contributing to the settlement of African Australians.

I would also like to thank members for participating in the [membership satisfaction survey](#) and the member mapping project. Your feedback and input is most appreciated, and will be used to help us strengthen the services and support we provide. The state consultation reports are now available and can be accessed [here](#).

Cedric Manen
SCOA Chairperson



Message from SCOA Executive Officer- Sky de Jersey



SCOA hosts and participates in a range of meetings, each filling a different niche. I have been focussing my attention recently on the Policy Practice Forum, and it has been good to see it grow in strength. It is important for the sector to have a space to discuss research and policy. Meetings have drawn together researchers and settlement agencies, allowing both to gain a better understanding of each other's environments. If you are interested in joining this group please [contact me](#).

I recently attended the Centrelink National Multicultural Advisory Group meeting. This annual meeting brings together key Centrelink staff and representatives from multicultural communities. We discussed new programs and processes Centrelink is implementing, including multilingual smartphone apps that allow people to record basic information with Centrelink easily from their smartphones. It is amazing what technology can do now!

I have also been working on the National Settlement Service Standards, please see below on page 18 for more information. I encourage any members interested in being involved to [contact me](#).

Participating in the National Forum on Children and Young People from Refugee Backgrounds was a stimulating experience. There was a lot of passion and experience, from the presenters and from the audience. Sessions came up with concrete recommendations, which were then put to Minister Lundy, Teresa Gambaro MP and Senator Di Natale at the closing plenary.

Thank you,

Sky de Jersey

SCOA Executive Officer

Reporting SCOA's State Member Consultations

Over the past few months SCOA members and stakeholders met for our annual state member consultations.

Face-to-face consultations were held in ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA. Teleconference consultations were held in the NT and with regional members.

The consultations were a chance to discuss emerging settlement trends and issues at a national and state level. Participants were encouraged to share their local solutions and best practices.

Participants were also updated on SCOA activities over the last year and how members are being represented.

The consultation report can be downloaded here: [SCOA State Member Consultation Report](#).

SCOA's Position on Key Issues

In the lead up to the federal election SCOA has developed its [Position Paper on Key Settlement Issues](#).

SCOA will use the paper to advocate for the settlement sector and communicate with the incoming Government, Ministers, government departments and other important players in settlement.

Over the past few months SCOA has been working on identifying the key issues and related recommendations.

Issues were identified through conversations with our members, feedback from our state member consultations, the National Settlement Conferences and SCOA's partnerships with non-government agencies, fellow peak agencies and government agencies.

The paper includes SCOA's position on:

- Settlement services
- Housing
- Employment
- English language
- Domestic violence
- Youth
- Sport
- Multiculturalism
- Arts and community cultural development
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Migration settlement support
- Disability
- Mental Health

SCOA's advocacy position is based on a nonaligned approach to settlement within a human rights framework that includes multiculturalism and access and equity as key values.

The paper can be found on SCOA's website at at this link: [SCOA Position on Key Settlement Issues](#).

SCOA's Case Studies – share your stories!

In the next few months SCOA will be focusing on developing case studies on issues identified in our [SCOA Position Paper on Key Settlement Issues](#).

The stories will highlight the human dimension of the policy picture by bringing to life refugee and migrant settlement experiences.

We would like to hear about your clients' experiences with your services and programs. Initially, SCOA will focus case studies on the issues of Housing, Employment, Health and Education.

SCOA may contact you shortly to discuss how you can get involved in this project. Also, we are inviting you to send through any stories you would like to share with us.

If you would like to contribute please contact Sky de Jersey on (02) 8065 5225 or at eo@scoa.org.au.



The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) in conjunction with the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ) and the Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast (MCCGC) invite you to join the 2013 FECCA Conference.

7-8th November 2013

Goldcoast Convention & Exhibition Centre

Register here: <http://www.fecca2013.com/registration/>

News from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Australian Citizenship Day, 17th September 2013

Celebrated annually on 17th September, Australian Citizenship Day is an opportunity to reflect on the value and meaning of being an Australian citizen, whether we are Australian by birth or by choice.

It is also a day to recognise and value the contributions citizens make within our local communities, which helps create a better Australia.

We encourage your organisation to participate in the celebrations. You could:

- host an Australian citizenship affirmation ceremony;
- organise a morning tea for people who make a difference within your local community;
- welcome people new to your community
- raise money for a local project; or
- volunteer with a local charity or community group.

Register your event on the citizenship website to receive free Australian Citizenship Day promotional products.

www.citizenship.gov.au



Make the connection: working with migrants and refugees

Migrants and refugees can bring considerable benefits to Australian businesses. They provide employers with unique skills, international experience and diverse cultural perspectives, talents that in turn help employers enhance customer service, strengthen existing markets or build new ones, both in Australia and overseas.

These are views echoed across a new publication developed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

Connections: an employer's guide to working with migrants and refugees can help employers harness the amazing breadth and diversity of migrants and refugees into the workplace to benefit their business.

"Connections is about showing employers the tangible benefits of employing migrants and refugees through real world examples coupled with practical advice," said Warren Pearson AM, Assistant Secretary at DIAC.

The guide demonstrates these benefits through a series of case studies similar to the experiences of Lentil as Anything.

"The restaurant had a young Ethiopian woman who initially struggled to work the floor. But we realised that Ethiopia has the oldest coffee making ceremony in the world, so we asked her to perform ceremonies for customers. People love it," said the founder of Lentil as Anything. "We're not highlighting what employees don't have, but highlighting what they do have."

To find out more and to download a copy of the publication, visit:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/employers/connections>


 The logo for 'Connections' features the word in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'C' is blue, 'o' is yellow, 'n' is green, 'n' is red, 'e' is purple, 'c' is blue, 't' is yellow, 'i' is green, 'o' is red, and 's' is purple.



News from DIAC continued....

Getting Settled: Women Refugees in Australia

The plight of some of the world's most vulnerable refugees is highlighted in a new publication, *Getting Settled: Women Refugees in Australia*, which was recently launched in Townsville at the start of Refugee Week by, Multicultural Affairs Minister Kate Lundy. The event was hosted by the Townsville Multicultural Support Group.

The booklet aims to raise awareness of the issues and challenges that highly vulnerable refugee women face in their settlement journey. It contains the personal stories of a number of refugee women who have settled in Australia and have gone on to make a significant contribution to their communities and to the broader Australian society. It also provides examples of good practice approaches to service delivery, many of which were contributed by the HSS service providers.

During the last program year (2012-13), Australia granted more than 1,600 Woman at Risk visas to vulnerable refugee women and their families. This figure represented almost 14 per cent of the offshore refugee program and was the largest number of Woman at Risk visa grants since the visa was established in 1989. Next year will mark 25 years of settlement in Australia for this particular cohort.

A downloadable, printable version of the booklet is available in both PDF and Word format on the Department's website at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/settle/women-refugees.htm>.

Community Proposal Pilot – announcement of approved proposing organisations

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has appointed four well-established community organisations to participate in the community proposal pilot announced by the [former Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on 3 June 2013](#).

The community proposal pilot is a program being trialled by the Australian Government to provide a mechanism for communities within Australia to identify and support individuals in humanitarian situations offshore for entry into Australia. It provides for 500 places within the 20,000 place Humanitarian Program.

The Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre and Illawarra Multicultural Services in New South Wales joined by AMES and the Brotherhood of St Laurence in Victoria have entered into a deed of agreement with the Department as approved proposing organisations. Approved proposing organisations will be responsible for proposing people for a Refugee and Humanitarian visa and, if their application is successful, help them to settle in Australia.

For more information about the community proposal pilot, visit:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian/offshore/community-proposal-pilot.htm>

RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME



News from DIAC continued....

Removal of HSS eligibility from some Protection visa holders

On Friday 2nd August 2013, the Australian Government issued its Economic Statement and announced a savings measure that would remove the eligibility of some Protection visa holders for the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) program. This announcement applies to:

- Unauthorised Maritime Arrivals who lived in the community on a Bridging visa E or in Community Detention, and
- Other asylum seekers who lived in the community, including in Community Detention.

People affected by the change are relatively established in the community and would have received some support services while awaiting the outcome of their protection application.

They will also remain eligible for other Australian Government programs, including:

- Services funded by the Settlement Grants Program
- English classes under the Adult Migrant English Program
- the Translating and Interpreting Service
- Complex Case Support, if assessed by the Department as having multiple complex needs effecting their settlement, and
- The Program of Assistance for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (administered by the Department of Health and Ageing).

As permanent residents of Australia, they will also have access to general government services such as Centrelink, Medicare and assistance to find employment.

Protection visa holders exempt from the above decision include:

- Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors due to their particular vulnerabilities, and the statutory guardianship responsibilities of the Minister for Immigration, Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, and
- Most people granted protection while in held detention, as they generally have no experience living in the community.

The change will take effect on Friday 30th August 2013.

Richmond Review – completion of recommendations

On 13 December 2011, the then Minister of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen and Senator the Hon Kate Lundy, in her former capacity as Parliamentary Secretary, released the *Review of Humanitarian Settlement Services Performance Measures and Contract Management* (the HSS Review). The Government accepted the Review's 70 recommendations. The HSS Review concluded that the Department's management and oversight of the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) program is adequate, but identified the need for improvement in areas such as quality assurance and risk management.

As at 8th July 2013, all of the 70 recommendations of the HSS Review have now been completed.

Major achievements include the establishment of a rigorous Quality Assurance (QA) Framework and introduction of a real time, client and service delivery focussed QA program, implementation of an Issues Management Framework, improvements to client referral processes, development of a communication campaign to improve messaging about the HSS program (and its alignment with other DIAC-funded settlement and support services), completion of a Risk Management Framework, updated accommodation policy and a catalogue of HSS program reports to improve reporting capability and data analysis.

The Department will continue to work with the settlement sector to ensure that the recommendations are embedded in day-to-day activities and continuous quality improvement activities of the HSS program.

News from DIAC continued....

Strengthened Multicultural Access and Equity Policy

Australia's approach to access and equity was recently reinvigorated through the strengthened *Multicultural Access and Equity Policy: Respecting diversity improving responsiveness*.

A key requirement under this policy is for Australian Government departments and agencies to develop and implement two-yearly Agency Multicultural Plans to address their multicultural access and equity obligations, with the first plans to be in place by 1 July 2013.

The plans outline the priority actions, responsibilities and targets that departments and agencies will implement over the next two years to improve their responsiveness to clients disadvantaged by cultural and linguistic barriers. This includes responsiveness not only through service delivery but through all engagement and communication with clients.



Members of South Sudanese women's dance group Youth Mama, with DIAC Secretary Martin Bowles and First Assistant Secretary, Citizenship Settlement and Multicultural Affairs, Robert Hoitink

The plans will enable more accountable and transparent performance reporting through performance audits by the Auditor-General and a biennial whole-of-government report to be tabled in parliament. Departments and agencies will also be required to report against plans in their annual reports.

The Australian Multicultural Council has a review and oversight role, including monitoring performance in collaboration with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia also has an important role, engaging with ethnic community organisations to provide feedback on government service delivery.

While the department has lead responsibility for the policy implementation, it also needed to develop its own plan. The department's plan has over 40 action items and is aimed at solidifying a culture within the department that embraces multicultural access and equity principles in all aspects of work.

More information is available at www.immi.gov.au/multicultural-access-equity



Commonwealth Ombudsman's research analysis of long-term immigration detention published

A recent report by Human Research Partners analysed the Commonwealth and Immigration Ombudsman's reviews of asylum seekers held in long term detention during 2012. The report, titled *Two Years in Immigration Detention Report on the Ombudsman's 2012 s486O long-term immigration detainee reviews*, looked at the Ombudsman's assessment of the appropriateness of the arrangements of a person in long-term detention. Long-term detention is defined as those who have been in immigration detention for two years or more.

The report found that 80 per cent of asylum seekers reviewed in 2012 reported mental health issues. These mental health issues are distinct from mental health issues from a history of torture and trauma. It was found 68 per cent of those reviewed suffered from mental health problems as a direct result of, or exacerbated significantly by their detention.

The Human Research Partners report makes several recommendations to make certain actions are undertaken to improve detention arrangements for asylum seekers. These recommendations include legislative amendments to ensure the Ombudsman's review recommendations are legally binding actions.

A copy of the Human Research Partner report can be obtained by following this link: [Two Years in Immigration Detention Report on the Ombudsman's 2012 s486O long-term immigration detainee reviews](#)



Cities of Migration
A Maytree idea

Not Migrants and Immigration, but Mobility and Movement

Is it time to drop the word migration? This question is explored in the latest Cities of Migration publication in an article by Dr. Jeffrey Cohen professor of Anthropology at the Ohio State University and Ibrahim Sirkeci professor of Transnational Studies at Regent's University London.

The authors argue that the rhetoric of "migrants and immigration" uses outdated language. Instead they advocate changing to using "mobility and movers" instead of "migrants and immigration". Migration is often referred to as a process, and a continuous one. This is often not the case with peoples' journey happening in many ways. Movers balance their needs, demands and opportunities considering the cost of their movement.

The language of "migrants and immigration" now carries negative connotations with the general public. It is associated with criminal activity, viewing migrants as risky, questionable people. It does not fully capture the dynamic nature of human mobility. This is a direct result of immigration defined as a problem in public discourses in media and politics.

Only a fraction of people in the world lives in a country other than where they were born, approximately 3 per cent. The authors argue mobility is about ability and balancing costs. The costs of moving can be high so it is often those who are able, capable and resourceful who move. These are talented, skilful and resourceful people who are courageous. Decades of research provide enough evidence to show ways in which movers contribute and enrich societies in the long run.

Is it time to drop "migrants and immigration" and move forward to "mobility and movers"?

Read the full opinion piece at: [Conversations in Integration - Cities of Migration](#)

New Fact Sheets to Complement New Government Employer Guide

A series of fact sheets called *Harmony in the Workplace: Delivering the Diversity Dividend*, has been launched by the Federation of Ethnic Communities (FECCA) to complement the new Government publication *Connections: An employer's guide to working with migrants and refugees*.

The Government publication, *Connections*, contains useful tips on how employers can access government funded programs on migrant and refugee employment, engage with community and other non-government organisations, mentoring, conveying information and the use of jargon and dealing with cultural differences.

The new fact sheets are targeted at employers and provide guidance on managing cultural diversity in the workplace. They cover a diverse range of topics, from exploring cultural diversity in the context of Australia's broader workforce, to legal frameworks concerning workplace discrimination. They also discuss myths and commonly held misperceptions about cultural diversity in the workplace, as well as tips on maximising cultural diversity for the benefit of organisations and their employees.

To view FECCA's fact sheets visit:

<http://www.fecca.org.au/resources/harmony-in-the-workplace-factsheets>

Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT - Investors Can Help Project

The Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT (MARSS), Investors Can Help Project assists newly arrived refugees to find homes as there is simply not enough government housing to meet the demand for these newly arrived refugees, and the private rental market is extremely competitive.

The project was launched in September 2012 by MARSS in partnership with the ACT Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) and the Real Estate Institute of the ACT (REI). It aims to increase the number of rental homes in the private market available for refugees.

Using the CCI and REI networks MARSS raised awareness of the accommodation shortfall within the ACT investment community. Property owners were invited to make their properties available to refugees.

MARSS connects willing property owners to suitable tenants and assists tenants in providing required tenancy documentation. MARSS also carries out on site support visits and inspections to ensure property maintenance, provides interpreting services when required and acts as guarantors on behalf of the tenants to address any of their concerns.



Photos and information courtesy of Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT

For more information on the project visit: [Investors Can Help](#)



Promoting the engagement of interpreters in Victorian health services - report launched

The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (Foundation House) has launched its report, *Promoting the engagement of interpreters in Victorian health services*.

The report documents the findings from a two-year study that was undertaken in response to regular reports from Foundation House clients with low English proficiency about not being provided with a credentialed interpreter when accessing health care, and reports from other sources indicating that the issue is widespread and longstanding in Victoria and nationally.

The study examined a range of evidence about the barriers to - and facilitators of - the engagement of interpreters, as experienced by the health sector and its practitioners.

Based on the evidence examined the report recommends a number of measures to improve access to interpreters.

To find out more about these recommendations and download a copy of the report visit: http://www.foundationhouse.org.au/resources/publications_and_resources.htm

National Forum – Refugee Youth In Focus

On 15-16th July a national *Refugee Youth In Focus* forum was held at the University of Sydney led by the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) in partnership with the University of Sydney and a range of organisations including SCOA.

The two day event showcased research, policy and practice from around Australia in relation to young people from refugee backgrounds. Day 1 focused on presenting findings from a research project which examined resettlement, asylum and settlement issues as they relate to refugee youth and children. Day 2 focused on practice, providing opportunity for professional development and cross-sectoral collaboration.

Five key recommendations arose from the forum:

- Develop a national status report on how young people from refugee backgrounds are faring.
- Provide a national framework for the care and support of children and young people who come to Australia as asylum seekers or refugees.
- Establish a national and consistent approach to English as a second language support in secondary schools.
- Improve access and equity in relation to youth mental health services, including the development of targeted programs to cater to the needs of refugee young people.
- Provide improved transition support for unaccompanied humanitarian minors who turn 18 and have to leave out-of-home-care.

A detailed forum report will be available soon. For more information visit please visit: <http://www.myan.org.au/>

National Housing Conference 2013 – a new way home

30th October – 1st November 2013



The housing industry is facing a critical juncture in 2013. The federal election, review of the National Affordable Housing Agreement, new national agreement on Homelessness, new National Disability Insurance Scheme and launch of a National Regulatory Framework for not-for-profit providers are all taking place against a backdrop of continued housing undersupply and affordability problems.

These events mark 2013 as a particularly critical moment in time and the National Housing Conference 2013 is perfectly timed to provide the opportunity for all housing industry sectors to come together to chart a new way home.

Registration closes 30th September – to register please visit: http://nhc.edu.au/adelaide2013/register_sa/

Youth Leadership Residential Camp – Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia

In April the Migrant Resource Centre of SA's (MRCSA) held their *Youth Leadership Residential Camp* at Camp Coorong, Meningie, in the south east of SA.

The camp aims to expose young people from new and emerging communities to important Australian cultural realities through interaction with the SA Indigenous communities. The MRCSA has had an ongoing dialogue with the Ngarrinjeri and Kaurna communities over recent years and has taken young people from newly arrived communities to Camp Coorong as part of the [Hand in Hand Project](#).

The camp also seeks to develop the leadership skills of the young people, support positive self-esteem and build self-confidence. Information was provided on study and job opportunities, and participants learned valuable public speaking skills.

Cross-cultural interaction was a central component of the camp. There were 42 participants aged 16-25 from more than 15 ethnic backgrounds. All were in their first five years of arrival in Australia. It was an opportunity for young people from a variety of cultural backgrounds to socialise and build friendships.



The participants met with the Aboriginal community and elders, to hear their stories and learn to respect their special place in Australian society. They were welcomed in Ngarrinjeri language, the significance of the Welcome to Land was explained, they learned about the Ngarrinjeri traditions and the obligation they have to look after

the environment and live in harmony with the land. The group then participated in a number of Indigenous workshops. Meals were shared with elders giving the opportunity for participants to speak with and meet Camp Coorong elders.

A report on the outcomes of camp can be found at this link:

[MRCSA Youth Leadership Residential Camp Report 2013](#)

Photos and information courtesy of the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia



SCOA's Policy Practice Forum Teleconference

SCOA's Policy Practice Forum (PPF) teleconference aims to facilitate the sharing of information and discuss emerging policy and research issues in the settlement sector. It brings together those within research and policy roles in hopes to better inform effective advocacy and develop the sector's research agenda.

The latest PPF was held on Tuesday 9th July and focused on research development. The guest speaker was Melissa Phillips a PhD student at the University of Melbourne with over 10 years' experience working with refugees and asylum seekers in Australia, the United Kingdom and Southern Sudan. She explored within the context of the sector's work the following questions:

- Why do we undertake research?
- What makes good research?
- How do you approach a research project

Forum attendees are also given a chance to share their current and future research projects.

The next Policy Practice Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, 18th September at 3.00-4.30pm EST and will focus on Internet Research Portals and their use and benefits.

Workers in the sector with experience in research and policy development or roles that relate to this area are encouraged to join. Please contact Sky de Jersey on (02) 8065 5225 should you wish to participate.

You can find the complete minutes for July's PPF meeting at this link: [Minutes PPF](#)



National Contributing Life Project

Last month an initiative from the National Mental Health Commission encouraged people to meet in homes, workplaces, cafes, parks and public spaces around Australia to have a 'Contributing Life Conversation' to help address mental health issues.

These are conversations were about sharing what 'A Contributing Life' means to each of us, and discussing what gives our lives meaning and purpose.

"When we talk about a contributing life, we mean a fulfilling life - recognising that those people who live with mental health difficulties want and need the same things as everyone else."

This initiative is part of the Commission's [National Contributing Life Project](#), and will help build a rounded picture of people's lives and experiences. The project will develop processes by which Australians can talk to the Commission on a regular basis and in a systematic way about their lives, their mental health and wellbeing, the mental health and wellbeing of a family member or friend, the good, the bad, what's important, their aspirations, what helps, what doesn't help and their ideas for change and for a contributing life.

For more information click on this link: ['Contributing Life Conversations'](#)



New ABC Geelong office at 94.7 The Pulse

On 30th July, a new ABC Geelong office was launched. It will be co-located with 94.7 The Pulse community radio, an enterprise of Diversitat that features 16 Multicultural language programs.

The Pulse will become the home base for ABC reporters relaying their stories from the Geelong region to ABC Melbourne and nationally. Geelong news content and services will receive a boost with two new locally dedicated ABC journalists.

The launch was attended by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Senator Kate Lundy, Diversitat CEO Michael Martinez,



Pictured - ABC's Randal Mathieson, our CEO Michael Martinez, Senator Kate Lundy, Darren Cheeseman MP, ABC's Shane Castleman, and Richard Marles MP



New ABC journalists, Cameron (pictured at the microphone) and Margaret (in the pink jacket) the station

the Hon Richard Marles MP and ABC staff.

This is another great step for Diversitat, 94.7 The Pulse, the ABC and Channel 31 all striving to work together in a friendly cooperative alliance.

Information and Photos courtesy of Diversitat



This is a week when we can all do something about poverty



Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians.

Around the world more than a billion people are desperately poor.

Get involved in this year's Anti-Poverty Week

For more information on how you can be involved visit:

<http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au>



SCOA Member Profile

Townsville Multicultural Support Group (TMSG)

TMSG had its origins in the Multicultural Women's Group in 1990 with the mission of ensuring that grassroots needs of migrants and refugees would be met. It was incorporated in 1992 with the Mission Statement:

"We commit to bringing together people of different ethnic backgrounds working in a spirit of friendship; to address needs through greater participation in and contribution to a better quality of life for our multicultural society."

TMSG offers settlement services for refugees and migrants including Intensive Support Services and Community Engagement Programs, advocates for a multicultural inclusive society on a local and national level and contributes to policy changes through participation in national and state-wide peak bodies.

TMSG's manager is an active member of the Queensland Settlement Committee and convenes the Local Area Coordination Committee. The Group implements outreaches to schools, health education programs and delivers volunteer run sewing and English classes. TMSG also engages in research in partnership with other organisations including the UNSW.

As an organisation TMSG provides a range of opportunities for people to expand their experience of life! TMSG considers itself to be "ingeniously resourceful." Volunteerism formed the Group and this continues to be a focus of the organisation. TMSG prides itself on being friendly and open to a wide range of people and in delivering services by professionally trained people.

TMSG has developed collaborative partnerships with a wide range of services and networks locally, state-wide and nationally. TMSG contributes to a broad range of professional student education through delivery of lectures and provision of student placements for education students, social work students, occupational therapy students, and community welfare students locally, nationally and internationally.



Pictured - Somali and Congolese representatives with Minister for Multicultural Affairs Senator Kate Lundy at the launch of a new publication, 'Getting Settled: Women Refugees in Australia'



SCOA Member Profile...

Townsville Multicultural Support Group (TMSG)

Upcoming TMSG events

Graduation of the Earn and Learn Project – August 23rd 2013

Funded by DEEWR, the Earn and Learn Project has made important headway in forging collaborative service delivery practice to benefit CALD job seekers.

Annual General Meeting – October 24th 24th 12 noon- 2p.m.

Guest Speaker: SALLY LAVERS from DIAC will speak about the AUSCO Exchange program

Training in Working with Refugees October 25th

In partnership with Multicultural Development Association and Smith Family Communities for Children Townsville

For more information visit: www.tmsg.org.au

All information and photos courtesy of Townsville Multicultural Support Group



Statutory Definition of Charity Passes

Parliament passed a new statutory definition of charity at the end of June. The *Charity Bill 2013* has clearly defined what is and isn't charity. The bill will allow for a more uniform definition of charity throughout Australia and will reduce red tape in the Not for Profit sector.

The surpassed definition of charity relied on 400 years of case law dating back to the 1600s to define a charity. It relied on legal interpretations from centuries ago which often left charities, governments, regulators and the broader community unsure when a charity is truly a charity.

Greater certainty of the definition of charity will save the sector's time, energy and resources.

The new *Charities Bill 2013*:

- Transfers 400 years of case law relating to charities into a single plain English statute;
- Expands the current four heads of charity to 12, codifying some important charitable purposes in their own right;
- Integrates the 2010 High Court of Australia decision on *Aid/Watch v Tax Commissioner*, clearly articulating a role for charities and foundations in promoting informed policy debates and advancing civil society in Australia; and
- Resolves a number of anomalies which stymied particular charities (ie- disaster relief).

Follow this link for more information on the [Charities Bill 2013](http://www.charitiesbill2013.gov.au)



National Charity Register Launches

The first online national charity register was launched by the under the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission (ACNC) in July. The register has also been launched in a mobile format.

The register is a searchable database of Australian charities. It will provide a platform for registered charities to list their information including beneficiaries, financial information and reports. It will enable the public to access information about more than 57,500 registered charities.

Detailed information on the Register will be populated from charities' Annual Information Statements, with the first statements due in December 2013. It will be enhanced over time, as charities begin to provide annual information statements to the ACNC. The information on the statements submitted by a charity will contain basic information like a charity's activities for the past year, or the changes that are planned for the next year.

Charities do not have to register with the ACNC, it is voluntary. To be registered as a charity and appear on the Register, organisations must meet the legal definition of charity, and other requirements of the ACNC Act. If organisations do not want Commonwealth tax or other benefits, concessions or exemptions, they can choose not to be registered.

Not for Profits that are not charities (such as income tax exempt funds (ITEFs) and some categories of deductible gift recipients (DGRs)) also do not appear on the Register.

For more information and to register your charity visit: [ACNC Register](#)

Report Delves into Australia's Philanthropic Grants

A report by the Centre for Social Impact at the University of New South Wales has called for an expert panel to be convened to investigate the establishment of a publicly available database of philanthropic grants in Australia.

A joint research project with the Centre for Social Impact and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Investment and Philanthropy at Swinburne University of Technology analysed the grants of 12 of Australia's leading philanthropic foundations that have already made public their grants using best practice reporting. The resulting report ['Where the Money Goes: Private wealth for public good'](#) provides a high level analysis of their 4,119 philanthropic grants totalling \$207.3 million made over a three-year period.

The aim of the research was to begin to meet the information and data gap in the philanthropic sector and contribute to more effective philanthropy in Australia. The report finds that the lack of mandatory reporting for philanthropic foundations in Australia makes it impossible to give accurate data, but Philanthropy Australia estimates that there are approximately 5,000 foundations in Australia giving between half a billion and one billion dollars per annum.

Follow this link to view the report: ['Where the Money Goes: Private wealth for public good'](#)

Celebrate African Australians Awards

The Celebration of African Australian Awards was held in Canberra on 27th July. The awards honoured, recognised and celebrated the contributions of Africans to Australian society.

There were several awards categories including the Outstanding High Commissioners Award, Outstanding Ambassadors Award, Hall of Fame, Living Legends and more.



SCOA was honoured with the *Friends of Africa Award For Outstanding Service and Support to the African Australian Communities* as an organisation and for the Second National Settlement Conference 2012.

Several SCOA members were also honoured in this award category including: SA Refugee Week by the Migrant Resource Centre of SA, SCOA's Chair – Cedric Manen for his role as Chief Executive Officer at the Migrant Resource Centre –Southern Tasmania, Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre, Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre, Mercy Family Services, Sydwest Multicultural Service, Access Community Services, African Community Council of SA, Brotherhood of St Lawrence and many more.

For a full list of award recipients visit: [Celebrate African Australians](#)

New multilingual mobile app for Centrelink customers - Express Plus Lite

The Department of Human Services launched its new multilingual mobile app for Centrelink customers - Express Plus Lite on 12th July.

The app will make it easier for Australians to do their business with Centrelink. It is designed for job seekers who speak languages other than English. It enables Centrelink customers to report their employment income in Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese and English.

The app is one of a range of *Express Plus* apps making it easier to interact with Centrelink.

To find out more about multilingual mobile app and other products and services for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds go to www.humanservices.gov.au.

SCOA's CEO Think Tank

The CEO Think Tank is a forum SCOA has developed for CEOs to hear about strategic settlement sector issues and to share their ideas and thoughts.

The latest CEO Think Tank held 25th June focused on how organisations can use social media to engage with politicians, government departments and other key stakeholders.

CEOs listened to guest speaker Adam Baxter Head of Strategic Communication & Stakeholder Relations at AMES explain how AMES implemented their strategic social media plan.

Click on this link to obtain a copy of the [Minutes of the CEO Think Tank on Social Media](#).

To receive invites to future CEO Think Tanks email Sky de Jersey at eo@scoa.org.au



National Settlement Standards

SCOA will be continuing its work on the National Settlement Standards.

The standards seek to streamline settlement professionals work standards and accreditation.

SCOA has been working on this project for some time. Initial scoping documents were prepared for DIAC 2010. In 2011 the issue was raised with members at the annual state member consultations. A discussion paper on the standards was tabled at the National Settlement Conference in 2012.

SCOA hopes to formalise a National Settlement Standards Steering Committee shortly and has drafted its [Terms of Reference](#).

Following this, SCOA will be scheduling National Settlement Standards workshops.

Keep your eye out for more information and how to become involved as the project progresses.

For more information contact Sky de Jersey at eo@scoa.org.au

National Settlement Policy Network

The National Settlement Policy Network (SPN) are a joint initiative of SCOA and the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA).

The quarterly teleconferences provide an opportunity for members to hear from guest speakers with expertise in particular areas of settlement policy.

The latest SPN was held at the end of June and focused on the topic of Domestic Violence and Settlement.

Participants heard from Maya Avdibegovic the CEO of inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence and SCOA's Sky de Jersey.

Click here to view the [SPN report](#)

Want to join the next SPN? Email Kat O'Neill at mso@scoa.org.au

SCOA Welcomes its Newest Members!

This month SCOA welcomes Centacare Toowoomba and Centacare South West NSW.



New Book Launched Explores Australia's Multiculturalism

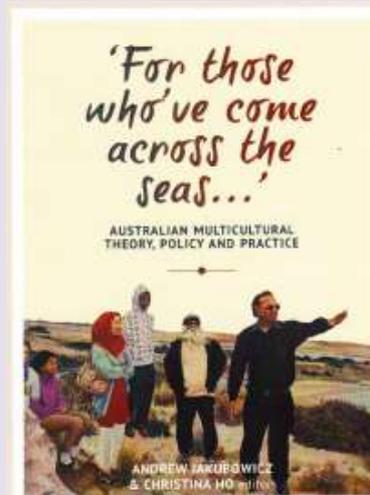
"For those who've come across the seas..." Australian Multicultural Theory, Policy and Practice

Professor Andrew Jakubowicz and Dr Chistina Ho have released a new book exploring Australia's multiculturalism.

"For those who've come across the seas..." Australian Multicultural Theory, Policy and Practice is a compilation of essays on the experiences and insights of prominent cultural diversity researchers, policy advocates and practitioners on multiculturalism in Australia.

The book argues that 'everyday' multiculturalism is very much alive and more three-dimensional than the concept of multiculturalism talked about in political discourse.

The book is available in selected bookstores and online at www.scholarly.info/book/351.



Pictured - The late Uncle Tom Trevorrow, accompanied by Major Sumner, introduces new arrivals to the lands of the Ngarrindjeri nations 2012 (Andrew Hill, artist - image and name of Uncle Tom used with permission of his family)

Settling in Western Australia: Government, Service Provider, Community and Researcher Forum

When: 25th September 2013, 1.00-4.30pm

Where: Youth & Family Centre, Metropolitan MRC – 17 Chesterfield Rd, Mirrabooka, WA

This forum will showcase research, policy and practice concerning migrant settlement in Western Australia. It provides an opportunity for networking and discussion among policy makers, practitioners and researchers on a range of key issues.

Anyone working with migrants, either as a researcher or practitioner, is invited to attend or present a paper at this forum.

This forum is free to attend and afternoon tea will be provided.

Please RSVP by Friday 13 September on (08) 9345 5755.

Event convened by: Michael O'Hara, Director, Metropolitan MRC, Vlasta Mitchell, Director, Fremantle Multicultural Centre, Farida Fozdar, Mobilities and Belonging Research Initiative (MoB), The University of Western Australia

Event supported by: The Australian Sociological Association, Office of Multicultural Interests, The Settlement Council of Australia



SAVE THE DATE

SCOA 2013 AGM including

A forum exploring the critical value of

settlement for Australia

When: Monday, 18th November 2013
Where: Canberra

The Settlement Council of Australia invites you to our 2013 Annual General Meeting and forum. A full notice of the SCOA AGM and forum will be sent to all members when details are finalised.

Please ensure your membership is renewed prior to 13th September to enable your organisation to participate in the SCOA 2013 AGM.



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

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

You can also contact staff in the Sydney office:

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

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