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Department of Immigration and Border Protection

Processing of applications from the Philippines

The Office of the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection has provided the MIA National President with the following information on special processing arrangements for applications from the Philippines:

The Government is very mindful of the tragedy unfolding in the Philippines and the department is working collaboratively with all agencies at Post to provide urgent visa services as may be required by an Philippine nationals with a clear and demonstrated need to enter Australia.

Special arrangements have been put in place to ensure applications from affected areas are quickly identified and the need for priority processing is assessed. Any Philippine citizen currently in Australia whose visa is due to expire should contact the department for information on applying to extend their stay. This is in keeping with longstanding practise.

Applications from those affected by Typhoon Haiyan will be considered on compassionate grounds. The measures taken to respond to the situation in the Philippines do not include the creation of additional or new visa subclasses.

Department Liaison Officer DIBP

Significant investor visa programme

New investment options have been added for significant investor visa applicants who wish to invest through eligible managed funds, Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash said.

The additional options for investment come as the government works towards rebooting the significant investor programme, to ensure it produces the best possible outcomes for the nation.

New investment options include annuities issued by an Australian registered life insurance company, derivatives used for portfolio management and non-speculative purposes, loans secured by mortgages over other permitted eligible investments, and bonds, equity and other corporate debt in companies and trusts.

“The government believes that people who create business, people who risk their capital, people who risk their capital, people who go out every day and create jobs from their own efforts and from their own enterprise are vital to our national interest.

“This visa plays an important role in enticing international investment to Australia. The government is committed to helping increase the attractiveness of Australia as a place of investment to potential applicants.” The significant investor visa was introduced to facilitate migration of investment migrants who are willing to invest a minimum of \$5 million in a complying investment in Australia over at least a four year period.

The government has approved 65 significant investor visa applications since the program began on 24 November 2012, resulting in more than \$325 million in complying investments.

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/mc/2013/2013/mc209891.htm>

Customs corruption taskforce

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has announced the creation of a new taskforce to stamp out corruption in the Customs and Border Protection Service.

Since August last year, eight customs officers have been arrested on criminal charges. Mr Morrison says the few who pose “significant risk” to the service as a result of their on-duty or off-duty behaviour. A team of vetted investigators drawn from across the service will be appointed to the taskforce.

“The ones we’re after here are the few, not the many,” he said. “The many do a great job for our country in protecting our borders, and, by definitions, then protecting the Australian who live behind those borders.” The taskforce will identify officers or groups who pose a risk to the service, as well as their outside criminal associations. He says the issue of transnational crime has been a topic during recent discussions with Indonesia and Malaysia. Customs reforms were passed in the last term of government, with the support of both Labor and the Coalition.

Measures already in place include drug and alcohol testing, integrity testing, and mandatory reporting of misconduct.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-11-27/scott-morrison-announces-customs-corruption-taskforce/5119756>

Asylum-seeker series wins International Emmy

The controversial Special Broadcasting Service series *Go Back To Where You Came From No 2* has won a prestigious International Emmy award. The TV series took out the gong in the non-scripted entertainment category at a ceremony in New York. It was Australia's only nomination at the awards and beat competition from South Africa, Israel and Columbia.

The awards are presented by the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and touted as one of the most esteemed media prizes in the world. The three-part series, produced by Cordell Jigsaw Zaprunder (CJZ) and aired on SBS in 2012, followed six prominent and outspoken Australians as they experienced the life of a refugee.

"It's great to see an original Australian show resonate so strongly around the world," CJZ executive producer Michael Cordell said in a recent statement. "We're incredibly proud of this series. To be nominated was wonderful but to win is sublime." *Go Back's* first series won two Rose d'Ors at the festival in 2012, one of the world's most coveted television awards.

www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2013/11/26/go-back-series-wins-prestigious-award

Temporary Protection Visas blocked in the Senate

The Labor Party has voted with the Greens Party to block the Government's bid to bring back Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs).

The visas give protection to those found to be refugees for up to three years, after which time their status is reviewed.

They were abolished by the Labor Government but the Coalition had hoped to reintroduce them to prevent asylum seekers already in Australia from getting permanent protection.

The motion to disallow the visas was passed in the Senate with the final vote count at 36 to 26.

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young successfully moved the disallowance motion and described the visas as cruel.

"All they did was punish the most vulnerable, the most genuine, the most deserving refugees simply for having dared seek protection for their families," she said.

"this is a win for decency and a win for fairness."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-12-02/labor-votes-with-greens-to-block-temporary-protection-visa/5130188>

Refugees lose ongoing protection

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison is defending his decision to prevent any more asylum seekers from obtaining ongoing protection in Australia.

The Labor Party and the Greens Party recently scuttled the Government's move to reintroduce Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs).

But the Government has found a way around it, with Mr Morrison using his ministerial powers to effectively freeze the issuing of Permanent Protection Visas until the next financial year.

He has limited the number to 1,650 – the amount already issued from July 1.

“That means that no further protection visas can be provided to onshore applications this financial year, which takes us obviously through to June 30. This is a non-disallowable instrument,” Mr Morrison said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-12-04/refugees-lose-ongoing-protection-through-visa-cap/5133466>

Warning for overseas students

The NSW government has joined NSW Police and every university in the state to issue a warning about the activities of an organisation claiming to represent international students which has been removed from several campuses after asking for personal information, including passport and visa numbers, for “safety cards” that are not recognised by the police.

The Overseas Student Association also claims on its website that its card entitles holders to a range of discounts across the state, including at the Art Gallery of NSW and the Powerhouse Museum. The gallery, museum and other cultural institutions have joined the government in issuing the extraordinary warning, saying they have expressly refused by the OSA for the discounts.

Police have been called to remove representatives of the OSA from the University of UNSW and University of Newcastle in the past after concerns were raised about them asking international student for personal information.

The group is believed to be motivated by a desire for political influence on campuses.

The OSA is the campus wing of the National Liaison Committee, an organisation that once represented international students at the National Union of Students but which was disaffiliated in 2009. The NLC is headed by a businessman, Master Shang.

“The OSA is purporting to represent international students in NSW, however, it is not supported or recognised by the NSW Government, education providers, industry peak bodies or international student organisations. This warning offers sound advice to international students regarding the OSA and confirms that the Council of International Students Australia (CISA) is recognised as the representative body of international students in NSW”.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/premier-and-unis-issue-warning-over-overseas-students-group-20131107-2x4i4.html>

Student visas to grow Australian education

Minister of Education, Christopher Pyne has announced a package of measures that would simplify student visas through a streamlined assessment-level framework (ALF) and by extending streamlined visa processing arrangements to low-risk non-university degree providers.

“The changes will assist all providers, but particularly the vocational education and training sector, making access to Australia’s education system more attractive for overseas students. Assessment levels under the ALF would be reduced from five levels to three”.

“This would mean students from a number of key markets would be able to apply for a student visa with up to \$AUD40 000 less in the bank”.

Streamlining of the visa application process would benefit up to 22 low-risk non-university providers for students enrolled in Bachelor, Masters or Doctoral degree courses or an eligible exchange programme.

The measures would attract more overseas student to Australia, benefit our education system, create Australian jobs and stimulate our economy.

“The non-university sector is an important contributor to our overall education exports”, My Pyne said subject to the relevant legislative change, the Government would implement both elements of the package in early 2014.

<http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/new-streamlined-student-visas-grow-australian-education.htm>

Sri Lanka given two patrol boats

Australia has given Sri Lanka two patrol boats to intercept asylum seekers in Sri Lankan waters.

Asylum seekers caught by the Australian-built boats in Sri Lankan or international waters will be immediately returned to Sri Lanka. The gift is understood to be part of a memorandum of understanding designed to curb the flow of asylum seeker boats from Sri Lanka. The issue of apparently systemic naval complicity in people smuggling has not deterred Australian co-operation with the Sri Lankan armed forces.

The 38-metre ships, which have a complement of 12 sailors, have been a mainstay of Australian maritime surveillance since the late 1990s but are being phased out by Australian Customs and Border Protection. Mr Abbott said Sri Lanka provided strong support against people smuggling operations, and Australian agencies worked closely with their Sri Lankan counterparts.

“Co-operation with Sri Lankan authorities to counter people smuggling and disruption operations has been well co-ordinated and highly effective, with at least 12 on-water interceptions by the Sri Lankan navy in 2013”.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/sri-lanka-given-two-patrol-boats-20131116-2xnqf.html>

Sri Lankan navy officer's role in smuggling ring

In police custody, Commander Annatugoda denied this week the people-smuggling charges against him and said he had been framed. However, he said others in the navy were guilty of people smuggling. In an interview in police cells in Thiyagoda, he said: “I am not the man who did this thing. Others did.”

But police allege Commander Annatugoda had a big role in Sri Lanka's largest, most profitable, people-smuggling ring. If the charges against him are proven, he faces up to five years in jail, and thousands of dollars in fines. The gang made tens of thousands of dollars charging passengers

between 300,000 rupees (\$2450) and 800,000 rupees for a single place on a boat to Australia. It has been reported the ring was responsible for sending up to 6000 people in boats to Australia.

Almost all the passengers were Tamils, mostly young men. Police believe Commander Annatugoda was deeply involved in the racket, taking kickbacks for using his influence in the navy, and his control over patrolling boats, to help smugglers' vessels out of the country.

Police discovered Commander Annatugoda's alleged role after arresting a man named Anton Gowrithasan, who was found to have an unexplained 13 kilograms of gold in various bank accounts, as well as hundred of thousands of rupees in cash.

More sailors linked to people smuggling ring

More Sri Lankan navy sailors are under suspicion of people smuggling and face possible arrest as police continue their investigations into widespread naval complicity in the illegal people trade from the island. "We will move to arrest about another eight to 10 men," Inspector of Police PSC Sanjeewa said in the coastal city of Matara. He confirmed that some of those still under investigation were serving naval personnel.

"When we work with our partners to track down people involved... there are no exceptions. It doesn't matter what business you're in, or what position you hold, when we're going after people smugglers, we're going after people smugglers."

Since Lt-Cdr Annatugoda and the 30 other members of the racket were arrested, the number of boats leaving Sri Lanka for Australia has dropped 90 per cent.

www.smh.com.au/national/sri-lanka-to-make-more-arrests-more-sailors-linked-to-people-smuggling-ring-20131115-2xmdd.html

MSAR and Australia sign first deal on immigration issues

The first Memorandum of Understanding on immigration cooperation between Macau SAR and Australia has been signed at the MSAR Immigration Department facilitating greater exchange between respective immigration and border control authorities.

"Mostly [the memorandum] is aimed at providing training and capacity building, so that each of the immigration agencies can understand the other's process better," said the Consul-General. "Macau and Australia have already demonstrated a strong desire to cooperate on immigration matters. This memorandum will serve to further develop the framework."

"Australia will lend its technical expertise, supporting senior Macau immigration officers to tackle passport and visa fraud. I'm sure Australia can learn also from Macau in terms of the way it handles the very large number of visitors that come to Macau."

According to the Public Security Police both parties conceived the agreement in 2011. It covers collaboration in areas including the establishment of formal channels of communication, developing professional training programs on a regular basis, and sharing information and the best practises of combating human trafficking and irregular migration."

<http://www.macaodailytimes.com.mo/macau/48568-msar-and-australia-sign-first-deal-on-immigration-issues.html>

Canberra may adopt more online lodgements for visas

Australia will explore the possibility of “online lodgement” in its visa processing service in the future, but has yet to provide a timetable, says the Australian Council-General Mr Paul Tighe. Since last July, MSAR passport holders and all other Macau residents, regardless of their country of origin, were introduced to “label-free visa” arrangements by the Australian government. This applies to all visa types, including tourist, business, student and migration visas. Mr Paul Tighe told the media “all visitors to Australia require a visa in some form, and that won’t change anytime soon.”

<http://www.macaudailytimes.com.mo/macau/48568-msar-and-australia-sign-first-deal-on-immigration-issues.html>

Migration Review Tribunal

Sri Lankan asylum seekers had the highest rate of application to the Refugee Review Tribunal in the last financial year.

The Migration Review Tribunal (MRT) annual report recently tabled in the Senate said the Refugee arm of the tribunal received 4229 applications – 1518 from asylum seekers who arrived by boat.

The bulk of applicants among boat arrival asylum seekers were from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. Chinese asylum seekers were heavily represented in the non-boat arrival category.

Skilled visas, students visas and partner visa cases made up the majority of cases.

<http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/migration-tribunal-case-load-increases/story-e6frfku9-1226758518098>

NZ bikie’s visa

Australia’s Migration Review Tribunal did not check the criminal record of a New Zealand bikie when it decided he was eligible for a protection visa.

A Senate committee in Canberra has been told the tribunal decided the 36-year-old Kiwi, who was in a witness protection scheme before flying to Australia in 2005, faced a threat of significant harm in his home country. It decided he was eligible for a complementary protection visa, which covers people who are not refugees as defined by the Refugee Convention but cannot be returned to their home country because of a real risk they will suffer harm.

Tribunal officials were asked to explain the decision during a Senate estimates hearing.

The tribunal would only be aware of a criminal history if it was included in the immigration department’s file. The New Zealand bikie had been convicted of assault with a blunt instrument, drug possession, theft and traffic offences. According to media reports, he had faced additional criminal charges in Australia including weapons and drugs offences, and receiving stolen property.

A Department of Immigration official Alison Larkins later told the hearing the bikie has not yet been granted a visa and his case was still being assessed.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/a/19910558/questions-in-canberra-over-nz-bikies-visa/>

Warning to avoid unauthorised departmental website

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) has warned web users to be aware of an unauthorised website posing as an official departmental site.

The website, www.immigovau.co, mimics the current departmental website in appearance and layout, particularly when using certain browsers.

A departmental spokesman said it was a well-camouflaged fake which should be avoided. All Australian Government websites end with the country code gov.au.

“While there is no evidence that the department’s own web presence has been compromised, we advise web users who are looking for information on the department to make sure they visit the department’s official site at www.immi.gov.au,” the spokesman said.

Web users ensure they have the www.immi.gov.au address in their browser when they are looking for information on the department and avoid this unauthorised website.

<http://www.newsroom.immi.gov.au/releases/warning-to-avoid-unauthorised-departmental-website>

Legislative changes

Migration Amendment (Temporary Sponsored Visas) Act 2013 – C2013A00122

Act No. 122 of 2013 as made

An Act to amend the Migration Act 1958, and for related purposes

Administered by: Immigration and Citizenship

Originating Bill: Migration Amendment (Temporary Sponsored Visas) Bill 2013

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2013A00122/Download>

Migration Amendment (Temporary Sponsored Visas) Commencement Proclamation 2013 – F2013L01915

I, RADM Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council and under item 3 of the table in subsection 2(1) of the *Migration Amendment (Temporary Sponsored Visas) Act 2013*, fix 23 November 2013 as the day on which Schedule 2 to the Act commences.

Signed and sealed with the Great Seal of Australia on 8 November 2013

Proclamations/Commencement of Act as made

The Proclamation provides for the commencement of Schedule 2 of the Migration Amendment (Temporary Sponsored Visas) Act 2013.

Administered by: Immigration and Border Protection

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013L01915/Download>

Migration Regulation 1994 – Specification of Eligible Education Providers and Educational Business Partners – IMMI 13/124 – F2013L01846

IMMI 13/124 Specifications as made

This instrument specifies eligible education providers and their educational business partners for subclass 573 Higher Education Sector and 574 Postgraduate Research Sector Student visas and specifies eligible education providers for subclass 575 Non-award Sector Student visas. The Instrument specifies that educational business partners are linked to a particular eligible education provider.

Administered by: Immigration and Border Protection

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013L01846/Download>

Migration Regulations 1994 – Specification of Visas Attracting a Non-Internet Application Charge – IMMI 13/145 – F2013L01937

Visas Attracting a Non-Internet Application Charge
(Paragraph 2.12C(97)(a) and subregulation 2.12C(8))

I, Michaelia Cash, Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, acting under subregulations 2.12C(7) and 2.12C(8) of the *Migration Regulations 1994* ('the Regulations'):

1. Revoke Instrument number IMMI13/069, signed 13 June 2013, specifying for the purposes of paragraph 2.12C(7)(a) and subregulation 2.12C(8) the visas and circumstances where the non-Internet Application charge will not be payable;
2. Specify for the purposes of paragraph 2.12C(7)(a) of the Regulations the following visas:
 - a. Subclass 155 – Five Year Resident Return;
 - b. Subclass 157 – Three Month Resident Return;
 - c. Subclass 417 – Working Holiday;
 - d. Subclass 476 – Skilled – Recognised Graduate; and
 - e. Subclass 485 – Temporary Graduate; AND
3. Specify for the purposes of subregulation 2.12C(8) of the Regulations, in the Schedule to this Instrument, the circumstances in which the non-Internet application charge is not payable.

This Instrument, IMMI 13/145 commences on 23 November 2013.

Dated 7.11.2013

Migration Amendment (Internet Applications and Related Matters) Regulation 2013 – F2013L01962

SLI 2013 No. 252 Regulations as made

Select Legislative Instrument No. 252, 2013-11-26

I, Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advise of the Federal Executive Council, make the following regulation under the *Migration Act 1958*.

Dated 21 November 2013

This regulation amends the Migration Regulations 1994 to allow clients to use Internet application forms to apply for the following visas, Partner (migrant) (Class BC), Partner (Provisional)(Class UF), Partner (Residence)(Class BS), Partner (Temporary)(Class UK), and Prospective Marriage (Temporary)(Class TO). The regulation clarifies the circumstances in which the non-Internet application charge, particularly is payable, and also makes amendments to correct a number of minor typographical errors that were made in the Migration Amendment (visa Application Charge and Related Matters) Regulation 2013.

Administered by: Immigration and Border Protection

Australian Federal Police

ATO investigates \$65m GST fraud in gold bullion trade

The Australian Tax Office is investigating companies in the gold bullion industry suspected of GST fraud totalling more than \$65 million.

The Australian Federal Police and Australian Crime Commission yesterday executed search warrants on premises associated with the companies operating in the gold bullion and precious metals industries.

The investigation forms part of the work undertaken by the joint-agency Criminal Asset Confiscation Taskforce (CACT). It is alleged the companies fraudulently claimed GST credits and failed to report GST correctly. They formed syndicates to conceal the true nature of their activities and to avoid detection.

As a result of the investigation the ATO has issued garnishee notices and GST amended assessment with liabilities of more than \$30 million. Australian Crime Commission Acting Executive Director Operations, Richard Grant said that financial crimes continue to increase in diversity, scale and in harm to the Australian community.

“Joint investigations targeting criminal wealth have proven to be an effective approach in the fight against organised crime, and in safeguarding our economy.”

<http://www.afp.gov.au/media-centre/news/afp/2013/october/ato-investigates-65m-gst-fraud-in-gold-bullion-trade.aspx>

Australia's largest people smuggling strike

A targeted Australian Federal Police (AFP) operation, known as Operation Delphinium has resulted in the arrest of five men across Australia in relation to seven people smuggling investigations. In a strategic strike, the AFP executed a number of search warrants in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales.

It will be alleged that the men arrested were responsible for a range of people smuggling activities and were key members of people smuggling syndicates involved in the planning or facilitation of up to 132 Suspected Illegal Entry Vessels (SIEVs) bound for Australia. A 21-year-old Iranian national, a 36-year-old Pakistani national and three Afghan nationals aged 40, 34 and 33 have been charged with people smuggling offences. The arrests are the culmination of 12 months of high-tempo operational activity targeting people smuggling organisers with domestic and international links.

The maximum penalty for these offences is 10 years imprisonment and/or \$110,000 fine. Enquiries are continuing in Australia and internationally, and further arrests are expected.

<http://www.afp.gov.au/media-centre/news/afp/2013/august/five-arrested-in-australias-largest-people-smuggling-strike.aspx>

Fake credit cards and IDs

A joint Identity Security Strike Team operation in Sydney has led to the arrest of two men for producing fake identity material and committing credit card fraud. The operation began in January when intelligence gathered in previous operations identified a 52-year-old Beverly Hills man suspected of manufacturing fake identification and credit cards.

Following investigative activities over the past eight months, search warrants were executed at a number of locations, including a Riverwood premises where police will allege that the 52 year old man manufactured false documents, including driver licences, Medicare cards and credit cards. A 47-year-old Burwood man was identified as sourcing the identification information and supplying the completed false identification documents to others. A substantial amount of cash was also seized during the search warrants.

The Sydney-based Identity Security Strike Team (ISST) is a multi-agency taskforce comprising members of the Australian Federal Police, NSW Police, Department of Immigration and Border Protection and NSW Roads and Maritime Services.

AFP Manager Sydney Office Ray Johnson said the arrests highlight the value of intelligence and co-operation in disrupting identity fraud in Australia.

<http://www.afp.gov.au/media-centre/news/afp/2013/september/joint-operation-results-in-two-men-charged-for-producing-fake-credit-cards-and-ids.aspx>

Key to fighting online child abuse

This media release has been distributed by the AFP on behalf of the VGT. It reports the release of the latest assessment by the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT), a group of law enforcement agencies from around the globe dedicated to fighting online child sexual abuse.

The VGT Environmental Scan combines cutting edge scientific research with unprecedented access to the operational experiences of specialist law enforcement officers. The assessment focused on the methods used by online child abusers to victimise children and young people, and the ways in which young people may be making themselves more vulnerable to unwanted approaches by adults. The report finds that offenders' compulsive Internet usage and online networks of abusers may fuel hands-on offending against children and young people. Also highlighted is an increase in the distribution of sexually explicit images and videos by young people themselves – sometimes known as “sexting” – and the need to make young people aware of how this material may be circulated without their consent, and even used as a tool to blackmail them into sexual activity with an adult.

The VGT aims to make the Internet a safer place, identify, locate and help children at risk and hold perpetrators appropriately to account.

<http://www.afp.gov.au/media-centre/news/afp/2013/may/vgt-study-finds-that-increased-law-enforcement-cooperation-is-key-to-fighting-online-child-abuse.aspx>

Multiculturalism

Integration of new migrants into the Sydney community

The Australian Government has made a commitment of \$387,591 for three organisations to provide assistance to newly arrived migrants and to foster their full participation in Parramatta and Blacktown.

This funding is provided under the Settlement Grants Program, which delivers a range of services to humanitarian entrants, family migrants and dependants of skilled migrants in rural and regional areas." The three organisations who will share in the funding include the Iranian Community Organisation which will receive \$89,914, the Philippine Australian Community Services Inc which will receive \$75,000 and the Sydney Anglican Home Mission Society Council which will receive \$222,677. And it will "enable these three organisations to continue to deliver services to newly arrived migrants to assist with their integration into Australia society.

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells said it will also "improve access to local services, build community connections and help new arrivals to settle into their new life. Importantly, this funding assists newly arrived migrants to work towards full independence as well as social participation, economic well-being and becoming a part of the community".

The principles of citizenship remain an overriding loyalty to Australia and its people, a shared belief in our democratic process, respect for rights and liberties of others and a commitment to uphold and obey Australia's laws.

<http://concettafierravantiwells.dss.gov.au/media-releases/18>

Punjabi makes history in elections held Down Under

After making it to British and Canadian parliaments, Punjabis have now made their presence felt in the Australian elections. Jagjit Singh 'Jag' Chugha (39), who migrated from Moga in 1976, has become the first Punjabi to contest as well as win a seat in the federal elections Down Under.

The Liberal Party candidate won the Scullin seat (Victoria). Chugha, who did his entire studies in Australia, has degrees in law and commerce. He worked as a lawyer for more than 15 years. Now, he is a senior counsel at a top-100 Australian Securities Exchange (ASX)-listed company. The newly-elected federal member is also a migration agent, running VIP Student Migration.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Punjab/Punjabi-makes-history-in-elections-held-Down-Under/Article1-1119279.aspx>

Sports With No Barriers

A group of 100 young asylum seekers joined local school students in Melbourne in a Sports With No Barriers cricket tournament. Organised by Cricket Victoria, the event saw junior cricketers from Manningham and Forrest Hill cricket clubs play alongside the asylum seekers, who are in community detention while their claims are being processed. Off-field, participants had an opportunity to share their stories.

Race Discrimination Commissioner Tim Soutphommasane was on hand for some of the action, earlier that day he launched at the Veneto Club a report into the first year of ***Racism. It Stops With Me*** campaign.

Red Cross, Life Without Barriers, MacKillop Family Services, Anglicare Victoria, Wesley Mission Victoria and Jesuit Social Services were among those who supported the Sport with No Barriers tournament. "It was a wonderful community initiative and an example of civil society organisations working together," Dr Soutphommasane said.

<http://www.theweeklyrevieweastern.com.au/story/1792445/cricket-asylum-seeker-tournament-bats-against-barriers/>

Multicultural cup is no flash in the pan

The World Cup is not for another year and a bit, so Sydney Thunder are staging their own in a unique bid to boost their supporter base. The Cricket Australia-backed Thunder Nation Cup is an eight-a-side Twenty20 tournament with teams from various cultural backgrounds competing for the right to play in a mini-world cup and, ultimately, a grand final as a curtain-rasier to the Thunder's Big Bash League clash with Brisbane Heat on January 8.

Competitions of Lebanese, Sri Lankan, East Asian, New Zealand and Pacific Islander groups are being held. At Blacktown International Sportspark, teams of South African, Pakistani and African backgrounds will play each other. "The primary reason we devised Thunder Nation Cup is because there's a lot of cricketers within those communities who sit outside the traditional club cricket structure," Thunder general manager Nick Cummins said.

"You only have to drive around on Sundays to see subcontinental tournaments are being held... It's a whole population of people who love the game."

The Sun-Herald – Sunday, November 17, 2013-12-02

A country of dreams

Children born in Iran, days Arzhang Janipour, have wrestling in their blood. And plenty of his has been spilled on the mat on his way to becoming Australia's champion heavyweight wrestler, a title he won just three months after coming to Sydney as a refugee. Facing political problems and persecution as a Christian in Iran, Janipour, 28, sought asylum in Australia. He spent almost three months in immigration detention and settled in Sydney after his release in December.

Janipour described his new home as "a country of dreams".

"To reach that dream, all you need to do is to have a mission and to approach it the right way," he said through a Farsi interpreter. Having found freedom, his goal is to wrestle for Australia.

"Australia gave me protection. Whatever makes Australia proud of me, I'll do it."

He caught the eye of high-performance coach Alan Landy when he triumphed at the National Wrestling Championships in March. Two months later, Janipour, a former Iranian junior champion, won the heavyweight title at the Australia Cup in Victoria. He holds a protection visa, giving him permanent residency, but without citizenship he cannot represent Australia. Mr Landy rated his a strong medal chance if he were able to compete.

In 2009, the federal government passed laws allowing elite athletes to apply for citizenship after living in Australia for 2 years, rather than four. He has another dream alongside his sporting ambitions: to alter the negative perceptions Australians may have of refugees, to help them see each one as an individual. "I would like to change their attitude towards refugees altogether so they can receive us with love, they can look at us as proper human beings, a brother," he said. "The five fingers of your hand are not all the same."

http://newsstore.fairfax.com.au/apps/viewDocument.ac?sy=nstore&pb=all_ffx&dt=selectRange&dr=1month&so=relevance&sf=text&sf=headline&rc=10&rm=200&sp=brs&cls=4365&clsPage=1&docID=SMH131111FU6U16D0N7L

Speeches

Barry Jones Oration 2013

"Refugees: Are We There Yet?" – Julian Burnside

A tribute to the greatest politician that ever lived, Nelson Mandela

'It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory, when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger.'

'For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others'.

'Then people will respect your leadership'.

May his soul rest in peace.

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