The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Resource **Entry ID:** AWH001959

Interview with Marion Le [sound recording] / interviewer, Ann-Mari Jordens.

Repository National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

Reference ORAL TRC 5159

Date Range 4-Jun-04 - 22-Feb-05

Access Tapes 1-8: Access open for research, personal copies and public use.?Tapes 9-16: Written permission required for

research use, personal copies and public use during the lifetime of the interviewee.

Finding Aid Timed summary (12 p.) and uncorrected transcript (typescript, 314 leaves)

Details

16 sound files (ca. 943 min.)??Disks 1-4: Marion Le, born in New Zealand (NZ) on 29 January 1947 discusses her childhood and her early life; her family; her education in NZ; attending teachers' college and the University of Canterbury in Christchurch; emigrating to Australia in 1971; teaching in Sydney and Brisbane; travelling around Australia until 1974; her beginning a Bachelor of Theology at the Alliance College and a Bachelor of Arts at the Australian National University, completing both in 1998; in 1979 marrying Tong Le, a chef and former Vietnamese soldier who arrived on the Song Be in 1977; their three children, caring for four stepchildren, a foster son and several other children from camps and detention centres; in 1980 opening the Vung Tau Vietnamese restaurant in O'Connor, Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and another in Belconnen ten years later; working in both of these, as well as teaching in Canberra for 19 years.??Le talks about the reasons behind her becoming active in 1977 in the Indo-China Refugee Association (ICRA) of the ACT, which was later used by the government as a model for its Community Refugee Settlement Service (CRSS); her time speaking on the radio and to church groups about the needs of refugees; about the 30 community groups in the ACT which were later transformed into CRSS groups by the Department of Immigration; her views on the impact of government funding on CRSS groups; ICRA being groups funded by churches; the bridging visas for people from detention centres; the burden placed on sponsor families; her husband becoming a citizen in 1980; explains how the ICRA organizations worked; the division among Canberra Catholics about the allocation of public housing to refugees; ICRA including people who had supported the Vietnam war; the current detention centre regime; the Comprehensive Plan of Action in 1989; the end of Australia's commitment to Vietnamese refugees.

Author Details Nikki Henningham

Created 16 June 2005 Last modified 21 December 2017