



Informing policy through annual updates  
on migration research.

DONDUNSTANFOUNDATION  
REMEMBER THE FUTURE



# 2012 MIGRATION UPDATE

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*Migration and Social Transformation*

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## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

12 October 2012

The Science Exchange  
55 Exchange Place, ADELAIDE



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Level 3, 230 North Terrace  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

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## Foreword

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The **Migration Update** conference aims to provide a comprehensive update about current research in South Australia on contemporary refugee and migration matters. They have been organised in recognition of the fact that migration and refugee policy issues in Australia are likely to remain high on the public agenda for the foreseeable future. These conferences are designed to bring together researchers, policy makers, service providers and the broader community interested in ensuring that public debate on these issues is informed by high quality research.

The Don Dunstan Foundation, in partnership with the three South Australian Universities, is hosting this South Australian initiative. It recognises that regional perspectives on migration and refugee issues, and the impacts of migration on regions and communities, are often given less space in national debates. This is despite the fact that while immigration and border **control** are federal responsibilities, migrant **integration** and **inclusion** are largely the responsibilities of sub-state and local governments, and this is where social transformations take place.

The focus of the **2012 Migration Update** conference is understanding and responding to the complex, two-way relationship between social change and migration. Ageing, the subject of two of the keynote addresses, is a case in point: South Australia, along with other Western countries, welcomes migrants as a way to redress labour shortages and rejuvenate ageing communities. But migrants themselves age, and this poses questions concerning cross-cultural understandings of ageing, national and international policies about older immigrants, and the best ways to enable active ageing in a multi-cultural context. Other themes at this year's conference include the social and economic impacts of asylum seekers in communities where they are detained, changing community perspectives on refugees settling in regional Australia, and the transformative impacts of migration on parenting and schooling.

In addition to informing public debate, **Migration Update** fosters communication and networking between the Universities, the public service, the not for profit service sector, and communities. Bringing together research-based knowledge with policy and service delivery capability and local experience can help us understand and respond appropriately to migration-related social transformations.



Associate Professor Susanne Schech  
Conference Programme Committee



The Hon Dr Lynn Arnold AO  
Chair, Trustees – Don Dunstan Foundation



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## Conference Programme

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The Don Dunstan Foundation is a non-profit, non-political organisation established in 1999 to further Don Dunstan's social reform legacy by promoting visionary leadership and progressive thinking within government and the private sector. The Foundation promotes social reform by furthering public debate and promoting action on key public policy issues.

The 2012 Migration Update conference is a collaborative initiative of the Don Dunstan Foundation, The University of Adelaide, Flinders University and the University of South Australia and is supported by the South Australian State Government.

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## Sponsors

The conference organisers would like to thank the following organisations who generously provided sponsorship funds to support this conference:

**Don Dunstan Foundation**

**South Australian State Government**

**The University of Adelaide**

**University of South Australia**

**Flinders University**

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## Organising Committee

Professor Graeme Hugo, The University of Adelaide  
Associate Professor Susanne Schech, Flinders University  
Associate Professor Fiona Verity, Flinders University  
Melanie Baak, University of South Australia  
Donna Harden, Don Dunstan Foundation  
Sharna Pearce, Don Dunstan Foundation

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## Table of Contents

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|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Registration times .....                       | 1      |
| Conference Programme (at a glance) .....       | 3      |
| Conference Programme (in detail) .....         | 4      |
| Conference Survey .....                        | Insert |
| Don Dunstan Foundation Subscription Form ..... | Insert |

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## Registration Days and Times

The Auditorium, The Science Exchange – 55 Exchange Place, ADELAIDE

|               |                   |                         |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 8.30 – 9.00am | Friday 12 October | Single Day registration |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|

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## Instructions for Panel Presenters & Session Chairs

**Panel sessions** are scheduled for approximately *60 minutes*. This includes *10 minutes* for each presentation from a panel and *35-40 minutes* for questions and discussion. Set-up of necessary presentation equipment should be calculated into the allotted presentation time.

The **duties of session chairs** are to: Keep the session on schedule, introduce speakers, and moderate the question/discussion portion.

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## Conference Proceedings

The Conference proceedings will be published online on the Don Dunstan Foundation website [www.dunstan.org.au](http://www.dunstan.org.au) for access after **16 October 2012**.

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## Notes

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# 2012 MIGRATION UPDATE:

## Conference Programme at a Glance

|       | SPEAKER/S   |
|-------|---|
| 8.30  | <b>Registration</b>                                 |
| 9.00  | <b>Conference Opening</b>                           |
| 9.10  | <b>Migration Update</b>                             |
| 9.40  | <b>Q&amp;A – Discussion</b>                         |
| 10.00 | <b>Ageing in a Foreign Land</b>                     |
| 10.30 | <b>Q&amp;A – Discussion</b>                         |
| 10.50 | <b>Morning Tea</b>                                  |
| 11.10 | <b>Transforming Migrant Families</b>                |
| 11.40 | <b>Q&amp;A – Discussion</b>                         |
| 12.00 | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 12.45 | <b>Skilled Migration Update</b>                     |
| 1.15  | <b>Q&amp;A – Discussion</b>                         |
| 1.35  | <b>Contemporary Migration Research</b>              |
| 2.25  | <b>Q&amp;A – Discussion</b>                         |
| 3.00  | <b>Afternoon Tea</b>                                |
| 3.20  | <b>Our State<br/>Contemporary Migration Policy</b>  |
| 4.30  | <b>Conference Summary –<br/>where to from here?</b> |
| 5.00  | <b>Conference Close</b>                             |



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# 2012 MIGRATION UPDATE:

## Conference Programme

FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER

9.00 – 9.10

THE AUDITORIUM

MC: The Hon Dr Lynn Arnold AO

### Conference Opening

**The Hon Dr Lynn Arnold AO**

Chair of Trustees – Don Dunstan Foundation

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*The Hon Dr Lynn Arnold was appointed as Chair of Trustees of the Don Dunstan Foundation in 2009. He was the Premier of South Australia 1992 and 1993, having entered Parliament in 1979 and, in 1982, served as the Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Agriculture and State Development.*

*Lynn left politics in 1994 and was succeeded as Labor leader by Mike Rann. After politics he pursued a doctorate at the University of Adelaide being awarded his PhD in 2003. His area of research was in sociolinguistics and languages policy of northern Spain.*

*Dr Arnold was the Chief Executive of World Vision Australia from 1997 until 2003 and in 2003 was appointed as the Regional Vice President of World Vision International based in Thailand. In June 2004 Dr Arnold was awarded the Order of Australia for service to the community through the SA Parliament as Premier and through a range of portfolio responsibilities, and internationally through the development and humanitarian aid sectors. In December 2007 Dr Arnold was appointed as Chief Executive of Anglicare SA, a position he held until June 2012.*

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FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 2012

9.10 – 9.55

### Keynote Address

*2012 Migration Update*

*Implications of current migration trends and recent developments in Australian International Migration*

**Professor Graeme Hugo**

ARC Australian Professorial Fellow & Professor of Geography

Director, National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA)

The University of Adelaide

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**Professor Graeme Hugo**

Graeme Hugo is the author of over three hundred books, articles in scholarly journals and chapters in books, as well as a large number of conference papers and reports. He held an ARC Federation Fellowship between 2002 and 2007 and is currently Chair of the Advisory Committee on Demography and Liveability of the Commonwealth Department of Sustainable Environment, Water, Population and Communities. Professor Hugo is an acknowledged international expert in the area of geo-demographics as well as on Australian and Asian population issues. He has served on a number of Australian government population related committees as well as worked as a consultant to a wide range of international organisations (World Bank, ILO, UNFPA, UN Population Division UNESCAP) and the Indonesian government. He is on scientific committees of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and the International Geographical Union as is on the Social Science Panel of the Australian Research Council.

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## Keynote Address

### *Ageing in a Foreign Land*

#### **Dr Alexandre Kalache**

Adelaide Thinker on Age Friendly Cities

Senior Advisor to the President on Global Ageing – New York Academy of Medicine

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Adelaide Thinker in Residence 2011 – 2012, Dr Alexandre Kalache's expertise is in ageing issues – in particular old age care, epidemiology of ageing, health promotion, intersectoral policy development, advocacy, migration and ageing, and cultural attitudes to ageing.

He founded the Epidemiology of Ageing Unit at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine where he taught from 1984-95. During this period he also coordinated the first European Masters Degree course in Health Promotion.

From 1995-2008 he directed the World Health Organization Global Programme on Ageing at the Geneva Headquarters. Among many other initiatives he launched the "Active Ageing Policy Framework" and conceived the WHO "Age-Friendly Cities" initiative.

In 2008 he was appointed HelpAge International Global Ambassador on Ageing. (HelpAge International is the largest and most influential civil society organization on ageing worldwide).

Currently he is Senior Advisor to the President on Global Ageing at the New York Academy of Medicine.

He is actively involved in the process toward the adoption of a United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Older Persons and serves as special advisor to the Brazilian Secretary General of Human Rights and the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations in New York.

A native of Rio de Janeiro, he has begun work with the city authorities toward the first ever "Age-Friendly Olympic Games".

Dr. Kalache acts as advisor on age-related issues to a wide range of bodies from national, state and city governments to public and private agencies. He has teaching responsibilities at a host of universities worldwide and has authored over two hundred articles, scientific papers and books.

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**Session Chair:** *Professor Graeme Hugo is the ARC Australian Professorial Fellow & Professor of Geography and Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA) at The University of Adelaide*

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FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 2012 11.10 – 12.00

THE AUDITORIUM  
Chair: Professor Graeme Hugo

## Keynote Address

*Transforming Migrant Families*

### Professor Richard Bedford

Professor of Population Geography, National Institute of Demographic & Economic Analysis (NIDEA)  
The University of Waikato, New Zealand

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Professor Richard Bedford QSO, FRSNZ is Professor of Population Geography in the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (NIDEA) at the University of Waikato and Pro Vice-Chancellor Research at Auckland University of Technology. He is a specialist in migration research and since the mid-1960s he has been researching processes of population movement in the Asia-Pacific region. He is a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Official Statistics (ACOS), and an adviser to the Department of Labour on the Recognised Seasonal Employment (RSE) work policy. His current research addresses the policy implications, for New Zealand and Australia, of population developments and migration trends in the Pacific, including the impact of climate change on migration.

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**Session Chair:** *Professor Graeme Hugo is the ARC Australian Professorial Fellow & Professor of Geography and Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GISCA) at The University of Adelaide*

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FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 2012 12.45 – 1.30

THE AUDITORIUM  
Chair: Rebecca Greenfield

## Keynote Address

*Skilled Migration Update*

### Professor Leslyanne Hawthorne

Associate Dean International, The University of Melbourne

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Professor Leslyanne Hawthorne ((PhD, MA, BA Hons, Dip Ed, Grad Dip Mig Stud) specialises in research on global skilled migration policy, foreign credential recognition, labour market integration, and international student flows. Most recently she has been commissioned to undertake cross-national studies for the International Organisation of Migration/ EU, UNESCO, the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand governments, the US Migration Policy Institute, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (APEC), the Global Forum of Federations, and WHO. In 2005-06 Leslyanne was appointed to an Expert Panel of Three by Federal Cabinet to undertake the most extensive evaluation of Australia's skilled migration program since 1988. She has completed the main Australian studies to date on the study-migration pathway in ten fields, and the impact of migration on key professions. Prior to joining the University of Melbourne in 1997 Leslyanne was the Research Manager (Social and Demographic Research) at Australia's Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research.

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**Session Chair:** *Rebecca Greenfield is the Manager of Immigration SA, a role she has held for three years. Immigration SA is responsible for the State's participation in the skilled and business migration program and provides nominations under the State-nominated visa programs to eligible candidates. Immigration SA is also the Regional Certifying Body responsible for providing advice to the Federal Government in relation to nominations made through the Regional employer sponsored program.*

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## Panel Plenary Session

### *Contemporary Migration Research*

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**Panel Chair:** *Dr Danielle Every is a Research Fellow at the Appleton Institute, where she is co-director of the People, Place and Migration Unit. She is a social psychologist specialising in research on communication and mediation which she applies to anti-racism and refugee advocacy, ethnically diverse communities and organisations, and housing for young homeless people. She is currently writing on the social and economic impacts of immigration, anti-racism and shame, strategies for everyday anti-racism in interpersonal contexts, and anti-racism images in the media. Her work has been published internationally in journals such as the Journal of Refugee Studies, Nations and Nationalism, Discourse and Society, and in edited books, including Language Discourse and Social Psychology, published by Palgrave MacMillan.*

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**Rosie Roberts** - PhD Candidate, University of South Australia  
*Unfolding stories of skilled migrants: mapping mobile practices*

In a globalised world of increasing flows of people there is a new urgency to understand the lived experience of mobility and its role in social transformation. This paper is based on doctoral research exploring the narratives of highly skilled and educated migrants who have links to Australia within their migration histories (either as a point of departure or as a destination). Despite the body of previous research on skilled migrants, I argue that there remains a paucity of empirical research that attends to the complexity of migrant pathways in methodological terms. That is, research continues to focus on selective visa categories and linear representations of movement using one or two cities, nationalities and/or ethnicities as case studies. In addition, existing policy and research inscribes particular framings of who constitutes a skilled migrant. This is problematic because the embodied act of migration and practices of mobility often fail to fit within pre-existing visa categories. Through this paper I argue that an imaginative and flexible way of conceptualising mobility captures the complexities of global movement in ways that can have implications for future research and policy. Three perspectives on social transformation are highlighted: that migrant subjectivities are transformed through practices of mobility; that migration research could be informed by a greater understanding of the complex mobile pathways and practices of people; and that social policy should be informed by narratives that highlight the human experience of migration.

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**Dr Clemence Due** - School of Psychology, The University of Adelaide

*Working with Refugee and Migrant Children: A Study of Transition into Mainstream Classes at Primary Schools*

This presentation presents findings from research conducted with primary-school aged migrant and refugee students in Primary Intensive English Language Centres in South Australia. The research project in question is longitudinal in design, and examines the transition of students out of the Intensive English Language Program and into mainstream classes at either the same or a different school, through interviews with 60 migrant and refugee students for whom English is a Second Language. The presentation will discuss how these children talk about their transition into mainstream classes, focusing on areas that the children talked about in interviews with the author, including; friendships, language, identity, and experiences at school. In doing so, the presentation will consider the main areas of concern as identified by refugee and migrant students in the transition process, together with some of the positive outcomes of entry into mainstream classes that the students discussed. The project will present preliminary findings from students who have spent two terms in mainstream classes so far. The presentation will also examine the process of doing research with this group of young people in terms of ethical and methodological considerations.

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**Dr Julian Grant** - Flinders University

*Developing social capital as a refugee mother in a new country: narratives of creating life*

Co-author: Associate Professor Pauline Guerin

*Themes: What is the relationship between telling and living? • How can the narrative concept help us to better understand experience, interpretation and action?*

Mothers who are refugees living in a new country are reshaping life for both themselves and their children. Many factors can affect children of mothers who are refugees, including poverty, social isolation, maternal stress and mental ill health. While there is an emerging body of evidence about the physical and psychological health problems experienced by children who are parented by refugees, there is little information available about how mothers who are refugees manage parenting in a new country to mitigate these potential problems. In particular there is no research that reports on how mothers who are refugees make sense of the intersecting social determinants of health, nor how they manage them to reduce their impact on the physical and social wellbeing of their children. This paper presents and critiques the methodological approaches and findings from a recent South Australian study exploring how young, single mothers who are refugees from the African subcontinent, raise young children in a new country.

To ensure comprehensive exploration of the shaping-of-life through the development of social and cultural capital for this vulnerable group of mothers and their children, particular approaches to inquiry were required. These approaches needed to be based on the development of relationships with mothers and families to ensure that the research was genuinely reflexive and culturally 'safe'. Decolonising methods were essential alongside an imperative to collect rich meaningful data. Methods included participatory action focus groups and case study which focused on listening to the narratives of refugee mothers to make sense of their experiences, interpretations and actions. Findings demonstrate that the mothers in this study worked hard and made many sacrifices to support and enable their children to reap the benefits of growing up in a new country. Using an ecological framework we explore the challenges of 'connecting' to community while retaining 'connections' with their cultural heritage. We also explore the disconnect felt by many young mothers as they struggled with interpersonal relationships with men from within their communities-of-origin while making sense of normative western cultural expectations of motherhood.

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**Associate Professor Alex Reilly** - The University of Adelaide  
*International student workers: the case for reform*

In the past 20 years, Australia has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of international students in the tertiary education sector. In addition to contributing to the tertiary education industry through their consumption of education products and services, students contribute a pool of mostly semi-skilled labour to the economy. International students enter the domestic employment market with no dedicated legal regime for their protection. My research looks at the adequacy of the existing protections for international student workers. It focuses in particular on the 20 hour work restriction and how this leaves students vulnerable to exploitation in the workplace.

The paper demonstrates that international students are particularly vulnerable participants in the Australian workforce as a result of their youth, their cultural and linguistic backgrounds, their insecure residence status, and their limited social and political power as non-citizens. The paper explains how the limited number of hours they are entitled to engage in paid work contributes to this vulnerability. The rationale for restricting student work hours is to ensure students focus primarily on their studies. However, if students are found to have breached the work hours restriction, their work is rendered illegal and they are liable to automatic cancellation of their visas regardless of their success in their studies. The restriction of student work hours is an example of a migration regulation having a significant labour market impact.

The paper outlines possible reforms to both migration and labour laws that would contribute to the protection of international students in the Australian workforce. It considers a number of recent reports that have made suggestions for change to the way international student work is currently regulated. The paper concludes by making two specific recommendations for reform: first, through changing the work conditions 8104 and 8105 in student visas, and second, through amending s 235 of the Migration Act to make it clear that when students are in breach of the work condition, they are still protected by general employment law.

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**Dr Danielle Every** - Research Fellow, Appleton Institute, Central Queensland University  
*The social and economic impacts of immigration detention facilities on receiving communities*

Co-authors: Steve Whetton, Sophia Rainbird, Suraya Abdul Halim, Nicholas Procter, Bianca Sebben, Kirrilly Thompson

In response to recent increases in the numbers of asylum seekers, receiving nations are implementing new low security detention options in or near existing residential communities. However, local residents believe these undermine local employment, services and community cohesion. Although such fears are common, there is little existing research on these social and economic impacts to challenge these beliefs. To redress this, we undertook a social and economic impact assessment of a new Alternative Place of Detention (APOD) in South Australia. Our assessment found minimal negative impacts on the economy, services or cohesion. Rather there were some positive benefits: increased jobs, contracts and revenue; new funding for health and education services; and new opportunities for volunteering and knowledge about asylum seekers. As well as 'what' impacts, our research also explores 'why' these impacts, i.e. the new and existing factors that led to particular outcomes. These new and existing factors include: the characteristics of the facility; the characteristics of the host community; and government and community interventions and actions. The latter forms the basis of our recommendations for best practices for receiving communities to maximise the benefits for residents and asylum seekers alike.

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## Panel Plenary Session

### **Contemporary Migration Policy**

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**Panel Chair:** *Associate Professor John Spoehr is the Executive Director of the Australian Workplace Innovation and Social Research Centre (WISeR) at The University of Adelaide and has over twenty years' experience as a social and economic analyst. He has published widely in the areas of workforce development and socio-economic impacts of change. His recent publications include 'The Engaging State – South Australia's engagement with the Asia Pacific Region' with Purnendra Jain and 'State of South Australia – from crisis to prosperity', both published by Wakefield Press. John is regular commentator on social and economic issues and a columnist for the Adelaide Review.*

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#### **Dr Sanjugta Vas Dev**

*Principal Policy Advisor, Department for Education and Child Development, SA Government*

Dr Sanjugta Vas Dev is a principal policy advisor in the Office of the Chief Executive, Department for Education and Child Development. She has worked in government on a range of issues including disability and child protection. Sanjugta completed her PhD in 2008 in political science and focused her thesis on the role of advocacy organisations in shaping asylum policy in Australia and Malaysia. In 2009 Sanjugta worked with Professor Graeme Hugo on research seeking to understand the social, economic and civic contribution of refugees to Australia. While Sanjugta does not work in the area of migration currently, she retains a strong interest in the area of outcomes for young refugees.

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#### **Blythe Wood**

*Manager, Population & Migration Policy- Department of Premier and Cabinet, SA Government*

Blythe Wood is the Manager of Population and Migration Policy in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and a member of the senior officials group that supports the COAG Select Committee on Immigration and Settlement as well as the Commonwealth and State Skilled Migration Officials Group. Blythe has previously worked with local government in provision of services funded by the European Union to assist in the settlement of new migrants and refugees.

The Population and Migration Policy Unit of the State government works as the central point of expertise in matters related to Population and Migration for the State. Population policy includes elements of demographic stocks and flows, fertility, population distribution, infrastructure, skills, issues of health and well-being both at work and more broadly in society, the impacts of international events on local regions and co-ordinations between government and non-government sectors. The unit has a role in immigration policy including state policy for Immigration SA (through policy levers to manage sponsorship numbers and composition of migrant occupations), a state policy development role through COAG select and standing committees, a strategic role through the Ministerial Advisory Committee and a state role in advocacy and negotiation with the Commonwealth.

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**Roger Lean**

*Manager, Community & Government Relations - Multicultural SA*

Roger Lean is a senior manager at Multicultural SA where he has primary responsibility for Community and Government Relations. Multicultural SA is the agency responsible for advising the Government on all matters relating to multicultural and ethnic affairs in South Australia.

Multicultural SA works to achieve an inclusive, cohesive and equitable multicultural society, where all our communities are valued and supported, so that they can become full participants in our society. Multicultural SA works with the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC): 1) to increase awareness and understanding of the ethnic diversity of the South Australian community and the implications of that diversity; and 2) to advise the Government and public authorities on, and assist them in, all matters relating to the advancement of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs.

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## Closing Summary

### *Summary of Conference Outcomes & Future Research avenues*

#### **Associate Professor Susanne Schech**

Head, Centre for Development Studies  
Flinders University

#### **Professor Fiona Verity**

Dean, School of Social and Policy Studies  
Flinders University

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#### **Associate Professor Susanne Schech**

Associate Professor Susanne Schech lectures in the School of International Studies at Flinders University. Her teaching and research interests are broad and eclectic: gender and development; post-colonialism and development; poverty reduction; migration, culture and identity; and nationalist movements. Susanne helped to set up the Migration and Refugee Research Centre at Flinders University which seeks to promote research oriented networking, and is a member of the Don Dunstan Foundation Steering Committee which brings together migration and refugee research across the South Australian universities. Her most recent publications include (with M. Mustafa) *'The politics of gender mainstreaming poverty reduction: an Indonesian case study'* Social Politics, 17(1), 2010 111-135; (with J. Haggis) *'Refugees, settlement processes and citizenship making: an Australian case study'* National Identities, 12(4), 2010; and *'Seeing Like a Region: Parliamentary Discourses on Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Scotland and South Australia'* forthcoming in Population, Space and Place.

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#### **Professor Fiona Verity**

Professor Fiona Verity is the Dean of the School of Social and Policy Studies at Flinders University. A social worker by training, Fiona worked for many years in the SA Community Health sector, in community development and management positions. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology. Her areas of social work practice are community development, social policy and social planning and she is an active researcher and teacher in these areas. She is a Flinders University Representative on the Don Dunstan Foundation Board of Management and an elected member of the Board of Management of SA Council of Social Service.

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## Notes

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