Refugees In Australia: Providing relief and recognition as we strive for a more inclusive society

Joint Presentation

Nicole Brown – Project Dignity Karen Dunwoodie – Deakin CREATE

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Introduction

Overview of refugee situation

Project Dignity

- Who are we?
- What do we do?

Deakin CREATE (Centre for Refugee Employment Advocacy Training and Education)

- Who are we?
- What do we do?











Source: UNHCR / 18 June 2020



The Global Picture, cont.

Picture, cont.

project dignity rights, respect & recognition

CREATE

DEAKIN

Visa Categories And The Road To Citizenship

Bridging Visa	TPV	SHEV		
A – Plane arrival	Temporary Protection Visa	Safe Haven Enterprise Visa		
В			Protection Visa	Citizenship
с				
D	Valid for 3 years	Valid for 5 years		
E – Boat arrival		Regional focus 3.5 years		

Currently in excess of 30,000 people are still without protection





<u>Refugee:</u>

The most widely accepted legal definition is defined in the 1951 Refugee Convention:

Any person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country.

Seeking asylum:

People seeking asylum are the people who have sought protection as a refugee, but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been assessed.



Defining a 'refugee' and a person 'seeking asylum' The Facts and FAQ's

- . Australia is a signatory to the 1951 UNHCR Refugee Convention
- 2. Therefore, it is NOT ILLEGAL to seek asylum in Australia
- Yes, people from a refugee and asylum seeking background are entitled to work and study UNLESS it states otherwise on their visa.
- 4. There are NO QUEUES
- 5. Australia is the only country in the world where mandatory detention is enshrined in legislation
- It costs more than \$573,000 a year to hold someone in offshore detention;
- more than \$346,000 to hold them in detention in Australia;
- \$103,343 for them to live in community detention in Australia; and
- \$10,221 for them to live in the community on a bridging visa while their claim is processed.

NOTE: Australia has received over 4700 Unaccompanied children between 2009-2020 (most arriving 2012-2013)

6. People over the age of 18 on Bridging, TPV or SHEV's are not entitled to government funded education. Universities are offering a very limited number of scholarships and once enrolled all support and living allowances ceases.

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Project Dignity Who are we?

Project Dignity Goals

- Facilitate a range of practical, educational and cultural activities that contribute to breaking down cultural and religious barriers
- Help to relieve poverty and disadvantage
- Develop shared understandings and a sense of community.























We assist people with a refugee background to access meaningful employment and educational opportunities

Research, consult and advise on world's best practice for career adaptability and maintaining employability for people with background

<u>HOW</u>

- For example: We run 8 Week x 1 hour careers clinics
- Work with the corporate sector to gain employment opportunities for refugees and people seeking asylum
- Work with all Universities to provide scholarships for refugees
- ↔ Work with people from Refugee and Asylum Seeking background to access tertiary education
- Produce Guides and Fact sheets











A Guide for Employers

Supporting access to employment for people from a refugee or asylum seeking background



A Guide for Higher Education Institutions

Supporting students from a refugee or asylum seeking background to access and succeed in higher education

CREATE Special Interest Group



A Guide for Employers: Supporting access to employment for Refugees and People Seeking Asylum Guide for Tertiary Institutions – Supporting students from a refugee of asylum seeking background to access and succeed in Higher Education Deakin CREATE Guide for Students from a Refugee or Asylum Seeker Background



Going Forward Ongoing Help Needed

PROJECT DIGNITY

Deakin CREATE

➤Tax deductible donations

https://www.mazonaustralia.org/projectdignitycrisisrelief

We also gratefully receive donations of non-perishable food such as cooking oil, tea, coffee, sugar, honey, canned tomatoes, Basmati rice, lentils, chickpeas, red kidney beans, biscuits, chocolates, toiletries and feminine hygiene products

Supermarket vouchers

➤Tax deductible donations to CREATE

https://deakincreate.org.au/support-our-work/

- Become a careers clinic mentors
- Consider donating to our Scholarship fund
- Support to find employment for people from a refugee background
- Educate others about the refugee situation





Thank you for your participation this evening

We welcome any

QUESTIONS







Nicole Brown

TBI – Project Dignity Phone: 0425 774 712 Email: brownie@bigpond.net.au

Dr Karen Dunwoodie

Deakin CREATE Deakin University Mobile: 0414 946 266 Email: k.dunwoodie@deakin.edu.au

