

Restoring Hope is the theme of Refugee Week 2012. Our newsletter features many examples of initiatives and policies established to welcome and support our Refugees. Reforms to the Business Skills Program and the commencement of the Enterprise Migration Agreement Scheme are reported on in full detail.

Reforms to the Business Skills Program

The Business Skills Program has been replaced by the Business Innovation and Investment Program on 1 July 2012. The Business Innovation and Investment Program introduces some key reforms that were recommended by a comprehensive review of the Business Skill Program in 2011.

The reforms include the following **key changes**:

- renaming the Business Skills Program to the Business Innovation and Investment Program
- reducing the number of visa subclasses from 13 to three by:
 - removing the independent visa categories and other underused visa subclasses
 - absorbing the separate business owner and investor subclasses as streams of a single visa subclass
- integrating the new Business Innovation and Investment visas with the skilled migrant selection model, SkillSelect, which will be launched on 1 July 2012
- facilitating entry of entrepreneurs that have sourced venture capital funding in Australia
- introducing an innovation points test for provisional visa applicants
- granting access to flexibility provisions to achieve permanent residence and encourage innovative business
- increasing asset thresholds to better align with the Australian business community
- changing key visa criteria to improve the integrity of the program.

In addition to these reforms the department will be creating a visa pathway to provide for significant migrant investment into Australia. This initiative is expected to be implemented in the 2012-13 program year.

For further information on the Significant Investor visa see the article "Migration reforms target foreign investors" on page 3 of this Newsletter.

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A new visa structure

The new Business Innovation and Investment program will be made up of three visa subclasses:

- **Business Talent (Permanent) (subclass 132)**
- **Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) (subclass 188)**
- **Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) (subclass 888).**

Business Talent (subclass 132) visa

Under the new program, the Business Talent visa will be a state or territory nominated permanent visa with two streams:

- significant business history stream
- venture capital entrepreneur stream.

Applicants must submit an expression of interest in SkillSelect.

Provisional Business Innovation and Investment (subclass 188) visa

The provisional Business Innovation and Investment visa will be a state or territory nominated provisional visa with no minimum English requirement. It comprises two streams:

- business innovation stream
- investor stream.

Applicants for this visa must:

- be less than 55 years old, or the nominating state or territory must provide their support to waive the age requirement
- meet minimum business or investment requirements
- submit an Expression of Interest in SkillSelect
- meet the innovation points test.

Permanent Business Innovation and Investment (subclass 888) visa

The permanent Business Innovation and Investment visa will be a state or territory nominated visa that is not points tested. It comprises two streams:

- business innovation stream
- investor stream.

Applicants for this visa must:

- hold a provisional Business Innovation and Investment visa
- have met the objectives of the provisional visa
- meet the specific business metrics or investment requirements of the stream for which they are applying.

SkillSelect

Changes to the program will coincide with the implementation of SkillSelect on 1 July 2012. SkillSelect is the new Expression of Interest skilled migration selection process that aligns the best available prospective migration candidates with the fluctuating demands of the labour market, or the needs of individual states or territories.

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More information about the Business Innovation and Investment Program is available. See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/whats-new.htm>

www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/_pdf/reforms-business-skills-program.pdf

Migration reforms target foreign investors

Foreign investors will find it easier to migrate to Australia following the introduction of a suite of business visa reforms this financial year.

The Australian Government has announced plans to introduce a new visa program for foreign investors who commit at least A\$5 million to the Australian economy.

The new Significant Investor visa will minimise migration barriers for investors in Australian companies, state and territory bonds, and regulated managed funds, and will bring Australia into line with the policy of other countries, such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Singapore and New Zealand.

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen, said the reforms will boost Australian's economy by attracting high net worth individuals seeking investment immigration.

"This new visa will make it easier for investors coming to Australia by offering some concessions on visa requirements —such as not having to meet a points test and reduced residence requirements — in recognition of their meaningful investment contribution."

The reform package will also include measures to boost skilled migration to Australia. On 1 July 2012, the existing Business Skills visa will become the Business Innovation and Investment program attracting migrants who have a demonstrated history of innovation and business success.

The Significant Investor visa will be introduced in the 2012-13 program year.

Further information on the Significant Investor visa can be found in the Significant Investor Information. See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/significant-investor.pdf>

<http://www.austrade.gov.au/invest/investor-updates/2012/0601-migration-reforms-target-foreign-investors>

First Enterprise Migration Agreement approved

The Australian Government has approved its first Enterprise Migration Agreement (EMA), granted to the new iron ore mining Roy Hill project in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, said the first EMA was an important development in helping to meet critical skills shortages in the resources sector.

'The government's first priority is always ensuring jobs for Australian workers, but there is a need for temporary workers to help keep our economy strong,' Mr Bowen said.

'With more than 8000 workers required during the construction phase of the Roy Hill project, there simply aren't enough people in the local workforce to get the job done.'

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EMAs are a custom-designed, project-wide migration arrangement uniquely suited to the resources sector, ensuring skill shortages do not create constraints on major projects or jeopardise Australian jobs.

Mr Bowen said the EMA would allow Roy Hill to sponsor up to 1715 workers for the three-year construction phase through the 457 visa program, where they cannot find Australians to fill the positions.

The project will support Australian jobs in the economy through training and apprenticeships, which are an integral part of the agreement, and follows rigorous consultation with state and territory governments, industry and unions.

'As part of the EMA, Roy Hill will provide up to 2000 training places for Australians. This includes places for more than 200 Australian apprentices and trainees, as well as preparing over 100 Indigenous Australians to work in the construction industry,' Mr Bowen said.

The EMA will come into effect shortly.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/cb/2012/cb187050.htm>

Enterprise Migration Agreements

National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce

The National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce (NRSET) was convened in late 2009 to help address the need for more than 70 000 skilled workers on major resources projects over the next five years. The taskforce released its final report in July 2010. The government agreed to all 31 recommendations of the report.

The NRSET noted that migration is only one tool for meeting Australia's future skills needs and recommends the introduction of EMAs. Access to overseas labour will help to ensure that the peak workforce needs of these projects can be realised.

How will EMAs work

An EMA will be a project-wide labour agreement, custom-designed for a particular resource project. An EMA will be negotiated with the project owner and will act as an umbrella arrangement for the project. The EMA will set the terms by which overseas workers will be engaged on the project. The terms set out in the EMA will include the occupations, qualifications, English language skills, wages and conditions of the foreign workers on the project. Sub-contracting employers, with the endorsement of the EMA holder, will sign onto labour agreements under the terms of the EMA.

Overseas labour will only be supplementary, with resources projects required to demonstrate effective and ongoing local recruitment efforts.

Under an EMA, occupations that are not eligible for standard migration programs can be sponsored, provided the project can justify a genuine need that cannot be met from the Australian labour market. This will be critical for resources projects, particularly during the construction phase.

Training requirements

Project owners will be required to demonstrate how the project will significantly contribute towards addressing future skill needs in the resources sector. As part of

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Resources

The People of Australia: Australia's Multicultural Policy

APB Education

its training plan, the project owner will need to:

- commit to training in occupations of known or anticipated shortage
- commit to reducing reliance on overseas labour over time, with particular focus on semi-skilled labour where this is approved for the EMA
- demonstrate that training strategies are commensurate with the size of the overseas workforce utilised on a project
- demonstrate how training targets will be enforced through its contracting model and measured and monitored over the term of the EMA.

In addition, individual sub-contractors will need to meet one of the standard training benchmarks associated with the 457 program, either by:

- contributing two per cent of payroll to a relevant industry training fund or
- spending one per cent of payroll on training for their Australian employees.

This contribution should be consistent with the broader training plan for the project.

For more information on EMAs see:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/48a-enterprise.htm>

Some facts on the Roy Hill deal

EMAs are confidential "deeds of agreement" available to proponents of big projects with a value of \$2 billion or more, and which intend to have a peak workforce of at least 1500 workers. They are a kind of up-front "job lot" guarantee that a certain number of workers will be granted temporary 457 visas. The agreement is signed with the project proponent, with the contractors who will actually employ the overseas workers signing later template deals. The deed is not public.

In recognition of a looming shortfall of construction workers, EMAs can allow 457 visas to be granted to "semi-skilled" occupations on top of the skilled jobs that would normally qualify.

The Immigration Minister, Chris Bowen, said the Roy Hill agreement would cover occupations like electricians, mechanical fitters, scaffolders and boilermakers.

The deed says Roy Hill and its contractors have to make efforts to employ Australians first and that it must provide "2000 training places for Australians" of which 200 will be apprenticeships and traineeships. The other 1800 are "upskilling programs for Australian construction workers". Two-thirds of the apprenticeships must go to older workers and Minister Bowen said Roy Hill had a total training budget of \$20 million.

The agreement also specifies the overseas workers must have the same terms, conditions and living conditions as Australian workers, and the Minister has said in this case there will be a multilingual "induction video" so workers definitely know their "rights and obligations".

The huge Roy Hill project is situated 277km south of Port Hedland and is a joint venture with South Korean firms STX Corporation and POSCO, and Japan's Marubeni Corporation. It is expected to produce 55 million tonnes of iron ore each year for 20 years from late 2014.

www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/some-facts-on-roy-hill-deal-but-lots-of-secrecy-20120529-1zhfp.html

Team to look after foreign worker deals

A Federal cabinet committee which counts the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, as a member will oversee the implementation and operation of Enterprise Migration Agreements, which allow mining barons to import foreign workers to help construct giant projects.

Labor backbenchers feared there were inadequate safeguards to prevent foreigners being given jobs ahead of Australians, and being employed on inferior pay and conditions.

Two Queensland Coalition MPs sought greater guarantees and wanted job networks to liaise more efficiently with mining companies.

After a lengthy debate, Caucus decided a backbench committee known as the "Spreading the Benefits of the Resources Boom Committee" would keep the caucus abreast of the Enterprise Migration Agreements and monitor them against 12 checks and balances.

Government sources stressed the Immigration Minister, Chris Bowen, would still be the final decision maker.

www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/labor-sets-up-team-to-look-after-foreign-worker-deals-20120529-1zhfm.html

The figures don't lie: far too few workers are prepared to cross the Nullarbor

Why was the Roy Hill project given special government approval to bring around 1700 foreign construction workers to Western Australia's remote Pilbara?

Because Australians won't go there - not in big numbers, no matter how big the mining boom.

The Bureau of Statistics says in the past financial year a net 6163 Australians have crossed the Nullarbor to live in Western Australia. That's a trickle of just 18 Australians per day - slap bang in the middle of the biggest mining boom in a century.

By contrast, a net 30,800 overseas migrants streamed into Western Australia - 84 per day. The new workers servicing Western Australia's mining boom overwhelmingly come from overseas, not because Australians cannot move to Western Australia (there are no legal restrictions on movement between states) but because they won't.

So fast is direct overseas migration to Western Australia swelling that in the most recent quarter for which figures are available the state welcomed almost as many net migrants as NSW, the traditional gateway.

For most projects the existing 457 visas worked well in sourcing skills from overseas. But for a small number of "mega" projects an enterprise agreement struck ahead of time could ensure there was a project at all.

Gina Rinehart's Roy Hill project is the first.

www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/the-figures-dont-lie-far-too-few-workers-are-prepared-to-cross-the-nullarbor-20120527-1zd7c.html

Budget estimates for migration program

The 2012–13 Budget contained an increase in the size of the permanent Migration Program, to 190 000 places. This represents a small increase on the 2011–12 program of 5000 places, or 2.7 per cent.

The 2012–13 Migration Program will help ensure that Australia's future economic growth is not constrained by skill shortages. Some regions and sectors of the economy are experiencing very low levels of unemployment and finding that skilled local labour is increasingly difficult to source.

This year's Budget maintained the size of the Humanitarian Program at 13 750 places. This will provide a new life in Australia for refugees and other people in humanitarian need seeking resettlement, as well as those to whom we have offered protection in line with our international obligations.

Minister Bowen recently announced that the government will also be seeking the views of the Australian community on the feasibility of a pilot program for private or community sponsorship of refugees in 2012–13.

This is something which community groups and refugee organisations have advocated for some time.

We are undertaking a significant reform of Australia's skilled migration program. SkillSelect, which will be introduced on 1 July, marks the beginning of a generational shift in the management of Australia's skilled migration program.

SkillSelect is expected to deliver benefits to Australian employers, state and territory governments, intending migrants and Australia as-a-whole, by selecting the best and brightest to help resolve skill shortages.

The department has also made significant progress in implementing the government response to the Hon Michael Knight AO's strategic review of the student visa program. The reforms have been aimed at all parts of the international education sector with a particular focus on the higher education sector. They will help to enhance the quality, integrity and competitiveness of Australia's international education sector.

From a speech delivered by Martin Bowles PSM, Acting Secretary, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, at a Budget Estimates hearing in Parliament House, Canberra on 21 May 2012.

www.immi.gov.au/about/speeches-pres/_pdf/2012/2012-05-21-opening-statement.pdf

Detained refugees considered a threat begin their case in High Court

The indefinite detention of 51 refugees deemed threats to national security by ASIO is being challenged in the High Court.

The case will test whether ASIO is obliged to tell the refugees why they are considered security threats, enabling them to defend themselves and allowing decisions to be independently reviewed.

This case will be argued against a backdrop of growing concern that those who have received adverse findings are denied procedural fairness - and are increasingly resorting to self-harm in detention.

Lawyers for the refugees will argue that the court is not bound by a precedent set in a landmark 2004 ruling, in which the government's right to hold asylum seekers indefinitely was upheld by a 4-3 majority. They will argue that the case, brought by a stateless Palestinian, did not involve someone found to be a refugee and consequently owed protection under Australia's treaty obligations. They will also assert that the ruling, made in what is known as the al-Kateb case, was wrongly decided and should be overturned.

While the new case will be fought on behalf of a Sri Lankan Tamil male who was on a boat intercepted by the Australian Customs ship Oceanic Viking in 2009, the decision has implications for all of those who have been given negative security assessments.

www.smh.com.au/national/detained-refugees-considered-a-threat-begin-their-case-in-high-court-20120523-1z5su.html

Men waited in hope as asylum bid faltered

Immigration authorities took more than three months to tell a refugee branded a security threat that the US had rejected his bid to join an uncle living in Texas - dashing his hope of escaping legal limbo in Australia.

Britain and the US have refused the government's overtures to resettle three of the 51 recognised refugees held in detention, despite those countries being home to relatives of the men.

The rejection highlights the plight of the 51 mostly Tamil refugees who are unable to return home but who are refused visas for release in Australia and not permitted to appeal against the secret intelligence assessments judging them a threat.

One of the men - a Tamil who fled the Sri Lankan civil war - has been held in detention since June 2010.

He was judged to be a refugee only to be given an adverse security assessment by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

After being told to consider resettlement in another country, the man sought to join an uncle in Texas but was advised by the Immigration Department on May 16 that US authorities would not consider his case.

But the US had told the department of its decision on February 15 - leaving the man with more than three months of false hope.

www.smh.com.au/national/men-waited-in-hope-as-asylum-bid-faltered-20120601-1znjg.html

Refugee Week 2012

Restoring Hope

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society.

In 2012 Refugee Week will be celebrated from **Sunday 17 June to Saturday 23 June** to coincide with World Refugee Day (June 20).

Homestay network important part of asylum seeker support

Australians are getting behind a community program to provide short-term accommodation support for asylum seekers while their refugee status is being determined.

Refugee Council of Australia chief executive officer Paul Power said the Australian Homestay Network (AHN) was mobilising its resources to complement the Federal Government's changes to process asylum seeker claims in the community. He said initial reports suggested the AHN had received applications from all over Australia from people who were willing to offer asylum seekers a room for six weeks.

"Local communities throughout Australia have a strong track record of welcoming new arrivals. We are seeing that now as thousands of hard-working volunteers join NGOs and other organisations to support asylum seekers in the community."

"Allowing asylum seekers to live in the community while their refugee status is being determined is standard operating practice in many countries, including Canada, the United States, New Zealand and much of Europe."

"It makes sense to introduce asylum seekers to the communities where they will most likely restart their lives."

www.refugeecouncil.org.au/n/media/120502-Homestay.pdf

A boost to multicultural policy

The Australian Human Rights Commission has applauded the decision by Prime Minister Julia Gillard to elevate multicultural policy by creating a position of Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Senator Kate Lundy has been appointed to the inaugural position of Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

“The elevation of multicultural affairs reflects the Federal Government’s recognition of the need for an increased focus on the implementation of multicultural policy,” said Race Discrimination Commissioner Dr. Helen Szoke.

“Multiculturalism sets the tone for an inclusive and welcoming community and Senator Kate Lundy’s appointment will ensure the commitment to drive reform and deliver for the Australian people.”

This appointment is a great opportunity to particularly demonstrate the Federal Government’s strong support for *The People of Australia* multicultural policy, said Dr. Szoke.

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2012/14_12.html

Migrants help boost Australia's skills

Migrants have boosted Australia’s workforce skills, with two-thirds of all working age migrants possessing academic or trade qualifications in 2010–11, according to a report released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This is higher than the rate for people born in Australia (66% for migrants, 56% for Australian born).

The proportion of working age migrants who were at least 15 years old when they arrived in Australia and who had already completed a degree has tripled, rising from 15% in the early 1990s to 44% in the last five years. Overall, 59% of people aged 15–64 years in Australia had a qualification compared with 51% in 2001.

When asked about the main impact of their highest qualification on their working life, about one-quarter said it assisted them in joining the workforce for the first time and it assisted them in getting a promotion or pay rise. Of the 11.2 million employed people, around half were working in a field that was relevant to their highest qualification.

More details are in *Learning and Work, Australia, 2010–11* (cat. no. 4235.0).

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mediareleasesbyReleaseDate/5B5A96D74898C557CA2579AA000F25D3?OpenDocument>

Talented students given chance of a better life

They were teenage girls on people smuggler boats out of Indonesian ports who came ashore to a bitter debate over who should be allowed to enter the country. One, Zainab Kaabi, then 17, had been to high school in Iraq. The other, Nahid Karimi, then 13, had been home schooled by her mother in Afghanistan.

A decade later, Ms Kaabi is completing her second degree - pharmacy. Ms Karimi is about to finish final-year medical science.

In between, they spent months at detention centres in Woomera and Port Hedland before settling in Sydney with their parents and siblings and learning English at Holroyd High School.

The principal, Dorothy Hoddinott, watched Ms Kaabi blossom at school but was poleaxed in 2002 when she learned that a social security payment given to people on protection visas stopped at 18 and her star student had to leave before completing her HSC.

"Many refugees on the English program suddenly said they had to stop school and get a job when they turned 18," Ms Hoddinott said. "This was silly. If students had the talent to go to university, especially in light of the traumatic experiences many had getting to Australia, it was just plain silly to deny them."

Firstly, Ms Hoddinott dug into her own pockets. Then she went after her friends' pockets, before establishing the Friends of Zainab Scholarship which not only helped the young refugee complete Year 12 but paid fees and costs associated with a degree in medical sciences.

Since then, 15 other refugee students, including Ms Karimi, have benefited from the scholarships. The Public Education Foundation which administers the scholarship recently announced the program would be expanded to all students with a refugee background in public high schools.

The foundation's chief executive, Verity Firth, urged the public to dig deep.

"Zainab Kaabi and Nahid Karimi are young women who were given a chance to be educated and to live in Australia in peace. Their lives are the better for it, but so is our community who will benefit from the talents of these amazing young women," she said.

www.smh.com.au/national/talented-students-given-chance-of-a-better-life-20110921-1klcf.html

\$1.5 million to recognise Islamic culture and heritage

A new Islamic Museum of Australia in Melbourne will be created from \$1.5 million in Australian Government funding, according to Arts Minister Simon Crean and Multicultural Affairs Minister Senator Kate Lundy.

Speaking at the launch of a new documentary Boundless Plains – the Australian Muslim Connection, Senator Lundy said the Australian Government was proud to support such a significant project that recognised the invaluable contribution of Islamic culture and heritage.

'The Islamic Museum of Australia will help to foster understanding and promote community harmony and social inclusion,' Senator Lundy said.

'It will serve to educate the wider Australian community of the rich and longstanding history that Islam has had in our nation.

'Culture is incredibly important to understanding ourselves better, not just as individuals, but as a nation,' Mr Crean said. 'Australia is uniquely placed. We have one of the oldest living cultures on earth and we continue to attract the greatest diversity of cultures on earth.'

www.minister.immi.gov.au/parlsec/media/kl/2012/kl186419.htm

New cultural centre for the Greek community

Prime Minister Julia Gillard recently announced a \$2 million investment towards an Antipodes Centre for Greek Culture, Heritage and Language in Melbourne.

The new cultural centre will be in the heart of Melbourne's Greek Community as part of a multipurpose building on the corner of Lonsdale and Russell Streets in the CBD. The centre will recognise and

celebrate the immeasurable contribution Australia's Greek community has made to our society and acknowledge the special cultural and historical connections between Greece and Australia.

The state of the art facility will showcase the Greek community's proud history, displaying valuable archives built up over decades and host special exhibitions and performances.

It will also provide support to new and existing Greek migrants through programs run by the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria.

Established in 1897, the Greek Orthodox Community has provided \$6.2 million towards the project including \$1.2 million from donations alone.

Our nation has been enriched by the contribution of generations of Greek families who have settled in Australia, raised their families and built strong communities here.

<http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/new-cultural-centre-greek-community>

Regional settlement of migrants and refugees

Settling migrants and refugees in regional Australia has become a major policy purpose for Australian governments, both Commonwealth and State. Policies to attract migrants and humanitarian settlers to regional areas have been in place since the 1990s and are currently being refined and extended. Regional settlement serves a range of complimentary purposes: relieving pressure on metropolitan 'gateway' cities, especially Sydney and Melbourne, where most migrants and refugees have settled in the post-war decades; and addressing regional problems of population decline and skills shortages. Regional settlement is a major part of the current Australian Labor government's sustainable population strategy championed in the 2010 election when migration and settlement became contentious issues, especially in Western Sydney electorates where large numbers of migrants have settled.

<http://law.anu.edu.au/COAST/events/APSA/papers/186.pdf>

Some great Australians who happened to be refugees

Refugees contribute a lot to our country, both economically and culturally. Not only is accepting them the compassionate thing to do, and the right thing to do. It's the Australian thing to do. We have a great country built on multiculturalism. Why is everyone scared of a few hundred desperate people running for their lives?

Let's stop looking at refugees as numbers. Let's start looking at refugees as real people.

Tan Le

1998 Young Australian of the Year and voted one of Australia's 30 most successful Women Under 30. She was 20 years old. A very successful entrepreneur with Bachelors degrees in Commerce and Law. She arrived from Vietnam as a refugee in 1982.

Les Murray

Australia's Mr Football, number one man when it comes to soccer. Host of The World Game on SBS and inducted into the Football Federation Australia's Hall Of Fame. Hungarian refugee who arrived in Australia and spent time at Bonegilla Migrant Camp.

The Honourable James Spigelman

Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Polish-born refugee.

Majak Daw

Recruited last year to North Melbourne at the age of 18. First Sudanese Australian to be drafted into the AFL. Fled the Sudanese Civil War to Egypt, then finally made it to Australia.

Ahn and Khoa Do

Khoa was 2005's Young Australian of the Year, recognised for his "leadership, compassion, and will to inspire and inform Australians on issues that affect our community". He's an actor and writer. Ahn is an actor and comedian.

The two brothers both arrived in Australia from Vietnam as refugees in 1980. They came, according to Ahn, on a leaking fishing boat eight meters long, packed with 40 Vietnamese on it, "crammed in like sardines".

Gustav Nossal

Born in Bad Ischl, in Austria. Because his father was Jewish, the Nossal family left their home town of Vienna for Australia when he was eight years old. He went on to become a world renowned research biologist and was Australian of the year in 2000.

Judy Cassab

One of Australia's most recognised artists. The only female to have ever won the Archibald twice. Austrian refugee.

Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

Dr Karl was born in Sweden to Polish refugee parents from European concentration camps. The family migrated to Australia when Karl was two and lived for some time in a refugee camp in Bonegilla. Dr Karl is a prominent scientist, medical doctor and television and radio presenter. He is a member of the Order of Australia.

Henri Szeps

Henri was born in Switzerland in a refugee camp during WWII, lived in Paris and came to Australia when he was eight. He has had an enviable career on stage and screen. Henri was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to the arts and the community in 2001.

Huy Truong

One of Australia's leading entrepreneurs. After arriving from Vietnam aged seven with just the clothes on his back, he has built dot-com company Wishlist and launched a fund to invest in small and medium businesses.

www.kochie.com.au/some-great-australians-who-happened-to-be-refugees

Human Rights**The promise of Mabo is yet to be realised**

The native title system remains challenging 20 years after Mabo but there's still cause to be optimistic, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda said recently.

The Commissioner said Mabo's recognition that terra nullius was a myth was a defining moment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“Eddie Mabo’s victory represented so much more than an argument about land rights. As Professor Mick Dodson, the inaugural Social Justice Commissioner observed in 1994, the ‘recognition of native title was more than a recognition of Indigenous property interests, it is also about the recognition of our human rights,’” he said.

“Native title was – and is – a promise to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s traditional connection to, and rights and interests in, their lands, territories and resources.” Mr Gooda said amendments introduced into Parliament in February this year are being considered within the context of Australian government support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration provides that States are to establish and implement ‘a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process ... to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources’.

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2012/31_12.html

Moving towards reconciliation

The historic High Court decision in Mabo No2, on 3 June 1992, was an acknowledgement of native title regarded by many Australians as a first step on the road to reconciliation. Prime Minister Julia Gillard marked the anniversary in parliament by describing the decision as an “act of courage and conviction”, a sentiment echoed across Australia’s party-political and cultural divides.

I am concerned however that we still have a long way to go in turning this legal recognition into reality in Australia. Indigenous Australians currently make up 2 per cent of the population, but 20 per cent of our prison population. This is an unacceptable situation, and as a privileged profession, I feel that we have a responsibility to improving opportunities for Indigenous people.

With this in mind, the Law Society will officially launch its Reconciliation Action Plan in the coming weeks. Through this program we will make a strong commitment to building respect and relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians, and to the promotion of Indigenous representation in the legal profession. I hope that in the spirit of Mabo many of you will get involved in this important initiative.

Information on the Reconciliation Action Plan related activities is now available online to view via the Law Society website.

Justin Dowd, President 2012, Law Society of NSW
Monday Briefs, The Law Society of New South Wales, 4 June 2012, Issue 379

Speeches

“Skilled Migration Benefits and Reforms”

Address to the National Press Club, Canberra by Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on Friday, 25 May 2012

www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-25/national-press-club-chris-bowen/4033724

“Opening Statement to Legal and Constitutional Committee”

Speech delivered by Martin Bowles, Acting Secretary, Department of Immigration and Citizenship at the Budget Estimates hearing, Parliament House, Canberra on 21 May 2012

www.immi.gov.au/about/speeches-pres/pdf/2012/2012-05-21-opening-statement.pdf

Resources

The People of Australia: Australia's Multicultural Policy

Published by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs

www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/multicultural/pdf_doc/people-of-australia-multicultural-policy-booklet.pdf

A.P.B. Education Specialist IELTS Test Training and Coaching

Passing an IELTS test is now an essential requirement for all applicants for General Skills Migration, student visas, and for many employer sponsored applicants. Adrian Bitel provides individual lessons to assist applicants achieve proficiency to the required levels in:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening

He gives comprehensive ONE to ONE Personalised Coaching in any or all of the above areas.

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