

CMYI eNEWS - SEPTEMBER 2005

Dear,

Welcome to the September edition of CMYI e-news – an edition packed with feature articles, information and resource links. If you have any comments about our newsletter or suggestions on how we can improve it, please don't hesitate to [email us](#).

If you receive the newsletter in plain text format and would like to receive it as an HTML file, please contact our Communications Officer on louise@cmyi.net.au.

Feature article

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN BYRNE

On the 12th of July this year, John Byrne, a close friend and colleague of CMYI, sadly passed away. John was a dreamer, a visionary, a community developer, a man of many and varied talents, a friend, a mentor, a tireless advocate and a generous spirit. We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to John and acknowledge the legacy he has left behind.

John's life was marked by many achievements for and with young people. John was a pioneer in the development of youth services for refugee young people, particularly in Melbourne's western suburbs. He set up the Western Region CLV Young People's Support Group and the Link Program for new arrival refugees at Maribyrnong Secondary College. He was the early founder of the welfare work for refugees in school model, the basis for transition programs for students today.

He was a leader in advocating for, and actually demonstrating how, schools and community welfare agencies could work together to support and improve the lives of young people. He was also the founder of the CLV Youth Accommodation Project, which was the first community attempt to deal with youth homelessness among South East Asian communities in the early 1990s.

John was the chairperson of the Ethnic Youth Issues Network (EYIN) for over 5 years, and during his leadership helped put issues of multicultural youth on the map. He remained an important member of the management group of EYIN and then helped create the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues in 2000. He taught in TAFE, to overseas students and delivered cross-cultural training to a diverse range of groups and individuals. He inspired, motivated and encouraged many to become as passionate about working with young people and refugees as he was.

John always talked about the need for a revolution to change the world. He saw a better place for the poor, the refugee, the young, the drug user, the homeless, and the disenfranchised. John had dreams and visions that remained fresh and enthusiastic throughout his life. All of us who have been touched by his life will continue his legacy and continue the work in his honour.

LAUNCH OF THE JOHN BYRNE TRUST

John's family and close friends would like to invite you to celebrate his 56th birthday and the launch of the John Byrne Trust for disadvantaged refugee young people and their families. Donations to the Trust can be made on the day and self-addressed envelopes will also be available. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation to continue John's work, contributions can be sent to: John Byrne Trust, C/O P.O. Box 500, Essendon VIC 3040

When: Wednesday, 5th October 2005

Where: 26 Nicholson St., Footscray VIC 3011

Time: 5.30-7.30pm

Cost: \$10 per person to cover finger foods (drinks can be purchased at the cafe or BYO)

RSVP: info@cmyi.net.au by 30th September.

THE 'MULTICULTURALISM' DEBATE – LESSONS FROM JOHN

Statements around multiculturalism and what this means for Australia have been rife in the media over the past few months. It is with some concern that CMYI has followed this debate and the statements made around such issues as banning headscarfs in schools.

There are lessons to be learned from the approach of people like John. In his work with the Vietnamese community, John encouraged young people – many of who were marginalised and at risk – to take pride in their cultural identity and in themselves. He was an active supporter of promoting a meaningful Vietnamese-Australian identity. The young people whose lives he touched stand as testimony to this.

Multiculturalism has always represented a good news story here in Australia; a point of harmony, celebration and understanding. Rather than creating a 'melting pot', multiculturalism acknowledges the strength and richness of diversity and allows people to take pride in who they are.

Wearing a hijab, for example, should not be seen as a point of dissention. It's about a woman having the freedom to choose to wear a headscarf, just as a man may choose to wear a yarmulke (Jewish head cover), or a cross around his neck, as a legitimate form of religious expression.

With discussions in the media referring to a proscribed notion of 'Australian values', it is important we engage in this debate and ask what are 'Australian values' and who are the 'We' that is being alluded to? Constructing myths about a homogenous Australian identity has the effect of marginalising some of the most vulnerable groups in our community.

The tragedy of the current debate is that it further diminishes people's ability to feel proud of their background and identity. Pushing young people and CLD communities further to the margins, as recent debates and policy has tended to do, will only reduce their capacity (and willingness) to apply their resilience, strength and resourcefulness to the economic and social wellbeing of the country.

What's new at CMYI

NEW CMYI STAFF

The past three months have been a busy time for CMYI, with the Newly Arrived Youth Support Services (NAYSS) program rolling out and a number of new staff joining the team. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new staff and their roles:



Mary Danckert, Program Coordinator (Carlton)

Mary will be working as the new Program Coordinator overseeing CMYI's JPET, Reconnect and NAYSS programs. Mary comes to CMYI with a wealth of experience, having taught for the past nine years at Victoria University in Social Justice, and before that having worked with community organisations providing support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

"CMYI has such a dynamic and committed team. I am learning a lot from my colleagues and look forward to working with everyone here to continue to develop and consolidate our program delivery to newly arrived young people and young refugees."

To contact Mary, email: mdanckert@cmyi.net.au



Chris Horton, Team Leader & NAYSS Program Worker (South East Region – Dandenong)

Chris will be heading up the Program Team in the South East Region as well as undertaking direct client work with the new NAYSS program. Chris previously worked as a social worker with Moonree Valley Council working with refugees and asylum seekers, and has been involved with the Ecumenical Migration Centre in the past. She has also worked as a community development worker on projects in the Philippines and India.

"NAYSS is a very exciting, innovative and flexible pilot program and I feel very fortunate to be a part of an organisation committed to the integration of policy, advocacy and program work. I'm really looking forward to forming relationships with communities, young people and service providers in the South East."

To contact Chris, email: chorton@cmyi.net.au



Endalkatchew Gage, NAYSS Program Worker (South East Region – Dandenong)

Endalkatchew has also joined the NAYSS Team in the South East, and will be involved in direct casework and outreach. Endalkatchew has a strong background working with refugee communities, both as a proposer support caseworker for the IHSS program at the Northern MRC, and earlier working for the UNHCR in Kenya.

"Working with refugee young people is one of the areas that fascinates me most. I am thrilled with my current position and am looking forward to learning a lot from colleagues who have been working in the area for a while, as well as making a difference to the lives of young people."

To contact Endalkatchew, email: egage@cmymy.net.au



Louise Olliff, Policy Development & Communications Officer (Carlton)

Louise will provide policy development and communications support to the Centre, including overseeing the production of CMYI publications, maintaining the website and undertaking research. Louise previously coordinated a CLD Access Project at the Australian Drug Foundation, worked as a communications advisor in Cambodia and as a researcher/writer with the South East Local Learning and Employment Network in Dandenong.

"I hope I can contribute to the development of quality publications and resources for the sector."

To contact Louise, email: louise@cmymy.net.au

NEW CMYI INFO SHEETS

CMYI has developed three new Information Sheets that can be downloaded free from our website.

Information Sheet 10 – Humanitarian Youth Arrivals to Victoria (August 2005)

Information is derived from statistics collated by the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) based on the data records of Humanitarian entrants. This information is useful in providing a general overview of the primary source countries for young people from refugee backgrounds currently residing in Victoria.

http://www.cmymy.net.au/pdf_files/10_YouthArrivals_Aug05.pdf

Information Sheet 11 - Refugee and CLD Young People: Definitions

Provides a glossary of definitions for terms relating to culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) young people. This information sheet does not seek to be prescriptive, but rather provides an overview of concepts and offers some important distinctions between commonly used terms.

http://www.cmymy.net.au/pdf_files/11_definitions.pdf

Information Sheet 12 - Community organisations to contact for support and referral

Lists community organisations in Victoria that provide information, useful support or referral points for youth workers, students, teachers and others supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) young people. The organisations include some key statewide, regional and peak bodies and a compilation of useful web listings and directories of services.

http://www.cmyi.net.au/pdf_files/12_organisations.pdf

NEXT STATEWIDE NETWORK MEETING

The next CMYI Statewide Network Meeting – CLD Young People and Road Safety – will be held on Thursday 22nd September from 9.30am-12.30pm at the Statewide Resource Centre, Room B, Level 2, 150 Palmerston Street, Carlton (Cnr Rathdowne Street, at Carlton Primary School campus). In light of the discussion paper entitled *Young Driver Safety and Graduated Licensing*, CMYI is inviting workers to the meeting to discuss and explore the issues further. Issues and recommendations raised by the sector will then be put into a submission to Vic Roads.

For more information about the Statewide Network contact Alli Coelho, Community Projects Officer, at acoelho@cmyi.net.au. RSVP to Mia (info@cmyi.net.au) by 19th September.

CMYI-AMES ARTS PROJECT – NOBLE PARK

A group of young people from AMES in Noble Park were recently involved in two art projects facilitated by CMYI workers. The young people, many who hadn't touched a brush before, were asked to paint something from home and then to contribute to a large mural depicting their images of Australia. The project was extremely successful in engaging the young people, who were able to articulate a sense of belonging. The mural will be on display in the new AMES building.

For more information about this project, contact Hala Chamas at hchamas@cmyi.net.au



CLD YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY ON HUMAN RIGHTS

By Anna Hutchens, Mentoring Project Worker

In July, young people involved in CMYI's M.C Voiceraiser mentoring group were involved in a consultation with the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) around Human Rights issues. The consultation came as a result of the Victorian Government considering the need for a Bill of Rights. VCOSS, along with the Federation for Community Legal Centres, received

funding from the Department of Justice to consult with the community about whether change is needed and what form it should take.

The responses from the young people were passionate, informed and interesting. It became apparent that many of the young people had experienced breaches of human rights in their home countries or had lived in places where human rights simply did not exist. These experiences made for a very rich discussion about what human rights are, what is important to young people, what should happen if human rights are breached, and what types of strategies can promote and protect human rights.

The young people raised some important issues about cultural considerations in defining human rights and how the issue of culture should be included in a definition of rights, especially considering the multicultural nature of the Australian community.

Young Refugee Resettlement News

Kate O'Sullivan, Refugee Youth Policy Officer

Refugee Week (23-29 October)

The theme for Refugee Week this year is 'Different Past, Shared Future'. The Refugee Council of Australia will be putting out a calendar of events. To register your Refugee Week event, go to the RCOA website (http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/html/Refugeeweek_2005/refugeeweek2005.html).

CMYI will be working on a photo exhibition in the City of Hume as part of Refugee Week activities. Photos taken by young refugees around Hume will be on display and a celebration night will be held on 11th November. For more information, contact Willow Kellock (wkellok@cm yi.net.au)

IOM Refugee Travel Loan Fund

The travel loan fund is an interest-free loan program designed to help proposers/migrants meet the travel costs of refugees bound for Australia under the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP). In June 2005, the Australian Government made a one-off grant of \$2.5 million to IOM to allow adjustments to the interest free travel loans program to ease the financial burden SHP proposers face in meeting migrants' travel costs. IOM has used this grant to abolish the service fees it was charging these migrants and to expand access to their interest free travel loans. Further details and loan application forms are available by emailing travel.loan.canberra@iom.int or by contacting the International Organisation for Migration on 02 6267 6634.

Review: Turtles Can Fly

Directed by Bahman Gobadi ('A Time of Drunken Horses'), *Turtles Can Fly* provides a beautiful, sometimes-funny depiction of the resilience and resourcefulness of children in war. Set in a refugee camp in Kurdistan near the Turkish-Iraqi border on the eve of the American war in Iraq, *Turtles Can Fly* provides real insight into the refugee experience for young people – their will to survive, and the injustices that weigh so heavily. With great technical skill and capacity these children (many with disabilities) find a way forward, to work, to negotiate and to care for one another. This is a subtle and affectionate picture of life in harsh conditions, providing glimpses of beauty in simplicity and giving us a window into the histories of young people now in our classrooms and shopping centres.

Turtles Can Fly is currently playing at Cinema Nova.

Postcard from Broadmeadows

Willow Kellock, Refugee Alternative Pathways Officer (Northern Region)

Iraqi Boys Group in Broadmeadows

CMYI, in partnership with Australian Lebanese Welfare Association (ALWA), has been working with a group of 14- to 16-year-old Iraqi boys from Broadmeadows Secondary College. This is a pilot program aimed at young men who are at risk of disengaging from school, addressing issues such as life skills, recreation, and education and employment pathways. The aim of the group is to assist these young men to re-engage in education, and to strengthen their connection to one another and their local community.

The group commenced in April this year with a camp at Philip Island where the boys participated in mountain bike riding and body boarding. For many, it was the first time they had ever been in the surf. Since the camp, the group has visited a local TAFE and University and explored educational pathways, participated in a workshop in student radio and television, explored issues of identity, communication and conflict resolution, undertaken driver education with local police and a water safety program run by local council. Other recreational activities have included go-karting, bowling and soccer.

Working with the Iraqi boys has highlighted to both CMYI and ALWA the importance of recreation for young people from refugee backgrounds, given the limited chances many have had for 'play' in their younger years. Many Iraqi young people have had to work in transit countries for several years, and have been unable to attend school up until their arrival in Australia.

The pilot program, now completed, has the potential of being run with other 'at risk' refugee young people in the local area in the future.



What's new in the sector

NEW RESOURCES, EVENTS, CONFERENCES

Details of upcoming events, conferences and new resources in the CLD youth sector. If you have an event or resource you want promoted through this newsletter, please send details to info@cmvi.net.au

NEW RESOURCES

- **What's the deal? A kit to educate young people about legal issues** – Victoria Legal Aid has developed a kit that includes fact sheets, engaging activities, directories and a glossary of legal words. The kit is a teaching resource for people working with 14-16 year olds. The kit can be ordered by emailing whatsthedeal@vla.vic.gov.au or by phoning 9269 0435.
- **Everybody's business: A Multilingual HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Audio Visual Resource.** In English, Indonesian, Khmer, Somali and Thai. HIV/AIDS pamphlet also available in Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, English, Indonesian, Khmer, Laotian, Portuguese, Serbian, Spanish, Somali, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese. For more information, go to the Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service website: www.multiculturalhivhepc.net.au
- **The detention and removal of asylum seekers** - online information from the Parliamentary Library. The e-brief summarises recent developments and key issues in the debate about mandatory detention in Australia. It provides links to web sites and material covering detention policy and practice in Australia and other comparable countries. To access, go to http://www.aph.gov.au/library/INTGUIDE/SP/asylum_seekers.htm
- **Refugees and regional settlement: balancing priorities** – research report from the Brotherhood of St Laurence. Settling refugees in country towns is not the answer to dwindling regional populations unless support services are improved, according to Janet Taylor and Dayane Stanovic. In this report they look at the settlement experiences of two recent refugee groups (Iraqi and Sudanese) in the Victorian towns of Shepparton, Colac and Warrnambool. For more information or to download the report, go to <http://www.bsl.org.au/main.asp?PageId=132>
- **Article 2-Youth for a Change:** Website and e-newsletter (Voices of Youth UNICEF) dedicated to connecting youth all over the world to make their voices heard and take action in order to solve global social issues. <http://www.article2.8k.com/>
- HARP (Health for Asylum Seekers and Refugees Portal) in the UK has developed an **online multilingual appointment card**. The card includes languages such as Amharic, Chinese, Oromo, Somali, Kurdish. To access go to: <http://www.communicate-health.org.uk/card/>
- An up-to-date listing of **Victoria Police Multicultural Liaison Officers** can be [downloaded here](#).
- **Following Them Home: The Fate of the Returned Asylum Seekers** – book by Dave Corlett available from bookstores. Corlett writes, "In mid-2004, I travelled to meet asylum seekers whom Australia had returned to Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. My intention was to witness first-hand the circumstances into which Australia returns people it deems not to need protection. This is the story of that expedition."

TRAINING

- **Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture: Upcoming Training Modules.** VFST provides direct services such as counselling, group work and natural therapies to refugees who have survived torture and other traumatic experiences prior to arriving in Australia. On the basis of this practice experience, the Foundation offers training to other service providers who have contact with refugees, with the aim of improving the responsiveness of the service system to their needs and avoiding the re-traumatisation that can occur during the stresses of resettlement. These modules and courses aim to increase the skills and knowledge of a range of practitioners, volunteers and community members who work and interact with survivors of torture and trauma.
Upcoming modules include:
 - **Orientation:** the Refugee Experience (Tuesday 27th September @ Dandenong 9.30pm – 12.30pm)
 - **Introduction:** a Framework for Working with Refugee Survivors of Torture and Trauma (Tuesday 27th September @ Dandenong 1.30pm – 4.30pm)
 - **Race, Culture and Ethnicity:** Working with CALD Clients (Tuesday 4th October @ Dandenong 9.30am – 4.30pm)
 - **School's In for Refugees:** a Whole School Approach to Refugee Readiness (Tuesday 6th September @ Brunswick and Tuesday 11th October @ Dandenong 4.00pm – 7.00pm)

- **Course for Counsellors:** Skills for Working with Refugee Survivors in Counselling Practice (2 day course @ Dandenong Tuesday 18th & Tuesday 25th October 9.30 – 4.30pm)

For more information or to register, go to the VFST website at www.survivorsvic.org.au, or contact Rachel Wilson on 9389 8908 or wilsonr@survivorsvic.org.au

Outreach Training - VFST also provides training and professional development on an outreach basis, tailored to meet the needs of individual organisations. Please download and complete a [training request form](#) from www.survivorsvic.org.au if you would like to request some training for your organisation or network.

- **Victoria Legal Aid and Consumer Affairs** are running two free professional development sessions in Melbourne on the 17th and 25th of October for years 9, 10 and 11 teachers. The training sessions will introduce teachers to the 'What's the Deal?' kit to educate young people about legal issues. For more information or to book into a session, email whatsthedeal@vla.vic.gov.au or phone 9269 0435

EVENTS

- **Building Bridges Community Festival** – Leading up to Refugee Week, Al-Amel TPV Holders Association invites you to come along and enjoy a free day with a variety of activities and spaces – including a soccer tournament, food, music, dance, and a keynote speaker. The festival will be held on Sunday 25th September, 11am-4pm, at Thornbury High School, Thornbury. For more information, contact Al-Amel TPV Holders Association on amel@ameltpv.org.au
- **African Celebration 2005** – Free event to celebrate African music and culture. The Celebration will be held on Saturday 1st October, 3-9pm, at the Collingwood Town Hall. For more information go to www.africaweaustralia.com.au or email kalala@africaweaustralia.com.au
- The theme for **Refugee Week 2005** from Sunday 23 October 2005 to Sunday 29 October 2005 is 'Different Past, Shared Future.' Add your event to the event calendar or find out more by going to <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au>
- **Ramadan Youth Recreation Program** will be running from 19-21 October, 26-28 October, 2-3 November. Free activities for youth and men (13-20 years) include soccer, basketball and table tennis. To register contact City of Darebin Leisure Services on 8470 8305 or the Program Coordinator on 0422 531 033.
- **Calling all Hip Hop artists and fans** – The Self-titled Network and Whittlesea Noise FreeZa committees are organising a Hip Hop gig at Preston Town Hall on Friday 28th October, 6.30-12 pm. Performances and a hip hop competition will be run on the night. For more information contact Kylie at Decibels on 9496 1020.
- **Second Ramadan All Nations Soccer Cup 2005** – Teams of up to 10 players need to register by 2nd November to compete in the All Nations Cup. The round robin will be held on Saturday 5th November at HP Zwar Reserve, Jessie Street, Preston. For more information contact City of Darebin Leisure Services on 8470 8305 or the Soccer Coordinator on 0422 531 033.
- Victoria is counting down to the seventh **Pacific School Games**, one of the biggest 'student games' in the world. A celebration of youth and sporting endeavour in an educational setting, the 2005 Pacific School Games will be held in Melbourne from 26 November to 4 December. Tickets are now available with prices ranging from \$5 to \$20. For more information go to: <http://www.pacificschoolgames.edu.au/default.htm>

CONFERENCES AND FORUMS

- Action on Disabilities within Ethnic Communities (ADEC) and the ECCV are holding a forum to discuss **Future Linkages Between the Mental Health System and Community Organisations**. The forum will be held on 26th September, 9.30-12, at ECCV, 150 Palmerston Street, Carlton. For more information, contact Licia at ADEC on 9480 1666 or email licia@adec.org.au
- **Their Lives, Our Work: Critical questions for practice in child, youth and family services. 2005 National Symposium**. Dates: 10-12 October. Venue: Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Preston. For more information email: 2005symposium@dbconferences.com.au or go to <http://www.dbconferences.com.au/content/view/57/94/>
- **Diversity in Health 2005**. The conference will describe the latest physical and mental health priorities related to the challenges faced by the community, carers, clinicians, service providers, planners and policy makers in their efforts to provide high quality health for Australia's multicultural community; Highlight innovative research, practices, programs, and partnerships between health management systems, providers, government, legal systems, social service agencies, and patient health status; and Emphasise prevention and intervention strategies relevant to diverse cultures. Dates: October 17-19. Venue: Hilton on the Park, Melbourne. For

more information contact the Conference Secretariat on (03) 9347 6622 or diversityinhealth@amf.net.au.

- **National Conference on Female Genital Mutilation and Promoting Child Safety.** Human Rights – Community and Health Response. Dates: 14-15 November. Venue: Brisbane. For more information go to <http://www.fpq.com.au/whatsnew/fgm.stm>
- **Australian Red Cross 2005 National Youth Conference.** Are you 14- 17? Do you want to be involved with Australian Red Cross? Do you want to meet with like-minded young people? Do you want to take part in interactive multi media workshops? If you answered yes to all of these questions then mark 22–27 November 2005 in your diaries. Australian Red Cross is holding its National Youth Conference in Melbourne. Four Victorian young people have the chance to attend this conference. If you are interested in being one of the delegates, you will need to fill in an application form and return it by 5pm on Tuesday 11th October 2005. For application forms, contact Sarina Bellissimo, Community Programs Development, at the Australian Red Cross.
- **Diversity Symposium: Women, Diversity and Human Rights.** This two-day symposium on diversity is to be held at RMIT University from 7-8 December. The focus of the symposium will be on 'intersectional' issues of gender and culture. Participants are welcome to submit presentation proposals, either as 30-minute papers, 60-minute workshop, or jointly presented 90-minute colloquium sessions. If you would like to know more about the symposium, visit the Diversity Conference website at www.Diversity-Conference.com

PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Information and updates on new projects, programs and services in the sector. If you are involved in a project that you would like others in the sector to know about, send details to info@cmyi.net.au

PROJECT PROFILE

Walk in My Shoes, run by Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre in NSW

Walk in My Shoes was the result of grassroots community cultural development work in the Blacktown LGA in NSW. The youth of Blacktown wanted to do something proactive about racism and the promotion of cultural diversity. They wanted to make a difference; take a stand. Hence, *Walk in My Shoes*, the project, was created – consisting of music, drama and video workshops and the development of a harmony kit.

The harmony kit was developed with the aim of addressing and working with issues related to racism and promoting understanding by inviting participants to "walk in the shoes" of the young people who have been on the receiving end of racism.

The development of the kit involved a number of phases, which culminated in nominated students from local high schools attending a leadership training day, learning leadership and public speaking skills, and presenting the kit in their high school classrooms.

For more information about this project or to access the harmony kit, contact the Blacktown MRC or go to http://www.tnd.com.au/cgi-bin/blacktownmrc/elib.pl?template=elib&book_id=1&elib_level=book

PROGRAMS

Consumer Affairs has implemented a new service delivery and referral service model, effective from July 1st, 2005. Part of the new model promotes the consumer helpline number (1300 55 81 81) and CAV website www.consumer.vic.gov.au as the first line of advice for Victorian consumers. Consumer Affairs provides: Information and advice; Consumer education; and Dispute resolution on issues relating to tenancy & accommodation, estate agents, building contracts & renovation, shopping, product safety, retirement villages & bodies corporate, refunds & lay-bys, credit & debt, financial counselling, scams, door-to-door sales, online shopping, mobile phones & buying a car.

Consumer Affairs also has a **Multicultural Consumers Unit** for: *Cantonese & Mandarin*: 1300 72 66 56; *Vietnamese*: 1300 85 51 10; *Arabic, Russian*: 1300 65 55 03 and an **Indigenous Consumers Unit**: 1300 66 15 11

A new Unit within Consumer Affairs is the **Community Education Unit** who educate and inform the community by engaging directly with community groups through talks & presentations, events, training and distributing Consumer Affairs information products on consumer rights.

The Community Education Unit promotes awareness of how to access Consumer Affairs services and provides a comprehensive community education and awareness program. We visit community groups, schools, youth groups, local councils and referral agencies. Any requests for booking speakers, talks, training or presentations about CAV should be directed to 9627 7494.



FUNDING

Internet Training Support Funding

The State Government invites applications from community organisations for *My Connected Community* funding to establish online groups among their members and the wider population. The key objective of this program is the development of online groups of interest within Victoria.

The Victorian Government encourages applications from organisations to provide support and training to those Victorians who are currently unable to gain Internet skills and access. This includes senior Victorians (including seniors from CALD backgrounds), recent migrants, unemployed Victorians and those outside the education system and workforce (including disadvantaged youth) and people with a disability.

Two funding levels are available under the program: Level 2 (\$10,000) and Level 3 (\$30,000) and all successful projects will be funded for 2 years.

The Application Form, Checklist and Funding Guidelines can be obtained from the website www.skills.net.au or contact My Connected Community on (03) 8664 7001 or 1800 629 835 or email mc2@vicnet.net.au. Closing date for applications is 4.00pm, Thursday 22 September 2005

IN THE NEWS

Multicultural youth issues in the media – what are some of the issues that are making it into the news? If you come across media articles you think should be highlighted in this newsletter, please forward to info@cmvi.net.au

From *A Just Australia* (23/06/05)

For those interested in following the changes to The Bill relating to the detention of asylum seekers, *Just Australia* is a good source of information. Changes to the Bill include:

- **A last Resort** – Will be written into the Migration Act that parliament affirms as a principle that a child shall only be detained as a matter of last resort
- **Families released from detention.** Families with children – and that is entire family including dads, asylum seeker families and compliance cases – will be released into the community after initial screening. This IS NOT the residential housing projects which are mini-detention centres. It is release into the community generally with a specified residence and reporting requirements. Significantly it is not the same as other community detention arrangements in the past where an officer lived in the house and the person was essentially under house arrest. The family will have free and unaccompanied movement, with some reporting requirements tailored to the individual circumstance.
- **High risk families in RHPs** When the department feels there is a need detain – for the purposes in imminent removal or non-compliance with conditions of release etc, if they detain families they

will be kept in the residential housing project in the nearest capital city to their original place of residence. This will be entire family including dads.

- **Review of long term cases** DIMIA will be required to prepare 6 monthly reports on the cases of anyone in detention longer than 2 years. This is provided to the Ombudsman who will review the cases and now has the power to recommend release or the granting of a visa. The department is then required to table in parliament the response to the recommendations. Although it is disappointing that the Ombudsman's recommendations are non-compellable on the Minister, it is encouraging that this tabling requirement is there. It does indicate the changes are being put in place in good faith and in general the recommendations would be followed.

You can see the detail of the Bill on the *A Just Australia* website at:
http://www.ajustaustralia.com/informationandresources_factsandstatistics.php

A briefing paper on what the changes mean from the Ecumenical Migration Centre is also available at:
<http://www.ajustaustralia.com/resource.php?act=attache&id=81>

Mistaken diagnosis for terror – an opinion article by Geoffrey Brahm Levey, first published in *The Australian*

Blaming multiculturalism for the radical Muslim attacks on the London Underground was predictable and is understandable. It is also misguided. Read the full article here...

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/view.asp?article=3747>