MYAN National Conference
Young people in a multicultural world | 23rd - 24th NOV 2017

CONFERENCE SNAPSHOT
April 2018
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Introduction

MYAN (AUSTRALIA)

MYAN is Australia’s national body representing the rights and interests of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. MYAN provides advice to government and capacity building activities to those who work with young people. MYAN also supports the development of young people’s leadership skills to influence the national and international agendas.

MYAN works in partnership with young people, government and the non-government sectors to promote the interests of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, and to support a targeted approach to addressing these in policy and service delivery. MYAN supports a nationally consistent approach to addressing these interests through policy and capacity building activities, working through its partners at the state/territory level.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017

Young People in a Multicultural World: rethinking a new policy and practice agenda was hosted by MYAN Australia in partnership with the Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne, on 23rd and 24th November 2017. Over 280 delegates attended including policy-makers, academics, practitioners, young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and international speakers. Delegates represented a range of fields, with all levels of government represented, as well as NGOs from the settlement, health, education, youth and multicultural sectors.

This was MYAN’s first national conference and provided a timely opportunity for delegates to consider and reflect on the experience of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Australia, in the context of current global challenges. The conference was designed to investigate how research, policy and practice can best respond into the future, through exploration of the themes of ‘Global Citizenship’, ‘Education to Work’ and ‘Social Cohesion’.

This report provides a snapshot of the conference proceedings and key conference findings.
Conference Background

CONTEXT

We live in times of complex and constant change. Technology is impacting the way we work, learn, play, consume and relate to each other. We are more interconnected — economically, environmentally, politically, socially — than ever before. We also face challenges that are global in scale and complexity, including economic inequality, migration, environmental degradation and international terrorism. While the power of individual states to influence these huge international issues is limited, their capacity to monitor their citizens — and companies’ ability to monitor and influence consumers — has never been greater.

Further, we are on the cusp of a seismic shift in global power — from the ‘west’ to China and India and, given that the world’s population is both larger and younger than ever before, potentially from older to younger people.

While these huge global trends represent opportunities — for growth, innovation, engagement, understanding, peace — they also present challenges to individuals, communities and states. To date, globalisation’s economic benefits have been unevenly distributed both across and within nations. This has meant that there are individuals, families and whole communities who have lost out, even as others reap massive benefits. At the same time, some feel that they have lost their sense of place within their national communities. This combination of economic and cultural grievance has helped the rise of populist political movements espousing protectionist economics and nativist social and political policies.

Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds are impacted by these global trends at multiple levels. For example, their reasons for leaving their countries of origin might be connected to the lack of economic opportunities linked to global inequality or they may be fleeing the impacts of climate change or war, consequences, in part of international political and economic machinations. They may use the latest technology to help them navigate their exit, to find a place of safety, and to keep in touch with family/significant others. Their capacity to settle successfully in Australia might be connected to their ability to get employment in a globally competitive world, or to how inclusive and welcoming the political discourse is to newcomers. And, as young people, all this occurs at a critical developmental stage of adolescence.

RATIONALE

Given both the challenges and opportunities to Australia from a complex and changing world, it is opportune to developed forward-looking, evidence-based policies and practice that will best enable young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to thrive in an equitable, socially cohesive Australia.

Some good beginnings for evidence-based conversations and planning exist. However, none places young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds at the centre.

The 2017 MYAN conference sought to do just that — drawing together international and local practitioners, policy-makers, academics and young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. As the national peak body representing multicultural youth issues, MYAN was ideally placed to facilitate these discussions.

The overarching question posed at the conference was:

*What research, policy and practice will help build resilience in young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, their families and communities to help them thrive within a socially cohesive, globally engaged Australian nation over the coming decades?*

AIMS

The conference aimed to bring together researchers, policy-makers, politicians, young people and practitioners to explore how, over the coming decades, Australia should, through research, policy and practice:

- Ensure that young people who are refugees and migrants and their families and communities can thrive across all aspects of their lives; and
- Promote social cohesion across the Australian community that will enable migrant and refugee young people to settle successfully.
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Structured around three themes - Global Citizenship, Education to Work and Social Cohesion - the 2017 conference was intended to provide dedicated space to:

- Reflect on an evidenced-based assessment of future trends to develop a vision for what policies and practices might be most likely to assist young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds to develop to their full potential in a socially-cohesive Australia;

- Identify key findings to inform research, policy and practice to best support young people to thrive over coming decades; and

- Foster collaboration among refugee/migrant youth specialists as well as between them and mainstream researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and government.

The structure of the conference enabled participants the opportunity to explore the themes across the two days. Panel presentations from those working in policy, applied research and service delivery (in government and the NGO sector) both in Australia and other countries, as well as young people with lived experience, provided a broad range of perspectives and experiences.

This report provides an overview of the conference proceedings, including the key findings from each session and overall policy and advocacy priorities emerging from the conference.
Professor Fethi Mansouri highlighted the need for better understanding of global developments concerning young people with migrant and refugee backgrounds, as well as the impact on current developments in Australia. Professor Mansouri said Global citizenship requires an alignment between knowledge and values, and a commitment to activism.

Dr Claire Naughtin presented key findings from the *Bright Futures: Spotlight on the wellbeing of young people from refugee and migrant background* report 2017. A collaboration between CSIRO, MYAN and VicHealth, this report explores the implications of five mega trends for the health and wellbeing of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds over the next 20 years.

Anya Satyanand spoke about the work of Ara Tajohi, and the frameworks of bi-culturalism and superdiversity in the NZ context, highlighting the immense capabilities of young people who regularly negotiate diversity as they operate across different worlds and expectations.

Apajok Biar, MYAN Youth Ambassador NSW and recipient of the 2017 Refugee Youth International Leadership Scholarship, spoke about youth advocacy from local to global, including her experiences in international advocacy with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva.
Opening Plenary - Day 2

Moderator: Dr Hass Dellal AO  
(Executive Director, Australian Multicultural Foundation)

Sen. Hon. Zed Seselja  
(Assistant Minister for Social Services & Multicultural Affairs)  
Hon. Tony Burke MP  
(Shadow Minister for Multicultural Australia & Citizenship)

Sen. Hon. Zed Seselja opened Day 2 sharing the Australian Government perspectives on multiculturalism, settlement support and the role of MYAN facilitating connections across sectors. He also spoke about the importance of government investment in English language support and supporting education/training/employment transitions. The senator acknowledged the important role young people can play in the social cohesion agenda.

Hon. Tony Burke MP spoke about multiculturalism and immigration, highlighting Labor’s perspectives on the citizenship debate.
Youth panel

Moderator: Amna Kara-Hassan (Founder, Auburn Tigers Women’s AFL team)
Celia Tran (VIC)
Grace Edward (QLD)
Ziagul Sultani (WA)
Anyaak Abiel (VIC)
Hedayat Osyan (NSW)

Structured as a Q&A, this session was designed to provide youth perspectives on the conference themes.

A panel of five young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds discussed the key issues and challenges they face living in multicultural Australia and what is needed to make them feel healthy, safe and socially included.

THIS SESSION CONSIDERED:

- What are the key issues for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds?
- What are the key issues relating to access to digital technology?
- What are the key issues living in a globalised world?
- What do young people need to live in multicultural Australia?
- What are the benefits of living in multicultural Australia?
- How are young people navigating belonging and identity in Australia – what helps this and what hinders/harms this?
- What helps to make communities healthy, safe and socially inclusive?

KEY POINTS

- The need to understand family history and culture as part of developing and navigating a sense of belonging and identity.
- The need for access to leadership programs that respond to dual/multi-identities, that can help young people to explore the themes of identity and belonging, and equip those with dual heritage to understand and embrace this.
- The need for role models to provide stories of success to help counter media representation and stereotypes of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.
- The need to empower and equip young people as digital citizens so they can access and manage the use of technology (particularly social media).
Global Citizenship

CONTEXT

The world is increasingly mobile. Over the next few decades, international migration is likely to transform in scale, reach and complexity due to growing demographic disparities, the effects of environmental change, new global political and economic dynamics, technological revolutions and social networks.

Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Australia are global citizens, facilitating global connections and networks as part of daily life – strengthening their inclusion in Australian society. Others are experiencing a digital divide that threatens to negatively impact on their social inclusion.
Global Citizenship - Day 1

THIS SESSION CONSIDERED:

- How are young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds navigating and utilising global networks?
- What are the risks and opportunities for young people in a globalised world?
- What policies and practices will support young people to navigate and capitalise on global networks?
- What is the role of digital technology in facilitating education, employment and health outcomes for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds?

KEY POINTS

- Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds are destined to be global citizens. Global engagement is not an option or a choice, but rather a requirement for young people. They are in a good position, because their previous experiences provide them with well-developed skills and the ability to connect with people around the world.
- Global connections potentially strengthen their inclusion in Australian society.
- New Information and Communication Technology (ITC) is having a profound affect on the ways in which we communicate and relate to each other. Some young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds engage with digital technology as a critical tool in building and maintaining networks and navigating access to services and opportunities (including employment).
- Others are experiencing a digital divide that threatens to negatively impact on their social inclusion.
- Global networks are facilitated through social media. The risks associated with the use of social media are relatively low and the opportunities are significant. However, because of the potential for risk, monitoring the use of social media is an important protection.
- Use of social media can reduce a sense of isolation and exclusion young people may have and can, under certain conditions, support mental and social wellbeing.
KEY FINDINGS

- Care is needed in public discussion on issues that affect young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in order to prevent negative impact on their sense of belonging.

- The general population needs assistance to better understand what it means to be a global citizen, the significance of this and the assets young people bring to Australia as global citizens.

- The capacity to speak multiple languages is a key skill for global citizenship, and promotion of teaching and learning of languages in schools needs to be a much higher priority.
Global Citizenship - Day 2

Moderator: Maria Dimopoulos (Managing Director, Myriad Consulting)
Prof. Tim Corney (Associate Professor, Victoria University)
Sally Thompson (Youth Program Team Leader, MYAN TAS)
Prof. Anita Harris (Research Professor, Deakin University)
Tim Lo Surdo (Founder, Democracy in Colour)
Shabnam Safa (Founder, Noor Foundation)

THIS SESSION CONSIDERED:
- Can a human rights framework be applied in Australia to support policy and practice with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds into the future?
- How do we understand young people’s rights and responsibilities in the context of global citizenship?

KEY POINTS
- Increasing opportunities – from economic growth and poverty reduction, to social and cultural innovation - also has the potential to exacerbate existing problems and generate new challenges, from irregular migration to protection of human rights.
- Considering how human rights frameworks are utilised in policy and practice with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds will be critical to supporting them into the future.
- Greater government support for human rights and civic participation is required. This needs to start with honesty about the extent of structural inequality and racism.
- Greater opportunities need to be provided for young people to get involved in and take responsibility for political engagement.

KEY FINDINGS
- That multilingual capabilities of young multicultural people are currently underutilised. Multilingual capabilities are highly important for global citizenship. Increased funding and emphasis on learning other languages is recommended.
- Family and communities need to be involved in discussions on global citizenship so that they are aware of the demands on and priorities for young people participating in this emerging world.
- Concepts of global citizenship need to be incorporated into education frameworks.
- Young people need stronger engagement in political processes to remind policy makers of their presence and their needs as global citizens in terms of institutions and systems.
Social Cohesion

CONTEXT

The world is increasingly mobile. Over the next few decades, international migration is likely to transform in scale, reach and complexity, due to growing demographic disparities, the effects of environmental change, new global political and economic dynamics, technological revolutions and social networks.

These transformations will be associated with increasing opportunities – from economic growth and poverty reduction, to social and cultural innovation. However, they will also exacerbate existing problems and generate new challenges – from irregular migration, to protecting the human rights of migrants.
Social Cohesion - Day 1

THIS SESSION CONSIDERED:

• What research, policies and practice (including immigration, economic and social policies) will promote a greater sense of inclusion and belonging in Australia?

• What capabilities, innovation and creativity do young multicultural people bring to learning, work and civic life?

KEY POINTS

• Government policies and programs that provide appropriate English language and employment support are important to supporting social cohesion.

• Frameworks to provide better support and create space for constructive dialogue are also important for fostering social cohesion – across a range of areas, including sport & recreation, employment, education and using social media.

• Young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds bring skills, capabilities and strengths (including navigating richly diverse identities) to Australia and can play an important role in strengthening social cohesion in their communities.

• Government policies and practice need to encourage and build on young people’s capabilities by applying strengths-based and rights-based approaches when developing youth-related policies.

• Government policy needs to ensure that the needs and rights of young people are recognised and responded to in any social cohesion agenda.

• Young people should be engaged as partners in fostering social cohesion.
Social Cohesion - Day 2

Moderator: Andrew Cummings (Managing Director, Andrew Cummings Training & Consultancy)
Dorcas Utkovic (Producer & Host, OZ African TV)
Dr Georgia Paxton (Head of Immigrant Health Service, Royal Children’s Hospital)
Albert Mambo (Community worker, Melbourne City FC)
Kavita Bedford (Freelance writer/Journalist)
CeCe Hylton-Dei (MYAN Youth Ambassador, SA)

THIS SESSION CONSIDERED:

• What are the roles of politics and media - including social media – in promoting or undermining social cohesion?

• What specific policies and practices might best achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, their families and communities?

KEY POINTS

• Government and the media play important roles in strengthening social cohesion.

• The media can also play a significant role in undermining social cohesion. For young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, this can have a substantial impact on a sense of belonging in Australia and can negatively impact on health and wellbeing.

• Storytelling through the media, social media, blogs or sporting events can be a vehicle for developing wider understanding and increased cohesion. Social cohesion is built on the community hearing and then understanding the stories of refugees and migrants.

KEY FINDINGS (DAY 1&2)

• Young people are critical actors in the social cohesion agenda.

• Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds bring skills and resources to Australia - they play an important role in strengthening social cohesion in their communities and should be engaged as partners in social cohesion initiatives.

• Cultural diversity and its benefits must be normalized by the media and in social media through inclusion and careful use of language.

• Storytelling is a critical tool for supporting this.

• Invest in building trusting relationships between communities and stakeholders (including government) and allow time for this to occur.

• Social cohesion is partly the result of practical actions that build social capital and agency and facilitate young people’s active economic, social and civic participation.
CONTEX

For young people there are opportunities and risks associated with contemporary economic realities; the opportunities arise in part from their cultural capital – they are digital natives and are acculturated to a changing world; the risks stem from challenges to their resilience, as well as structural economic disadvantage (challenges to ongoing growth, education, tax, welfare policies, etc.)

Young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds, as well as facing the same structural barriers to employment as other young people, often also do not possess the social capital that their non-migrant Australian contemporaries use to find work.

This raises important issues about how young people will be educated for the future. Education not only provides necessary job-related skills and knowledge, but also "[t]he capacity to be autonomous, regulate our emotions, have self-confidence and empathy, and be able to problem solve, are all resilience assets that the community as a whole should have. For young people, the millennials in particular, these skills and assets will be essential to navigate a rapidly changing economic, technological, social and global environment."\(^1\)

\(^1\) VicHealth (2017)
Dr Leipold presented on the challenges Germany is facing with the unprecedented number of migrant arrivals. This includes pressure on their employment and training system, due to diversity of the refugee groups, inflexible structures of the German VET system and the limited capacity of employers to recognize the specific needs of refugees.

Dr de Anstiss presented on an Australian Research Council research project on education/employment transitions, and service delivery with young people at Multicultural Youth South Australia (MYSa).

Rod Glover provided practical examples of innovation based on his work in schools.

Lorraine Ngwenya shared examples from her own experiences of seeking employment and work empowering young people to gain employment.

KEY FINDINGS

- Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds often do not possess the social capital that their non-immigrant Australian contemporaries use to find work. They need support to establish relationships and networks through opportunities such as volunteering and mentoring.

- Education provides necessary job-related skills and knowledge, as well as the capacity to be autonomous, have self-confidence and empathy, and be able to problem solve. For young people, these skills and assets will be essential to navigate a rapidly changing economic, technological, social and global environment.

- In future people will change jobs many times over their working life, yet the education system still operates as though it only needs to help prepare young people for one occupation.

- Young people are unfamiliar with the VET system and how to access labour market opportunities. There is need for more guidance, counselling and access to networks for young migrants.

- Education Community Hub models (especially in the VET sector) provide a platform for families and communities to work together with schools to support commencement of employment preparation activities at an early stage of schooling.

- The education system needs a greater focus on entrepreneurial skills, as these become an increasingly important requirement for employment into the future.

- Employers need exposure to cultural diversity and access to cultural awareness training. Exploration of how to reward or support employers who give CALD young people opportunities needs consideration.
Education to Work - World Cafe

Discussions on Days 1 and 2 were facilitated through a World Café structure. Brief presentations from diverse perspectives (policy, practice, research and young people) introduced each session.

SESSIONS ON DAY 1 & 2 EXPLORED:

- What challenges and opportunities will the future work environment present for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds?
- What policies and practices will best ensure that young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds can participate fully in the future labour market and what are the opportunities and challenges to achieving this?
- What educational programs and initiatives open up opportunities for and build the capabilities of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Australia?
- What do young people need to make successful transitions from education to work?

World Cafe discussion was summarised as a set of challenges and opportunities for schools, employers, young people and society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
<th>OPPORTUNITIES</th>
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| **For Schools** | • Restructuring linear nature of school curriculum  
• Addressing changes in the labour market and their impact on students in the future  
• Developing shared language across the systems of education and employment  
• Forming corporate partnerships and providing support for young entrepreneurs |
| **For Employers** | • The extensive use of casual work and short-term contractors  
• Changing their focus to skills rather than occupation  
• Recognising the relevant experience and assets of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, including multilingual and cross-cultural skills  
• Embracing diversity in the work place |
| **For Young People** | • Being able to demonstrate their skills  
• Overcoming language barriers  
• Understanding of Australian work culture and environment  
• Finding opportunities for women to overcome gender bias  
• Balancing family obligations and self-advocacy  
• Developing the confidence to take up opportunities  
• Embracing and utilising their first language and cultural knowledge as an asset |
| **For Society** | • Not valuing the broad skills and experience that many young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds have  
• Negative stigma associated with refugee and migrant stereotypes  
• Recognising and addressing negative stereotypes of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants  
• Identifying how stories of CALD young people are distorted by connection to crime or terrorism  
• Widespread recognition of benefits and application of globalization and diversity  
• Recognising the shared aspirations for young people to have positive futures  
• Provide peer learning opportunities through homework clubs  
• More transferable skills and opportunities to showcase |
Closing Plenary

Moderator: Carmel Guerra (Chair, MYAN Australia)
Megan Mitchell (National Children’s Commissioner)
Sen. Richard Di Natale (Leader, Australian Greens)
Gillian Long (Director of Services, MYAN TAS)
Arash Bordbar (MYAN Youth Ambassador, UNHCR Geneva Youth Delegate)
Kenny Duke (Client Services, MyQ)
Derya Koksal (Policy & Advocacy Officer, MYAN Australia)

Senator Richard Di Natale spoke about the changing legislative landscape that shaped social cohesion and multiculturalism in Australia and the lack of a Youth Minister at the federal level.

Commissioner Megan Mitchell spoke about her role as the National Children’s Commissioner, and about application of the Convention of the Rights of the Child in practice and the importance of embedding this in policy and practice. She also spoke about the value of a Youth Parliament at the federal level.

Spoken word artists Charlotte Raymond and Sharifa Tartoussi participated in the conference to capture discussions across the two days. They prepared poetry pieces that creatively reflected conference topics and themes, and performed at the conclusion of both days to a standing ovation.

Throughout the conference, presentations and discussion under each stream were designed to identify key policy and advocacy priorities in supporting young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Australia to be able to succeed in a changing, globalised, multicultural world.

Conference rapporteurs Gillian Long, Arash Bordbar, Kenny Duke and Derya Koksal presented key findings from across the 2 days. These findings are summarised on page 22.
KEY CONFERENCE FINDINGS

1. The need for stronger engagement and involvement of young people in finding solutions on issues concerning them. Young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds need to have a stronger role in solving problems, developing policies and being part of the solution.

2. The need to find new ways and means to use storytelling as a powerful and effective tool to promote a multicultural world through the use of social media, mainstream media, the arts and sport.

3. The need to develop systems and infrastructure that supports development of coordinated assistance and guidance for young people across education, training, employment and community support systems (with a focus on enabling young people to maintain social ties and expand social and professional networks).

4. The need for reform of job and employment services to provide multicultural young people with support to meet their need to find work and to support them once they do. This requires resources and culturally appropriate training.

5. The need to communicate with employers on the benefits of cultural diversity and with government on how to provide support and training that rewards those who support culturally diverse workforces.

6. The need to advocate for improved media standards on representation of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants - particularly of young people.

7. The need to ensure that families and communities are included as partners in discussions on Global Citizenship and multiculturalism.

8. The need to introduce improved support for entrepreneurship education for students into schools, and language teaching which includes a focus on the employment preparation pathway.

9. The need to provide sustainable innovation funding to support strategies improving access to education and employment within a multicultural framework.

10. The need for a dedicated Minister for Youth at the federal government level. This would reflect a recognition of the rights and needs of young people and a more coordinated approach to youth policy and programming.
MYAN Short Film Launch

MYAN’s short film series was launched on Day 1 of the conference, with a screening of the trailer. The short films capture young people’s stories and experiences of settling in Australia. Produced in partnership with Dr David Corlett, acclaimed filmmaker and host of SBS’ *Go Back To Where You Came From*, the nine short films feature young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds talking about leaving their country, arriving in Australia, what helped them settle in Australia, belonging, identity and aspirations for the future. These films are part of MYAN’s resources supporting the [National Youth Settlement Framework](#).

Clockwise from centre: Ziagul Sultani, Nyayoud Jice, Hedayat Osyan, David Corlett, Magda Gamar, Javir Mohammed, Mehak Sheikh.
Conference Reception - Evening Day 1

The conference reception featured a Q&A with cast and crew of the hit SBS series *Sunshine*. With MC Lorraine Ngwenya, delegates had the chance to participate in a Q&A with Director Daina Reid and lead actors Ror Akot and Nick Perry.
## DAY 1 – THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER

### 8.30 – 9.15am
**REGISTRATION** – Old Arts Building, Public Lecture Theatre, University of Melbourne

### 9.15 – 9.30am
**Welcome to Country**

Wurundjeri Tribe Land & Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Inc.

**Welcome to the Conference**

Carmel Guerra (Chair, MYAN Australia), Prof. Johanna Wyn (Melbourne School of Graduate Education)

**Opening Plenary**

Moderator: Carmel Guerra (Chair, MYAN Australia)

Speakers: Prof. Fethi Mansouri (Director, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation), Dr Claire Naughton (CSIRO Data61), Anya Satyanand (Executive Officer, Ara Taiohi, NZ), Apajok Biar (MYAN Youth Ambassador, UNHCR Geneva delegate)

### 11.15am – 1.00pm
**Youth Panel – Old Arts Building, Public Lecture Theatre**

Moderator: Amma Kara-Hassan (Founder, Auburn Tigers Women’s AFL team)

Panelists: Celia Tran (VIC), Grace Edward (QLD), Ziegul Sultan (WA), Anyaak Abiel (VIC), Hedayat Oysein (NSW)

**LUNCH** – Arts West Building, Lvl 1

### 2.00 – 3.30pm
** Concurrent Sessions**

Panel 1: Global Citizenship – Arts West Building - Collaborative Learning Room, No. 256, Lvl 2

- **What policies and practices will support young people to navigate and capitalise on global networks?**
- **What is the role of digital technology in facilitating education, employment and health outcomes for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds?**

Moderator: Soo-Lin Quem (Centre for Multicultural Youth)

Panelists: Prof. Fethi Mansouri (Director, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation), Gary Lee (International Student Advocate and New Australian of the Year 2016), Dr Sheene Idriss (Western Sydney University), David Nyoond Vincent (Author & Human Rights Advocate)

Panel 2: Social Cohesion – Arts West Building - Forum Theatre, no. 153, Lvl 1

- **What research, policies and practice – including immigration, economic and social policies will promote a greater sense of inclusion and belonging throughout the Australian nation?**
- **What capabilities, innovation and creativity do young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds bring to learning, work and civic life?**

Moderator: Caita Williams (CEO, Migration Council of Australia)

Panelists: Evan Lewis (Department of Social Services), Prof. Johanna Wyn (Melbourne School of Graduate Education), Anya Satyanand (Executive Officer, Ara Taiohi, NZ), Ali Faraj (GWS Giants)

### 3.30 – 4.00pm
**AFTERNOON TEA** – Arts West Building, Lvl 1

### 4.00 – 4.20pm
**Plenary – Wrap Up Day 1**

Old Arts Building, Public Lecture Theatre

Moderator: Ross Wortham (CEO, YACWA)

Rapporteurs: Global Citizenship, Social Cohesion, Education to Work

### 4.20 – 4.50pm
**Launch of MYAN Short Film Series**

With: Filmmaker Dr David Corlett and participants Mohammad Jawir & Mehak Sheikh

### 4.50 – 5.00pm
**Spoken Word**

Artists: Charlotte Raymond and Sharifa A Tartoussi

### 5.30 – 7.00pm
**RECEPTION** – Arts West Building Research Lounge and West Terrace, Lvl 5

MC: Lorraine Ngwenya

With: Adrian Collinte AM (PVC, Engagement, The University of Melbourne), Q & A with cast of SBS’s *Sunshine* - Director Daina Reid & lead actors Ror Akot and Nick Perry. Performance by Samantha Pereira
DAY 2 – FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER

9.00 – 9.45am
Welcome to Day 2 – Old Arts Building, Public Lecture Theatre
Moderator: Dr Bulent Hass Dellal AO (Director AMF, Chair SBS)
Speakers: Senator Hon. Zed Seselja, Hon. Tony Burke MP

9.45 – 11.15am
Plenary – Education to Work
Moderator: Paris Aristotle AO (CEO VFST, Chair SSAO)
Speakers: Dr Alexandra Leipold (KAUSA Servicestelle, Bonn), Dr Helena de Anstiss (Ure SA),
Rod Glover (Innovation Strategist 0, Lorraine Ngwenya (Director Useful Link))

11.15 – 11.45am
MORNING TEA – Arts West Building – Ground floor

11.45am – 1.15pm Concurrent sessions

Panel 1: Global Citizenship – Arts West Building - Collaborative Learning Room, No. 256, Lvl 2
• Can human rights frameworks be applied in Australia to support policy and practice with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds into the future?
• How do we understand young peoples’ rights and responsibilities in the context of global citizenship?
Panel 2: Social Cohesion – Arts West Building - Forum Theatre, No. 153, Lvl 1
• What are the roles of politics and media, including social media, in promoting or undermining social cohesion?
• What specific policies and practices might best achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, their families and communities?
World Café: Education to Work – Arts West Building - Project Room, No. 253, Lvl 2
• What challenges and opportunities will the future work environment present for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds?
• What policies and practices will best ensure that young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds can participate fully in the future labour market and what are the opportunities and challenges to achieving this?

1.15 – 2.15pm LUNCH – Arts West Building – Ground floor

2.15 – 3.00pm
Plenary – Reporting Back & Conference Outcomes
Old Arts Building, Public Lecture Theatre
Moderator: Alexandra Long (EO, MYAN NSW)
Rapporteurs: Global Citizenship, Social Cohesion, Education to Work

3.00 – 3.40pm
Plenary – A Future Agenda for Young People from Refugee and Migrant Backgrounds
Old Arts Building, Public Lecture Theatre
Moderator: Carmel Guerra (Chair, MYAN Aust)
Speakers: Senator Richard Di Natale
Megan Mitchell (National Children’s Commissioner)

3.40 – 3.50pm
Plenary – Conference Close: Where to From Here?
Old Arts Building, Public Lecture Theatre
Speakers: Nadine Liddy (National Coordinator MYAN Australia),
Assah Bordbar (MYAN Youth Ambassador & Global Human Rights Advocate)

3.50 – 4.00pm
Spoken Word
Artists: Charlotte Raymond & Shafia A Tartoussi
ADAM MOSTOGL

Adam Mostogl is the Founder / Inspirer of illuminate Education & Consulting, which focuses on inspiring students to recognise how they can be the job creators of the future. Since 2010, over 4,100 young Australians have undertaken entrepreneurial education programs lead by Adam. Adam is also the Executive Director of the Van Diemen Project, which was announced in 2016 as Tasmania’s Most Innovative Startup. Adam was the 2015 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year.

ALBERT MAMBO

My name is Albert Mambo, I am 24 and I arrived in Australia in January 2012. Since arriving, I have been involved in the community through Centre for Multicultural Youth which opened my eyes and many pathways which led to where I am today. Getting involved with CMY created many opportunities and many networks that got me to be working with Melbourne City Football Club in the Community department. Working in the community gives me the chance to meet lots of new people, create networks, and to learn new things every day from the participants and the groups I am involved with.

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. in Bonn, Germany. Within the project of KAUSA, Alexandra and her team support young immigrants and their parents in their engagement in the German Vocational and Educational Training. Alexandra also works in close collaboration with non-government organisations to strengthen educational opportunities for everyone.

ALEXANDRA LONG

Alexandra Long is the Executive Officer of the MYAN New South Wales (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.
ALI FARAJ

Ali Faraj is a passionate advocate for social cohesion and youth development. He currently works for the GWS GIANTS as the Head of Community. Ali was the winner of the 2015 Australian Migration and Settlement Award for Case Worker of the Year for his outstanding contribution to developing the needs of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

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. 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. Amna shares her experiences on collaborating with community leaders, small business owners, local government, traditional and social media and thought leaders.

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).

ANDREW CUMMINGS

Andrew Cummings has worked in young people’s organisations for over 25 years. His roles have included managing programs and organisations that support children and young people at local, regional, state-wide, national and international levels in Australia, the UK and Europe. Andrew has written extensively on youth issues, with over 40 published works including publications for organisations including UK Youth, the National Youth Agency (UK), the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People, MYAN Australia, the CREATE Foundation, the Youth Affairs Council of WA and the Australian College of Applied Psychology.
Arash is from a refugee background and is currently pursuing a bachelor of engineering degree from the University of Western Sydney. Arash has experience volunteering and working for organisations supporting young refugees in Malaysia and in Australia. He has been involved in Auburn Diversity Services Young Leaders Group, is a MYAN Youth Ambassador and volunteers for Settlement Services International. He participated in the Global Refugee Youth Consultations in Australia and in Geneva in June 2016. Arash was awarded the 2016 Young People Human Rights Medal by the Australian Human Rights Commission.
**DR BULENT HASS DELLAL AO**

Dr Bulent (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. Bulent was awarded various medals and awards for his work in the field of multiculturalism, and in 2015, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the multicultural community.

**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 15 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.

**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. 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 and is a member of the National Anti-Racism Strategy. She 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.

**CARMEL GUERRA OAM**

Chair of Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), and CEO and founder of the Centre for Multicultural Youth (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. She has received various medals and awards throughout the years due to her work with migrant and refugee youth. Most recently in 2016, Carmel’s work was recognised with a Medal in the Order of Australia.
CECE HYLTON-DEI

CeCe has a social work background and has been volunteering/working with refugee and migrant youth and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities for almost seven years. She is currently working as a Community Support Worker, engaging with CALD youth around issues pertaining to health and wellbeing, mainly in the area of sexual health. CeCe is passionate about working with multicultural youth and advocating on their behalf, and where possible, linking them to opportunities where they can speak up.

CELIA TRAN

Celia Tran is a young active community worker and leader in the Vietnamese community and Melbourne’s West. Celia is one of the founding members of MYAN’s Youth Ambassadors Network, 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.

DR CLAIRE NAUGHTIN

Dr Claire Naughtin is a Research Scientist in the Insight team of CSIRO’s Data61 which is Australia’s leading digital research network. Claire has been involved in multiple consulting and advisory projects for government and industry clients. Claire has a PhD from The University of Queensland, specialising in behavioural psychology, human factors and neuroscience. Claire is passionate about bridging the gap between research and real-world application, and using data to help people make informed, evidence-based decisions.

DR DAVID CORLETT

Dr David Corlett is an academic, journalist and filmmaker. He was the host and expert advisor of the multi-award winning series Go Back To Where You Came From and has reported for SBS Dateline. He was producer of Return to Bosnia and co-producer/co-director of Love and Sex in An Age of Pornography and The Porn Factor. He has written two books, Stormy Weather: The Challenge of Climate Change and Displacement (UNSW Press, 2007) and Following Them Home: The Fate of the Returned Asylum Seekers (BlackInc 2005), as well as book chapters, reports and articles. He has a PhD in politics.
**DAINA REID**

Daina Reid began her film career as a comedy writer and actor, before making the move to behind the camera. Over the past 15 years, she has cemented her position as one of Australia’s most sought after directors. Most recently, Daina directed Jessica Marais in *The Wrong Girl* and *Hunters*, an alien conspiracy series produced by Gale Anne Hurd (*The Walking Dead*) based on the best-selling novel *Alien Hunter*, which aired on Syfy in the US. In 2015, she directed and co-produced the mini-series adaptation of *The Secret River* by Kate Grenville, which premiered at the Sydney Film Festival.

**DAVID NYUOL VINCENT**

David Nyuol Vincent is a dual South Sudanese/Australian citizen who has been heavily involved in peace and reconciliation initiatives in South Sudan and with the South Sudanese diaspora in Australia. He is an experienced facilitator and trainer having recently been part of a team that trained Peace Mobilisers in the former 10 states of South Sudan. Further professional experience, including as a conflict mitigation and stabilisation specialist, provides David with an excellent understanding of conflict dynamics across South Sudan and knowledge of the variety of stakeholders engaged in reconciliation activities. David co-founded Peace Palette, a community based organisation operating in his village in Sudan. In 2012, he published his memoir titled *The Boy Who Wouldn’t Die*.

**DORCAS UTKOVIC**

Dorcas Utkovic is change-maker, digital storyteller, producer & host of OZ AFRICAN TV, a lifestyle TV show about people of African diaspora in Australia. Some of Dorcas’ recent work in the community includes being the Coordinator for the vibrant event *One Beat- One Love* that took place as part of Victorian Multicultural Commission’s Cultural Diversity Week. She is also the current Coordinator of Nelson Mandela Day celebrations.

**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.
HEDAYAT OSYAN

Hedayat was born and raised in central Afghanistan. He fled Afghanistan when he was 17 years old. He travelled by boat from Indonesia and after eight days on the ocean, he arrived in Christmas Islands. Hedayat obtained his permanent visa in 2010. Hedayat completed a Bachelor of Politics and International Relations at University of Canberra in 2015 and his honours at the faculty of Arts and Design in 2016. Currently, Hedayat is working with Community Migrant Resource Centre, Cumberland Council, Y foundations, Multicultural Youth Affairs Network, Settlement International Services and T and N Migration services.

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.

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 at local, state and national levels. 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.

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 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. Helena is one of the Chief Investigators of the Australian Research Council Linkage Project Pathways to Active Citizenship: Refugee Youth and Their Transition from School to Further Education, Training and Employment. Helena presents and advises on multicultural issues in a range of government, non-government and community forums.

JANE ALIA

Jane is currently studying at Charles Darwin University. She has been involved with various multicultural groups in Darwin, including the Ma’di tribe and 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, 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 local young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

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.

PROFESSOR JOHANNA WYN

Professor Johanna Wyn is a Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor in the Youth Research Centre at the University of Melbourne. She leads the Life Patterns longitudinal study of two cohorts of Australians and her research focuses on the impact of social change on young people’s lives, especially the relationship between education and work; gender and wellbeing. Recent books include Youth and Generation, Handbook of Childhood and Youth Studies and Youth and Society.
KAVITA BEDFORD

Kavita Bedford is an Australian-Indian writer, social researcher, and media commentator. Kavita works for various NGOs, including Bankstown Youth Development Service and is currently the Editor of The Point Magazine that looks at the impact overseas conflicts have on local communities and countering violent extremism. Kavita also worked in the World Bank’s Justice for the Poor team in Indonesia, and as a journalist in Santiago, Chile. She was recently awarded the Australia Council Career Development fund to complete her first novel.

KENNY DUKE

Kenny Duke has been in the multicultural sector for more than 10 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.

LINETTE HARRIOTT

Linette Harriott has extensive experience in designing, teaching and leading training and facilitation projects, hosting conferences and consulting across the community, not for profit and government sectors with a broad range of audiences from educators to engineers and health professionals to Aboriginal community workers. Linette has worked for 32 years in welfare services and currently works at the Centre for Multicultural Youth as the Sector Support and Youth Leadership Coordinator, as well as providing Governance Training for school councils and training on family violence and the Child Safety Standards.

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 to face and it is her goal to help as many young people as she can to realise their potential.
Nadine Liddy is the National Coordinator of the MYAN 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.

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.

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. 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.

MEHDI MOHAMMED

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

NADINE LIDDY

Nadine Liddy is the National Coordinator of the MYAN 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.
SPEAKERS & MODERATORS
23-24 Nov 2017

NICK PERRY

Nick became interested in the arts from an early age, performing in school productions through his teenage years. Nick is an avid athlete who has participated in sports such as football, basketball, rowing, athletics his whole life and performed exceedingly well in school. He has worked on productions such as *Winners and Losers*, *Barracuda*, ‘AFL’ TVC and a featured role in *The Secret River*. *Sunshine* is Nick’s first lead role in a drama series.

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. 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). Paris was also named as the 2017 Victorian Australian of the Year.

SENATOR RICHARD DI NATALE

Senator 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 Greens’ first Victorian Senator. His portfolios include health, multiculturalism and sport.

ROD GLOVER

Rod Glover is an expert in large-scale innovation. Rod has been a Senior Adviser to the Australian Prime Minister and Deputy Secretary for Innovation in Victoria’s Department of Premier and Cabinet. He is currently on the Board of Save the Children Australia. Rod was chair of the education charity Hands on Learning Australia and is co-founder of a tech start-up that seeks to radically expand access to tertiary education.
ROR AKOT

Ror is a 20-year-old hip hop artist and poet born in South Sudan. In 2005, he immigrated to Australia with his mother, brothers and sisters. Ror’s music speaks of the hardships and triumphs he has experienced in his young life. His music is continually growing and evolving through his powerful lyrics and live performances. As well as performing extensively for his local community, Ror has also performed at Peace Pallet, a benefit for South Sudan; ‘Bring It’ Festival, Melbourne Arts Centre; and the Boston Leadership Course, USA. In addition to this, Ror is a talented basketball player; his role in Sunshine is his first professional acting appearance.

ROSS WORTHAM

Ross Wortham is the CEO of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, which is Western Australia (WA)’s peak body representing young people. 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.

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.

SALLY THOMPSON

Sally Thompson is the Youth Program Team Leader at Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) Tasmania. Sally is also a member of the State Territory Advocacy Network of MYAN for Tasmania. Sally has been working in the youth settlement program of MRC Tasmania since 2014. Sally’s background is in community development and she has worked in both Australia and Vanuatu on community and women’s development projects.
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 and international titles in Karate, she is passionate about encouraging young people, especially young migrant women, to break free from stereotypes and pursue their aspirations. Shabnam has worked in Australia, India, America and Europe, 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 Innovation Summit for Education.

SHERENE IDRISS

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 book, *Young Migrant Identities: Creativity and Masculinity* has just been published by Routledge.

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).

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 of Melbourne. He is also a Fellow of the John Cain Foundation. He has worked in the youth sector in various roles nationally and internationally.
Ziagul Sultani was sworn in as Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs by the Governor-General on 19 July 2016. Ziagul was first elected to the Senate for the Australian Capital Territory in 2013. Since his election to Parliament, Ziagul has been appointed to a number of committees.

Mysore Jathumal is the Managing Director of the Shire of Katanning, Western Australia. Born in Afghanistan, she arrived in Australia at the age of 10. Mysore is currently the Community/Youth Development Officer with the Shire of Katanning and studying Community Development. During her spare time, she enjoys volunteering. Mysore is a vocal advocate for multicultural young people, young people in regional and remote areas, girls and women’s rights and the environment. She is one of the founding members of MYAN’s Youth Ambassadors Network (YAN).
GARY LEE

Originally from Malaysia, Gary is the International Education Project Coordinator for the City of Melbourne. He is heavily involved in all facets of community from welcoming new arrivals, supporting those in need, enhancing the leadership qualities and empowering international students through sport, dance and volunteering.

Gary’s energy, passion and leadership in international education have been acknowledged previously: He is the recipient of the Herald Sun Pride Medal of Australia FairGo Award 2010 and the Victoria’s Multicultural Awards for Excellence 2010 & 2012. In January 2016, Gary was announced as the Australia Day Council ‘New Australian of the Year 2016’ for his tireless work and success in empowering communities.