

The September issue reports on the High Court challenge to ASIO regarding refugees' adverse security assessments, and the measures taken by the Government to remedy the situation. Multiculturalism is also examined in depth.

### **Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) High Court ruling**

The Australian Human Rights Commission recently welcomed the High Court's decision to invalidate the regulation that requires the refusal of a protection visa to a refugee assessed by ASIO to be a 'risk to security'.

Commission President Professor Gillian Triggs said that "there should be an immediate reconsideration of whether a protection visa should be granted to the more than 50 recognised refugees who have received an adverse security assessment.

The Commission recognises that Australia has a sovereign right to take measures to protect national security, including conducting security assessments of people seeking a visa to remain in Australia and welcomes "the government's indication that such a review mechanism will be established and urge them to do so as soon as possible."

[http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media\\_releases/2012/87\\_12.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2012/87_12.html)

### **M47 High Court decision**

The Government notes the decision of the High Court of Australia handed down in the *M47 v the Director-General of Security & Ors* matter.

This case involved a challenge to ASIO in respect of a person who has been assessed to be a refugee, but has not been granted a permanent visa as a result of an ASIO adverse security assessment (ASA), the lawfulness of his ongoing immigration detention and the lawfulness of any future removal to a safe third country.

The Government takes both national security and its international obligations to refugees seriously.

The judgment confirms that ASIO's assessment process was procedurally fair but found a related regulation under the Migration Act to be invalid, requiring the plaintiff's application for a protection visa to be reconsidered. The Court confirmed that the plaintiff's detention remains lawful while that process is undertaken.

The Government has previously indicated that it would implement a review process for refugees who remain in immigration detention because of an ASA. It is carefully reviewing the reasoning of the High Court to determine the implications of the decision including for the implementation of that review process.

ASIO only issues ASAs in a small number of cases. They make up less than one per cent of all Irregular Maritime Arrival visa security assessments undertaken since January 2010.

<http://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/Media-releases/Pages/2012/Fourth>

*In this  
issue:*

#### **Immigration**

[ASIO  
High Court  
ruling](#)

[M47 High  
Court  
decision](#)

[Asylum  
seeker  
security  
review](#)

[Regional  
processing  
- Papua  
New  
Guinea](#)

[Regional  
processing  
- Nauru](#)

[Regional  
support  
office](#)

[%20Quarter/5October2012-M47Highcourtdecision.aspx](#)

## **Federal Attorney General outlines asylum seeker security review**

In response to the *M47* High Court decision, the Government will announce plans for an independent review system for asylum seekers given negative security assessments by ASIO. The plans were discussed in a recent interview on the ABC's 7.30 Report with Federal Attorney General Nicola Roxon. ABC presenter Leigh Sales said that the Government is still wrestling with its response to the High Court ruling, but noted that a former Federal Court judge will re-examine cases where ASIO has found would-be refugees pose a threat to security.

Asked what would happen if the independent reviewer made a different finding to ASIO, the Attorney-General said: "The purpose of introducing an independent review is so that they can look at the merits and the process and the material that ASIO has relied on. If they were to find that that decision wasn't meritorious or wasn't reached on the right basis, that recommendation would go not just back to the Director General of ASIO, but also to the Attorney-General and the Minister for Immigration. So then that will mean that there will be an obligation for ASIO to take account of that to completely refresh their decision or of course to remove the adverse security assessment. It would be very difficult for any Director General not to comply with a finding from this independent reviewer and that's why we're establishing an accountability process and a transparency process and I think it'll be good for ASIO and good for the community that that extra level of accountability is in place.

"The recent High Court decision actually gave the ASIO process a tick. But we believe, given the very serious consequences of holding people in detention, often for a long period of time, that an extra level of independent assessment should be put on top of those decisions by ASIO, and that independent reviewer - Margaret Stone, a former Federal Court judge is going to be the independent reviewer appointed by the Government. If she recommends that the decision is flawed in some way, then of course that will mean that a decision is remade and in some instances it might mean that people are able to be released."

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2012/s3611188.htm>

## **Papua New Guinea designated for regional processing**

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, recently signed the legislative instrument designating Papua New Guinea (PNG) as a regional processing country under the Migration Act.

These documents outline the terms of agreement with the PNG Government. The agreement is a significant step towards establishing a regional processing centre on Manus Island, as recommended by the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers.

The Minister has determined that it is in the national interest to begin transferring people to PNG as set out in the Statement of Reasons, including:

- PNG has given Australia the assurances around the principle of non-refoulement and the assessment of asylum claims in line with the Refugee Convention
- Designating PNG as a regional processing country will discourage irregular and dangerous maritime voyages and thereby reduce the risk of the loss of life at sea
- The designation promotes the maintenance of a fair and orderly refugee and humanitarian program that retains the confidence of the Australian people

[New Australian visa services in China](#)

[Offshore processing in Nauru](#)

[Work and holiday visa talks with Greece](#)

[EMAs to continue](#)

[Conditions for significant investor visa](#)

[First Iraqis transferred to Nauru](#)

[Extended tourist visas for parents of Australians](#)

[Migration settlement services](#)

- Designating PNG as a regional processing country promotes regional cooperation on irregular migration and people smuggling and its undesirable consequences
- Arrangements already in place in PNG and those that are proposed to be put in place are satisfactory.

'The government is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers,' Mr Bowen said.

Further announcements about processing arrangements in PNG will be made in due course.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/cb/2012/cb190599.htm>

### **Nauru designated for regional processing**

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, recently signed the legislative instrument designating the Republic of Nauru as a regional processing country under the Migration Act.

'The designation will allow for the transfer of irregular maritime arrivals who arrived after 13 August to Nauru,' Mr Bowen said. 'These documents outline the terms of agreement with the Nauruan Government and the fact I have now designated Nauru as a regional processing country.'

The Minister has determined that it is in the national interest to begin transferring people to Nauru as set out in the Statement of Reasons, including:

- Nauru has given Australia the assurances around the principle of non-refoulement and the assessment of asylum claims in line with the Refugee Convention.
- Designating Nauru as a regional processing country will discourage irregular and dangerous maritime voyages and thereby reduce the risk of the loss of life at sea.
- The designation promotes the maintenance of a fair and orderly Refugee and Humanitarian Program that retains the confidence of the Australian people.
- Designating Nauru as a regional processing country promotes regional cooperation on irregular migration and people smuggling and its undesirable consequences; and
- Arrangements already in place in Nauru and those that are proposed to be put in place in Nauru are satisfactory.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Nauruan Government was signed on 29 August.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/cb/2012/cb189739.htm>

### **Australia welcomes establishment of regional support office**

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, has welcomed the official launch of the Regional Support Office in Bangkok, Thailand, as a key step in the implementation of the Bali Process Regional Cooperation Framework and the region's efforts to tackle people smuggling.

[New legal sanctions against employers](#)

[Asylum seekers sent home](#)

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### **Multicultural**

[Gillard, Lowy defend multiculturalism](#)

[Lowy hails multiculturalism](#)

[Spelling out immigrant responsibilities](#)

[Multi-culturalism must unite, not divide](#)

[Burmese refugees find hope in west](#)

'The Australian Government recognises that we need a truly regional approach to irregular migration, and the establishment of the Regional Support Office (RSO) is an important practical measure in strengthening cooperation to address this complex issue,' Mr Bowen said.

'The government has committed \$5.2 million over four years to fund the set-up and ongoing operation of the RSO, as well as \$2.7 million in funding for projects to be run through the office.'

The RSO will involve the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration, as well as Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and other members of the Bali Process.

'The Expert Panel's report stated that a suite of measures is needed to address this issue and the government continues to work to implement its recommendations,' Mr Bowen said.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/cb/2012/cb189743.htm>

### **Changes to Australian visa service delivery in China**

New Australian Visa Application Centres (AVACs) in Beijing and Shanghai will improve service delivery for Chinese visitors, skilled migrants and business representatives travelling to Australia.

As part of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's (DIAC) commitment to client service "AVACs will be located in Beijing and Shanghai to provide more convenient access to immigration and citizenship services for clients in these regions," a departmental spokesman said.

"The introduction of the AVACs is part of a number of service delivery improvements across the region."

In addition to the AVACs becoming operational in early September 2012, considerations are under way for possible AVACs to be opened in Guangzhou and Chengdu in 2013.

The AVACs will provide a range of services including extended operating hours with phone lines operating until 5pm weekdays and internet kiosks with an online application tracking facility that enables clients to view the status of their applications.

Optional services provided by the AVAC for an additional service fee include courier services, photocopying, passport photos, SMS notification, translation services, and a premium business lounge providing access to dedicated staff, photocopy and fax facilities, and refreshments.

"All applications will continue to be assessed and decided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship," the spokesman said.

"Staff at the AVAC will have no involvement in the decision-making process or have any knowledge of the application outcome."

A service fee of 175 RMB will be charged by the AVAC for each application, in addition to the standard visa application charge (and any applicable associated charges) required by DIAC. The AVAC service fee is in line with the current average service delivery partner fee applied globally for the department's clients.

<http://www.newsroom.immi.gov.au/releases/changes-to-australian-visa-service-delivery-in-china-2>

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**Foreign  
Affairs**

[Australia  
and US to  
increase  
trade data  
sharing](#)

[Australia's  
trade  
expands](#)

[New Social  
Security  
Agreement  
with  
Hungary](#)

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**APB  
Education**

## **Offshore processing arrangements**

The Australian Human Rights Commission has serious concerns that the human rights of asylum seekers sent to Nauru will not be adequately protected.

Following the arrival in Nauru plane loads of asylum seekers to be processed there under the Government's new offshore processing arrangements, Commission President Professor Gillian Triggs said it was still unclear how the new arrangements would work in practice.

"There is no information as to how prepared Nauru is to process the claims and it is unclear whether those transferred to Nauru will have access to legal advice. And of course, the question still remains as to whether or not Nauru is able to provide effective protection to asylum seekers transferred there."

She said the Commission was particularly concerned by the views expressed by the Minister for Immigration in designating Nauru as a country for the processing of asylum seekers' claims.

"This is of grave concern to the Australian Human Rights Commission in light of our mandate to monitor Australia's compliance with its human rights obligations."

[http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media\\_releases/2012/78\\_12.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2012/78_12.html)

## **Work and holiday visa talks with Greece**

The Australian Government recently began negotiations with Greece about establishing a reciprocal work and holiday visa arrangement.

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, said Australia and Greece shared a strong and rich relationship based on firm community ties.

The arrangement would allow young Greeks and Australians aged 18 to 30 years old to enjoy an extended holiday in the guest country.

Participants would be able to stay for up to 12 months and engage in short term work and study during that time. The program would have an annual cap on visa numbers.

Mr. Bowen said "This is a significant step, and I would like to thank the Members of Parliament, community leaders and Greek Orthodox community organisations across the country who have spoken to me about such an arrangement."

Argentina was the latest country to enter a reciprocal work and holiday visa arrangement with Australia, joining a number of other countries, including Bangladesh, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Turkey and the United States.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/cb/2012/cb189213.htm>

## **EMAs to continue despite slowdown**

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen says the government will continue to issue enterprise migration agreements to mining companies to employ foreign workers, despite a slowdown in the resources sector.

Mr Bowen said the agreements were "very carefully calibrated" to ensure Australians were the first to be considered for jobs, even in times of slow growth.

“A lot of safeguards and protections to ensure that have been built into the EMA guidelines and the 457 program generally reflects economic activity very closely; you find as unemployment is falling, the number of 457 applications fall,” Mr Bowen said.

The federal government’s jobs board, established after a union outcry over EMAs, now advertises about 1400 vacant jobs in the sector, up from 100 in July.

Resources Minister Martin Ferguson said if jobs could not be filled, employers had to look for workers offshore. “You can’t say we can’t have EMAs if Australians aren’t prepared to chase the available jobs” he said.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/emas-to-continue-despite-slowdown/story-fn59niix-1226476474945?sv=6c2887347e868607d79f8fe3157d4422#.UGmDR5Si74A.email>

### **Key conditions released for significant investor visa**

The full conditions for a new visa designed to encourage significant migrant investment into Australia have been released by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP.

The significant investor visa, first announced in May, is being introduced as a key component of the Government’s business innovation and investment program, and requires visa holders to invest at least AUD 5 million.

The visa will commence from 24 November 2012, when applicants can submit an expression of interest through SkillSelect.

“The business innovation and investment program is positioned to target migrants with a demonstrated history of success in business and investment, to make a powerful contribution to national innovation and the Australian economy,” Mr Bowen said.

Australia is offering a significant investor visa to provide a boost to the local economy and to compete effectively for high net worth individuals seeking investment immigration on an international scale.

“The AUD 5 million minimum is considered to be sufficient for a meaningful investment contribution, justifying eligibility for visa concessions such as not having to meet the points test, no upper age limit and access to reduced residence requirements,” Mr Bowen said.

Mr Bowen said visa holders would have the flexibility to extend their initial four year visa by additional two year periods. They would also be able to satisfy the residence requirement of 160 days in Australia at any time throughout their four year visa.

Additional information is available on the DIAC website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/whats-new.htm>

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/cb/2012/cb189539.htm>

### **First Iraqis transferred to Nauru**

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has announced the successful transfer of the third group of irregular maritime arrivals to Nauru, where they will be processed.

A group of 24 Sri Lankan single adult men and six Iraqi single adult men – the first of that nationality to be transferred – departed Christmas Island on a charter aircraft, escorted by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), DIAC staff, interpreters and medical staff. The group arrived in Nauru at 4.53am EST on September 21.

The completion of this transfer reaffirms the strong message of deterrence for anyone considering risking their lives on dangerous people smuggling boats. There will be no advantage for boat arrivals.



On arrival in Nauru, transferees were subject to relevant immigration, customs and quarantine clearance processes.

Selection of this group was based on operational considerations and an assessment of their particular circumstances to confirm transfer was appropriate.

<http://www.newsroom.immi.gov.au/releases/first-iraqis-transferred-to-nauru>

### **Government extends tourist visas for parents of Australians**

The Government will extend tourist visas for parents of Australian citizens and permanent residents to enable them to visit their family in Australia for longer, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, announced.

“I know that many people are patiently waiting in the queue for a parent visa so we want to provide more generous tourist visas to enable regular extended family visits.”

“The Government will grant five-year tourist visas with a 12-month stay on each entry to suitable applicants who have applied for a parent visa outside Australia.”

“These changes recognise the valuable role parents play in assisting their children and grandchildren in Australia and the social benefits such visits provide” Mr. Bowen said.

The changes are expected to be in place by the end of this year.

<http://www.chrisbowen.net/media-centre/media-releases.do?newsId=6266>

### **Strengthening Australia through migration**

“Australia's settlement services are the backbone of our migration program and designed to support new migrants and refugees settle in the community,” the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy, said at the launch of a new settlement publication in Canberra.

“I am delighted to launch The Settlement Journey: Strengthening Australia through migration, which outlines the government's settlement policy and suite of services available to help new migrants build a new life in Australia.”

“The Australian Government's settlement policy is calibrated to capitalise on the economic, social, and humanitarian benefits of migration so that new migrants can flourish and Australia can prosper.”

“Australia's settlement policy is an important element of the government's vision of a socially inclusive society in which all Australians are valued and have the opportunity to participate fully.”

“Migrants and refugees contribute to Australia's prosperity and success through their ingenuity, drive and determination and our settlement services are an investment in Australia's future,” Senator Lundy said.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/parlsec/media/kl/2012/kl189431.htm>

### **New legal sanctions against noncompliant employers**

The government is continuing to crack down on employers who hire illegal workers with new legislation introduced into the Parliament setting out a range of broad criminal and civil penalties. The Migration Amendment (Reform of Employer Sanctions) Bill 2012 implements further recommendations from Stephen Howell's 2012 system review and sets out penalties for employers in breach of legislation, including infringement notices and search warrants.

“This legislation strikes a balance between targeting those employers who flout the rules, while taking care not to overstretch the resources of the vast majority of employers who seek to do the right thing,” Mr Bowen said.

“It enables strong action if initial approaches involving education and targeted warnings fail to convince deliberately uncooperative employers that they are not above the law.”

“For those employers who do verify the work entitlements of non-citizens, there are statutory defences in the Bill to protect them.”

The legislation's key amendments include:

- amending the criminal offences and creating new non-fault civil penalty provisions and an infringement notice scheme for people who allow or refer an unlawful non-citizen to work, or allow or refer a lawful non-citizen to work in breach of a work-related visa condition
- creating statutory defences where reasonable steps are taken at reasonable times to verify a foreign national worker's entitlement to work
- broadening the application of criminal offences and civil penalty provisions to hold a person liable for participating in an arrangement, or series of arrangements, that results in a foreign national working without lawful entitlement
- extending both criminal and civil liability, in certain circumstances, to executive officers of bodies corporate, partners in a partnership and members of an unincorporated association's committee of management
- creating search warrant and notice to produce powers specifically to facilitate the investigation of suspected breaches of these offences and civil penalties.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/cb/2012/cb189943.htm>

### **Asylum seekers sent home from Christmas Island**

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen says the first return of asylum seekers back to their home country after refusing to be transferred to Nauru is an important step in deterring people smuggling.

A group of 18 Sri Lankan men left Christmas Island for Colombo after asking to be sent home rather than going to the Pacific Island for the processing of their asylum seeker claims.

“It is a sign of people weighing up their options and they have been misled by people smugglers,” he said.

Announcing the return of the men, Mr Bowen also said people arriving by boat in future would be barred from sponsoring family under changes to be made to the special humanitarian program.

Mr Bowen said 16 of the 18 men arrived in Australia after August 13, when the government announced its new border protection policies.

Mr Bowen said the “no special concessions” provisions under the humanitarian program, as recommended by the Houston independent panel, would ensure family reunions occurred only through the normal channels.

While shutting down the provision, Mr Bowen said an extra 4000 people would be accepted under the family reunion program.

“What this transfer does, and together with the transfer to Nauru over the last week, is show that if you come to Australia by boat, you risk your life and you throw your money away,” he said.



<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/asylum-seekers-sent-home-from-christmas-is-20120922-26dcd.html>

## Multicultural

### Gillard, Lowy defend multiculturalism

The Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and one of Australia's greatest refugee success stories, Frank Lowy, joined forces to defend multiculturalism against criticisms.

Introducing Mr Lowy, Ms Gillard said "what we saw in Sydney on the weekend wasn't multiculturalism but extremism".

She said multiculturalism was more than maintaining individual diverse backgrounds and cultures. "It is the meeting place of rights and responsibilities. Where the right to maintain one's customs, language and religion is balanced by an equal responsibility to learn English, find work, respect our culture and heritage, and accept women as full equals.

"Where there is non-negotiable respect for our foundational values of democracy and the rule of law, and any differences we hold are expressed peacefully."

She and Mr Lowy both stressed that with diversity came collective responsibility.

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/gillard-lowy-defend-multiculturalism-20120919-2671o.html>

### Lowy hails multiculturalism in wake of protests

Billionaire businessman Frank Lowy says multiculturalism in Australia is strong and mature, despite the violent Islamic protests which erupted in Sydney recently.

The Westfield co-founder, who was born in Czechoslovakia and came to Australia in 1952, delivered a lecture to the Australian Multicultural Council in Canberra.

He commended Muslim leaders for their response to the heated demonstrations in Sydney, and said it shows Australia's multicultural society is both strong and mature.

"Australian multiculturalism is bigger and stronger than what happened at the weekend," he said.

"Our political leaders were united in their condemnation of the violence ... They made it clear that while Australia was a tolerant society there would be zero tolerance towards that kind of behaviour."

"Far from being an assault on multiculturalism, last weekend can be a sign of the strength and maturity of our multicultural society."

He warned against looking at multiculturalism through rose-coloured glasses, and said migrants should follow Australian values.

"You are welcome; you are free to worship; you are free to honour your heritage; and, we will respect the differences between us,"

"And in return, you should agree to live by the standards and values of this society, the one you have chosen to be a part of."

"Remarkable things can happen in a remarkable country and I remain ever grateful to Australia but I think we can still develop a more muscular approach to our civic life in a distinctly Australian way."

"Citizenship should involve learning about Australian systems, laws and institutions," he said.

[http://abundanthope.net/pages/Political\\_Information\\_43/Lowy-hails-multiculturalism-in-wake-of-protests.shtml](http://abundanthope.net/pages/Political_Information_43/Lowy-hails-multiculturalism-in-wake-of-protests.shtml)

### **Time to spell out immigrant responsibilities**

Australia likes to think of itself as exceptional: we are different to the rest of the world; we do things better; the problems of the rest of the world do not apply here.

The events of last weekend shook those beliefs. It was a wake-up call to Australia's complacency about its virtues, its tolerance, its peacefulness. It was a reminder that if Australia is truly exceptional that achievement is fragile and precious and not to be taken for granted.

The problems often arise where Australian values and cultural traditions collide.

Australia's official policy of multiculturalism has always been vague.

Australia's political leaders need to be firmer in articulating exactly what are Australian values, and be unafraid to spell out what they are not. Certain cultures do not believe in the equality of women, for example.

Our leaders should start to define these national characteristics. Here are a few to start:

**The English language:** Australia cannot be a socially cohesive society unless the vast majority of its citizens share a common language. In return, the nation should make greater efforts to help immigrants attain language proficiency.

**Western liberal democracy:** This means accepting the authority of parliaments, courts and the executive, and tolerating practices with which you might deeply disagree.

**A secular society:** Australia is a society where religion is essentially a matter of private practice, not government policy.

Australia needs more than just a kumbaya multicultural policy. It needs a tagline: **bring the best of your culture - leave the worst behind.**

From Editorial, *National Times*, September 22, 2012

<http://www.nationaltimes.com.au/opinion/editorial/time-to-spell-out-immigrant-responsibilities-20120921-26c21.html>

### **Multiculturalism must unite us, not divide us**

Because Australia was built on immigration from every continent, multiculturalism is embedded in our national identity.

The riots and violent hatreds expressed by the Islamic fringe underline the need for a reconfiguration of multiculturalism to foster the values of democracy, free speech and tolerance that should unite all Australians, regardless of their cultural or religious backgrounds. For too long, multiculturalism has emphasised the need to respect the differences between diverse cultures, with too little attention paid to integration and patriotism.

The Vietnamese-born ethnic affairs adviser to the NSW Coalition government, Dai Le, sounded a salient warning yesterday when she said that religious and ethnic tensions had the potential to "explode" Australia's multicultural fabric. On the other hand, the leadership of a wide range of Muslim leaders in condemning the riots was a positive and hopeful sign that, given time, the vast majority of Islamic Australians will be happy to integrate with the wider community.

As David Pryce-Jones describes in "Inquirer", the battle for the Islamic soul ... its high stakes and fallout must not be allowed to damage the fabric of this nation by turning different groups of Australians against others.

As in the US, where most newcomers are eager to profess their loyalty to the nation, its institutions and the flag ahead of cultural or religious adherences, Australia needs a more muscular patriotism and civic culture. To that end, the recent riots are a serious wake-up call.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/editorials/multiculturalism-must-unite-us-not-divide-us/story-e6frg71x-1226479146740>

### **Burmese refugees find new hope and work in the west**

More than a dozen Burmese refugees who failed to find steady work in Sydney have done what many other long-term unemployed refuse to do: go west.

After three years of unsuccessfully looking for steady work in Sydney, refugee Gay Htoo Paw from the Burmese Karen community travelled to Western Australia in search of work, first to Perth and then to Albany, where he landed a job at an abattoir owned by Fletcher International Exports.

Before moving to Australia, Mr Paw and his family spent 10 years in a refugee camp on the border of Thailand and Burma, struggling to find enough food to feed his family.

So when the Herald asked Mr Paw if the decision to move his family of six 3290 kilometres west in search of work, he shrugged it off saying "It was nothing".

Since Mr Paw made the move, another five Karen families have followed his lead, with more than a dozen young Karen men and women finding work at the abattoir.

Mr Paw and other members of the community paid for the move themselves.

In contrast, only 559 unemployed people out of a possible 4000 have taken advantage of the federal government's \$29 million pilot scheme, Connecting People with Jobs. It provides a subsidy of as much as \$9000 to help workers from areas of high unemployment to move to mining and agricultural areas which desperately need workers.

"Because most of the Karen are farmers, they were highly motivated to move from Sydney to towns where they could grow their traditional vegetables," said Gary Cachia, a community development officer.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/burmese-refugees-find-new-hope-and-work-in-the-west-20120726-22uur.html>

## **Foreign Affairs**

### **Australia and the United States to increase trade data sharing**

Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Justice Jason Clare today welcomed the signing of an agreement between the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to increase trade data sharing.

This agreement will give Customs and Border Protection access to the United States' Data Analysis and Research for Trade Transparency System (DARTTS).

DARTTS is a computer system that contains domestic and foreign trade data. It will allow Customs and Border Protection to identify international trade and financial irregularities and lead to the detection of trade-based money laundering, customs fraud and the movement of counterfeit goods.

"We are committed to working with the US to fight transnational organised crime," Mr Clare said.

<http://www.ministerhomeaffairs.gov.au/mediareleases/pages/2012/third%20quarter/20-september-australia-and-the-united-states-to-increase-trade-data-sharing.aspx>

## **Australia's trade expands in face of global turbulence**

Australia's trade grew strongly in 2011 despite continued global turbulence, according to publications released by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Three new geographic trade statistical publications showed that in 2011:

- trade with East Asia grew to \$336.3 billion, up 11 per cent on 2010 ([http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/stats-pubs/trade\\_eastasia.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/stats-pubs/trade_eastasia.html));
- trade with Europe grew to \$93.1 billion, up 6 per cent on 2010 ([http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/stats-pubs/trade\\_eu.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/stats-pubs/trade_eu.html)), and
- trade with the Americas grew to \$70 billion, up 10 per cent on 2010 ([http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/stats-pubs/trade\\_americas.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/stats-pubs/trade_americas.html)).

Not only did commodity exports continue to surge, but exports of high-end manufactured goods also grew strongly. This came despite the high Australian dollar, demonstrating the innovation and enterprise of Australian industry.

Combined, East Asia, Europe and the Americas accounted for 82 per cent of Australia's international trade, valued at almost \$500 billion in 2011. East Asia alone accounted for over 55 per cent of total trade, up 10 percentage points from 45 per cent in 2001.

These publications are part of a series of trade publications published each year by DFAT - <http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/statistics.html>.

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/media/releases/department/2012/dfat-release-20120828.html>

## **New Social Security Agreement with Hungary**

A new social security agreement between Australia and Hungary has come into force making retirement a little easier for around 5000 Australian and Hungarian residents.

From today, people who have spent part of their adult lives in both Australia and Hungary will now have access to pensions from both countries.

Australians currently living in Hungary will have access to the Australian Age Pension, while Australian residents who previously lived in Hungary will have access to Hungarian old age and survivors' pensions.

The agreement gives people more freedom to move between Australia and Hungary, in the knowledge that their pension entitlements will be recognised and protected.

The agreement will also remove the requirement for compulsory contributions to be paid into both countries' superannuation and pension systems for temporarily seconded workers.

We have also signed an agreement with Latvia, which is expected to begin on 1 January 2013.

<http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/node/2113>

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

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