



Refugee

Newsletter of the Australian Refugee Association

Connecting to Australia

ARA was delighted recently when one of its Employment and Training clients was recognised for his strong work ethic and determination. Momodu Dumbuya was given the "South Australia Works in the Regions" Recognition and Achievement Award for "Individual achievement by a participant".

Momodou received a certificate together with \$1,000 prize money. So eager is he to excel in his employment and career that he has already earmarked this money to go towards the purchase of his own set of work tools to enable him to continue his professional development.

ARA Director, Mr Kevin Liston said, "We are extremely proud of Momodu's determination to succeed. He is a fantastic role model for others in the community and we wish him every success in his climb up the career ladder".

Momodou arrived in Australia in 2005 as a refugee from Sierra Leone. Since his arrival, he has worked diligently to overcome a range of disadvantages. He has endured an ongoing struggle to get his qualifications and skills formally recognised and has also suffered a serious injury that forced him out of the work place for several months.

ARA offered Momodu a place in its "Connecting to Australia" Building and Construction program and since completing this he has achieved outstanding success.



Photo: ARA's Employment team with Momodu. (Left to right): Ellie Field, Hafe Zamani (Employment Manager), Momodu Dumbuya (Award Winner) Shahla Ghotbi, Kevin Liston (ARA Director)

He is now employed full time with a civil construction company, DML Construction, where he is second in charge on the worksite. He is also studying part time for TAFE certificates in Mining and Plumbing to further enhance his career options.

With financial independence he is now able to support his family and take a leadership role in the community.

Vietnamese Refugees' 30 Year Reunion

Old friends were reunited in early November when a reunion was held to mark thirty years since the arrival in South Australia of the first Vietnamese refugees.

Six hundred people attended a function at the Croatian Hall, Ridleyton for dinner and for the presentation of awards to people and organisations in appreciation of their support to refugees in South Australia.

Among the guests were Lieutenant-Governor Hieu Van Le, ARA's Director Mr Kevin Liston and ARA Board member



Mr Peter Engelhardt.

The evening acknowledged the support of the many wonderful people who assist others going through difficult times but it is also important to recognise the enormous efforts made by refugees themselves, many of whom have gone on to have professional careers, have built a bright future for their children and added enormously to their new communities.

Photo courtesy of: Adelaide Tuần Báo



Director's Message

Annual intake of Refugees

Australia currently takes 13,000 refugees each year. This country has the capacity and capability to take many more, at least 17,000 per year. In 1996 the number was 12,000. While the general migration program has in the intervening 11 years risen from 77,000 to 155,000, the Humanitarian Program has increased by just 1,000.



The following are some of the reasons for increasing the intake:

- The primary objective of Australia's Humanitarian Program is to improve resettlement options for refugees for whom other types of durable solutions are not appropriate. Australia does well in rescuing people from desperate situations and does even better in helping them become citizens (fully participating members of our communities and society). We can build upon our achievement to continue showing the way to the world.
- The need for resettlement places vastly exceeds the number of places available worldwide.
- The Australian economy is strong and growing well.
- Refugees are settling well in Australia. (In SA, over 260 Sudanese were in University or other third level courses in 2007).
- There are services and structures in place nationwide to help disadvantaged refugees settle in this country.
- The example of Mr Hieu Van Le, Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia shows what former refugees are capable of. He arrived in Darwin harbour as a refugee from Vietnam 30 years ago last November.
- The outstanding progress towards integration made by the vast majority of former refugees greatly outweighs the relatively few incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Kevin Liston
Director

Welcome

In this issue ARA welcomes as a Silver Corporate Partner, Finsbury Green. The team at Finsbury Green have been looking after ARA's printing needs during 2007 and we are certainly pleased with the feedback we have received about the newsletter and Annual Report. Our thanks go to Trent, Graeme and Tracy for all their help.

Finsbury Green was the well deserved recipient of the Environment Award at the South Australian of the Year Awards in November 2007. The award, presented by the South Australian Premier, The Hon, Mike Rann, acknowledges the group's leadership and strong performance in the adoption of environmental best practice.

We welcome State Manager SA Sales and Services, Jason Fleming representing Finsbury Green as an ARA Corporate member.

For your printing needs please contact Trent Bond on 8234 8000 or visit the website at www.finsbury.com.au

 **Finsbury Green**

The Incredible Years Parenting Program

The Incredible Years Parenting Program was delivered between September and December 2007, involving weekly sessions at the Modbury Uniting Church to mothers from Sudanese backgrounds. This was a joint project run by Monica McEvoy from CAMHS Western Region, Kate Whelan from ARA and Ayen Kuol from Families SA Refugee Services. This project was supported by funding from the Premier's Community Initiatives Fund and the Department for Families and Communities.

The Incredible Years Parenting Program objectives focus on strengthening parent competencies, fostering parent's involvement with schools, decreasing children's problem behaviors, strengthening children's social and academic competencies, and building supportive family networks.

This pilot delivery of the program with women from African backgrounds involved important parenting strategies such as praising, encouraging, supporting, listening, rewarding, valuing, playing with children and having fun while doing it. It also addressed approaches to setting limits and dealing with challenging behaviors.

The program was a success with 15 women attending the workshops along with 25 pre-school aged children. There was a weekly turnover of 10 women with their children who attended childcare, especially provided to enable the mothers to attend. Transport and interpreters also helped participation.

The most important message the participants gave back through the evaluation sessions was that they felt the program provided them with easy to use principles that encouraged problem solving strategies, limit setting skills, praise and reward benefits and confidence in the application of the Parenting Pyramid strategies. It was unanimous that the Incredible Years Program was viewed as a 'positive', 'very important', 'valuable' course that MUST be repeated or continued for other parents, especially for refugee women.

The participants found the program broke down isolation and they looked forward to attending each week.

We hope to extend this program to new participants and develop links with other communities!

In addition to our funding bodies, we would like to extend our thanks to the organisations and individuals who made it possible to deliver the program: STTARS and Enfield Community Centre for the use of their buses to transport participants, Modbury Uniting Church for the use of their facilities, volunteers Madeleine Parry and Sue Ward, childcare workers Nassim Mahmed, Amira Younis, Massah Dorley, Amna Molod and Fatumata Sheriff, and students Emmanuelle Barone and Paula Johnstone who helped with transport, preparation and delivering the workshops.



Student Success

ARA is privileged to be involved with Thebarton Senior College and Adelaide Secondary School of English where we present awards that recognise the outstanding contributions and personal progress by refugee students since their arrival in Australia.

In December three young people were acknowledged for their efforts.

Vice President Elizabeth Bleby presented Estella Jackson with a Certificate of Achievement at the Graduation Assembly for Adelaide Secondary School of English held at the Arndale Cinema Complex. Estella was born in Sudan but spent ten years living in a refugee camp in Uganda. She is described as a wonderful role model for other students and was her class SRC representative.

ARA Director Kevin Liston, at the Thebarton Senior College 2007 Award Presentation, presented Certificates to Paul Deng Deng who worked as a primary teacher before coming to Australia, and Mahdi Jaffari who was a member of the Preparation for Senior Studies class during the year and influenced the building of a caring and cohesive group. Both young men are described as natural leaders who have had a positive influence on those around them.

In addition to the Certificate of Recognition the successful students were also given a cash award from ARA to assist them with the cost of books, fees, uniforms or other school costs like camps or trips.



Mahdi and Paul with their ARA Certificates



Vice President – Elizabeth Bleby with Estella Jackson

New Staff Member

Adrian Bok (Bok) came to ARA to do his 4th year Social Work field placement.

In February ARA was able to offer Bok a role as Settlement Officer for the Accommodation Assistance Project.

ARA understands the issues that many people from a refugee background face. One common issue is a lack of access to suitable accommodation. Coming to a new country and understanding the new systems, geography and languages can be difficult enough without having to worry about where you are going to live. Housing is more than just having a roof over your head, its about having a place where individuals and families can feel safe and secure, giving them the opportunity to flourish and fulfil their potential. At ARA we are supporting people to settle so that they can work to gain their independence, follow their aspirations, and fulfil that potential. Bok helps people from refugee backgrounds:

- Look for and apply for private rental properties.
- Get assistance from housing SA to help cover a bond.
- Contact agents or landlords that clients may be having trouble with.
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of a tenant.
- Apply for accommodation with community housing associations.
- Apply for community housing accommodation.
- Find services that may be able to provide emergency accommodation.

He will be working with Gatluit Chuol, also a settlement officer for ARA, to provide housing related workshops (how to search for housing, how to be a good tenant, public housing options and how to make house sharing a success).

Bok's enthusiasm and attention to detail will be of great benefit to the people he will be working with and all at ARA.

Both Bok and Gatluit are employed through DIAC's Settlement Grant Program (SGP).



Meet the Board

Chair of the Marketing Sub-Committee, Marie Hogan has been on the ARA Board for two years.



Marie Hogan

She is married to Jay and they have a married daughter, Jessica, with twin boys aged two and a girl aged five.

Marie has enjoyed a long career in education in a variety of different roles. She is currently Deputy of Curriculum and the Director of Ignatian Identity and Ethos Programs at St Ignatius College, Athelstone.

Marie holds a Masters of Education in Leadership, a Bachelor of Education and a Degree in Adult Education and Professional Development. She also has a post graduate diploma in TESOL (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages).

She was the founding Managing Director of the SA Adelaide Language Centre. The centre was established to teach English to students from overseas who wish to undertake secondary and tertiary studies in South Australia.

Marie has a broad interest in social issues and an understanding of marketing requirements. She has always been interested in refugee issues and has taught refugee students from Vietnam, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Sudan.

Marie would like to see ARA have a higher community profile and to see an increase in awareness of ARA and its work with refugees.

In her spare time, Marie enjoys her family, camping, reading and music.

Migration Volunteer

Like all sections of ARA, the Migration team relies heavily on the work of its volunteers. This issue of the newsletter spotlights volunteer Stephen Plummer. Stephen joined the migration team over the summer period and helps ARA staff with migration applications, client interviews, research and general administrative tasks.

Stephen joined ARA after having completed a Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of International Studies and a Diploma of Languages (French) at Adelaide University and the University of Poitiers.

During his tertiary education Stephen became interested in human rights and refugee law and made these subjects the focus of his studies. After graduating in December 2007 Stephen sought a volunteer position with ARA with the intention of gaining valuable experience in Australian refugee law.

Stephen says that throughout the last two months he has particularly enjoyed the interaction with clients and the level of responsibility that is usually foreign to first year graduates in large private law firms.

After his volunteer time with ARA, Stephen plans to take up a 6 month placement in Kokopo, Papua New Guinea, as a Juvenile Court Officer under the Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) program. In PNG he looks forward to building on the experience gained at ARA.



Stephen Plummer

ARA is supported by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) through the Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS) and the Settlement Grants Program (SGP)



Helping Refugees Transforming Lives

EXTRA Special

ARA recently had an opportunity to send four young Sudanese people to the set of McLeod's Daughters as extras. All four belong to a drama group and welcomed the chance to see how a successful television show is made.

Thanks to Renae Willmore from ARA for looking after her 'star charges' and the McLeod's Production team for the privilege of being involved. A big thank you too to Heidi Hedstrom who also participated on this day.

The show films many months ahead so keep your eye open for our acting hopefuls.



(Left to right):
Back - Renae (ARA Project Officer),
Charles; Front - Amou, Pager, Maggie

Rotary Magic

The Rotary Club of Adelaide hosted the World Festival of Magic at Thebarton Theatre in early November.

This annual event specifically caters for special needs and disadvantaged children and carers/families.

ARA was fortunate to receive a number of complementary tickets and was delighted to pass them on to young people, many of whom had never seen a spectacle like this.

The feedback we have received has been very positive and commended the show and the entertainers as professional and enthusiastic. We're told the crowd was 'pumped' and the noise and buzz in the room was amazing.

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Adelaide for their wonderful gesture.



State Conference "Side by Side"

**Wednesday 30 April 2008 from 8.45am – 4.30pm
Banquet Room, Adelaide Festival Centre**

A conference for service providers –
Working with Muslim Communities

Attorney General Michael Atkinson will open the conference and launch the booklet '*A practical guide to providing services to Muslim people*'.

Cost: \$40 for employed \$5 for volunteers

Registration essential, please phone: 8354 2951

This conference has been organised by: Australian Refugee Association, SA Equal Opportunity Commission, Lutheran Community Care, Migrant Health Service, Multicultural Youth SA, Muslim Women's Association, STARS

Supported by: Department of Immigration and Citizenship through funding of Settlement Grants Program and Community Benefit SA

Editors Note:

ARA welcomes contributions to REFUGEE.
Please contact Erika Marshall for details.
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*Please note the views represented in REFUGEE
are not necessarily those of ARA.*

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Thank You!

ARA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following for their generous help.

- Santa comes to ARA annually with the generous support of students at Mercedes College. Students are invited to take the name of a child and organise an appropriate gift for them. Many students also choose to include a note for the person receiving the gift. ARA volunteers become Santa's elves and help with the distribution of these very welcome gifts. A very big thank you to all who help with this huge effort.
- The Probus Club of Payneham Inc donated a large bag of knitted goods and toys for distribution. A wonderful gesture – thank you.
- BHP Billiton supported ARA through their Matched Giving Program.
- Donald Grey-Smith donated additional funds from the sale of his book, "Boat People of the Empire".
- "ESL for Living & Working in Australia Program" students at Thebarton Senior College donated proceeds of a stall held on campus.
- Gifts, toys and hampers were received from the Henley Fulham Uniting Church Community Workshop, Consumer and Business Affairs, Save the Children, Grange Primary School, Inclusive Directions – Northern Office and Adelaide Fresh Fruiterers – Newton



Dianne Borrington (Assistant Team Coordinator) and Sarah Harrison (Support Facilitator) from Inclusive Directions North with ARA staff Seconda Lukere and Kawl Lian Thang Cinzah

How You Can Help ARA

Make a Donation: ARA welcomes donations from members and friends wishing to help refugees

Donations can be made at the ARA office, by mail (cheque /money order or credit card payments) or by phone (by credit card - please call 8354 2951)

To support our current appeal, please refer to the enclosed letter.

In Memory Gifts: When someone close to us dies, relatives often consider asking friends to support a charity in lieu of flowers or as a once off donation. ARA can support this method of giving with donation envelopes for the Funeral Director to distribute.

All donors who supply a name and address will receive a receipt for their records and tax deductibility. An acknowledgement letter is sent to the next of kin advising a total amount donated.

Gifts in Lieu: Often when celebrating a milestone birthday or other special event, people request that their family and friends make a donation to ARA in lieu of a gift. All donations are tax deductible and ARA can supply donation forms if required.

Workplace Giving: Workplace Giving is a simple method of making regular donations from your pay to a charity. Small amounts given over an extended period make a huge difference. If you would like to donate in this way, please check with your employer to see if he/she is willing to participate. ARA is able to supply donation authority form if required.

Wills and Bequests: A bequest is an instruction in your will that a gift from your estate will be made to a person, or to an organisation.

Your solicitor or trustee company can explain how to leave a bequest to the Australian Refugee Association Inc. A bequest can be made in a new will or in some cases by adding a codicil to an existing will.

Corporate Partnerships: ARA welcomes the support of the business sector and works to build relationships that are beneficial to both parties. Benefits to the business include brand recognition, enhanced customer relations and networking opportunities. Members and friends are asked to support Corporate Partners wherever possible to ensure their support of ARA.

For more information on any of the above, please contact Erika Marshall at ARA on 8354 2951 or email Erika.Marshall@ausref.net