

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2014

### WELCOME!

Welcome to the second ARC linkage project newsletter. In it we bring you a brief project update ahead of our partner meeting next week – only a few days to go!

### NOVEMBER PARTNER MEETING

We are very excited to be hosting the two day meeting next Thursday and Friday, 20 and 21 November. It will be a great opportunity for us to come together to review the conceptual and practical progress of the project as an overall research team, and to plan the next stages of the research.

Funds had been allocated from the ARC grant to cover two people from each partner organisation to attend the meeting. However, we also felt there would be a lot of value in expanding the meeting to include more people from refugee backgrounds, gaining insights from their personal experiences and perspectives on human rights. Linda Bartolomei submitted a proposal for this to our faculty, and was successful in being granted funding for two refugee community members from each site to participate in the meeting.

This expands the total number of meeting participants to around 30 people, with a wealth of experience and diversity around the table. It will provide an opportunity for rich discussion (and perhaps debate!), and

invaluable input into the theoretical, methodological and logistical aspects of the project.

We understand that it is not easy to get people to take two days out of their busy schedules, so we appreciate the efforts everyone has made to attend the meeting and to invite and encourage community members to also join us – Thankyou.

Information about venues, transport and accommodation has been sent by email to all partner organisation team members and to any community members for whom we have an email address. If you haven't received the information please contact us and we will resend. If you have any other questions about the meeting, please call Rochelle or Geraldine, ph 02 93851961 or 0411051013.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES – LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORY DEVELOPMENT

Since we last met, we have continued work on developing the conceptual and theoretical aspects of the project. In August we held a day-long workshop with the UNSW project team including all three Chief Investigators, to share and debate different aspects of human rights. This work enables us to build a strong framework for the project, which will be invaluable in our analysis of the information we collect during fieldwork next year.

Ahead of the partner meeting, Eileen will be forwarding a couple of short draft papers we have written about some of these aspects of human rights. These will provide a basis for discussion at the meeting. With the benefit of everyone's input and contributions, these short papers will continue to be developed and will be made available as working drafts on the project webpages and in Google Docs. They will also feed into the academic articles from the project.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES – FIELD VISITS

Since the last newsletter, the CRR team has conducted workshops with service providers and community members in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, to introduce the project to them. Meetings were also held with service providers in Geelong, and with community members in Townsville. Short reports from each site are being drafted and will be shared with all project partners when each organisation has had a chance to review and approve their report.

In each workshop, we briefly introduced the work of the Centre and the background to the project, and broadly outlined what the project will entail and achieve. Small group discussion and feedback drew on participants' responses to questions such as,

- what are our understandings of human rights?
- where do you learn about rights?
- how or where do human rights appear in our work?
- what are the main rights issues for resettling refugee communities?

Much of the discussion in these meetings was very lively and challenging, which has been stimulating and motivating for the UNSW

team. We have also received a lot of feedback from participants that they similarly enjoyed and valued the opportunity to talk about human rights issues. We have learned a great deal from these workshops, about people's experiences of and reflections on human rights, as well as some of the practical issues we need to take into account in planning next year's fieldwork.

### TOWNSVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING

An additional project activity held recently was a half-day training with service providers in Townsville. This was requested by participants during the introductory service provider workshop held by Bec Eckert earlier this year. The training was held during a visit to Townsville for the introductory project workshop with people from refugee backgrounds. It was very well attended with many of the participants from the original service provider workshop plus several more. The training provided an introduction to the structure of the United Nations system, and information about the history of the international legal human rights framework. Using group-work activities, it then explored some of the overarching principles of human rights, including the notion of human dignity, respect and autonomy.

Feedback from the service providers who attended this training was that they strongly valued the opportunity to reflect on and talk about ideas that affect the way they work. They also expressed strong interest in continuing to be involved in the next stages of the project.

## NEWCASTLE SELECTED AS THE REGIONAL STARTTS' PROJECT SITE

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The original project plan included three regional sites – Geelong (through AMES), Townsville (through TMSG) and Coffs Harbour (through STARTTS). Following discussion between the STARTTS and CRR teams, it was agreed to change the second STARTTS location from Coffs Harbour to Newcastle. Jo Macgregor from STARTTS' Newcastle office will attend the partner meeting, and is in the process of confirming if one or two community members from the region are also able to attend.

## NEW PROJECT EMAIL ADDRESS

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We have a new mailbox that will enable everyone to use just one email address for the project. The address is

[rightsinsettlement@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rightsinsettlement@unsw.edu.au)

All mail sent to this address will automatically be forwarded to Rochelle and Geraldine. This enables us to have single mailbox for all mail to and from partners and others, and ensures that even if one person is away or not available, emails will be responded to.

Rochelle and Geraldine will also be moving offices in the next week. The office phone number will remain the same, 02 9385 1961, but it may be out of service during the week

### **Geraldine Doney and Rochelle Baughan, on behalf of the CRR team**

Eileen Pittaway, Linda Bartolomei, Richard Hugman, Bec Eckert, Rochelle Baughan, Kristy Ward and Marcela Garrett.

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of the partner meeting. You are also welcome to call Geraldine's mobile number - 0411051013.

## WEBSITE AND GOOGLE DOCS

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The upgrade of our Centre website hasn't yet been completed by the university, so the project pages on the current website remain unchanged. We will upload more documents to the pages as we receive permission to share reports from our partners, and as we develop the draft papers mentioned earlier in this newsletter. We anticipate that the transition to the new website will be complete by early in the new year. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the link to the project page is

<http://www.crr.unsw.edu.au/research-projects/meanings-of-rights-in-settlement/>

One of the documents on the website is the project brochure. Feedback received from some partners is that a less academic version would be helpful, and that the project name could also be reviewed to reflect that the project is addressing human rights issues in the context of social and cultural transition in settlement.

We look forward to the opportunity we have next week to work together and to get your invaluable input into these and many other aspects of the project.