



# MCoT News

Welcome to the June 2009 edition of The Multicultural Council of Tasmania newsletter

*Promoting Multiculturalism and Harmony in Tasmania*

If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe please send an email to [mcot@tassie.net.au](mailto:mcot@tassie.net.au)  
Please email or phone us on 6231 5067 if you would like to contribute items for the newsletter. The deadline for each month's issue is the first Monday of the relevant month.

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## MCOT NEWS AND UPDATES

### **From the Chair**

We are rapidly approaching the end of the 2008/9 financial year and I would like to remind our members that membership renewal is due after the 30<sup>th</sup> June and I urge all members to renew their membership. The date for the AGM is also approaching and elections will once again be

held for positions on the Executive and Management Committee. All associated paper work will be sent out well before the AGM. If you have the skills and time to contribute please consider nomination for the Executive and Management Committee, bearing in mind that the positions do entail commitment and responsibilities.

To all the migrant, refugee, community members, volunteers and MCoT representatives who have given up their time to continue to guide, steer and support MCoT through these current difficult economic times, I would like to acknowledge your efforts and thank you. I sincerely hope that MCoT and its members receive the recognition similar to that awarded to paid employees in the workplace.

More and more, MCoT is expected to respond with expertise on a large number of complex policy matters and within rigid time frames which are set for professional and technically skilled individuals and organisations with the capacity, time and infrastructure to deal with bureaucratic and challenging matters.

In these economically difficult and trying times MCoT has undoubtedly been very efficient, particularly if we are to compare MCoT's costs and output to that of the Government. MCoT has constantly sought out opportunities to communicate and liaise with all ethnic communities, not just members, and also other peak bodies and service providers

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### **Next Council Meeting & Guest Speaker**

The next council meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm in the Acacia Room, downstairs at the Migrant Resource Centre 49 Molle St.

### **June Days**

- 1 Independence Day (*Samoa*)
- 3 Foundation of the Republic (*Italy*)
- 4 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**  
Emancipation day (*Tonga*)
- 5 Constitution Day (*Denmark*)
- 6 National Day (*Sweden*)
- 10 National Day (*Portugal*)
- 12 Independence Day (*Philippines*)  
National Day (*Russia*)
- 14 Anniversary of 1941 Soviet Deportation of Baltic people  
**Refugee Week Begins (14-20 June)**
- 17 National Day (*Iceland*)
- 18 National Day (*Seychelles*)
- 20 World Refugee Day**
- 23 Victory Day (*Estonia*)  
National Day (*Luxemburg*)
- 25 National Day (*Croatia*)  
National (*Slovenia*)  
Independence Day (*Mozambique*)
- 26 National Day (*Madagascar*)  
**International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**
- 27 National day (*Djibouti*)
- 28 Independence Day (*Democratic Republic of Congo*)

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### **Membership Renewal**

As the financial year draws to a close at the end of June 2009 it is time to renew memberships

for the year 2009 – 2010. Membership for community organisations and affiliate members is \$30.00 per annum and \$10.00 for individual members. Membership Renewal Forms will be emailed and posted out to existing members. If you know of any organisation, group or person interested in joining MCoT please let us know and we will forward the relevant information to them.

## **NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES**

### **Philippines-Australia Community.**

To celebrate the 111<sup>th</sup> Philippine Independence Day a Flag Raising Ceremony will be held at the International Wall of Friendship Gardens, 188 Collins St. on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 12.30p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. All welcome.

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### **Baltic Communities (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania)**

A church service to commemorate the deportations of Baltic citizens during World War 11 will be held on June 14 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Davey St at 10 a.m. There will be a morning tea after the service. All welcome.

### **Estonian Association**

The Estonian Association will be holding their annual mid-summer and Victory Day get-together on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon at the home of the honorary consul in Blackman's Bay. For further information ring Tiiu at 62783574, evenings only.

### **Regional Baha'i Council for Tasmania**

The Multicultural Council of Tasmania would like to congratulate long time member and delegate for the Baha'i Council of Tasmania Pym Truman on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2009 Queen's Birthday Awards for her tireless and continued service to the community through a range of peace, human rights and inter-faith organisations including MCoT.

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## **GENERAL NOTICES**

### **Media release from Senator Chris Evans**

15 May 2009

Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

### **The Hon Bill Shorten**

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services

### **Terms of reference for migration and disability inquiry announced**

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Chris Evans, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, the Hon Bill Shorten, today announced the terms of reference for an inquiry relating to the health requirement in the *Migration Act*.

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration will investigate the assessment of the health and community costs associated with a disability as part of the health test undertaken for visa processing.

The specific terms of reference are:

1. Report on the options to properly assess the economic and social contribution of people with a disability and their families seeking to migrate Australia.
2. Report on the impact on funding for, and availability of, community services for people with a disability moving to Australia either temporarily or permanently
3. Report on whether the balance between the economic and social benefits of the entry and stay of an individual with a disability, and the costs and use of services by that individual, should be a factor in a visa decision.
4. Report on how the balance between costs and benefits might be determined and the appropriate criteria for making a decision based on that assessment.
5. Report on a comparative analysis of similar migrant receiving countries

Senator Evans and Mr Shorten asked the committee to look at the effect of the regulations on people with a disability applying for permanent visas for Australia after being alerted to the case of Dr Bernhard Moeller and his family last year.

The family's application for permanent residency was refused by the department and upheld on appeal by the Migration Review Tribunal after a Commonwealth medical officer assessed that Dr Moeller's 13-year-old son Lukas would incur significant public health and community care costs due to his Down's syndrome.

Senator Evans was then asked to intervene and granted the family permanent visas because of the valuable contribution they were making in their local community.

Senator Evans said the family's case highlighted concerns that the health requirement only considers the estimated cost to the public health system along with state-related costs such as special educational needs and community care and does not recognise a person's ability or what they can contribute to the community.

Mr Shorten said it was important that immigration policies did not adversely impact on people with disabilities. "People with disability are capable of making important contributions to the Australian workforce and general community," Mr Shorten said. "I welcome this inquiry as a chance to highlight this contribution and the need for an immigration policy that recognises the rights of people with a disability and their carers to be treated fairly."

The committee, chaired by Michael Danby MP, will call for submissions and begin hearings within the coming months.

Media Contacts: Simon Dowding – (02) 6277 7860 or 0411 138 541 (Senator Evans)  
Ben Ruse – (02) 6277 4778 or 0407 030 808 (Bill Shorten)

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### **Philippines-Australia Community of Tasmania**

A volunteer recognition award night was held at the Hobart City Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 09. Both Ms Bella Chowder and Mr Frank Langley received Certificates of Recognition on behalf of the Philippine-Australia Community of Hobart from the Hobart Lord Mayor Mr Rob Valentine.

### **Hobart Community Radio**

MCoT member, Danijela Hlis, hosts *World Music Hour* the first Saturday of every month between 2.00 – 3.00pm. A variety of enjoyable music is played

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### **Campfire and Culture**

A celebration of Cultural Diversity in Clarence is being held on 27th June 09 between 4pm and 7pm. There will be a campfire, music, storytelling, dancing and free food at Rosny Farm (adjacent to Eastlands).

Anyone interested in presenting either a story, dance, song or performance etc is welcome to take part. Please ring Suzanne Schulz on [62458664](tel:62458664) with any enquiries. Otherwise, just turn up and enjoy the evening.

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### **Refugee Week 2009**

The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) works with agencies around Australia to coordinate Refugee Week, a national celebration held each year since 1986. Each year, Refugee Week coincides with World Refugee Day, being held in the week (Sunday to Saturday) which includes June 20. Refugee Week 2009 will be held from Sunday June 14 to Saturday 20 2009. The theme for 2009 is 'Freedom from Fear' For more details visit: [www.refugeecouncil.org.au](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au)

### **Retaining Cultural Memory Opening Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 6 p.m.**

An exhibition at the Moonah Arts Centre showing the skills of Tasmanians from a refugee background will open on the 17<sup>th</sup> June and continue through to the 30<sup>th</sup> June. Also at the opening will be a special thesis presentation from Mr Kiros Zegeye's "*Finding Home Far Away from Home*".

This exhibition is collaboration between the Glenorchy City Council, Moonah Arts Centre and the Migrant Resource Centre to celebrate Refugee Week.

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### **Refugee Week Forum Tasmanians Working Together**

The experiences of four African men working as taxi drivers in Southern Tasmania.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 10-1p.m. Hobart Town Hall, Lower Ground (Elizabeth Street)

R.S.V.P. Anne Hamilton before 11/6/09 on [6221 0912](tel:62210912).

### **Multicultural Youth (MY) Voices**

A presentation and coordination by youth from the MY Schools Voice Reference Group with guest presentations from the Tasmanian African Youth Association and Glenorchy Young Women's Group will be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June from 6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

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### **Letters of a Nation**

Australia Post is celebrating its Bicentenary by launching Letters of a Nation, a collection of letters written in the last two hundred years. Multiculturalism and migration has played a major part in Australia's history and Australia Post invites you to submit letters to their collection. Submissions are open until September 25, 2009. Entries may be obtained from Australia Post or on-line. N.B. Photocopies of letters are to be submitted, not the originals.

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### **Community Grants**

Are you a not for profit community organisation? If so, here is an opportunity to learn how your organisation can benefit from some of Australia's largest philanthropic funds. The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund in association with the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal will be presenting information on their grants program and how Tasmanian organisations can apply. The information session will be held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the Glenorchy Civic Centre, Cooper St., Glenorchy. Cost: Free. For registration contact Dale at TasCOSS on [6231 0755](tel:62310755), or e-mail: [dale@tascoss.org.au](mailto:dale@tascoss.org.au)

## **United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**

The Phoenix Centre invites you to attend a ceremony to support survivors of torture at 1.00 pm on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the International Wall of Friendship, 188 Collins St., Hobart.

## **Service provision to African men in Australia**

This flyer is to inform you about an important research project for Service Providers in Australia being carried out by Juma Abuyi as part of the requirements for the Doctor of Human Service Research program. It is being undertaken from the School of Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy, University of South Australia. The research aim to investigate: 'best practice' in service delivery to African men migrating to Australia to prevent family violence and the breakdown of family relationships. The online TellUs2 survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes of your time. Ctrl, Click on the link below in order to access the online survey <http://www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/TellUS2/SurveyForm.asp?ID=6492>

### Research benefits:

The research will identify and critically analyse the current approaches service providers use to resolve acculturation problems, family relationship issues and gender role conflicts experienced by Acholi men in Australia. It will inform policy development and service provision.

Provide valuable information for professionals working with African communities.

The findings may also be of assistance to other African communities in Australia.

Confidentiality: Participation in this research is voluntary and the names and contact details of respondent are not required.

The online TellUS2 electronic survey is design for service providers, government and non-government organisations dealing with African refugees/migrants including humanitarian entrants in Australia.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

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*This research project is approved by the University of South Australia's Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any ethical concerns about the project or questions about your rights as a participant please contact the Executive Officer of the Committee, Tel: 08 83023118; Email: [Vicki.allen@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Vicki.allen@unisa.edu.au) or for any other concerns about this study, contact my supervisor, Associate Professor Dale Bagshaw on Tel: 08 3024375, Fax: 08 83024344 or Email: [Dale.Bagshaw@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Dale.Bagshaw@unisa.edu.au) or co-supervisor, Dr. Alan Campbell on 08 83024345 or Fax: 08 830 24377 or E-mail: [Alan.Campbell@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Alan.Campbell@unisa.edu.au)*

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