



NEWSLETTER

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Companion House fundraising dinner

There are only 7 days left to purchase tickets to the 25 year anniversary fundraising dinner for Companion House.

We want to make this the best gathering of supporters ever for Companion House, so tell your friends, tell your work colleagues, tell your neighbours, tell anyone who will listen. Let's show Canberra how much we care about the welfare of our refugees and asylum seekers here in the Canberra community. Attending the dinner is a practical expression of compassion and will help raise much needed funds for the service.

Speakers are Fr Frank Brennan and Clyde Rathbone. MC is Karen Middleton. Tickets are \$75 general admission, \$55 Companion House member. And don't forget, for rugby lovers: two rugby jerseys will be auctioned on the night - one with all the Brumbies signatures and another with Clyde Rathbone and David Pocock signatures.

If you have already purchased a ticket or made a donation, thank you for your generous support, it is truly appreciated.

We do hope to see you on **14 March** at the National Press Club.

To find out more please visit: <http://companion-house.eventbrite.com.au>

Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre – calling for expressions of interest – Multicultural Exhibition 2015

Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre is calling for proposals to exhibit in the 2015 program. Proposals are invited for a selected group exhibition to be held in conjunction with the National Multicultural Festival, held in Canberra during February 2015. The exhibition is designed to provide a platform for the celebration of cultural diversity, showcasing cultural traditions and heritage through craft and design. Proposals are invited from individual members and local and national craft and design practitioners whose practice reflects multicultural heritage and traditions. **Applications close Friday 14 March 2014.** For more information please contact Anne Radimin, Curator and Exhibition Manager on 02 62629333 or by email to anne.radimin@craftact.org.au.

A Passion for Peace -- a new major project of A Chorus of Women

- Information Session

A Passion for Peace is a community oratorio that A Chorus of Women is creating for premier performances by 100--200 singers in April 2015. It is inspired by 1300 women who travelled to The Hague from 12 warring and neutral nations for the International Congress of Women, from 27 April to 1 May 1915.

While the women dialogued harmoniously, generating visionary resolutions and an action plan to end World War I and establish permanent peace, Australian and New Zealand soldiers were in the first heartsick week of the eight-month Gallipoli campaign where more than 10,000 of them would die. War deaths were mounting towards the eventual loss of 20 million people in Europe and elsewhere.

A Passion for Peace will communicate a hopeful vision of humanity's heritage and potential. Like those attending the Congress, the singers will sound a political voice beyond the adversarial as they remember the past, reflect on what is happening now, and make a promise to the future inspired by a sacred purpose --- the protection of generations.

The initiator of the Passion project is Canberra musician and Jungian analyst Dr Glenda Cloughley. Musical direction will be by Johanna McBride, assisted by Meg Rigby and Judy Clingan, and The Street Theatre is providing dramaturgical support. We are also planning a series of seminars, conversations and concerts in 2014 to raise funds and increase awareness about the International Women's Congress and its resolutions.

To manage this ambitious project, A Chorus of Women is looking for helpers for a number of tasks (including fundraising, communications and performance management). We also need commitments from a large number of singers (men and women) for a number of performances (tbc) in April and May 2015.

INFORMATION SESSION

You are invited to join us to hear more about the remarkable Hague Congress of 1915, Glenda's plans for the choral work, our overall plans for the project and how you might be able to join in--- either as a performer, helper or both!

Sunday 16 March, 1.30--3.00 pm, Uniting Church Hall, Denman Street, Yarralumla Afternoon tea will be served and you are welcome to stay until 3.30 for informal chats.

RSVP to Janet (see below) by Friday 14th March.

For further information contact:

Glenda Cloughley (composer): glenda.cloughley@ozemail.com.au Tel 6239 6483; Mobile 0408 628 221

Johanna McBride (musical director): johanna@incanberra.com.au Mobile 0402 050885

Janet Salisbury (project manager): janetsalisbury25@gmail.com Mobile 0416 167 280

See also www.chorusofwomen.org

We welcome your assistance in spreading the word about this project - please feel free to forward this email liberally through your networks.

ACT microcredit program – orientation session

We are seeking your support to spread the word about the ACT Microcredit Loan Program and upcoming Orientation Session. The following flyer provides details about the first session on **18 March 2014** which we hope you will post around your organisation and share with your community. The orientation session is being recorded and will be available online.

This new microcredit program incorporating Brilliant Idea was launched by the ACT Deputy Chief Minister on 24 February 2014. The three-way partnership involves the ACT Government, Westpac Institutional Bank and Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre.

The program provides a limited number of low interest and fee-free loans from Westpac for eligible low-income earners who wish to start or expand an existing business. The program will build on the previous experience of Brilliant Idea and continue to provide loan recipients with business skills development, individual mentoring, peer support and access to networking events.

The new loans target a number of key groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, young people, women and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and intersex individuals.

The purpose of the Orientation Session is to provide details about eligibility and selection criteria for the suite of loans available through the ACT Microcredit Loan Program and the opportunity to ask questions. *Attendance at an orientation session is compulsory for interested loan applicants.*



no-interest and low-interest loans for eligible applicants to start or grow a business

The program provides a limited number of low interest and fee-free loans from Westpac for eligible low income earners who wish to start or expand an existing business. The Lighthouse program includes:

- Business skills development
- Individual mentoring
- Peer support
- Access to networking events.

Key target groups include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, young people, women and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and intersex individuals.

Competitive loans are granted based on satisfying selection criteria.

Orientation Session: Introducing the ACT Microcredit Program

18 March 2014, 10 for 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre

6/65 Tennant Street, Fyshwick

Bookings are essential. See website for more information.

www.actmicrocredit.com.au
1300 365 514



Rotary Club of Canberra Invitation

The Rotary Club of Canberra supported by Capitol Cinemas Manuka is delighted to invite you to the **GALA SCREENING** of **WADJDA** on **THURSDAY 20 March 2014**.

WADJDA is the 1st feature film to be made in Saudi Arabia. Directed by Haifa al-Mansour, the highly acclaimed film has won numerous awards.

The film will be screened in **Cinema 1, Greater Union Cinemas** 6 Franklin St, Manuka, Canberra. Before the screening commences, the **Rotary Club of Canberra** and **Bambusa Restaurant** will provide complimentary refreshments from **6.30pm**.

Tickets are \$25 each. Payment can be made to the Rotary Club of Canberra General Account BSB 012950 Account 232936633 (*When paying by direct debit please put your name in the ID box along with 1002 to identify yourself and the function date to WADJDA*)

You may also pay by cheque to the Rotary Club of Canberra Inc. GPO BOX 276, Canberra ACT 2601. Payment to be made no later than Thursday 13th March please.

To ensure you are on the invitation list, please contact Natalie after payment on 0438 050 627 or natvan46@gmail.com.

Refunds cannot be given and tickets will **not** be available at the door.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends, family and work mates.

All proceeds will go to Helping Communities to recover after natural disasters

A Taste of Harmony Potluck Lunch

Come and share your traditional food to celebrate Harmony Day with CMCF!

When: 12.30pm on **Saturday 22 March 2014**

Where: Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, North Building, 180 London Circuit, CIVIC , ACT 2601

Cost: Free, if you bring a plate of food or drink from your culture, along with the recipe.

To register: Please email secretary.cmcf@gmail.com

For further information: see <http://www.cmcf.org.au/cmcf-home-page/events/>

Check out <http://www.tasteofharmony.org.au/ideas> for some great food ideas or to share your recipes.

Lorrkkon Ceremony

This free public performance will re-enact the funerary rites and bone ceremony for Bunitj Elder Bill Neidjie OAM, affectionately **remembered as 'The Gadgudju Man'**. He was a senior Elder of Kakadu National Park and a traditional owner of the Bunitj country in northern Gagudju. The name Kakadu is derived from the word 'Gagudju'.

The ceremony has never been publically performed before or performed off Bunitji Country.

Yolungu ceremonial Elder and highly acclaimed dancer and composer, Djakapurra Munyarryun of the Wangurri Clan in NE Arnhem Land will lead 30 traditional dancers, singers and elders in the Lorrkkon Ceremony.

Through the performance, Elders, dancers and singers will share ancient cultural knowledge that spans generations, demonstrating a profound respect for country along with a living tradition that has been maintained since the beginning of time.

When : Tuesday 25 March 2014

Time: 5.30pm – 7.30 pm

Where: Reconciliation Place (John Lang Dunmore park)
(between QUESTACON and the National Portrait Gallery)
King Edward Terrace

Please note: There are no food outlets provided, so bring your picnic dinner, picnic rug and blanket.

Program of Events:

5.30pm Multimedia presentation – The Great keeping Place – the AIATSIS Story

5.45pm Audiovisual & Multimedia Introduction – Story about Feeling

5.55pm MC Introduction of Ceremony

6.00pm **Lorrkkon Ceremony commences**

6.50pm Official Speeches: Prof Mick Dodson, AIATSIS Chairperson, Jonathon Nadji representing the Neidjie Family

7.00pm **Bunggul Ceremony** – Smoking Ceremony commences, Djakapurra leads crowd through Djapana (Crowd can join in the Bunggul Ceremony)

7.30pm Close

Holi means Harmony Festival

India Australia Association of Canberra, the oldest, mainstream and the most vibrant Indian community organization, with the support of many Indian and non-Indian Community groups, has organized "Holi Mela" at Commonwealth Park West – Stage88.

"Holi" (the Indian festival of colours) means end of "evil and animosity" and growth of friendships. We plan to celebrate "Holi" together with the "Harmony Day" and name the festival "Holi means Harmony".

There will be many folk dances from different parts of India: some Bollywood dances, fashion parades, thrilling Holi songs, "Bhangra" etc. Many multicultural communities are expected to join in the performances. There will be 8-10 food and drinks stalls.

The stage items will finish at 2:00pm. At that time public will be able to play Holi with dry color powder and dance on "Dhol (Indian drum)" beats with a DJ in attendance.

When: Saturday 29 March 2014, 11am to 5pm

Where: Stage 88, Commonwealth Park West (Regatta Point)

10th Latin American Film Festival

The Latin American Embassies in Canberra are proud to present the 10th Latin American Film Festival, which will be held at the National Gallery of Australia from **3-14 April 2014**. [See program details](#)

This April, immerse yourself in the best of contemporary film from Latin America at the National Gallery of Australia – and best of all, it's free!

The 10th Latin American Film Festival is proudly presented by the Latin American embassies, and this year the Festival is hosted by Peru – an exciting link with the Gallery's current exhibition [Gold and the Incas](#).

Each of the 12 films will be screened twice, once at the matinee time of 2.30pm, and in the evening at 6.30pm.

The festival will present a selection of 11 films from all over Latin America, including international award winning pieces and featuring some of the most exciting and creative productions to reach the big screen in recent years.

Tickets: Free

Where: James O Fairfax Theatre, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Parkes Place, Parkes

Other:

- Limited numbers, no bookings required
- All screenings R18+
- All films are subtitled

Shen Yun 2014 in Canberra

We are a group of local supporters with an aim to promote traditional Chinese culture and values in Canberra. We are currently promoting the world class show **Shen Yun** Performing Arts from New York that is coming to Canberra in April this year.

Shen Yun weaves a wondrous tapestry of heavenly realms, ancient legends, and modern heroic tales, taking you on a journey through 5,000 years of Chinese culture. Its stunning beauty and tremendous energy leave audiences uplifted and inspired.

A Shen Yun performance features the world's foremost classically trained dancers, a unique orchestra blending East and West, and dazzling animated backdrops—together creating one spectacular performance.

CLASSICAL CHINESE DANCE has helped preserve 5,000 years of Chinese culture. Built on traditional aesthetics, it was once passed down among the people, in imperial courts, and through ancient plays. Over thousands of years, it was constantly refined, eventually developing into the vast and distinctly Chinese dance form we know today.

Classical Chinese dance has its own set of training methods in basic skills and has strict training in both physical expression and specific postures. It also involves learning combinations of leaps, turns, flips, spins, and other aerial and tumbling techniques. It is a vast and independent system of dance.

Each season, Shen Yun produces an all-new show and tour with it around the globe, performing at the world's top venues—Lincoln Center in New York, Kennedy Center in Washington, the London Coliseum; our Shen Yun Symphony Orchestra has played at Carnegie Hall and this year is touring other revered concert halls across the United States.

Shen Yun's sold-out audiences include star actors, fashion leaders, government VIPs, and international celebrities. We look forward to seeing you among them at one of their next shows!

Donna Karan, creator DKNY: "Mesmerizing, Reclaiming the divinely inspired cultural heritage of China."

Cate Blanchett, Academy Award winning Actress: "Exquisitely beautiful. An extraordinary experience."

When: Friday 4 April (7.30pm) and Saturday 5 April (2.00pm and 7.30pm)

Venue: Canberra Theatre Center, Civic Square, London Circuit

Cost: \$150, \$120, \$100, \$80, \$60 + \$3.30 transaction fee applies

Contact: Xuan, 0410 001 212, xuan.kate@iinet.com.au
HOTLINE: (02) 62752700

Website: www.shenyun.com/Canberra
www.canberratheatrecentre.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP TEST – Study Course

English For Work at Canberra Technology Park is offering a 4 hour training session to help people prepare for the Australian Citizenship Test. The course will be held monthly beginning **Saturday 5 April 2014**. All training materials are based on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection resource book *Australian Citizenship – Our Common Bond*. English as a Second Language support will be provided.

For more information please call **0458 266 311**. Concessions available for health card holders.

2013-2014 ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grants, Second Round of Scholarship Grants - Now Open

The Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (OATSIA) is pleased to announce the opportunity for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals to apply for once-only financial support to encourage greater participation of ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the community. The Leadership, Cultural and Scholarship grants aim to promote cultural diversity and social harmony for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and support the development of capability and cultural competence within the ACT community.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS Total funding available \$59,500 (GST exclusive)

To encourage and support ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to study and ultimately be employed in the local sector.

OATSIA will accept applications until **12 noon Tuesday, 8 April 2014**. Late applications will not be considered.

To obtain the Guidelines and Application Form:

- Please go to the ACT Government website: <http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/atsia/grants> ; or
- Email **dhcscontractsandgrants@act.gov.au** or phone (02) 6207 9032.

Rally for Refugees

Break the silence march on Palm Sunday. Add your voice to community, church, political and union groups calling for justice and compassion for refugees and asylum seekers.

When: Sunday 13 April 2014, 1.00pm

Where: Garema Place

Canberra's (Inter)National Folk Festival

Established in 1967, the National Folk Festival is recognised as Australia's leading festival of contemporary and folk music. The National is held over the Easter weekend in Canberra and is one of Australia's biggest and longest running festivals. The 2014 Festival has over 200 acts from around the planet – encompassing all facets of folk from acoustic, blues, roots, traditional, bluegrass to world , gypsy, klezmer and much, much more.

This year thanks to support from the ACT Government a highlight of the Festival will be a showcase of Indigenous performers including national treasure Archie Roach.

The following is a selection of the international music and dance that will be on show.

Alaska String Band (USA) are a gifted family of multi-instrumentalists often swapping instruments throughout a performance including guitars, fiddles, mandolins, dulcimer, banjo, bass, ukuleles and percussion; knitting it together with signature vocal harmonies

Australian Chinese Music Ensemble Lead by master of the Sheng, Wang Zheng-Ting the Australian Chinese Music Ensemble consists of four of Australia's leading Chinese traditional instrumental musicians. They perform traditional and contemporary Chinese music

Damien Dempsey (Ireland) The Greatest Irish Singer of his Generation. Damien Dempsey mixes traditional Irish folk with contemporary lyrics.

Fásta (Ireland, Québec & Scotland) Featuring musicians from Ireland, Québec & Scotland, Fásta remains true to its roots. With a selection of reels, jigs, and songs in Irish, French and English, the band bridges the three celtic cultures.

Fiona Ross (Scotland) Fiona Ross has performed traditional Scots songs and ballads throughout Scotland and internationally, including the Tradition-Bearer concert series of Glasgow's prestigious Celtic Connections.

Joseph Tawadros Trio Internationally acclaimed Egyptian-Australian oud player, Joseph Tawadros, won the 2012 ARIA for 'Best World Music Album'. Praised for his "now legendary oud skills" and composing almost all pieces, Joseph's unique voice crosses boundaries of world, middle-eastern, jazz and classical genres.

Karavana Flamenca (Spain) plays rumba flamenca, traditional flamenco and Cuban music with fire! The gut-wrenching Spanish/Romani vocals, wild rhythms and soulful Moorish melody of oud and flamenco guitar spell "Fiesta" every performance.

Lindi Ortega (Canada) Lindi Ortega is armed with an inimitable singing voice, the Independent hails as "a truly magnificent instrument," and a heart bursting with creative ambition, she has received nominations for both the Juno Awards and the Polaris Prize.

Riley Lee & Jeff Peterson (USA) Shakuhachi Grand Master Riley Lee is once again joined in concert by Grammy-winning slack key guitarist Jeff Peterson from Hawai'i. They frequently perform in Hawai'i to sell-out audiences, but have played in Australia only twice before.

Santa Taranta plays traditional music from southern Italy. Their musical styles include Pizzica, Tammurriata and Stornelli, as well as Polkas from the barbershop and the occasional serenade d'amore.

Souleiado French Dance Group: Souleiado lives up to its namesake meaning 'sunny' in presenting the traditions of southern France with warmth and effervescence. They specialise in dances from Occitania and the French Basque and Catalan regions,

Tángalo is a vibrant modern tango quintet, combining the emotion of golden-age tango with a contemporary aesthetic,

Valanga Khoza and South African Jive feature rich vocal harmonies, soulful saxophones and lilting tones of kalimba, rhythmic guitar and irresistible dance grooves. The songs are from their new album as well as some old favourites that range from township jive to haunting traditionally inspired melodies.

For more information on the many visiting and local artists see www.folkfestival.org.au

2014/15 – 2016/17 HEALTHY CANBERRA GRANTS

NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

Nearly \$2 million in funding to support community-based health promotion programs and projects to improve population health outcomes.

Healthy Canberra Grants is now open for expressions of interest from community-based groups, school communities, not-for-profit organisations and government agencies. This funding opportunity will be for programs of up to three years duration, commencing from July 2014. Nearly \$2 million will be available over the three-year period covered by this funding opportunity.

Healthy Canberra Grants focuses on tackling overweight and obesity and improving children's health, including improving eating habits and improving physical activity outcomes. Improving outcomes around smoking, alcohol consumption and healthy active ageing are also considered.

Application to Healthy Canberra Grants is through a two-stage application process: **An initial expression of interest should be submitted by 5 PM on 24 March 2014.** Shortlisted expressions of interest will then be invited to submit a more detailed application.

A general information session about Healthy Canberra Grants will be conducted on Wednesday 5 March 2014 from 4pm to 5.30pm at the Rheinberger Centre, Corner of Weston and Loch Streets Yarralumla.

For more information, including access to the expression of interest form and funding guidelines, please visit the ACT Health Promotion Grants Program webpage at: www.health.act.gov.au/hpgrants, call us on 6205 1325 or email hpgrants@act.gov.au

Nominations sought for the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Women

The Minister for Women, Joy Burch MLA has called for nominations for membership of the 2014-2016 ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Women

The Council plays a key role in assisting the Government to develop and implement policies that advance the status of women.

Information about the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women is available on the Women ACT website: www.women.act.gov.au or by contacting the ACT Office for Women by phone on 6207 2552 or email women@act.gov.au.

Nominations are invited from individual women and representatives of women's organisations and peak bodies in the ACT who are able to demonstrate commitment to the advancement of women; a sound knowledge of the interests and concerns of ACT women and girls; and an ability to consult and represent on a wide range of women's issues. **Nominations close on 31 March 2014.**

Women from varied age groups, diverse backgrounds including women with disabilities and women from culturally and diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are encouraged to nominate.

Please circulate this information through your networks.

2014 Inclusive Participation Funding Program (IPFP)

The 2014 Inclusive Participation Funding Program (IPFP), administered by Sport and Recreation Services (SRS), will open at 9am on Friday, 14 March 2014 with applications to be accepted until **11pm on Friday 18 April 2014**.

Projects will be funded from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for the 2014/15 financial year.

For more information on the IPFP please visit the SRS website at http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/sport_and_recreation/support/grants.

If you have any questions regarding the IPFP and/or wish to discuss your application please contact Philip Turini (philip.turini@act.gov.au; 6207 2076).

PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival on Migration, diversity and Social Inclusion – call for video entries

New York, NY (February 13, 2014)-- The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations ([UNAOC](#)) and the International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)) invite YOU to submit original and creative videos focusing on PLURAL+ themes: Migration, Diversity and Social inclusion.

Recognizing youth as powerful agents of social change in a world often characterized by intolerance, and cultural and religious divisions, PLURAL+ invites youth to address key challenges and opportunities related to social inclusion and cohesion, migrant integration, respect for identity, diversity, and human rights, both at local and global levels. Young people up to 25 years old are invited to submit short videos of five minutes maximum in length.

The UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, says that PLURAL+, provides youth around the world with the opportunity to submit real stories told by real people, which when widely disseminated “would help foster intercultural dialogue and understanding, respect for diversity and tolerance.”

Matthew Hodes, Director, UNAOC, said “PLURAL+ videos provide powerful narratives that help advance this critical conversation: how to build more inclusive societies where we can all live together in harmony.” Michele Klein-Solomon, Permanent Observer to the United Nations, IOM, added “PLURAL+ videos touch very sensitive issues in a very real way. They look at the realities that people are facing; we like to see young people expressing their profound ideas in a manner that allows the opening of a dialogue.”

Nico Daswani, a member of the PLURAL+ 2013 International Jury commented, “The imagination, craftsmanship and care reflected in such a diversity of videos submitted from around the world is an indication that there is an entire generation of people determined to create and shape the world they live in. We should all be working towards helping unleash that creativity.”

PLURAL+ supports young people’s expression of their opinions by providing them with a variety of media platforms and distribution networks, including broadcasts, video festivals, conferences and events around the world. PLURAL+ not only provides young people with an effective platform to express themselves on key migration and diversity issues, but also reinforces the firm belief of IOM and UNAOC that youth are powerful and creative agents of social change.

A prestigious international jury will select three winners in each age category (9-12, 13-17, 18-25). International Jury winners will be invited to New York, all travel expenses paid, to present their work at the PLURAL + 2014 Awards Ceremony at the Paley Center for Media in December 2014.

PLURAL+ partner organizations will also award other prizes and professional opportunities, such as winning participants presenting their work at film and video festivals, conferences and events around the world.

The PLURAL+ 2014 deadline for video submission is 27 June, 2014. Further information, including guidelines, regulations, awards, and the entry form can be found at the PLURAL+ website at: www.unaoc.org/pluralplus

You can watch PLURAL+ 2013 award winning videos [here](#)

PLURAL+ is organized by the [United Nations Alliance of Civilizations](#) and the [International Organization for Migration](#) with the collaboration of many [international partners](#), including: Red UNIAL, Gulen Institute, MTS Travel, SIGNIS, Global Block, Humanity Without Borders Foundation, Television America Latina (TAL), Universal Forum of Cultures Foundation, NEXOS Alianza, CHINH India, Turkish Cultural Center of New York, COPEAM, Without Borders Film Festival, IAAI GloCha, Doha Center for Media Freedom, CNTV Chile, Paley Center for Media, Amara, Scalabrini International Migration Network, IUEDESP, Balkan Media Education Centre, Waging Nonviolence, IOM Migration Research and Training Centre, Anna Lindh Foundation, UN Television, RAI TV Scuola, GoodnessTV, Cine y Salud, Global Film Initiative, Insight Festival, UNICEF and MTV Exit.

For more information, please contact: plural@unaoc.org

Or find PLURAL+ on: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [YouTube](#) [Vimeo](#) [GoodnessTV](#) [Amara](#)

News for migrants, refugees and visitors

Here is the latest news for migrants, refugees and visitors for the month of **March** from the Australian Government Department of Human Services.

To read complete stories and for more detail, visit the Migrants, refugees and visitors section of the Human Services website:

<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/themes/migrants-refugees-and-visitors>

ACT Office for Ageing e-News

The *ACT Office for Ageing e-News* is a monthly newsletter that aims to keep older Canberrans informed about relevant services, activities and events.

We value your thoughts and ideas about what you would like to see included. If you would like to provide feedback, or suggest a news item for our newsletter, please send an email to communitypolicy@act.gov.au, or call Rebecca on 6207 6138.

To subscribe to the newsletter send an email to communitypolicy@act.gov.au.

Current and back editions of the newsletter can be found at <http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/wac/ageing/e-news>

German Playgroup

Spiel und Spagat!

Für Kinder im Alter von 0 bis 3 Jahren plus Begleitpersonen

For children 0 to 3 years and their parents/carers

Wir treffen uns dienstagnachmittags 15 bis 17 Uhr

Join us Tuesday afternoons from 3 pm to 5 pm

Weston Creek Playgroup Association,

Gavin Place, Chapman

(Where to find us:

<http://www.westoncreekplaygroups.websyte.com.au/site.cfm?/westoncreekplaygroups/>)

Contact person: Kristina Wolf, kw@lingua-direct.com

Consultation to develop new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement

A new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement will set out the ACT Government's commitment to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans to improve how health, housing, economic and social services are delivered.

The ACT Government will develop a Whole of Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement (the Agreement) in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB) that will provide a framework for relations between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the ACT Government by articulating the principles of good communication and partnership.

On 27 February 2014 Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Shane Rattenbury MLA, launched consultation on the document, which will include online surveying, targeted roundtables and community forums.

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans are encouraged to share both their personal views and professional opinions so that an agreement can be built that reflects the issues faced by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and start to build a roadmap that will meet the needs of community members into the future.

ATSIEB have in recent times asked the ACT Government to better articulate how it will progress equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the ACT.

The Agreement aims to ensure service delivery agencies have effective strategies in place to meet the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as well as performance measurement mechanisms for programs and services to gauge and improve outcomes.

The Agreement will incorporate a number of deliverables outlined in ACT plans and strategies, such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement, the proposed Human Services Blueprint and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy 2010-2014.

Following consultation, the Agreement will be considered by government in the second half of this year.

The consultation process will culminate in a Ministerial Roundtable. For further information on the consultation process visit www.communityservices.act.gov.au

National Days (February/March/April)

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
04 - Feb Sri Lanka Independence Commemoration Day	03 - Mar Bulgaria National Day	04 - Apr Senegal Independence Day
06 - Feb New Zealand Waitangi Day	06 - Mar Ghana Independence Day	16 - Apr Denmark Queen's Birthday
07 - Feb Grenada Independence Day	12 - Mar Mauritius National Day	17 - Apr Syrian Arab Republic National Day
11 - Feb Iran (Islamic Republic Of) Victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran	13 - Mar Holy See Anniversary, Pontifical Ministry of His Holiness Pope Francis	18 - Apr Zimbabwe National Day
15 - Feb Serbia National Day	17 - Mar Ireland St Patrick's Day	26 - Apr Tanzania, United Republic Of Union Day
16 - Feb Lithuania Independence Day	20 - Mar Tunisia Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Tunisia	27 - Apr Netherlands Official Birthday of His Majesty King Wilem- Alexander
17 - Feb Kosovo Independence Day	21 - Mar Namibia Independence Day	Sierra Leone Independence Day
18 - Feb The Gambia National Day	23 - Mar Pakistan National Day	South Africa Freedom Day
22 - Feb Saint Lucia National Day	25 - Mar Greece Independence Day	Togo Togolais National Day
23 - Feb Brunei Darussalam National Day	26 - Mar Bangladesh Independence Day	
24 - Feb Estonia Independence Day		
25 - Feb Kuwait National Day		
27 - Feb Dominican Republic Independence Day		