

*Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things...*

We would like to thank our members who have generously contributed to the content of this newsletter. There are many examples of innovative ideas and practices that are taking place in the Settlement Sector at present, and we at SCOA are honoured to be able to share of a few of them with you. If you have any stories, events, interesting facts or programs you would like to see included in future editions of settlement news, please contact Laura on [mso@scoa.org.au](mailto:mso@scoa.org.au)

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### **A letter from SCOA chair – Cedric Manen**

It has been an exciting few months for SCOA with trips to Canberra, Brisbane and Sydney to represent the settlement sector on various matters.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September Sky and I represented SCOA at a ministerial round table with Minister Mark Arbib and Senator Kate Lundy. The roundtable began with an address from the Minister for Sport, Mark Arbib and was chaired by Senator Kate Lundy. There were five brief introductory speeches and then participants, senior stakeholders from the sport and settlement sectors, split into the three breakout groups. Representatives from the breakout groups then presented their recommendations to the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary. It was a productive meeting and the beginning of what I hope will be an ongoing dialogue to progress settlement outcomes through sport. I was particularly pleased to have met the new Race Discrimination Commissioner from the Australian Human Rights Commission – Dr. Helen Szoke. SCOA welcomes Helen in her new capacity and looks forward to assisting Helen at a sector level in combating racism.

On 29<sup>th</sup> September I represented SCOA at a SGP roundtable at Parliament House in Canberra. Amongst the audience were settlement sector CEO's from various states, DIAC representatives and the Chair of FECCA, Pino Migliorino. The meeting was Chaired by the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy. My thanks to our DIAC colleagues for their ongoing commitment to continuous improvement that will see further enhancements to the next SGP funding round as a result of this meeting. We look forward to keeping you informed on the progress of this as the information becomes available.

*(A letter from SCOA chair continued)*

The first of our 2011-2012 state consultations kicked off in Brisbane on September 20<sup>th</sup>. My thanks to Kerrin Benson from MDA, the SCOA State Executive Committee Member for Queensland for hosting this event. I was particularly interested in hearing feedback on some of the challenges for our Queensland colleagues. The large number of people being released from detention in particular has had an impact on the resourcing and structure of HSS and SGP programs not only in QLD but nationally. The next of our state consultations will be in Melbourne on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please find details of this event later in this edition of 'Settlement News'. At the consultation an election will be conducted by members for a Victorian SCOA Executive Committee representative. If you are interested in putting your nomination forward for this role please do not hesitate to contact me. Whilst on the topic of representation, I would like to welcome Ron Mitchell from the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory to the position of Executive Committee Member for the Northern Territory.

For those SCOA members and sector colleagues who are attending the FECCA conference in Adelaide in November, SCOA features in 3 areas of the program. We look forward to connecting with membership and the sector at this event. Stay tuned for another announcement from our Executive Officer Sky on a SCOA event to be held in Adelaide during this time.

All of our membership and stakeholders have been invited to our Annual General meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> at Redfern Town Hall in Sydney. I urge and encourage membership to review changes to the constitution that are scheduled to be ratified at this meeting. Our membership services officer Laura has posted you all a copy of the proposed amendments along with an invite and a proxy form. If you are unable to attend, kindly submit a proxy vote for this purpose. Our guest speaker for the AGM is Professor Graeme Hugo. I look forward to connecting with you to celebrate our successes over the past year at our AGM. My thanks to the SCOA Executive Committee for their ongoing work in support of SCOA objectives which has seen most of them travelling interstate to represent SCOA over the past few months.

In this edition of Settlement News we asked our membership to submit articles on programs or projects that they felt were innovative. There are some good practice models included which I hope you find interesting reading.

Cedric Manen – SCOA Chair



 MIGRANT  
INTEGRATION  
POLICY  
INDEX


### Migration Policy Index Research and Webinar

SCOA in collaboration with the Migration Policy Group held a webinar on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September to release the results of the recent study into international standards of settlement policy, specifically focusing on how Australia compares to the rest of the world. With a total of 32 people interested parties on the call, representatives from MPG – Thomas Huddleston and Jan Niesson – and our very own EO Sky walked us through the research and how it applies to the Australian context. The call was interactive with participants able to respond to several poll questions posed throughout the 102minute presentation. Overall from the research Australia was found to be ranked 5<sup>th</sup> out of the 33 MIPEX countries, rating 3<sup>rd</sup> in the area of citizenship policies. There are areas in which Australia could see some improvement, in particular in relation to anti-discrimination law and providing equal opportunities for migrant workers.

There is a full recording of the event available on line at <http://www.mipex.eu/blog/the-australian-perspective-on-migrant-settlement> where you will also find all the research discussed at the webinar.

For SCOA's media release check out our website [www.scoa.org.au](http://www.scoa.org.au)



## A multimillion dollar partnership creates opportunities for multicultural youth in South Australia

Article provided courtesy of Multicultural Youth South Australia

**M Y S A**  
Multicultural Youth SA Inc

The 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2011 marked a significant achievement for multicultural youth in South Australia with the launch of the Multicultural Youth Education and Development Centre (MY EDC), a first of its kind multimillion dollar new learning centre launched by Multicultural Youth South Australia Inc (MYSAs), the state representative advisory, advocacy and service delivery body for refugee and migrant youth in SA.

The new MY EDC provides an ideal platform for some of the state's most vulnerable young people to develop the critical knowledge and skills sets they need to build a new life in Australia through a unique youth-specific settlement model - unique to South Australia. MY EDC is best described as a 'gateway' as mainstream agencies and community groups will access the facility to work together in supporting refugee and migrant youth. With likeminded service providers collaborating and coordinating services in one facility, this innovative approach will not only increase the range of services and opportunities available to young people, but it will also reduce a lack of coordination, fragmentation and duplication in service delivery.

The MY EDC aims to provide the necessary framework to enable the development of critical skill sets and continuous learning for young people to succeed. Features of the facility include a computer lab, recording



studio and various unconventional learning spaces for facilitators to think creatively about the way they build the capacity of multicultural youth. In addition, the facility offers the community services sector a state of the art conference room with video conferencing facilities, hot desks and meeting spaces.

Although MYSAs is a nationally recognised youth settlement specialist agency, it attributes the success of the facility and accompanying model to strong sector and community support. Over 80 partners and supporters committed their support which enabled MYSAs to secure approximately \$2.4M from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) through the Local Schools Working Together pilot program. State support was also received from the Department for Families and Communities, Community Benefit SA, and Office for Youth.

This collaboration also features a strong partnership with the Adelaide Secondary School of English (ASSOE), the only provider in South Australia of intensive English study in a secondary school environment and the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) Western Adelaide Regional Office. *(continued next page)*





Left to right: Mofeed Shahin, Chairman of MYSA, Hon Senator Kate Lundy, Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Hon Grace Portolesi, Minister for Youth and Multicultural Affairs, and Ms Carmen Garcia, Director MYSA

### A multimillion dollar partnership creates opportunities for multicultural youth in South Australia *(continued)*

"Our new centre, MY EDC demonstrates what we as a community can achieve when we work towards a common goal. Our focus is on our young people and creating opportunities that achieves the best outcomes for them. We know the best results come through meaningful collaboration and recognising the contributions of many - I think this was key to our success and it's something that will encourage an investment in innovation." Director of MYSA, Ms Carmen Garcia said.

The MY EDC was officially launched by the Minister for Youth and Multicultural Affairs, Hon Grace Portolesi and The Hon Senator Kate Lundy, Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs in Adelaide on 1st September 2011.

### Update on SGP projects at Sydney Multicultural Community Services...

"Learning through Diversity" an After school homework support program is running well in Rainbow St Public School, Randwick Public School and Kensington Public School. The program is assisted by volunteer tutors. The program is well received by parents and is expected to involve more students as the program progresses further. We are also glad to have received funding from Randwick City Council for another project with South Sydney High School. The school based 'Project Bantu' will engage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in the weekly Capoeira sessions simultaneously assisting the students and their families with Settlement services. The project starts in November and will run for 6 months.



Schools play a pivotal role in linking the communities with service providers and we are working on a number of projects in different schools. SMCS, in partnership with SDN Children's Services, is working to run Playgroups during school hours for families of diverse cultural backgrounds. We are also targeting emerging communities at our Outreach service in Randwick Library.

Considering the importance of sports for youth in the local area, SMCS has started another after school program "Sports for Thought" with the PCYC Daceyville to involve students

in varied sports such as Hip-Hop dance, Basketball/ Netball, Boxing and Oztag. The students get free memberships and also get to use other sports facilities and games equipment at PCYC along with the pickup services after school. Realizing that there is lack of a well established 'Soccer program' in the eastern suburbs for Migrants and Refugee youth, we are also closely collaborating with UNSW to develop and promote a 'Soccer Program' while assisting them in Settlement services. This program aims to provide certified training and leadership opportunities to become successful players and coaches.

-Vishal Sonule – SGP Caseworker SMCS



### A letter from SCOA's Executive Officer – Sky de Jersey

This month I was pleased to meet SCOA members in QLD during our consultation in Brisbane. Hearing directly about members' projects, concerns and issues was very informative, highlighting the hard work being done, and the issues we need to focus on as a sector in the next few months. Laura and I also attended the Fairfield Migrant Interagency, where we were able to hear first-hand about the needs of communities and how settlement services in the area are working together to meet those needs.

I found it exciting to read in this newsletter about the innovative settlement projects being implemented by members across the country – in fields as diverse as gardening, photography and hairdressing. Innovation has not been limited to projects in the community, SCOA is also practicing innovation, participating in our first webinar with the Migration Policy Group to promote the release of research on migrant integration (commonly known as the MIPEX – Migrant Integration Policy Index). The webinar included participants from around the globe, featuring interactive questions and polling, and presentations from the lead researchers on the research.

Presenting to a webinar was an interesting process, one not without its challenges! We are all familiar with teleconferences, utilizing them regularly when it is not time or cost effective to get together face to face. Webinars provide additional functions not present in teleconferences, such as the capacity to raise questions in writing, conduct polls and even raise your hand. Where I found it harder than a teleconference was in its absence of dialogue – it is very much a presenter giving a talk, where the engagement happens electronically rather than verbally. Doing a presentation and trying to be engaging while looking at a computer screen was a new experience for me!

SCOA has been very grateful for the continued hard work of our interns, Albert Santos and Ryan Shannon. They have helped with background research on sports, housing and domestic violence, and contributed articles to this newsletter. Their support is invaluable!

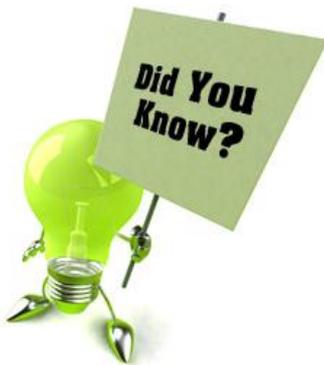
Laura has been following up membership renewals this month, and SCOA has also welcomed Communicare WA, Anglicare NT and Australian Muslim Womens Centre as new members. We are looking forward to meeting with many of you in person at our AGM in November. We are honoured to have Professor Graeme Hugo speak at our AGM on his research, which members will remember was the subject of our Settlement Policy Network meeting in August.

I recently represented SCOA at the UNHCR Annual Consultation, which was a lively two days of discussion on refugee, settlement and asylum issues. The consultation drew together a mix of settlement and legal experts from around the country, resulting in a high level of debate on the issues. An emerging issue for the settlement sector in particular is the rise in people who are exiting detention who are eligible for settlement services having been granted permanent visas. This caseload is increasing, and presents a different set of service challenges to the sector. The settlement sector is no stranger to changing caseloads over the years – the stats on arrival trends over the last decade show significant shifts in country of origin of humanitarian entrants. The ex-detention caseload is a group that asylum support services have been assisting for many years, and bringing the settlement and asylum sectors together to share knowledge and information was highlighted as a key outcome of the consultation – bridging the gap between asylum and settlement.

Our Victorian SCOA Consultation has now been scheduled – for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. I hope many of our SCOA members in Victoria and in the sector can join us for what promises to be an interesting consultation.

The other big calendar event is the forthcoming FECCA Conference. We will be presenting on settlement service standards, following our consultation and research on this issue, and presenting with the Refugee Council a joint presentation on settlement mobility. It promises to be an informative few days, and I look forward to meeting many of you there.

### News from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship



In 2010-11, 815 Orphan Relative (Subclass 117) visas were granted offshore to orphan relatives of Australian residents so that they could come to Australia. Most of these orphan relatives, who generally must be under 18 years of age, came from countries that feature strongly in Australia's humanitarian intake, with the top five countries being:

- Afghanistan
- Ethiopia
- Sudan
- Somalia
- Democratic Republic of Congo

These five countries account for 75 per cent of Orphan Relative (Subclass 117) visas that were granted in the 2010-11 Migration Program year.

#### Prime Minister announces new Australian Multicultural Council

The new Australian Multicultural Council was launched on Monday 22 August 2011 by the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP. The event at Parliament House was well attended by high profile members of the community, the diplomatic corps, Members of Parliament, Senators and a number of senior departmental staff.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Senator the Hon Kate Lundy acted as MC. Canberra primary school choir, the Lyneham Singers entertained guests before speeches from the Prime Minister, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Hon Chris Bowen and His Honour, Judge Rauf Soulio, the Chair of the council.

The council will act as an independent champion of our multicultural nation, advise the government on multicultural affairs and help to ensure Australian Government services respond to the needs of Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The Prime Minister also announced the council will appoint a number of People of Australia Ambassadors who will support inclusion and provide 'grassroots' input to council and to government. Information on the council members and the council's terms of reference can be found at [www.amc.gov.au](http://www.amc.gov.au).

#### Expanded Real Estate Agent Pilot

The Australian Government has expanded an initiative to assist humanitarian entrants and other new arrivals in securing accommodation in the private rental market. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Real Estate Pilot has been expanded to provide significantly more real estate agents with access to free telephone interpreting, through DIAC's translating and interpreting service, TIS National.

Additional real estate agents have been nominated by service providers funded under the DIAC's Humanitarian Settlement Services and Settlement Grants Program.

DIAC's expanded pilot will capture other major areas of high settlement need across Australia and in addition to wider metropolitan coverage, will include more regional centres.

The extended pilot will run from October 2011 for 12 months.

For more information please contact [jenny.joyce@immi.gov.au](mailto:jenny.joyce@immi.gov.au).

Thank you to Karina, Kylie and Jonathon from DIAC for their contributions to this month's Settlement News.

### Diversitat's Tell Me a Story

Article provided courtesy of Diversitat, Geelong

Over the past six months Diversitat Arts & Events Unit and Geelong Media Education Centre have been working with up to 20 community representatives, gathering and archiving their personal stories. The screening will showcase an insight into their personal journeys, memories, family and culture.

The project has allowed individuals to not only rediscover their past but to archive important messages to share with their families and friends. For the broader community Diversitat aims to utilize the film as an important education tool to assist with raising the awareness of migrant and refugee experiences and ultimately to break down racial barriers and to build social cohesion, tolerance and a sense of belonging for all within the community.

Communities represented are: Spanish, Italian, Croatian, Congolese, Karen, Karenni, Afghan, Sudanese, Macedonian, Dutch, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, and Maori.

This collection of stories reflects great courage, love, respect and most importantly hope! While participants were timid during the first discussions of the project, now each has the inspiration to share and record their stories in other formats.

Margaret from the Dutch Community had a great experience throughout the project and said "this project has inspired me to write down my story for my family".



Mile and his parents

A glimpse of these stories was screened on Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Geelong Performing Arts Centre, and the full length stories will be available on line from the 1<sup>st</sup> October [www.diversitat.org.au](http://www.diversitat.org.au) and [www.gmec.info](http://www.gmec.info). This project was funded by Department of Planning and Community Development and COGG Arts Community Grant Program, and was supported by the staff and students at Geelong Media Education Centre (GMEC).

On behalf of Diversitat we thank all participants that have trusted us to share their lives and intimate experiences.

Mark  
your  
Calendar

## Settlement Council Annual General Meeting...

When? Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011

Time? Arrive from 10.30am

Where? Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt street  
Redfern

RSVP to Laura Anderson [mso@scoa.org.au](mailto:mso@scoa.org.au)

## Linking Communities through Permaculture in St George and the Sutherland Shire

Article provided courtesy of St George Migrant Resource Centre

Linking Communities through Permaculture in St George and the Sutherland Shire is a project to increase sustainable practices amongst people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and social housing backgrounds in the Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville and Sutherland local government areas. Led by the St George Migrant Resource Centre in partnership with St George Community Housing and Inner South-West Community Development Organisation; in collaboration with community groups Thai Welfare Association, Asian Women at Work, Pakistani Australian Women's Association and Resourceful Australian Indian Network, this project is funded by the NSW Government Environmental Trust in support of the Lower Georges River *Sustainability Initiative's getting greener!* community partnerships program.

The project's outcomes include assisting communities encountering social isolation overcome barriers to mainstream work and study opportunities; increase food security, and increase social support networks and social harmony.



Increasing the opportunities these groups have for coming together and learning in a safe and friendly environment, this project aims to strengthen community support networks and their capacity to mobilise human, physical and intellectual resources. Since the project's inception in January 2011 it has achieved the following:

### Outcomes:

- Trained community leaders in permaculture concepts, gardening skills, leadership and knowledge management;
- Supported communities to design and build communal plots and demonstration permaculture gardens that produce edible, medicinal and ornamental plants and function as hands-on teaching and learning resources;
- Engaged community members in sustainability workshops and study tours;
- Assisted communities to document their own learning processes and culturally specific gardening knowledge.

The sustainability of the project lies in its support of peer-to-peer knowledge transfer from community leaders to community members through, for example, facilitation of Permacultures and coordination of a Food Fair. Future funding options as well as a strategy to integrate the project into the work of the partner organisations are being explored and will focus on assisting community members to use sustainability practice and permaculture gardening in at-home business enterprises or to enter the workforce.

The permaculture gardening project is currently in its last phase of implementation and a partnership with the University of Technology Sydney's Shopfront <sup>1</sup> program established with MBA students conducting a feasibility study for a social enterprise model to take this project into the future. The expected activities include consultation with communities already involved in the project and research for a feasible business model, management plan and marketing strategy for social venture. The goal is to ensure that the communities involved feel confident to run such a venture and are able to use it to reach a wider audience to promote sustainability in the home and/or the local area. Such a social venture would also benefit community members through information and produce exchange.

## Some reflective lessons of the SGMRC Permaculture Project...



**Innovative stakeholder collaboration:** The project was conceptualised through planning and consultations with various community members and partner organisations to identify complementary strengths and resources for a sustained effect. Understanding that implementing community agencies may not have the financial or personnel resources to participate in the project, auspicing partner organisations such as St George Migrant Resource Centre, St George Community Housing and Inner South-West Community Development Organisation took the lead in coordinating the project by engaging a part-time Project Coordinator. Despite this, partner organisations continue to struggle with competing priorities within individual organisations and limitations in the field and have had to review realistic achievable outcomes within a short one-year project period.



**Social inclusion and community harmony:** A major objective of the project is to advocate for social inclusion for CALD and social housing communities. Through permaculture gardening, the Thai, Chinese, Pakistani, Indian and social housing tenant groups have learned leadership and gardening skills and engaged in new cross-cultural social situations which promote community harmony and the spirit of multiculturalism. It has also provided a platform for concerted stakeholder engagement at various forums and inter-agencies, including opportunities to engage at a policy level. For example, the Pakistani and Indian community leaders have shared their testimonies with the wider community during Multicultural Health Week 2011 events at Hurstville City Library.

**Knowledge management:** The effort to work alongside community members to record their learning experiences has been an enriching experience for both project participants and the partner organisations. The knowledge management documentation process is intended to capture changes in participants' knowledge, attitude and practices throughout the project duration. Insight is being gained into settlement journeys (such as how adaptation of lifestyles and innovative gardening practices) have changed over time and circumstances. Materials to be produced include testimonies, photos, scrap book stories, audio recordings, recipe books and a short video clip documentary. These shall be used for project replication amongst current and new communities.

**Empowerment of CALD communities:** As part the St George Migrant Resource Centre's role in supporting new arrivals to become self-reliant and participate equitably in Australian society, this project is instrumental in building the capacity of community organisations and members in addressing their settlement needs. As part of a transition strategy, this project is being integrated into the SGMRC's Settlement Grants Program through regular mentoring and support. For instance skills development for community mobilisation, consultation for solutions-focused strategies, leadership development and fundraising for sustainability. An example of a successful transitional outcome of this project was the success of Resourceful Australian Indian Network in acquiring a small grant from Hurstville City Council for an inter-generational gardening project.

For more info you may contact:

Mariam Hii, Settlement Grants Program Manager at Tel: 02 9597 5455, Email:

[sgpcoord@sgmrc.org.au](mailto:sgpcoord@sgmrc.org.au) and

Mel Ronca, Permaculture Project Coordinator, Email:

[permaculture@sgmrc.org.au](mailto:permaculture@sgmrc.org.au)



### **Volunteer2.com.au – A Leader in Volunteer Management Software for Australia and New Zealand**

While the talents, passion and contributions of volunteers come at no financial cost, the task of coordinating and communicating with them can take a great deal of valuable time. For any organisation relying on the participation of volunteers, an efficient, well-designed volunteer management database can turn this into a simple job. Australian-based Volunteer IMPACT is a relatively new web based volunteer management system that has been created from a non-profit perspective and is tailored to meet the specific needs of the volunteer sector. With editions for both larger and smaller organisations, Volunteer IMPACT software allows an organisation to recruit through their website, easily assess volunteer qualifications, efficiently maintain a volunteer database, and communicate effectively with volunteers.

The streamlined processes that this software facilitates allow organisations to manage each step of the volunteer process professionally through a number of functions. Communication is improved through personally addressed bulk emails, the ability to isolate specific groups within a database in order to contact them directly, and storage of frequently used email templates. Volunteer contact information can be stored and easily accessed through volunteer profiles with a number of customisable fields that can later be searched using any of the information they contain. Detailed scheduling capabilities make it easy to find the most suitable volunteers and prevent overlap and professional reports can be created based on customisable criteria. The software utilises Cloud Computing Technology to allow the system to be accessed from anywhere by both administrators and volunteers. This maximises the engagement of volunteers, who can assign themselves to shifts online, view their hours and accomplishments, and update their own profiles.

The cumbersome task of managing, engaging and communicating with volunteers is thus made manageable for any organisation. The increased participation of volunteers allows them more control over their experience and increases retention. For busy managers and administrators, the software reduces hours spent on data entry and routine phone calls.

Those interested in a free trial, a free personal software demo, or more information can visit [www.volunteer2.com.au](http://www.volunteer2.com.au) or call 1800 884 099.

- Ryan Shannon (SCOA Intern)

### **I.Settle.With.IT**

The Work Ventures trial site is up and running for all to experience a taste of the exciting things to come on this website. Participants are asked to create a profile by answering a series of questions used to determine level of English proficiency, and then each time you revisit, the site remembers activities you have completed and starts you from that point. Broken into 3 levels, with numerous activities and learning experiences in each level, there is something here to accommodate for all levels of English students. The best thing about this site is how relaxed it makes learning! The games make it feel like you are just playing computer games – not learning new language skills! Lessons are not limited to purely reading or recognising language, but include computer skills games as well to equip the learner with a whole range of new skills.

To experience the site for yourself (note it is in trial mode at the moment, so presumably there is more functionality to be added) you can visit [www.isettlewithit.com.au](http://www.isettlewithit.com.au)





### MULTICULTURAL ENTERPRISES AUSTRALIA *Building Enterprises...Serving Communities*

#### **A new Social Enterprise Program at FMRC offers fresh hope to NSW Communities.**

Article provided courtesy of Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre

Paving the way to instilling the spirit of multiculturalism in Australian communities, MULTICULTURAL ENTERPRISES AUSTRALIA (ME), the new social enterprise program at the FMRC will be formally launched on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2011. Its tagline captures its purpose succinctly: “building enterprises, serving communities.” ME’S Corporate Vision is to “foster social and economic participation for ALL Australians through building social enterprises and small businesses.” ME is currently funded by DIAC and NSW Community Builders.

**The term multiculturalism encompasses all Australians**, i.e., migrants, refugees, aboriginal people and Australian born, with a special focus on those who are socially and economically disadvantaged. Through ME, FMRC is effectively providing a space for dreams to be reached, for people’s true potential to be met— capitalizing on the diverse range of skills and expertise that cultural diversity brings. This will result in multiple economic and social benefits to the participating individuals and their families and the wider Australian community.

**Statistics strongly support the case for economic benefits of multiculturalism.** For instance, our migrant intake is projected to contribute over \$1.3bn to government coffers by 2020; temporary business migrants are expected to add another \$1.0bn to this figure (Source: 2008. Access Economics for DIAC, Migrants Fiscal Impact Model: 2008 Update). Also interestingly, 5 of the 8 billionaires in Australia in Year 2000 were from a humanitarian settler background (Source: Hugo G., 2010. Economic, Social and Civic Contributions of First and Second Generation Humanitarian Entrants, Executive Summary).

#### **MULTICULTURAL ENTERPRISES AUSTRALIA will support entrepreneurship by:**

- Establishing enterprises which harness and showcase the skills/talents of multicultural Australians
- Providing project management expertise to aspiring/existing entrepreneurs
- Supporting entrepreneurship through building networks, providing training, information and mentoring
- Linking entrepreneurs with each other and external support services

**ME works in close collaboration with local agencies** such as Fairfield, Parramatta and Liverpool Councils, University of Sydney, UWS, STARTTS, Greening Australia, Clinical Support Division (Western) – Health Promotion – Food Security and Catholic Care. ME also works closely with Centrelink, JSA’s such as Job Find, Break Thru and MTC Work Solutions and Navitas English.

#### **ME’s current projects/active clients include the following:**



**MULTICULTURAL ENTERPRISES WOMEN IN BUSINESS** – is a network of business women from multicultural backgrounds in NSW whose Vision is “to become a collective force for support, training and empowerment”. The Goal of this network is “to strengthen their businesses, improve their quality of life and develop their communities”. Members enjoy FREE...

- Access to business training and mentoring
- Step-by-step guidance in business planning
- Assistance in accessing start-up funds
- Marketing support and development



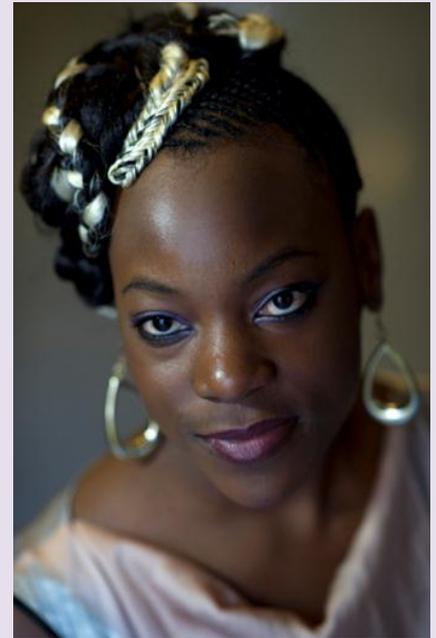
### AFRICA KONNECT is ME'S premiere project...

Photos: David Dare Parker

Caption: Models from the 1<sup>st</sup> auditions held in July 2011



AFRICA KONNECT seeks to create an African-Australian identity by hosting an annual hair, make-up and fashion show/competition which will showcase the African Community's best and finest designers, models, artists and a variety of talents. A "sneak peek" of this event will be presented during ME's formal launch on 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Ambassador Lounge in Fairfield.



L-R: Founders of Africa Konnect – Sindy, Gladys and Wanyika

**MEnet** is a website which is being developed by a group of IT students from the University of Sydney. It aims to provide information for migrants, social enterprises and small businesses as well as a forum to discuss emerging ideas and issues. It plans to plug into social media such as Facebook, Linked-In, Twitter, YouTube and Word Press.

### ME Farm...



**ME farm** is a community farming project in partnership with University of Sydney, UWS, Greening Australia and Liverpool City Council. We are currently negotiating for a parcel of land with UWS. **ME farm** aims to promote organic farming and provide training and employment pathways in sustainable farming and business/marketing skills.

**African Women's Cleaning Services** was started by Justine Ndayi who is from a Congolese background. With ME'S help, she has recently completed her business plan and is looking to build her business. This project is funded by the Parramatta City Council's grants program

**In this age of i-Phones, i-Pads, i-Pods, YouTube and so on, it is envisioned that ME will go a long way in promoting true multiculturalism in Australian communities.**



## Mapping Social Cohesion 2011 Report- Scanlon Foundation

Article by Ryan Shannon (SCOA intern)

The third Scanlon Foundation Social Cohesion Survey, conducted in June and July with the participation of 8,000 respondents nationwide, builds on the three earlier versions of the survey to begin to establish trends in Australian viewpoints. Responses indicate that while in some areas Australians are showing more openness towards immigration, negative attitudes and misperceptions still exist in key areas.

The survey indicated a slight improvement in overall attitudes toward immigration relative to 2010, with 39% of respondents agreeing that immigration is 'too high', while 55% thought that intake was 'about right' or 'too low.' Participants were also asked to respond to four of the most common arguments made in favour of immigration, with the following levels of agreement:

- 'We need more people for economic growth' (56%)
- 'We need more people because our population is aging' (47%)
- 'We need more people to increase cultural diversity' (33%)
- 'We need a larger population to defend the country' (19%)

Conversely, responses to negative arguments were as follows:

- 'Our cities are already too crowded' (56%)
- 'The environment cannot cope with a larger population' (50%)
- 'Immigration will increase unemployment' (48%)
- 'We already have too much cultural diversity' (36%)

In terms of basis of admittance, 78% were favourable to the skill category; 73% were favourable to humanitarian entrants (specified as refugees admitted after overseas assessment); 71% favourable to those accepted under the Family Stream of the Migration Program; and 69% to overseas students. Attitudes were also assessed toward various national groups, the results of which indicated that groups once stigmatised are now widely accepted. According to the survey, the following are negative attitudes by country of origin:

- Italy & Greece: less than 3%
- Vietnam: 7%
- China: 13%
- India: 14%
- Iraq & Lebanon: 24%

The question was also asked with regards to the three main religions in Australia. Of these, 59% indicated positive attitudes toward Christians, a similar 54% reported positive attitudes towards Buddhists, and only 30% claimed positive attitudes toward Muslims. 25% of participants report negative feelings toward Muslims, which is consistent with attitudes toward migrants from Iraq & Lebanon.

The survey also reflected a significant amount of misinformation regarding the numbers associated with immigration. For example, while net overseas migration has fallen from 315,700 to 171,100 over the last two years, less than 10 thought that there had been a decline and less than 25% have an understanding of how many people reach Australia by boat. Only 22% favoured eligibility for permanent residence for boat arrivals, which reflects that while there is support for a humanitarian program selected refugees overseas, asylum seekers arriving by boat are viewed much more harshly. This issue in particular was highlighted as one which "impacted negatively on social cohesion," sharpening "attitudinal divisions" within the population.

This set of surveys also shows an increase in those reporting experiences of discrimination over the last few years: 9% in 2007, 10% in 2009, 14% in 2010 and also 14% in 2011.

For those interested in learning more about how the attitudes of Australians have shifted over the last few years, how these attitudes align with political party affiliation, and the surveys' overall assessment of Australian 'social cohesion', a great deal more information can be found in the full versions of the reports, all four of which can be found at <http://arts.monash.edu.au/mapping-population/scanlon-foundation-surveys.php>.



## HAND IN HAND Project Overview

Article provided courtesy of Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia

To view the flyer and find the registration form – [click here](#)

**Hand in Hand** was recently launched by the Parliamentary Secretary of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy. Over 50 young people practicing their camera skills as well as other guests were in attendance at the launch, beginning a process that promises to be an exciting engagement of young people of refugee background and young Aboriginal young people.



Above: Senator Kate Lundy launches Hand in Hand with MRCSA

It is part of the MRCSA Youth Empowerment Program, in partnership with Multicultural Youth Link SA. This program has for many years developed initiatives through which young people of refugee background can build their potential through training in governance and decision making, through creative and recreational expression and by assisting other young people and those in their community through volunteering and mentorship. *Hand in Hand* builds on the work of the *UnderXposed* Photographic Project.

Workshops have already started and participants from a diversity of cultural groups are to be seen in schools, community halls and on the Adelaide streets with their cameras taking photos.

A sense of place, affirmation of identity and the need to create by telling and sharing their stories is essential to young people's well-being and to their participation.

While the project is engaging young people in skills development, including photography, digital technology, project organisation, marketing, curating and public speaking, it is also facilitating an interface between the newest and oldest Australians. In learning about Australian history young displaced people will also find out about, and begin to value, their background and the cultural heritage they brought with them to Australia.

The Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music will hold a workshop with young people in November to integrate music and dance into the project, through Aboriginal Elders who will visit from all states to mentor young people from their own communities and those of refugee background.

(Hand in Hand article continued)

The MRCSA has partnered with Multicultural Youth Link, Kurruru, CASM, African Communities Council of SA, Middle Eastern Communities Council of SA, Port Adelaide Aboriginal College, the City of Port Adelaide/Enfield, City of Salisbury and the City of Adelaide, the University of South Australia, SA School of Art, Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and the Adelaide Fringe Festival.



Young participants using their photography skills at Hand in Hand launch at MRCSA

**Project Outcomes** include a cultural exchange tour for up to 45 of the young participants to one of the Aboriginal Council lands and exhibition of the young people's photographs as part of Harmony Day 2012, coinciding with the Adelaide Festival & Adelaide Fringe; a touring exhibition of the work to a broad range of galleries; a digital exhibition available to schools, community groups and local government libraries; young people representing the project as exhibition launch speakers, and as speakers on request.

Participants have already indicated they want street banners to be hung in selected CBD buildings during SA Refugee Week, NAIDOC and SALA Weeks; a report visually documenting the process and the outcomes to be available as a model for other projects; ongoing engagement between the different participating groups in public performances and future arts projects.

The results and the learning outcomes from this project, both technical and cultural, will serve to empower young people and to assist better cross cultural understanding as well as to support the training and creative pathways on offer to young people.

We acknowledge the support of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship through the *Diverse Australia Project* and the support in kind of all partners and other specialist volunteers.

### What's coming up?

Event: FECCA Conference "Advancing Multiculturalism"

When: 17-18<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Where: Adelaide Convention Centre

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

Event: Settlement Council Annual General Meeting

When: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011, 11-2pm

Where: Redfern Town Hall Sydney

[www.scoa.org.au](http://www.scoa.org.au)

Event: official opening of the Northern Community Hub

Who: Diversitat, Victoria

When: Wednesday 26 October, 2011, 11am

Where: 25-41 Arunga Ave, Norlane

[www.diversitat.org.au](http://www.diversitat.org.au)

Event: Creative Innovation 2011 "The Challenges and Opportunities of a super-connected world"

When: 16 – 18 November 2011

Where: Sofitel Melbourne On Collins

<http://www.creativeinnovationglobal.com.au/ci2011/>

Event: Third Sector Expo "Free Professional Development for Not-for-Profits"

When: 16 – 17 April 2012

Where: Melbourne

<http://thirdsectormagazine.com.au/events/64055/>

Event: [National Conference on Volunteering 2011](#)

When: 28 November 2011 - 30 November 2011

Where: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

Event: Clever Ideas Forum 2011

When: 27 October 2011, 9am -12pm

Where: Melbourne (Victoria Room, QV Women's Centre, 210 Lonsdale St, Melbourne)

<http://www.vcross.org.au/clearinghouse/resources/event-cleverideas2011.html>

Event: ArtAbility® "exhibition uniting a range of talented artists of all ages from a variety of cultures"

When: 5th to 12th December 2011

Where: Melbourne (The Atrium, Federation Square, Melbourne 3000)

Event: Hills Holroyd Annual General Meeting

When: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 5.30-7.30pm

Where: Old Government House, Parramatta

<http://www.pingg.com/rsvp/5d22t3k732cvea4qc>



### Settlement Council Consultations

Laura and I attended the Fairfield Migrant Interagency on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Fairfield is a major settlement area in Sydney, so the Fairfield Migrant Interagency is a forum where many settlement and mainstream providers gather to share ideas and concerns about service delivery for CALD residents in the community. We were able to run a short consultation within their regular meeting, which provided an opportunity to hear about some of the issues in the area. Key issues raised were:

- Gambling
- Housing
- Language
- Education/access to education
- Employment
- Health
- Domestic Violence
- Ethno specific agencies receiving sufficient funding

Consultations with SCOA members were held in QLD on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Sky and Cedric joined Kerrin at MDA, where members from Brisbane gathered for the consultation, followed by a light lunch. The discussion at the consultation covered the following areas:

- Detention – including:
  - mental health impacts,
  - accurate flow of information on ex-detainee clients, in particular medical records,
  - the impact of continuous media coverage of detention issues on clients,
  - ‘Malaysian solution’ creating disharmony in community
  - Community frustrations with detention releases being granted visas from the SHP quota
  - Service standards and staff qualifications for detention staff
- Support for other categories of migrants, including skilled – eg:
  - Employment programs, and their restrictions, entitlement to JSAs would resolve a range of issues
  - Need for migration advice, particularly for clients with low levels of English
  - Processing time for visas and lack of information on progress or reasons for rejection
- Volunteer recruitment
- Affordable housing
- Service standards and accreditation

Sky de Jersey – SCOA EO



The next SCOA consultation will be in ...**VICTORIA!!**

**When:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 11am

**Where:** Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

**Who:** All SCOA members as well as all those who work in the settlement sector

Please RSVP to Sky at [eo@scoa.org.au](mailto:eo@scoa.org.au)



### The Drummer Restaurant – Pop Up Restaurant Sydney September 2011

The latest project to appear in Sydney as part of the ‘pop up’ craze which is taking over the city was one a little more thought provoking than your regular lunch time spot. Inspired by the SBS series “*Go back to where you came from*” Elle Formica, a university student from Sydney, with the help of the American Express “Room for thought” campaign came up with the idea of creating a restaurant run by refugees featuring a traditional Burmese and Sudanese menu.

The concept was funded by AMEX, and designed to have young people work with various mentors to create short term projects aimed to inspire thought and discussion. Using a local art gallery in the Sydney CBD, Elle worked with Miranda Otto to transform the space into a split level restaurant showcasing the skills of Burmese and Sudanese refugees looking to pave a career in the hospitality space.

The team at SCOA along with our friends from the Refugee Council made our way down to Erskine Street on the second of the three days this eatery was open, only to find a line of eager city employees waiting outside on the sidewalk. Luckily the team RCOA had made a booking, so quite quickly we were whisked away past a drumming group at the front door welcoming us to a buzzing hive of happy customers, and upstairs to a crowded seating area that was beautifully decorated with traditional Burmese fare. Our waitresses were attentive and friendly, clearly enjoying the experience just as much as the crowd. Throughout our delicious lunch of goat stew, and spicy vegetable prawn salad, and vegetable curries we were entertained by a troupe of Burmese musicians (pictured above)

The whole experience was thoroughly enjoyable and really did spark a lot of conversations which normally ended with “why can’t this restaurant be a permanent fixture?!”



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