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From day one he has been very active in volunteering with migrant groups, especially African communities. Soon after arriving in Australia, Assefa started working on bringing together his own community. He initiated the Ethiopian Community Association of New South Wales, and finds it very rewarding to see it still continue to this day.

In 2000 Assefa's community work was recognised when he was selected to be an Olympic torch bearer during the Sydney Olympics. He worked as a volunteer and language expert for both Amharic and Greek during the Olympics. Assefa has also been a trained volunteer with the St Johns First Aid in NSW working at such events with the Sports Institute of NSW.

In his role as a MCLO with Blacktown police, Assefa is involved in some interesting projects and initiatives for example recently a project to bring church and community leaders together from the Pacific Islander and Sudanese communities. His work also involves other communities including the Phillipino, Indian and Afghani communities. The objective is to assist the migrant community members on a harmonious settlement and development.

Beatrice is currently the president of Wan Word Sierra Leone Women organisation and currently working as the Employment Project Officer at Auburn Diversity Services Inc. (formerly known as the Auburn Migrant Resources Centre). The project aim is to improve sustainable employment outcomes for humanitarian entrants in the Central Western Sydney SSD and Beatrice's role is to get humanitarian entrants job ready through Orientation to Australia and Integration - Inclusion and Participation services and into employment.

She is an active member of her community and has received numerous awards and recognitions including the 2008 and 2009 Australian Defence Force Long Tan leadership and Teamwork Award, 2010 NSW CRC Young Volunteer of the Year, 2010 Wollongong Young Citizen of the Year, 2011 Australia's Young People's Human Rights Award, and was named Woman of the Week by Hoopla in December 2011.

Gracia has worked as a caseworker for refugee families, a radio co-host for a community station in Wollongong, a youth motivational speaker, and a member of the Illawarra Regional Advisory Council (IRAC), NSW Multicultural Youth Network (MYN), Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families (SCARF), and a Co-Administrative Director for the Voice of Hope International Ministries based in Uganda advocating for those who have been silenced by poverty and injustices.

Ms Kariuki was the Women's Representative on the NSW African Communities Council for four years, a Creators of Peace facilitator, a member of several steering committees, a member of African Women's Group and an informal employment advisor for fellow Kenyans and Africans in Australia to name just a few.

Ms Karuiki received Edna Ryan Award from The Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) in 2007 for working with African women in NSW. In 2008 she received the Women of the West Award from UWS. She also received the community award from Universal Federation of Peace who made her the Peace Ambassador in 2009 and currently Ms Karuiki is a NSW Census Ambassador. In addition, she is one of the 2011 African Australian Woman of the Year Award Winner.

Malwal has been witness to many horrific crimes against humanity but has remained strong in his catholic faith because he believes that it has bought him serenity, friendship and a connection to his community and God. He says "It has taught me to forgive and not hate others and because of my experiences growing up in a war torn country, where I have been subjected to many who have experienced extreme torture and trauma I have learnt to use those experiences to the best use by helping others and using my faith in Christianity as a positive role model"

Malwal is a practising Catholic and an active member at the St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Toowoomba. His passion is working with young people and their families in the Sudanese Community where the community often uses his professional skills as a youth and development worker to engage in the community to support and advocate those in need. He converses with a number of different tribes who can be in conflict and because of his ability to put aside his own beliefs and values, he is able to act in a way that is beneficial to those who need assistance. He is always dedicated to helping those in the community who are disadvantaged and disenfranchised by supporting them in a practical and real way.

Malwal is currently employed with Mission Australia as the NAYSS (Newly arrived Youth Support Service) as the NAYSS Youth, Family and Community Development Worker. In this role he is required to work with young people and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and assists them to reconnect them with their families, community, employment and training. Malwal's core duties in this role are to assess and provide intensive case management through a variety of practical and therapeutic interventions around a strength based framework.

Another innovative program Malwal has facilitated was called "African Lunches". The purpose of this program was to find out from a young person's perspective how services in Toowoomba would be able to help them. Some of the issues discussed for newly arrived young people and their families was around domestic violence, family issues and how this affected the young person, settlement issues, how to understand and immerse into a new culture, financial awareness and how collaborating with external agencies in the region to deliver a seamless and holistic service.

Complimenting his role as a Youth and Community Development Worker with Mission Australia was to work as a bi-cultural worker with African, Middle Eastern and other migrant communities with the Men and Relationship program with Lifeline Community Care in Toowoomba. In this position Malwal conducted a needs analysis in the migrant men's community and identified issues that needed to be addressed. He then worked with Migrant men to assist them to adapt to cultural related difficulties.

More recently he translated a work shop for Toowoomba African families to explore ways for them to maintain strong families and work roles in Australia. The purpose of the program was to inform the community on how Australian law related to family life and work and introducing families to Toowoomba services that are able to assist in this transition.

Malwal was recently formally acknowledged for the work he undertakes in our community by receiving the Award for Cross Cultural Community Advice at the ACAG Participation Award 2008-2011. Kerry Shine (MP) wrote in a congratulation letter to Malwal that his "efforts have contributed to improving cultural competence within front line agencies in Toowoomba which have

greatly assisted the growing refugee and migrant communities settle in Toowoomba. Malwal's positive contribution has enabled a wide range of organisations to design and deliver early intervention workshops for the region's newest CALD settlers.

Through The African Voice magazine, he is creating awareness about key settlement issues affecting African communities in Queensland as well as educating communities and individuals on policies and how they can contribute for their welfare. This has greatly empowered African communities/individuals in influencing policies in Australia.

He has used his influence in the media to promote positive values of Africans in Australia. Apart from organising African festivals to celebrate positive values of African cultures and traditions, Mr Mukombozi organises fundraising dinners to support humanitarian activities across Africa, Christchurch (NZ), Japan, Asia and the middle east disaster victims.

David Deng Amol is a 42 year old South Sudanese Australian who fled his then country Sudan due to civil war and arrived in Australia in 2000 on Humanitarian Visa with his young family. He called Queensland home for the last 12 years where he currently works for Lifeline Darling Downs & South West Queensland Ltd as Employment Case Worker for African Communities Inclusion Project – ACIP.

David is a former teacher and has background in other fields such as Business and Law; he is a candidate for Master of Public Relations at the University of Southern Queensland for 2012. David is the current President of the Sudanese Community Association of Darling Downs Inc. – Australia; he has been in that position for more than three years now. In this position, David is able to provide timely advice to government and non-government policy forums on employment and social inclusion matters; he is a great advocate for former African refugees and migrants as well as other CALD communities in the region.

Joelle's first-hand experience, specifically as a high school chaplain, was what moved her to pen her first book, The Chaplaincy Phenomena (Spencer Publishing). Documenting both the triumphant and laborious journey of this line of work, the book is the first of its kind in this nation and New Zealand

Joelle is a young lady of many talents who has worked with Australian young people in a number of sectors and currently working in refugee settlement with unaccompanied refugee minors in Brisbane. Joelle holds a bachelor of Social Science in Theology and currently completing her Master of International and Community Development with Deakin University. She is designed a grass root pilot project toward the horrendous plight against Congolese sexually abused women in order to give back to her nation of birth and penning a new book project.

Lawrence was also the brains behind the formation of CQAfrican Association. He keeps the community up to date with whats happening, through regular communication. A day hardly passes by without getting a mail from him updating the community. On a number of occasion, Lawrence had to rally the community behind bereaving families, raising funds to facilitate repatriation of the deceased member back to Africa.

Obviously behind every successful man there is a strong wife. Lawrence's wife, Martha Chitura is always by his side, hosting numerous parties at their place, allowing Lawrence to travel throughout CQ visiting African families in need and also allowing him to spend so much time working as a committee member of the CQAfrican association. Together they have organised a number of Christmas parties for the community, funding some of them and hosting some at their place.

David has published 3 books, 4 book chapters, 6 Scientific papers, 10 reports, 11 international conference papers (in 7 countries), 20 national conference papers, 1 National Landcare Award (Group share), 21 media releases and interviews and has contributed to 38 Country and metropolitan Field Days, and Demonstrations.

From 1982-1984, David worked for the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture as a Senior Agricultural Engineer, helping to plan, implement and monitor all technical and administrative matters related to the establishment and smooth running of Agricultural Engineering/Mechanisation Extension Services and among others.

Mr Guong is the Sudanese Youth Leader in South Australia and has been instrumental in helping Young Sudanese people in their settlement since 2004. In 2011 he was awarded a Governor's Award in recognition of his dedication and contribution to Sudanese young people in settling into South Australia.

Mr Guong is an author of a new book: "Realising the Dream - Journey of a lost Boy", telling the story of the Lost Boys of Sudan of which he was one. The book was officially launched on 20th June (World Refugee Day) by Senator The Hon Kate Lundy, Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs; Senator for the ACT at the SA Refugee Week Launch at the Hawke Centre, University of SA.

Dr Masika is also a Member of the National Implementation Committee of Mental Health Stigma Reduction in CALD, Chairperson of SA African Network to End Silence on Domestic Violence, State Coordinator, Mental Health Stigma Reduction Project in South Australia, Convener of SA Expert Trainers Stigma Reduction Project, Member of Federation of Ethnic Communities Council Policy Advisory Committee for New and Emerging communities in Australia.

He was able to source funds to target juvenile laws, teenage pregnancy, promoting and maintaining talents, sports, camps etc. He initiated the celebration of an "African Child Day" in South Australia, an initiative to bring African young people together to celebrate their cultures, establish acquaintances, acknowledge their talents and have fun.

Bosco Opi is a human rights and refugee advocate and worked in this sector for over 8 years, both in Australia and overseas. He has a legal background and contributed to refugee and settlement policy in South Australia. He is currently the convener of the Multicultural Youth Link SA, a peak youth body which advises the Minister for Youth on the needs of refugee youth. Bosco has undertaken extensive research and consultations on juvenile issues and in 2009, published a research finding entitled "When do I stop being a refugee."

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