



Net*Working 2002 Workshop

‘At Risk’ – An online role play

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Welcome

Participants are welcomed to what should be a powerful learning experience. You have read about it in the papers and seen the images on television. Asylum seekers are being housed at the Woomera Detention Centre in the South Australian desert. Now you are a participant in a very complex, politically sensitive problem.

What will we do in this workshop?

During this Workshop you will engage in an online role-play titled ‘At Risk’. You will be asked to read a scenario that has seven ‘players’. You will be allocated a role as a ‘player’ in this scenario. Your task will be to resolve the problems that are raised in the scenario.

The following tools will assist you to communicate with other players. They are the Discussion tool that will enable all participants in the role-play to share

the same discussion forum. This provides a place for you to converse with other participants. The Instant Messaging system will allow you to have email access to other participants. There is also a Chat facility that you may utilise to converse with other players.

Forget your previous life. You are going to assume a new identity for the next five days.

What is expected of you?

If you have enrolled in this Workshop you must be committed to playing the role allocated to you. This will require you to participate regularly and to post to the Discussion forum and use Instant messaging at least three times day.

You will need to read all the background information that has been provided to you for your role. When sending messages to other participants you will need to 'speak' as that person. You must follow the information that is provided to you in the role profile. By all means, give your own interpretation to the role but please do not change the underlying philosophy of the role.

How long will this last?

The role-play will be 'played' over five days, commencing at **9am EST on Thursday 22 August 2002** and concluding at **5pm EST on Monday 26 August 2002.**

You will receive notification of the role you have been allocated on Wednesday 14 August 2002. When sending Instant Messages or posting to the Discussion Forum from 22-26 August you must do so acting in your role.

Spectators Welcome

If you have not been allocated a role to play but you are interested in what we are doing please feel free to observe.

Debriefing

An essential part of this exercise is the debriefing. This will take place from **9 am Wednesday 28 August 2002 until 5 pm Friday 30 August 2002.**

At the conclusion of the role-play you will need to remove yourself from your role. The activity that you have participated in was a game and we will need to debrief that game.

You must commit to participating in the debriefing. This is where learning will take place. An analysis will be undertaken of the role- playing process. How did you feel while participating in the role-play? What happened during the course of the role-play? What was learned? How was it learned? How would we do things differently if we did it again?

Lets Play!

**Proceed to the next page that contains the
'Instructions on how to play'.**



Instructions to play

1. Read the scenario that appears below. It would be a good idea if you printed a copy of the scenario and the role profiles.
2. Read the list of roles that will participate in the scenario.
3. If you have registered for this Workshop you will be advised by email on Wednesday 21 August 2002. You will be advised if you have been allocated a role, and if so, which role that is.
4. Read the Role Profile for each role.
5. Each participant in the role-play will be sent via email, personal information regarding their role. Other players do not receive this information. **Do not disclose** this to other players but ensure you act in accordance with the information provided while carrying out your role.
6. You may communicate with other participants via the Instant Messaging facility or the Discussion forum. There is also a chat facility that you may use to communicate with other participants.

7. Play!



Scenario

A family of four from Kabul, Afghanistan, are being detained in the Woomera Detention Centre in South Australia. They have fled the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The family comprises Daima Shaheer aged 41 years and her husband, Amai Shaheer aged 49 years and their two sons Ibrahim (aged 13) and Awad (aged 16). The family fled Afghanistan with the help of people smugglers. They were transported to Indonesia and they came to Australia on a boat from Indonesia. Immigration officials intercepted the boat on which they were travelling at Ashmore Reef.

The Shaheer's have applied to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) for a temporary protection visa arguing that they are refugees. Their application was declined by DIMIA and they have appealed to the Refugee Review Tribunal. Their appeal has yet to be heard.

Ibrahim is 13 years old and Awad is 16. Many of the boy's friends are leaving detention but they are still there. They have been in detention for 13 months. Awad says he has had enough and is going to take his own life either by jumping from the detention Centre onto the razor wire surrounding the perimeter fence or by ingesting a poisonous substance.

Awad has refused to eat for the last six days. He believes that harming himself is the only option left. He feels hopeless and has refused to speak to anybody for the last week. Ten days ago Awad used a razor to inflict wounds on his arm and six weeks ago attempted to poison himself by ingesting a mixture of shampoo and Panadol.

The family has witnessed many instances of self-harm while in detention. Awad was with a number of other detainees at the time they sewed their lips together. He also witnessed a riot at the detention centre. He saw another detainee jump off the roof of a building during a riot into the barbed wire on the top of the perimeter fence causing horrific injuries.

Awad cannot sleep at night and has been having hallucinations for the last week. He feels desperate and that his life is not worth living.

As Awad is under the age of 18 years he comes under the protection of Family and Youth Services, which is a division of the Department of Human Services in South Australia.

Yesterday Dr Frederick Klavel, a psychiatrist who has extensive experience working with refugees, assessed Awad. His opinion is that Awad is at great risk of taking his own life. As a mandatory notifier under the *Children's Protection Act 1993 (SA)* he believes the child should be removed from detention and has notified Family and Youth Services to this effect.

Can you help Awad? The scenario begins with a notification being received by Family and Youth Services Senior Social Worker, Julie Davids that Awad Shaheer is 'at risk'.

Participants in the role play

Julie Davids: Senior Social Worker, Family and Youth Services, Port Augusta, South Australia.

The Honourable Mr John Sampson: Member for Bewora, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

Dr Frederick Klavel: Psychiatrist who is employed by the South Australian Department of Human Services and is an expert on Immigration Detention Stress Syndrome (IDSS).

Janet Lynton: Journalist with 'The Australian' newspaper.

Colin Bosiock: Manager of the Woomera Detention Centre

Christina Andriopolous: Lawyer. Coordinator of the 'Woomera Lawyers Group' and a member of Chil out (Children Out of Detention).

Awad Shaheer: Detainee.



Role Profiles

The Honourable John Sampson, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

You were first elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for Parramatta in September 1973. Following an electoral redistribution in 1997, the seat of Dundas was created. You were elected as the Member for Dundas in 1977 and again in 1980, 1983, 1984, 1987 and 1990.

The seat of Dundas was abolished in 1992 as a result of changes to electoral boundaries. The Member for Bewora retired in 1993 and you succeeded him. You were re-elected as the Member for Bewora in 1996 and appointed the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs in the first Howard Ministry. You also held this portfolio in the second Howard ministry.

In the 2001 election you were re-elected and became the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs on the 26 November 2001.

You graduated from Melbourne University with a degree in Law and Arts and you practised as a solicitor before entering parliament. You are married to Jane and have two daughters Kathy and Clare.

You believe that people who arrive in Australia without authorisation are illegal entrants. A believer in mandatory detention of asylum seekers, you believe

that it should be the Australian government who controls immigration and not international people smuggling rings.

Australia, you believe, has a history of resettling refugees and providing humanitarian aid to others. You think Australia's efforts compare well to what is offered by other countries.

Janet Lynton (a journalist with 'The Australian') has requested an interview with you to discuss the conditions in Woomera. Your advisers have briefed you on the Shaheer family and the concerns regarding Awad.



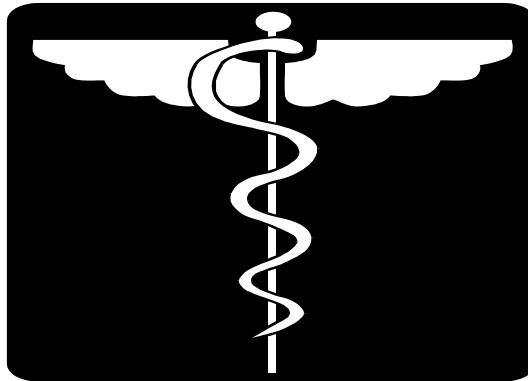
Christina Andriopolous

You are aged 27 years. The child of Greek migrants, you were born in Australia and attended your local high school and went on to graduate in Law from University. Having a social conscience, you have worked in community legal centres since graduation. You have worked with a number of asylum seekers, assisting them with their application for refugee status. You are the co-ordinator of a group of lawyers called the 'Woomera Lawyers Group', who are against mandatory detention for refugees.

You are also a member of the Law Society of South Australia's Human Rights Committee and a member of ChilOut (Children Out of Detention). The latter is a group of parents and citizens who are opposed to the mandatory detention of children in Australian immigration Detention Centres.

Your role in this scenario is to provide legal assistance to the Shaheer family both in relation to their claim for refugee status but also regarding concerns they have about their son Awad. The family are very worried about Awad and believe he will commit suicide unless he is given appropriate help.

You are required to arrange a meeting with Awad and his family.



Role Profile for Dr Frederick Klavel

You were born in Poland in 1950 and immigrated to Australia with your family in 1965. You attended Christian Brothers College before studying medicine at university. After your intern year you commenced training in psychiatry and in 1983 you were admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Psychiatrists. You are employed as a psychiatrist by the Department of Human Services in South Australia and lecture part time to medical students. You are an expert on Immigration Detention Stress Syndrome (IDSS). This syndrome refers to a cluster of symptoms and behaviours that detainees experience during their time in detention.

You are a member of Amnesty International and of the international organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders).

You have published articles on IDSS in two international medical journals: The Lancet and The British Medical Journal. You are regarded as a world authority on this syndrome.

Yesterday you examined Awad Shaheer at the Woomera Detention Centre. You believe he is suffering IDSS and that he should be removed from detention. As Awad is a child you notify Family & Youth Services that he is 'at risk' in accordance with your obligations as a mandatory notifier under the *Children's Protection Act 1993 (SA)*. Julie Davids a Senior Social Worker at Port Augusta Family and Youth Services receives your notification regarding Awad Shaheer.



Role profile for Julie Davids

Aged 33, you are a Senior Social Worker with Family and Youth Services, which is part of the Department of Human Services in South Australia. You are based in Port Augusta where you have lived for the last five years. You work as a caseworker in the child protection field. Your job involves investigating notifications that children have been abused and/or neglected and where necessary instructing the Crown Solicitor to bring an application to the Youth Court that the child is in need of care and should be removed from their current position.

In the course of your work you have visited a number of children of asylum seekers who are being detained at the Woomera detention Centre. You receive notification from Dr Klavel regarding Awad Shaheer. You have been asked to visit Awad Shaheer. You have been advised that he has threatened suicide and not spoken to anyone for over a week. You must determine whether an 'in need of care' application should be brought regarding this child.



Role Profile Colin Bosiak

Aged 58 years, you are the Manager of the Woomera Detention Centre. Australasian Correctional Management employs you. In 1997 the Australian government tendered out service delivery at immigration detention centres to Australasian Correctional Services Pty Ltd through its management arm, Australasian Correctional Management Pty Ltd (ACM).

The high number of unauthorised boat arrivals led to the reopening of the Curtin Detention Centre in Western Australia and Woomera in South Australia. Woomera Detention Centre commenced operation in November 1999. You have been the manager of the facility since its inception.

You are required to monitor service provision and performance on a daily basis. Part of your duties requires you to attend to immigration case management. However, all decisions regarding a detainee's immigration status, are made by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

A rigorous performance-monitoring regime has been built into the contract between ACM and the government to ensure compliance with Immigration Detention Standards.

There is also external scrutiny of ACM's performance by the Commonwealth Ombudsman and Community Consultative Committees. At Woomera there are a number of committees with community representation that allows detainees, community representatives, ACM and DIMIA staff to discuss service delivery and standards of care.

You are the person that professionals will need to contact in order to discuss the needs of Awad Shaheer. Permission to enter the detention centre and speak with detainees can only be granted by you.



Role profile for Janet Lynton

You are aged 33 years and work as a journalist for 'The Australian' Newspaper. After much unrest at the Woomera Detention Centre, including the revelation that inmates are sewing their lips together, you have been at the detention centre for the last ten days.

You were part of a large media contingent that was camped outside the centre. Last night your group was directed to move 500 metres further back from where they were camped. This direction came from Australian Protection Services Officers. A journalist who was with your group was arrested and charged with failing to leave Commonwealth property, when she did not respond to the request to move immediately. She has been granted police bail and will appear in the Port Augusta Magistrates Court later in the week. The charges will be vigorously denied.

'The Australian' has asked you to interview the Shaheer family and others in the detention centre. These interviews will form the basis of a series of reports you will write for the paper. You must deal with ACM's manager Colin Bosiak in seeking entry to the centre for this purpose.

Your newspaper has also requested that you interview Minister Sampson to discuss with him government policy on the mandatory detention of asylum seekers and the conditions in the Woomera Detention Centre. You would also like to raise with him the plight of the Shaheer family, particularly the well being of Awad Shaheer.



Role Profile Awad Shaheer

You were born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1986. Thirteen months ago accompanied by your mother, father and younger brother, you fled the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Prior to leaving Afghanistan you were a very bright, well-balanced boy. A good student, a talented soccer player, you planned to study civil engineering when you completed your schooling. Very popular with your peers, you had a very good social life.

Your parents paid people smugglers to remove your family from Afghanistan. You and other members of your family believed that your family would automatically receive refugee status in Australia.

When you arrived at the Woomera Detention Centre you were shocked by its remote location and the lack of services available to detainees. You thought you would only be detained for a short period of time before your family's claim for refugee status was upheld.

You have now been in detention for thirteen months and feel your position is hopeless. You have become progressively more depressed over time. You have not eaten for almost a week and refuse to speak to anyone. Suicide seems the only option for you.