

**THE HORN OF AFRICA MIGRANTS IN  
ADELAIDE AND MELBOURNE**

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Submitted for the Degree of Philosophy

April 2012

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## **ABSTRACT**

In Australia the Horn of African migrants are one of the fastest growing migrant communities. The majority of these migrants arrived under the refugee and humanitarian resettlement program. This study focuses on the social networks of these migrants and the impact of remittances they send on them, as well as on the lives of their families back home. The study begins with an analysis of the major trends and characteristics of migration from the Horn of Africa to Australia.

The study examines different types of formal and informal social networks that migrants develop and which are used as coping strategies to address their personal, social, financial, and emotional problems. It is based on a survey of migrant settlers from the Horn of Africa. The survey also found that family and ethnic owned remittance providers play formidable roles in facilitating the cheap, fast and reliable sending of remittances from Australia to rural and remote areas (including refugee camps) in Africa. In addition to their roles in fighting poverty and improving the living and human development conditions in Africa, remittances link family and maintain social networks with those left behind, and they also are used to influence the political landscapes of their countries of origin.

Due to their lack of English language and relevant labour market skills, many of the Horn of African migrants studied are unemployed and dependent on the social welfare system. Despite high unemployment rates and dependence on the social welfare system, the majority (the employed, under employed and unemployed) of these migrants send money to support their families and friends stranded in precarious situations in asylum countries and in their country of origin. However, while they believe that their remittances have improved the lives

of their families back home, they openly admitted that sending money has affected their lives and reduced the quality of lifestyles of their families in Australia.

The study examines a number of aspects of the lives of Horn of African immigrants in Australia, especially their engagement with the labour market, housing, social networks, the social and economic cost of not recognizing overseas qualifications and work experiences, the long and short term health consequences and the economic and social costs of allowing the import, selling and consumption of "*Khat*".

A number of conclusions are made regarding policies on settlement of refugees from Africa in Australia.

## **DECLARATION**

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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**Zewdu W.Michael Wege**

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**Date**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I wish to acknowledge and express my deepest appreciation and profound thanks to my supervisors Professor Graeme J. Hugo and Dr. Dianne Rudd who spent a great deal of their time and energy and shared their wealth of knowledge and guidance in the process of writing this thesis and in my professional journey, growth and development from MA to PhD degree. Without their relentless contribution, critical comments, and advice, my academic journey, dream and this thesis would not have materialized.

My special thanks goes to Professor Graeme Hugo, who positively influenced and shaped my personal as well as professional development, not only in my academic life by sharing his abundant wealth of knowledge, but also in my personal life when I was between a rock and hard place. My sincere appreciation and thanks again go to Professor Graeme Hugo for securing my scholarship and his financial support initially through his Federation Fellowship Scholarship. His understanding, support and advice enabled me to grow in my personal and professional life. I am equally indebted to Dr. Dianne Rudd who spent a great deal of time and energy, in reading and correcting the draft proposal, questionnaire and the final thesis. I am also thankful to Mrs. Frances William for spending her personal and family time in reading and editing this thesis and for her friendship and support. Without their unreserved professional support, advice and tireless work, this work would not have materialized in this form.

I sincerely appreciate and thank all the Horn of Africa migrant community who participated in the survey and the community, religious, and social clubs leaders who worked hard in encouraging their members and congregations to take part in the survey. My special thanks go

to the Oromo community church members and leaders, members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church both in Adelaide and Melbourne, the Sudanese Community Association of Victoria, and the Sudanese church leaders and their congregations at Footscray, St Alban and Springvale.

My thanks also go to all the staff of the discipline of geography, to mention a few Margaret Young, Sarah Hoggard, Janet Wall and Chris Crothers for their help. I am also grateful to all my fellow students of the discipline for their contribution and support throughout this long process. Last but not least, my deepest gratitude and appreciation goes to my mother Mamite Getu and my wife Madina Wako and to my children, Beka, Fraol, Situnema and Obsan, for their understanding, moral and emotional support. Without their support and understanding this thesis would not have happened.

## **GLOSSARY**

ABC TV	Australian Broadcasting Corporation Television
ABN	Australian Business Number
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AMELS	Adult Migrant English Language Services
AML	Anti Money Laundering
AQIS	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
ATT	African Think Tank
AUSTRAC	Australian Transaction Reporting and Analysis Centre
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CTF	Counter Terrorism Financing
CUD	Collation for Unity and Democracy
DFID	Department for International Development
DIAC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
DSMJ	Danish School of Media and Journalism
ECA	Economic Commission For Africa
ECDA	Eritrean Community Development Association
HACN	Horn of Africa Community Network
HFS	Himbol Financial Services
HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KADI	Kajokeji Australia Development Institute
MRC	Migrant Resource Centre
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OLF	Oromo Liberation Front
ONLF	Ogaden National Liberation Front
ORA	Oromo Relief Association
RCOA	Refugee Council of Australia

SBS	Special Broadcasting Services
SCA	Sudanese Community Association
SFSA	Somali Financial Services Association
SLG	Statistical Local Government
SOMAT	Somali Money Transferring Association
SPLA	Sudanese People Liberation Army
SSUDA	South Sudan Development Association
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
UNHCR	United Nation Higher Commission for Refugees