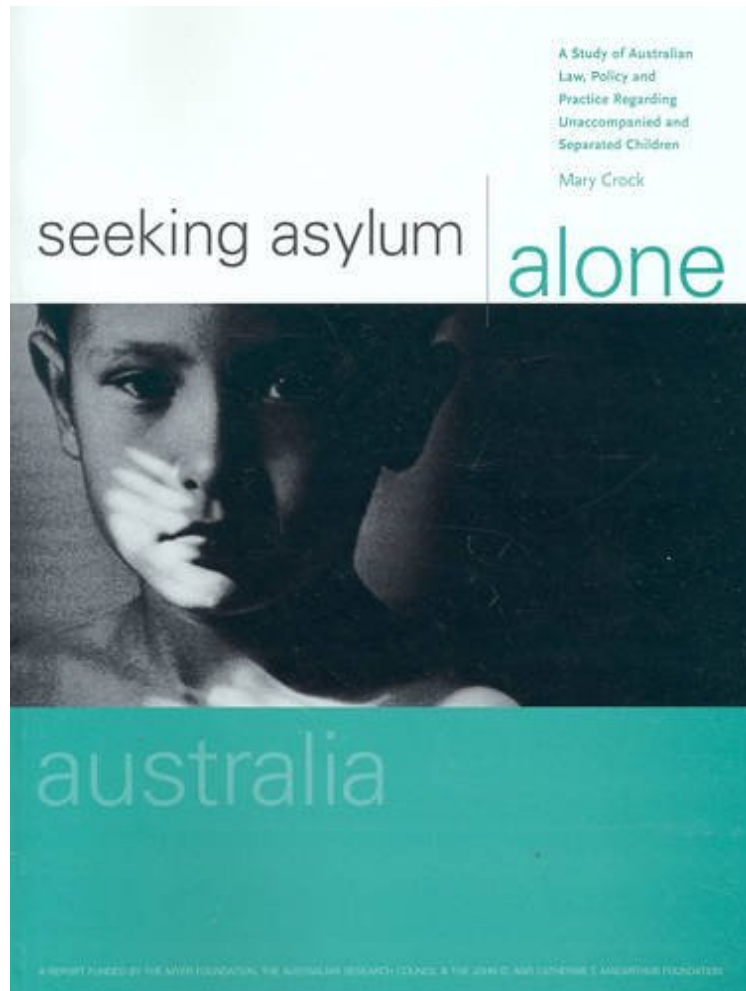


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Seeking Asylum Alone - Australia: A Study of Australian Law, Policy and Practice Regarding Unaccompanied and Separated Children

Mary Crock

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Mary Crock : Seeking Asylum Alone - Australia: A Study of Australian Law, Policy and Practice Regarding Unaccompanied and Separated Children before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seeking Asylum Alone - Australia: A Study of Australian Law, Policy and Practice Regarding Unaccompanied and Separated Children:

Refugee movements have been remarkable for the number of children journeying without the protection of a responsible adult. This study was prompted by the suspicion that Australia - like many Western countries - has not responded particularly well to the challenges presented by this phenomenon.

The broader topic of Crock's work - Australia's response to asylum seekers - is one that has been at the centre of political debate in Australia since the end of the last century. ... Most striking is the use of the stories of the 85 young people with whom the researchers spoke. The strength of these stories lies in their use by the author to expose the true implications of Australian policy and practice. *Seeking Asylum Alone* is meticulously researched and well written. It is essential reading for anyone working with refugee children. But the author's ability to elucidate the broader legal, policy and practical aspects of Australia's approach to asylum seekers makes it a report that should be read even more widely. - David Corlett, Australian Policy Online, 17 October 2006

The book is impressive in scope and inspired by a number of factors: a keen understanding of Australia's response to refugees, the need for policy makers to recognise children as a distinct category of refugees and the responsibility of government departments, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs in particular, to establish policies specifically for children asylum seekers distinct from policies for adults. Official figures show that from 1999-2003, 290 children seeking asylum arrived in Australia; one third form the basis of Crock's study. Four central areas are covered in this study: the question of why child asylum seekers travel alone, frameworks for protection, Australia's legal response, policy and practice and protection outcomes. ... Mary Crock's book is ground-breaking in terms of its subject material and the message that child migration is not an exceptional occurrence but a regular phenomenon. It needs to be recognised, acknowledged and given appropriate resources. Her research indicates that Australia can do more in desirable child protection practice, statistical data collection; government planning and legal structures; and in addressing the social and cultural needs of unaccompanied children seeking asylum. - Forum magazine, No 49, March 2007

Dr Mary Crock is arguably Australia's pre-eminent authority on refugee law and policy. However, *Seeking Asylum Alone* is not an academic treatise. Rather, it is a highly readable review of Australian law, policy and practice ... [on] children seeking asylum in Australia without parents or guardians. ... In my view this is a book that needed to be written. But a book is only useful if it is read. Also, genuine reform is rarely achieved without public support... I challenge [you] to be informed. To that end, I strongly recommend this book as an insight into the realities of refugee law and policy. - Brief (Law Society of WA), July 2007