

Summary Notes: Written form

Breakout Session *Settlement and Regional Victoria*

Facilitator: Dr. Sudram Sivamali JP, ECCV Board Director

1. Adrian Kenny Assistant Director Department of Social Services Victorian Settlement and Multicultural Affairs section

Outlined the settlement journey, Including:

- Temporary assignment
- Referral for resettlement in Australia
- Visa application assessment
- Visa granted
- Arrival in Australia
- 510 hours of English tuition
- Application for Citizenship – up to 4 years
- Continued support and settlement
- End of Settlement services – at 5 years

Mr Kenny took questions from the audience about specific cases and their anomalies. Agreed to follow up on these cases.

2. Jessica Williamson Migration Lawyer WLW Migration Lawyers

- The legal and human rights needs of asylum seekers and refugees
- Outlined the importance of legal advice for refugees and the range of issues encountered.
- Discussed the importance of being vigilant about 18C.
- Encouraged the audience to be vigilant and to make their views known to government and law-makers about “deporting” people, especially young people, with criminal convictions.
- This was in response to questions from the audience about the “Apex” gang and the legality of deportation.

3. Nyok Gor Co-founder of South Sudan Australia Peace Initiative: Personal story

- Nyok Gor spoke about the difficulties he encountered resettling in Australia, including depression, alienation, racism and hopelessness.
- He now travels across Australia sharing his story as a way of providing hope for others in similar situations. He has also recently become a father!

4. Natalie Jacobson

Bendigo Project: How arts can promote cultural inclusion and social cohesion

- Natalie outlined the process of bringing together representatives from a range of ethnic groups in the City of Greater Bendigo to build bridges across communities who may, or may not, come into regular contact in their day-to-day lives.
- With a small amount of funding to kick-start the arts project they produced art installations which were exhibited in Bendigo.
- A video of the exhibition and installations was shown to the audience. This video is fantastic!

Notes taken by John Watts