

Media Release: 10 September 2018

## What are the economic benefits of migration? Issue to be debated at international conference in Sydney

**The intersection of business and migration will be explored at the International Metropolis Conference 2018 in Sydney, Australia.**

The thought leaders and brightest minds of the migration sector from around the world will gather in Sydney in October to drive enterprise, innovation and social change at the **International Metropolis Conference**, the only international event to focus on migration, diversity and integration.

A hot topic will be the relationship between business, employment and migration policies.

Among an array of global thinkers and agitators fuelling debates on migration will be **General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Sharan Burrow; Chief Executive of Australian Industry Group (Ai Group), Innes Willox; and University of Technology Sydney Professor Jock Collins.**

Leading labour rights campaigner and reformer **Sharan Burrow** will talk about the contributions of migrants, often overlooked in geopolitical relations, that have underpinned significant industry growth all over the world.

Ms Burrow says migrants make significant economic contributions due to their capacity to adapt, often inspired by wanting a better life.

According to research from the International Organisation for Migration, migrants make up 3.5% of the world's population, yet contribute 9% to global wealth, measured in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) terms.

**Innes Willox**, head of the Ai Group, a leading industry organisation representing businesses in a broad range of sectors, and Chair of the **Migration Council of Australia**, will join a panel to discuss the benefits and downsides of temporary labour migration to destination countries like Australia.

Leading researcher **Professor Jock Collins** will explore start-ups and small enterprises and ways to accelerate the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of migrants and refugees to help them achieve strong social and economic integration.

Prof. Collins will be joined by other experts in migration, diversity and integration from the UK, Belgium, USA, Canada and Australia, who will debate the latest research, challenges and successes from across the globe.



**Metropolis 2018** is hosted by *Telstra Business Woman of the Year*, Violet Roumeliotis, CEO of **Settlement Services International**, the **Australian Multicultural Foundation** and **Multicultural NSW**.

Ms Roumeliotis said **Metropolis 2018** will provide an invaluable platform to educate and disseminate the accurate data of business and migration in the 21st century.

“Greater geographic mobility of workers, resulting from increased globalisation of investment, production and distribution is transforming societies and economies.

“Our line-up of local and international speakers for the *Enterprise, Innovation and Employment* session will explore contemporary migration policies, global contracting chains, rapidly changing global business models, and how migrants can negotiate long-held notions of labour market segmentation to create new perceptions of what is possible.

“Attendees will see the emerging opportunities for business, the public sector and trade unions to play a stronger role in integration and how the benefits of migration can be maximised for social and economic gains,” Ms Roumeliotis said.

The International Metropolis Conference 2018 will be held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney: 29 October – 2 November 2018.

[www.metropolis2018.org.au](http://www.metropolis2018.org.au)

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#### Notes to Editors

For more information or to interview those featured in this press release, please contact:

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**Images and logos** can be downloaded from [here](#)

**Limited Media Passes are available** for relevant and interested parties and are subject to approval. If you would like to apply for a media pass, please contact Marlise Beasley on [marlise@zadroagency.com.au](mailto:marlise@zadroagency.com.au)



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International  
Metropolis Conference  
29 October–2 November 2018  
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## Images

1. **Sharan Burrow**, Secretary-General, International Trade Union Confederation, Belgium



2. **Innes Willox**, Chief Executive, Australian Industry Group and Chair, Migration Council of Australia



3. **Professor Jock Collins**, University of Technology (UTS)



4. **Violet Roumeliotis**, CEO, Settlement Services International and Telstra Business Woman of the Year 2018



### **About the Event**

**The International Metropolis Conference** will be held at ICC Sydney | 29 October – 2 November 2018.

Metropolis 2018 is the only platform to bring together international, national and local migration influencers alongside academic, government, practitioner and community perspectives to highlight the latest research, challenges, insights and successes in migration, diversity and integration.

Metropolis 2018 is important as the thought leaders and brightest minds of the migration sector will come together to drive enterprise, innovation and social change. We will see and hear the stories of lived experience centre-stage at our event, and we will encourage debate on the hard questions, whilst seeking important new solutions.

Metropolis is committed to sharing the intricacies of 21st century migration, to shape 21st century solutions.

### **The Conference Chairs are:**

- Violet Roumeliotis, CEO, Settlement Services International and Telstra Business Woman of the Year 2018
- Dr Bulent (Hass) Dellal AO, CEO, Australian Multicultural Foundation
- Hakan Harman, CEO, Multicultural NSW

**The conference theme is *Global Migration in Turbulent Times*.** It will focus on the following eight sub-themes:

1. Enterprise, Innovation and Employment – catalysts for social change?
2. Migration and Mobility – the dynamic shifts in the Asia-Pacific region
3. Displacement and asylum – new dimensions driving an old phenomenon
4. Visible and powerful – migrant voices in a connected world



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5. Conflicting agendas? National, local, regional and global responses to the governance of migration
6. Religious diversity – a bridge or a barrier to belonging?
7. Migration and inequality – complex challenges under the microscope
8. Australia a multicultural paradise – myths and realities

For all conference and program information [www.metropolis2018.org.au](http://www.metropolis2018.org.au)