



Research Team

Please look at the back of the page for further information about the research team.

Host & Facilitator

Tim O'Connor, ERC's Board Member and Amnesty International Australia's Impact Manager and Campaigner

RSVP

Please contact Farhad Arian at the Edmund Rice Centre.

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Report Launch & Panel

Settlement Experience of Syrian and Iraqi Refugees: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward

Join the Edmund Rice Centre for the launch of a new report on the settlement experiences of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Australia.

When: 5:00PM – 6:30PM, Thursday 29 August 2019

Where: Gilbert + Tobin Law Firm: Two, International Towers, Level 35 Tower/200 Barangaroo Avenue, Sydney NSW 2000

Please note that the report launch will also include a brief panel and Q&A discussion. Networking, drinks and light refreshments follow the discussion.

About the Report

The purpose of the study is to learn about the gap between what is currently provided by way of settlement support and what is needed to achieve positive wellbeing outcomes for refugees. The study aims to enhance policy development, settlement service provision and consequently the settlement experience of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, and to foster a better understanding of these new arrivals living in Australia. The report includes concrete recommendations for further investigation and policy improvement in refugee settlement. It is hoped that these recommendations will be used to improve services to refugees, and to inform relevant stakeholders, including Government, the community sector and the wider community.

About ERC

Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education (ERC) is a Sydney-based non-government research and advocacy organisation that was founded by the Christian Brothers in 1996. ERC conducts rights-based programs including people-centred research, community education, community empowerment and advocacy with Indigenous peoples (the first peoples), refugees and people seeking asylum (the last to arrive), and those facing climate change in the Pacific (the next to come). ERC's aim is to raise awareness that leads to social action and policy change in favour of the poor and excluded in Australia and internationally.

About the Research Team

Mr Farhad Arian

B.A., M.I.A., M. Cnfl.Res., M.Res.

Mr Arian is a Research & Policy Coordinator at the Edmund Rice Centre where he manages research, advocacy and community development programs. His research interest is centred on refugee empowerment, immigrant settlement, human rights of people seeking asylum and returnees experience. He has worked with various non-government organisations, academic institutions, government departments and international development agencies, including Western Sydney MRC, Western Sydney University, The Asia Foundation, UNDP, USAID and the Afghan Government.

Dr Shashi Sharma

B.A., M.A., PhD

Dr Sharma works as a lecturer for International Development at the Australian Catholic University. Her areas of expertise are International Relations and Political Economy through an engagement with International Development and Public Policy. She has taught International Relations and Global Histories at the University of Technology, Western Sydney University, and University of the South Pacific. Recently, she has also worked at the NSW Electoral Commission as an Election Manager to assist in the conduct of the NSW State election in March 2019.

Dr Donna Vaughan

B.A., L.L.B., M. Soc Sci., PhD

Dr Vaughan is an independent researcher and development practitioner. She is President of Partners in Micro-development Inc., a non-profit organisation founded in 2004 to support village schools in Sri Lanka in the learning and teaching of English as a second language. Dr Vaughan taught at undergrad and post-grad levels at the UNSW for twelve years in international development, political economy, and most recently public policy. Her PhD involved qualitative research on technology focused community development projects in Indigenous communities in Cape York, Australia and remote village communities in Sri Lanka.

Ms Monica Vaughan

B.A., Grad.Dip.Ed., B.Theol., Grad.Dip.Acc., M.Theol

Ms Vaughan has over forty years' experience working predominantly in Catholic high schools and parishes, both teaching and business management. Since part-time retirement her volunteer work has included working with the Mercy Connect Project with refugees, specifically mentoring high school students from refugee backgrounds and teaching English to adult women migrants. She was one of the founding members of Partners in Micro-development Inc.

Dr Mary Venner

B.A., M. Sci., Grad. Dip. Applied Economics, PhD

Dr Venner is an independent researcher and consultant on public finance and public administration issues in developing countries. She has worked on technical assistance projects in numerous countries including Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, and the Philippines. Prior to this she worked in policy development and analysis with the Australian government in Canberra on public financial management, ethnic relations, immigration, multiculturalism and indigenous affairs.