



Presents

NAVIGATING JOURNEYS, **2** **EMPOWERING VOICES** **0** **2**

NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL YOUTH CONFERENCE **3**
Canberra, 27th-28th November 2023

PROGRAM





Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia (MYAN) is Australia's national peak body representing the rights and interests of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

MYAN works in partnership with young people, government and the non-government sectors to promote the rights and interests of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds and ensure these are recognised in policy and practice.

Our vision is that all young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds can access the support and opportunities they need to be active participants in, and contributors to, Australian society.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MYAN Australia recognises that across the country, we all live and work on the unceded lands and waters of First Nations people, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

04-07

Staff & Our Objectives

08-10

Conference Venues

11-12

Keynote Speakers

13

Reception Program 27th

14

Panellists / Speakers

15

Conference Program 28th

16-22

Panellists / Speakers

23-24

Our Partners

25

Creatives

TABLE OF CONTENTS



CARMEL GUERRA OAM

CHAIRPERSON,
MYAN AUSTRALIA

Carmel Guerra is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Multicultural Youth, which is both the first and largest organisation in Australia to work exclusively with migrant and refugee young people. Carmel is widely recognised for her knowledge of multicultural issues and over a career of 30 years, Carmel has been a committed agent for social change and policy reform, with her work resulting in a national support system for the multicultural young people and families who seek to build a life in Australia.

Carmel is Chairperson of the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), the national peak body representing multicultural youth issues in Australia and sits on numerous boards and committees including: the Social Policy Group, the Victorian Police Chief Commissioner's Human Rights Strategic Advisory Group. Carmel was awarded the Victorian Premier's Award for Community Harmony in 2015, a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2016 and an Honorary Doctorate by Deakin University in 2022.





**RANA
EBRAHIMI**
MYAN NATIONAL MANAGER

Rana Ebrahimi is the National Manager of the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia (MYAN). She leads MYAN to advocate for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds' rights and best interests in policy and practice.

Rana is an expert in social inclusion and humanitarian ethics. She is the first Iranian woman to be a National Head of Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Iran. Rana is also the President of Equal Employment Opportunity Network, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Chair of Rotary District 9800 and Australian Youth Affairs Coalition.



OUR OBJECTIVES

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE LEADERS

Young people across Australia are engaged in the work of MYAN and influential within their own communities and with decision makers.

INNOVATIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Policy makers and decision makers understand and respond to the particular rights and interests of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

A STRONG SECTOR

Young people are supported by a strong, skilled settlement and services sector.

STAFF

1. National Manager – Rana Ebrahimi
2. National Policy and Advocacy Lead – Shannon White
3. Health Communication and Engagement Officer – Ali Saha
4. Policy Officer - Fiona Maguire
5. Project Officer – Kate Yeung
6. Project Support Officer – Anna Ligorio
7. Event Coordinator – Ricky Do
8. Website Officer – Vicky Lee

Connect with MYAN on our social channels

Share your ideas, thoughts and experience at the Youth Conference with our broader networks



twitter.com/MYANAustralia



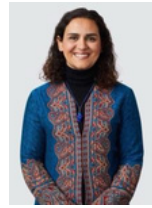
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[linkedin.com/company/myanaustralia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/myanaustralia)



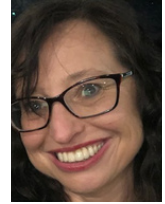
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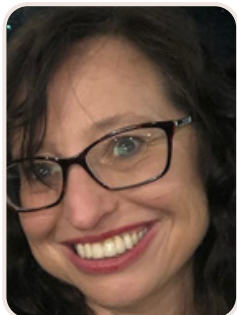


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8

COUNSELLOR



FIONA MAGUIRE

Policy Officer, MYAN

Fiona Maguire is a counsellor and coach who helps people and organisations work through complex issues, build confidence, and thrive.

Fiona holds a masters in behavioural science and has trained in counselling and acceptance commitment therapy.

Fiona also works at MYAN as a policy and advocacy officer, and brings with her 20+ years of experience in government, public policy and law, including effective advocacy and public speaking.

At the conference Fiona is available to listen deeply, and coach through any issues that come up during the day.

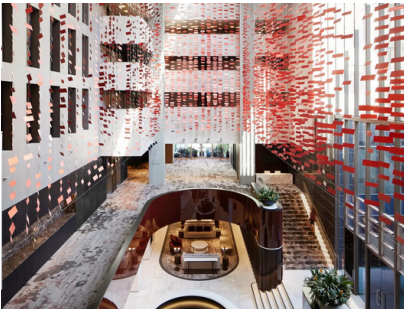
CONFERENCE VENUES

HOTEL REALM NATIONAL BALLROOM 2



Hotel Realm offers an unsurpassed conference venue for Canberra and the region. Ten dynamic meeting spaces provide world-class and highly-adaptable function and conferencing facilities.

With the capacity to host gala dinners, cocktail parties, weddings, themed events, trade shows, product launches, award nights and corporate events, Hotel Realm delivers a truly 5-star event experience.



Hotel Realm's signature ballroom is the epitome of grandeur, perfect for sophisticated business or private events. There is access to an outdoor terrace with views of Parliament House and beautiful floor to ceiling windows with double backing curtains.

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE MEMBERS' DINING ROOM 2



The Members' Dining Room 2 was the main dining room for the exclusive use of parliamentarians, with direct and stunning views of Australian Parliament House, its own driveway terrace which can be utilised and photogenic bridges that allow a grand entrance off Queen Victoria Terrace. It's high ceilings and original timber lamps, it is an overall beautiful historic backdrop that would be perfect for any event.



Originally, the Members' Dining Room was painted white. However, between the late 1930s until the 1950s it was decorated throughout with an intricate and colourful paint scheme. After carefully scraping back the overlying layers of paint, the decorative effect can now be seen in one section of the north-east corner, revealing this small fragment in time for the eyes of today.

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE MEMBERS' DINING ROOM 3



Members' Dining Room 3 was originally the Members' Lounge, a space for the exclusive use of Members and Senators. Considering the building's construction era, Member's Dining Room 3 is recognised for its modern architectural design, featuring two stunning, original skylights. It boasts an impressive view of Australian Parliament House, stunning by both day and night, and its own outdoor terrace space that can be used in conjunction with the room, weather permitting.



What was formally known as the Member's Lounge, this room was recognisable for the deep leather chairs used for morning and afternoon teas and suppers exclusively served for members and senators. Over the years the room featured a radio-gramophone and a selection of records, a grand piano and, by the 1980s, two televisions. In 1948, it was refurbished to allow Members to entertain guests in the space and was re-named the Members' Visitors Room. In later years, the room was used to serve small breakfasts or quick meals for Members who did not have time for the more leisurely service in the main Members' Dining Room.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



SAMAH SHDA

Refugee education researcher &
Refugee engagement expert UNSW

Samah Shda is a dedicated Humanitarian and Development Professional, known for her expertise in refugee rights advocacy and education research. With a decade of experience, Samah's work is grounded in her lived expertise in displacement.

Originally an Iraqi Assyrian refugee, she navigated the challenges of conflict, securing her education in the United States amidst the 2003 war and the subsequent rise of extremist threats in her homeland. Since arriving in Australia in 2019, she has led numerous projects with refugee resettlement organisations and advocacy networks, representing the Iraqi community.



CARLA WILSHIRE

Chief Executive Officer
The Social Policy Group

Carla Wilshire OAM is the founding CEO of The Social Policy Group (SPG). She has a background in public policy development and impact strategy, corporate governance, and tertiary research.

Before establishing SPG, Carla worked in senior roles in the public service and as an advisor to the Government, principally in migration and settlement, including as Chief of Staff to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

She also held academic and consulting positions in Australia and abroad. Carla is the Board Director of The Australian Centre for Social Innovation, the co-founder and Deputy Chair of the Migrant and Refugee Health Partnership and the Judicial Council on Diversity & Inclusion, as well as a member of the Council of Harmony Alliance, the national migrant and refugee women's alliance.

SPECIAL REMARKS



HON ANDREW GILES MP

Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs.

The Hon Andrew Giles MP is the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs. He was first elected to the Australian Parliament as Member for Scullin on 7 September 2013, representing the Australian Labor Party (ALP). He is currently serving his fourth term in Parliament representing the Scullin community.

Minister Andrew Giles previously served as Shadow Assistant Minister for Schools from July 2016 to May 2019, and as Shadow Minister for Cities and Urban Infrastructure, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and Shadow Minister Assisting for Immigration and Citizenship from May 2019 to May 2022.



HON DR ANNE ALY MP

Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth

The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP has been the Federal Member for Cowan since 2016 and is also the Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth in the Albanese Government.

With a Masters and PhD, she worked as a professor, academic and practitioner in counter terrorism and countering violent extremism and authored the book- Terrorism and Global Security: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives.

The founder of People against Violent Extremism, Dr Anne Aly MP was the only Australian representative to speak at President Obama's 2015 White House summit on countering violent extremism.

MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER HOTEL REALM NATIONAL BALLROOM 2

17:30 - 18:00	Arrival
18:30 - 19:00	Welcome to Country By Aunty Violet Sheridan
19:00 - 19:15	Artist Performance : MCKY
19:15 - 19:45	Reception Opening Remarks By Hon Andrew Giles MP and Dr Anne Aly MP
19:45 - 20:15	Multicultural Framework Review Panel
20:15 - 21:00	Networking
21:00	Reception close

Thank you to our reception event partner The Social Policy Group

The Social Policy Group (SPG) is a national, non-government, not-for-profit body with specialist expertise in social policy and program design with a focus on population diversity, social and community cohesion, gender equality, community participation and inclusion, systems' responsiveness, and community outreach and engagement.



RECEPTION PANEL: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN MULTICULTURALISM: REALISING POTENTIAL THROUGH MULTICULTURAL YOUTH PARTICIPATION



DR BULENT HASS DELLAL AO

Executive Director

Australian Multicultural Foundation

Dr Bulent (Hass) Dellal AO is the Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation, Chair of the Australian Multicultural Council and the former Chair of SBS (Special Broadcasting Service).

He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for services to Multicultural Organisations, the Arts, and the Community on the Queen's Birthday Honours List 1997 and awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal in 2003. He was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences by RMIT University on the 13 December 2006. 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.



MS CHRISTINE CASTLEY

Chief Executive Officer

Multicultural Australia

Christine Castley is the Chief Executive Officer of Multicultural Australia, with substantial expertise in organisational transformation and change management, strategic governance, policy, community engagement and service delivery. Prior to this, she was Deputy Director-General in the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works.

Christine has a strong track record in delivering significant reform and innovation projects, including for adult and youth justice, disaster management response and recovery and public sector ethics and integrity reform.



MS NYADOL NYUON OAM

Chair, Harmony Alliance

Director, Sir Zelman Cowen Centre

Nyadol Nyuon is the Chair of Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee Women for Change. She is the Director of the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre, community advocate, writer, and accomplished public speaker. Nyadol Nyuon is a vocal advocate for human rights, migrant and refugee women, and the settlement of people with refugee experiences and those seeking asylum.

She has worked and volunteered extensively in these areas with a range of organisations. Nyadol is also a regular media commentator on these issues, having appeared on ABC's The Drum, as a panellist on Q&A and contributing to The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and The Saturday Paper, to name just a few.

TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE MDR 2 AND 3

Old Parliament House: Members Dining Room 2 & 3

9:00 - 9:30	Registration And Morning Tea	9:30 - 9:50	Welcome to Country - Ngunnawal elder Aunty Violet Sheridan
9:50 - 10:05	MYAN Welcome by Carmel Guerra OAM, Chairperson of MYAN		
10:05 - 10:25	Keynote by Samah Shda, moderated by Kenny Duke		
10:25 - 11:05	Panel 1: Resilience Beyond Borders: Fostering Multicultural Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing		
11:05 - 11:15	Artist Performance: Momposina Colombian Dancing Group		
11:15 - 11:35	Opening Remarks by Hon Andrew Giles MP		
11:35 - 12:15	Panel 2: Youth Shaping Tomorrow: Empowering Global Engagement		
12:15 - 13:00	Lunch Break		

Members Dining Room 2

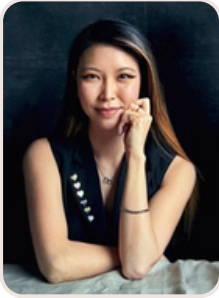
Members Dining Room 3

13:00 - 13:45	Panel 3A: Navigating Education Pathways for Success	Panel 3B: Nurturing Belonging, Fostering Connection, and Inspiring Active Participation
13:45 - 14:30	Panel 4A: Breaking Barriers: Navigating Intersectionality in Access to Essential Services	Panel 4B: Empowering Futures: Navigating Employment Pathways
14:30 - 15:00	Tea Break	

Members Dining Room 2 & 3

15:00 - 15:30	Keynote by Carla Wilshire, moderated by Nayanika Battacharya
15:30 - 16:00	Visual Artist Presentation by Bondi Advertising
16:00 - 16:30	Closing Remarks by Rana Ebrahimi, MYAN National Manager
16:30 - 17:00	Conference Close

PANEL 1: RESILIENCE BEYOND BORDERS; FOSTERING MULTICULTURAL YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



EMILY UNITY

Mental Health Advocate, Lived Experience Lead
The Royal Children's Hospital

Emily Unity is an award-winning mental health advocate, software engineer, and creative designer. Emily is passionate about lived experience leadership - creating meaningful opportunities to include people in decision-making that affects them.

Emily's work is informed by their intersectional lived experiences, including mental ill-health, disability, LGBTQIA+, multiculturalism, neurodivergence, homelessness, and more.



JASON TRETHOWAN

Chief Executive Officer
Headspace

Jason Trethowan commenced as CEO of headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation in January 2017. Since then he has overseen an expansion of the headspace network of digital services for young people, school-based programs, and an ongoing commitment to 164 headspace centres nationally. With strengthened community and government support for headspace, Jason understands the importance of embedding and integrating national models of service delivery in communities to ensure all young people across Australia can benefit from headspace services in the areas of mental health, general health, work and study, and alcohol and other drugs.



MATTHEW SHORT

Assistant Secretary of Mental Health Services Branch
Department of Health and Aged Care

Matt Short is the Assistant Secretary of Mental Health Services Branch in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. In this role Matt is responsible for policies and programs that promote early intervention, prevention, and treatment of mental ill health across the life course. This includes responsibility for the oversight of youth programs and policies, as well as those for perinatal, child, and specific adult mental health programs. Matt is also responsible for the Commonwealth's policies relating to eating disorders and leads the Commonwealth mental health emergency responses to natural disasters and climate change.

Matt is also Deputy Chair (and previous past Chair) of the Health Pride Network and is passionate about inclusive workplaces. Matt received the 2021 Roozi Araghi Award for Inclusion in recognition of his work on inclusion in the Department.

PANEL 2: YOUTH SHAPING TOMORROW: EMPOWERING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



ADRIAN EDWARDS

UNHCR Regional Representative - Australia, NZ, PNG & Pacific Island States

Adrian Edwards is UNHCR's Representative for Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. He took up his posting in April 2021 and leads the work of UNHCR's Multi-Country Office in Canberra. Adrian joined UNHCR in 2009, having previously served with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and before that with the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia.

A former international journalist in the Asia-Pacific region including with the Far Eastern Economic Review, Reuters, BBC and Economist Intelligence Unit, he became a spokesperson for UNHCR and led its global news team for over a decade and through multiple humanitarian emergencies.



NOOR AZIZAH

Co-founder and Director of Advocacy, International Relations, and Women's Leadership at the Rohingya Maiyafuinoor Collaborative Network

Noor Azizah, a former Rohingya refugee, resettled in Sydney in 2003 after escaping the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar. Despite early struggles with homelessness and statelessness, she emerged as a strong advocate for Rohingya women. With a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Sydney, Noor's dedication has earned her numerous honors.

She serves as a refugee delegate at the United Nations in Geneva, actively advocating for Rohingya women, and contributes to various refugee rights initiatives.



ANDREW KILEY

First Assistant Secretary of the Refugee, Humanitarian and Settlement Division

Andrew Kiley is the First Assistant Secretary of the Refugee, Humanitarian and Settlement Division in the Department of Home Affairs. Prior to that, Andrew headed up the Humanitarian and Child Wellbeing Policy and Capability Branch under the same Division, and the Assurance, Risk & Engagement Branch in the Critical Infrastructure Security Division and worked across the critical infrastructure security space for several years. Andrew has also worked across a number of areas in the Attorney-General's Department including criminal justice legal policy and reform, international crime cooperation which involved treaty negotiation and engagement with the UN criminal justice program, emergency management and national security policy.

**MODERATOR : KHUSHAL SHAH
& HANIENAH HUSNA
11:35AM - 12:15PM
MEMBERS DINING ROOM 2&3**

PANEL 3A: NAVIGATING EDUCATION PATHWAYS FOR SUCCESS



DR SALLY BAKER

Associate Professor of Migration and Education
ANU

Dr Sally Baker is an Associate Professor of Migration and Education at the Australian National University. Sally's teaching and research interests centre on equity in higher education, particularly the educational access, pathways, and experiences of students with forced migration backgrounds. Sally is the founder of the Refugee Education Special Interest Group for/with students from refugee backgrounds



BEN RIMMER

Deputy Secretary Higher Education, Research and
International Group

Ben Rimmer is the Deputy Secretary, Higher Education, Research and International Group in the Department of Education.

He returned to the Australian Public Service in April 2023 following roles as Associate Secretary in the Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and Chief Executive Officer of Homes Victoria, and before that as Chief Executive Officer of the City of Melbourne.

Ben is a committed and passionate public servant, focused on building strong capable, diverse and inclusive teams to provide excellent service to Ministers and the government, and through them the Australian community.



SOO-LIN QUEK

Executive Manager, Policy, Sector & Business
Development
Centre for Multicultural Youth

Soo-Lin Quek has over 25 years' experience in the community and government sectors. She has managed significant policy and program areas in the Victorian Government. Her previous experience in the community sector ranges from managing community based organisations to policy and community development work in the youth, multicultural, health, family violence, human rights and public housing sectors.



DR TERESA DE FAZIO OAM

Director, Intersect Global Partners
Chairperson, Adult Community & Further Education

Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM is the recently appointed Chairperson of Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE). Teresa was awarded the Order of Australia in 2021 for her services to tertiary education. The educational work for which she is known relates to ensuring that all learners are enabled to access to the transformational opportunities education can provide - and that inclusive and equitable practices underlie these educational experiences.

PANEL 3B: NURTURING BELONGING, FOSTERING CONNECTION, AND INSPIRING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION



ZAKIA PATEL Regional Managing Director Multicultural Hub Canberra & Regional NSW

Zakia Patel is a leader with a passion for using her skills to support marginalised communities, with a particular passion for young people. Zakia is the Regional Managing Director of the Multicultural Hub Canberra, with responsibilities for Multicultural Centres in Canberra, Queanbeyan, Goulburn, Bega and Cooma.

Zakia has over a decade of experience working in the community sector, and holds a Bachelor of Law/Economics.



SANDY MCKIERNAN Chief Executive Officer Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia

Sandy McKiernan is an executive with more than 17 years in leadership roles in the NFP sector and was appointed as CEO of the Youth Affairs Council WA in May 2021. Previous to this, Sandy held the position of Executive Manager Specialist Community Services – at Vinnies WA, managing a large team across Housing, Homelessness and Mental Health portfolios.

With a background in health and community services and a Master of Public Health, Sandy brings extensive experience in community engagement and has unique insights into the challenges and opportunities of managing small and large projects and contracts.



SALLY THOMPSON Executive Manager Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania

Sally Thompson is the Executive Manager of Settlement Services at the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania (MRC Tas). Sally is passionate about youth participation, and social justice, having worked with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds in Tasmania since 2014. Sally sits on the Governance Group of the MYAN and the Board of the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT). Before joining MRC Tas Sally worked in the social enterprise sector in a worker cooperative and on women's projects in Vanuatu.

PANEL 3B: NURTURING BELONGING, FOSTERING CONNECTION, AND INSPIRING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION



CARMEL GUERRA OAM

Director & Chief Executive Officer
Centre for Multicultural Youth

Carmel Guerra is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Multicultural Youth, which is both the first and largest organisation in Australia to work exclusively with migrant and refugee young people. Carmel is widely recognised for her knowledge of multicultural issues and over a career of 30 years, Carmel has been a committed agent for social change and policy reform, with her work resulting in a national support system for the multicultural young people and families who seek to build a life in Australia.

Carmel is Chairperson of the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN), the national peak body representing multicultural youth issues in Australia and sits on numerous boards and committees including: the Social Policy Group, the Victorian Police Chief Commissioner's Human Rights Strategic Advisory Group. Carmel was awarded the Victorian Premier's Award for Community Harmony in 2015, a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2016 and an Honorary Doctorate by Deakin University in 2022.

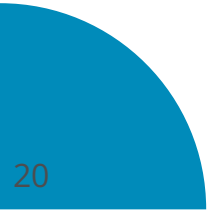


SELAM KUMLACHEW

Seat at the Table Youth Trainee
YACWA

Selam Kumlachew (she/her) is a first-generation Australian of Ethiopian background, deeply committed to empowering the future leaders of the nation. In her role as the Seat at The Table Youth Trainee at the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia, Selam plays a crucial role in supporting and equipping young women from migrant and refugee backgrounds. She co-delivers various training sessions and takes on diverse responsibilities to elevate these emerging leaders within the program pursuing governance and leadership roles.

Beyond her professional commitments, Selam actively volunteers her time as a community group leader, where she focuses on investing in the development of young people. Her primary emphasis is on nurturing the personal and spiritual growth of participants, ranging from secondary school students to young adults. Selam's unwavering dedication to youth empowerment is evident through her mentorship and commitment to personal and leadership development.



PANEL 4A: BREAKING BARRIERS: NAVIGATING INTERSECTIONALITY IN ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES



SHABNAM SAFA

Community Development Training Lead
Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia

Shabnam Safa is a driven community development practitioner passionate about cultivating true partnerships between communities and structures of power to create social change. She grew up as a Hazara Afghan refugee in Pakistan before arriving in Australia at the age of 15. Grounded in her own experience of forced displacement, she advocates for meaningful participation of refugees in addressing the complex challenges of resettlement, inclusion, and belonging. She is part of a small national team at the Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) building a holistic community-led refugee sponsorship movement in Australia. She is also the inaugural Chairperson at the National Refugee-led Advisory and Advocacy Group (NRAAG), a refugee-led organisation creating spaces for effective elevation of voices with lived experience in key decisions, policies, and discourse about refugees.



KWAME SELORMEY

Director
Melaleuca Australia

Born in West Africa, Kwame Selormey lives on Larrakia Country in the NT. He is the CEO of Melaleuca Australia, a non-profit organisation that supports humanitarian entrants, migrants and people from CaLD backgrounds to settle in the NT, alongside generalist employment services. His work in the NT is regarded as significant in helping CaLD communities to increase their self-advocacy. As a strong advocate for human rights, Kwame also represents Melaleuca as a founding committee member of the NT Human Rights Awards. Recognised as a leader in the non-profit sector, his dedication and experience have been instrumental in driving systemic change in refugee and migrant health in the NT. For over 25 years, his expansive career has included roles from the design of specialist services for mental health, children, youth, the elderly, families and people with disabilities to advisory roles that shape and inform person-centred services for marginalised communities in Australia and Africa.



SANDRA ELHELW

Chief Executive Officer
The Settlement Council of Australia (SCoA)

Sandra Elhelw is the CEO of the Settlement Council of Australia, the peak body representing Australia's migrant and refugee services. The Council has 125 member organisations that work with migrants and refugees to build a new life in Australia. In her current role, she leads the sector in building an inclusive society where migrants and refugees belong and thrive. Sandra is a second-generation migrant, whose parents came to Australia from Egypt. Her experience growing up in a migrant family significantly influences her work.

Prior to joining SCoA, Sandra has had roles working in government, and frontline social services. She is also undertaking a PhD on domestic and family violence in Australian Muslim communities.



MOHAMED AL ABRI

Board Director
Forcibly Displaced People Network (FDPN)

Mohamed Al Abri (مُحَمَّد) is a queer leader who is a Board Director at the Forcibly Displaced People Network (FDPN). He is passionate about community work, is also part of the FDPN Advisory Committee, The ACT LGBTQ+ Ministerial Advisory Council and has volunteered for over 14 years with LGBTQ+, Environmental, and community organisations.

Mohamed brings with him experience in stakeholder engagement and HR practice. Mohamed is of Arab heritage, grew up in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and arrived in Australia in 2007 as an international student.

PANEL 4B: EMPOWERING FUTURES: NAVIGATING EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS



CAITLIN FIGUEIREDO

Co-Chair, Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
Founder and CEO, Jasiri Australia

Caitlin Figueiredo is determined to give young people a say in politics.

In 2015, she worked to bring young people's voices into parliament through a national youth advisory council.

This led to her election to the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) board, a volunteer position that she juggled with university work - and a political leadership group she co-founded called Girls Take Over Parliament. Caitlin revitalised and transformed AYAC, creating a more diverse board that better represented young people.

Thanks partly to Caitlin's work, in 2022 the Australian Government established a dedicated Minister for Youth and invested \$10.5 million into youth affairs to ensure young people would have a share in decision-making and policy design.



LOUNA GHAWI

Australia and New Zealand Director of Operations
Talent Beyond Boundaries

Louna Ghawi is a dedicated and dynamic leader, serving

as the Co-Director for Australia and New Zealand Operations at Talent Beyond Boundaries. Her visionary leadership is instrumental in overseeing and implementing the organisation's mission within the region.

With a profound commitment to humanitarian causes, Louna is an essential part of Talent Beyond Boundaries and an active Member of the Victorian Divisional Advisory Board of the Australian Red Cross.



JOSEPH YOUHANA

Country Director
Host International

Joseph Youhana is a multifaceted individual who has overcome adversity and now serves as a mentor, leader, and public speaker. He has a unique ability to connect with grassroots communities at the local and state levels. Throughout his career, Joseph has worked with a variety of stakeholders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors to address complex issues. He has a proven track record of successfully leading operations, developing strategies, implementing programs and policies, and driving transformative projects that improve organisations. Since 2010, Joseph has been an influential advocate for the refugee crisis on a global scale. In Australia, he is highly regarded as a leader in community engagement.

OUR PARTNERS



WA - Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network of WA (MYAN WA)

MYAN WA aims to develop the capacity of WA practitioners, service providers, policymakers and funding bodies to ensure positive settlement outcomes for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds.



QLD - Multicultural Youth Queensland (MyQ)

MyQ (Multicultural Youth Queensland) is facilitated by Access Community Services and advocates for young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds either through the MyQ Council or the MyQ Stakeholder network. MyQ is the elected Queensland partner of MYAN Australia.



WA -Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia

YACWA aims to provide a united, independent and active advocate for the non-government youth sector and young people that is both supported and respected by the sector and the wider community. Focusing on young people's varied needs at local, State and Federal Government level, YACWA works to engender and enhance positive community attitudes towards young people.



VIC - Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY)

The Centre for Multicultural Youth is the auspice body that supports MYAN. It is a state not-for-profit organisation supporting young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds to build better lives in Australia. Through a combination of specialist support services, training and consultancy, knowledge sharing and advocacy, CMY works to remove the barriers young people face as they make Australia their home.

OUR PARTNERS



ACT - Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Youth Coalition of the ACT is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory. The Youth Coalition undertakes policy development, sector development, research and evaluation, advocacy and representation activities to improve outcomes for young people and their families.



NSW - Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN NSW)

The Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN NSW) is a state-wide, specialist youth organisation supporting young people from diverse cultural communities across New South Wales.



TAS - Multicultural Youth Tasmania (MYT)

Multicultural Youth Tasmania (MYT) is a program of Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania (MRC Tas). MYT provides targeted services and programs to support young people aged up to 25 years from multicultural backgrounds to reach their full potential and thrive as active members of the Tasmanian community. MYT services include direct client work as well as sector development in the youth, education and community space to ensure the needs of multicultural youth are being met within mainstream services.



NT - MyNT - Melaleuca Australia

MYAN in the NT is known as MyNT. It collaborates with various key organisations in the Northern Territory concerned with the needs of young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. MyNT is a youth-led organisation, which operates at the premises of Melaleuca Australia. Its members are all young people across various parts of the NT. It is partly funded by the NT Government and auspiced through Melaleuca Australia, who provides support and governance as well as linkages to various sectors to ensure multicultural youth voices are represented widely.

OUR CREATIVES



Lucie Jamison - Videographer
luciejamison.weebly.com



Audio & Visual / Production Design
ravenues.com.au



Tom Saunders - Photographer
bigideamedia.com.au



Stationary Merchandise Printing
easypromo.com.au



HoMie

Apparel Merchandise Printing
homie.com.au



Printing Distribution
elginprinting.com.au



Staging Production Design
eavs.com.au

Reception Music Performance : MCKY (Mickey Sulit-Ricabo)
mickeysulitmusic@gmail.com

Conference Dance Performance : Momposina Colombian Dance Group
momposinadancing-canberra@outlook.com

Accommodation - The SEBEL
Accommodation - QUEST Apartments
Accommodation - Hotel Realm

Venue - Hotel Realm
Venue - Old Parliament House
Venue - Australian Parliament House