Achievements

Settlement Council of Australia

2017-2018

www.scoa.org.au

3a, 32 Thesiger Court, Deakin, ACT 2600
(02) 6282 8515
info@scoa.org.au

@SettlementCouncilofAustralia
@SCOA_Aus

www.scoa.org.au
Newsletters

On a bi-monthly basis, SCoA distributes an entertaining and insightful newsletter highlighting the latest happenings across the sector and showcasing the best practices of SCoA members in relation to a chosen theme. Newsletters also include important government updates and a list of upcoming events and opportunities. You can view recent newsletters on our website.

> #WithRefugees (June 2018)
> Social Engagement (April 2018)
> Harmony Day (March 2018)
> International Women's Day (March 2018)
> Education (February 2018)
> Mental Health (December 2017)
> Regional Settlement (October 2017)
> Housing (August 2017)

Policy Papers

> Education (February 2018)
> Mental Health (December 2017)
> Housing (August 2017)
> Employment (June 2017)

Submissions

SCoA aims to provide insightful, well-informed and practical contributions to government inquiries at both the departmental and legislative levels. We therefore engage directly through the provision of written submissions, and appearing before inquiries to ensure the settlement sector is well represented on decisions of impact.

> 2018-19 Humanitarian Program (May 2018)
> Regulation of Migration Agents (Joint Submission with FECCA) (May 2018)
> Australian Citizenship Amendment Bill (One Nation) (April 2018)
> Appearance before Senate Inquiry into Newly Arrived Residents Waiting Period (March 2018)
> Newly Arrived Residents Waiting Period (March 2018)
> 2018-19 Migration Program (February 2018)
> Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention) (October 2017)
> Law Council of Australia Justice Project (September 2017)
> Visa Simplification (September 2017)
> Appearance before Senate Inquiry into Strengthening Multiculturalism (August 2017)
> Appearance before Senate Inquiry into Citizenship Legislation Amendment Bill (August 2017)
> Contributing to the NGO Shadow Report on Australia's performance against the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination
Citizenship Advocacy

SCoA has been active over the past twelve months in our advocacy and lobbying on the future of Australia’s citizenship legislation and policy. We view citizenship as being a crucial, often ultimate, step in the settlement journey of new Australians and therefore believe it must remain an inclusive and welcoming foundation of our multicultural society.

SCoA Updates and Media Releases

As the peak body for settlement in Australia, SCoA takes seriously the need to keep both our members and the general public informed of issues impacting effective settlement. We work tirelessly to ensure crucial information is disseminated, and provide advice and opinion on important matters as the case requires. Our media releases are found on our website, as well as many other updates as part of our Representation blog.

> Settlement Grants Updates (February, March, April and May 2018)
> Regional Migration – challenges and opportunities (15 May 2018)
> Newly Arrived Residents Waiting Period (May 2018)
> Fostering Integration Grants (May 2018)
> Shaping A Nation Report Released (May 2018)
> Humanitarian Intake Consultation (May 2018)
> Budget 2018-19 (May 2018)
> A National Compact on Permanent Migration (4 May 2018)
> Peak bodies urge increased oversight of migration services (1 May 2018)

> Celebrate and Protect: Multiculturalism on Harmony Day (21 March 2018)
> Culturally Responsive Clinical Practice consultations (March 2018)
> Australian Citizenship and Integration (7 March 2018)
> Parliamentary Inquiries Update (March 2018)
> Launch of SCoA Website (January 2018)
> Department of Home Affairs Migrant Intake Consultation (January 2018)
> Cabinet Reshuffle (December 2017)
> Release of Migrant Settlement Outcomes Inquiry Report (December 2017)
> Launch of Building a New Life in Australia Report (November 2017)
> Settlement Grants Program Consultations (November 2017)
> Release of Settlement Grants Program Evaluation (October 2017)
> Launch of Harmony Alliance and inaugural Harmony Awards (October 2017)
> Hearings into Citizenship Legislation Amendment Bill (August 2017)
> Launch of new resettlement location in Armidale (August 2017)
> Humanitarian Settlement Program announcement (July 2017)
> Appointment of new CEO (July 2017)
Sector Training and Events

SCoA hosts regular events for our members, stakeholders and the general public that contribute to greater understanding of settlement issues and improve the capacity for the sector to collaborate.

- Settlement Policy Network – Australian Citizenship (April 2018)
- Try Test & Learn Information Session (DSS) (April 2018)
- Harmony Day screening of Ali’s Wedding (March 2018)
- Harmony Day cultural celebration – Canberra (March 2018)
- Bounding Plains to Share Welcome Reception – Canberra (February 2018)
- Settlement Symposium (November 2017)
- Settlement Policy Network – Community Support Program (August 2017)
- NSSOS Workshop – Sydney (August 2017)

Settlement Symposium

SCoA held its annual AGM on 27 November 2017 starting with a settlement symposium program at the National Museum of Australia. The settlement symposium attracted more than 80 diverse participants from around Australia and featured presentations by Mr Thomas Albrecht of the UNHCR, Mr Adam Rowland of the National Centre for Longitudinal Data, Dr Alison Baker and Ms Linda Kabasha of New Change, Dr Devaki Monani of Charles Sturt University, and Ms Anna Cirocco of Calvary Hospital. The speakers presented unique insights into different aspects of the settlement journey and provided a good basis from which to consider the future of the National Settlement Services Outcomes Standards.

Member Consultations

In order to ensure that SCoA maintains a truly representative voice for the sector, we conduct member consultations annually, and on an as needs basis for important matters.

- Humanitarian Intake Discussion Paper (May 2018)
- Annual Member Survey (May 2018)
- Migration Intake Discussion Paper (January 2018)
- SGP Discussion Paper (November 2017)
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network – Youth Employment Consultation (November 2017)
- Career Pathways Pilot (August 2017)
Representing the Sector (Speaking and Workshop engagements)

The SCoA Board, together with the team at SCoA’s national office, take great pleasure in representing the sector across Australia at important events and engagements. This gives us the opportunity to promote the hard work of the sector and its important contribution to Australia’s multicultural success story, as well as to advocate for greater policy and practical outcomes that enhance settlement in Australia.

- Harmony Alliance Council (Ongoing)
- White Ribbon Multicultural Reference Group (Ongoing)
- Welcoming Cities Reference Group (Ongoing)
- Inclusive Procurement Workshop (April 2018)
- Scanlon Foundation – Social Cohesion Roundtable (April 2018)
- Intergovernmental Council on Refugee Economic Participation (February 2018)
- Queensland SGP Community of Practice meeting (February 2018)
- Settlement Symposium (November 2017)
- Migration Institute of Australia Annual Conference (November 2017)
- Advancing Community Cohesion Conference (November 2017)
- Legal Aid ACT and Australian Red Cross Forum on Addressing Refugee Need (October 2017)
- FECCA Conference (October 2017)
- South Australian Ethnic Leaders Forum (October 2017)
- Legal Aid ACT training on Humanitarian Program (September 2017, April and May 2018)
- Western Australian SGP Community of Practice meeting (September 2017)
- Western Sydney Settlement Symposium (October 2017)
- Workshop on Access to Housing (Canberra) (September 2017)
- Cultural Shift Conference (August 2017)

Harmony Alliance

SCoA is proud to support the creation of the Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee Women for Change. We have been actively involved with the inaugural Council of the Alliance and, in June 2018, were honoured to attend its first Membership forum in Melbourne. The forum was attended by members, potential members, the Young Women’s Advisory Group and supporters of Harmony Alliance. The forum gave participants the opportunity to share issues affecting migrant and refugee women in Australia and included a series of roundtables on priority areas including Employment, Health and Access to Justice.
Stakeholder Events and Roundtables

SCoA’s staff and board members relish the opportunity to learn from the work of others that directly impacts settlement in Australia. We therefore attend many events where we can hear about the latest developments both nationally and internationally that impact settlement in Australia.

- Volunteering Australia launch of National Volunteering Week (May 2018)
- Regional Australia Institute launch of The Missing Workers (May 2018)
- UNHCR NGO Consultation (Canberra) (April 2018)
- In Our Own Voices Concert and Book Launch (March 2018)
- Third Annual Welcoming Cities Symposium (March 2018)
- Responses to Syrian Conflict Conference (March 2018)
- Law Council of Australia Immigration Law Conference (February 2018)
- Refugee Alternatives Conference (Feb 2018)
- MYAN Annual Conference (November 2017)
- NSW Settlement Partnership Showcase (November 2017)
- Regional Australia Institute (November 2017)
- Multicultural NSW Regional Settlement Workshop (Albury) (November 2017)

Third Annual Welcoming Cities Symposium

SCoA is a proud supporter of the Welcoming Cities initiative of the Scanlon Foundation and SCoA member Welcome to Australia. On 23 March 2018 SCoA attended the 3rd Annual Welcoming Cities Symposium and participated in a world-class day of discussion, information sharing and celebration focusing on the role of Australia’s diverse and dynamic local cities to include and welcome migrants and refugees.

Settlement Grants Program

2018 has seen the redevelopment of the Settlement Grants Program, with a new name: Settlement Engagement and Transition Support program. SCoA engaged heavily with government in the lead up to the announcement of the funding round, and held multiple consultations with members to ensure a diversity of voices was heard as the government considered its new model. SCoA also provided up-to-date information to its members about the release of the new funding round, and advocated to the government directly on issues of importance to the sector.
Working with Government

Naturally, a large part of our work is to liaise directly with the multiple levels of government and to advocate for the maintenance and protection of settlement outcomes for all new arrivals.

> Department of Home Affairs Humanitarian Program Roundtable (June 2018)
> Office for Women, National Roundtable on Australia’s Second Action Plan on Women, Peace And Security (June 2018)
> JobActive Review Expert Panel Community Workshop (May 2018)
> Department of Home Affairs and DFAT NGO Consultation on Global Compacts (March 2018)
> ACT Government Multicultural Reference Group (February 2018 and May 2018)
> Department of Home Affairs Migration Program Roundtable (December 2017)
> DSS Consultation on Sustainable Development Goals (November 2017)
> Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census Analysis and Review (July 2017 and October 2017)

Improving employment services for refugees

A growing area of concern amongst SCoA members is the effectiveness of employment services for refugees and migrants generally. After holding a number of successful Employment Forums in 2017, SCoA has been actively engaged in multiple arenas with the aim of influencing the improvement of services available to this vulnerable cohort. This has included holding meetings with the Department of Jobs and Small Business, participating in consultations held by the Expert Panel on Job Services and developing a policy position paper on the future of employment services.

> NSW Electoral Commission Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Reference Group (Ongoing)
> DHS National Multicultural Advisory Group (Ongoing)
> DSS Community Services Advisory Group (Ongoing)
> Meetings with DSS, DHS, Department of Jobs (Ongoing)
> Meetings with various State Government bodies (including WA, NSW, SA, Victoria, Qld) (Ongoing)
> Meetings with representatives of all major political parties as well as independent Senators in relation to settlement generally, as well as the proposed changes to Australian Citizenship legislation and the Newly Arrived Residents Waiting Period.
SCoA CEO Nick Tebbey attended the UNHCR Working Group on Resettlement in Berlin in February 2018, where he moderated a workshop on language acquisition, and the barriers that prevent new arrivals from easily learning a new language. He also shared Australia’s experiences, and engaged with colleagues from around the globe, as the Working Group discussed effective models of resettlement and integration. His report on this important meeting can be found on our website.

UNHCR Working Group on Resettlement

International

As the peak national body for settlement in Australia, SCoA has been actively involved in promoting our unique and dynamic sector globally as well as participating in opportunities for the exchange of information and ideas.

> Annual Working Group on Resettlement (UNHCR) Conference in Berlin (February 2018) (see inset above)
> SCoA Chairperson Dewani Bakkum represented the sector at the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (UNHCR) in Geneva (June 2018)
> SCoA CEO Nick Tebbey represented the sector at the Annual UNHCR NGO Consultations in Geneva (June 2018)

Media

> ABC Radio – interview regarding mandatory English testing for migrants (June 2018)
> SBS Radio – interview regarding successes of settlement in Australia (June 2018)
> SBS News – interview regarding regional settlement of migrants (May 2018)
> FECCA Mosaic Magazine – publication of article on Settlement and Citizenship (December 2017)
> Devex – What can the census tell us about refugees in Australia (September 2017)
> SBS News – interview regarding visa simplification (August 2017)