**April Media Summary**

**Will new Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews bring a more compassionate approach?**

Perhaps optimistically, Scott Morrison hopes his belated moves to involve women more formally in decision-making will arrest his government’s slumping fortunes, and grant space for other priorities.

Weeks of mealy-mouthedness in the face of horrendous claims of misogyny, boorishness, and even alleged sexual assault in Parliament House, had begun to take their toll. Morrison’s approval ratings have slid and put his government behind Labor on two-party preferred in recent Newspoll surveys.

March 31, 2021

https://theconversation.com/will-new-home-affairs-minister-karen-andrews-bring-a-more-compassionate-approach-158065

**Urgent action needed on refugee and asylum seeker mental health**

The announcement of the Hon Karen Andrews MP as Minister for Home Affairs offers an opportunity to adopt a new approach on refugee and asylum seeker health issues.

Now is the time for the new Minister to start her new role with compassion and ensure the well overdue release Australian-born Kopika and Tharunicaa Murugappan from Christmas Island detention and return them to their home community of Biloela.

APRIL 1, 2021

https://www.miragenews.com/urgent-action-needed-on-refugee-and-asylum-538372/

**Fed minister cleared of 'criminal' conduct**

A judge's accusations of "criminal" conduct against a federal minister who denied an Afghan asylum seeker freedom were "unjustified", a court has found.

Liberal frontbencher Alan Tudge was acting Immigration Minister In September 2020 when his conduct was condemned by the Federal Court as "disgraceful" by placing himself above the law.

APRIL 1 2021

https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7193662/fed-minister-cleared-of-criminal-conduct/

**New analysis reveals Islamophobia is still alive in Australia**

Western Sydney University researchers have published an analysis of a national survey into the racist attitudes and experiences in Australia, offering new insights into attitudes towards the nation’s Muslim population, including strategies to counteract Islamophobia.

Lead author Professor Kevin Dunn, from the University’s School of Social Sciences and Challenging Racism Project, said the study published in interdisciplinary journal ‘Ethnicities’ provides a more nuanced insight into the sections of non-Muslim society where Islamophobia has its greatest effects.

APRIL 1, 2021

https://www.miragenews.com/new-analysis-reveals-islamophobia-is-still-538241/

**People from culturally diverse backgrounds in Australia sought more loans during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Paw Eh arrived in Australia 14 years ago, leaving Myanmar as a refugee.

When her husband lost his job during the COVID-19 lockdown, she did not know how they would make ends meet.

"I have a little baby, so I cannot work," she told SBS News.

03/04/2021

https://www.sbs.com.au/news/people-from-culturally-diverse-backgrounds-in-australia-sought-more-loans-during-the-covid-19-pandemic

**Peter Dutton’s legacy — Australia’s biggest labour trafficking scam**

MOST AUSTRALIANS would be surprised to learn that Defence Minister Peter Dutton’s most long-lasting legacy will not be his gratuitous cruelty or his tough talk on border protection but the biggest labour trafficking scam in Australia’s history — a scam that took place right under the nose of the great border protector.How the organisers of this scam must laugh at Dutton’s incompetence. But how did this scam work and what are its consequences?

4 April 2021

https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/peter-duttons-legacy--australias-biggest-labour-trafficking-scam,14954

**Happy memories: Myanmar migrants in Australia share stories beyond the trauma of war – a photo essay**

Whenever Hsay Wah Thu Kree thinks about his favourite childhood memory, it makes him smile. “One day, my older brother gave me his unused old bicycle wheel rim, which made me so happy. As a child, I played with that wheel rim as a hoop, using a stick, running and pushing it the whole day without ever noticing any tiredness. I can still see it in my imagination.”

4 Apr 2021

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/04/happy-memories-myanmar-migrants-in-australia-share-stories-beyond-the-trauma-of-war-a-photo-essay

**Iranian refugee held in detention for five years sues the federal government for negligence**

More than 20 years have passed since Iranian-born Payam Saadat arrived on Australia's shores, after a perilous 29-day journey by boat to Ashmore Reef.As a Howard-era asylum seeker, Mr Saadat was detained on mainland Australia, first at Curtin in Western Australia from 2000 to 2002, and then at Baxter Detention Centre in South Australia, for almost three years.

Today marked the first day of his case against the Federal Government, who he is suing for mental injuries he alleges he suffered while he was held in detention.

6 April 2021

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-06/iranian-refugee-payam-saadat-sues-commonwealth-for-negligence/100050668

**A list of things Peter Dutton says we shouldn’t talk about to avoid being threatened with defamation**

Defence Minister Peter Dutton has issued defamation threats to a number of social media users who labelled him a “rape apologist” after he made dismissive comments about Brittany Higgins.

Dutton has targeted a wide range of people with letters from his lawyers, from unemployed Twitter users to prominent politicians including Greens Senator Larissa Waters (who later apologised).

We shouldn’t be surprised. This is the same man who in 2016 demanded a photo of him lurking in the shadows be removed from the internet. In typical internet fashion, that demand resulted in a flurry of photoshopped images of him as Pennywise and Hannibal Lecter.

APR 08, 2021

https://www.crikey.com.au/2021/04/08/peter-dutton-defamation-topics/

**Partner visa English test 'paternalistic'**

Requiring immigrants who apply for a partner visa to pass an English test would be a "paternalistic" measure that will tear families apart, refugee and women's advocates say.

The Department of Home Affairs is considering adding a language requirement for partner visa applications. Under the proposal, both the person applying for the visa and the person sponsoring the visa would have to pass the English test.

9 April 2021

https://thewest.com.au/news/immigration/partner-visa-english-test-paternalistic-c-2547912

**Disdain for disability added to list of crimes against refugees**

I wonder how many of you saw the *ABC* report the other night about the federal government denying permanent residency to a 6-year-old Australian-born child because he has cerebral palsy?

And I wonder if you too raged at the injustice, at the complete and utter political and moral bankruptcy of this government?

April 8, 2021

https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/disdain-disability-added-list-crimes-against-refugees

**Brisbane company paid $1.4bn to run offshore processing on Nauru despite no arrivals since 2014**

A single company running Australia’s offshore processing regime on Nauru has been paid more than $1.4bn over the past five years, with an additional $221m added two months ago, despite no new asylum seeker arrivals on the island since 2014, and a steadily diminishing number of people it is responsible for.

The original contract awarded to Canstruct was worth just $8m in October 2017 but this was amended almost immediately – increased by 4,500% to $385m just a month after being signed.

10 Apr 2021

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/10/brisbane-company-paid-14bn-to-run-offshore-processing-on-nauru-despite-no-arrivals-since-2014

**Refugee's court action seen as test case**

Prolonged immigration detention 20 years ago allegedly caused a refugee to develop mental health problems that persist to this day, an Adelaide court has heard.

Iranian-born Payam Saadat is suing the commonwealth government over mental illnesses he alleges arose out of his confinement at the Curtin and Baxter detention centres from 2000-2005.

9 April 2021

https://thewest.com.au/news/crime/refugees-court-action-seen-as-test-case-c-2551987

**Major parties have swapped sides on immigration, more or less**

Every few hundred thousand years, the Earth’s magnetic poles switch places. North becomes South and vice versa. Politically a similar phenomenon is taking place between Labor and Liberal on the topic of immigration.

A year ago, Australia was in lockdown. Though we are no longer confined to our homes, as a nation we are still under house arrest. We cannot leave without a permit, nor can we return without difficulty. Migration to Australia is all but impossible. The population has shrunk for the first time since World War I.

April 10, 2021

https://www.smh.com.au/national/major-parties-have-swapped-sides-on-immigration-more-or-less-20210409-p57htt.html

**English test changes work against Partner visa applicants in violent relationships**

IN THE OCTOBER Federal Budget, the Government announced changes to the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) including expanding the eligibility criteria for the program and removing the cap on the number of hours of English tuition available. While the changes were generally welcomed, they came with a sting: from late 2021, "Partner" visa applicants and sponsors will need to meet English language requirements before a permanent visa can be granted.

11 April 2021,

https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/english-test-changes-work-against-partner-visa-applicants-in-violent-relationships,14973

**Australia's 'lowest priority': The men waiting a decade to reunite with their families**

A steady stream of men have fled Afghanistan for Australia, but despite being recognised as refugees and granted protection, they have since faced never-ending visa delays for their wives and children to be able to join them. Some have now been waiting, alone, for more than 10 years.

14 April 2021

https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australia-s-lowest-priority-the-men-waiting-a-decade-to-reunite-with-their-families/be4ea612-488f-4725-b704-06e214d2b9ad

**Thousands of Myanmar citizens in Australia at risk of being deported to violence back home**

The Morrison government faces fresh calls to allow more than 3,000 citizens of Myanmar to stay in Australia once their visas expire, amid fears about the dangers they face if forced to return home.

With more than 600 civilians now estimated to have been killed in violent crackdowns by security forces since the 1 February military coup, Labor has written to Australian ministers to demand help for temporary visa holders and the expansion of sanctions against junta figures.

13 Apr 2021

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/13/thousands-of-myanmar-citizens-in-australia-at-risk-of-being-deported-to-violence-back-home

**Temporary visas for asylum seekers are no solution**

A Refugee Action Collective forum on April 12 discussed how the granting of temporary visas to asylum seekers was really just one more unconscionable act by the federal government.

About 100 people attended the in-person and online meeting.

Anna Kingston from the Refugee Action Collective said temporary visas had first been suggested by One Nation’s Pauline Hanson. The then Liberal minister for immigration Philip Ruddock initially rejected the idea as “unconscionable”, but then introduced temporary protection visas (TPVs) in 1999.

April 14, 2021

https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/temporary-visas-asylum-seekers-are-no-solution

**Human rights abuses in Australia are not accidents**

The story of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) in pursuit of "truth" in Xinjiang reveals an extraordinary degree of self-deception. It adds further detail to the already well-established picture of a muddled and desperate anti-China campaign that has no shot of truth in its denial cocktail

Unfolding in real time, asylum seekers and refugees heading to Australia are systematically detained and sent to unhygienic, perilous and unacceptable incarceration camps on the remote Christmas Island and the Pacific island nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

The medieval detention regime and anti-immigration policy have brought extreme levels of physical, emotional, psychological and developmental pains to countless families and their traumatized children. Throughout the years and in countless reports, Australia's Human Rights Commission has called for the release of all migrants but to no avail. Squarely implicated by what's happening, Gillian Triggs has been forced, to resign.

15-Apr-2021

https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-04-15/Human-rights-abuses-in-Australia-are-not-accidents-ZssAPEkSnm/index.html

**Remaining asylum seekers at Brisbane's Kangaroo Point hotel 'forcibly moved' to detention centre**

Asylum seekers brought to Australia for medical care have been forcibly removed from the inner-Brisbane hotel where they have been detained for well over a year, refugee advocates say.

Ian Rintoul from the Refugee Action Coalition said there were dramatic scenes on Friday as two mini-vans took the remaining medevac detainees still at the Kangaroo Point hotel to the Brisbane Immigration Detention Centre (BITA).

17 April 2021

https://www.sbs.com.au/news/remaining-asylum-seekers-at-brisbane-s-kangaroo-point-hotel-forcibly-moved-to-detention-centre

**The True Story Behind Netflix’s ‘Stateless’ Is Even More Harrowing Than You Could Imagine**

Between *The Serpent* and *The Vanishing At The Cecil Hotel*, Netflix certainly isn't easing up on its true crime offerings. But one of its lasting contributions to the genre hits a little more close to home.

Released in 2020, *Stateless* offers an unflinching look at Australia's incredibly flawed immigration system. Loosely based on a true story, the six-episode series follows four strangers—a flight attendant who escaped a cult, an Afghan refugee fleeing the Taliban, a young father working as a security guard and a politician looking to hide a national scandal—whose lives align at an immigration detention centre in the Australian outback.

APR 16, 2021

https://www.elle.com.au/culture/netflix-stateless-true-story-25060

**Immigrant town**

Am I going to be OK there in Australia? Am I going to be able to learn the language and make friends and fit into the community?”

These are some of the questions Iraqi refugee Zinah al-Haidari was asking herself as her family prepared to move 13,000 kilometres around the world to New South Wales back in 2013.

“Because I’m from a minority religious background [Mandaean] in Iraq, me and my family were subjected to discrimination and racism,” the 23-year-old university student said.

18 Apr 2021,

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-17/liverpool-migrants-why-new-australians-choose-this-suburb/100044940

**Kangaroo Point hotel: 19 asylum seekers forcibly removed in Brisbane as police clash with protesters**

Nineteen asylum seekers brought to Australia from Nauru and Manus Island for medical care have been forcibly removed from the the Kangaroo Point Central Hotel and Apartments in Brisbane, which was used for their long-term detention, supporters say.

It is understood they have been taken to the Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation Centre on the outskirts of the city, but it is unclear if the men will be held there long term or be moved to another centre or another state.

17 Apr 2021

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/17/asylum-seekers-forcibly-removed-from-brisbane-hotel-supporters-say