



Refugee Council  
of Australia

## **2010 HIGH PRIORITIES LIST: ASYLUM POLICY ISSUES**

*This list of high priority issues has been compiled by the Refugee Council of Australia, after consultation with member agencies involved in supporting asylum seekers.*

### **1. Regional refugee protection framework**

In working towards the establishment of an Asia-Pacific regional refugee protection framework, Australia must ensure the framework focuses on the rights and protection needs of refugees and does not deflect Australia's legal responsibilities to neighbouring countries. A sustainable regional protection framework can be developed only through genuine dialogue with, and participation from, Asian countries affected by significant flows of asylum seekers, current and potential countries of resettlement, UNHCR and non-government organisations. The shared outcome of this comprehensive regional protection framework must be the establishment of a multilateral protection regime which ensures that the processing of asylum claims meets international standards, that asylum seekers can live in dignity while their claims are determined and that timely resettlement options are available. For its part, Australia must be prepared to commit to an expansion of its resettlement program, to allow greater resettlement from Asia without ignoring pressing needs elsewhere.

### **2. Indefinite mandatory detention**

The announcement, on 18 October 2010, that many children and their parents will be moved from immigration detention to community support arrangements is a welcome step in detention reform. The next priority must be a review of the policy of indefinite mandatory detention for asylum seekers. This policy is resulting in lengthy periods of detention for thousands of people who do not need to be detained, causing considerable harm to already vulnerable people and resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars of unnecessary expenditure each year. The template for a new approach can be found in the Government's 2008 *New Directions in Detention* policy. In announcing the policy, Senator Chris Evans noted: "If a person is complying with immigration processes and is not a risk to the community then detention in a detention centre cannot be justified."

The detention values outlined in the *New Directions in Detention* policy need to be legislated. Particular attention should be given to the time limits to trigger independent judicial review with enforceable remedies, the standards for conditions of detention, the effective monitoring of these conditions, and the risk-based criteria for the 'need to detain', including well-defined parameters for health, security and compliance issues. Current immigration detention policy and laws are a radical departure from ordinary principles governing incarceration under Australian domestic law and are a continued breach of article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Government should build on its October 2010 announcement, legislating to ensure that no child is held in any form of immigration detention. In addition, an advisory panel of child protection agencies and experts should be formed to oversee all aspects of DIAC work relating to children. Among concerns to be addressed is the conflict between the Minister's role as guardian to unaccompanied minors and the Ministerial powers to determine status and detain.

### **3. Community-based asylum seekers**

While there have been some much-needed reforms of policies and programs for community-based asylum seekers, further reforms are needed to ensure asylum seekers residing in the community are able to meet their basic needs and have the opportunity to live in dignity and safety, pending a fair, transparent and timely decision on their Protection Visa applications. Community care options for asylum seekers should be enhanced through the expansion of the Community Assistance and Support Program, and through the provision of housing and employment support services.

#### **4. Complementary protection**

Having argued for its need for some years, and having been specifically recommended by a number of Parliamentary and UN reports, agencies working with asylum seekers support the introduction of a system of complementary protection and applauded the Government's initiative in 2009 in introducing the Migration Amendment (Complementary Protection) Bill. However, submissions to the inquiry conducted by the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs highlighted the need for some important redrafting of the legislation, with concern focusing particularly on the standard of proof outlined in the Bill. The threshold has been set so high – and in a manner inconsistent with international and comparative standards. If unamended, this legislation could result in the denial of protection to people who require it, putting Australia in breach of its human rights treaty obligations. In addition, the Government should follow through on its commitment to developing a clear and fair process to resolve the situation of stateless people.

#### **5. Offshore processing**

The Howard Government's 2001 excision legislation introduced discriminatory processes into Australia's refugee determination system, leaving people seeking to establish their need for protection hampered by a process with no transparency and no access to judicial review. This legislation must be repealed and replaced with non-discriminatory and just processes for all asylum seekers, regardless of their mode of arrival.

#### **6. Refugee status determination and assessment**

While there have been changes to the onshore Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process and to the Refugee Status Assessment (RSA) process for asylum seekers affected by the excision policy, additional improvements are required. Many of the shortcomings in the current process relate to the absence of good quality advice for some asylum applicants and the very limited transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. The quality of advice available to applicants can best be improved by the provision of credible, affordable legal advice to all protection visa applicants at all stages of the process through fully funding Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) and Legal Aid services. Transparency can only be ensured through access to robust administrative and judicial review procedures. All refugee and humanitarian determination decisions – including ministerial intervention decisions and the Independent Merits Review process for people affected by the excision policy – should be able to be tested before the courts.

#### **7. Removals**

Further work is needed to improve return procedures, including through clearer, more robust guidelines on returning physically or mentally ill asylum seekers and risk assessments for safety upon return. The introduction of an open and transparent Pre-Removal Risk Assessment procedure and the provision of appropriate legal advice and psychological support to people on a removal pathway will help to ensure no humanitarian or public interest grounds remain unconsidered.

#### **8. The numerical link between the onshore and offshore humanitarian programs**

Australia is the only country in the world which subtracts a place from its offshore humanitarian resettlement program each time an asylum seeker is recognised as a refugee. As NGOs and UNHCR have consistently argued since this policy was introduced in 1996, the onshore and offshore programs are designed to meet quite different international responsibilities. The onshore protection program aims to meet Australia's obligations as a signatory to the Refugee Convention, enabling people at risk of persecution to seek refuge in Australia. The offshore resettlement program is a voluntary contribution to the sharing of international responsibility for refugees for whom no other durable solution is available. This numerical link has aided those promoting the view that the only genuine refugees in Australia are those who have been resettled from countries of first asylum. The removal of the numerical link between the onshore and offshore programs would illustrate the strength of the Australian Government's support for the Refugee Convention and its wish to have the international refugee protection system better understood and supported by the Australian people. It would also greatly improve the planning of the offshore Refugee and Humanitarian Program, from the allocation of visas to the availability of resources for on-arrival services.

20 October 2010



## 2010 Key issues and priorities in refugee settlement policy

1. Employment – Investigating ways of improving employment outcomes for refugee and humanitarian entrants, through evaluating and improving the effectiveness of Job Services Australia and giving greater support to successful job placement strategies.
2. Housing – Giving careful consideration to the needs of refugee and humanitarian entrants in strategies to improve housing affordability for Australians on low incomes.
3. Education and training – Improving opportunities for newly arrived young people of post-compulsory school age. Ensuring the education needs of school-aged refugee and humanitarian entrants are not overlooked within the National Education Agreement. Improving the accessibility of apprenticeships and traineeships to new arrivals and people with lower literacy.
4. Young people – Ensuring the needs of newly arrived young people are met through targeted settlement and other programs, with a particular focus on addressing education and training pathways, housing and homelessness, police and legal issues, intergenerational conflict, racism and discrimination, and negotiating culture and identity.
5. Families – Ensuring there are culturally competent family services to support new arrivals with the stress of resettlement, cultural adjustment and the reconfiguration of their families.
6. Regional settlement – Ensuring there is appropriate community and service support for refugee and humanitarian entrants who would like to settle in regional areas or would like to relocate in search of employment.
7. Settlement services – Reviewing the provision of settlement services for refugee and humanitarian entrants, in particular the structure of the Settlement Grants Program and the impacts of short-term funding strategies on service delivery and viability.
8. Migration advice and legal assistance – Expanding access to free migration advice and legal assistance for people seeking to propose humanitarian entrants, as well as for people seeking onshore assistance.
9. Positive promotion of humanitarian program and multiculturalism – Responding to negative rhetoric about refugees, asylum seekers and multiculturalism with a confident and positive promotion of Australia's diversity and its role in welcoming and supporting refugees. Funding independent research on migration issues, to improve national knowledge and planning.
10. Planning for a larger resettlement program – Developing plans for a medium-term expansion of the offshore refugee and humanitarian program, given pressing global refugee resettlement needs and the importance of Australia offering constructive options to assist the development of an Asia-Pacific regional refugee protection framework.

This list of issues was compiled for the information of members of the new Australian Parliament. Each year, after extensive community consultation, the Refugee Council of Australia puts together a submission to the Australian Government on issues to consider in planning the Refugee and Humanitarian Program. The above issues and many others relating to refugee settlement have been explored in recent submissions. For more information, see <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/consultations.htm>. Additional Refugee Council research on employment, education and other issues can be found at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/reports.html>

## 2009-10 AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

*A compilation of statistics from the 2009-10 Annual Report of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)*

Refugee and Humanitarian Program visa grants, 2009-10

Offshore refugee visas: 6003 (6499 in 2008-09)

Offshore Special Humanitarian visas: 3233 (4511)

Onshore protection and humanitarian visas: 4534 (2497)

Total refugee and humanitarian visas: 13,770 (13,507)

Visa grants by subclass

Refugee visas (subclass 200) 5173; In-country Special Humanitarian (201) 24; Emergency Rescue (203) 0; Woman at Risk (204) 806; Global Special Humanitarian (202) 3244\*; Resolution of status (851) 8; Protection (866) 4515; Temporary Humanitarian Concern (786) 0.

(\* Includes 11 visas granted in Australia through ministerial intervention)

Offshore refugee and humanitarian program

- Regions of origin for offshore refugee and humanitarian visa entrants: Asia-Pacific 38.6%, Middle East and South-West Asia 31.8%, Africa 29.2%, Europe and the Americas 0.4%.
- Top countries of origin: Burma 1959, Iraq 1688, Bhutan 1144, Afghanistan 951, Congo (DRC) 584, Ethiopia 392, Somalia 317, Sudan 298, Liberia 258, Sierra Leone 237

Protection Visas

- Protection visa applications lodged: 8150  
Countries of origin: Afghanistan 1561, China 1288, Sri Lanka 652, Fiji 559, Iran 448, Zimbabwe 371, Iraq 362, Pakistan 348, India 301, Malaysia 254, Other 2006.  
Applications decided within 90 days: 71.8%
- Protection visas granted: 4515 (grant rate 66.5%)  
Afghanistan 1514 (grant rate 99.7%), Sri Lanka 505 (87.8%), China 492 (42.0%), Iraq 321 (97.3%), Iran 282 (98.3%), Zimbabwe 255 (85.3%), Pakistan 218 (84.2%), Stateless 192 (98.5%), Egypt 79 (71.2%), Burma 78 (96.3%), Other 579 (29.4%).

Offshore asylum seeker management

Arrivals 2009-10

- 5647 irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) were intercepted in Australian waters during 2009-10 (up from 1043 in 2008-09). They arrived in 117 vessels and included 300 crew.
- IMAs intercepted in Australian waters by gender: Adult males 4563; adult females 265; male accompanied minors 181; female accompanied minors 130; male unaccompanied minors 470; female unaccompanied minors 6.

IMAs in detention

- Total number of IMAs held in immigration detention at some stage during 2009-10: 6412 (1050 in 2008-09).
- At 30 June 2010, 3867 IMAs were held in immigration detention (782 at 30 June 2009).

Refugee status assessment and independent merits review

- 3966 Refugee Status Assessments were initiated and 2914 completed. Of these, 2126 were assessed to be refugees. 786 were found not to be refugees.
- 572 requests for independent merits review were received and 184 completed. Of these, 81 were found to be refugees and 103 were found not to be refugees.

Settlement and removal

- IMAs granted visas and settled on Australian mainland: 2156.  
State/territory of settlement: Victoria 874 (41%), New South Wales 420 (20%), Queensland 326 (15%), South Australia 323 (15%), Western Australia 178 (8%), ACT 31 (1%), Northern Territory 4 (0.2%).
- IMAs removed from Australia: 139.

### Immigration detention

- During 2009-10, 8749 people were taken into immigration detention (compared to 3977 in 2008-09). 7116 people (81%) were unauthorised arrivals (1489 by air and 5627 by boat), 1356 (15%) were people who overstayed or breached visa conditions, 139 (2%) were foreign fishers, 138 (2%) in other categories.
- As at 30 June 2010, 4077 people were in immigration detention – 3867 irregular maritime arrivals, 61 unauthorised air arrivals, 136 people who had breached visa conditions, 6 foreign fishers and 7 others such as stowaways and ship deserters. A year earlier, 1036 were in immigration detention.
- During 2009-10, 161 people were held in community detention (residence arrangements), 130 of them irregular maritime arrivals. As at 30 June 2010, 30 people were living in community detention arrangements – 18 adults and 12 children (4 family groups plus 11 individual adults).

### Ministerial intervention

- Requests received 2446; requests finalised 3037; requests finalised by the Minister 1937; visas granted 558.
- Intervention requests by country of citizenship: China 569, India 289, Indonesia 176, Malaysia 171, Fiji 137, Korea 131, Sri Lanka 124, Bangladesh 122, Lebanon 117, Pakistan 62, Other 548.
- Visa grants by country of citizenship: Indonesia 78, China 64, Bangladesh 56, Sri Lanka 40, Fiji 36, Lebanon 26, Korea 21, Pakistan 20, Philippines 18, Tonga 17, Turkey 17, Other 165.
- Visa grants by visa subclass: Former Resident (subclass 151) 336; Tourist (676) 78; Employer Nomination Scheme (856) 33; Five Year Resident Return (155) 24; Carer (836) 23; Aged Dependent Relative (838) 16; Spouse (801) 15; Global Special Humanitarian (202) 14; Remaining Relative (835) 9; Other 10.

### Departures and removals

- In 2009-10, DIAC assisted or managed the departure of 8825 people from Australia (including assisted voluntary returns, monitored departures and voluntary and involuntary removals). This was a 29% increase on the previous year.
- In 2009-10, a total of 5843 people (not including irregular maritime arrivals, illegal foreign fishers or airport turnarounds) resolved their status by departing voluntarily.
- Referrals to the Assisted Voluntary Return Program (funded by DIAC and conducted by IOM) increased from 49 per month in 2008-09 to more than 80 per month in 2009-10. 464 people departed through the program, an increase from 387 in 2008-09 and 143 in 2007-08.

### Government-funded assistance to asylum seekers

- Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme: 9900 services provided at a cost of \$3.035 million. Application assistance to people in immigration detention and eligible clients in the community: 1144 people. General immigration advice: 8756 services. In addition, 3425 irregular maritime arrivals received assistance on Christmas Island and onshore detention facilities at a cost of \$8.79 million.
- Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme: Assistance provided to 2802 people at a cost of \$9.058 million.
- Community Assistance Support program: Assisted 237 cases (449 people) in 2009-10. As at 30 June 2010, 30 cases (39 people) were in transitional support, released from immigration detention to remain lawfully in Australia; 108 cases had been closed, of which 62 cases were closed due to a visa grant.

### Support to refugee and humanitarian entrants

- Australian Cultural Orientation program: Delivered to 5297 participants, through 234 courses in 17 countries.
- Travel assistance and health screening: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided travel assistance to 6194 refugee entrants, at a cost of \$11.708 million. IOM also conducted medical screening for 6003 refugee visa applications and 5433 pre-departure medical checks at a cost of \$4.277 million.
- Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy: 12,578 people assisted – 6194 refugee visa holders, 3730 Special Humanitarian entrants, 2564 Protection Visa holders. Total number of cases (households rather than individuals) supported by IHSS: 5348. Of these

cases, 56% were single clients (up from 33% in 2008-09).

The number of refugee and humanitarian entrants settling in regional areas increased to 2196 (up from 1571 in 2008-09).

- Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (UHMs): As at 30 June 2010, 744 UHMs were in DIAC's UHM program, 529 who arrived under the offshore refugee and humanitarian program and 215 who were granted Protection Visas in Australia. During 2009-10, 447 UHMs entered the program and 247 left the program.
- Complex Case Support program: 556 cases referred to program, 429 cases accepted (covering 1566 clients). This was a 66% increase on 2008-09, the inaugural year of the program.
- Settlement Grants Program: 328 projects operated during 2009-10. In the 2009-10 funding round, 219 projects were funded at a cost of \$36 million.

#### Adult Migrant English Program

- 57,343 clients, 66% female; 193 countries of birth, 255 languages spoken (most common first languages Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese).
- Age groups: 16-24 years 14.1%, 25-44 years 62.3%, 45-64 years 20.2%, 65+ years 3.5%. 4317 clients in rural/regional areas, 50,985 in metropolitan areas.
- Proportion of eligible humanitarian entrants in AMEP: 87% (up from 82% in 2008-09).
- AMEP is delivered through 18 contracts at more than 250 locations around Australia.

#### Interpreting services

- The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) provided 831,108 telephone interpreting services in 2009-10, an increase of 13.1% on the previous year. Non-English speaking clients initiated 55% of requests for a telephone interpreter.
- Onsite interpreting increased by 19.5% to 53,150 services.
- TIS National's coverage of languages and dialects increased to 174. During 2009-10, 387 interpreters were recruited.
- The number of free translating and interpreting services increased by 27,000 to 197,060. Of these, 170,317 were telephone services and 26,743 were on site. In addition, 10,015 documents were translated.

#### DIAC spending by outcome area

Outcome area	Funds administered by DIAC (\$m)	DIAC spending (\$m)	Total (\$m)
1. Visa and migration	0.05	540.096	540.146
2. Refugee and humanitarian assistance	31.063	82.309	113.372
3. Border management	4.102	182.576	186.678
4.1 Visa compliance and status resolution	7.038	131.126	138.164
4.2 Onshore detention network	69.957	36.119	106.076
4.3 Offshore asylum seeker management	210.909	81.309	292.218
4.4 Illegal foreign fishers	6.898	5.416	12.314
5. Settlement services for migrants and refugees	329.739	102.388	432.127
6. Multicultural and citizenship services	2.778	80.978	83.756
Total	662.534	1,242.317	1,904.850

Compiled by  
Refugee Council of Australia  
1 November 2010

# **A REGIONAL REFUGEE PROTECTION FRAMEWORK**

*A joint statement by Australian non-government organisations*

Australia's 2010 Federal election campaign has heightened an already intense national debate about the role of Australia and its neighbours in responding to the humanitarian and political challenges posed by the large numbers of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people within the Asia-Pacific region. In considering the various options being proposed, it is important to note that these are international challenges which cannot be resolved by any country acting unilaterally. There is no singular or simple "solution" available because there is no singular or simple problem. There is no quick or permanent fix to the issue of people suffering human rights abuses. However, of the responses required, the single most critical element must be the development of an effective and sustainable regional protection framework for refugees and asylum seekers.

## **Principles for Australia's overall approach**

In considering the options available, Australia must act in accordance with the following minimum standards:

- There must be no removal of asylum seekers from Australian territory for processing in a third country. Australia has an obligation to process claims and provide protection to those found to be refugees under the Refugee Convention.
- Australia's refugee and humanitarian programs and policies must comply with all international human rights standards.
- There must be no discrimination or difference in treatment based on the country of origin or manner of arrival in Australia.
- Australia must not fund, or in any way be party to, the detention of refugees in third countries.
- Any program that Australia is party to as part of a regional protection framework must adhere to all human rights obligations and standards.

## **Elements of a Regional Protection Framework**

In seeking to develop a regional protection framework, we must develop a set of approaches flexible enough to respond to ever-changing international conditions.

### **1. Constructive and collaborative approach**

For a regional and international approach to succeed, Australia must engage other governments as partners in the process and implementation, giving attention to their interests and constraints. Australia cannot expect international cooperation to implement schemes we have dictated that suit our country but don't give proper consideration to our neighbours' goals and circumstances.

Negotiations to develop a framework must include all parties who have an important role to play, including Asian countries affected by significant flows of asylum seekers, current and potential countries of resettlement, UNHCR and civil society organisations.

### **2. Processing asylum claims must meet international standards**

UNHCR should have a central operational or supervisory role in claims processing; regard will have to be paid to the international standards the organisation is obliged to respect, its other global responsibilities and the resources it requires. This is particularly the case when considering that UNHCR cannot detain people and does not support designated refugees being held in detention. The processing options could include, but should not be restricted to, processing being conducted within a specific centre or a series of centres.

### **3. Proper accommodation and service provision**

We must examine how best to meet the needs of both recognised refugees and asylum seekers for food, shelter, physical and mental health care, pending resolution of their status. Our partners will require assurances that the resources needed would be made available. Again, the options that need to be explored should include, but not be restricted to, people residing within a particular centre or centres. That is no different to the long-standing situation in Australia, where many asylum seekers live in private accommodation in the community and are not detained. Most critically, Australia must not fund the overseas detention of asylum seekers. In addition, the framework must be sensitive to the circumstances of countries where processing takes place.

### **4. Timely resettlement programs**

Renewed efforts will be needed to secure additional and timely resettlement places for those found to be refugees so as to diminish the need for people to risk their lives on dangerous journeys. Australia will need the co-operation of other resettlement countries, to ensure that other countries in the region are not left to provide long-term support to substantial numbers of refugees. To secure that cooperation and to show how serious we are about a regional framework, Australia should commit to increasing our resettlement program to 20,000 places. These additional places would increase global resettlement options, allowing greater resettlement options from Asia without ignoring pressing needs elsewhere.

Additionally, there is a need for enhanced programs to expedite the safe return of people who, after due process, have been determined not to require protection. NGOs are well placed to assist in developing and implementing safe and appropriate reintegration programs for people whose claims are unsuccessful and are required to return home. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is also pivotal to any return and re-integration process.

### **5. Involvement of non-government organisations**

The principal consideration in obtaining the support of non-government organisations (NGOs) is to ensure that they are genuinely included in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of any such initiative. Active engagement in service design and delivery will build confidence and foster collaboration. It is possible to draw on NGO expertise to assist with several key elements of operating a regional framework particularly for service provision. These would include organisations that provide legal services, health and welfare, and international aid. NGO involvement will be critical for proper oversight of any ongoing program, ensuring the highest possible standards are met.

### **Next steps**

We recommend that, as soon as possible after the August 21 election, the newly-elected Australian Government establish an expert working group to lead the development of specific, detailed ideas which would be the subject of consultation with governmental, intergovernmental and civil society stakeholders domestically and internationally. The group should be given clear timeframes for completing its work. It should undertake its activities in an open, non-political manner, though a certain measure of confidentiality will be essential particularly in communications with other governments and intergovernmental bodies.

#### *This statement has been endorsed by:*

Act for Peace – National Council of Churches in  
Australia  
Amnesty International Australia  
Asylum Seekers Centre of NSW  
Asylum Seekers Resource Centre  
Australian Council for International Development  
Brotherhood of St Laurence  
Caritas Australia  
Coalition for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees  
Edmund Rice Centre  
Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia

Foundation House – The Victorian Foundation for  
Survivors of Torture  
Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project  
International Detention Coalition  
Jesuit Refugee Service Australia  
Oxfam Australia  
Refugee Council of Australia  
Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre  
Refugee and Immigration Legal Service  
Settlement Council of Australia  
Uniting Church in Australia  
World Vision Australia

1 August 2010





## **NEW RESEARCH AND RESOURCES FROM THE REFUGEE COUNCIL**

### **RESEARCH**

#### **What Works: Employment strategies for refugee and humanitarian entrants (June 2010)**

This project, supported by the Sidney Myer Foundation, focused on sustainable employment pathways and refugee background communities. The report highlights effective responses to the barriers that refugee entrants face in making the transition to meaningful, sustainable employment in Australia.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/What\\_Works.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/What_Works.pdf)

#### **A Bridge to a New Culture: Promoting the participation of refugees in sporting activities (June 2010)**

Funded by NSW Sport and Recreation, this project investigated the role of sport in assisting refugee settlement. It examines the issues surrounding refugee participation in sport, including the benefits of participation and the barriers to participation faced by refugees, and develops recommendations for sporting bodies to assist them in promoting refugee participation in sport.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/A\\_Bridge\\_to\\_a\\_New\\_Culture.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/A_Bridge_to_a_New_Culture.pdf)

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/A\\_Bridge\\_to\\_a\\_New\\_Culture\\_abridged.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/A_Bridge_to_a_New_Culture_abridged.pdf)

#### **Finding the Right Time and Place: Exploring post-compulsory education and training pathways for young people from refugee backgrounds in NSW (June 2010)**

This report brings together evidence of good practice in the provision of education and training that meet the needs of refugee young people (16-24 years) who settle in Australia with a history of disrupted education, as well as identifying ways of addressing identified gaps.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/Finding\\_the\\_Right\\_Time\\_and\\_Place.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/Finding_the_Right_Time_and_Place.pdf)

#### **Economic, Civic and Social Contributions of Refugees and Humanitarian Entrants (February 2010)**

In December 2008, the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) was contracted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to review available literature which explored factors relating to the economic, civic and social contributions of refugees and humanitarian entrants. This report identifies key findings and emerging themes as well as information gaps and future areas of research recommended. The report also contains an annotated bibliography by section of the most pertinent literature surveyed as well as a references section listing all publications consulted during the research.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/Contributions\\_of\\_refugees.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/Contributions_of_refugees.pdf)

#### **Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program: Community views on current challenges and future directions (January 2010)**

RCOA's 2010-11 intake submission includes community views on the planning of the Refugee and Humanitarian Program, visa processing and asylum policy concerns and a wide variety of settlement issues for refugees, as well as thoughts about how the refugee program could be better promoted to the Australian public. The 139-page submission also draws together key statistics on Australian immigration, global refugee needs and resettlement trends. It makes 58 recommendations to government, providing concrete planning suggestions for how Australia's refugee program and recommendations on issues as diverse as post-arrival orientation, employment and family support.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/Intake%20Sub%202010-11.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/Intake%20Sub%202010-11.pdf)

#### **Amplifying the Voices of Young Refugees (November 2009)**

During 2008-09, RCOA undertook a literature review and a series of youth consultations across three Australian states and the Australian Capital Territory, with the aim of developing a targeted and informed strategy for the ongoing engagement of refugee young people in advocating to have their needs and concerns addressed and ideas recognised at a national level. This report is an abridged version of the findings from this project, and includes a discussion of issues raised by refugee young people and effective youth engagement strategies.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/current/Young\\_Refugees\\_report.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/current/Young_Refugees_report.pdf)

#### **Family reunion and Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program: A discussion paper (November 2009)**

This discussion paper outlines some of the key issues and concerns with regard to how people settling in Australia through the refugee and humanitarian program are able to reunite with their families. It explores the impact of policy and processes around travel expense, definitions of family, extended separation,

regional targets, split families, travel documents, health checks, settlement support for reunited families, migration advice and Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) visas on family reunion experiences.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/family.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/reports/family.pdf)

**Refugee young people and post-compulsory education and training: An annotated bibliography (October 2009)**

An annotated bibliography of resources identified through an internet and academic journal search of relevant literature (from last 10 years) pertaining to the post-compulsory education and training experiences of refugee and humanitarian young people in Australia. Summaries describe the methodology and major findings of research in this area.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/current/Bibliography\\_Young\\_refugees\\_&\\_post-compulsory\\_education.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/current/Bibliography_Young_refugees_&_post-compulsory_education.pdf)

**The Search for Protection: Resettled refugees reflect on seeking asylum in Asia and the Middle East (June 2009)**

This report is based on the results of a listening study commissioned by the Refugee Council of Australia. It documents the experiences – in refugee camps or countries of first asylum – of Chin, Karen and Iraqi refugees and humanitarian entrants to Australia. Drawing on the findings of interviews and focus group discussions with 53 individuals, the report aims to document respondents' experiences of seeking protection, including community based protection strategies.

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2009/090615\\_Search\\_for\\_Protection\\_report.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2009/090615_Search_for_Protection_report.pdf)

**SUBMISSIONS [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/submissions.html](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/submissions.html)**

- Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Australia (July 2010)
- Submission to the Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa (April 2010)
- Submission to the Inquiry into the Anti-People Smuggling and Other Measures Bill 2010 (April 2010)
- Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Inquiry into the Migration Treatment of Disability (March 2010)
- Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program: Community views on current challenges and future directions (January 2010)
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Complementary Protection) Bill 2009 (September 2009)
- Response to Australian Government discussion paper, 'Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy: Helping refugees and humanitarian entrants settle in Australia' (August 2009)
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Citizenship Test Review Bill 2009 (August 2009)
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Immigration Detention Reform Bill 2009 (August 2009)
- Submission to the National Human Rights Consultation (June 2009)

**SPEECHES [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/speeches.html](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/speeches.html)**

- 2010 launch of Refugee Week, Victoria Speeches by the Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia; John Gibson, President of RCOA; and Nyadol Nyuol, former refugee, at the Victoria Refugee Week launch, Victorian Parliament House, 21 June 2010.
- 2010 Refugee Week celebration, Blacktown Address by Paul Power, CEO of RCOA, at an event hosted by SydWest Multicultural Services (20 June 2010)
- 2010 launch of Refugee Week, NSW Keynote address by the Hon John Hatzistergos, NSW Minister for Citizenship (19 June 2010)
- "Australian Attitudes to the Acceptance of Refugees" Summary of speech Paul Power, CEO of RCOA, at the *Racism Revisited: Anti Anti-racism Leadership and Practice Conference*, Murdoch University, Perth (20 March 2010)

**BULLETIN AND NEWSLETTERS [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/newsletters.html](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/newsletters.html)**

The Refugee Council produces a bi-annual newsletter and monthly email bulletins for its members and supporters. These bulletins include the latest information on refugee policy changes, new research and publications, coming events and a summary of refugee issues in the media.

**MEDIA RELEASES AND STATEMENTS [www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/media.html](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/media.html)**

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