

The October issue reports on immigration fraud and visa scams and the measures taken to control the situation including the Fraud Public Interest Criterion extending to Business Skills and Student Visa Programs. Readers are also reminded of the heavy criminal sanctions which apply to people convicted of immigration fraud and misconduct. Remember the old saying, crime never pays!

Fraud Public Interest Criterion expanded to Business Skills and Student Visas

On 2 April 2011, the department introduced a new Fraud Public Interest Criterion (PIC) to the suite of Skilled Migration visas. From **5 November 2011**, all visas in the Business Skills and the Student Visa Programs will be also covered by the Regulation. All the affected visa subclasses now are as follows:

Subclass	Type of Visa	Visa Title
175	GSM	Skilled – Independent (Migrant)
176	GSM	Skilled – Sponsored (Migrant)
475	GSM	Skilled – Regional Sponsored (Provisional)
476	GSM	Skilled – Skilled – Recognised Graduate (Temporary)
485	GSM	Skilled – Graduate (Temporary)
487	GSM	Skilled – Regional Sponsored (Provisional)
495*	GSM	Skilled – Independent Regional (Provisional)
496*	GSM	Skilled – Designated Area-sponsored (Provisional)
880*	GSM	Skilled – Independent – Overseas Student
881*	GSM	Skilled – Australian-sponsored Overseas Student
882*	GSM	Skilled – Designated Area-sponsored Overseas Student
883*	GSM	Skilled – Designated Area-sponsored (Residence)
885	GSM	Skilled – Independent (Residence)
886	GSM	Skilled – Sponsored (Residence)
887	GSM	Skilled – Regional (Residence)
457	TES	Business (Long Stay)
119	PES	Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme
121	PES	Employer Nomination Scheme
856	PES	Employer Nomination Scheme
857	PES	Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme
132	Business Skills	Business Talent
160	Business Skills	Business Owner (Provisional)
161	Business Skills	Senior Executive (Provisional)
162	Business Skills	Investor (Provisional)
163	Business Skills	State/Territory Sponsored Business Owner (Provisional)
164	Business Skills	State/Territory Sponsored Senior Executive (Provisional)
165	Business Skills	State/Territory Sponsored Investor (Provisional)
845	Business Skills	Established Business in Australia
846	Business Skills	State/Territory Sponsored Regional Established Business in Australia
890	Business Skills	Business Owner
891	Business Skills	Investor
892	Business Skills	State/Territory Sponsored Business Owner
893	Business Skills	State/Territory Sponsored Investor (Residence)

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570	Student	Independent ELICOS Sector
571	Student	Schools Sector
572	Student	Vocational Education and Training Sector
573	Student	Higher Education Sector
574	Student	Postgraduate Research Sector
575	Student	Non-Award Sector
576	Student	AusAID/Defence Sector
580	Student	Student Guardian

GSM – General Skilled Migration
PES – Permanent Employer Sponsored visas
TES – Temporary Employer Sponsored visas

All affected pending and future applications will be subject to assessment under the Fraud PIC if a person has lodged an application for a visa listed above. Under the Fraud PIC the Department of Immigration can lawfully assess whether or not an application for any of the above visa subclasses contains bogus documents or information that is false or misleading.

The Fraud PIC applies retrospectively to applications lodged prior to its introduction, which have not yet been finalised. This also includes un-finalised decisions under review.

DIAC states that for Student visas, the Fraud PIC will be applied only to applications lodged on or after 5 November 2011. The Fraud PIC is not applied retrospectively to Student visa applications on hand and not yet finalised before 5 November 2011.

Applicants affected by PIC 4020 are prevented from applying for a prescribed visa for 3 years. For information contact [David Bitel](#) of our office.

www.immi.gov.au/skilled/pdf/fraud-pic.pdf

Man arrested for migration fraud

A man has been arrested by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) as part of a three-year joint operation with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) into systematic fraud against migration processes.

The 45-year-old Kingsbury man has been charged with offences relating to the manufacturing and submission of false documents, contrary to section 144.1 of the Criminal Code Act 1995.

It will be alleged in court that the alleged offender falsified documents to gain positive Pre-Migration Skills Assessments used to support skilled migration visa applications.

DIAC has identified more than 250 visa applications linked to the fraudulent activities of the alleged offender, and those applications are being assessed for either visa refusal or cancellation.

The maximum penalty for this offence is \$110,000 and/or ten years imprisonment.

www.afp.gov.au/media-centre/news/afp/2011/november/man-arrested-for-migration-fraud-following-joint-investigation.aspx

Investigations continue as immigration fraudster jailed

The Australian Government has continued its crackdown on migration-related

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fraud with a 33-month jail sentence handed down recently to an Australian man who produced false documents used in permanent residency applications.

Carmine Amarante was identified as a facilitator of immigration fraud as part of a multi-jurisdictional investigation and was charged with offences in relation to forgery under the Criminal Code Act 1995.

“With assistance from the Australian Federal Police (AFP), search warrants were executed at the offender’s residence uncovering large quantities of evidence relating to the provision of false documents in applications for visas under the general skilled migration (GSM) program,” a Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) spokesperson said.

“This conviction should serve as a reminder to the community that the department and the courts will act swiftly against those who attempt to defraud our migration programs.

“Anyone found to have obtained a visa based on fraudulent information can expect to face visa refusal or cancellation and prosecution.”

The offender produced 541 false documents which were subsequently lodged to Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) in support of skills assessment applications and the Victorian State Government.

“Mr Amarante received payments of between \$1500 and \$2500 a document and 471 visa applications have been lodged with my department based on these false documents,” the spokesperson said.

“Migration fraud is a serious matter and this sentence is another triumph for the Australian Government. It demonstrates our determination and dedication to combat migration fraud in Australia.”

http://www.newsroom.immi.gov.au/media_releases/980

Immigration scam revealed

In an exclusive interview with SBS Mandarin News Australia, a student from China revealed how he was paid to sit an English language immigration test for someone else.

Following the story, IELTS issued a statement warning test candidates that if they attempt to present fraudulent identities to any IELTS test centre, they will be identified and action will be taken.

Students are under increasing pressure to score higher results in the International English Language Testing System exam, a key criterion for gaining Australian permanent residency.

An underground business is emerging, providing the service of falsifying everything international students need to get permanent residency. This includes everything from organising fake passports to finding a substitute to sit their English exam for them.

The businessmen allegedly contact the 'substitute' students directly, using a popular Chinese instant messaging program.

"Because we are both Chinese, we contact each other by the instant messaging program QQ. It is easy to register an ID contact name for each other. By using QQ contacts, nobody can track your real identification," one source told SBS. The

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source, identified only as 'Mr L', says he never has a problem when pretending to be a student sitting for the IELTS exam. "I am similar looking to the student client. It is hard to figure out the difference between us, especially after changing my hairstyle," he told SBS.

SBS Mandarin found the IELTS substitution was almost an open secret.

Two test centres at Macquarie University and the University of Western Sydney have introduced new fingerprint scanning machines for identification purposes, and the federal government plans to further toughen the criteria.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1549976/exclusive-immigration-scam-revealed>

Indian marriage of convenience rort

Australia's next "student visa rort" is likely to be sham marriages in which one partner gets access to work in the cash economy, the government's adviser on student visas, former politician Michael Knight, has warned.

Australian officials in the Indian subcontinent were concerned by newspaper advertisements in which people seeking marriage partners "trumpet" their student visa, Mr Knight said in last week's report on student visas.

One arrangement was that a female with a student visa would have her university fees paid for by a male on a dependent spouse visa, who would come to Australia with the intention to work in the cash economy and perhaps never go back.

"The problem of identifying sham marriages is especially hard when most of the students bringing spouses to Australia are from countries where arranged marriages are the norm," Mr Knight said.

Figures showed Indian and Nepalese students in vocational colleges were much more likely than Chinese to bring dependent spouses with them, he said.

Officials in some overseas posts were seeing "increasing numbers of young men, who had their own applications for student visas rejected, reappearing as dependent spouse applicants". A dependent spouse usually gets the same work rights as the person given the student visa.

"There are increasing concerns that 'dependent spouses' could become the new student visa rort," Mr Knight said. "It has the potential to be the new backdoor route to work in Australia and perhaps also the new backdoor route to try and exploit the system for migration purposes."

From mid next year, overseas students who emerge from an Australian university with a bachelor's degree will be entitled to two years of work. Their dependent spouses also can stay on with some work rights, according to a spokeswoman for Immigration Minister Chris Bowen.

Sydney immigration lawyer David Bitel said: "I am seeing many cases of the victims of the sham arrangements, both men and women. They are from Nepal and India."

Mr Knight said the government should exercise "extreme vigilance", study the level of abuse and, if necessary, cut back the work rights of dependent spouses.

www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/indian-marriage-of-convenience-rort/story-e6frgcjx-1226148279231

Speeches

APB Education

Take-up of 457 visas is booming

The controversial 457 visa system for temporary foreign workers is booming.

The Immigration Department's annual report released recently has revealed use of the temporary visa - historically reviled by unions - has surged under the Gillard government, up a third during 2010-11.

"Emerging skills shortages, posing a risk to business growth in some parts of the Australian economy, have increased demand, resulting in the strongest year on record for the subclass 457 visa program," it said.

The revival in fortunes of the demand-driven, uncapped visa scheme comes after its numbers slumped by a third in 2009-10, in the wake of the global financial crisis and a government crackdown on low wages and substandard conditions.

In industries such as construction, the turnaround is even more pronounced, up 78 per cent last financial year.

Unions, however, remain unhappy with the resurgence of the 457 visa, with the ACTU last week pushing for new limits on its use to force companies to train local workers instead.

They have also campaigned against exploitation of short-term foreign workers, yet the number of employers monitored, visited, sanctioned, warned or referred to other agencies by the Immigration Department fell in 2010-11 for the third year running.

www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/immigration/take-up-of-457-visas-is-booming-under-julia-gillard/story-fn9hm1gu-1226167117334

More skilled migrants for WA

WA is set for an influx of skilled migrants with four in five WA companies surveyed by audit firm KPMG indicating they planned to hire from abroad in the next 12 months.

A study by KPMG said international recruitment was on the rise because skills shortages were growing in every State except Queensland, affecting 61 per cent of employers surveyed, compared with 51 per cent last year.

The report showed WA companies were experiencing the steepest rise in skills shortages, with the number of employers indicating a shortfall jumping 18 per cent to two-thirds of all those surveyed.

Immigration Department statistics show WA's intake of subclass 457 visa workers skyrocketed 85 per cent in July compared with the same month last year. WA employers sponsored 1230 migrant workers in July compared with 670 a year ago.

But UnionsWA secretary Simone McGurk said it undermined training opportunities for unemployed or underemployed locals, including older workers and youths.

"We are concerned about a culture developing in which employers turn to 457 visa workers rather than training," she said.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/10439094/more-skilled-migrants-for-wa/>

Indian university student illegally detained

An Indian student who paid thousands of dollars to study in Australia was illegally detained at the Villawood detention centre for 18 months because of mistakes by immigration officers, the Australian Human Rights Commission has found.

The commission President, Catherine Branson, has written to the Immigration Minister, Chris Bowen, with her finding that Prashant Cherkupalli, 31, be paid compensation of \$597,000 for the 509 days he was illegally detained between November 2004 and April 2006.

The detention caused him to miss classes and forfeit \$57,000 in prepaid fees. He has now graduated with a Masters of Engineering from the University of Sydney, and is seeking justice. He is now suing the Commonwealth in the NSW Supreme Court for damages.

The Human Rights Commission finding, which is not binding, comes as the Immigration Department head, Andrew Metcalfe, has warned politicians that the mandatory detention of asylum seekers has led to "many people pursuing claims against the Commonwealth in relation to damage allegedly done to them as a result of being detained".

Mr Cherkupalli was taken to Villawood after being found working at a patisserie during an immigration raid in 2004, apparently in breach of the "no work" condition of his visa. It was his first day at the patisserie - he was filling in for a friend unable to work the shift.

He was finally released in 2006 and granted a bridging visa with work rights after the intervention of the Federal Magistrates Court. The department has conceded its decision to cancel his visa was invalid.

Ms Branson found there was no justification for detaining Mr Cherkupalli because his clear intention was to continue his studies, not abscond.

An Immigration Department spokesman said the department would respond to the commission's findings shortly. Mr Cherkupalli would be allowed to remain in Australia until his NSW Supreme Court case was resolved.

www.smh.com.au/national/indian-uni-student-illegally-detained-commission-finds-20111023-1mekd.html

Greens seek 30-day detention cap after student's ordeal

The Greens have called for the federal government to put a 30-day limit on immigration detention.

Responding to the Australian Human Rights Commission finding that an Indian student, Prashant Cherkupalli, was illegally detained for 18 months at Villawood, the Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young said the best way to avoid a repeat of the situation was a 30-day detention limit, with a court to review any time extension.

"It costs millions of dollars to keep someone in a detention centre over the long term, and more in compensation if they are kept unlawfully," she said.

Mr Cherkupalli, a fee-paying foreign student, is now suing the Commonwealth in the NSW Supreme Court over his ordeal, which prevented him attending classes for which he had prepaid \$57,000 in student fees.

www.smh.com.au/news/national/national/general/greens-seek-30day-detention-cap-after-students-ordeal-20111024-1mgcx.html

Dozens still missing in asylum boat tragedy

Dozens of asylum seekers are feared to have drowned after a boat believed to be heading for Australia sank off the Indonesian island of Java recently.

At 1am on November 1, 70 left in a boat from Cilacap, Java. It sank at a nearby island four hours later.

These fatalities are the first known deaths involving asylum seekers heading to Australia since a boat slammed into rocks at Christmas Island almost a year ago, killing as many as 50 people.

Home Affairs Minister Brendan O'Connor said that Indonesian authorities had rescued 46 people, but 20 were still missing. He said the boat was presumed to have been on its way to Christmas Island.

Mr O'Connor said, "This is a tragic event which underscores the absolute dire need to put in the strongest possible deterrent to combat people smuggling and to prevent dangerous vessels embarking on a journey to Australia."

Interviews with the surviving asylum seekers indicate that they were forced to board the unseaworthy vessel by the Indonesian crew.

It was a night of sheer terror, a tragedy that unfolded just as the asylum seekers suspected it might after they first set eyes on the vessel for which they had each paid thousands of dollars to take them to Australia.

As the three small outriggers brought them to their 2am ocean rendezvous, the 70-odd asylum seekers saw before them a nine-metre wooden fishing boat that was already listing and taking on water.

"We were shocked. We told them it was too small, there were too many people. They [the Indonesian crew] got very angry and said no questions about this. They just said sit down, you can do nothing about it," said Kamran Haider, a 17-year-old Pakistani. "We were still arguing when the boat tipped to one side and it started to sink."

Less than 30 minutes into their journey, pure mayhem ensued. Most of the passengers were crammed below decks, choking on petrol fumes as the water rushed in.

Forty-five people survived, Iranians, Afghans and Pakistanis, who all say they were fleeing persecution.

Kamran, a student from the Kurram Valley on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan, paid \$US5500 to get to Australia via Malaysia, the Iranians paid \$US7000 and flew straight to Jakarta after bribing immigration officers at the airport \$US500 for a visa.

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/news/national/national/general/20-still-missing-in-asylum-boat-tragedy/2344415.aspx>

www.smh.com.au/national/no-choice-for-asylum-seekers-but-to-board-boat-of-death-20111103-1mwlu.html

Burmese boat renews detention questions

A boatload of Burmese, a people who rarely travel by boat to Australia, was among three vessels intercepted recently.

The failed Malaysian refugee swap has raised the profile of Australia as a resettlement country among the 94,000 mostly Burmese asylum seekers living in limbo in Malaysia, and the boat could be an unintended consequence.

Only seven Burmese boat arrivals to Australia have been granted visas in the past three years. Government sources said the arrival of the Burmese was "out of the ordinary".

Pressure is mounting on the federal government to put a time limit on mandatory detention. Medical groups and unions have called for a 90-day limit, while the Greens and GetUp! want a 30-day limit in response to the mental health toll of prolonged detention.

The Immigration Minister, Chris Bowen, is expected to announce details of how bridging visas will be used to shift more boat arrivals into community housing, but is likely to resist a timeframe.

The Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, said: "Checks have to be made and the length of time for checks depends on individual cases."

A former Australian of the Year and mental health expert, Patrick McGorry, said it was "fair enough" that people who arrive without documents undergo security checks, but it didn't need to be a debate of border protection versus humane treatment. "If there was a 30-day limit, you're not violating border protection policy."

www.smh.com.au/national/burmese-boat-renews-detention-questions-20111025-1mi4n.html

Death at Sydney Immigration Residential Housing

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has confirmed a man died recently at the Sydney Immigration Residential Housing (IRH). The Sri Lankan man was discovered in distress in his accommodation at the facility.

"An ambulance was called immediately and they commenced CPR but the man was pronounced dead shortly after midnight," said a DIAC spokesman. "Police were called to the scene and will investigate the circumstances around the man's death which is expected to become the subject of a Coroner's inquest."

Until the deceased's next of kin overseas are informed, no further details regarding the man's age or the circumstances of his detention will be released. The Department expressed its sympathy to the family of the deceased man and indicated it will cooperate fully with the Coroner.

http://www.newsroom.immi.gov.au/media_releases/976

Affirmation of asylum-seeker deal

The Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and her Malaysian counterpart, Najib Razak, have kept alive their asylum-seeker swap deal with a joint show of support at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth.

In their first meeting since the Malaysia plan was shelved because of a parliamentary stalemate, Ms Gillard and Mr Najib maintained the plan was the best way to stop people smuggling.

"Both prime ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Malaysia-Australia transfer agreement as an innovative and effective approach to combating people smuggling," a spokesman said after the meeting.

Writing in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Mr Najib passionately defended the policy, which involved Australia sending back 800 asylum seekers in return for accepting 4000 refugees. Even though the deal has stalled, Australia will still accept the 4000 refugees but they will be part of the existing humanitarian intake, rather than an additional number.

In Perth for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, the Prime Minister Julia Gillard maintained her belief that quickly returning 800 asylum seekers to Malaysia remained the best deterrent to people arriving on "leaky boats".

She says she will take her Malaysia plan for asylum seekers to the next election. "That is the policy of the government now [and] it will be the policy of the government in the future."

www.smh.com.au/national/gillard-and-malaysian-pm-affirm-asylumseeker-deal-20111027-1mm56.html
www.smh.com.au/national/gillard-will-take-malaysia-plan-for-asylum-seekers-to-election-20111024-1mqcw.html

Legislative Changes

Launch of discussion paper on new anti-discrimination law

Attorney General Robert McClelland and Minister for Finance and Deregulation Penny Wong have launched a public discussion paper to seek community views on the consolidation of Federal anti-discrimination laws.

Mr McClelland said successive Commonwealth Governments have long recognised that antidiscrimination protections are crucial to enable all Australians to participate fully in public life, address historical disadvantage and promote social cohesion.

Since 1975, this policy has been supported by five pieces of legislation: The Racial Discrimination Act 1975, the Sex Discrimination Act 1984, the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, the Age Discrimination Act 2004 and the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986.

"These acts are now substantially inconsistent and unnecessarily complex. This results in confusion in respect to obligations arising under the laws and can increase the cost for legal and specialist assistance," Mr McClelland said.

"The release of the discussion paper recognises the community's strong interest in the effective operation of anti-discrimination laws."

The project also provides the opportunity to ensure consistency with other legislation including the Fair Work Act.

www.ema.gov.au/www/ministers/mcClelland.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2011_ThirdQuarter_Launchofdiscussionpaperonnewanti-discriminationlaw

Strengthening legal cooperation with China

Attorney-General Robert McClelland has met with the Chinese Minister for Justice, Madam Wu Aiyang in Canberra recently to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on legal cooperation.

Mr McClelland said the MOU updated a previous agreement signed in 1984 and will improve mutual understanding across the law and justice sectors in Australia and China.

"The MOU is a clear expression of the importance both Australia and the People's Republic of China place on maintaining an enduring relationship across the law and justice sector."

"The Australian legal and justice sector places a great degree of importance on its relationship with China. The legal cooperation and engagement that the Memorandum promotes will be important to help us better understand each other's legal systems," Mr McClelland said.

www.ema.gov.au/www/ministers/mcClelland.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2011_ThirdQuarter_30August2011-StrengtheninglegalcooperationwithChina

Stronger laws to deal with international child abduction

Attorney-General Robert McClelland recently announced the Government will introduce new measures to strengthen Australia's laws that deal with international parental child abduction.

He said the package of measures will include new criminal offences under the Family Law Act, extending the coverage of existing offences, allowing the family law courts to stop child support payments for parents who have abducted their child overseas and new information gathering powers for courts to locate children abducted from Australia.

“On average, two to three children are wrongfully removed from Australia or retained in another country every week by one of their parents,” said Mr McClelland. “Being forced to go through the experience of having your child taken away to another country is unimaginable for any parent.

“Australia is a signatory to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which provides a strong mechanism for lawfully seeking the return of abducted children. We want to strengthen the laws to stop children being abducted in the first place, improve the mechanisms to locate a child overseas and remove barriers so the child can be returned to Australia.”

“The abduction of children can have a severe emotional, psychological and financial impact for children and left-behind parents.”

Draft legislation to implement this change in policy is expected to be ready by the end of this year to be introduced in Parliament in the first half of 2012.

www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/laws_child_abduction_19sept11.aspx

Multiculturalism

New council and ambassadors support Australia's diversity

The Government recently launched a new local ambassadors program to champion inclusion and highlight the benefits of Australia's diversity.

The *People of Australia Ambassadors* program was formally announced by Prime Minister Julia Gillard at the launch of the new independent Australian Multicultural Council. She encouraged Australians to nominate local champions from their own neighbourhood and communities who have helped to promote inclusion and participation in their community.

Up to 40 people will be selected as ambassadors to provide grassroots advice to the Australian Multicultural Council (AMC) about effective initiatives which promote inclusion and leverage diversity in our communities.

The Council was appointed as part of the Government's new multicultural policy, *The People of Australia*, released in February this year.

The former advisory council recommended the new independent body be set up to advise and consult the Government on multicultural issues and inform national policy.

The new Council will provide a strong voice on multicultural issues and contribute constructively to the broader deliberations of Government.

Information in relation to the AMC and the *People of Australia* Ambassadors program can be found at www.amc.gov.au

<http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/new-council-and-ambassadors-support-australias-diversity>

A conversation on ageing with key multicultural and ethnic groups

Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler and Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Kate Lundy recently met with key multicultural community organisations in Sydney as part of a national conversation on healthy and positive ageing.

The views of these organisations will help inform the Gillard Labor Government's response to the Productivity Commission Final Report, Caring for Older Australians.

"With older Australians leading longer, healthier and more prosperous lives than ever before, it's important that the government looks carefully at how to provide the best possible care and support for older Australians," Mr Butler said.

"The number of older Australians from CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) backgrounds is expected to increase by over 40 per cent between 2011 and 2026 in line with the overall increase in the older population. By 2026, it is projected that one in four Australians aged 80 and over will be from CALD background."

Senator Lundy said over seven million migrants had peacefully settled in Australia since the Second World War and many of these people now require aged care and support.

"Providing care and support that meets the needs of these Australians is something the Government is committed to.

"As well as ensuring that language or culture do not act as barriers to receiving high quality aged care, we must continue to take into account the cultural and religious needs of our seniors."

The Government will develop its response to the Commission's recommendations guided by four overarching principles:

- First, every older Australian has earned the right to be able to access quality care and support that is appropriate to their needs, when they need it.
- Secondly, older Australians deserve greater choice and control over their care arrangements than the system currently provides.
- Thirdly, funding arrangements for aged care need to be sustainable and fair, both for older Australians and for the broader community.
- And finally, older Australians deserve to receive quality care from an appropriately skilled workforce.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-mb-mb138.htm>

A time to celebrate

It was a fairly short trip for most of the 3000 members of Sydney's Muslim community who gathered at the Lakemba Mosque one day in November. But it marked a much longer journey. It was the beginning of Eid ul-Adha, a four-day celebration which coincides with the end of the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

Eid ul-Adha commemorates an ancient test in which the prophet Abraham was ordered by God to slaughter his son. "Can you imagine that - having to slaughter your own son?" the Imam of Lakemba Mosque, Sheikh Yahia Safi said as he relayed the tale. "Then, as he had the knife to his son's throat, Allah said: 'Stop, you have already passed the test.'" Abraham was directed to slaughter a lamb instead, and at Eid ul-Adha, Muslims practise this ritual sacrifice.

Australian Muslims have devised a more politically correct (and legal) way of honouring the tradition.

Each household donates \$110 to a Muslim association.

"At Eid we make sacrifices for those who are less fortunate than us. It is about harmony and peace" said the president of the Lebanese Muslim Association, Samier Dandan.

"This is a day where I don't think about work even for one second," said one Imam. It's a day to spend time with the family and talk and just ... be in harmony."

www.smh.com.au/national/a-time-to-celebrate--and-enjoy-peace-and-harmony-20111106-1n21q.html

Tertiary Education

Future of international education

Michael Chaney AO will chair a new International Education Advisory Council to advise the Australian Government in developing a new long-term strategy for the international education sector.

“Building on the Government’s response to the Knight Review of International Student Visas, the new council will provide high level advice to the Government on the challenges and opportunities facing international education,” said Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education.

“The Council is well placed to contribute to the Government’s development of a five-year national strategy to support the sustainability and quality of international education. I have asked the Council for early advice on trends in international education and on current and proposed policies affecting the sector.”

Today’s announcement complements Australian Government measures to strengthen the international education sector, including:

- reforms to the student visa program recommended by the Knight Review;
- strengthening the registration criteria for providers of education services to overseas students;
- extending the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Ombudsman to include students of private registered providers; and
- moving to establish a single agency to safeguard the interests of students if a provider closes.

http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/evans/media/releases/pages/article_111014_125005.aspx

Human Rights

Ambassadorial appointment a plus for gender equality

Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, congratulated the Australian Government recently on its decision to appoint Penny Williams as Australia’s first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.

“Though it is important that Australia commit itself to enhancing gender equality at home, it is just as important that we do so in our global interactions,” said Commissioner Broderick.

“The Global Ambassadorship will enable Australia to play a greater leadership role by assisting in the elimination of discrimination against women and girls through initiatives such as those that address education, health and poverty.”

Commissioner Broderick welcomed the decision to prioritise issues such as violence against women and the representation of women in leadership roles.

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2011/83_11.html

National anti-racism partnership and strategy

Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Kate Lundy have welcomed progress on the development of a comprehensive anti-racism strategy for Australia.

The Gillard Government has provided \$1.7 million funding to implement the National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy, which is being steered by Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Helen Szoke.

The partnership was announced as a key initiative of the Government's national multicultural policy, *The People of Australia*, and brings together existing expertise on anti-racism and multicultural matters.

"The Government values and celebrates the benefits of Australia's unique diversity and we are committed to eliminating racial discrimination," Senator Lundy said. "The national anti-racism strategy affirms the Government's commitment to strengthen social inclusion and it builds on the positive initiatives in our new national multicultural policy.

"Australians from all backgrounds should be given every opportunity to be part of Australia's social, economic and cultural life.

"Racism discounts the contribution made by culturally and linguistically diverse Australians and undermines social cohesion. Racism and discrimination have no place in our society."

<http://www.alp.org.au/federal-government/news/national-anti-racism-partnership-and-strategy/>

More funding to fight slavery and labour trafficking

The Gillard Government has stepped up the fight against labour trafficking, granting more than \$485,000 in funding for five organisations to combat slavery and human trafficking in Australia. The funding would go to projects which targeted employers and workers to raise awareness of labour exploitation, and to provide advocacy and outreach to industries or groups which may be vulnerable to these crimes, such as migrant workers.

Minister for Justice Brendan O'Connor said, "Australian authorities are now identifying an increasing number of trafficking victims in industries other than the sex industry."

Minister for the Status of Women Kate Ellis said the non-government sector was instrumental in raising awareness of human trafficking, identifying cases and providing support to victims.

"That's why we are continuing to dedicate funding, resources and time to working with non-government organisations to address this crime," Ms Ellis said.

"Victim support and rehabilitation is one of the four pillars of Australia's anti-people trafficking strategy."

The funding will go to:

- Australian Red Cross, to identify and combat labour trafficking among Indian 457 visa holders in NSW and Victoria, including producing an information flyer in the major Indian languages for 457 visa applicants
- Asian Women at Work, to work with migrant women in low-paid and precarious employment across Sydney, including in clothing outwork, factories, cleaning, nail and beauty salons, restaurants, aged care and child care
- Australian Hotels Association, to distribute an information brochure to 5,000 hotels nationally on how to legally employ overseas workers and an online seminar on strategies to discourage exploitation
- Australian Council of Trade Unions, for its Labour trafficking is a crime – spot it, report it campaign targeting the hospitality, agriculture, manufacturing, construction, mining and domestic work industries
- Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (Construction Division), to produce multi-lingual pamphlets targeting the building sector.

www.kateellis.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/morefundingtofightslaveryandlabourtrafficking_17_oct_2011.aspx

International experts meet to collaborate against child sexual predators

The Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT), one of the world's largest international child protection taskforces, met at the INTERPOL General Secretariat headquarters in Lyon, France recently to explore new techniques to protect children from online sexual abuse.

Experts from all nine international VGT law enforcement agencies were at the two-day meeting which followed a three-day gathering of the INTERPOL specialist group on crimes against children which brought together experts from 52 countries.

The VGT was established in 2003 to fight online child abuse, and aims to dismantle global online child sexual exploitation networks, coordinate covert internet investigations, share and develop intelligence and target child sex offenders.

www.afp.gov.au/media-centre/news/afp/2011/september/international-experts-meet-to-collaborate-against-child-sexual-predators.aspx

Older Australians online and on track

Around 160,000 older Australians have been staying connected to family and friends through free access to the internet under the Australian Government's *Broadband for Seniors* initiative.

The Australian Government understands the importance of helping older Australians to stay in touch with family and friends.

There are around 2,000 *Broadband for Seniors* kiosks across Australia, which have been providing seniors with free access to broadband internet and training in basic computing since the initiative was launched in September 2009. More than a third of the seniors who accessed the internet at a *Broadband for Seniors* kiosk had never used a computer before, and almost half had never used the internet.

http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/older_australians_online_14oct11.aspx

Speeches

Keynote address, 2011 Anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing conference | Australian Crime Commission

Speech delivered by John Lawler, CEO, Australian Crime Commission, on 7 November 2011 at Swissotel, Sydney

<http://www.crimecommission.gov.au/media/keynote-address-2011-anti-money-laundering-and-counter-terrorism-financing-conference>

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