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## Celebrating Youth from all walks of life in Australia on International Youth Day 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011



### A message from SCOA's Chair Person – Cedric Manen

The Settlement Council of Australia welcomes 3 new members, Ballarat Community Health, Life Without Barriers and Lutheran Community Care. A friendly reminder for those who have not paid their membership fees, I encourage you to sign up for another interesting year of membership activity in support of the settlement sector. Please do not hesitate to contact Laura Anderson in our Sydney Office on 02 8065 5225 if you have not received your SCOA renewal information. Members must be fully paid by the end of September in order to vote on matters of importance at forthcoming AGM to be held in Sydney on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 10.30am – 1pm. One such matter is SCOA's revised constitution which the Executive have re-engineered on based on input from our national consultations.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of Jenny Semple and Marguerite Baptiste-Rooke, both of whom have left the SCOA Executive in recent months. The SCOA Executive seek expressions of interest from members of the Northern Territory and Victoria who are interested in becoming part of the National Executive.

I had the great pleasure of representing SCOA at the Launch of the Australian Multicultural Council (AMC) at Parliament House In Canberra on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. There were speeches by Senator Kate Lundy, Minister Chris Bowen and the Prime Minister Julia Gillard, all of whom advocated the strengths that multiculturalism has brought to Australia. Our congratulations to those newly appointed members of the AMC, particularly Gail Ker, who is a SCOA member. We look forward to the leadership of the council under the Chairmanship of Judge Rauf Soulio.

In September, SCOA has been invited to attend a roundtable meeting with Minister for Sport Mark Arbib and the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Kate Lundy. This is a good opportunity building on the popularity of the Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Grants to look at further policy development connecting sports and settlement organisations. This is especially important for young migrants. If you have any ideas that you would like to share on this matter please email [eo@scoa.org.au](mailto:eo@scoa.org.au).



### A message from SCOA's Executive Officer Sky de Jersey

I hope you all enjoy reading about the great youth projects highlighted in this edition of the Settlement News. It is exciting to see the excellent work going on around the country. We are in the process of finalising a few 'best practice' case studies to share with you, which we hope will help us all think of not only great new projects to start, but improvements which can be incorporated into existing projects.

Thank you all for your feedback on the HSS programs, which we used to inform the SCOA Submission to the HSS Review, which is currently being undertaken by David Richmond. SCOA was able to meet with Mr Richmond in person, which provided a great opportunity to speak to the sector's issues and concerns in greater depth, clarifying and exploring the issues through our discussion.

I attended the Centrelink National Multicultural Advisory Group meeting in July. This meeting covers a wide range of issues, more so than in the past given the recent merge of agencies into the Department of Human Services (which includes Centrelink and Medicare and others). We discussed the issue of settlement mobility, the subject of the Settlement Policy Network in June, exploring what information and statistics are available on people relocating to regional areas, and the need for more detailed information on this issue.

The Settlement Policy Network Meeting last week on the two recent research reports – the 'Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals' and Graeme Hugo's research on the "Economic, Social and Civic Contributions of First and Second Generation Humanitarian Entrants" – was a great opportunity to raise questions and discuss the research in more depth. We were very fortunate to have Graeme Hugo present to the meeting and take questions. We also trialled a new way of communicating, combining a skype text chat with a teleconference. This facilitated our conversation, as questions were submitted by skype and moderated by the Chair. We hope that over time more hubs will have access to the necessary technology, and we will all get used to using it too.

Our work has benefited from the input of interns. We are currently hosting two interns, who are helping us with policy research work in the areas of accommodation and family law. It is great to have their support, adding their time, energy and experience to our office team.

Over the next two months I am getting out of the office at last! I will be visiting Melbourne and Brisbane. Details for these trips are being finalised, email invitations will be coming soon. I am really looking forward to meeting our members across the country in person. SCOA is also having one of its regular face to face meetings with DIAC in September. Our agenda with DIAC focuses on future research in the sector, existing settlement programs and any policy changes which may be forthcoming, and contributing to the development of a strong settlement sector.



**Have something to contribute?** If you have any great stories, events you want to showcase, jobs you need advertised- send them to Laura our Members Services Officer at [mso@scoa.org.au](mailto:mso@scoa.org.au)

**Not a SCOA member?** Visit the member's page on our website to see how easy it is to become a member of the Settlement Council and what benefits you can gain from membership.





### My Voices Youth Forum

On Friday 25 March, Migrant Resource Centre's Youth Program in collaboration with the Glenorchy City Council's Youth Task Force and Hobart College's Students Against Racism group hosted a multicultural youth forum, MY VOICES, at the Glenorchy Civic Centre.

Over 110 students from 10 High Schools and Colleges participated in the event from Launceston and Hobart Regions, which offered young people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as some of their Tasmanian born peers, a unique opportunity to share together some of the challenges they face in settling in a new place.

In focused tables facilitated by experienced young people and staff from the Tasmanian Youth Forum (Youth Network of Tasmania), Department of Health and Human Services, Glenorchy City Council, Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning and the Holy Oak, an incredible energy was created in the forum room, which delivered focused outcomes where students prioritised the most important issues for themselves in the morning session. Standing out over all of the issues was the challenge of language and the need for more language assistance to support other challenges such as seeking employment and further education.

The day was greatly supported by Kick Start Arts' dynamic facilitator Richie Hallal who connected strongly with the young people to create a vibrant sense of place and belonging. In the afternoon session, which focused on positive images, and what image the young people

wished to project in the community, the importance of culture and respect was highlighted as key components for the image of young people from CALD backgrounds. The young people outlined that they needed to project themselves as polite and respectful people, as well as be involved in a diverse range of community activities, in particular activities that highlight their cultures. Also mentioned as an idea for how we can create more positive images and understanding was to have people from different cultural backgrounds in positions such as driving buses, helping to interpret for health professionals and even in Tasmanian politics.

The latter point was recognised as an important aspect by the Minister for Human Services and Community Development, with Youth and Multicultural portfolios, Ms Cassy O'Connor, who addressed the guest section of our Forum. During the guest session a range of service providers and government representatives attended to view our gallery of outcomes and meet some young people, as well as learn about some of their stories, from a "living in between" presentation from the Students Against Racism (SAR) group who had also cooked up a delicious multicultural afternoon tea for everyone.

The Migrant Resource Centre's settlement team with volunteer support from Patricia, Jenny and Zemenay ensured a very efficient event, including full video documentation of the proceedings. The Event was sponsored by the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) Australia who allocated Tasmania some funding to provide state wide capacity building for CALD youth this year. The Tasmanian MYAN representative, and MRC Youth Worker, Georgi Marshall, flagged a State wide event and the MY Voices Forum 2011 evolved to provide this capacity building opportunity and much more.

The event has given policy makers and our community some ideas to think about and act on, as well as providing a wonderful forum for the young people to share a voice and celebrate together. We were also able to gather some additional funding for T-shirts generously provided by DHHS and given out to all of the MY VOICES participants.

We hope to follow up this event with some advocacy amongst state and local government to ensure that MY Voices can come together at least once a year to celebrate, and share the voices of multicultural youth.



## News from Department of Immigration and Citizenship

### Refugee Youth Support Pilot

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship mentioned during a speech he gave to the UniSA Conference *From Refugee to Citizen* on 4 August 2011 that the department will be testing a new approach to settlement services for refugee youth.

The Refugee Youth Support Pilot will focus on an initial group of 16 and 17 year old unaccompanied humanitarian minors (UHMs) who arrived as irregular maritime arrivals without identified carers and have been assessed as capable of living independently.

The aim of the Pilot is to assess whether better settlement outcomes for these UHMs can be achieved by providing services that recognise their ability to transition to living independently while supporting them to achieve more stable housing, and better employment or education outcomes. The approach will aim to strengthen the ability of UHMs to manage their lives effectively in the Australian community, without full-time supervision.

The Pilot will be conducted in three states, by three organisations, all with expertise in settlement - in Victoria by the Centre for Multicultural Youth, in South Australia by Multicultural Youth South Australia, and in Queensland by Multicultural Development Association.

It is anticipated that the Pilot will commence by the end of 2011, with an expected duration of 12 months. In the longer term, following an evaluation of the Pilot, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) may conduct a tender process to expand the delivery of these services nationally.

DIAC is currently working with the Pilot organisations to develop this new initiative and will continue to update the settlement sector on its progress.



The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has committed funding for 2011-12 under the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program (DSCP) to a nationally coordinated approach to advocacy for multicultural youth issues through the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN).

MYAN plays a crucial role in:

- informing Government about key issues and needs of multicultural young people,
- providing input on options for policy and program changes relevant to multicultural youth
- building capacity of the multicultural youth settlement sector in all states and territories through additional resources and leadership development.
- developing a national agenda identifying priorities and implementation strategies for action
- developing a national youth participation model for increasing direct multicultural youth participation in the MYAN.

It is expected that these activities will assist the MYAN to facilitate a more fluent transition between settlement programs and mainstream services leading to improved outcomes for multicultural youth across Australia.



### Multicultural Youth NT

A project by young people for young people. MyNT is a dynamic, growing youth for youth organisation that seeks to unify youth (aged 15-30 inclusive) of ALL backgrounds and empower them with skills and avenues to turn their ideas into reality. MyNT acts, as a voice for youth issues, a support network to make young people's ideas a reality and have fun making a positive difference to our community.

Initially started as part of the Online Community Youth Spaces project- through Australian Youth Affairs Council- which provided young people the opportunity to utilise technology to promote youth involvement in their community, it is exciting that MyNT celebrating their fourth birthday in May this year!

The site is designed as a central space for youth in the Northern Territory to find out what is going on their community, to participate in conversations on issues that are of interest to their lives, and to get involved in projects dealing with issues that directly affect young people in the area.

Not only an online space, MyNT has successfully participated in numerous forums, and round tables and regularly act advocates on behalf of youth from the Northern Territory.

You can check out this amazing website, and see what they young people of Darwin are up to at [www.multiculturalyouthnt.org.au](http://www.multiculturalyouthnt.org.au)

### Youth and technology – new research

Researchers at the Institute for a Broadband Enabled Society (part of the University of Melbourne) are in the initial stages of a project focusing on the ways that migrant youth in Australia utilise technology and social media to remain connected to each other and their home countries.

Titled [Migrant Youth and the Cultural Dynamics of Transnational Connectivity](#), the study will examine how transnational connectivity shapes cultural knowledge, this project will determine the ways migrant youth use this knowledge to make sense of their engagement with Australian schools and society. The outcomes from this research will enable the re-thinking of multicultural education policies and the internationalisation of the curriculum.

The study will be based on interviews with migrants from Indian, Vietnamese and Afgan backgrounds to ascertain and reflect on the contrasting experiences of migration and transnational connectivity. The outcomes of this project will be useful to educational policy makers interested in developing more contemporary views of multicultural education and internationalisation

For more information on this project and others run by IBES visit their website [here](#).

Stayed tuned to the [SCOA website](#) for updates as they come to light.

### i.settle.with.IT!

In partnership with UTS Institute for Interactive Media, WorkVentures has been working on the development of a website that will assist migrant and refugees to improve their IT and English skills. The website contains training modules in three different levels for IT and English, and is designed to suit migrant and refugee individuals with low level of literacy and IT skills.

The online learning tool will be open-sourced and will be made available for community organisations working in this field to integrate it into their own website and customise it according to their needs.

The website will be launched shortly. Stay tuned for more details!



### What's on?

- **Tree House Theatre Company present 'Tree of life'**

When: 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> September at Casula, 26<sup>th</sup> September at Kirribilli

Where: Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, 1 Casula Road and Ensemble Theatre, 78 McDougall st Kirribilli

Contact:

More info: you can find the flyer here - [Tree of Life](#) or on our [website here](#)

- **Peace Festival**

When: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 12-4pm

Where: Mawsons Place, Hobart

More info: [see the flyer here](#)

- **National Conference on Volunteering 2011**

When: Monday 28th to Wednesday 30th November 2011

Where: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

Contact: [volunteering@eventcorp.com.au](mailto:volunteering@eventcorp.com.au)

More info: Visit the [Volunteering Australia site](#) for more details

- **"People of African Descent: Recognition, Social Inclusion and Capacity Building" African think tank**

When: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Where: Sebel Hotel, 365 Church Street, Parramatta NSW

Contact: Dativah [info@africanwomenaustralia.org](mailto:info@africanwomenaustralia.org)

More info: See link to [information sheet and registration form](#) or visit [www.africanwomenaustralia.org](http://www.africanwomenaustralia.org)

- 2011 VLGMIN Forum **'The Role of Local Government in Settlement'**

When: Thursday 29 September 2011 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Where: Clayton Theatre, Clayton Community Centre

Cooke Street, Clayton (corner of Cooke Street & Clayton Road)

Contact: Con Pagonis [CPagonis@mav.asn.au](mailto:CPagonis@mav.asn.au)

More info: to be distributed soon. Look out on [www.scoa.org.au](http://www.scoa.org.au)

- **UN Alliance of Civilisations and the CCG presents:**

**Integration: Building Inclusive Societies: Diversity, Citizenship and Social Inclusion**

When: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Where: Melbourne Town Hall and the Immigration Museum

Contact and more info:

[www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/ccg/events/conferences/11-ibis/](http://www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/ccg/events/conferences/11-ibis/)

- **FECCA Conference**

When: 17-18 November

Where: Adelaide Convention Centre

Contact: [FECCA2011@plevin.com.au](mailto:FECCA2011@plevin.com.au)

More info: <http://www.plevin.com.au/fecca2011/>

### SCOA AGM

When: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011,  
10:30-1pm

Where: Redfern Town hall Sydney

Contact: [eo@scoa.org.au](mailto:eo@scoa.org.au)

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

Papers to be distributed shortly



### Survey Opportunities

#### Employment Action for Cultural Diversity (EACD)

Employment Action for Cultural Diversity (EACD) is an advocacy working group convened by the Multicultural Development Association.

The EACD is undertaking some research to explore the current barriers and challenges experienced by women from new and emerging communities (NEC) aged between 16 and 65 in seeking employment. One part of this research is to distribute a survey **to women from NEC who are looking for paid employment, and service providers who work with CALD women from NEC** to explore their experiences and observations in supporting women from NEC to obtain employment.

**If you are an individual or an organisation who works with CALD women from NEC**, EACD would be grateful if you would **complete the short survey through [this link](#) by Friday 16 September 2011**

If you are or if you know of any women who are currently seeking employment from NEC please feel free to complete or forward this survey on. The survey can be located through [this link](#) and will close on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011

#### Community Legal Centres NSW.

Migrant and settlement support workers in NSW are invited to participate in a confidential online survey on perceptions and experiences of the NSW police complaints system. We are interested in your views, whether or not you have experience with police complaints.

The survey, conducted by Community Legal Centres NSW together with Charles Sturt University, is available via:

<http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/agsp/research/complaints-survey/>

#### DIAC

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is currently researching the importance of family and other links towards the successful settlement of refugees in Australia.

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

#### Australian Multicultural Council announcement

The Australian Multicultural Council was officially launched by Julia Gillard on 22<sup>nd</sup> August in Canberra to an audience waiting in anticipation for this announcement.

The council takes over from where the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council left off and will focus on the following priority areas set out in their terms of reference:

- advise the government on multicultural affairs
- have a formal role in a strengthened access and equity strategy
- have a research and advisory role around multicultural policy
- assist with cultural diversity celebrations and Harmony Day activities, and
- implement a 'People of Australia Ambassadors' Program to articulate the benefits of, and help celebrate, our multicultural nation

The Settlement Council would like to congratulate ex Vice Chair of SCOA, Gail Kerr of ACCESS in QLD on her appointment to the AMC. Her contribution to the settlement sector and to promoting multiculturalism in Australia has been well recognised and we wish her the best in this new role.

For information on the AMC and other council members you can visit [www.amc.gov.au](http://www.amc.gov.au)



### Settlement Policy Network Teleconference August 2011

The recent Settlement Policy Network teleconference about the *Economic, Social and Civic Contributions of First and Second Generation Humanitarian Entrants* or Hugo report as it is more popularly known and *Settlement outcomes of New Arrivals* or SONA was a very productive one. Paul Power - Chief Executive Officer of RCOA Sydney Chaired the teleconference. For the first time ever, recent communication technologies were used to facilitate the flow of the talks with participants able to send in questions either via Skype or through e-mail.

Professor Graeme Hugo – ARC Australian Professional Fellow, Professor of Geography and Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems at the University of Adelaide was the first speaker and covered several key points of his research. Among them were the implications of the research and the methodology used, the 3 P's of Treasury as key indicators -Population, Participation and Productivity, and other non-economic contributions of the humanitarian entrants like – volunteerism, entrepreneurship, diversity dividends and remittance flows.

Professor Hugo introduced other key concepts as well such as the “Refugee Gap” – why there are still considerable gaps between Refugees and Australian-born citizens and “Brain Waste” – the over qualification of some refugees in their current field of work, and their inability to find work in their trained professions.

In closing, Professor Hugo recommended a more robust representation of the refugee population in coordination with DIAC's future longitudinal study, more programs targeted at the refugee youth to maximise their “working life-span”, a shift from a welfare paradigm to a community empowerment paradigm, more focus on Regional settlement and more flexibility in the recognition of the previous qualifications of refugees.

Matthew Jones – the Senior Policy Officer in the Research, Evaluation, and Planning Section of DIAC's National Office spoke about the SONA report and its main findings which included statistical data about the outcomes involving Education, Training, Language, Centrelink payments, Unemployment rates, Accommodation, Connectedness and Well-being.

In his thorough explanation of these points, he was able to clarify the misconceptions about the data presented and other limitations to the study done - worth noting would be that employment did not necessarily translate to happiness. In closing, Mr. Jones reiterated the programs in place have been successful and the data comparing the outcomes of refugees in their First Year as compared to their Fifth Year have been very significant.

Several relevant questions were then asked by the facilitator on behalf of those that sent in their questions via skype or e-mail, with both speakers more than willing to answer them - to the best of their ability based on the research done.

Albert Santos (SCOA intern)

### SPARK Volunteers- An initiative from St Vincent de Paul

SPARK is a program supported by the Catholic Education Office Sydney and Parramatta and NSW Department of Education and Training run through primary schools in Sydney's central western suburbs to provide curriculum, social and cultural support to newly arrived refugee children and their families.

The aim of SPARK is to:

- aid refugee settlement
- raise mainstream community awareness about refugees
- facilitate chances for social contact and mutual appreciation between refugee and mainstream communities

And SPARK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS! All that is required is a commitment of 1.5 hours a week to assist primary aged children with their homework and English skills. The next training session will be held in October.

**For more information please visit <http://www.vinnies.org.au/spark-nsw>**

### Appointment of Race Discrimination Commissioner

"For the first time in 13 years, Australia will now have a stand-alone Race Discrimination Commissioner," was the announcement made by the Hon. Robert McClelland MP on 3<sup>rd</sup> August this year. Dr Helen Szoke, the current Commissioner for the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission is to take over from Graeme Innes who has held the position of Race Discrimination Commissioner in conjunction with his role as Disability Discrimination Commissioner since 2009.

The move to appoint a commissioner to this role full time is hoped to strengthen the implementation of the Government's National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy says Kate Lundy, the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

The full press release can be viewed at:

[http://www.ema.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/Page/Media\\_Releases](http://www.ema.gov.au/www/ministers/mcclelland.nsf/Page/Media_Releases)

### NSW Rugby League Multicultural Program for Refugee and Newly Arrived Migrants

Bankstown City Council and The Community Supporting Youth Network in conjunction with NSW Rugby League Western Sydney Academy are running a Multicultural Program for newly arrived migrant youth and students of a refugee background throughout 2011.

The rugby league workshops are run by NSW Rugby League to assist and promote successful social inclusion and cultural integration of young Humanitarian Refugees and their families into communities in western Sydney. While promoting fitness and the benefits of participating in a team sport, the six week program aims to build the confidence of young migrants through various workshops covering a number of different topics. Topics are set to include focusing on positive thinking and building self-esteem and confidence, positive team work as well as creating and realising goals. The students are encouraged to socialise with those from a different cultural background to their own in a fun and informative environment.

The second half of the program is dedicated to learning basic rugby league skills through drills and practical workshops. At the end of the six weeks the participants are encouraged to join their local rugby league clubs to continue to utilise the skills they have learnt.

The program also reaches beyond the students to include the families of the participants through the organisation of a gala day at the end of the program where parents and guardians are encouraged to become involved through volunteering as game officials or preparing refreshments on the day.



One of the main aims is to break down cultural barriers that exist between cultural groups in Sydney's western suburbs and create a cultural harmony that can exist both on and off the football field.

These programs are a lead up to the Youth Development Cup, to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011 which is hosted by NSW Rugby League

For more information on how to become involved in any upcoming camp please visit either [www.nswrlwsa.com.au](http://www.nswrlwsa.com.au) or [www.nswrlacademy.com.au](http://www.nswrlacademy.com.au)

## Introduction to mentoring Youth from a CALD background

The concept of mentoring aims to bring a young person into a guided and structured relationship with older individuals who will offer guidance, support and encouragement. It is hoped that a young mentee will gain confidence and strength from this relationship, which will cross over into other facets of their life including school, social and family based environments.

Young people from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background can face a number of challenges where having a mentor to guide them through would be of particular benefit.

The Australian Youth Mentoring Network in collaboration with the Centre for Multicultural Youth have developed a fact sheet which aims to guide youth mentors when developing relationships with young people from a CALD background.

The fact sheet covers off an introduction to the importance of culture in the way we live, and the importance of cultural awareness. Mentors who are interested in, or are already mentoring young people from a CALD background would benefit from the numerous tips and advice which is outlined in the fact sheet. The Centre for Multicultural Youth have contributed their top ten tips for mentors as well.

For this fact sheet, and others on youth mentoring you can visit the Australian Youth Mentoring Network site at [www.youthmentoring.org.au](http://www.youthmentoring.org.au)



### Profile of Khoa Do- Young Australian of the Year

Khoa Do's story is one of inspiration and courage, resilience and hope. From arriving in Australia by boat as a refugee from Vietnam with his family, and growing up in Sydney's western suburbs where times were tough, Khoa has risen to great heights through his career as a film maker, screen writer, teacher and now inspirational guest speaker. Khoa has experienced success through his film making, being nominated for multiple awards including 3 AFI Awards, 3 Film Critics Circle Awards, 2 Australian Writers Guild Awards, and being successful in winning the IF Independent Spirit Award in 2003. His first short film was shortlisted for an Academy award in 2001.

One of Khoa's greatest triumphs was to be named the Young Australian of the Year in 2005- the first film maker to be bestowed this honour. His films have a recurring theme of refugees and disadvantaged peoples in Australia, focusing on their struggles, their triumphs and capturing the character's spirit through their stories.

Mother Fish a film released in 2010 to critical acclaim is based on the stories of four refugees who had to flee Vietnam in 1980, a story which somewhat reflected his own.

Footy Legends features his comedian brother Ahn Do (Author of the award winning book The Happiest Refugee) and follows a boy struggling to find his identity through football and family.

His other films include:

- Falling for Sahara
- The Refugee Trilogy
- The Finished People
- Delivery Day

As a guest speaker, Khoa has been invited to present to a wide variety of audiences from newly arrived refugees in Sydney's western suburbs, to corporate organisations around the country and alongside government officials during his year as Young Australian of the Year. His message is that of encouraging people of all ages, from any background to realise their own potential, and to assist others to realise theirs. He is a great inspiration to young people from all backgrounds in Australia.

To read more about Khoa's remarkable story, and to book him as a speaker you can visit [www.khaodo.com.au](http://www.khaodo.com.au)



### 2011 Youth Parliament South Australia

The Youth Parliament program provides a unique forum for young people aged 12-25 years to express their views, develop leadership skills and learn about the parliamentary system. The MRCSA through the respective community leaders, nominate and sponsor ten young people to participate in this annual program that hosts about 80 young people from across metropolitan and regional South Australia.

The 2011 Youth Parliament program runs from April to July. MRCSA participants, almost all of refugee background worked in teams with other young people to gain an understanding of how Parliament works including the development of bills and public speaking. This year's program started with training in May 2011, followed by weekly meetings with an MRCSA mentor to develop a bill. A training weekend was held at the University of South Australia while the residential camp was held at Rostrevor College, Woodforde

Youth Parliament operates like State Parliament, with members formally debating bills in the South Australian Parliamentary chambers. This year, the bill that the MRCSA Youth Team tabled and presented to the Youth Parliament was entitled: The Migrant Education Act 2011. This bill aimed at increasing migrant education and cultural awareness throughout South Australia and was passed in both the upper house and the lower house of parliament. The rationale for this bill was based on the premise that people of refugee background do not have an understanding of Australia law or legal practice when they arrive in Australia, and need to be assisted to understand transparent democratic practice.

This annual program is a great opportunity for young people from new and emerging communities to network and engage with other young people participating in this initiative through the YMCA;

and to advise South Australian politicians and decision makers on issues affecting young people within their community and the wider community. Participants also have opportunities to learn and gain experiences on the following:

- Teamwork, negotiation skills and self confidence
- Develop public speaking and debating skills
- Gain 2 SACE units
- Parliamentary procedures, public relations and leadership skills
- Meet other young people, form friendships and networks.

The official functions included an opening and closing ceremony, a visit to Parliament House, a mentorship dinner, a youth parliament sitting week during a residential camp in the first week of the July school holidays and the preparation of a Bill under the guidance of the team leader and training manager.

The bills passed in the Youth Parliament are transmitted to the SA Parliament through the relevant Minister, giving young people a real voice in the business of our government. The program also fosters skills in research, writing, advocacy and public speaking and gave participants a unique insight into how Australia's democracy works. Participation in the Youth Parliament counts towards the achievement of the South Australian certificate of Education, with volunteer teachers overseeing the assessment. This year, for the first time all ten MRCSA youth participants completed two units of the Certificate II in Business, with teaching delivered by Adelaide TAFESA. This initiative was funded by the State Government.

Congratulations to our future leaders, Solange Mukum, Precoius Norman, Isaac Aluong, Christine Mawien, Stella Nandi, Angela Nyok, Ahmad Dostizada, Felistance Mwenda, Pauline Masika and Ahmad Mohammadi who took part in the 2011 Youth Parliament.

Bosco Opi, Youth leadership Program Coordinator  
Isaac Aluong, Chair, Multicultural Youth Link SA.

For more pictures and quotes from the participants, see the full article at the SCOA website

### New training resources available for people in the settlement sector

A collaboration of Navitas English, AMES, Multicultural Development Association, and Margaret Piper and Associates, supported by DIAC, SCOA, FASST, and the Riverina Division of General Practise, have developed new training opportunities which are able to be utilised by any Registered Training Organisation wanting to enhance the skills of their staff in the area of working with those from a refugee background.

Until now there have been no formal national accreditation opportunities for those people working with or wishing to work with refugees. The two training programs target two different groups of people working in this area.

The first: Working with Refugees (CHCSW401A: Work Effectively with Forced Migrants) is aimed at anyone who's work brings them into contact with forced migrants and refugees, be they teachers, settlement workers, employment officers, nurses or workers from any other field.

The second: Bicultural Work with Refugees (CHCSW402A: Undertake Bicultural Work with Forced Migrants in Australia) is targeted towards those of a refugee background who wish to or are already working with refugees.

The resources are available free of charge to any RTO's who wish to enhance the skills of their staff and can be located at any of the links below. On these sites you will find:

- A comprehensive trainers guide
- A participants handbook

In addition to these, agencies are able to request an assessment manual from AMES which includes comprehensive assessment tasks, an assessment matrix and a marking guide.

The links where the material is readily available are:

AMES Victoria: <http://www.ames.net.au/bookshop>

ACL/Navitas English: <http://www.acl.edu.au>

Multicultural Development Association: <http://www.mdainc.org.au>

### SCOA Surveys

SCOA will be sending out online surveys to members and stakeholders throughout the year. We are hoping that using Survey Monkey to gather information and get feedback from you all will not be too time consuming, and will be an effective way to further communicate with the sector. We share the concerns we all have around time pressure and 'consultation fatigue' which can reduce our enthusiasm to respond to 'yet another email'. SCOA values your time and your perspectives, so we will endeavour to keep surveys short and to the point.

We also are conscious of the need to share results of the surveys, so we will regularly, through the website and this newsletter, share the key results of our surveys and consultations.

Look out for the first survey of the new financial year shortly! (coming to your inbox – naturally!)



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