

# FECCAe-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

## FECCA visits Tasmania!

FECCA was in Tasmania last week, speaking with State and Local Government leaders, meeting with the 'Students Against Racism' group, conducting a community consultation and attending the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCoT) elections. Congratulations to the newly elected Board of MCoT! Read more in the next edition of e-News.



(L-R) FECCA Chair Joe Caputo, Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman, MCoT Chair Alphonse Mulumba.

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# From the FECCA Chair



Hello and welcome to FECCA's September 2015 update.

FECCA has welcomed the Australian Government's commitment to offer permanent resettlement to 12,000 Syrian refugees.

Australia has the capacity to respond effectively to this global humanitarian crisis. We have a strong settlement sector who are very well positioned to support an increased intake. It has also been encouraging to see the assurance and outpouring of support from State and Territory leaders and regional hubs, showing their willingness to respond to the needs for refugee resettlement. FECCA would like to stress the importance for the need to resettle all refugees as identified by the UNHCR, regardless of their cultural, linguistic or religious background.

FECCA has congratulated Malcolm Turnbull on becoming Prime Minister and appointing his new ministry. FECCA views the new appointments as an opportunity for the government to make a lasting and meaningful contribution to Australian society, and its unique diversity and social cohesion. It is also a chance to advance the quality of life of people, regardless of their backgrounds, including migrants and refugees, into the future.

This month, FECCA and the Salvation Army's Freedom Partnership to End Slavery appeared together before the Productivity Commission's public hearing to discuss Australia's Workplace Relations Framework. You can read our submission [here](#).

FECCA in partnership with Multicultural Disability Advocacy Alliance (MDAA) and National Ethnic Disability Association (NEDA), held a successful Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Willing to Work consultation in Sydney. Read more on page 5.

Early bird registration for the FECCA Conference has now closed. Anyone still wishing to attend the Conference will be eligible to purchase tickets [here](#). Visit the FECCA Conference [website](#) to see who will be speaking and read their biographies. More information can be found on the Conference [here](#).

We were delighted to attend the inaugural Our Watch Awards, in conjunction with The Walkley Foundation. The awards recognize and reward exemplary reporting of violence against women, particularly reporting that highlights the causes of violence and what all of us in society can do to address it.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released, for the first time, data on the Personal Income of Migrants in Australia. This data is very useful for all CALD providers and has been broken down to State level.

Joseph Caputo OAM JP

# FECCA NEWS

## FECCA responds to Intelligence Committee recommendations on the *Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015*

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security released its report on the *Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015* today. FECCA made a submission to the inquiry and appeared before the Committee to discuss its concerns about the Bill, including the effect that the legislation, if passed, will have on social cohesion, its impact on children, and its compliance with fundamental rights.

### Limiting the operation of the Bill

The Committee recommends that the Bill be amended to limit the operation of s 33AA, which provides that an individual renounces their Australian citizenship if they engage in certain conduct, to individuals who have engaged in relevant conduct offshore, or engaged in relevant conduct onshore and left Australia before being charged and brought to trial in respect of that conduct.

### Addressing procedural concerns

The current Bill exempts the application of s 39 of the *ASIO Act*, potentially allowing the Minister for Immigration to use intelligence which does not amount to a security assessment to issue notice that an individual's Australian citizenship has been ceased. The Committee recommends that the Bill be amended so that s 39 *ASIO Act* is not exempted, and consequently, a security assessment would be required before the Minister can take prescribed administrative action.

Recommendations made by the Committee would also require the Minister for Immigration to provide, or make reasonable attempts to provide, the affected person with written notice that citizenship has been lost or revoked. If the Minister determines not to notify the affected person, this decision should be reviewed within 6 months and every 6 months thereafter. The Committee recommends

that the notice include the reasons for the loss of citizenship and an explanation of the person's review rights.

The Committee also recommends that the Minister be required to consider exercising their discretion to exempt a person from the effects of the relevant provisions revoking or ceasing their Australian citizenship, including considering whether the affected person would be able to access the citizenship rights in their other country of citizenship or nationality, and the extent of their connection to that country.

### Children

A number of recommendations recommend amendments to include consideration of the age of the person and, for a person under 18, the best interests of the child as a primary consideration when the Minister is exercising a number of discretions in the Bill. Further, the Committee recommends that no part of the Bill should apply to conduct by a child aged less than 10 years, and that the conduct-based provisions in sections 33AA and 35 should not apply to conduct by a child aged under 14 years. The Committee has also recommended that section 36 of the *Australian Citizenship Act*, which enables the Minister to revoke a child's citizenship following revocation of a parent's citizenship, should not apply to any of the proposed new sections in the Bill.

### Retrospective Operation

The Committee recommends that the conviction-based provision (s 35A) be applied retrospectively to convictions where sentence of ten years or more have been handed down by a court.

### Accountability Measures

A number of accountability measures are included in the Bill, including:

- That the Committee's functions be extended to include monitoring and reviewing the performance of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection of its functions under the provisions of the Bill;

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- That the Minister be required to advise the Committee upon issuing a notice for the loss of citizenship under the Bill;
- That the Committee complete a review of the revocation of citizenship provisions by 1 December 2019.

## Conclusion

FECCA is encouraged by the Committee's recommendations, however, the 'self-executing' nature of some parts of the Bill remains concerning. The revocation of an individual's citizenship is a significant consequence, and should be confined to those dual nationals who have been convicted of relevant offences by a court.

FECCA highlights the importance of citizenship policy to achieving and maintaining social cohesion in the Australian community by giving migrants a sense of belonging and acceptance.

To read the Committee's report [click here](#).

To read FECCA's submission to the inquiry [click here](#).

## Our Watch Awards

Our Watch was established to drive nation-wide change in the culture, behaviours and attitudes that underpin and create violence against women and children. The inaugural Our Watch Awards recognise and reward exemplary reporting of violence against women. FECCA has provided technical advice to Our Watch in developing the Awards and support in promoting the Our Watch Awards. FECCA attended the Awards in Sydney, on Thursday 10 September. We look forward to working with Our Watch on this initiative in the future to encourage journalists in the ethnic media to nominate.

## Productivity Commission's Workplace Relations inquiry

The Productivity Commission recently released its draft report on Australia's Workplace Relations Framework. FECCA made a joint submission on the report with the Salvation Army Australia, and appeared before a public hearing of the inquiry on Friday 11th September.



The submission focuses on the Commission's draft chapter on migrant workers which acknowledged that these workers are particularly vulnerable because they are not protected under the Fair Work Act. Despite this acknowledgement, the draft report's two formal recommendations do not directly address or minimise these vulnerabilities.

To read our full media release [click here](#).

You can read the submission [here](#).

## Migration: An Opportunity for Rural and Regional Australia

FECCA has prepared a brief about migration to rural and regional Australia. The brief sets out the opportunities and challenges presented by settling new migrants in regional areas, sets out two case studies, and looks at the new Safe Haven Enterprise Visa Scheme. You can read the brief [here](#).

# FECCA NEWS

## Senate committee releases report on DSS tendering processes

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee released its report on the impact on service quality, efficiency and sustainability of recent Commonwealth community service tendering processes by the Department of Social Services (DSS) on 16 September 2015. FECCA made a submission to the inquiry earlier in the year, raising concerns about funding for ethno-specific and multicultural organisations. The committee found that the DSS tendering process did not appear to have been equitable and transparent, with an apparent inherent bias toward larger providers at the expense of local knowledge and expertise that smaller providers have developed in response to their clients' needs. It also found that the tendering has impacted on the relationships between providers through a competitive process. The committee made a number of recommendations including in relation to selection criteria, advocacy support, and reviewing the tendering process.

FECCA emphasises the need to enhance collaboration with, and seek advice from, the community sector, including multicultural and settlement organisations, with a view to enabling expert input into the DSS grants tendering process. We welcome the publication of the Committee's report and looks forward to the Government's response to the recommendations. FECCA also looks forward to engaging productively with DSS, with a view to enhancing future tendering processes.

You can read the report [here](#). To read FECCA's full statement [click here](#).

## Australian Human Rights Commission Willing to Work Consultation

FECCA in collaboration with Multicultural Disability Advocacy Alliance (MDAA) and National Ethnic Disability Association (NEDA) successfully hosted Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) in Sydney on 10th September 2015. The focus of this consultation was to hear about the experiences and barriers of older culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people and people with disability from CALD backgrounds in gaining meaningful and sustainable employment.

The participants at this consultation included CALD people with physical disabilities, mental health issues, carers and other CALD sector service providers. The participants raised their concerns with regard to discrimination based on their ethnic background and disability, difficulties in engaging with and obtaining services from disability specific service providers and indefinite waiting periods to meet employment service providers. Many participants highlighted that their multiple disadvantages results in being more vulnerable and isolated in the society.



FECCA would like to take this opportunity to thank MDAA for their assistance and hard work in organising a very successful consultation.

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES

Finding your family  
after 17 years apart...



How would  
**YOU** feel?

Find out from the people who know at:

## The Right to Know: 100 Years of the Australian Red Cross International Tracing Service

**A special exhibition at the Melbourne Immigration Museum**

**1 July-25 October 2015**

*Melania was only 13 when she was separated from her family during Burundi's civil war.*

*After 17 years apart, Australian Red Cross helped her finally reunite with her sister.*

In 2015, the Australian Red Cross International Tracing Service celebrates 100 years of reconnecting loved ones separated by war, conflict, disaster and migration.

To mark this centenary, Australian Red Cross has created a **moving exhibition** to showcase the history of the service and the stories of those it has helped.

Discover more about the tracing service and the exhibition by visiting:

[www.redcross.org.au/tracingcentenary](http://www.redcross.org.au/tracingcentenary)



the  
power of  
humanity



# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES



## Australian Red Cross International Tracing Service

Every year, countless families across the world are separated by conflict, disaster and migration. The Red Cross International Tracing Service aims to re-establish contact between separated family members and clarify the fate of the missing. 2015 marks 100 years of this service in Australia. If you, or someone you know, has lost contact with family members overseas as a result of war, conflict, disaster or migration, please contact the Red Cross Tracing service in your state or territory.

Please contact [tracing@redcross.org.au](mailto:tracing@redcross.org.au) or visit [www.redcross.org.au/eligibility.aspx](http://www.redcross.org.au/eligibility.aspx).

## Free Translating and Interpreting Service eligibility

The Department of Social Services (DSS), through TIS National, provides free interpreting services for non-English speaking Australian citizens and permanent residents communicating with the following approved groups and individuals:

- Private medical practitioners (defined as General Practitioners and Medical Specialists) providing Medicare-rebateable services and their reception staff to arrange appointments and provide results of medical tests. See: [Medical Board of Australia- Medical Specialities and Speciality Fields](#)

*Note: In addition to Australian citizens and permanent residents, private medical practitioners and pharmacies can use the Free Interpreting Service to communicate with Temporary Humanitarian Stay (subclass 449); Temporary Humanitarian Concern (subclass 786); Temporary Protection (subclass 785); and Safe Haven Enterprise (subclass 790) visa holders.*

- Incorporated, not-for-profit, non-government, community-based organisations for casework and emergency services where the organisation does not receive substantial funding to provide these services.
- Members of Parliament for constituency purposes.

- Local government authorities who communicate with non-English speaking permanent residents and Australian citizens on issues such as rates, garbage collection and urban services
- Trade unions who respond to members' enquiries or requests
- Pharmacies for the purpose of dispensing the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medications.
- Organisations that require language services (such as interpreting) and receive government funding should incorporate the cost of these services into their application for funding.

[Find out if you are eligible for the Free Interpreting Service.](#) Non-government organisations delivering casework and emergency services to Australian citizens and permanent residents can apply for free interpreting services through TIS National by completing the [NGO application form](#).

More information is available about the Free Interpreting Services through TIS National at [www.dss.gov.au/free-interpreting](http://www.dss.gov.au/free-interpreting).

## Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

The Australian Government's Department of Health has developed information cards to inform travellers to the Middle East about the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

As of 8 September 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed 1,542 cases of MERS-CoV, including at least 544 deaths.

Most of cases of people who have had MERS-CoV have lived in or travelled to the Middle East, or have had close contact with someone who been in the Middle East. There have been no cases in Australia.

In addition to the people who travel to the Middle East to visit family and friends, the Department of Health is aware that many people undertake pilgrimages to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia all year round, but particularly during the Hajj which is expected to fall between 20 September and 25 September in 2015. The attached information card provides advice on the signs and symptoms of MERS-CoV, what people should do in the event they develop the symptoms and how to protect

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themselves and others from infection.

For more information on MERS-CoV and travel warnings, please refer to the departmental website (<http://www.health.gov.au/mers-coronavirus>).

For an information card in a different language, please contact [media@fecca.org.au](mailto:media@fecca.org.au). Languages available are Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Urdu, Turkish, Farsi and Dari.

## Dementia Awareness Month

Dementia Awareness Month is held each September across Australia. The theme for 2015 is *Creating a Dementia-Friendly Nation*.

Alzheimer's Australia's goal is to encourage Australians to become dementia-aware, have a better understanding of what it is like for a person to live with dementia, and ultimately be encouraged to create communities where people with dementia are supported to live a high quality of life with meaning, purpose and value.

A dementia-friendly community is a place where people living with dementia are supported to live a high quality of life with meaning, purpose and value.

For people with younger onset dementia, this also means being given the opportunity and support to stay at work or volunteer.

Each dementia-friendly community will look different, but may include:

- Businesses that provide accessible services to people with dementia, including having staff who understand dementia and know how to communicate effectively with people who have dementia;
- Employers that provide support for people living with the disabilities of dementia to continue with paid employment;
- Volunteering opportunities for people with dementia;
- Memory cafes for people with dementia and their families;
- Choirs, walking groups, sporting clubs and social groups that are welcoming and inclusive of members with dementia; and
- Adult education facilities that provide opportunities to support new learning, for example courses at tertiary institutions, TAFE, or learning a new language or instrument.

For information on events held in your State or Territory during Dementia Awareness Month, please access the Alzheimer's Australia website on: <https://fightdementia.org.au/national/campaigns/dementia-awareness-month>.



**ADVERTISING  
STANDARDS  
BUREAU**

## Expressions of Interest – Join the ADVERTISING STANDARDS BOARD

If you are interested and would like to make sure that advertising in Australia meets the prescribed standards, you may like to become a member of the Advertising Standards Board. The Advertising Standards Board operates in a sensitive and occasionally high profile environment. The Board was established by the advertising industry to consider complaints made by the public about advertisements and to provide an accessible and transparent complaints process.

The Board includes people from a broad range of age groups and backgrounds and is gender balanced – representative of the diversity of Australian society. We are seeking to expand the diversity of the Board membership and seek expressions of interest from people from diverse cultural backgrounds. For information about this opportunity as well as about the Board and the advertising self-regulation system, please visit [www.adstandards.com.au](http://www.adstandards.com.au) and then email Sandy Rose ([srose@adstandards.com.au](mailto:srose@adstandards.com.au)) for a copy of the selection criteria.

# STAKEHOLDER UPDATES



## IRT Foundation invests \$150K in age-friendly communities

IRT Foundation has announced the successful recipients of its inaugural Community Grants Program. Under the 2015 Program, almost \$150,000 will be invested in local initiatives and projects that provide practical solutions for achieving age-friendly communities and improving the lives of older Australians.

IRT Group Chief Executive Nieves Murray said 20 projects would be funded across IRT's geographic footprint.

"The projects are located across the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla regions of NSW and in Canberra, Sydney and south-east Queensland," Ms Murray said.

"They encompass the areas of digital technology and connectivity, intergenerational cooperation, social inclusion, multicultural celebration, music and dance, and recreation and fitness. They will all have a positive impact on the health and quality of life of older Australians."

The 2015 Community Grants Program recipients are:

- Arcadians Theatre Group – Arcadians Lamplighters Male Choir
- Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation – Capturing Culture
- Illawarra Festival Chorus - Musical Equipment and Uniforms
- Italian Social Welfare Organisation of Wollongong (ITSOWEL) – Be Happy, Be Healthy
- Shellharbour City U3A – Lifelong Learnings
- U3A Network NSW – Brain Games Project
- U3A Northern Illawarra – Technology Improvements
- William Beach Day Club - Expanding Horizons for Dapto Seniors
- Alzheimer's Australia NSW – Aboriginal Dementia Yarn Ups

- Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels Cooperative – Shade for 'Out & About'
- Narooma Community Choir – Music Library
- Lions Club of Batemans Bay – Lions Den Access Project
- The Probus Club of Batemans Bay – Purchase of Laptop, Projector & Screen
- Lake Tabourie Ratepayers & Residents Association – Lake Tabourie Seniors Recreational Scenic Walking Pathway
- Ulladulla & Districts Senior Citizens' Social and Welfare Club – Carpet Bowls Mats
- YMCA of Canberra – YMCA Seniors Sports Carnival 2015
- Australian Pensioners & Superannuants League Caloundra – Fun Walk for the Over 50's Families and Friends
- iDcare – iDcare Intergenerational Socialisation Tool
- Campbelltown Senior Cyber Seekers – Seniors Helping Seniors
- GyMEA Community Aid & Information Service – Multicultural Seniors Activity Club



"These projects were chosen as they demonstrate a clear benefit to the community and value for money while supporting IRT Foundation's goals and objectives," Ms Murray said.

IRT Foundation's Community Grants Program is part of IRT Group's commitment to give back \$20 million to the community by 2020. The Program seeks to engage with local communities to improve the lives of older people by funding practical initiatives. Not-for-profit

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organisations, community service groups, registered charities and local councils are invited to apply. Grants between \$1000 and \$20,000 are awarded across IRT Group's geographic footprint.

For further information please contact: Frances Wood – Media and Communications Coordinator on 02 4221 6613 or 0419 789 841.

## Suicide and CALD Australians

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Approximately 800,000 people die by suicide each year (WHO 2014).

In Australia there were 2522 deaths by suicide in 2014 with males accounting for three out of every four deaths.

Older men are particularly vulnerable with some of the highest rates among men aged 85 and older. There are many possible contributors to this with studies indicating that whereas in the general population there are estimated to be 200 attempts for every completed suicide, among the elderly that ratio is between 2 and 4 attempts to each suicide (1)

An Australian study of suicide among first generation migrants between 1994 and 2006 found that the pattern of suicides was closely linked to that of their country of birth and cultural background. The highest rates were found among those migrants born in New Zealand, Western and Northern Europe. Migrants of both genders who were born in North Africa, the middle East, Southern and Central Asia and South East Asia had the lowest rates during the study period. Females born in the UK, Ireland, and Western Europe had the highest rates. (2).

Another Australian Study which looked at suicide mortality in second generation migrants found that they were not at a higher risk to suicide when compared to first generation migrants or locals (third generation) (3).

We have learned most of what we know about the contributors and factors protecting against suicide among older people from analysis of the characteristics, backgrounds, and circumstances of people who kill themselves. This approach is known as a psychological autopsy (PA). These studies tell us that a (a) a lack of social connectedness with family, friends, community, culture, (b) decreasing functional capacity, (c) physical and (d) psychiatric illness are

significant contributors to suicide risk among older people. Suicide is the largest cause of preventable death in the world and it is therefore in these areas that we should be focussing our prevention activities.

Paul Norton (M. Suicidology)

[paul.norton@respected.training](mailto:paul.norton@respected.training), [www.respected.training](http://www.respected.training)

1. Conwell Y. Suicide and suicide prevention in later life. *Focus* 2013;11(1): 39–47
2. Ide, Naoko, et al. "Suicide of first-generation immigrants in Australia, 1974–2006." *Social psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology* 47.12 (2012): 1917-1927.
3. Law, Chi-kin, Kairi Kólves, and Diego De Leo. "Suicide mortality in second-generation migrants, Australia, 2001–2008." *Social psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology* 49.4 (2014): 601-608.

# MULTICULTURAL NEWS & EVENTS

## NOMINATIONS OPEN: New Australian of the Year 2016

Know an exceptional new migrant or refugee who contributes to Australia? Recognise their work by nominating them for the New Australian of the Year 2016 award!

The award is to recognise migrants or refugees who have made Australia their home for less than 18 years, and have contributed greatly to the Australian society. Since its inception in 2014, there have been two excellent award winners - Parsuram Sharma-Luitai and Gabriel Ukuno - who not only do wonderful work within their own communities, but provide a valuable link with the wider Australian community.

Deadline: 11 October 2015.

For more information, visit [naoty.weebly.com](http://naoty.weebly.com) or contact Wesa Chau at [adc.newaustralian@gmail.com](mailto:adc.newaustralian@gmail.com).

## Anti-Poverty Week

Anti-Poverty Week is less than a month away – 11-17 October. We encourage you to hold a community activity during the week highlighting your concern for poverty in your community in Australia or overseas. And let us know about your activity by listing it on our website [APW calendar-of-activities-2015](http://www.apw.org.au/calendar-of-activities-2015). Our calendar is one of the ways we have of showing the widespread concern Australians have about poverty and disadvantage. It is also a good way of publicising an activity that is to be held during the week. A downloadable direct link “Tell us about your activity” button is below.



## 4th National Elder Abuse Conference 2016

The 4th National Elder Abuse Conference hosted by Seniors Rights Victoria, will be taking place from 23 -25 February 2016 at the Pullman Melbourne on the Park, Australia.

The Conference will focus on the rights of older people to live life free from ageism and elder abuse. From preventative programs, to early interventions and later responses, speakers will share stories about the ways we can observe the rights of older people, which include identifying and meeting the wishes of older people as well as ensuring their safety. For more information visit the website - <http://elderabuseconference.org.au/>.

# MULTICULTURAL NEWS & EVENTS



Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission



**The Race Discrimination Commissioner invites you  
to the Inaugural Kep Enderby Memorial Lecture**

**Delivered by the Hon. Robert French AC, Chief Justice  
of the High Court of Australia**

**Date:** Thursday, 22 October 2015

**Time:** 6pm for 6:15pm start, with refreshments to follow

**Venue:** The Theatre, Australian National Maritime Museum  
2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour

**RSVP:** [Eventbrite](#) or [racediscriminationcommissioner@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:racediscriminationcommissioner@humanrights.gov.au)

Dr Tim Soutphommasane, Race Discrimination Commissioner, warmly invites you to the inaugural Kep Enderby Memorial Lecture. 2015 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth), Australia's first federal human rights and anti-discrimination legislation.

The Kep Enderby Memorial Lecture is an annual public lecture held by the Australian Human Rights Commission to honour the memory of the Hon. Kep Enderby QC (1926-2015), who as Attorney-General introduced the Racial Discrimination Bill in the House of Representatives on 13 February 1975. The *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth) came into force on 31 October 1975.

If you have any requirements that will assist you to participate in this event, please contact us on 02 9284 9835 or [racediscriminationcommissioner@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:racediscriminationcommissioner@humanrights.gov.au).

For lawyers, if this activity is relevant to your immediate or long term professional development and practice needs, you can claim one 'unit' for each hour of attendance (excluding refreshment breaks) under the Law Society of NSW MCLE/CPD Rules and Guidelines.

# MULTICULTURAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Highlighting the gender wealth gap on equal pay day: the price of being a woman.

On Equal Pay Day this year, economic Security4Women launched a website to inspire women to do what they can to overcome the long-term impact of the gender pay gap: the gap in retirement savings. The new website [ES4W Letter to my younger self](#) aims to raise awareness about financial literacy.

'We are pointing to one step women can take towards their improved financial independence' said Ms Sandra Cook, the chair of economic Security4Women.

'The gender pay gap contributes to a gender wealth gap and women retire with less superannuation and fewer assets and many are at risk of poverty in their old age.

This website encourages all women to think about their financial security in later life and lists actions they can take now to maximise their retirement incomes.

The actions, for example, starting your superannuation savings with your very first job, are offered by other women, based on their own experience, in a short, easy to read, 'letter to a younger self'.

'We know that women are very good at their day-to-day budgeting; but many of us have been less successful saving and investing for our retirement. There are structural causes of our lower superannuation balances including the gender pay gap, time out of the workforce to care for family and friends and early retirement'.

The advice in the letters has the benefit of hindsight, of a woman looking back at a decision she made and its longer-term impact on her economic well being, within that environment.

economic Security4Women, a national alliance of women's organisations, asked its members to offer advice 'to their younger self' about the financial decisions they will make. This is complemented by links to existing 'letters' from men and women from other countries and backgrounds.

'Some of these letters are to themselves or their children or just advice they wish they had received when they were younger'.

The website is part of ongoing work by eS4W to raise the importance of and steps women can take to

maximise their retirement savings for their long term economic wellbeing.

'Our aim is to increase the confidence of women and strengthen their financial competency in the areas of savings and investments. I particularly love the focus on young women and the easy strategies to improve their savings and investments and ultimately increase their retirement incomes. While it is a little late for some of us, we can use our experience to encourage others to make informed decisions now' said Ms Cook.

The letters on the site urge younger women to think about and take action on:

- their financial goals,
- the strength of their financial competencies, and
- the retirement incomes of their older selves.

Through the website, our facebook page and Twitter we will connect with women's groups, organisations and individual women and also link them with financial literacy resources available on the MoneySmart website:

- Women's Money Toolkit <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/life-events-and-you/women/womens-money-toolkit>
- The career break super calculator <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-apps/career-break-super-calculator#/calculator/careerbreak/section1/aboutyou>
- The parental leave calculator <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-apps/parental-leave-calculator>

eS4W encourages women and men to take some time to write a letter to their younger self about a major decision made when younger.

This is an opportunity to share your knowledge about the impact that decision had on your financial position, now and/or then or in-between.

Media contact: Sally Jope, Executive Officer,

P: 0423 198 567

Email: [executiveofficer@security4women.org.au](mailto:executiveofficer@security4women.org.au)

# MULTICULTURAL NEWS & EVENTS

## Old Parliament House: an integral part of Australia's immigration and refugee story

Refugees are in the news with the crisis in Syria resulting in a mass exodus of people to Europe, and the Australian government decision to take in 12,000 Syrian people in addition to the normal annual refugee intake of 13,750. In the lead up to that decision there was much discussion in the media about how Australia might respond. As one would expect in a democratic society, there were protests in the streets urging an increased intake, and there were also voices dissenting from that view.

Migrants and refugees are an important component of who Australia is as a nation and society. Since the end of the Second World War more than 700,000 refugees have been admitted into Australia and more than six million people have come here as migrants.

Of the 700,000, Australia took in 170,000 Displaced Persons from European camps between 1947 and 1952. Australia's population is 23 million.

Most of Australia's migrant and refugee intake has been a product of decisions announced and debated in the Old Parliament House, when it was home to the federal parliament from 1927 to 1988. The building is inseparable from Australia's immigration story.

Milestone decisions announced and debated in the building include the following:

In 1938, with war clouds darkening over Europe, the announcement by the government of Joseph Lyons of a planned intake of 15,000 Jewish refugees from Europe. Australia had taken part in the Evian conference in France, a 'world summit' to discuss the refugee problem attended by 32 countries. However, only 7,000 made it to Australia before the outbreak of war and there was some opposition to this proposal by those in government and elsewhere who saw Jews as a 'racial problem'.

In 1945, the announcement by Arthur Calwell, Minister for Immigration in the Chifley Government, of a bold and unprecedentedly large-scale immigration program that resulted in more than two million people coming here over the following 20 years. Australia's population was 7.5 million in 1945.

The ratification by the Menzies Government in 1951

of the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees.

In 1956 and 1957 the beginnings of the dismantling of the 'White Australia policy', with permanent residence (1956) and citizenship (1957) made possible by the Menzies Government for 'non-whites' for the first time since Federation.

In 1966, during the government of Harold Holt, a review of migration policy making citizenship for 'non-whites' much easier, reducing the residential requirement from 15 to five years.

In 1973, the Whitlam Government removes race as a criterion in immigration policy and in 1975 passes the Racial Discrimination Act, making such discrimination unlawful. The Whitlam Government also ratifies the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

In 1977, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs in the Fraser Government, Michael Mackellar, makes a landmark statement outlining the development and implementation of a comprehensive refugee policy. It is the first occasion on which a coherent and specific on-going refugee policy has been enunciated in the Parliament. A significant aspect of the new policy relates to the humanitarian acceptance of people 'in refugee-type situations who do not fall strictly within the UN High Commissioner for Refugees mandate or within Convention definitions'. Australian staff were stationed in Thailand to organise a regular intake of Indo-Chinese refugees, especially Vietnamese fleeing the aftermath of war.

*Dr Barry York plays a big part in the museum's Oral History Program. Barry was awarded a PhD in History by the University of New South Wales in 1988. He has authored and co-authored several books of political history and immigration history. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 2005 for his services to the recording of immigration history.*

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