

## SENATOR THE HON ZED SESELJA



Zed Seselja was sworn in as Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs by the Governor-General on 19 July 2016. Zed was first elected to the Senate for the Australian Capital Territory in 2013. Since his election to Parliament, Zed has been appointed to a number of committees including the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme National, the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee on Community Affairs, where he served as Chair, and the Senate Select Committee on Health. Zed was born in Canberra to Croatian immigrant parents and was raised in Tuggeranong Valley. He is married to Roslyn and they have five children.

## HON. TONY BURKE MP



Tony Burke is the Shadow Minister for Multicultural Australia & Citizenship; Shadow Minister for Environment & Water; Shadow Minister for the Arts and Manager of Opposition Business in the 45th Australian Parliament. Tony's portfolios reflect his lifelong commitments; to modern multicultural Australia, to the environment, and to the arts. He has led the fight against racial hate speech with the iconic Walk for Respect in the heart of his community in Lakemba

## SENATOR RICHARD DI NATALE



Dr Richard Di Natale is the leader of the Australian Greens. He was elected to the federal parliament in 2010 and re-elected in 2016. He was the first Greens' first Victorian Senator. His portfolios include health, multiculturalism and sport. Prior to entering parliament, Richard was a general practitioner and public health specialist. He worked in Aboriginal health in the Northern Territory, on HIV prevention in India and in the drug and alcohol sector. His key health priorities include preventative health, public dental care and responding to the health impacts of climate change. Richard became leader of the Australian Greens in May 2015 following the retirement of Senator Christine Milne.

## DR. ALEXANDRA LEIPOLD



Dr. Alexandra Leipold is the project manager of the KAUSA Coordination Office for Vocational Training and Migration at the Otto Benecke Foundation e.V. (german: Otto Benecke Stiftung e.V., OBS) in Bonn, Germany. The Foundation is a non-government organization that is active in the areas of migration, immigration and minorities for more than 50 years. Within the project of KAUSA, Alexandra and her team support young immigrants and their parents as well as entrepreneurs and small and medium sized enterprises in their engagement to participate in the German Vocational and Educational Training (VET). The KAUSA project gives specific and multilingual information on all aspects of the VET and helps to fill training gaps. She is also involved in close collaboration with non-government organizations with migrant background to strengthen educational opportunities for everyone. So far, Alexandra worked for the OBS both in the areas of academic and vocational qualifications. She has a PhD in Chinese literature and works as advisor and trainer for academic writing and teaches at universities and colleges. Above all, she has run through the vocational training being a carpenter herself.

## PARIS ARISTOTLE AO



Paris Aristotle AO is the Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc., also known as Foundation House. Paris has nearly 30 years' experience in the field of supporting refugees and asylum seekers, particularly the provision of services to survivors of torture and trauma. Throughout this period, Paris has worked closely with the UNHCR in the field of refugee resettlement and served on a wide range of state and federal government bodies advising on refugee and asylum seeker policy, and multicultural affairs. In 2017 Paris was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Paris was recognised for 'distinguished service to the refugee and asylum seeker sector'. In 2002 Paris was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and in 2003 was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal. Paris's work was also recognised by being named the 2017 Victorian Australian of the Year.

## DR BULENT HASS DELLAL



Dr B. (Hass) Dellal AO is the Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation and Chairman of the SBS Board of Directors. He has over 25 years' experience in policy, management, community development and programming for cultural diversity. He has extensive experience nationally and internationally in multicultural affairs. He serves on various boards and committees and has spearheaded initiatives for the development of the general community. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to Multiculturalism, the Arts and the Community in 1997, and the Centenary of Federation Medal in 2003. In 2015, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the multicultural community through leadership and advisory roles, to the advancement of inclusiveness and social harmony, to youth, and to the broadcast media.

## MEGAN MITCHELL



Megan Mitchell is Australia's first National Children's Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission, appointed in 2013. Megan has previous experience in both government and non-government roles in child protection, out-of-home care, youth justice, disability, and early childhood services. Megan also holds qualifications in social policy, psychology and education. In her role as Commissioner, Megan focuses solely on the rights and interests of children, and the laws, policies and programs that impact on them. Each year, Megan presents a statutory report to federal Parliament on the state of children's rights in Australia. In her work to date, Megan has focused on the prevalence of suicide and intentional self-harm in children and young people, the impact of family and domestic violence on children and young people, and the oversight of children and young people in correctional detention.

## PROFESSOR FETHI MANSOURI



Professor Mansouri is the Director of the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation. The ADI conducts innovative multidisciplinary research that addresses problems concerning social, cultural, economic and political inequalities and human rights. ADI research makes a difference through expanding the capacity, depth and quality of knowledge and understanding we generate. The Institute works in collaboration with partners locally, nationally and internationally.

## DR TIM SOUTPHOMMASANE



Dr Tim Soutphommasane has been Race Discrimination Commissioner since August 2013. Prior to joining the Australian Human Rights Commission, Tim was a political philosopher and held posts at The University of Sydney and Monash University. His thinking on multiculturalism, patriotism and national identity has been influential in shaping debates in Australia and Britain. Tim is the author of four books and has been an opinion columnist with The Age and The Weekend Australian newspapers, and presented the documentary series Mongrel Nation on ABC Radio National (2013). Tim is an adjunct professor at the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University and chairs the Leadership Council on Cultural Diversity. Born in France and raised in southwest Sydney, Tim holds a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy from the University of Oxford, and is a first-class honours graduate of The University of Sydney.

## ANYA SATYANAND



Anya is Executive Officer of Ara Taiohi, NZ. In her career which spans the education, community and youth development sectors, Anya has demonstrated a big commitment to and vision for interdisciplinary, cross sectoral approaches to working with young people. She's worked in school leadership and sector development on strengths based, youth driven, innovative, restorative and ethical approaches to working with young people. Superdiversity has particular relevance in our changing youth demographics, and our young people's cultural capabilities are what will drive Aotearoa forward into a hopeful future.

## DR CLAIRE NAUGHTIN



Dr Claire Naughtin is a Research Scientist in the Insight team at Data61, CSIRO. Claire has been involved in multiple consulting and advisory projects for government and industry clients, covering topics such as health promotion, intellectual property and employment. Prior to her work with CSIRO, Claire was as a Research Scientist at The University of Queensland. Claire has a PhD from The University of Queensland, specializing in behavioral psychology, human factors and neuroscience. Claire has also worked in various advisory roles where she was involved in translating insights from academic research into human factor solutions for business. Claire is passionate about bridging the gap between research and real-world application, and using data to help people make informed, evidence-based decisions.

## PROFESSOR HELEN CAHILL



Academic, Melbourne Graduate School of Education Curriculum studies: Arts education; Use of drama in health Promotion; Student attitudes and experience; Mental health Teacher education: Secondary; Student engagement and pedagogy Professor Helen Cahill uses poststructural theory to inform participatory and transformative education. She has developed many Australian wellbeing programs addressing gender, resilience and respectful relationships, and a number of gender rights and sexuality education programs for women and young people in developing countries within the Asia-Pacific region.

## PROFESSOR ANITA HARRIS



Anita Harris is a Research Professor in the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation. She is a youth sociologist undertaking a series of projects on youth and citizenship, including the completion of an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship. Prior to joining the Institute, she was a Future Fellow in the Sociology program at Monash University (2011-2015), and a Mid-Career Research Fellow and Deputy Director at the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies at the University of Queensland (2007-2011).

## CARMEL GUERRA OAM



CEO and founder of CMY, Carmel Guerra has contributed to a range of research reports relating to multicultural youth. Carmel has served on boards and committees for government and non-government sectors and is currently a member of the Australian Multicultural Council and Refugee Resettlement Advisory Council. She is a member of the Youth Parole Board in Victoria. In 1994 Carmel was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to investigate issues of refugee and migrant youth overseas. In 2003 she earned a Centenary Medal for services to young people, migrant and refugee communities and in 2005 was entered into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll. In the 2016 Australia Day honours list, Carmel was recognised with a Medal in the Order of Australia. In November 2015 Carmel was also awarded the Victorian Premier's Award for Community Harmony.

## DR TIM CORNEY



Dr Tim Corney is currently an Associate Professor in the College of Arts and Education at Victoria University and Senior Fellow in the Youth Research Centre at the University Melbourne. He sits as a Director and/or Board member on a number of industry and community sector organisations and is a Fellow of the John Cain Foundation. He has worked as a youth worker, manager of youth services, researcher and educator and as an adviser on youth affairs to governments and peak bodies across Australia and internationally. His academic research and work with young people is widely regarded.

## PROFESSOR AUDREY YUE



Audrey Yue is Professor in Media, Culture and Critical Theory in the Department of Communications and New Media at the National University of Singapore. Before joining NUS in July 2017, she lived in Australia for 30 years where she last held the positions of Professor in Cultural Studies and Director of the Research Unit in Public Cultures at the University of Melbourne. She has published 7 scholarly books and more than 80 refereed journal articles and book chapters in the fields of Sinophone media cultures; cultural policy and development, and; queer Asian studies. She is currently Chief/Partner Investigator in three Australian Research Council funded projects on arts participation in the smart city; young people and multiculturalism, and; Asian media flows in Australia.

## APAJOK BIAR



Born in a refugee camp in Kenya, Apajok arrived in Australia with her family as a 2 year old. At 22 years of age she is already making a difference to many. Apajok recently completed a Bachelor of Social Work at Western Sydney Uni. She volunteers at her local community centre engaging with refugee young people and is Chairperson and Co-founder of South Sudan Voices of Salvation Inc, a not-for profit youth run and led organisation. A youth advisor for Multicultural NSW and a MYAN NSW Multicultural Youth Ambassador, Apajok is passionate about advocating for South Sudanese youth and speaking up against all forms of injustice and violations of human rights and racism. Apajok is currently involved in projects that promote multiculturalism and social cohesion in Australia. Last June she was the Australian and New Zealand refugee youth representative to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Geneva Switzerland, where she presented on a panel on refugee youth inclusion. Apajok was the Western Sydney Refugee Youth Award in community leadership & is a finalist for Women's Weekly 'Women of the future' award 2017.

## DR HELENA DE ANSTISS



Dr Helena de Anstiss is the Program Director for the Bachelor of Social Work and associated double degrees at the University of South Australia. She is one of team a Chief Investigators of the ARC Linkage Project "Pathways to Active Citizenship: Refugee Youth and Their Transition from School to Further Education, Training and Employment". Helena is involved in a number of research projects in both an academic and industry context to inform the policy and practice context in which government funded services are delivered to multicultural young communities. Her practice experience includes policy development and analysis, service planning, development and evaluation, and industry development and capacity building. Helena presents and advises on multicultural issues in a range of government, non-government and community forums.

## ROD GLOVER



Rod is an expert in large-scale innovation. He believes that to create new regimes, you sometimes have to break the old ones. He has been Senior Adviser to an Australian Prime Minister and Deputy Secretary for Innovation in Victoria's DPC. He has also worked for the world's leading innovation agencies in London and San Francisco. Rod was chair of the education charity Hands on Learning Australia (breaking the cycle of educational disadvantage) and is co-founder of a tech startup that seeks to radically expand access to tertiary education. He was a Director of the Centre of Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science (in public health) and a member of the National Sustainability Council. He is now on the Board of Save the Children Australia. Rod has driven major new policy frameworks in Australia, including the COAG National Reform Agenda, the Australian Industry and Innovation Statement, and a new approach to entrepreneurship in Victoria. Rod studied at Melbourne University, with Executive Education at the Australian and New Zealand School of Government, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and the Sloan School of Management at MIT.

## CARLA WILSHIRE



Carla Wilshire is the CEO of the Migration Council Australia (MCA) – Australia's national research and policy institution on migration, settlement and social cohesion. Carla has a background in policy development, corporate governance and tertiary research. Throughout her career in public policy, she has worked as a public servant and advisor to Government, principally in the area of migration and resettlement. Prior to establishing the MCA, she was Chief of Staff to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Carla is a member of the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity, which provides advice to the Council of Chief Justices of Australia on improving access to justice for culturally and linguistically diverse Australians. She is a member of the National Anti-racism Strategy and co-founded the Friendly Nation Initiative, which aims to link corporate Australia with the settlement community to improve employment outcomes for refugees. Carla is also deputy chair of the Migrant and Refugee Women's Health Partnership.

## AMNA KARRA- HASSAN



Amna Karra-Hassan is an activist and advocate for diversity, inclusion and gender parity. She works for the Australian Federal Police in the Reform, Culture and Standards portfolio which is responsible for engaging the workforce in cultural change. Amna is also the Founder and President of the Auburn Giants Australian Football Club and has pioneered programs for women of minority communities in Western Sydney. She uses her influence to change the conversation on gender, culture, faith and representation. Amna holds a Bachelor in Organisational Learning from the University of Technology Sydney. She is currently enrolled in an Advanced Leadership Program with the Applied School of Management. Amna shares her experiences on collaborating with community leaders, small business owners, local government, traditional and social media and thought leaders.

## DORCAS UTKOVIC



Dorcas is change-maker, digital storyteller, Producer & Host of OZ AFRICAN TV, a lifestyle TV show about people of African Diaspora in Australia. Born in South Africa, migrated to Australia 10 years ago where she lives with her two gorgeous children and supportive husband. Her interest in Film/TV has seen her fulfil an array of roles including but not limited to Production Assistant, Production Researcher, Art Department personnel, Head of Department (Costume Dept.) and Actor. Beyond OZ AFRICAN TV, she is very active within the community. Some of her recent work includes Coordinator for the vibrant event 'One Beat - One Love' which is part of VMC's Cultural Diversity Week. She is also the current Coordinator of Nelson Mandela Day Celebrations. She studied Fine Art in South Africa and recently completed Master of Art in Writing through Swinburne University

## KAVITA BEDFORD



Kavita Bedford is an Australian-Indian writer, social researcher, and media commentator. Her belief in the power of storytelling and alternative narratives as forms of resistance has led her to work for the World Bank's Justice for the Poor team in Indonesia, as a journalist in Santiago de Chile, and working for various NGOs, including Bankstown Youth Development Service. She is currently the Editor of The Point Magazine, that looks at the impact overseas conflicts have on local communities and countering violent extremism. She is the Creative Producer of a website for grassroots storytelling in western Sydney, Mapping Frictions. She was the recipient of The Walkley Foundation's Women in Media mentorship program and the Cultural Fund's Emerging Writers Fellowship and was recently awarded Australia Council Career Development fund to complete her first novel. She has published both nationally and internationally on a range of issues in The Guardian, Griffith Review, Junkee, Roads & Kingdoms, and Crikey.

## ADAM MOSTOGL



Adam Mostogl is passionate about embracing creative and innovative solutions to common problems, with experience in retail, heavy industry, tourism, hospitality, and brand management. Since 2010, over 4100 young Australians have undertaken entrepreneurial education programs lead by Adam as the Founder / Inspirer of illuminate Education & Consulting, which focuses on inspiring students to recognize how they can be the job creators of the future. Adam is also the Executive Director of the Van Diemen Project, which was announced in 2016 as Tasmania's Most Innovative Startup. Adam was announced the 2015 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year – and a finalist for Young Australian of the Year – for his endeavours in entrepreneurial programs, education more generally as well as community development. In 2017, Adam was announced as one of Australia's top 30 entrepreneurs under the age of 30 (the only Tasmanian). He was also given an honourable mention in 2015.

## KENNY DUKE



Kenny Duke has been in the Multicultural sector for more than ten years, specialising in settlement and youth with particular skills in business management, training and human services. Kenny currently looks after Client Services for Access Community Services, which includes MyQ, the youth arm of Access. Kenny is also on the Executive Committee for MYAN Australia as the Queensland representative.

## SOO-LIN QUEK



Soo-Lin has over 25 years experience in both the government and non-government sectors. She has managed significant policy and program areas in state government and her previous experience in the non-government sector range from managing community based organisations to policy advocacy and community development in a range of sectors. She is currently the Knowledge & Advocacy Manager for the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY), Victoria.

## SALLY THOMPSON



Sally Thompson is the Youth Program Team Leader at Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) Tasmania & MYAN STAN for Tasmania. Sally has been working in the youth settlement program for the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania since 2014. Sally's background is in community development and has worked in both Australia and Vanuatu on community and women's development projects. As the Youth Program Team Leader and the MYAN STAN for Tasmania, Sally is experienced in the practical application of the National Youth Settlement Framework to support youth settlement.

## SHABNAM SAFA



Shabnam grew up as an Afghan refugee in Pakistan before she moved to Australia at the age of 15 in 2009. A Black Belt with national & international titles in Karate, she is passionate about encouraging young people, especially young migrant women, to break free from stereotypes and pursue their aspirations. Having worked in Australia, India, America and Europe, Shabnam has co-founded two not for profit organisations to help newly arrived refugees and migrants in Australia and abroad and promote global citizenship. She has represented Australia at the United Nations and is the 2017 Australian Ambassador to Qatar Foundation's World

## SHERENE IDRIS



Sherene Idriss is an Adjunct Research Fellow and sessional teaching member of the School of Social Sciences/School of Humanities and Communication Arts at Western Sydney University. She obtained her PhD from the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University in 2015. Her thesis examined the ways that categories of youth, gender, social class and personal ambition intersect and play out in ethnic-minority communities. Her research interests include multicultural youth, youth cultures; the intersections between religion, gender and identity practices and Arab-Australian communities. Her book, *Young Migrant Identities: Creativity and Masculinity* has just been published by Routledge.

## MARIA DIMOPOULOS



Maria Dimopoulos is a nationally and internationally recognised expert specialising in the intersections of cultural diversity, gender equality and the law. As Managing Director at Myriad International Consulting Services she has had extensive experience in policy formulation for Government, research for social planning and in community legal education. Much of Maria's work has been aimed at promoting and enhancing cultural diversity and gender informed approaches in the ongoing complex legal and political reform processes and in ensuring the meaningful inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives in those reform processes. Maria currently sits on a number of boards including the Coronial Council of Victoria, the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity and the Castan Centre for Human Rights. She is also the National Chair of the Harmony Alliance of Immigrant and Refugee women.

## JANNA SHARPLES



Janna Sharples is Project Coordinator at Settlement Services International. From a young age, Janna had a passion for community service and social justice issues, receiving a Commendation from the Order of Australia Association in 2005 for her commitment. This passion has continued to inspire Janna in her career in the community services sector. Throughout her career, Janna has held roles from youth worker to manager that have seen her work with youth in employment services and with people seeking asylum who are living in the community. She is currently leading the development and implementation of the Youth@Work project, supporting migrant and refugee youth in Sydney.

## DR GEORGIA PAXTON



Dr Georgia Paxton is a general paediatrician who has worked in refugee health for more than a decade. She leads the Royal Children's Hospital Immigrant Health Service and is involved in guideline and policy development in paediatric refugee health and related areas at local, state and national level. Her research interests include the health status of refugee children and young people in Victoria. She was Chair of the Victorian Refugee Health Network over 2013 – 2015, and currently works with the Victorian Department of Health and holds advisory roles with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. In 2016, she was inducted to the Victorian Honour Roll for Women for her work in refugee health.



## ARASH BORDBAR



Arash is a 24 year-old refugee from Iran living in Australia. He travelled to Malaysia at the age of 17 and registered with UNHCR in Kuala Lumpur. He spent five years in Malaysia before being resettled to Australia in May 2015. Arash is studying for a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Western Sydney. He has experience volunteering and working for organizations supporting young refugees, in Malaysia (HELP College of Arts and Technology, UNHCR, Sahabat Support Centre and more recently in Australia; Auburn Diversity Services Young Leaders Group, Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Youth Ambassador Settlement Services International. Arash is an advocate for gender equality, sexual rights, and access to education and employment opportunities. He participated in the Global Refugee Youth Consultation in Australia and Geneva in June 2016. Since then, Arash has traveled to Malaysia where he planned and ran a youth consultation and meetings with various NGOs. Arash also attended the APRRN6 (Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network) in Bangkok, Thailand where he was elected as the deputy chair in the youth working group. Arash was awarded the 2016 Young People Human Rights Medal by Australia Human Rights.

## NADINE LIDDY



Nadine Liddy is the National Coordinator of the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN Australia) and has worked in the youth and multicultural sectors for over 20 years. Nadine has a background in service delivery with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and has also worked extensively in policy, advocacy and sector development in relation to multicultural youth issues. Nadine has also worked in the international context, undertaking research and advocacy on refugee and asylum seeker issues and supporting young people in international and regional advocacy opportunities.

## ROSS WORTHAM



Ross Wortham is the CEO of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, which is WA's peak body representing young people and all those who support young people in WA. Ross is well known in the youth sector in WA for being a strong advocate, fighting for human rights, equality and social justice for young people. Whilst he holds a Bachelors degree in International Humanitarian Aid from the University of North Texas and a Masters degree in International Community Development from the University of New South Wales, Ross spends most of his time working to give young people, of all backgrounds, the opportunity to influence social policy and take on leadership roles within the community sector.

## ALEXANDRA LONG



Alexandra Long is the Executive Officer of the Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN) NSW. A passionate social justice advocate, her experience spans the youth, multicultural and education sectors both in Australia and overseas, with a focus on young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. She has worked as a high school teacher, a youth worker and an adolescent sexual health educator in Uganda and has a passion for capacity building and sector development. In 2012, Alex co-authored the school resources accompanying the SBS series, Go Back To Where You Came From.

## BRONWYN LEE



Bronwyn is Deputy CEO at the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA). FYA is committed to young people, their future and the contribution they can make to Australia and informs the national agenda on the issues that most affect them. Bronwyn is passionate about redefining the role of young people in our society and how the not-for-profit sector can drive social innovation in Australia. She has a deep practical and theoretical knowledge of the community sector, with over fifteen years experience working in non-profits. She is also currently a Non-Executive Director at the International Women's Development Agency and a Board Member at the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. Prior to FYA, Bronwyn led the 40 Hour Famine at World Vision Australia. Bronwyn holds a Masters degree in Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development in addition to a Bachelor of Commerce.

## CELIA TRAN



Celia Train is a young active community worker and leader in the Vietnamese community and Melbourne's West. Celia is one of the founding Youth Ambassadors Network members for MYAN- a national network of multicultural youth leaders. A Board Member of Western Chances and the Dual Identity Leadership Program, she is also an executive member of the Vietnamese Community in Australia (Vic Chapter), an incorporated association and peak body representing Vietnamese Australians residing in the State of Victoria. Celia's passion and experience lies in community development and working with cultural and linguistically diverse communities, in particular with fellow young people, empowering them to navigate and embrace their unique identities and to take on leadership roles in the community. Her leadership, dedication and compassion in helping the community has seen her recognised through various awards including being awarded the prestigious Victorian Premiers Volunteer Leadership Aware and Dame Elisabeth Murdoch - Premiers Volunteer of the Year Award - the youngest person to receive such an award in this category. Celia was also recently announced as one of the finalists for the Australian Human Rights Commission - 2017 Young People's Human Rights Medal Award.

## SALLY BAKER



Sally Baker has worked as an ESOL teacher since 2004 in adult education contexts, and her research interests centre on language and literacies - particularly in the context of transition - and equity in higher education. Sally's ongoing projects include a longitudinal exploration of the cultural and language transitions students from refugee backgrounds make into and through undergraduate study and an upcoming study will explore community and university responses to providing higher education to people from asylum seeking backgrounds.

## LORRAINE NGWENYA



Lorraine Ngwenya is a speaker, advocate and entrepreneur, being the proud founder of Useful Link. Useful Link is an organisation that seeks to empower young people in areas of employment, personal development and leadership. Lorraine believes young people have many challenges that face them and it is her goal to help as many young people as she can to realise their potential.

## ZIAGUL SULTANI



Ziagul Sultani (Zee) is 23 years old from Katanning Western Australia. Born in Afghanistan, arrived in Australia at the age of 10. Zee currently works fulltime and studies part time. She is currently the Community/Youth Development Officer with the Shire of Katanning and studying Community Development. During her spare time, she enjoys volunteering. Zee is a vocal advocate for multicultural young people, young people in regional and remote areas, girls and woman's rights and environment. She is one of the founding members of MYAN Australian Youth Ambassadors Network (YAN), which aims to find solutions to the injustice and inequality facing migrants and refugees. She is passionate about creating positive change in the community and aims to break down barriers and empowering other young people to do the same.

## GRACE EDWARD



Grace completed a Bachelor of Arts in Applied and Contemporary Theatre in 2014 and is currently studying a Master's in Creative Industries, majoring in Creative Production and Art Management. In 2016, Grace was a Queensland delegate at the FUSE national multicultural youth summit and in 2017, Grace was a panellist at the national Refugee Alternatives Conference 2017 where she spoke about youth engagement. Grace works with Brisbane City Council on 'Linking Generations', a Forum Theatre project she created to bridge the gap between refugee youth and their parents/ community elders. Grace hopes to become Artistic Director creating content that represents the voices of minorities and speaks to the issues affecting refugees, migrants and asylum seekers living in Australia.

## ANYAAK ABIEL



Anyaak is of South Sudanese heritage and passionate about systemic racism and lack of employment opportunities for young people of refugee and migrant backgrounds. Through storytelling, Anyaak is keen to share his life experiences and perspectives, inspiring others to make a positive change in the community. Anyaak is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Criminology and Psychology. He hopes to address social inequalities that affect culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and challenge negative stereotypes to foster harmony and social cohesion.

## HEDAYAT JARAS



Hedayat was born and raised in central part of Afghanistan. He fled Afghanistan when he was 17 years old due to insecurity and Taliban threat in 2009. He was detained in Indonesia for two months and then he managed to escaped from prison. He travelled by boat from Indonesia and after eight days on the ocean he arrived in Christmas Islands. Hedayat obtained his permanent visa on 24th February 2010. Hedayat completed a Bachelor of Politics and International Relations at University of Canberra in 2015 and then completed his honours at the faculty of Arts and Design in 2016. Currently Hedayat is working with organisations including Community Migrant Resource Centre, Cumberland Council, Y foundations, Multicultural Youth Affairs Network, Settlement International Services and T and N Migration services. He also volunteers with many organisations such as RACS, Red Cross Australia, Bread and Butter Project, Hazara Kateb Association and Cumberland Council. Hedayat recently started his own tiling company to help and support refugees and asylum seekers with employment

## MEHDI MOHAMMED



Mehdi is 20 years of age and a passionate youth advocate who lives in regional Victoria. He arrived in Australia from Pakistan in 2013 and now calls Ballarat home. Mehdi's cares deeply about the plight of young asylum seekers living in Australia and is a member of CMY's Youth Advisory Group in Ballarat.

## EVAN LEWIS



Evan Lewis is a Senior Executive Officer within the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS). He has extensive experience across the Australian Public Service in policy, programme and delivery areas. In his current role, Evan has responsibility for policy and programmes that assist new humanitarian entrants to Australia with settlement support, including language and off-shore cultural orientation. In his time with DSS, Evan has been responsible for policy and programme support for people with disability including disability employment services and transition of supports and services to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and workforce age income support programmes and payments. He has also overseen a wide range of community programmes and activities that support vulnerable people including: implementing national mental health and autism programmes; managing a range of community investment activities including money management strategies; and designing and implementing a national programme to support vulnerable children and their families.

## JANE ALIA



Jane is currently studying at Charles Darwin University. Over the years she has been involved with various multicultural groups in Darwin, including the Ma'di tribe – Jane is the women's representative on the Ma'di Community Council of Australia. She has extensive experience working with young people from multicultural backgrounds and representing the voices of young people locally and nationally. Jane has been involved with the youth-led organisation Multicultural Youth Northern Territory (MYNT) since 2009, acting as the Chair, Vice Chair, as an Executive Board member and as a mentor. Jane also volunteers at the Multicultural Council Northern Territory (MCNT) homework club and was on the MYAN-NT Youth Advisory Body, contributing to policy and advocacy for young local people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. For a number of years now, Jane has been the Northern Territory's Refugee Week Ambassador and has been on the organising committee for Refugee Day celebrations in Darwin. More recently, she was involved in the planning of the first ever Kaleidoscope Youth Leadership Summit in Northern Territory, a proud project of Multicultural Youth Northern