



SCOA Humanitarian Program Consultation – National Teleconference:

Wednesday 8th February 2012

2.30-4pm – Eastern day light saving time

SCOA has been invited to participate in consultations on the Humanitarian Program for 2012-13. We are holding a consultation with members to inform the development of the submission.

DIAC have collated an information paper on the Humanitarian Program which provides important contextual historical and current information on trends and issues being considered by the government. It can be accessed here:

http://www.immi.gov.au/about/contracts-tenders-submissions/_pdf/2012-13-humanitarian-program-information-paper.pdf

As members will be aware from their work in settlement the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) is coming under increasing pressure due to the large numbers of people being released from detention on permanent visas, and the fact that the on-shore and off-shore programs are linked.

SCOA is seeking input on the humanitarian program and puts forward the following questions to help shape discussion:

1. Do you think the Humanitarian Program Private Sponsorship proposal suggested by DIAC (pg 5) is a good idea? What are the main issues which should be considered in implementing such a proposal?
2. What should be the priorities of the SHP – family reunion or those in the greatest need of resettlement (or something else)?
3. Do you have any comments to make on Australia's provision of settlement support to humanitarian entrants, particularly in the light of the changing demographics of the program (increasing numbers of onshore permanent visa holders)?

If you are unable to participate by teleconference please feel free to email any comments through to Sky de Jersey at eo@scoa.org.au by close of business Wednesday 8th January 2012.