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Survey opportunity

THE NCYLC CHILD FORCED MARRIAGE PROJECT

The National Children's and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC) is undertaking Australia's first national research into the forced marriage of children entitled *Not Yours to Promise*. The aim of the project is to create a set of best practice guidelines to assist organisations in responding to child victims of forced marriage. If you have had any experience with children in or at risk of a forced marriage, please contribute to the project by filling out the Centre's survey. If you know of any practitioner or organisation who has had experience with child victims of forced marriage, please forward this email to them.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/notyourstopromise>



**A message
from
SCOA EO–
Sky de Jersey**

It was wonderful to meet with so many of our members at our AGM in Melbourne on 22nd October. We were delighted with the turn out and glad to be able to share the report from the Second National Settlement Conference now it has been publicly launched. If you would like copies of the SCOA 2011-2012 Annual Report or the conference report please [click here](#).

A highlight for September was our SGP consultation. We had a record turnout with those who were unable to participate in person contributing written feedback – thank you all for your valuable contributions. A summary of the meeting can be found on page 9 or [here](#). I know the 2012-2013 SGP round is due to open soon so I wish you well in your applications.

In late August I attended the Centrelink National Multicultural Advisory Group meeting. This group meets annually face to face, and during the year in Sydney and Melbourne. The meeting included a presentation by Senator Kim Carr, and we also had the opportunity to discuss key Centrelink and DHS programs such as the Better Futures Local Solutions, a \$38.2 million initiative for local community infrastructure to support participation.

A forthcoming meeting you may be interested in is the UNHCR Annual NGO consultation, which will be held in November in Canberra. This consultation brings together people working in area of refugees, settlement and asylum in the non-government sector from across Australia. Please get in touch if you have any comments or issues you would like me to raise.

Sky de Jersey
SCOA Executive Officer



A letter from SCOA Chair – Cedric Manen

I have to reiterate the thanks I gave in person to the members who travelled to Melbourne to attend SCOA's AGM. It was great to meet so many of you there, and sincere thanks to Senator Lundy, Minister for Multicultural Affairs for her speech at the AGM, and for launching the report of the Second National Settlement Conference.

Senator Lundy spoke about the changing nature of the settlement program, given the increase in places in the humanitarian program, and the great work of the settlement sector. The increase in the program means Australia is now the largest resettlement nation in the world on a per-capita basis. For more on her speech please follow this link:-

<http://www.katelundy.com.au/2012/10/22/address-to-the-settlement-council-of-australia-agm/>

Congratulations to the new Executive Committee, in particular Annette Ruzicka (QLD) and Coryn Tambling (NT) who are joining us for the first time. Thanks to Ron Mitchell, our departing NT Executive Committee representative, for his hard work on the SCOA Executive Committee. For more details on the new committee and office bearers please see page 7.

I would also like to thank Ricci Bartels for acting as Chairperson during my break in July-August. My trip started with participation in the UNHCR NGO Consultations and the Annual Tripartite consultations in Geneva, which gave me an opportunity to connect the work we are doing in settlement in Australia with resettlement programs and agencies across the world. Hearing updates on refugee protection issues across the globe puts our Australian resettlement program into context. Whilst I took exhaustive notes, RCOA was the NGO focal point for the ATCR and I thought it best to pass on their notes. My sincere thanks to Paul Power and members from DIAC who did a sterling job of being the focal point of this years ATCR. You can download notes by following this link:-

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/r/urpt/2012-NGOCons-ATCR.pdf>.

I wanted to also draw your attention to the recently released report on the 2012 Annual Consultation with NGO's that took place July 3-5, 2012 in Geneva. On page 7 and 8 of the report under the thematic session on Refugee Resettlement: Expanding its reach and effectiveness through broader NGO participation you'll find a quick summary of the discussions and recommendations related to resettlement. You can download this information by following this link

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendocPDFViewer.html?docid=5052eba79&query=HC%20Dialogue,%202012>

On September 19th I had the opportunity of representing SCoA at the inaugural Multicultural Council Lecture at Parliament House in Canberra. My congratulations to Judge Rauf Soulio and the AMC for the fantastic event that showcased bi-partisan support for the benefits that the migration programs have brought to Australia over the years. It was wonderful to hear of Frank Lowy's successful settlement experience.

I understand that the next SGP funding round is scheduled to be released on 31 October. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank those of you that attended the most recent consultation on the current SGP funding announcements and to wish you all well in your application processes.

Cedric Manen

SCOA Chairperson

News from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship

2012 Members of Parliament National Volunteer Awards

Volunteers make a positive difference in the lives of millions of Australians. They contribute to a socially inclusive society, in which all Australians feel valued and have the opportunity to participate fully in their communities.

The 2012 Members of Parliament National Volunteer Awards is an opportunity to recognise the contribution of local volunteers to communities all over Australia and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship is keen to see settlement sector volunteers represented in the 2012 Volunteer Award nominations.

There are ten Award categories:

- MP's Volunteer of the Year
- Junior Volunteer Award (17 and under)
- Young Volunteer Award (18-25)
- Senior Volunteer Award (65 and over)
- Business Volunteer Award
- Education Award
- Emergency Management Volunteer Award
- Environment Award
- Innovation in Volunteering Award (organisation or individual)
- Long-term Commitment to Community Service Award

Nominations are due by 5pm 8 November 2012.

Nominating a Volunteer

You can find out more about the Members of Parliament National Volunteer Awards including instructions on how to nominate a volunteer at the Office for the Not-for-Profit website:

<http://www.notforprofit.gov.au/news/2012-members-parliament-national-volunteer-awards>

The Awards make it possible for all Australians to recognise someone who has given something back to their community and made a difference to other peoples' lives.

The Settlement Journey: Strengthening Australia through Migration

A new publication on the provision of settlement services, *The Settlement Journey: Strengthening Australia through Migration*, was launched by Senator Kate Lundy at Parliament House on 23 August 2012 amid much colour and fanfare.

Local Sudanese women's choir Youth Mama provided a warm welcome to Senator Lundy and the distinguished guests, who included other members of the Australian Senate, representatives from international non-government organisations and settlement service providers.

'Australia's settlement services are the backbone of our migration program and are designed to support new migrants and refugees settle in the community. *The Settlement Journey* outlines the government's settlement policy and suite of services available to help new migrants build a new life in Australia,' Senator Lundy said.

'The Australian Government's settlement policy is calibrated to capitalise in the economic, social and humanitarian benefits of migration so that new migrants can flourish and Australia can prosper'.

Senator Lundy said the settlement journey was a shared experience for many Australians and the new publication highlighted the importance of government and settlement services working effectively together to strengthen settlement outcomes.

SCOA members recently received a copy of *The Settlement Journey* in the mail. Further copies can be found on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's website at

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/settle/>

Below: Senator Kate Lundy and Dewani Bakkum (MARSS CEO) at the launch of The Settlement Journey





News from DIAC continued...

Sector update on the ACNC - October 2012

What is the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)?

The ACNC is a new organisation being established by the Commonwealth Government to regulate charities. In the future, the ACNC may also regulate other types of not-for-profit (NFP) organisations, but not before 2014 at the earliest.

The ACNC's objectives are to maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the NFP sector; to support and sustain a robust, vibrant, independent and innovative sector; and to promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the sector.

The ACNC will register NFP organisations that are charities and establish a free, searchable register of charities. Through the register, anyone will be able to find out information about a charity they might want to donate money to or volunteer with.

The ACNC will, over time, become a 'one stop shop' for reporting by charities to the Commonwealth Government. That is, any information provided to the ACNC will not need to be provided to other Commonwealth Government agencies. However, charities may still be required to provide financial acquittals and performance reports to individual Commonwealth agencies if they receive grants to deliver services.

What should charities do before the ACNC starts?

Initially the ACNC will only regulate charities. Organisations currently endorsed as a charity by the ATO to receive charity tax concessions will automatically be registered by the ACNC. They do not need to do anything else at this time. The ACNC will contact them soon about the changes.

How can an organisation check if it is currently endorsed as a charity by the ATO to receive charity tax concessions?

An organisation can check if they are currently an endorsed charity by searching on the [ABN Lookup](#). Charities are listed as charitable funds, charitable institutions, health promotion charities or public benevolent institutions under 'charity tax concession status' on the register.

How can people get information before the ACNC commences?

The ACNC website has information and FAQ's on their website at <http://acnctaskforce.treasury.gov.au>. In the first instance you should look at their website and it is recommended that you sign up to the Interim Commissioner's column.

Alternatively, you can contact the ACNC Taskforce by:

- phone on 1800 020 008
- email at acncmailbox@ato.gov.au

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment you can use the [National Relay Service](#) to call the ACNC.

If you prefer to use a language other than English, you can use the [Translating and Interpreting Service \(TIS\)](#).

The ACNC Taskforce has officers with Indigenous backgrounds who are able to speak with Indigenous callers.

How can people contact the ACNC Advice Services after commencement?

After the ACNC commences operation, the first source of information should be the ACNC website, www.acnc.gov.au. It will have a range of factsheets and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

(continued next page)



DIAC News- Sector update on the ACNC - October 2012 (continued)

Otherwise you will be able to contact the ACNC Advice Services team by:

- phone on 13 ACNC (13 22 62) (8am-8pm Mon-Fri)
- email at advice@acnc.gov.au
- fax on 1300 232 569
- or by post to:
The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
GPO Box 5108
Melbourne VIC 3001

How will the ACNC reduce red tape?

An express objective of the ACNC is to promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations. The ACNC will work closely with state and territory regulators to minimise regulatory duplication where possible, collaborate and share information. For example, the ACNC Commissioner has the ability to accept reports provided to other agencies for ACNC purposes - including schools reporting under the *Schools Assistance Act 2008*.

All jurisdictions have also committed to undertaking a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) to identify areas of regulatory duplication and opportunities to resolve this.

The ACNC will also introduce a tiered and proportional reporting system under a 'report-once, use-often' framework. Small registered charities (around 78% of all registered charities) will only be required to provide a 'short form' annual information statement and will not need to submit a financial report. A key goal of the report-once, use-often approach is reducing the number of times that charities have to produce the same information to government agencies. From 1 July 2013 a Charity Passport will enable information provided upon ACNC registration such as the charity name, ABN, postal address, office holders and date of endorsement of charitable status, to be made available to government agencies. Registered charities will not need to reproduce this information every time they deal with a Commonwealth Government agency.

The broader NFP reform agenda is also seeking to streamline 'red tape'. The Department of Finance and Deregulation is working to simplify contracting arrangements for procurement across government by developing template tendering and contracting documents for simple procurement. In February 2011, the Basic Contract Suite for procurements under \$80,000 was released - approximately 70% of Commonwealth procurements are under \$80,000. A grant agreement template is also being piloted for use by agencies when entering into low risk grants, with a view of being available across the Commonwealth in 2013.

Efforts have also been made to harmonise financial reporting between Federal and State/Territory governments through the adoption of National Standard Chart of Accounts (NSCOA). From 1 July 2011, all jurisdictions have accepted financial information from NFP organisations based on the NSCOA.

How can people keep in touch with the latest developments?

The links below are to the Office for the NFP Sector, Treasury, the ACNC and the ATO. They all have useful information including free subscriber newsletters/updates, as an easy way to keep informed of developments.

<http://acnctaskforce.treasury.gov.au/>

<http://www.notforprofit.gov.au/office-not-profit-sector>

<http://www.treasury.gov.au/Policy-Topics/PeopleAndSociety/NFP-reform/Public-Consultations>

<http://www.ato.gov.au/content/00283655.htm>

Settlement Council Annual General Meeting

Monday 22nd October 2012



SCOA held its AGM last week in Melbourne at the Multicultural Hub- a hive of multicultural activity in the heart of Melbourne.

Members and colleagues travelled from all over Australia to attend the event, to make up an audience of over 45 people which is a testament to the improved level of engagement SCOA is having with the sector at large, and the interest in SCOA activities. Attendees included representatives from all types of settlement agencies, main stream services and government departments.

Links with governmental bodies was reported to have been strengthened, and this was confirmed by having several Department of Immigration and Citizenship representatives in attendance.

SCOA was able to report on 12 months of successful consultation with settlement providers which has resulted in many varied discussion papers and submissions. The Settlement Conference which SCOA and MRCSA hosted in June of last financial year, was definitely a highlighted success of the day. Several mentions were made of the two day conference, and of the key recommendations which came out of the round table discussions held at the conference.

One draw card of the day was Senator Kate Lundy Minister for Sport, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister Assisting Industry and Innovation launching the report from the Second National Settlement Conference. SCOA would like to thank Senator Lundy for taking the time to address our AGM, and to provide some insightful comments on the current state and future direction of the sector. You can download the Senator speech to the SCOA AGM through this link: <http://www.katelundy.com.au/2012/10/22/address-to-the-settlement-council-of-australia-agm/>.

The conference report can be found through [this link](#) or on the [SCOA website](#).

The results of the recent state elections for Executive members and the results of the internal Office Bearers nomination process were put forward to the AGM for endorsement. The results of these elections can be found on the next page.

The SCOA annual report is available to download through [this link](#), or is [available online](#).

The minutes of the AGM will be available for members and colleagues on the SCOA website shortly.

SCOA Executive Committee Election results

As members would be aware, SCOA recently held elections in each state for the positions of Executive Committee representatives. Following the outcomes of these elections, the newly elected state representatives held an internal nomination process for the positions of office bearers.

The results of these elections were put to the AGM on Monday 22nd October 2012 for endorsement and were accepted unanimously.

Congratulations to all SCOA Executives:

**NSW: - Ricci Bartels, Fairfield MRC
Violet Roumeliotis, Settlement Services International**

**VIC: - Rosemary Kelada, Spectrum MRC
Michael Martinez, Diversitat**

ACT: - Dewani Bakkum, Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services Inc

TAS: - Cedric Manen, MRC Southern Tasmania

SA: - Eugenia Tsoulis OAM, Migrant Resource Centre of SA

WA: - Michael O'Hara, Metropolitan MRC

NT: - Coryn Tambling, Multicultural Council, NT

QLD: - Annette Ruzicka, Multicultural Development Association

Congratulations to our new office bearers:

Chair: Cedric Manen

Deputy Chair: Eugenia Tsoulis

Secretary: Michael O'Hara

Deputy Secretary: Violet Roumeliotis

Treasurer: Dewani Bakkum

Public Officer: Rosemary Kelada

We welcome two new Executive members, Annette Ruzicka from MDA who will represent Queensland, and Coryn Tambling who will represent the Northern Territory.

SCOA would like to pass on thanks to Ron Mitchell who represented the NT for the past twelve months on the SCOA Executive Committee.





SCOA's recently published submissions, position papers and discussion papers.

- SCOA has partnered with Myriad Consultants on a paper on domestic violence which is in the final stages of completion.
- SCOA's submission on Private Sponsorship was forwarded to Minister Bowen and Senator Lundy in the past month
- A submission was prepared and sent to the QLD Government on the Multicultural Recognition Bill. QLD members were consulted on this prior to submission
- The Settlement Service Standards continues to be a standing item for discussion and SCOA welcomes feedback on the [discussion paper which can be found here](#)
- The Settlement Framework – SCOA has drafted a response to the recently released Settlement Framework and will be submitting to DIAC once it has been completed
- The recommendations from the Settlement Conference have been published and can be found in the conference report on the SCOA website. Please contact the SCOA office on (02) 8065 5225 if you would like a hard copy of the report

Policy Practice Forum

The inaugural policy practice forum was held on Tuesday 18th September 2012. The purpose of the Policy Practice Forum (PPF) is to facilitate sharing of information and developments in relation to policy and research in the sector among those who work specifically in the area of policy and policy development in the Settlement Sector. In this first meeting, in which eight people from across the country participated, the TOR of reference were confirmed and it was discussed that the topics raised in these forums would be made public through the SCOA bi-monthly newsletter (this one!) and the website.

Participants in each state commented on advocacy issues in their areas, some of which included:

- SA- consistent long term support is required for those from Sudanese communities
- NSW- affordable housing availability continues to be an ongoing issue, community development programs may need a little more support and recognition. Young migrant issues are on the forefront on both a state (NSW) and national level.
- FECCA gave an update on their upcoming national consultations, and MYAN released information about an upcoming paper (which has since been released and [can be found here](#)).

Current and future research projects being undertaken include:

- settlement of young migrants and refugees through University of Sydney (in consultation with DIAC and UNHCR)
- community development projects in Western Sydney
- Foundation House discussion paper examining the need for an interpreter by refugees and migrants while they are seeking medical assistance is expected to be released soon

The next Policy Practice Forum is scheduled for Wednesday 5th December and workers in the sector with experience in research and policy development and roles that relate to this area are encouraged to join the PPF. Please contact Sky de Jersey on (02) 8065 5225 should you wish to participate.

You can find the complete minutes of this meeting through this link: [PPF Minutes 18th September 2012](#).

The MYAN paper *Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors in Australia: an overview of national support arrangements and key emerging issues*, can be [found here](#) or on the MYAN website www.myan.org.au



Settlement Grants Program Analysis report.

The Settlement Grants Program (SGP) is a funding initiative from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to provide services for humanitarian entrants and migrants to support successful settlement in Australia. The funding is granted to organisations working within the settlement sector on a project centric basis. Services covered by SGP include: immigration assistance, housing, ethno- specific support for newly arrived communities, and on a more general base, services that aid orientation to Australia and participation in Australian society.

The application round for 2012 SGP funding was launched by The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP and the Parliamentary Secretary Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy (now the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Sports and Minister Assisting for Industry and Innovation) in December 2011 in the Sydney suburb of Cabramatta. The launch included an announcement that there was to be an intended refocus for service types under the next SGP funding allocations. From the media release after the launch this was stated:

'Under the former settlement grant program, funding for ad hoc projects was prioritised over core community services,' Senator Lundy said. 'The changes announced today reflect a decision by the government to reinvest in long term programs that will help new Australians adapt to life in Australia.

The revised service types under SGP include casework, coordination and delivery of services, community coordination and development, youth settlement services, and support for ethno-specific organisations.

The Gillard Government will refocus settlement funding to invest in the long-term future of Australia's settlement services and assist ethno-specific communities. To assist the settlement sector understand the broader trends affecting the Settlement Grants Program the Settlement Council of Australia has analysed the recent funding announcements from a variety of perspectives. The analysis focuses on agencies who received funding, not individual grant approvals. * Funding can be allocated on a one, two or three year basis, with a funding round open every twelve months. The data in this report has been sourced from the PDF documents detailing SGP recipients in each state and territory on The Department of Immigration and Citizenship website and was accurate as of the 12th July 2012.ⁱ Last year the funding application process opened in December, closed at the beginning of February, and grants were announced in late June 2012.

	Funding allocation by state*		Number of agencies funded by state**	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
ACT	\$959,773	\$981,529	4	4
NSW	\$17,540,760	\$ 23,435,182	49	37
NT	\$427,500	\$1,437,983	2	3
QLD	\$7,555,825	\$6,083,738	23	15
SA	\$4,349,054	\$3,657,874	13	6
TAS	\$669,752	\$2,313,905	4	3
VIC	\$15,613,997	\$ 17,321,153	32	26
WA	\$6,046,776	\$4,434,237	17	10
total	\$53,163,437	\$596,65,601	144	105

*amounts are total for multiple years of funding

** Multicultural Development Association Inc and Australian Refugee Association Inc are counted twice due to being mentioned as receiving two separate funding allocations in 2012.

The Refugee Council of Australia has also conducted an analysis on the recent SGP round which can be found [here](#)

The full SCOA analysis can be downloaded from [here](#) or the [SCOA website downloads page](#)



SCOA SGP Consultation

In September 2012 SCOA held a teleconference consultation with members to seek their views and experiences on the DIAC funded Settlement Grants Program. SCOA consulted members on the SGP to gain a better sense of views on this key funding program for the settlement sector. The SGP has recently shifted focus in this latest round, which prompted the scheduling of this consultation. Here follow the minutes of SCOA's consultation, reflecting the views of members and comments expressed in writing or during the meeting.

With over 34 people participating from all around the country over the phone and at least 5 independent written responses, SCOA was able to gain some valuable feedback from members and colleagues on the current views and experiences of SGP in the sector currently.

Below is a summary of the consultations:

- **New projects that have been funded in the current round**

Although there were few new projects being funded in the last round, many agencies did in fact gain three year funding under SGP. As per the Minister for Immigrations announcement at the launch of SGP applications in late 2011, there was more of a focus on youth across the country. A trend appeared to be that although the amount of allocated funds may have been reduced, many projects received continued funding.

- **Projects which were not successful in the current round**

More discussion is required to determine the definition of 'rural', 'regional' and 'metro' as some agencies in what would normally be considered regional locations are being classified as metro and this is affecting their SGP grant applications. There appears to be some agencies who are experiencing issues with losing funding due to 'duplication of services'. This needs to be explored in further detail to determine if services are in fact duplications or supplantations of existing services. This is particularly relevant in areas where agencies have sourced alternative or donated funding resources to undertake a project and are now approaching DIAC for SGP funding.

DIAC's documentation on SGP guidelines needs to be clear and unambiguous, and implemented consistently across the country.

- **Sharing successes and challenges by state**

Rather than comment on successes and challenges state by state, a summary covering all states, with some anecdotal evidence were discussed. Some key points included inconsistencies in dissemination of information and communication, ambiguous wording and feedback on applications, case work not being part of the funding agreement for smaller agencies, and reductions in staff which have led to client dissatisfaction. Where some smaller agencies were not funded, partnerships with larger organisations have been established (though incidences of this are very few). There were also some reports of work plans being very prescriptive.

- **Thoughts and perspectives from members on the trends these shifts represent**

- **Thoughts and perspectives from members on recommendation for future trends**

Across the country two main trends are apparent, being that more agencies this year than last received multi-year funding, but that the amount of funding tends to have been reduced. There appear to be inconsistencies in both youth and ethno-specific based funding.

- **Outcomes/ future requirements for agencies from the changes to a more streamlined approach for funding**

- **Outcomes/ future requirements from the policy to fund ethnic community capacity through**

Ethnic/Multicultural peaks

Comments on agency requirements centred on onerous reporting requirements, and the apparent delays in agencies receiving their grant funding were made. Comments were also made around the unclear eligibility for services and various visa categories.

- **Next steps**

SCOA is collating comments into a record of the consultation, which will be combined with the analysis of the current SGP round and shared with members and stakeholders. Greater clarity on the content of 3 year grants is needed to assist analysis in relation to focus on specific areas within combined grants (such as youth projects or housing projects).

SCOA will share member perspectives on the current SGP round with DIAC and the Minister through our advocacy work.

[The full report can be downloaded from the SCOA website through this link](#)



MYAN News

National Youth Settlement Training Unit

Many of you will now be familiar with the development of a nationally accredited Youth Settlement Training Unit for the VET sector. The MYAN is working in partnership with a range of organisations, across the youth and settlement sector to develop this.

We are currently engaged in Phase 1 of consultations and recently held a successful joint SCOA/MYAN national teleconference. In addition to feedback received at this teleconference, over 70 people have provided comment on the core competencies and framework for the unit – either in face to face consults, via email or through teleconferences.

A joint AMES/MYAN consultation was scheduled in Melbourne on Friday October 19th and other meetings have been scheduled in coming weeks.

Feedback has come from a broad range of stakeholders, including young people from refugee backgrounds, settlement workers, youth workers, teachers, academics, DIAC staff and others with an interest in the area. All feedback has provided new and important content but gratifyingly, has also endorsed the framework of the training and the core competencies on which it is based.

[Further information can be found here](#), or contact Nadine Liddy nliddy@cmv.net.au or Margaret Piper margpiper@optusnet.com.au

Not a SCOA member? Interested in joining?

Call or email Laura, SCOA's Membership Services Officer!



(02) 9065 5225
mso@scoa.org.au



This month the Settlement Council are excited to welcome one new member:



Mount Druitt Ethnic Communities Agency

MECA is a non-profit multicultural community based welfare organisation established in 1989. Their services are supported by Commonwealth, State and local government funds.

They provide effective, professional community development and referral service to people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities living in Mount Druitt and surrounding suburbs. Their service is easily accessible as it is within walking distance to the train station and buses and main central business district.

They are centrally located among numerous Government and non-government social and community services. MECA's management committee, staff and volunteers bring a rich diversity of cultures, knowledge and experience to help provide a professional and culturally sensitive service to meet the needs of the community as a whole.

You can find out more about the services MECA provides on their website:
http://www.meca.asn.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1&Itemid=2



Melaleuca Refugee Centre



Madi Sudanese Dancers at World Refugee Day Festival 2012



Rare cultural exchange between the emerging Karen community and Aboriginal elder Kath Mills singing together "Arafura Pearl" at World Refugee Day Festival 2012



"African Brothers" drummers from Sudan, Liberia, Congo and Gambia. First performance together at the World Refugee Day Festival 2012, a unique performance in Australia.

Name of organisation: Melaleuca Refugee Centre Torture and Trauma Survivors of the NT

Location (state and city): Darwin, NT

Website: www.melaleuca.org.au

Key contact: Ali Nur, Director

Year organisation was established: 1996

Melaleuca Refugee Centre is a community-controlled, not-for-profit association operating out of Darwin. The association was first established in 1996 as the Torture Trauma Survivors Service of the NT Incorporated to cater for the small numbers of refugees and asylum seekers wanting to settle in the Northern Territory. In 2002 it expanded and became known as Melaleuca Refugee Centre Torture Trauma Survivors Service of the NT Incorporated.

Melaleuca Refugee Centre provides early settlement support and counselling services to people of refugee background and facilitates significant community development programs in the areas of cultural transition, strengthening families and peace leadership.

The organisation combines components of voluntary and professional services, offering a uniquely integrated approach addressing settlement, wellbeing and community needs by hosting a range of services and programs under the same roof. A further strength of Melaleuca is its firm relationships and collaborative networks with stakeholders and community members. Melaleuca has been fortunate to benefit from having resourceful staff and dedicated volunteers with a high level of energy, commitment and mindfulness.

Early Settlement Support

Melaleuca's Early Settlement Program provides essential information and support to people granted humanitarian visas to ensure their initial settlement needs are met. The range of services includes case coordination, health care and support, housing assistance and recruitment and training of volunteer support groups for newly arrived clients.

Melaleuca Refugee Centre was recognised for its volunteer program by Volunteering SA-NT with the 2012 award for 'Organisational Excellence – Large Organisation'. This achievement was only possible with the support of Melaleuca's dedicated and passionate volunteers to people of refugee background.

Counselling & Advocacy

Counsellor advocates at Melaleuca work under the Torture and Trauma (T&T) Recovery framework with refugees and asylum seekers. This framework understands the link between what refugees have been through, the types of issues and behaviours refugees may present with and how to work in a way that promotes recovery and minimises the risk of re-traumatisation. Apart from torture and trauma counselling, Melaleuca offers intensive family and youth support services.

Melaleuca profile continued:

Community Development

Melaleuca's community development program empowers individuals and communities from refugee background and links them with the wider community in collaborative partnerships to make connections, share their knowledge, skills, ideas and to actively engage with issues affecting their lives. Melaleuca delivers community development programs such as Peace Leadership Training, Families in Cultural Transition (FICT) and Tips and Ideas on Parenting Skills (TIPS). Training and education is integral to Melaleuca's commitment to improve understanding what trauma does to people and to give an insight into issues people of refugee background experience. Melaleuca facilitates community engagement through coordinating and facilitating community events such as the World Refugee Day Festival, an official event of the National World Refugee Week. This growing community event, which was this year under the theme of 'Restoring Hope', was the culmination of months of collaboration and an increasing ownership of the event by refugee communities. Well over a thousand people enjoyed the diverse and vibrant program of cultural performances, world food stalls, fun "interactive" stalls run by members of the Refugee Support Network, an official citizenship ceremony hosted by the Department of Immigration, a Youth chill out zone and kids activities. The festival was a shining example of how hope can be restored and people from different cultural backgrounds come together and celebrate their contribution to an Australian society.



The Melaleuca team



AFLNT African Boys Leadership Academy

ACOSS releases Poverty Report 2012*

ACOSS has released a new report showing poverty in Australia remains a persistent problem with an estimated 2,265,000 people or 12.8% of all people living below the internationally accepted poverty line used to measure financial hardship in wealthy countries.

The report provides the most comprehensive picture of poverty in the nation since 2006 and shows that people who are unemployed, children (especially in lone parent families), and people whose main source of income is social security payments, are the groups most at risk of poverty.

Some key findings:

- 2,265,000 people (12.8%) were living below the poverty line
- 575,000 children or 17.3% were living below the poverty line
- 63% of people in unemployed households were below the poverty line
- 26% of adults living in households below the 50% poverty line came from a non English-speaking country
- The level of poverty was higher (13.1%) outside capital cities than in capital cities (12.6%)

The report covers areas such as:

- Gender
- Age
- Family Type
- Country of birth
- Location
- Poverty among people on social security payments
- And trends in poverty from 2003- 2010.

The research is particularly interesting for those working in CALD communities where families and individuals may fall under one or more of the risk areas.

The full report can be found on the ACOSS website:

http://acoss.org.au/media/release/one_in_eight_people_living_in_poverty_in_australia_new_report

*Source:

http://acoss.org.au/media/release/one_in_eight_people_living_in_poverty_in_australia_new_report



Cities of Migration

A Maytree idea

*Cities of Migration brings an urban lens to its view of good integration practice, and seeks to promote city-to-city learning exchange and create links between the many actors who are involved in the practical day-to-day work of making integration a key component of urban success, internationally.**

The Cities of Migration website provides a wealth of best case scenarios and lived realities of settlement from around the world, not just those countries thought to be the leaders in settlement and integration (USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand).

Providing an extensive e-library, spaces for online communities to communicate and discuss settlement and integration related issues, and the *100 Good Ideas in Integration*, the site is well worth a browse through.

You can find Cities of Migration at <http://citiesofmigration.ca/>

*<http://citiesofmigration.ca/about-2/>



Settlement
Services
International

MYAN
multicultural youth
advocacy network (australia)

CMY
Centre for Multicultural Youth

The Federal Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Sport, Senator the Hon Kate Lundy will be making an important funding announcement for a national approach to youth settlement through the MYAN Australia.

The Federal Gillard Government has committed funding over three years (2012-2015) for the establishment of a new service that will support young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds in the Greater Western Sydney area. The new service will be established through a partnership between the Centre for Multicultural Youth, the Greater Western Sydney Giants Football Club and Multicultural Youth Affairs Network NSW and its local host organisation, Settlement Services International (SSI).

This exciting project will be launched in Sydney on Monday 12th November 2012. SCOA wishes everyone involved great success with this project.

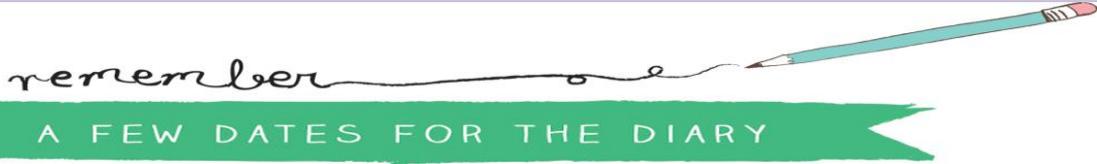


Improving the cancer status of non-English speaking communities

The Hon. Victor Dominello, MP, Minister for Citizenship and Communities on 11 October, joined Cancer Council NSW to launch a Multilingual Communications Approach aimed at making cancer resources and support services easily available to non-English speaking communities.

cancercouncil.com.au

As part of this, Cancer Council NSW, with funding from Cancer Australia, has developed a number of multilingual websites, including Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Macedonian and Vietnamese. [See the media release here](#)



remember
A FEW DATES FOR THE DIARY

MECA's 23rd Annual General Meeting (Wednesday 14th of November 2012) & The Launch of our Research report: The Voice Of New & Emerging Communities

The Third National Conference on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees will be held at St Patrick's Campus, ACU Melbourne, 6 – 7 December 2012

http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27&Itemid=37

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) State Conference Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on November 20 <http://eccvconference.eventbrite.com/>

The Refugee Council of Australia consultations (RCOA) Various dates across the country see [RCOA website](#) for more information

RCOA 2012 AGM and Members' Forum Adelaide, Tuesday 13 November 2012

<http://staging.refugeecouncil.org.au/a/agm.php>

SYDNEY MCS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012 DATE: 7th December **LOCATION:** Bowen Library, Registration from 1.30pm Contact (02) 9663 3922 for more details.

International Human Rights Day Monday 10 December

ACOSS Policy Forum and AGM for ACOSS Members will be held on Friday the 16th of November in Sydney with the policy forum from 10:00am to 3:00pm, followed by the AGM from 3-4pm.

Community information session arrangements The purpose of the first session is to provide an update on:

· onshore processing arrangements including community detention (CD) arrangements and the use of BVEs with Asylum Seeker Assistance (ASAS) and Community Assistance Support (CAS). Sessions nation wide -

<http://www.immi.gov.au/about/contracts-tenders-submissions/support-services-stat-res.htm>

RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

SCOA is a proud supporter of the Australian Human Rights Commission Campaign to help Australians recognise that racism is unacceptable in our community.



Contact the Settlement Council:

Email: admin@scoa.org.au | Address: 333/410 Elizabeth st, Surry Hills NSW 2012 | Web: www.scoa.org.au | Phone: (02) 8065 5225 |