

Settlement Support New Zealand Auckland City – Tāmaki-makau-rau

E raka te mauī, e raka te katau (A community can use all the skills of its people)



Poutū-te-rangi (March)/Issue 16



Bevan Chuang,
Settlement Support
Coordinator –
Auckland City

Haere Mai, Nau Mai, Haere Mai

Kei te pēhea koutou? Welcome to the sixteenth Settlement Support New Zealand—Auckland City Newsletter.

The objective of this newsletter is to provide you with information about what Settlement Support – Auckland City does, where you can find information about employment, education, health services and many other aspects of settling in New Zealand. This is also an opportunity to share with you the services which are available around Auckland city.

Please feel free to pass on this newsletter onto friends, family and community colleagues.

Updates from Settlement Support New Zealand – Auckland City

Workshops have started up again in February, with a number of them related to financial management such as Home Ownership and IRD. With the courtesy and support from Auckland Regional Council, SSNZ ran a workshop about the importance of Water Safety, with the Auckland Regional Council's park rangers at Muriwai Beach. Visit <http://www.facebook.com/ssnzaki> for photos.



English Language Services

English Language Advisory – Individual Consultation

2 different English Language Assessments are available.

- **Full** assessment, a two hour consultation that includes an assessment of the four key skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing). A written summary of the assessment outcomes is provided. This cost \$80.
- **Mini** assessment, 30 minutes consultation including an assessment of one skill of your choice: oral (speaking and listening), reading or writing. This cost \$25.
- For further information, contact Sharon Xue, Coordinator Manukau Centre, on **09 262 5981** or sharonx@arms-mrc.org.nz

Race Relations Day – 21st March 2010



The theme for Race Relations Day (21 March) this year is "It's about Us". The poster designed by illustrator Ahu Te Ua, reflects the theme with bright, cheerful and colourful images, aimed to inspire and attract attention to Race Relations Day from both adults and young people.

The overall message of the poster is that race relations day is about all of us and we are all members of the wider family of New Zealanders, no matter where we are from. Cultural icons are portrayed alongside the word "family", in Hindi, Russian, Chinese, te reo Māori, Samoan, Italian, Dutch, Japanese, English, Arabic and Tongan. People seem to like it! Posters are now available at the Human Rights Commission nzdiversity@hrc.co.nz. A calendar of events can be found at www.hrc.co.nz

March 21 is observed around the world as the '[International Day of Elimination of Racial Discrimination](http://www.hrc.co.nz)'. The day is held to commemorate the tragic loss of life in Sharpville in 1960, when 69 people peacefully demonstrating against South Africa's 'pass laws' were shot by police.





Immigration Talk: Applications for Permits by Overstayers

The determination of applications made by overstayers is governed by Section 35A of the Immigration Act. This section gives a broad discretion to Immigration Officers to make a decision. There is little guidance in Immigration Law or Policy regarding how such applications are to be decided.

However, with the benefit of substantial experience and knowledge in this area, we offer the following advice to applicants. Firstly, In making any application, the applicant should always offer a detailed explanation of how the applicant came to be an overstayer. Secondly, the applicant should also put forward their case in terms of how they would qualify under the applicable general immigration policies. Thirdly, in some cases it would be important to raise humanitarian issues, particularly where the determination of the application would affect the interests of children. Despite the above guidelines, it must be kept in mind that there is no specific policy criteria that must be met. Decisions are totally discretionary.

Our final piece of advice is that in any case where an overstayer decides to make an application, it is wise to first seek advice from a qualified practitioner.

Hardeep Singh, Evgeny Orlov
Barristers, Equity Law



Discrimination against Asians, New Migrants and Refugees



The 2009 annual UMR Research Survey and Human Rights Commission found a significant increase in the number of people who perceived ethnic groups (Asians in particular) to be the groups most discriminated against in New Zealand.

75% of the respondents believed that Asians, 63% of the respondents believed that recent immigrants and 61% of the respondents believed that refugees suffer "a great deal" or "some discrimination." 74% of Aucklanders believed that Asians suffer "a great deal" or "some discrimination"; compared 63% for new immigrants and 56% for refugees.

In 2009, five complaints of race-related discrimination were related to the NZ Transport Agency's (NZTA) Foreign Jurisdiction Policy to support the requirements of section 29A of the Land Transport Act. For certain driver's license endorsements, applicants who have spent more than 12 months in a foreign country since they were 14 years old, must disclose if they have any criminal convictions.

It was particularly difficult for certain migrants, in particular refugees, to obtain this information. Settlement Support Coordinator – Auckland City assisted a client late last year with a similar issue. He arrived in New Zealand as a refugee for more than 10 years was asked to disclose criminal convictions. Despite letters written to NZTA explaining that it is impossible for him to obtain the record due to his status, the application was declined.

In November, High Court Justice Williams ordered the NZTA to reconsider an application. "If, because of their refugee status, a person is 'engendered by persecution in their home country, unable to provide proof of lack of convictions, then... the [NZTA], in this situation, is bound to accept a declaration such as that filed by Mr Moradi. To do otherwise ... is indeed to discriminate against a refugee contrary to the Human Rights Act 1993 and the New Zealand Bills of Rights Act 1990."

For more information about the report, visit Human Rights Commission's report on www.hrc.co.nz.



What's Coming Up?

Workshops

***All free unless otherwise stated.**

Job Search Workshop

First Three Tuesdays of each month, 9.30am—2.00pm

Workshop to assist with your job search. Held in conjunction with Work & Income NZ, Career Services and the Auckland Chamber of Commerce.



Legal Clinics

Fridays, 9.30am—12.00pm

Heval Hylan, Principal of Hylan Law Barrister & Solicitor, will be providing free 10-minutes legal advice on immigration, family law, contract, trusts and other areas of law in general.



Financial Advice

Fridays, 10.00am – 12.00pm

Tina Chen, founder of TC Financial Planning Ltd, will be providing free 10-minutes financial and budgeting advice, in English, Mandarin or Cantonese.



Non-Profit and Charitable Organisations – Tax

Thursday, 11th March 2010, 9.00am – 12.30pm

Understanding your tax obligations, GST register, expenses, if you are a non-profit or charitable organisation.



Education and the Law

Saturday, 13th March 2010, 9.00am – 12.00pm

Do you have school age children? Do you want to know more about the law and rights about school attendance and discipline in New Zealand? What are stand-downs and suspensions? What are the human rights laws related to education? What do you need to know about signing school agreements or contracts?



Education System in New Zealand

Saturday, 20th March 2010, 9.30am – 12.00pm

Are you currently working with migrants and refugee families with school age children? Do you or your clients have questions regarding the education system in New Zealand? Are you a migrant or refugee parent with school age children? Do you want to find out more about the education system in New Zealand?

For more information or to register contact ARMS on 09 625 2440 or reception@arms-mrc.org.nz.

For information about workshops in 2009 visit www.arms-mrc.org.nz

Conversation Class by English Language Partners

English Language Partners are running free social English conversation group for new English speakers at the ARMS Three Kings every Monday, 1 – 2.30pm. English Language Partners also runs other social English conversation groups and classes around Auckland west. For more information contact Lynn at 09 846 0398.

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Have you got any suggestions or feedback about the newsletter? Please email

ssnzauckland@arms-mrc.org.nz



**Auckland Regional Migrant Services
Charitable Trust**

For settlement information, visit: www.immigration.govt.nz/settlement
SETTLEMENT SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND
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Auckland Regional Migrant Services, Three Kings Plaza,
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Department of Labour
TE TARI MAHI

